

# PATHWAYS



*Newsletter of the Duluth Benedictine Sisters*

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## Dear Friends of the Monastery,



The turning of the seasons, the awakening of spring merging quickly into summer, has stirred my heart with gratitude made deeper this time round because of the juxtaposition of several experiences over the last year. I have been awed by the wonder of the earth, the place we call home, while watching the National Geographic series “One Strange Rock,” narrated by Will Smith and featuring insights of eight astronauts. It shows the incredible beauty and uniqueness of our earth and tells the story of why life as we know it exists today after millions of years of transformation. Simultaneously, many of us have been reading about the interconnectedness of humanity, God, and the universe in the writings of Ilia Delio, OSF who will visit us this fall.

Then on the first day of our “Furthering our Future” conversations, our consultant Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ placed an inflated globe of our blue planet front and center to remind us that the earth and its people are undergoing transformation globally in ways we have yet to fully appreciate. She urged us to keep this in mind as we seek new ways for Benedictine religious life to thrive and to serve. And finally, this spring Sister Ann McCarthy, OSB eloquently outlined the connection between the Twelve Steps of Humility of the Holy Rule and twelve principles needed for sustainability of our common home.

These reflections and connections remind me that the life we enjoy and take for granted must be protected and our kinship with the whole family of living things acknowledged, so that our common home will continue to sustain all living things. This requires adopting an environmentally friendly and simple lifestyle and requires from all of us a “concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*). In her interview for *The Occasional Papers* (Winter 2017), Cynthia Bourgeault proposes that when a critical mass of people reaches a level of consciousness about Oneness, a “tipping point,” then we can “live out of that deeply shared collective sense of the whole, where we breathe from the whole.” It is from this consciousness which she identifies as the mind of Christ that we can participate in shaping the planet with deeply transformed love. It is out of that same level of consciousness that Benedict envisioned the whole of the earth in one ray of light. The way to see as he saw is to be silent enough in contemplation to feel the breath of the Spirit moving through us, to “breathe from the whole” and out from that source into action to do the right thing for the good of those we serve, for the world around us, and the blue planet we call home.

As the celebration of 125 years of our Community history ends, we thank the Concert Band of the College of St. Scholastica for its world premiere performance of “Evening Prayer,” commissioned in honor of Sister Monica Laughlin and the anniversary of our founding, and based on the chant *Ut Queant Laxis* (Hymn to St. John the Baptist). It captured the spirit of our past as it drew us forward with its creative use of instruments, including the ethereal sounds of water on a wine glass and a bow drawn against a bell chime. We continue to give thanks for the gift of *The Saint John's Bible* traveling through the facilities of the Benedictine Health System and The College of St. Scholastica in honor of our anniversary year.

Thanks to our donors and to the proceeds of the Christmas Bazaar, the Sisters and our guests continue to enjoy the beauty of our monastery campus while participating in events sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment. The Garden Court has new benches and rocking chairs, and soon new landscaping will grace the entrance to Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel.

This *Pathways* highlights the literary works of Katherine Paterson. I had the pleasure of reading three of the books in autographed copies reviewed from Sister Sarah's collection. It is never too late to read these young adult books. I recommend them for the unexpected twists in plot and the engaging life lessons.

Lovingly in Christ,

*Sister Beverly*  
Sister Beverly Raway

# “And Behold, I Am Making All Things New” (Rev 21:5)

by Sister Mary Catherine Shambour (mcshambour@duluthosb.org)

After a seemingly endless winter, spring returned to the Northland. Our hearts soared with delight at each manifestation of new life bursting forth from what appeared to be dead branches and frozen ground. Upon deeper reflection, however, we recall that something always must die for new life to emerge just as Jesus pointed out to us about the grain of wheat.

Thus, we might describe the status of our Community at this time as awaiting a new growth of life, while discussing former ways of life that must first die for this to occur. During its more than 1,500 years of existence, Benedictine monasteries of both men and women have undergone periods of growth, decline and re-founding. While we are discussing changes and new directions, visitors recently asked if I have ever regretted the life I have chosen.

While I could truthfully answer that I have never for one moment regretted giving my life to God, I do however have great concern for the future of American Catholicism, especially for the younger and middle aged generations who in large numbers have abandoned the faith we dedicated our lives to as having little or no meaning for them. Though the reasons are many and I don't claim to have all the answers that might bring about change, I can offer some suggestions based on serious prayer, reading, listening and discussions about what is happening and needed in our Church today.

To state it briefly, we're so overwhelmed by the rapid rate of change in our world and society that we have no time for serious prayerful reflection of what it all means in reference to God, our faith and our personal lives. At the same time we are so enamored with all the possibilities technology offers us for instant validation, knowledge, communication and entertainment that we spend up to five hours a day on our phones texting or living in a virtual world. In the meantime, any faith we once had appears boring and meaningless. Sadly, when the world is in most need for committed Christians, we are tied up with our



*In this photo taken by the Hubble Telescope, the three galaxies named Galaxy Triplet ARP 274 circle in a dance of merging gravitational fields. The movement, drawn out over many eons, calls to mind the loving dance of the three Persons of the Trinity. Photo courtesy of NASA*

phones! As for our faith, too many of our churchgoers have drifted into cultural apathy. What is needed is a powerful shake up by the Holy Spirit to bring a new transformation of our hearts, a new Pentecost to teach us how to live our faith in this amazing new challenging and inter-related world. We can never learn enough about God who is “forever making something new!”

Space allows only a few suggestions to help update our knowledge of God and our faith. The first is to enlarge our understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in the Trinity and in our own lives as well as in all creation, and then daily to call on the Spirit who dwells within each of us in order to know and carry out God's will. A second is to seek out and use all opportunities to deepen our knowledge of the faith and how it must guide our actions in this new integrated world. We can never learn enough about our faith and how it should guide our lives.

Paradoxically, while many who have received the gift of faith find it boring, there are non-believers who would put us to shame in their zeal to learn what life is all about and how to make it better for humanity. An example is Stephen Hawking, the world famous theoretical physicist who recently died. His work on black holes, quantum mechanics, and the origin of the universe has brought new understandings of the universe as he consistently

sought to know how and why it even exists. Despite suffering from ALS for more than 50 years, he pursued his passion for discovering a “theory of everything” that would be understandable in broad principle by everyone, for then “we would know the mind of God!” While Hawking searched the outer universe, scientists examining the interrelated complexity of sub atomic particles have remarked about their findings that we “should fall down on our knees in adoration” or if we are not concerned about these findings, “we ought to be.”

Can all these new discoveries help us grow in our love for God? They should because they reflect the Holy Spirit’s continuing action in our world.

In an effort to further this growth, the Sisters and the Catholic Studies Department of The College of St. Scholastica have invited Ilia Delio to speak at the College this fall. As a Franciscan Sister, scientist, and theologian, she writes on the intersection of Christian faith with modern science. \*Ilia Delio will hold a free lecture on November 1 at The College of St. Scholastica at 7:30 p.m., that will focus on the life of faith in the unfolding universe. She will also lead workshops and lectures hosted by the Sisters. Mark the dates, inform your friends, and learn some of the beautiful things God is making new!



St. Scholastica Monastery will host Ilia Delio’s workshop, **“Nature is Alive! Ecology and the Quest for the Super Intelligence.”** Times listed below:

**Friday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.     \$25**

**Saturday, November 3, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.     \$50** (refreshments and lunch included)

Location: Somers Hall Lounge - The College of St. Scholastica

Program and registration details via [www.duluthbenedictines.org](http://www.duluthbenedictines.org) and [retreatduluth.org](http://retreatduluth.org)

*Join a summer book discussion group to prepare yourself for this event.*

**See page 14: Expanding Christian Spirituality in Our Expanding Universe for more information.**

## Parishes: The Vineyard of Vocations

by Sister Edith Bogue, OSB

We often hear that “the family is the seedbed of vocations.” Who has care of the shoots and seedlings? Jesus tells us in the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:1-23) that the seedlings can wither in trials, succumb to busyness, or fall prey to temptation. Who does the work of nurturing, guiding, sustaining the new growth planted by the family? The community of our parishes.

Our culture is not friendly to vocations, whether to religious life (sisters, brothers, nuns, priests, hermits, consecrated virgins) or to the diocesan clergy (priests, deacons). Yet some parishes have encouraged several young people to follow Christ in a Church vocation. What can we learn from these vineyards of vocations?

**Disciples Make Disciples.** Jesus called his apostles one-by-one. Each responded by entering a whole-hearted relationship with him. They asked him questions, watched him, learned from him, brought him their troubles. Their faith was grounded in a relationship with Jesus, to whom they gave their hearts and their lives. Others came to know Christ through them. They, too, became disciples.

The same is true today. “All the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status,” we read in the Constitution of the Church *Lumen Gentium*, “are called to the fullness of the Christian life.” Yet nearly half of Catholics don’t believe in a personal God; few say they have a relationship with God. Many are generous, active members of a parish



– but they have not found “the fullness of the Christian life” to which they are called.

Vocations flourish in parishes where discipleship is common. People are eager to live and share Christ’s love with one another and the world. Activities and decisions are grounded as much in prayer as in plans and strategies. Prayer is frequent, deep and fervent. People rejoice to see God’s hand at work in their daily lives.

**Vocations Are Real, Not Rare.** I was visiting a parish; we were praying the Diocesan Vocation Prayer. A little girl said, “Mom, what does a vocation look like? Do we have one in our house?” Wow! What might make the word real to her?

Some parishes feature photos of all the religious or clergy who ever served there, or are in formation, or were professed/ordained in the last year. They are invited to events, receive notes or prayers on their Name Day or birthday, and their vocation stories are familiar and retold. Faith formation topics include Discernment. The parish sponsors visits to religious houses or seminaries. In short, a teen or young adult is aware that there are a dozen or more other people in the diocese who are further ahead on the path of vocation. What does a vocation look like? We can list the names.

### **Young People Are Accepted and Cherished.**

What is offered for teens and young adults? In parishes where vocations flourish, programs focus on creating events that fit the schedule and style of young people. Traditional devotions may be done in new ways, such as the Night Fever Adoration movement. Open discussion with religious, clergy, or experts able to grapple with the tough questions in their lives. Service or social justice opportunities that both help others and point to the Church’s social teaching.

Authenticity is key to relationships with young people. They are quick to detect condescension, fake buddies, or subtle coercion. Many say they long for genuine relationships with adults, and value wisdom that comes without blame or condemnation. They especially appreciate connection with faith-filled adults just a few years older. Vocations flourish in parishes that effectively invite the 20-somethings into a variety of ministries.

**Working in the Vineyard.** “I wish we had Sisters in this parish,” people often tell me when I’m visiting. It’s as though a Sister Factory in Ohio had shut down: an external reality. The future sisters, brothers, and clergy are sitting with us at Mass every week. Who stops to chat with the bored-looking teen, or invites the student visiting from college to lunch? Who reads the book, goes to the workshop, catches fire to share the faith with young Catholics? Who goes out repeatedly, from dawn to dusk, seeking to engage those whom God is calling (Mt 20:1-6)?

Jesus calls each of us to be workers in his vineyard. He has not ceased to call disciples nor to give the gift of vocation. The seedlings planted in the family struggle to reach maturity in our consumerist, polarized, and individualistic culture. The parish is the community, the vineyard, in which early hopes and dreams take root: to be a sister, priest, brother, even a hermit. A vineyard produces abundantly when it is well-tended by many workers.



*Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard from the 11th century  
Codex Aureus Epternacensis. Public Domain*

**New beginnings.** I meet fervent disciples in every parish I visit in our Duluth Diocese. Most are eager to involve young adults in the parish. They may be uncertain or shy, discouraged by past attempts that flopped. They aren’t even sure where to find the young people. While there is no one-size right answer, there is a wrong answer: doing nothing. If yours is a parish where vocations are flourishing, don’t slacken – and be eager to share your experiences. If your parish struggles to involve young people, find a few others eager to promote vocations. With prayer and creativity, explore new activities. Never tire of toiling in God’s vineyard, praying always that the Lord of the harvest send more workers into the field (Mt 9:38).

# Celebrating 125 Years – The Journey Continues

Sixth in a series of seven articles by Sister Judine Mayerle, OSB (jmayerle@css.edu)

When Mother Scholastica Kerst, then Prioress of St. Benedict's Convent in St. Joseph, Minnesota, first stepped off a train in Duluth on a cold December 15 afternoon in 1880 to determine whether she should send Sisters to Duluth to teach, she had no idea what she was setting in motion. She had no idea that she would become Prioress of the Duluth foundation of Benedictine Sisters, that they would build schools, hospitals, a college, and a Benedictine Health Center that would become part of their own Benedictine Health System. She might have smiled as she walked toward the depot had she known that 137 years later, on December 5, 2017, Dr. Colette Geary, the first laywoman to be president of The College of St. Scholastica, would stand in similar cold on the steps of Tower Hall getting ready to lead the countdown to the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, that Geary would look up in awe at the grandeur of Tower Hall and call it "a magnificent testament to what can only be described as an audacious vision of the Benedictine Sisters."

Although Mother Scholastica probably wouldn't have described hers as "an audacious vision," she once said, "My dream is that someday there will rise upon these grounds fine buildings, like the great Benedictine abbeys of Europe. They will be built of stone; within their walls, higher education will flourish; the Divine Office will be said, and the beautiful ceremonies of the liturgy will be carried out." She saw the construction of only the first section of Tower Hall before she died in June 1911 and thus never saw her dream fulfilled, but over the years the Community carried a piece of that prophetic dream forward. The Sisters who succeeded her as Prioress, supported by the growing Community, all had a piece of the vision and the courage to move it forward.

## Evolution of the Audacious Vision

Sister Alexia Kerst succeeded her sister, Mother Scholastica, and continued the tradition of sending Sisters for higher education and encouraged the expansion of the Academy's curriculum to include a two-year junior college. Mother Celestine Sullivan, elected after the death of Mother Alexia on May 22, 1916, was



*"The Villa" after 1921 when the gymnasium/auditorium (left) was built.*

a good administrator who retired much of the debt that had accrued through land purchase, construction of the first section of the motherhouse, and other costly projects. Mother Chrysostom Doran followed Mother Celestine as Prioress in August 1919, and her leadership saw an expansion of Tower Hall, including an addition to the northwest wing with a 120-seat Chapel, completion of the first tower, and construction of a gymnasium/auditorium. She also led the Community in building the center section of St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth and a new wing on St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd, Minnesota.

## Mother Agnes Somers ~ Builder and Educator

Mother Agnes Somers, who succeeded Mother Chrysostom in June 1924, was Prioress of the Duluth Benedictines for eighteen years and is remembered as "The Builder." A story often repeated over the years was that after her election, Mother Chrysostom suggested to Mother Agnes that "we probably shouldn't build anything more for a while." Mother Agnes may have agreed, but two years later, recognizing



the need for more space for the growing College and the increasing membership of the Community, completed the original plan for Tower Hall, with a second (north) tower, an elaborate lobby below the towers with a main entrance, and an additional wing, giving it the footprint it has today. (See *Pathways* Fall 2017 for construction details and photographs.)



*Construction begins for the first cloister walk at the south end of Tower Hall. The wood porches on each floor were replaced with porches of stone, and the first floor porch, which had been the main entrance to Tower Hall, became a lobby with a switchboard /information window, seating for guests, and an exterior door referred to as the “cloister entrance,” now known as the Peace Door. The main entrance to Tower Hall can be seen below the two towers.*

Archival records show that Mother Agnes believed that each graduate of The College of St. Scholastica be not only a well-educated woman, but a cultural, social, and spiritual leader as well. She stressed academic leadership and research as an integral part of the College’s commitment to Benedictine values. More Sisters received their graduate degrees and became leaders within the College. And while the curriculum emphasized theology and liberal arts, under her leadership the Sisters sought to meet the vocational needs of immigrant populations as well as staffing requirements of their own hospitals and schools. In 1928 the College, in conjunction with St. Mary’s School of Nursing, extended its curricular offerings to include combined academic and basic professional programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree and a diploma in nursing, among the first of its kind in the nation.

As both College and Community continued to grow, Mother Agnes and the Sisters knew it was again time to build, despite the possibility of war in Europe and the United States still suffering the effects of the Great Depression. Construction was a sign of hope and belief in the future, and it would provide employment for many. Architectural plans were drawn for a chapel/library, a five-story high school building, an auditorium, and two connecting cloister walks. Contracts were let on July 1, 1936,



*Preparing the site for the foundation of the chapel/library in 1936. The west end of Tower Hall can be seen to the right, the gymnasium in the background.*



*Construction of the Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace, 1937. Photo taken from the choir loft.*



*Interior of the original Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace. The chapel was three stories high, with two side transept chapels dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.*

and because the entire construction project was scheduled for completion in two years, work began at once. The chapel was put under the patronage of the Blessed Mother and given the name “Our Lady Queen of Peace” because of the growing threat of war in Europe. Bishop Thomas A. Welch consecrated the main altar of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on August 1, 1938, and a Solemn Pontifical High Mass was celebrated along with the blessing of the Chapel on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption.



*The Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace has been the center of the campus since its dedication in 1938.*



*It was customary in medieval abbeys to locate the library near or as part of the church. The CSS college library was slightly below ground and beneath the Chapel.*



*A “book brigade” of Sisters moving books from small libraries in Tower Hall to the new library before the start of the school year in Fall 1938.*



*Stanbrook Hall when completed in 1938. Named after a Benedictine abbey in England, it housed the new girls’ high school, including classrooms, offices, and residence space for the students and some Sisters. It closed in 1967 when the “new” Cathedral High School opened (now the Marshall School) and the Community took over the building for the Monastery.*

At the south end of the massive building project stood Stanbrook Hall. The first class of young women moved into the new high school in January 1938, with 38 students in its graduating class. During the 30 years of its existence, enrollment averaged 250 students per year with 40-50 seniors graduating each year. The main focus of the curriculum was college preparation, although art, music, typing, and home economics were also offered. Most of the faculty were Sisters, although a number of laywomen became part of the Stanbrook family. When the new Duluth Cathedral High School opened on the hilltop overlooking the city in Fall 1963 with a student body that was half male, Stanbrook’s enrollment began



to decline; by 1967 there were only 150 students. After educating some 1500 students, the high school closed. The influence of Stanbrook Hall on the women who spent their formative high school years in the private school overlooking Lake Superior was evident by their loyalty in returning year after year for their Stanbrook Hall Reunion.

## Decades of Tumultuous Change

The next thirty years saw two Sisters of very different temperament and style provide balanced, productive leadership for the Community during a time of difficult change. Mother Athanasius Braegelman succeeded Mother Agnes and served from 1942-1954 and 1960-1966. Mother Martina Hughes served from 1954-1960 and again from 1966-1972.

Community membership reached a peak in 1965 with 520 members. Additional parish schools were being staffed in Duluth and northeastern Minnesota as well as in Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Cincinnati. In 1961 Pope John XXIII asked all religious communities to send ten percent of their members as missionaries to Latin America. A priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Antofagasta, Chile, wrote to Mother Athanasius, asking for help with their school. Four Sisters who volunteered went first to Cuernavaca, Mexico, for immersion studies in Spanish and then to Antofagasta. Several more Sisters joined them and opened a health-care clinic in addition to working in the parish and the school. The Sisters left Chile in 1979 when the mission became self-sustaining.

In 1962 the Community recognized that the College's growing student body, housed primarily in Tower Hall, needed a separate residence building with dining room, kitchen, and lounges. A requirement for a federal loan was that the recipient institution be independently incorporated. For this financial reason the College was legally separated from the Benedictine Community on February 27, 1962, enabling the College to receive financial assistance for future additional buildings. Although sponsored by the Sisters to the present day, the College's leadership includes a Board of Trustees that has evolved to include both Sisters and laypeople. In addition to becoming separately incorporated and expanding the physical plant and academic programs, an important step in ensuring continued growth was the decision to become a coeducational institution. Male students were accepted in Fall 1969 when 39 men enrolled, 23 of them freshmen.

Mother Athanasius and then Mother Martina had wanted the Community to have pontifical status and membership in a Benedictine congregation. This would put the Community under the Abbot Primate in Rome and remove it from the direct control of the local bishop. It would also give the Community the ongoing support of other members of the congregation. The question had surfaced during Mother Athanasius' first term as Prioress, but Chapter deliberations of such a significant change in status



*Rockhurst Auditorium, used by the Community for Chapter meetings and movies, and by the College and high school for commencements, convocations, concerts, and theatrical productions. It was named "Rockhurst" in recognition of the hillside with rocks and a variety of trees immediately behind the building.*



*Construction of College Street to connect with Kenwood Avenue in 1940, with Villa Sancta Scholastica, as it was known then, in the background overlooking Lake Superior.*

continued until the end of Mother Martina's first term. In 1959 when the Community joined the Federation of St. Benedict and attained Pontifical Status, its name was changed from "Villa Sancta Scholastica" to "St. Scholastica Priory" and then "St. Scholastica Monastery" as it is known today.

## Turbulent Times

The years following the Second Vatican Council convened by Pope John XXIII in 1962 were a time of change and upheaval in the Church and in the Duluth Benedictine Community. Religious communities throughout the world were suddenly faced with challenges they had never anticipated. To many it seemed every sacred belief was being questioned, but to others it was a time that called for creativity and courage and a deep faith that God was clearly speaking to the Church.

During her second term of office Mother Martina spent most of those six years coping with the crises resulting from Vatican II. A new vision of religious life was rapidly developing, and archival records show that she was up to the challenge. As she described in an interview years later, she had two choices: try to slow the tide of change, or help move the Community ahead. She knew the first choice was probably impossible and could cause the defection of Sisters who were younger and more progressive. To move ahead would place more responsibility on individual Sisters; some would handle it well, others would not. Her decision was to move ahead, knowing it would cause polarization in the Community. As more opportunities arose for the laity to work for the Church, such as the Peace Corps, Vista, and Papal Volunteers, some Sisters wondered if they could be of more service in those organizations than in religious communities. Others questioned the validity of their vocation, questioned their motives for entering "the convent." Many left. Fewer women entered the Community. Those who stayed were divided in their response to the call for *aggiornamento* – one of the key expressions Vatican II used to describe internal spiritual renewal and external adaptation of the Church's laws and institutions to the times.

Divisions within the Benedictine Community were reflected externally by many who changed from the traditional black habit, white coif, and long veil, to a shorter habit with shorter veil, which ultimately led to many wearing the clothing preferred by laywomen of the time. It also led to Sisters taking more active roles in pastoral ministry, pursuing art and writing as new ministries, and earning graduate degrees in areas other than what had been the tradition. In June 1972 conservative Community members who were not supportive of *aggiornamento* in the Church or in the Community rallied around Sister Verona LaBud with sufficient votes to elect her Prioress. The Duluth Benedictines who historically had shared the same dream expressed by their founding Sisters found themselves in what can only be described as a "house divided." More Sisters left the Community during the three years following the election, finding the culture within the Community not supportive of what they believed God was calling them to do. Archival records show that Mother Verona realized she could not continue as leader of the fragmented Community and in May 1975 resigned her position of Prioress.

## A New Beginning Under New Leadership

Sister Grace Marie Braun was elected the ninth Prioress of the Duluth Benedictines on June 16, 1975, by the Priory Chapter. She was faced with the challenge of restoring unity, trust, and stability to a Community that had experienced such upheaval during the years following Vatican II and the loss of so many Sisters. Dr. Bruce Stender, then president of The College of St. Scholastica, described her leadership style after she delivered the commencement address to the Class of 1980: "The times have increasingly demanded a special kind of leadership, a gift for standing between two worlds and finding and keeping what is good in each, a talent for unifying what might easily become vastly disparate, a deep capacity to weigh values so that the significant not be lost in the trivial, and that God remain the still point in the turning world. To you, then, Mother Grace Marie, because you have kept your balance in an unbalanced world and have proven yourself a leader in these, 'the best of times and the worst of times,' the Faculty and Trustees of The College of St. Scholastica are pleased to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*."



A major issue facing Mother Grace Marie was an aging membership and diminished numbers. Fewer women were entering the Community, and it was necessary to withdraw Sisters from a number of the Community's long-time ministries. Another challenge was nursing care for the infirm and elderly members of the Community. Stanbrook Hall High School had been closed in 1967 and repurposed as a motherhouse. This had made it possible to renovate the building's second floor for those who needed assisted living, although more space was needed. Ten years later a fire in Rockhurst Auditorium, part of Stanbrook, brought a solution. Because the fire was contained at the west end of the auditorium and the building was deemed structurally sound, the Community decided it would no longer be used as an auditorium. Instead, a second floor was built across the two-story auditorium to enlarge the assisted living area and to divide the first floor into a large dining room, kitchen, and meeting room for the Monastery. Because this change meant the College no longer had an auditorium, it began to use the gymnasium/theatre building for its theatrical productions and named it the "Little Theatre."

The Community was coming together as a stable and unified group, which again clearly evidenced the courageous vision of their founders. A decision was made to hire Duluth architect Thomas A. Vecchi to design a three-story 120-bed nursing home connected to Stanbrook that would be open to both Sisters and laypeople and that would fulfill the Sisters' desire to "add years to life and life to years."

Groundbreaking was held on April 30, 1978, and the Benedictine Health Center opened on October 12, 1980, with Sister Armella Oblak as Administrator. Unique to the BHC was the inclusion of a children's day-care center on the first floor of the wing connected to the Priory, with a fenced playground in front of the Center in full view of the residents. The day-care center was included by the planning committee after learning that Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, author of *Death and Dying*, had expressed the hope that one day she would hear of a nursing home that included a children's day-care center, because "boredom and loneliness are plagues of older adults, and young children bring noise and laughter."

Another construction project under Mother Grace Marie's leadership was her proposal that the three-story Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel space be exchanged for the single-story college library space that was



*Herb Klippen, general contractor, shows a section of the plans to Mother Grace Marie Braun, Prioress, and Sister Kathleen Hofer, Chair of the Building Committee.*



*Architectural drawing of the Benedictine Health Center*

below the chapel. She said, “This would give the college the space it needs for expansion of the library. It would provide direct barrier-free access to the chapel from the cloister walk, we would be able to design the chapel in accordance with the most recent norms for worship, it would be more energy efficient, and the exterior of the building would remain unchanged.”

With the insertion of two more floors the library would at least double the size of its existing footage. The College was interested, structural feasibility was determined, and the Chapter met in January 1985 for days of prayer, reflection, and discussion, and then made the decision to move forward. By February a design phase was under way, and construction began in July 1985 and was completed in September 1986. Formal dedication of the new Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel took place on October 12.

In 1985 under the leadership of Mother Grace Marie the Benedictine Health System was established which led to separately incorporating the Community’s health-care institutions. Today the nonprofit, mission-based health system is one of the largest senior care organizations in the country with more than 35 senior care communities in five states. The BHS provides complete long-term care services, including assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, and independent housing, as well as short-term care and outpatient rehabilitation services.

Sister Clare Marie Trettel succeeded Mother Grace Marie in 1987 and for six years led a Community that was unified and eager to focus on its social and spiritual mission. She assumed leadership in a transitional time of aging members, fewer women entering the Community, and changing ministries. Under her leadership the Community decided to build Stanbrook West, a residence for about 70 Sisters, and the first building to be constructed for their exclusive use. Construction began in October 1989 and the building was completed in the summer of 1991. Sisters living in Tower Hall, the main college building, moved out, and the College was free to expand into and remodel the additional space.

When asked in 1991 what she thought the future held for the Community, Sister Clare Marie replied, “Certainly a continued and increasing involvement of the laity in our mission. Our numbers will be fewer, but our impact need not be less. We will look for new ways to minister, and perhaps new ministries in which to serve. We will continue to adapt and, when necessary, to risk.”

## Health-Care Looks to the Future

St. Mary’s Hospital, founded in 1888, had from the beginning been the Duluth Benedictines’ flagship hospital. As the city grew, St. Mary’s Hospital did as well, expanding numerous times over the years.



*Interior of the new Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel.*



*Stanbrook West groundbreaking. Sister Clare Marie Trettel, Prioress, third from left, with members of the Building Committee and other Sisters, invites them to begin digging the foundation for the new residence building.*



The Duluth Clinic, founded in 1915, expanded several times in different locations during the next 60 years, until in 1971 its physician leaders knew they had to relocate and began exploring their options and searching for land. An unexpected offer came from Sister Marybelle Leick, then administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, which owned an entire city block directly across the street from the hospital on East Third Street. Sister Marybelle was aware, as were the physicians, of the growing trend of hospitals and clinics sharing medical practices. Although the hospital and clinic remained separate institutions when the new Duluth Clinic Third Street building opened in 1975, a stronger partnership began to form. Collaboration resulted in the two institutions opening the region's first neonatal intensive care unit in 1976, diagnostic imaging services in the early 1980s, and a joint open-heart surgery program and regional heart center in 1983 in a newly-remodeled wing of St. Mary's Medical Center. By 1990 it became clear that an even closer partnership between the two institutions could be a next step.

In 1992 Duluth Clinic President Dr. Phil Eckman and other physician leaders began meeting with representatives of the Benedictine Sisters about the possibility of integration with St. Mary's Medical Center. One of the challenges was whether a secular physician practice and a Catholic hospital could integrate without either losing its identity. According to *Timeless Vision: the History of the Duluth Clinic from 1915-2015*, "after four years, hundreds of meetings and thousands of conversations, they made an historic conclusion. Whatever their superficial differences, both organizations shared a common mission – to make a healthy difference in people's lives. As long as they claimed a common set of values and a clear purpose, the partnership would thrive."

When they were ready to make the integration official in December 1996, "the legal aspects were so complex that it took Clinic President Dr. Peter Person and St. Mary's Administrator Sister Kathleen Hofer four hours to sign every document provided by their lawyers." St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System – SMDC – would be led by a physician CEO, with the Benedictine Sisters retaining their influence through seats on the Board of Directors.

As SMDC moved into the 21st Century, it entered into a new partnership with the Benedictine Health System, established by the Duluth Benedictines in 1985, and expansion continued to meet the health-care needs of northeastern Minnesota and beyond. The College of St. Scholastica has also grown since its inception in 1912 as a two-year undergraduate women's college, becoming a comprehensive coeducational school offering baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs at several locations and online.

## The Community Looks to a New Century

The challenges the Duluth Benedictines face today as we seek to "re-found" our Benedictine Community in this second decade of the Third Millennium are much more daunting than those faced by our founding Sisters. Where they saw increasing membership, we see diminishing numbers. Where their members were predominantly young, ours are more demographically diverse with a rising median age. Where their ministry involved staffing hospitals and schools with the many women who became members of the Duluth Benedictines, we find the continued growth of our sponsored ministries in health care and education increasingly resting in the hands of dedicated lay leaders. And where our founding Sisters lived during a time of great expansion of Catholicism and religious life in the United States, we live in a period of decline not only in vocations to religious life and the priesthood, but also in the membership of the Catholic faithful.

But despite the changing landscape of religious life in today's Church and culture, we celebrate our 125th anniversary with hope and trust. Although we are facing a future we never imagined, and although we are already living in times we never anticipated, our history as Benedictine women in the Diocese of Duluth has been in response to God's will for us, and we continue to seek what God is calling us to do as we look to the future. And what we have learned from the women and men of vision who brought us to this time is that it will take that same audacious vision to respond to the incredible paradigm shifts that await us.



# Center for Spirituality and Enrichment

## St. Scholastica Monastery - McCabe Renewal Center

One Mission, Two Locations

by Dawn Carrillo, Director ([dcarrillo@duluthosb.org](mailto:dcarrillo@duluthosb.org))



I grew up as a Lutheran. When we were confirmed, we were each “gifted” with a Bible passage intended to guide us throughout our lives and to remind us who we are and who God is. My verse was John 3:16. *‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.’* Battles have been fought over the second half of the verse, to the extent that we almost forget about the first six words – which are clearly the ones that capture my heart and imagination in springtime or summer in Minnesota. We are so blessed here at the Center and are filled with gratitude at being able to share these blessings with you. *For God so loved the world...*

### Schedule for Summer – Early Fall 2018

To register for an event, schedule an event for your Church or group, or for questions:

**Online:** [retreatduluth.org](http://retreatduluth.org)

**Email:** [retreat@duluthosb.org](mailto:retreat@duluthosb.org)

**Phone:** 218-724-5266.

For presentations outside of Monastery or McCabe, contact Sister Pauline Micke, Outreach Coordinator, at 218-723-7086.

#### Listening for Change: a Foundation for Discernment

**Wednesday, June 13: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator:** Eileen Flanagan, Ph.D. *Professor Emerita*, Neumann University’s Department of Pastoral and Theological Studies.

This workshop is intended for those trained in the art of spiritual direction, chaplaincy, or other ministries of presence. It introduces participants to a process of personal reflection and small group interaction to engage them to “listen for change” and to respond with wisdom and compassion.

**Program Cost:** \$75.00 (includes lunch); \$145 with an overnight stay (includes retreat and meals)

#### Collaborative Creativity

(for youth entering 9th through 12th grade)

**Saturday, June 23: 2:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator:** Sr. Dorene King, OSB, a MN licensed teacher and Director of McCabe Renewal Center.

Create, stage, and record a radio play. Pray and have supper with the Sisters.

**Program Cost:** \$20 (Scholarships available)

#### Nature Wandering as a Spiritual Practice

**Saturday, June 30: 9:00 a.m. to Noon at McCabe Renewal Center; repeated Wednesday, July 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Facilitator:** Kerry Sopoci is a licensed psychologist in Duluth with degrees in counseling, psychology, theology, and spirituality.

**Program Cost:** \$30

#### Expanding Christian Spirituality in Our Expanding Universe

**Mondays: July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20:**

**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator:** Sister Mary Catherine Shambour, OSB, retired secondary and college instructor and retired vocation director.

Any who seriously struggle to integrate their Christian faith with our rapidly changing world are invited to participate in a stimulating book discussion group based on *The Emergent Christ* by Ilia Delio, a Franciscan Sister, scientist, and theologian. This book sheds new light on the role of Christ in our evolving universe and the transformation needed to understand our role in Christianity as a religion of the future.

**Program Cost:** Free-will offering.



## Contagious Creativity

(for youth entering 7th & 8th grade)

**Saturday, July 14: 2:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator: Sr. Dorene King, OSB**, a MN licensed teacher and Director of McCabe Renewal Center.

Adventures in Flavor, Paw Painting, Birch Creations and More!

**Program Cost:** \$20 (Scholarships available)

## Celebrating Creativity

(for youth entering 5th & 6th grade)

**Monday, July 23 to Friday, July 27: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator: Sr. Dorene King, OSB**, a MN licensed teacher and Director of McCabe Renewal Center

Mystery Painting, Pebble Ponderings, Nature Detective, Instant Identities and More!

*Register early, limited to 20 students*

**Program Cost:** \$100 (Scholarships available)

## Spirituality of Gardening Retreat

**Tuesday, July 31: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitator: Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, OSB** is an Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the College of St. Scholastica

**Program Cost:** \$75 (lunch and refreshments are included); \$145 with an overnight stay (including retreat and meals)

## Travelers on the Road: Are you Journeying to the Kingdom as a Pilgrim or a Tourist?

**Friday, August 17: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**

**Facilitators: Sister Jeanne Ann Weber, OSB**, liturgist at St. Scholastica Monastery

**Sister Lisa Maurer, OSB** has completed her Masters of Pastoral Ministry and is a graduate of the Institute of Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

In private reflection and time spent with others, this day will lead you to ponder the retreat title's question more deeply while journeying over the grounds and holy places of St. Scholastica Monastery. There will be prayers, including litanies, the rosary, and the Stations at various shrine areas. We will close the retreat with a meal together.

**Program Cost:** \$45 (includes lunch); \$115 with an overnight stay (includes retreat and meals)

## Tackling Life with Joy

**Saturday, August 25: 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery**  
(Optional: 10:00 a.m. join the Sisters of St. Scholastica for Morning Prayer in the Chapel)

**Facilitator: Sister Lisa Maurer, OSB**, Formation director and former assistant football coach.

On the day of the first scrimmage for the CSS football team (at 1:00 pm), Sister Lisa Maurer will lead an inspiring morning retreat. **This is an event for women, men, and youth.** Don't miss this opportunity to laugh and learn to live life with joy!

**Program Cost:** Optional freewill offering. No registration necessary to attend.

## New at the Center: Benedictine Days

...will reach out to infuse the world with the Benedictine spirit, a critical need for our society and our world today. We will host three or four events each year with a lineup of lively and insightful presenters. Join us for presentations and discussions on Benedictine values and how they relate to issues that impact all of us, locally and globally. We hope to engage old friends, as well as bring new faces through the doors of the Monastery to experience the gift of this Community and all of Benedictine life!

**Save the date and watch for mailings and Facebook postings for registration instructions.**

## Benedictine Days - Navigate the Chaos: Benedictine Values as a Way of Life

**September 12, 2018, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Facilitators: Abbot John Klassen, OSB** (Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN)

**Sister Michaela Hedican, OSB** (Prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, MN from 2011-2017)

**Program Cost:** Free-will offering

## Benedictine Days with Michael Patella, OSB

**December 1, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)**

More information will be available at [retreatduluth.org](http://retreatduluth.org).



# Bridges for the Young: The Fiction of Katherine Paterson

by Sister Sarah Smedman (ssmedman@css.edu)

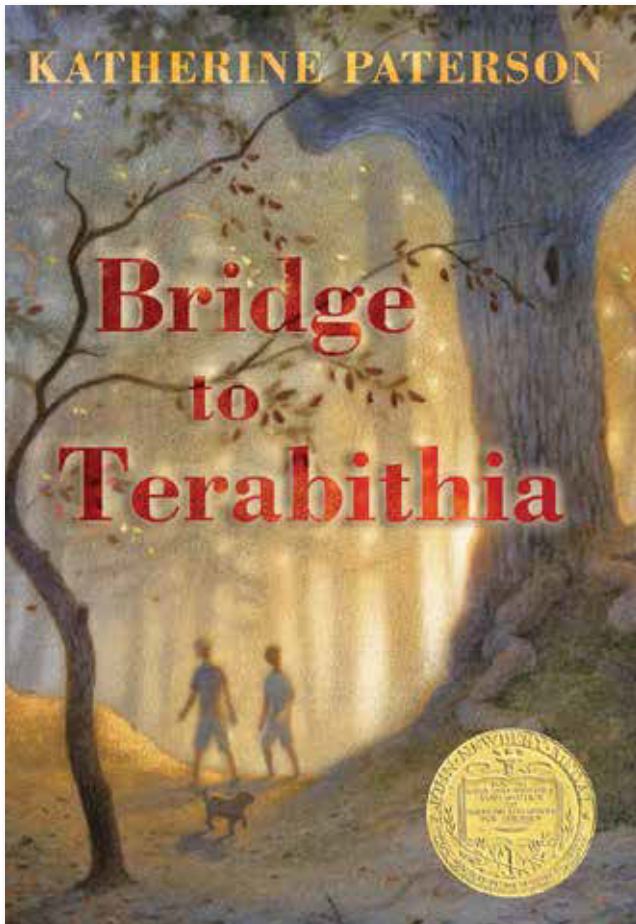


Katherine Paterson

One of the most widely honored and prolific children's writers, Katherine Paterson, has published many award-winning books that are frequently taught in elementary and secondary schools as well as in college children's literature classes. Her works represent a variety of genres (historical fiction, contemporary realism, short stories, and literary fairy tales), treating such diverse subjects as sibling rivalry, foster care, abandoned and abused children, death, and civil unrest. Preeminent themes of Paterson's fiction and nonfiction include *peace*, *hope*, and *language/story*. Paterson has expressed publicly her religious commitment and her responsibility as a Christian to help achieve in reality the biblical version of a New Jerusalem (Smedman and Chastson, *Bridges for the Young*).

Rare among writers, Paterson has described her vocation: a writer for children is "to be at once a realist, and like the prophets and Thomas Jefferson, a disturber of complacency, as well as a 'fixer, an artist, a reconciler'." In addition to her fiction, Paterson has published a collection of essays, *The Invisible Child: On Reading and Writing Books for Children*. Difficult as it has been to select from among her works, all of them beautifully written with significant themes, the following are among my favorites. First among those is:

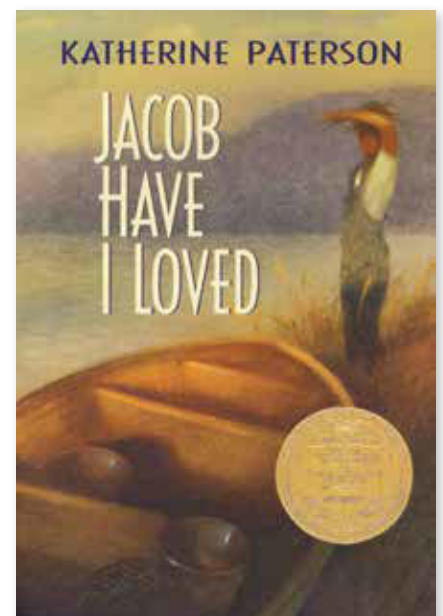
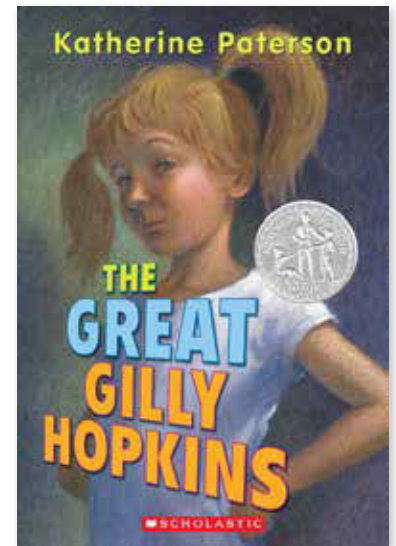
**The Great Gilly Hopkins (1978):** A brilliant, belligerent foster child of the wise and motherly Mame Trotter, Gilly yearns to find her real mother. When finally she does meet her and discovers that her mother does not want her, Gilly realizes that she loves Mame as dearly as Mame loves her.



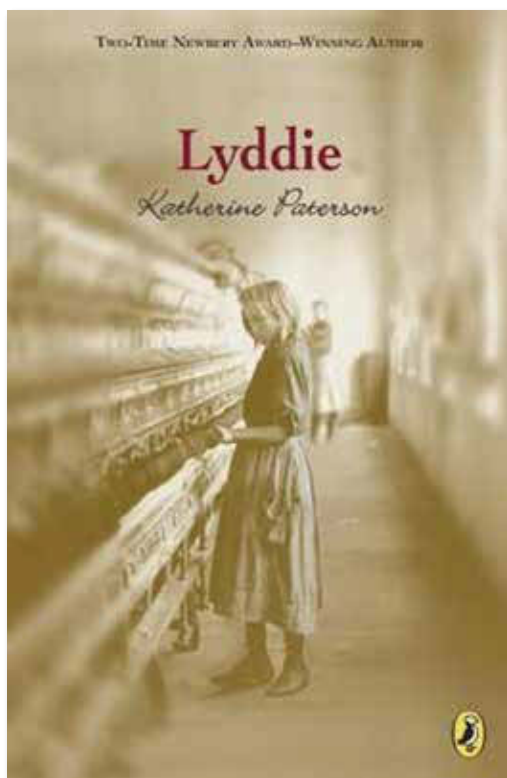
**Bridge to Terabithia (1972):** Illus. by Donna Diamond. When Jesse Aarons, the fastest runner in his school, is challenged by newcomer Leslie Burke, their rivalry develops into a close friendship. Together they create a secret kingdom in the woods, *Terabithia*. Entering *Terabithia* by a rope bridge, Leslie falls and dies when the rope breaks. Broken hearted, Jess is left to cope with her death.

**Jacob Have I Loved (1980):** Like the Biblical Esau, Louise Bradshaw knew that her selfish twin sister Caroline, with a voice like an angel, was the pampered child whom everyone loved. The war gave "Wheeze" a chance to fulfill her childish dream to

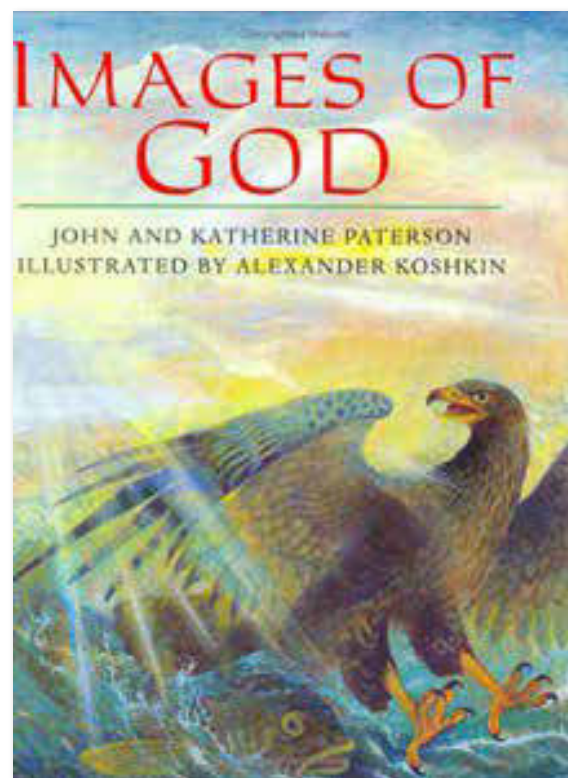
work as a waterman alongside her father, then to leave the Island for college, and eventually to become her true self.







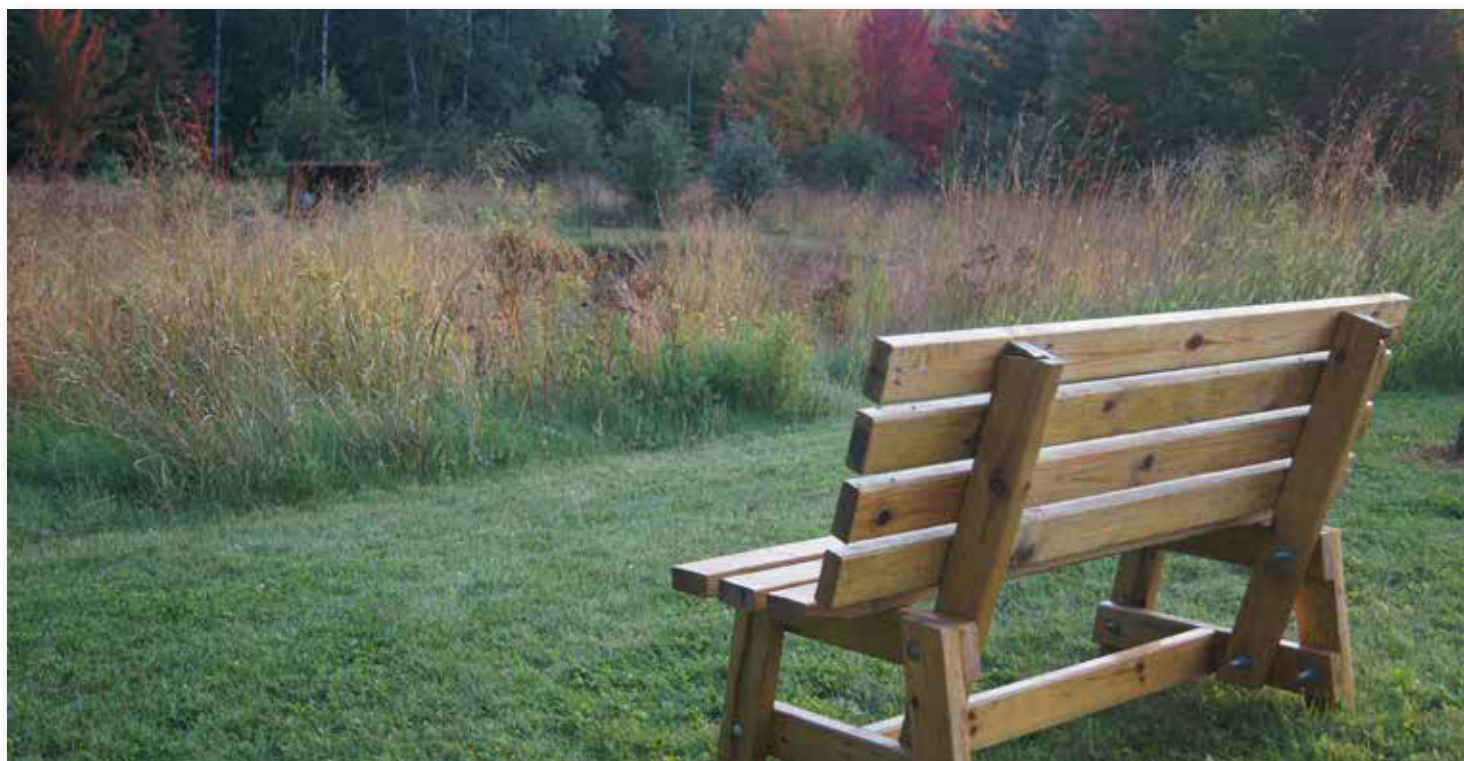
**Lyddie** (1991): Literally an orphan, Lyddie refuses to leave home with her mother and to await the return of her father who has been away for three years. Shortly thereafter, a letter informs Lyddie that her mother has hired out her 13-year-old daughter to Cutlers Tavern. Fired after a misdemeanor, Lyddie, prizing her independence, moves to Lowell, MA for a paid but exhausting job in a cotton mill. Lyddie grows in mind and spirit as she copes with social change.



Different from Paterson's fiction is ***Images of God***, co-authored with her husband John Paterson and illustrated by the Russian artist Alexander Koshkin. This stunning book is divided into three sections:

1. ALL NATURE SINGS: *Images from the Created World*
2. TO EARTH COME DOWN: *Images from Ordinary Life*
3. WITH A MIGHTY HAND: *Images of Watchfulness and Creation*

Readers of any of Paterson's writings are sure to be eager to dive into any or all of the other twenty-some novels of the twice Newberry recipient Katherine Paterson.



# Mission Integration at The College of St. Scholastica: A Ministry of Encounter

by Sister Kathleen Del Monte

*It is the responsibility of the [Associate Vice President for Mission Integration] to assist the administration, faculty, staff and students of The College of St. Scholastica in understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Benedictine heritage and tradition and to carry that identity into the future.*

+ Sister Mary Rochefort

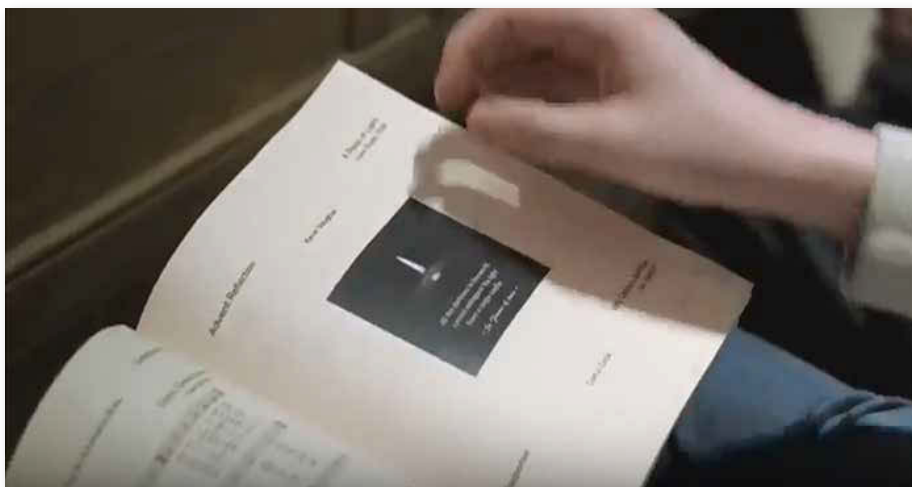
I have the privilege to serve as Associate Vice President for Mission Integration at The College of St. Scholastica and have been invited to share about my ministry. The quote above, from our Sister Mary Rochefort who pioneered the role and served for some 15 years, says it best. Though she went home to God too soon, I have benefited greatly from her wisdom and experience; truly, we stand on the shoulders of giants.

I am assisted in this great enterprise we call “mission integration” by the dedicated and capable members of the Mission Integration Advisory Board, as well as the many students, staff, faculty, trustees, alumni, and donors who work tirelessly to preserve and advance our Catholic Benedictine mission and values.

Much of our work centers on providing initial orientation experiences for faculty, staff, students, and members of the Board of Trustees who are new to our college community, as well as offering the entire college community opportunities for on-going learning, growth, and understanding of our Catholic Benedictine identity.

What began in 1912 with six students has grown to The College of St. Scholastica as we know it today, serving over 4,400 students. This includes students at multiple sites throughout Minnesota at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as students living throughout the United States and abroad who are studying in our online programs.

Orientation to our identity comprises learning modules about the early days of the College, the courageous women who founded St. Scholastica Monastery, and how Benedictinism began and spread throughout the world. We discuss the *Rule of Benedict* and its significance, as well as our Benedictine values and how we might live them out more fully in our daily lives.



*Advent Vespers brings Sisters, students, and faculty together each December for a hauntingly beautiful prayer service.*

Opportunities abound for on-going learning, growth, and understanding of our Catholic Benedictine identity. An important example is the Value of the Year. Of the many values embedded in the *Rule of Benedict*, the College has adopted five core values: community, hospi-

tal, respect, stewardship, and love of learning. Each year, we focus more deeply on one of these core values (the value of the year for 2017-18 is hospitality). I share reflections on the value of the year at the Faculty Staff Institute, the official academic kickoff for staff and faculty. In addition, I offer remarks at the annual student Convocation, share thoughts about the value of the year with the Alumni Association Board, and present further reflections at an All-Staff assembly.

Our celebrations and traditions provide special opportunities to highlight and communicate our identity, including the value of the year. For example, as part of our annual two-day celebration honoring the Feast of St. Scholastica, the namesake of our college, we host a Feast Day Panel during which three alumni discuss the



value of the year as well as what the Benedictine values mean to them. This year, to celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict, the namesake of our Order and the author of the *Rule of Benedict*, we offered an online retreat on hospitality. The retreat included daily reflections, readings, and an electronic discussion board. Also part of the retreat were two panels comprised of faculty, staff, and students who shared their reflections on specific aspects of hospitality. Some 100 individuals registered for the retreat. Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to slow down and reflect; one commented that having the opportunity to go deeper afforded them a sense of personal growth.

A favorite annual tradition is Advent Vespers and Lighting a Tradition on the Duluth campus. A collaboration between the College and the Monastery, Advent Vespers is an ecumenical prayer service held in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel and includes prayer, Scripture, song, and reflection.



*Photos of Advent Vespers and Lighting a Tradition courtesy of The College of St. Scholastica*

Following Vespers, lighted candles in hand, we gather outside of Tower Hall, sing Christmas carols, and light the grand outdoor trees, heralding in the Nativity of the Lord.

Serving our sisters and brothers in need is a natural expression of our Catholic identity. On our Duluth campus, students, staff, and faculty participate in Community Day each semester, volunteering at sites throughout the region. On the Fall 2017 Community Day, more than 1,000 participants volunteered at 64 sites/activities such as Duluth YMCA, Hartley Nature Center, elementary school classrooms, and the Duluth Community Garden Program.

During this past holiday season, our St. Paul campus sponsored a sock drive for the Catholic Charities/Dorothy Day Center. Did you know that because they are so rarely donated, socks are the number one item requested at homeless shelters? Our St. Paul community donated 113 pairs of socks!



*Sister Beverly Raway and Kate make tie blankets for Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center.*

Another way we help students appreciate our Catholic Benedictine identity is through the Benedictine Friends across Campus program in which individual students are paired with Sisters. In addition to our large group gatherings throughout the semester, student and Sister friends get together for activities such as prayer, meals, and attending a play or concert. Students and Sisters report forming lasting friendships through this program.

As a Catholic Benedictine college, we seek to make programmatic decisions that are consonant with our identity. This academic year we welcomed our first Master of Physician Assistant Studies cohort. The program has a rural healthcare focus to help meet the

growing healthcare needs of our region, and provides an inter-professional education with several of our other programs such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, and Nursing.

Another example is our new Sustainability Studies and the Environment major and minor. Approaching the care of our environment through our social justice lens aligns well with Catholic Social Teaching and our Benedictine values. As Tammy Ostrander, Dean of the School of Arts and Letters at CSS has written in the program proposal, the program's overall emphasis on social justice and activism is also in keeping with Pope Francis' first encyclical *Laudato Si'* in which the Holy Father "implores us to make caring for the earth a moral imperative ...moving the discussion from the arena of



*Wisdom Heralding Peace in Benedictine Commons, Science Building*

political and scientific debate to the arena of faith."

There are many other ways we strive to integrate our Catholic Benedictine identity into all we do at the College, such as through learning outcomes; lecture series; offering prayers, blessings, and invocations at events and activities; special awards for students, faculty, and staff who exemplify our values; as well as through the physical environment of signage and artwork.

I hope this has given you a glimpse of what mission integration at The College of St. Scholastica involves. Please continue to pray for this important sponsored ministry, as we continue to pray for you because, as we say at the College, the world needs more Saints! Blessings!

## Please Pray for the Following Deceased Family and Friends

|   |                   |  |                  |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>John A. Riggs</i>  | <i>1/2/2016</i>   | <i>Patricia Gentry</i>   | <i>2/18/2018</i> |
| <i>Joan Helen Roy</i>   | <i>2/7/2017</i>   | <i>Doris Lee</i>   | <i>2/23/2018</i> |
| <i>Dorothy Riehl Leader</i>                                       | <i>3/2/2017</i>   | <i>Mary Slattery</i>   | <i>3/8/2018</i>  |
| <i>Thomas Bump</i><br><i>nephew of Sr. Ellen O'Connor</i>         | <i>3/7/2017</i>   | <i>Joseph Karonovich</i><br><i>uncle of Sr. Judine Mayerle</i> | <i>3/9/2018</i>  |
| <i>Eldora King</i>  | <i>6/30/2017</i>  | <i>Beatrice Ida Yanda</i>                                      | <i>3/14/2018</i> |
| <i>Frances Trask</i>  | <i>7/1/2017</i>   | <i>Roger H. Carlson</i>  | <i>3/19/2018</i> |
| <i>Dorothy Richardson</i>   | <i>9/9/2017</i>   | <i>Douglas Faragher</i>  | <i>3/27/2018</i> |
| <i>Walter John Skalsky</i>  | <i>12/20/2017</i> | <i>Raymond Bodell</i>  | <i>3/28/2018</i> |
| <i>William R. Ojala</i>   | <i>1/6/2018</i>   | <i>Paul Murphy</i>   | <i>4/2/2018</i>  |
| <i>Patricia L. Graen</i>  | <i>1/25/2018</i>  | <i>Jeanne Gainer</i>   | <i>4/4/2018</i>  |
| <i>Curtis Lloyd Roy</i>   | <i>1/27/2018</i>  | <i>Lyle Zimmerman</i>  | <i>4/4/2018</i>  |
| <i>Kathleen Sauer</i>   | <i>2/4/2018</i>   | <i>Amelia Doboszinski</i>                                      | <i>4/7/2018</i>  |
| <i>Adaline Dorcy Gosen</i>  | <i>2/4/2018</i>   | <i>George H. Kielkopf</i>                                      | <i>4/7/2018</i>  |
| <i>Mary Yugovich</i>  | <i>2/6/2018</i>   | <i>Mary C. Van Evera</i>                                       | <i>4/13/2018</i> |
| <i>Lisa Saraphine Borelli</i>                                     | <i>2/8/2018</i>   | <i>Helen Eisel</i>   | <i>4/14/2018</i> |
| <i>Beverly Stelman</i><br><i>mother of Sr. Joan Marie Stelman</i> | <i>2/12/2018</i>  | <i>Rosemary Ferguson, OP</i>                                   | <i>4/18/2018</i> |
|   |                   | <i>Margaret Mary Adams</i>                                     | <i>4/18/2018</i> |



# Benedictine Health System Honors the Sisters with *The Saint John's Bible* Tour

by Jan M. Barrett and David Allen

In honor of the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery during their 125th anniversary year, the Benedictine Health System teamed with Saint John's Abbey to showcase the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* with a year-long tour of BHS' 36 long term care communities.

The Benedictine Health System is a Catholic, faith-based organization entrusted with advancing the life-enhancing senior care ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, Minnesota. Participating communities in the Benedictine Health System can be found in Minnesota, North Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. BHS communities provide exceptional Catholic senior care, with independent living and complete long-term care services for aging adults, including assisted living, memory care and rehabilitation.

The Heritage Edition is the highest quality bound edition of *The Saint John's Bible*, the first hand-written illuminated bible in 500 years. It offers much inspiration to our communities. When Saint John's Abbey heard that BHS represented 36 different communities, their response was, "Well, you better take two volumes!" Since January of 2018, several BHS communities have received the Gospels and Acts Volume's of Heritage Edition to be displayed in their community for approximately three weeks.

*The Saint John's Bible* is the monumental artistic achievement of Mr. Donald Jackson, who served as Artistic Director and Principal Scribe of *The Saint John's Bible* from 1998-2011. The monks of Saint John's Abbey commissioned Mr. Jackson to write the first handwritten bible as an opportunity to share with the world the Word of God alive in today's cultural landscape. Mr. Jackson, who lives in Wales, considers this project to be his masterpiece.



*Residents, staff, and David Allen view The Bible.*



*Residents and friends view The Bible.*

While *The Bible* is at each community, BHS simply asks that it be given an opportunity to be viewed by residents, associates, families, donors, and the general public, as well as integrating *The Bible* into their spiritual care offerings and activities. Christine Kerns, CEO of Living Community of St. Joseph, Missouri said, "Our time with *The Saint John's Bible* has ignited a spiritual energy onto our campus! We feel more united as a community. People came to our community to see what this bible was all about, and left with a greater appreciation for Living Community of St. Joseph and those we serve!"

Residents have also been touched by *The Bible* in unique ways. Alden, a resident at Bene-

dictine Living Community of Garrison, North Dakota, said, "*The Saint John's Bible* has called me back to my own faith journey with its beauty, energy, and brilliance. I have never seen anything so remarkable."

David Allen, Senior Spiritual Care Consultant for the Benedictine Health System and a former monk of Saint John's Abbey, has been assigned to lead the tour throughout BHS. Allen states, "As we honor our sponsors in 125 years of monumental achievements, it is a privilege to connect their Benedictine Health System communities closer together by sharing *The Saint John's Bible*. It has been the greatest honor to share *The Saint John's Bible* with all of our residents, associates, and communities."

*The Saint John's Bible* tour will conclude at the St. Scholastica Monastery November 19 through December 31, 2018. Stay tuned for more details.

Additionally, The College of St. Scholastica will be honoring the Sisters' 125 years in Duluth and will be hosting *The Saint John's Bible* tour beginning mid-September 2018. We will post information on our website, [www.duluthbenedictines.org](http://www.duluthbenedictines.org), when available.

# Sister Profile: Sister Claudia Cherro

by Jan M. Barrett

Sister Claudia Cherro is the oldest of three children born to Harvey and Florence (Lombardy) Cherro. She grew up in Duluth, Minnesota with her sister Mary and brother Anthony. Sister attended Cathedral Sacred Heart and Stanbrook Hall. She entered St. Scholastica Monastery in 1959 and attended The College of St. Scholastica, earning a degree in elementary education. She taught school for eleven years and then worked as an administrative secretary for the Humanities Department at The College of St. Scholastica while attending summer graduate school for her Masters in Ministry degree from Seattle University. After receiving her Master's degree, she went on to work for eleven years at St. Leo's parish in Hibbing, MN and at Resurrection Parish in Eveleth, MN for more than five years. Over the years her work varied: parish RCIA, mini-retreat leader, Alpha Program leader, Befriender Program leader, Christianity and divorce care programs, and many speaking engagements to youth on issues of religion and faith.

For the last three years, Sister Claudia has been administrative assistant to the Prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery. When asked what a typical day involves, Sister Claudia quipped, "a typical day is not typical." Some days are long as she works late into the evening to prepare agendas and minutes for the next day's meetings. Every day is different. Having her office strategically located in between the prioress and sub-prioress offices means she quickly becomes involved with many projects



that were not on her to-do-list. From filling out forms for sponsoring organizations, to planning funerals and obituary details, to working with the National Catholic Directory, there is never a dull moment. With the reception desk nearby, she also finds herself doing a myriad of things: selling stamps and bringing mail to the different offices within the Monastery. The most treasured part of her day is when the Sisters from Benet Hall stop by to visit. "Some of my days go too quickly and I don't get time to visit Benet Hall as much as I would like, so when the Sisters stop by I enjoy visiting with them and helping them in any way that I can."



*Sister Victorine Sitter and Sister Claudia Cherro reminisce about their time as teacher and student.*

At six years of age, Sister Claudia had decided she wanted to be a Sister. She was especially enamored of Sister Victorine Sitter, her first grade teacher and now fellow Sister. "I loved Sister Victorine and I wanted to be just like her so I prayed three Hail Marys every day until graduation that I would follow wherever God called me."

Thankfully, Sister Claudia's prayers were answered. She has touched the lives and saved the souls of many over the years, while in her current ministry as administrative assistant to the prioress she continues to be a blessing each and every day. Prioress Sister Beverly Raway adds, "I'm grateful every day for Sister Claudia. She makes my work easier, keeps me on track, is always understanding, and brings lots of laughter when we both need it."



# Monastery Books and Gifts Features Items Made by Sisters

by Lori Henningsen, store manager

The Monastery has a delightful store with a diverse selection of books and gifts, as well as a warm greeting from our amazing volunteer staff who love to see new faces. Over the years, creative works from the Sisters here at the Monastery have found their way onto our shelves. It is exciting to see this tradition continue today with several homemade knitted, crocheted, and sewn items still finding their way to us from the kind-hearted and generous donations of friends and family connected to our Monastic Community.

Sister Johnetta Maher's knitted kitty cats are one example of the unique items you may find while exploring our store. This is a craft Sister Johnetta learned from her mother, Mayme Maher, while still a youth in Watersmeet, Michigan. She continues to create these gems for our annual Christmas Bazaar and for our store. Each hand-made cat has its own distinctive charm and personality because of the love and attention that Sister Johnetta gives as she trims it and adds the finishing touches with eyes, ears and whiskers. As if creating these creatures wasn't enough, Sister Johnetta also knits a plethora of beautiful afghans and blankets for gifts and donations throughout the year.

Come see what we have to offer, from unique treasures like Sister Johnetta's cats, to items for your spiritual walk, special occasion, or specific gift idea. Additionally, we always carry special gifts for Advent, Lent, First Communion, and Baptisms.

Monastery Books and Gifts is located on the first floor of Stanbrook Hall directly across from the Monastery reception desk. Our hours are Monday to Friday from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm and on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. We often have additional hours for special events, so feel free to call 218-723-6589 for any further information or you may reach our manager Lori Henningsen at 218-723-7076 at her direct line. We look forward to seeing you soon!





# HIGHLIGHTS

by Sister Therese Carson

## The Sisters' Response to *Laudato Si'*



Sister Elizabeth Farias does her part to *Care for Our Common Home*.

Last winter we watched the documentary **bag it** (<http://www.bagitmovie.com/>) about the proliferation of plastic trash everywhere in the world. We learned that marine birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish are especially at risk from ingestion or entanglement, and that thin plastic one-use bags are a major culprit.

Stewardship is a Benedictine value: we do not own creation but are caretakers of it. In the *Holy Rule*, Chapter 31, Benedict instructs us “to regard all utensils and goods of the Monastery as sacred vessels of the altar, aware that nothing is to be neglected.” Our stewardship has broadened in scope to include all of creation, in which every creature has its own value and significance. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis connects environmental degradation and social injustice. He says, “A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” We all share in the blame.

As part of our response to *Laudato Si'*, we decided to stop using one-use plastic bags, which are difficult and dangerous to recycle. We purchased shopping bags that can be reused hundreds of times and distributed them to Sisters. Each door into the garage is posted with a reminder, and inside the garage is a handy bin with more bags, for those who forget.

## The Annual *Mardi Gras* Celebration

New Orleans can't compete with Duluth! Each year the leadership team of the Benedictine Health System brings Fat Tuesday to the Monastery with funny masks and hats, beads, and a dozen varieties of pizza. This year locals Casey Aro, Mike Holbeck, and Harry Witte entertained us with songs and stories.



Associate Jayne Erickson and Sister Dorene King share some laughs.



Jenny Jackson gives Sr. Jeanne Ann Weber her favorite veggie pizza.



The band tells stories accompanied by guitar and banjo.



# HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

## CHUM Holds Its Annual Meeting at The College of St. Scholastica



*Sister Beverly Raway opens the meeting with prayer.*

The Sisters and the College Campus Ministry are members of CHUM, Duluth's primary safety-net for those who are homeless, under-employed, under-paid, or un-cared-for. CHUM stands for Churches United in Ministry, where individuals and congregations of every faith join to supply the immediate and long-term needs of their neighbors and advocate for legislation to correct social injustices so that, one day, organizations like CHUM will no longer be needed. CHUM provides a stable, safe center, a place to build relationships, make friends, and attend church services.

CHUM's main fundraiser is the annual Rhubarb Festival on the 4th Saturday of June, which draws people from all over Minnesota and Wisconsin to enjoy rhubarb-related activities (who grew the largest rhubarb stalk this year?), listen to music, and eat everything rhubarb: brats, burritos, pies, and pastries, and wash it all down with rhubarb lemonade.

This year's Annual Meeting on February 20 was co-hosted by the College and Monastery and held in Mitchell Auditorium. Sister Beverly Raway led the opening prayer, and CHUM executive director Lee Stuart gave the annual report. The quarterly and annual meetings let us connect with fellow supporters and find out where our help is needed.

## Banana Bread Bake-Off on Benet Hall

A few Monastery employees, including some who care for our infirm Sisters on Benet Hall, were arguing who had the best recipe for banana bread, so they decided to hold a banana bread bake-off. On March 13, six bakers brought in their bread, and the Sisters and guests thoughtfully sampled each and then voted on the best. A wonderful local band, The Deviled Eggs, led us in sing-alongs in between bites.

It was a difficult decision, as they were all very good, but in the end Karen Humes was voted the winner. Now to persuade her to share her recipe!



*Left to right: Sister Ramona Ewen and Sister Maria Volk sample banana bread.*

*The Sisters join in singing favorite old songs, led by The Deviled Eggs, properly dressed in banana yellow and one even wearing a banana costume.*





# HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

## Charlie Chaplain Pays a Surprise Visit to Thank Our Volunteers

At our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, we celebrate our volunteers who staff the reception desk, run Monastery Books and Gifts, drive Sisters to appointments, visit with the infirm Sisters on Benet Hall, help keep our landscape flowering, sing in our choir, play in the contemporary music group, take roles in liturgies, and work alongside us in ministries. As Elizabeth Andrew once said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

This year, Sister Kathleen Del Monte directed as Mistress of Ceremonies. Charlie Chaplain dropped in for a surprise visit. (Under his makeup he bore a striking resemblance to Sister Barbara Higgins...) In honor of our volunteers, he reprised highlights from his last silent movie, *City Lights*. Finally the local group Ambrosia kept us entertained with old songs.



*From left, clockwise: Sister Kathleen Del Monte as emcee. "Charlie Chaplain" in his last role as the Little Tramp, assisted by Jayne Erickson on audio. Mary Gallet and Cindy Behning. The Ambrosias, in their first visit to the Monastery.*



Of course, the stars of the evening were our volunteers! We especially want to thank those who celebrated a milestone in their service of five, ten, or twenty years.



### **Front row:**

Sister Beverly Raway  
Lyle Johnson (10 years)  
Koresh Lakhani (10 years)  
Sharon Captain (5 years)  
Sue Walkowiak (20 years)

### **Back row:**

John Schifsky (10 years)  
Meridith Schifsky (10 years)  
Jane Dolter (10 years)

Special thanks to Kathy Noble and Mary Tanner, Volunteer Coordinators, who spent many hours organizing this very special night.



# +Sister Elizabeth Ann Gilbertson, OSB

Sister Elizabeth Ann Gilbertson, age 93, was called home by God on Thursday, March 1, 2018, in Benet Hall, in her 75th year of monastic profession.

Betty Ann was born on September 6, 1924 to Leonard and Anna Gilbertson in Ashland, Wisconsin. The family moved to Duluth and then to Brainerd, Minnesota, where Betty Ann attended St. Francis School, staffed by the Duluth Benedictines. The family moved back to Duluth where she attended Girls' Cathedral High School. She knew from first grade on that she would one day become a Sister at Duluth, after visiting Villa Sancta Scholastica. She entered the Monastery as a postulant on September 7, 1941. As Sister Elizabeth Ann, she professed her First Vows on July 11, 1943, and her Perpetual Monastic Profession on July 11, 1946. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee on August 15, 1968, her Golden Jubilee on July 11, 1993, and her Diamond Jubilees in August of 2003 (60 years) and 2013 (70 years). She received her B.A. in education from The College of St. Scholastica and taught elementary grades for the next 30 years in parochial schools in Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, International Falls, and Proctor. She served as a principal in her later teaching years. Interspersed in her teaching years was a six-year assignment to be coordinator of the Materials Center of the Duluth Diocesan Office of Education. Here, she was responsible for fulfilling the teaching material requests of teachers as far away as International Falls and Pine City in addition to those in and around the Duluth area, as well as managing the office.



*Remembering her days in the novitiate with Jeff Hyatt at the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment Open House*

Sister Elizabeth Ann especially loved art classes. During her 30-year career she would frequently teach another's art classes in exchange for teaching one of her classes. A talented artist herself, she loved showing children how to explore with color, dimension, and subject matter. She loved seeing their creativity in action and the freedom such action gave to their vision of the world. She also took great delight in the extracurricular activities interwoven in a day, including special programs and plays for various occasions. Costumes, scenery, and props demanded originality, adaptation, and artistic use of available materials, and were always a challenge.

After Sister Elizabeth Ann retired from teaching, she spent the next 19 years moderating adult Bible studies and 17 of those years in hospitality ministry at the Monastery Information Desk. In her later years, she maintained a prayer ministry for Diocesan parishes and infirm Sisters. A prayer she constantly made her own was "Bless the Lord, my soul; do not forget all the gifts God has given you" (Psalm 103:2).

Sister was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Mary Catherine Hamilton, and her brother Robert L. Gilbertson. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, her sister-in-law Dewaine Gilbertson, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held on March 7, 2018 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel with Father William Fider presiding. Interment was at Gethsemane cemetery.

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putting an even greater effort into posting stories, blogs and  
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Join us for  
Sunday Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.  
in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel  
Celebrating 125 years

