

# ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010



*Benedictine Sisters  
St. Scholastica Monastery*



*Office of Development  
Duluth, MN*



## Dear Friends of the Monastery,

The theme of our 2010 Annual Report is “Rejoice.” Rejoice, I say? Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and the oil spill—disasters this past year. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue. Unemployment and economic hardships abound. How can God’s people rejoice? In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he wrote:

*We rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Romans 5:2*



It is our experience of God’s presence and love poured into our lives that gives us hope and fills our hearts with resilient joy. It is also the Holy Spirit that lives in people who sustain our ministries and the works that we Benedictine Sisters sponsor. Indeed, we know that those people who support our monastic lifestyle and our ministries share with us a reverence for life, a desire to help those less fortunate, and a belief in the power of prayer. This past year 1,648 contributions totaled \$316,720. There were 202 first-time donors. Many people also donated items for the Sisters’ use, and others volunteered over 4,437 hours of service. You prayed with us and prayed for us. We are so very grateful for your friendship and your generosity.

We do rejoice in the milestones of our Community. Seven Sisters celebrated their 90th birthdays this past year, and Sister Lea Pocta celebrated her 100th. Five Sisters marked their Golden (50 year) Jubilees: Sister Donna Schroeder, Sister Gloria Ess, Sister Josine Krausnick, Sister Mary Rochefort, and Sister Pauline Micke. Sisters celebrating Diamond Jubilees include Sister Grace Marie Braun (60 years), Sister Mary Rae Higgins (60), Sister Agatha Riehl (70), Sister Renee Cormier (70), and Sister Jeanne Marie Lortie (75).

One woman became a Postulant this past year and has shared her life with us as we have with her. Two women became Novices and have almost completed their Novitiate year of intense spiritual formation. And Sister Luce Marie Dionne and Sister Lisa Maurer made their First Monastic Professions. This Annual Report has many photos of highlights of the past year—Benedictine Associates, volunteers, donors, Bishop Paul Sirba’s installation, graduations, and obituaries of the five Sisters who have died since our last newsletter. In all of these changes, celebrations, and transformations, we rejoice for the myriad ways we have experienced God’s lavish love.

We thank you all for your love and support and for the many ways you have shared in our life of prayer and ministry to God’s people and the needs of our world. Together may we continue to be a people of enduring hope and joy, knowing that in every circumstance of our lives God is with us.

Lovingly yours in Christ with deep gratitude and prayer,

*Sister Lois Eckes*

Sister Lois Eckes,  
Prioress

# HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, SISTERS!

## Sister Joan (Antonine) Braun

By Sister Joan Marie Stelman

Sister Joan Braun celebrated her 90th birthday on June 11, 2010. She is the eldest of the five children of Anton and Emma Braun of Koehler, Wisconsin. She was the first of three sisters (Sisters Mary Carol and Grace Marie) who came to The College of St. Scholastica and stayed to devote their lives to God's service. Her vocation was so strong that rather than waiting until she finished her degree, she and two friends, Sister Margaret James Laughlin and Sister Ethel Radtke, entered St. Scholastica Monastery on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1941. The "three kings" as they called themselves, joined fellow CSS students Sister Mary Daniel O'Neill and Sister Ramona Ewen and alum Sister Timothy Kirby, among the other new postulants. After her novitiate, Sister Joan went on to earn her degree in Sociology, and taught briefly at St. James School. She then began her life-long ministry at the College, serving as Librarian, Professor of Humanities, Academic Dean, and in 1974-1975 interim President.



Sister Joan, seated. Left to right: Sister Mary Carol and Sister Grace Marie.

A keen intellectual curiosity, a passionate love of beauty, and a deep spirituality have always blended in Sister Joan and shaped her life. These qualities prompted her to earn a Doctoral degree in Library Science. Drawing upon her love of art history, her thesis studied the literary sources and icons of St. Catherine's Monastery Church, Mount Sinai.

Her life-long love of learning has led her to study a wide variety of subjects – art, icons, Benedictine history, weaving, labyrinths – and given her a love of travel. Last year her recently completed work revising and editing Mother Agnes Somers' *All Her Ways* was published. In the course of all her pursuits and travels, her perceptive insight and great kindness have given her an extraordinary knack for making and keeping friends of all ages and backgrounds, who, like myself, have been blessed to benefit from her wisdom, empathy, and example.

## Sister Petra Lenta

By Sister Barbara Higgins

Before Sister Petra Lenta's 90th Birthday, I asked her "Were you born on your birthday?" "Yes, I must have been," she quickly replied. This was a fun but positive start, with my friend, for a conversation that led me to a better understanding of Sister Petra's background.



Sister Petra and her two siblings were natives of Duluth, having Italian immigrant parents who were devout Catholics and were an active part of "Little Italy," which provided connection with a number of Italian immigrant families. Some of the simple joys Sister talked about were the Italian-American picnics with a trip up the St. Louis River to a picnic area. Also, "Christmastime was especially important in building community. Families visited one another's homes where mothers vied with each other as to who made the best fruitcake."

Sister Petra's father, Louis, a stonemason, helped construct St. Peter's Church. Petra was five years old when the church was completed, and she and her family attended the first service. "My father had the honor of being first to ring the church bells summoning people to worship." Other significant contributions Louis made to our Community and vicinity as a WPA stone worker: he built our Sacred Heart Shrine, the pillars at the entrance of our Monastery cemetery, and the bridge over Chester Creek. Louis also helped in the construction of Tower Hall.

In the Great Depression her parents sent the three children to Sacred Heart Grade and High school with a tuition of three dollars a month. Her father worked off the tuition by doing extra work for Father Joseph Cashin, then pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral. After her freshman year at our College, Petra entered our Benedictine Community on September 8, 1937. In 2009 she celebrated 70 years of vowed monastic life. Her contribution to The College of St. Scholastica is legendary, especially in the area of cancer research.

Congratulations on your 90th Birthday, Sister Petra! Thank you for your fidelity and zeal for our monastic way of life. Also, for your deep wisdom grounded in daily prayer and for the talents and gifts you have shared with us at St. Scholastica Monastery through these seventy years.

Photos by Sister Patricia Anne Williams



# *Congratulations 2010 Jubilarians*



## ***2010 Jubilarians***

Sister Donna Schroeder 50 years

Sister Gloria Ess 50 years

Sister Josine Krausnick 50 years

Sister Mary Rochefort 50 years

Sister Pauline Micke 50 years

Sister Grace Marie Braun 60 years

Sister Mary Rae Higgins 60 years

Sister Agatha Riehl 70 years

Sister Renee Cormier 70 years

Sister Jeanne Marie Lortie 75 years

Photos by  
Sister Joyce Fournier



# JUBILARIANS



*Sister Donna Schroeder* 50

I was born in 1938 on a farm near Lakota, North Dakota, and baptized Janet Mary in St. Mary's church in Lakota. In 1940 my parents moved to the tiny town of Doyon, about ten miles from Lakota. There my parents ran a family business, a machine shop and gas station. I was the oldest of five children. For six years I attended the public school in Doyon, but after the accidental drowning of my sister Joanne in 1950, my parents sent me to St. Mary's Academy in Devils Lake, North Dakota. I was a boarding student there until I was able to commute. After graduation from high school in 1956, I attended The College of St. Scholastica. My family moved to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, in 1957, and the following year I entered the Community.

After completing a degree in biology, I taught for a year at Stanbrook Hall High School and then for a year at Our Lady of Victory in Minneapolis. My next assignment was to teach at Gerard High School in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1965 my brother Michael died, a devastating experience for my family. In 1969, after I had completed coursework for an MS in biology at St. Mary's in Winona, Minnesota, I had the opportunity to teach at my alma mater, The College of St. Scholastica. Since then I have taught at CSS except for the years spent in course work and research at the University of North Carolina. I received my Ph.D. in 1981.

More recently I took courses in monastic studies at St. John's School of Theology. Currently I teach half-time at the College and also serve as the director for Sisters in First Profession. The example and support of the Sisters of my Community, the joys of my ministries, and good friendships, both inside and outside of my monastic family, are constant reminders of God's good gifts.



*Sister Gloria Ess* 50

I was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 5, 1938, the sixth of seven children of Arthur J. and Lovie Ess. Three of my brothers are deceased. I attended St. Bridget's Grade School and Robbinsdale High School.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery were my teachers in grade school. After high school, I felt called to religious life. I considered several different communities. Since I had been taught by Duluth Benedictines, this search brought me to Duluth for a visit at St. Scholastica Monastery. During this visit I met and talked with Mother Martina Hughes, the Prioress at the time.

On September 8, 1958, I entered as a Postulant. There were eighteen women who entered Community with me in 1958. Together we had lots of laughs and tears as the nineteen of us went through our years of formation. We professed our vows on July 11, 1960. After profession, I began my ministry as a housekeeper/cook here at St. Scholastica Monastery. This ministry also took me to Ely, Cloquet, and lastly to St. Mary's Convent in Duluth.

In August of 1969 I moved back to St. Scholastica Monastery. For the next thirteen years I worked with Sister Benita Hayden in the College Instructional Materials Center. These were good years for me. Presently, I work with Sister Martha Bechtold in the Transportation and Maintenance Office. This work keeps me young, as there are always surprises and something new.

Throughout the years I have always been grateful for the love and support of my family. They planted the seed of faith in me and nurtured my vocation as a Benedictine Sister. I feel the last fifty years have been a growth experience for me. God has blessed me in many ways as well as challenged me. The seed of faith and service that my family planted years ago has been nurtured by my Benedictine Community. My life continues to grow and blossom as I each day seek to respond to God's call.

# JUBILARIANS



*Sister Josine Krausnick* 50

Even as a young child my heart's desire was to be a teacher. During my early college education, I learned of a program for lay-teachers at a small college in northern Minnesota, The College of St. Scholastica. I was accepted into the program and came to Minnesota for the first time. It was much different from the prairie lands of Nebraska and Iowa where I grew up. As I became acclimated, I enjoyed working in the Catholic schools staffed by the Duluth Benedictine Sisters. While in this program, I had an encounter with our loving God, and I knew God was calling me to be a member of this Benedictine community.

As I grew more in love with my God and my new Benedictine family, I continued to follow my chosen ministry of teaching children. Following final vows I went to Chicago and then to Phoenix, Arizona, where I stayed for eight years, teaching second grade and junior high school. In 1973 I returned to Minnesota, but not forever. Just five years later I was asked to return to Arizona. Never did I dream that this desert assignment would last for perhaps the rest of my teaching years.

My long stay at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Phoenix was interrupted in 2007 when I was diagnosed with cancer. I remained in Duluth for long-term treatment and recovery. During this time I became keenly aware of the meaning and value of community, compassion, and complete abandonment to the will of God. With much concerned prayer, compassion, and care from SMDC, the BHC, and the Monastery's Benet Hall, I was able to return to work the following academic year. It is with great joy, gratitude, and appreciation that I am now celebrating this anniversary which, for me, is truly golden.



*Sister Mary (Adriette) Rochefort* 50

I grew up on a small dairy farm in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula, the youngest of fifteen children. My parents, Amie and Mabel Rochefort, were hard-working people and expected the same from us. I loved the farm and between chores I could, more times than not, be found in the barn with the calves. I enjoyed picking berries and swimming in Lake Michigan during the summer. I attended the same two-room schoolhouse that each of my siblings had.

In the fall of my sophomore year of high school I was chosen as one of the two students from our home parish to attend the newly opened Holy Name Catholic High School in Escanaba. For the next three years I lived with a wonderful family in Gladstone, just seven miles from Escanaba. It was during these years that I learned about the Duluth Benedictines and decided to seek acceptance into the Community.

During my early years as a Benedictine my childhood dream of becoming a teacher was realized. This ministry was my delight for thirty-five years as I served as a teacher and/or principal in the Catholic Elementary School System in the Duluth Diocese, as well as in St. Cloud and Minneapolis.

My other community ministries include director of Benedictine Associates and director of initial formation at our monastery. I am currently the Associate Vice President of Mission Integration at The College of St. Scholastica, a position I have held for the past eight years.

God has blessed me in many ways and I am most grateful.



# JUBILARIANS



**Sister Pauline (Joel) Micke** 50

*"I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare, not for harm, to give you a future with hope. When you call upon me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me if you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).*

This passage has guided my life's journey, and its truth has become reality, even when my plans tried to get in the way.

Born on April 27, 1940, I was number five in a line of seven. My parents, Ted and Albena Micke, were persons of deep faith with an alive spirituality that permeated their entire lives.

I was educated by Benedictines from 1st grade through graduate school when I received a master's in theology. My parents were Benedictine Oblates, and my aunt and cousin are Benedictines. It's not surprising then that I am a Benedictine, except to me who was never going to be a Sister—I had my whole life planned out by the time I was in the 8th grade.

God indeed had other plans for me "for a future with hope" as Jeremiah says. My journey has included teaching junior and senior high and college students, being parish director for faith formation and mission educator for the Benedictine Health System as well as parish pastoral administrator. It has also included the blessing of treatment and recovery for myself, working as an addictions counselor for nine years, and now being spiritual director and director of the Benedictine Center of Spirituality.

I have experienced deeply and lived with the reality that "if you call, God hears. If you search from your heart, you will find." The blessings have been many—beginning with a close, loving family. All along I have been strengthened and guided by Paul's message in First Corinthians—"My grace is sufficient for you." To that I humbly, with a grateful heart respond—AMEN! ALLELUIA!



**Sister Grace Marie Braun** 60

Although I grew up in a family which included seven religious among our relatives, I never thought about religious life for myself. Even after two of my sisters entered St. Scholastica Monastery, I intended to become a professional dietician. But God had other plans for me, and when I graduated from The College of St. Scholastica in June 1948 and entered the Monastery, I had no idea how fulfilling and blessed my life would be as a Benedictine Sister.

I completed an MA in Dietetics from St. Louis University and taught dietetics at the College for 25 years and also directed the food service for the Monastery, College, and High School (Stanbrook Hall). I served as Prioress of my Benedictine Community for 12 years, after which I enjoyed a year's sabbatical in two spiritual renewal programs. I then began the Monastery's Development Office and worked there until God called me to a most extraordinary ministry with the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing in Milwaukee. After four years I returned to the Monastery to serve as Director of Human Resources for our Sisters and lay employees. A most enjoyable recent ministry was as director of our residential volunteer Benedictine Associate Program. Although I am no longer in full-time ministry, I am on the Vocation Ministry Team.

Life has not been all work! I have enjoyed vacations with my family and with friends and have had opportunities for foreign travel. I enjoyed tennis, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. My knitting is always close at hand to pick up when time permits.

My parents, Anton and Emma Gehl Braun, were most supportive and encouraging through the years. I was raised in Kohler, Wisconsin, with my siblings, Sister Joan, +Bob, Sister Mary Carol, and Mary, and a close network of relatives and friends.

# JUBILARIANS



*Sister Mary Rae (Genevieve) Higgins* 60

Sixty years sound like a long time, but to me they seemed to fly by. I love my religious life, the liturgies, and the family-feel of community.

Growing up in a family of twelve here in Duluth, with parents of deep faith and a Benedictine education from grade school through college, prepared me well for the life I chose, or God chose for me. I went on for a master's in special education at St. Cloud State and enjoyed teaching the disabled at Brainerd State Hospital as special teacher in a Title I project for a year. Then I spent eight years at St. Gertrude's School for Girls in Washington, D.C., teaching intermediate girls and being a housemother.

Before this all happened, I taught grade school in International Falls, Virginia, and Aitkin (3 grades), in Crosby as principal and 6th grade teacher, and at Our Lady of Victory School in Minneapolis. After my stint in Washington, D.C., I taught at Holy Name in Wayzata.

All this prepared me for my next venture, which was pastoral ministry here in Duluth and in Hibbing. I started out in my home parish, St. Clement's, which has since become Holy Family after the merger of St. Clement's, St. Jean's, and SS Peter and Paul. Next I served at St. Mary Star of the Sea half-days and taught in St. Louis County Jail half-days. St. Mary merged with Our Lady of Mercy and St. Peters at that time. Finally, I was in Hibbing at St. Leo's, which was merged with Blessed Sacrament and Immaculate Conception. I became an expert in mergers and loved visiting the homebound and hospitalized people.

Since returning to the Monastery in 2004, I have earned a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Shalem out east and have had charge of the volunteers here at the Monastery. All in all, it's been a fulfilling life with more to discover.

What wonders the Lord has done!



*Sister Agatha Riehl* 70

I was born on our family farm on February 17, 1921, near the small town of Raleigh, North Dakota. I was given the name Natalia after my maternal grandmother. I am the second in a family of seven children. I attended a one-room country school where one teacher taught all eight grades. We had only seven months of school annually because the students needed to help on the farms.

After such a background and with English as a second language, I entered Stanbrook Hall, a college-preparatory high school in Duluth. The adjustment was great, but with the help of the Sisters, my teachers, and my classmates I managed to get caught up in a couple of years. By the time I was a junior, I was on the honor roll.

After my graduation from Stanbrook Hall, I entered St. Scholastica Monastery as a postulant. At my first profession, I resolved to say "yes" to whatever ministry was assigned to me.

My religious community helped me identify my talents and provided opportunities to develop them. Most of the ministries I was assigned I would not have had the courage to choose on my own, but with God's help I was successful in each of them.

And so, over a period of 70 years I had a variety of assignments. These included being a prefect in a college dorm; director of postulants; graduate student on both the masters and doctoral levels; work in our Cancer Research lab. And 53 years of teaching a variety of Chemistry courses at The College of St. Scholastica. After my retirement from teaching in 1997, I was assigned part-time work as a sacristan and asked to sew for the Sisters, our gift shop, and the annual Christmas sale. I am still involved in these ministries, and I really enjoy them.

One of the greatest joys of my religious life is that my younger sister, Sister Claudia, joined me in this meaningful and beautiful way of life.



# JUBILARIANS



**Sister Renee Cormier** 70  
By +Sister Mary Paul Ludwig

Born in 1920, Sister Renee attended Stanbrook Hall High School, and entered the Community on August 30, 1938. She then taught first grade at St. Thomas School in International Falls and then in Minneapolis, Chicago, Duluth, Virginia, Crosby, and Wayzata, returning to St. Thomas in International Falls in 1978.

When Sister Renee was no longer able to teach, she heard of an opening at St. Mary's Medical Center for a receptionist at the third floor desk. She had volunteered at this job for many summers, so she was hired. She moved into Victory Hall with the other Sisters working at St. Mary's. She worked for several years at this paid position. Then downsizing took place at St. Mary's, and Sister Renee agreed to work at the third floor desk as a volunteer so that a single mother could continue on as a paid employee. Her gracious personality and charming smile became her mission. Every time a patient passed her desk on the way to surgery, a prayer was offered up for a successful surgery. Oftentimes she came out from behind her desk to hold the patient's hand or place a blessing on the patient's forehead. This was her final ministry. Any number of people remember and still call the desk on third floor "Sister Renee's desk." Once again complicated circumstances forced her to retire. She now resides in Benet Hall, our infirmary, where she never fails to stop in the Chapel to pray for one and all.

Sister Renee still has her winning smile and never forgets to say "thank you" for the help she now requires.



**Sister Jeanne Marie Lortie** 75

I had a wonderful family. I had wonderful parents. I entered Community and found wonderful Sisters.

I was born and educated in Canada. I came from Eganville, Ontario, a town of about 1500 people. My father was a businessman and my mother a nurse. My sisters all became nurses and my brother a doctor. But I came to The College of St. Scholastica to study music with Sister Martina Hughes and became enamored with the religious life around me.

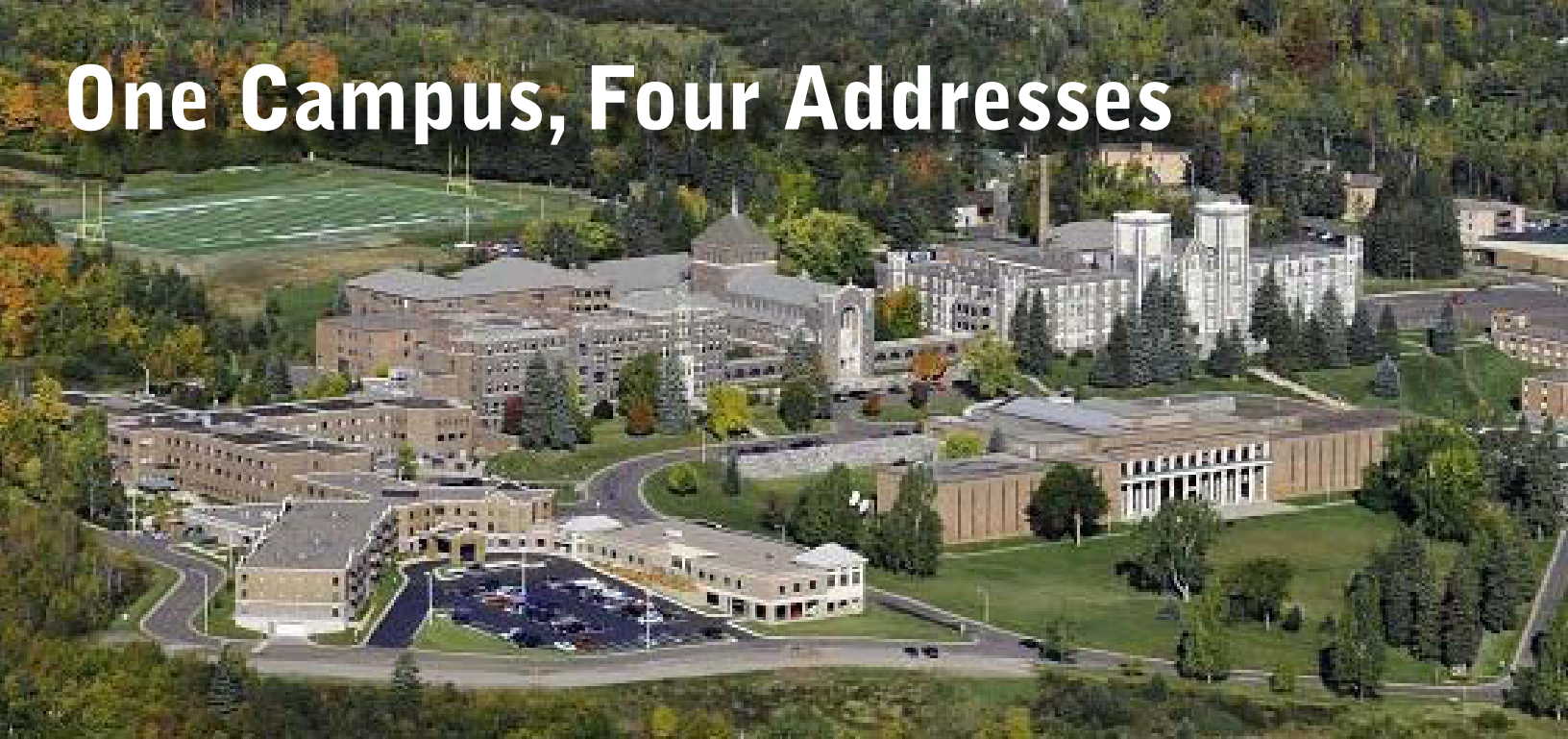
I have indeed been privileged in my life as a religious. I obtained a B.A. from The College of Scholastica with majors in music and English and minors in French and history. I obtained a master's degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and did graduate work at Laval University in Quebec City in Canada and at several other universities over the years.

Most of my religious life has been spent in education. I taught in many of the elementary schools of the Diocese of Duluth and then at Stanbrook Hall High School. I believe my years at Stanbrook can be considered the best years of my teaching career. I taught speech, French, and music and was the drama coach.

After Stanbrook Hall closed in 1967, I wrote several books, some of them on etiquette. I also spoke at various clubs and schools. Topics were either about the books or about Mother Scholastica Kerst and the early years of the Community. In 1972 I began Priory Books and published many books written by various members of our Community, including *House of Stone* in 1991, the centenary history of the Community.



# One Campus, Four Addresses



We are, as always, grateful for your continued generosity and prayers. Please remember when you make a contribution that each of the four Kenwood Avenue institutions has its own separate mission, ministries, and financial structure. Each organization also has a separate mailing address:

**St. Scholastica Monastery**  
1001 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811-2300

**The College of St. Scholastica**  
1200 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811-4199

**Benedictine Health Center**  
935 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811-4951

**Westwood Senior Independent  
& Assisted Living Apartments**  
925 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, Minnesota 55811-2124

It is important to us that contributions support our donors' intentions. If you wish your donations to support the Sisters and our current ministries, please make contributions payable to St. Scholastica Monastery and send them to the Monastery address.

## Please Pray for the Following Deceased Friends and Relatives

Mary Neuman Volp 12/2008  
Mary E. Clark 1/5/2010  
Patricia Higgins Marlenga 2/13/10  
Sister of Sister Mary Rae Higgins  
and Sister Barbara Higgins  
Jean Francois Dionne 2/19/2010  
Father of Sister Luce Marie Dionne  
William James Shearer 2/22/2010  
Beatrice A. Fry 2/22/2010  
Anna McKane 3/2/2010  
Sister of Sister Jeanne Marie Lortie  
Katherine Mayerle Parrish 3/5/2010  
Margaret Hayden 3/16/2010  
Margaret Krause 3/28/2010  
Alice M. Kurtovich 4/2/2010

Julia Palcich 4/15/2010  
Patricia M. Berres 4/26/2010  
Victoria Bobence 4/27/2010  
Sister of +Sister Gervase Erchul,+Sister  
Maxine Erchul, and +Sister Antonia Erchul  
John Joseph Stepan 4/28/2010  
Patricia Maloney Kwaterski 5/1/2010  
Annabelle Mary Lounsberry 5/14/2010  
Angela Micke 6/17/2010  
Sister of +Sister Inez Chartier  
Janet Beck 6/17/2010  
Sister of Sister Pauline Micke  
Philip G. Reimer 6/21/2010  
Gerald W. Heaney 6/22/2010



# Rev. John Whitney Evans Fund

Before his death in 2002, Rev. John Whitney Evans planned to create a fund to financially assist men and women who choose to pursue a vocation to either the priesthood or to religious life. As a memorial to Father Evans, the Knights of Columbus, assisted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, established a memorial fund to support vocation ministries. Gifts to the fund are given in memory of loved ones, and the contributions are used by the Knights of Columbus, the Sisters, and the Diocese to support vocation expenses.

As you know, young people who believe they may have a vocation find that there are many expenses when they first begin. Initially, when they leave the world of work, they are responsible for their own health care and personal expenses. The Rev. John Whitney Evans Vocation Fund supports these men and women who are discerning their calling to a religious vocation.

The memorial board is located at St. Scholastica Monastery, and the Fund is administered by the Sisters. The names of your loved ones and your name will be engraved on a plaque and installed on a lovely six-foot wooden memorial board located next to the Monastery's vocation ministry offices. Donations are \$100 for each plaque.

If you are interested in supporting this fund, please fill out the form below. Whether or not you are able to participate financially in this project, we ask you to please join us in praying for men and women who are called to religious life or to the priesthood.



## Rev. John Whitney Evans Vocation Fund

Please accept my donation of \$100

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on the plaque)

Your name(s) and the name(s) of the person(s) remembered  
will be engraved on the plaque unless you instruct otherwise.

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on the plaque)

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
St. Scholastica Monastery  
*Note: Evans Vocation Fund*

Mail to:  
Development Office  
St. Scholastica Monastery  
1001 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811



# *In Loving Memory*

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



*Legendary Community baker*

## **Sister Bertille Goblirsch, OSB**

*November 30, 1926 — February 19, 2010*

Sister Bertille (Bernadine) Goblirsch, OSB, 83, St. Scholastica Monastery, died at the Monastery Friday, February 19, 2010. She entered the Duluth Benedictine community January 3, 1951, and professed monastic vows July 11, 1952. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee of monastic profession August 15, 1977, and her Golden Jubilee July 7, 2002.

Sister Bertille was born November 30, 1926, in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. She received her High School Equivalency Diploma from Phoenix College. Her ministries in the Community were primarily housekeeping and food service. Sister Bertille's housekeeping duties included serving at Our Lady of Victory and St. Bridget's Convents in Minneapolis, St. Timothy's in Chicago, and St. Thomas the Apostle in Phoenix. Her food service work was chiefly in baking at St. Scholastica Monastery, The College of St. Scholastica, and the Benedictine Health Center, all in Duluth. In 1998 she retired from food service and in 2002 began volunteer work for the Community.

Sister Bertille was noted for and, no doubt, will be legendary for her baking abilities. The Sisters were amazed at her specialties—homemade breads, cinnamon rolls, cookies, and delicious rhubarb and strawberry pies. All these mouth-watering goodies were welcomed by the Sisters. At Christmastime she treated them to her unsurpassable fruitcake and on Good Friday she baked fresh hot cross buns. She also made and decorated cakes for special occasions. But Sister Bertille's talents were not limited to culinary skills. She crocheted and did beautiful works of tatting and embroidery.

Sister Bertille was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Clara (Sellner) Goblirsch, her brothers Edwin, Eugene, Gerald and Denis, sister-in-law Lynn Goblirsch, and by a brother-in-law, Harry Dorn. Besides the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by her brother, Father Robert Goblirsch, her sister, Alice Dorn, an aunt Mary Turbes (now in her 101st year), sisters-in-law Adele and Agnes Goblirsch, several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and other relatives and friends.



*Centennial celebration in 1992 (l to r) +Sister Lelia Hartung, Sister Celine Plante, Sister Bertille, Sister Rebecca Burggraff*



# *In Loving Memory*

(continued)

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



## **Sister Rose Marie Larkin, OSB**

*February 22, 1915 — March 7, 2010*

Sister Rose Marie Larkin, OSB, 95, died at St. Mary's Medical Center on Sunday, March 7, 2010. She was born February 22, 1915, in Brainerd, Minnesota, and entered the Duluth Benedictine community January 9, 1933. She professed monastic vows July 11,

1934, and celebrated her Silver Jubilee of profession in 1959, her Golden Jubilee in 1984, her Diamond in 1994, her 70th in 2004, and her 75th in 2009.

Sister Rose Marie graduated from Brainerd High School in 1931. She earned a B.A. in English from The College of St. Scholastica in 1941, an M.A. in English from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1944, and a B.S. in Nursing from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1958. Her ministries included teaching elementary school at St. Timothy's School, Chicago, Illinois; instructor in English, speech, and debate at Cathedral High School, Duluth, Minnesota; instructor in English and prefect at The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth; head nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth; staff nurse at the University of California Medical Center, the San Francisco City and County General Hospital and the Hahnemann Hospital Intensive Care Unit, all in San Francisco, California; staff nurse in Coronary Care, St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth.

She had a great love for her family. After the tragic accidental drowning of her father when she was two years old, her mother raised their seven children. In recent years Sister Rose Marie wrote a special booklet honoring her mother. She also held the remaining family relatives together for the rest of her life. She loved her Irish ancestry and, working on her family tree, at the age of 79 traveled to Ireland to do research for it. At her wake it was noted how kind and compassionate she was in regard to others, especially her brother, Father Harry, and her sister, Mary, prior to their deaths in the Benedictine Health Center.

After her retirement Sister Rose Marie designed and cared for what became known as the "Magnificat Garden" at St. Scholastica Monastery. She also assisted at the Information Desk and was a writer for *The Wanderer*.

Sister Rose Marie was preceded in death by her parents Patrick and Margaret (McCabe) Larkin; her brothers Father Harry, Father Martin, Father William, Thomas and Art, and a sister, Mary (Abell). She is survived by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



*Sister Rose Marie (l) working in the Magnificat Gardens.*



*Sister Rose Marie celebrated her 90th birthday in 2005.*

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Photo from Monastery Archives



Sister Mary Paul (l) and Sister Renee Cormier in 1938, part of Stanbrook Hall's first graduating class.

Photo by Andi Therrien



Sister Mary Paul made jams, jellies, and breads for CHUM's rhubarb festival.

## **Sister Mary Paul (Collette) Ludwig, OSB**

*February 20, 1920 — May 7, 2010*

Sister Mary Paul (Collette) Ludwig, OSB, 90, died at St. Scholastica Monastery on May 7, 2010. August 30, 1938, she entered the Duluth Benedictine community as a postulant, was admitted to the novitiate July 9, 1939, professed monastic vows July 11, 1940, and made her final monastic commitment July 11, 1943. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1965, her Golden Jubilee August 12, 1990, and her Diamond Jubilee August 12, 2000.

Sister Mary Paul was born February 20, 1920, in Duluth, Minnesota, one of ten children born to Charles and Verena (Rodenkirch) Ludwig. She attended Duluth Cathedral Grade School and Stanbrook Hall High School. She received a B.A. in Elementary Education from The College of St. Scholastica in 1953 and an M.E. in Elementary Supervision and Administration from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sister Mary Paul taught at schools in Chicago, Phoenix, Wayzata, Hibbing, International Falls, and Duluth.

During her active career, Sister Mary Paul ministered in many capacities, but she admitted her favorite ministry was in Chile. In 1964 she was in the first group of Sisters from the Monastery to go to Antofagasta, Chile. While there she was Principal and Director of grades K-12 at the Colegio San Jose, and, later, served as Curriculum Director and Master Teacher at the high school level. The last four years Sister was in Chile Sister Mary Paul worked with FIDE, the federation of Chilean private schools in Santiago.

When Sister Mary Paul returned to Duluth in 1973, and until 1993, she worked in diverse ministries. She co-chaired the Benedictine Community Renewal Process, was Executive Coordinator of the Duluth Diocesan Pastoral Council, and was Director of Environmental Services at the Benedictine Health Center. She attracted national attention when she was appointed by Bishop Paul Anderson as Administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Duluth. In 1995 Sister Mary Paul retired but continued putting in as much time as her health permitted, working in Hospice at St. Mary's Medical Center and Solvay Hospice House and organizing and providing breads and jam for the Sisters' annual Christmas sale. She helped with the Rhubarb Festival sponsored by CHUM and made quilts, hats, mittens, and scarves for the homeless and made complete newborn baby kits, including Christmas stockings and quilts for the pediatrics department of St. Mary's Medical Center Duluth.

Sister Mary Paul was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Verena (Rodenkirch) Ludwig, four brothers: Charles, Urban, Paul, and Joseph, and four sisters: Marguerite (Merritt-Shearer), Henerietta (Payson), Eda (Christianson), and Mary (DeChantal-Nelson). In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by her sister, Mrs. Richard (Therese) Piekarski, Glenwood, Minnesota, and many other relatives and friends.



# *In Loving Memory*

*(continued)*

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



## **Sister Eleanor Ann Beckfelt, OSB**

*December 10, 1948 — March 7, 2010*

Sister Eleanor Ann Beckfelt, OSB, 61, died May 7, 2010, at Solvay Hospice House. She entered the Duluth Benedictine community as an affiliate on March 23, 1978, became a postulant September 8, 1978, entered the novitiate June 24, 1979 and professed her monastic vows July 11, 1980. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee June 19, 2005.

Sister Eleanor Ann was born December 10, 1948, in Duluth, the fourth child of Raymond John Beckfelt and Eleanor Ann (Hoolihan) Beckfelt. She attended St. Helen's Elementary School in Vero Beach, Florida, and John Carroll High School in Ft. Pierce, Florida. After attending Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, from 1976 to 1977, she became a Licensed Practical Nurse. Later, she took a summer course in art and was a student in the gerontology program at The College of St. Scholastica.

Sister Eleanor Ann did nursing work on the orthopedic floor at St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth, Minnesota. She also worked in the Adult Day Services in the Benedictine Health Center, Duluth, and later in the Special Care Unit in the same facility. In 1990 she became the Program Facilitator and Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Anthony's Center in Duluth. In 1991 she was assigned as nurse for the Sisters at St. Scholastica. On her return to the Monastery after a period of providing supportive care for her brother, Reverend John Beckfelt, near River Falls, Wisconsin, she worked in the Spiritual Resource Center and was designated as one of the Sisters on-call. Sister had a strong Marian devotion and enjoyed visiting many Marian shrines overseas.

Sister Eleanor Ann was preceded in death by her parents Raymond John and Eleanor Ann (Hoolihan) Beckfelt, a brother, Jerome Raymond Beckfelt, and her sister, Mary Catherine Pommerville. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by her brother, Fr. John William Beckfelt; special spiritual daughter, AnnMarie Goulet; and many other relatives and friends.



*Sister Eleanor Ann and her brother, Rev. John William Beckfelt, at Medjugorje.*



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier

*Sister Eleanor Ann celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 2005.*





## Sister Mary Jean Tuttle, OSB

*November 29, 1923 — June 6, 2010*

Sister Mary Jean Tuttle, OSB, 86, died Sunday, June 6, 2010, in Benet Hall at St. Scholastica Monastery. She was born November 29, 1923, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where she attended St. Michael's Elementary School and Central High School. She earned a B.A. from The College of St. Scholastica with a music major and minors in English and French, an M.A. in Theology from St. John's School of Theology, Collegeville, Minnesota, an M.M.Ed.

degree in Music Education from the University of North Dakota, and

an M.A. in Communications from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Other studies included music at Northwestern University, psychology and education at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, Minnesota, French at Kansas State University, and music education at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Sister Mary Jean entered the Duluth Benedictine community January 4, 1943, and professed her monastic vows July 11, 1944. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee August 12, 1969, her Golden Jubilee July 10, 1994, and her Diamond Jubilee August 8, 2004. She taught elementary grades at St. Timothy's in Chicago, Illinois, St. Francis in Brainerd, Minnesota, and St. Anthony's and Sacred Heart Schools in Duluth. Later she taught at Cathedral High School in Duluth and, for a year, at Gerard High School in Phoenix, Arizona. Finally, she joined the faculty at The College of St. Scholastica as assistant professor of Music and Communication. In 1999 she received the Max H. Lavine Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2000 the Sister Timothy Kirby Benedictine Spirit Award. In addition to her professional work, she was a member of the Monastery's schola and was a member of Pax Christi, an international society for the promotion of peace and justice.

Sister Mary Jean was preceded in death by her parents Jess and Grace (Carroll) Tuttle; a brother, Robert, and a sister, Grace (Tuttle) Steinbar. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by a brother, Donald, a sister, Marguerite (Tuttle) Carlson, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.



Photo by Dave Ballard

*Sister Mary Jean in The College of St. Scholastica's Homecoming parade 2008.*



*Sister Jeanne Marie Lortie (left) and Sister Mary Jean.*

## St. Scholastica Monastery

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# Mission

We, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, Minnesota, are monastic women who seek God in community through a life of prayer and work. Living in accordance with the Gospel and the *Rule of St. Benedict*, we respond to the needs of the Church and the world through our ministries.

### *During the past year Sisters have served at the following sites:*

Benedictine Health Center, Duluth, MN  
Benedictine Health System, Duluth, MN  
CASDA (Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse) Duluth, MN and Superior, WI  
Cathedral School, Superior, WI  
Center City Parishes, Duluth, MN  
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN  
Essentia Health System, Duluth, MN  
Holy Cross Parish, Mesa, AZ  
Home Care, Minnetonka, MN  
McCabe Renewal Center, Duluth, MN  
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Phoenix, AZ  
Parochial and Public Schools, Duluth, MN  
St. Ann's Residence, Duluth, MN  
St. Lawrence and St. Joseph Parishes, Duluth, MN

St. Luke's Institute, Silver Springs, MD  
St. Mary of the Lake School, Chicago, IL  
St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System, Duluth, MN  
St. Mary's Parish, Silver Bay, MN  
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN  
St. Thomas the Apostle School, Phoenix, AZ  
Senior Companion, International Falls, MN  
Spiritual Direction, Scottsdale and Anthem, AZ  
Transcultural Nursing Society, Livonia, MI  
Tranquil Touch, Therapeutic Massage and T'ai Chi Chih, St. Paul, MN  
University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Westwood Senior Living, Duluth, MN