

PATHWAYS



Newsletter of the Duluth Benedictine Sisters, Duluth, Minnesota Vol. 31, No. 1 Advent 2019



Pathways

NEWSLETTER

of the Benedictine Sisters

Published by:

Sisters of St. Scholastica
Monastery, Duluth, MN

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Public Relations Office

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PATHWAYS is published three
times a year and is distributed
among friends, relatives,
associates, and benefactors of
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Monastery.

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Dear Friends of the Monastery,

I love the Advent Season. My senses seem to sharpen as I take in the simple, stark beauty of this time of year, the beginning of the liturgical calendar. I'm awed by streaks of rose below dark clouds over Lake Superior as I hear the bell "Benedict" echoing through the cloister walk on my way to morning prayer. I hear the match strike in the silence and watch as the taper lights the first purple candle of the Advent wreath. There is the subtle scent of beeswax and evergreens as the minor key of my favorite Advent hymn begins:



"For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits... truly my hope is in you."

All my senses signal the time for waiting in stillness. They bring to mind the theme of hope which has been in our minds this last year. Sisters across the U.S. have entered into a deeper dialogue about the future of religious life and the need to keep hope alive for others in our troubled times. I hear people saying they can't watch the news or only tune in occasionally. They share stories of pain experienced by themselves or others: worries about health, struggles coping with loss, and uncertainty about the future. They hope we will pray for them and we do. That is one of our primary charisms as Benedictines. That daily walk to chapel is for them and for all of you. But we too can get caught in the web and whirl of activities, lose focus, and wonder where hope lives.

Then it is that the liturgy of the hours and our times of *lectio* prompt us to silence as we heed the Spirit's call to wait in darkness for the light that will be revealed. As Daniel Groody says in the introduction to his Advent reflections, we need to cultivate a "night vision" that enables us to "trust a deeper light even amid the darkness" that envelops us.¹ Estelle Frankel says it this way, "These times require patience. We must simply wait and tolerate being 'in the dark' until we discover the next steps that await us on our path. By enduring the uncertainty of not knowing who we are or where we are going, we grow our souls. The unknown provides the necessary space in which new dimensions of our being can be born."² It was out of such a time of uncertainty and hopelessness that the Light of Christ was born into the world.

We hope for you that this season of Advent can be a waiting time, where silent reflection allows you to develop "night vision" and the patience to hear the deepest call within you. Our writers in this issue suggest that there are many calls that come from that deep well of discernment, a well from which action can take place, because we do not sit in silence in order to remain passive. Out of darkness and quiet, creative action becomes possible.

Do you hear a call to discernment for the next phase of your life, a call to put new learning to work to serve others, a call to reflect upon and brighten relationships with your family and friends, a call to do your part to protect our earth, or perhaps a call to become affiliated with the Benedictine Oblate community or our Benedictine monastic community? Maybe that call will bring you to the Monastery where you will be warmly welcomed. Whatever your call, the Benedictine way recommends that you find a quiet uninterrupted space so that you can "listen with the ear of your heart."

May the Blessings of the Advent season be yours.

Lovingly in Christ,

Sister Beverly
Sister Beverly Raway, OSB

¹Groody, Daniel G. (2019). Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas: Waiting in Joyful Hope 2019-2020, Liturgical Press: Collegeville, Minnesota.

²Frankel, Estelle (2017). The Wisdom of Not Knowing: Discovering a Life of Wonder by Embracing Uncertainty, Shambhala Publications: Boulder, Colorado.

Vocation Discernment

by Sister Lisa Maurer

Discernment, an age-old practice in the Christian tradition, is a decision-making process that honors the place of God's will in our lives. It aligns our own will with the will of God and helps us hear God's calling. When one is considering vocation, discernment is essential.

Wouldn't it be nice if our vocation stories were as clear-cut as the stories we hear in the Bible? God used a burning bush to get the attention of Moses. Jonah got a whale. Countless people were visited by angels. The Apostles received their call straight from Jesus' lips. Paul and Barnabas got their instructions whispered to them directly from the Holy Spirit. But for most of us, our call can seem mysterious and unclear. How do we know where the spirit is leading us? How do we hear God's call? How do we discern our vocation, our purpose?

Vocational discernment is not like baking a cake. Although there are helpful steps to follow, there is no fool-proof recipe. It is not neat and tidy or something you do once and are done. We are always engaged in discernment. The steps flow into one another. Sometimes they are going on at the same time. We may even return to a step and work through it further. As Pierre Teilhard de Chardin says we must "trust in the slow work of God."

There are countless books written about discernment and you can find a myriad of websites dedicated to the practice. The steps to discernment found below come from vocationnetwork.org.



Step One: Pray

Listen to God's voice. Invite God into your decision-making process. Try different prayer styles. Attend Mass. Read, meditate, and become aware of God's presence.

"Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you." (Matthew 7:7)

Step Two: Know Yourself

Listen to your voice. What are your fears and motivations? What makes you feel most whole, holy, and true to yourself? What brings you the most joy?

*"Let us search and examine our ways and return to the Lord's.
Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands toward God in heaven!" (Lamentations 3:40-41)*

Step Three: Seek Counsel

Listen to other voices. Gather honest input from people who know and love you. Friends, family, parish staff, and spiritual and vocation directors can all help you assess a path you are considering.

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future." (Proverbs 19:20)

Step Four: Act and Confirm

Follow your heart. Once you make your decision, you should be at peace and feel satisfied and confident in your choice. Continue to listen with your heart.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)*

To learn about discernment as a Benedictine Sister at St. Scholastica, go to www.duluthbenedictines.org/vocations or call Sister Lisa Maurer at 218-723-7011.

“For Lo the Days Are Hastening On....”

by Sister Mary Catherine Shambour meshambour@duluthosb.org

Once again, we find ourselves in Advent time, that puzzling liturgical season when we prepare for a coming that has already arrived and look forward to a time yet to come. While wishing you all the graces and joys of Christmas, I hope this reflection encourages you to focus on Advent and the passing of time. Where is it heading? How much time do we have left? Is there hope for humanity and the planet? What does my faith have to do with the present world crisis? What can I, personally, do about it?

Though hundreds of books try to answer such questions, my only purpose here is to offer a few thoughts from one who has spent nearly seventy years seeking God in religious life in a world that is constantly changing but still has hope. I particularly want to encourage some of the “good Catholics” who come from my and later generations who are discouraged or doubtful about where our Church is headed and would love to go back to “the good old days” when things seemed to be going in order. But the world has moved forward in thousands of ways that we have accepted and do not want to change. There is no going back.

When looking at the growing environmental crisis, we cannot say that we weren’t warned. In 1992, 1700 leading scientists and a majority of Nobel prize winners signed a document for humanity (the United Nations *Rio Declaration*) warning that earth’s environment is being degraded to the point that, if not corrected, it will be unable to sustain life as we know it. Since then the problem has worsened and we are living with the results. We cannot claim it is not our problem. We live in one of the industrialized nations that produce most of the carbon emissions that cause climate change. These are all facts we cannot deny. We can’t leave the solution to politics: it is a moral problem for us all, and humanity’s time is slipping away.

Where can we begin? First, remember that God has not abandoned us but promised to be with us always. Bring the issue to personal prayer and ask the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

Second, how does your occupation affect global health? Is the work you do contributing to climate change and depletion of resources? Is it morally

acceptable for any enterprise to devastate forests and the animal kingdom, or pollute the air, soil and water without replenishing them? These are painful questions to answer. The saddest response of all would be, “Well, I have to make a living too!” This is why we must bring such questions to prayer, seek advice, and work cooperatively with others. Recall that the slave trader John Newton, through prayer, changed his occupation and composed the much-loved hymn *Amazing Grace*.

*What if climate
change is just
a hoax ...*

...and we create a better world for nothing?

Third, ask how much of the American dream do you desire? How much do you really need or have a right to in this world of shrinking resources? A recent article advised prospective parents that if they wanted the very best life for their child in the United States – the best care, opportunities, and education – they would need approximately \$1,000,000 per child. Could you explain why this is so to a refugee from Bangladesh? What aspirations does your faith in God prompt you to have for your children?

Fourth, if you turn off world news “because it’s too depressing,” or feel nothing you can do will help, or think such topics have no connection with your faith, read Pope Francis’ groundbreaking encyclical of 2015 called *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*. In it he stresses the urgent need for change. Form a parish book club to study it together.

Go online to the Zenith News Service and read the Holy Father's daily talks, news, and coverage of his many peace-making efforts around the world.

Become a witness to others by telling them about the Amazon Synod in Rome, where indigenous people from the six nations of Amazonia and their leaders are sharing stories of the ecological and religious crises caused by exploitation of their land and a shortage of missionaries. This is an example of the Church, the People of God, speaking truth to Church hierarchy of the dangers they face and asking intervention.

There is much that we can do to save life on this earth. Advent is a good time to take action. Then as you kneel by the crèche at Christmas, remember that God, who came and is with us, comes also to those for whom we have no space or time.

Let us go and find Him!

Please Pray for Our Deceased Family and Friends

Marcella (Wagner) Camell	11-1-2018	Margaret C. Schmidl	6-28-2019
Carol Lorraine Laybourn	2-15-2019	Martin A. Reker (nephew of Sister Martha Bechtold)	7-4-2019
Charles S. Nowak	3-13-2019	Fr. Vincent Healy Arimond	7-12-2019
Bill Haladay	3-18-2019	Evelyn D. Lausen	7-14-2019
Michael B. LaPanta	4-6-2019	Frances Couture	7-16-2019
Evelyn L. Berg Nolan	4-7-2019	Dr. Johannes Aas	8-5-2019
Genevieve Mary Shubitz	5-5-2019	Ann M. Bonin	8-7-2019
Donna Jean (Mirtica) Horn (sister-in-law of Sister Beverly Horn)	5-6-2019	Lawrence Urbanski	8-14-2019
Aileen Mary Fuller	5-10-2019	Michael J. Mahoney	8-22-2019
Donna Rae Swanger	5-28-2019	Roberta Sigel	8-23-2019
Constance Branigan	6-4-2019	John Farrell Ball, Jr.	8-24-2019
Ann O'Malley O'Melia (sister of Sister Sarah Ann O'Malley)	6-4-2019	Beverly Betten Goldfine	8-27-2019
Ruth Gottlieb	6-5-2019	Colleen Ann Green	8-29-2019
Muriel (Leuer) Fresard	6-7-2019	Clemence L. Kachinske	9-17-2019
Joseph Rosenzweig	6-8-2019	Renée M. (Perra) Fellman	9-18-2019
Robert J. Spehar	6-10-2019	Corinne A. McDonald	9-18-2019
Alice Irene (Scott) Jappe	6-12-2019	Charlene A. Bjostad	9-29-2019
Joe Giesen (brother of Sister Helen Giesen)	6-24-2019	Marian Chase	10-5-2019
		Salley Kremer (sister of Sister Sarah Ann O'Malley)	10-9-2019

The Renewal of the Oblate Community of St. Scholastica Monastery

by Sister Pauline Micke, OSB and Jane Dolter, Oblate

"I am about to do a new thing; do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19)



Oblates of St. Scholastica Monastery meet on a sunny day in October

There are life-giving, energizing changes taking place in oblate communities across the USA and in some foreign nations. In our own oblate community in Duluth we, too, are experiencing these transformations.

What is an oblate? Oblates are people who affiliate themselves with a Benedictine community to enrich their Christian way of life. They live the wisdom of Christ as interpreted by St. Benedict, seeking God by integrating prayer and work in their chosen way of life. The process includes an inquiry stage, candidate stage, and Final Oblation. Oblates are not a program. Oblates are a community.

Looking at our history, we find only a very short article in our archives regarding oblates. We had many women who came to lay retreats, and some became Benedictine oblates. They were enrolled through St. John's Abbey as we didn't have an oblate community at that time. The Benedictine priests of the former St. Clement's Parish in Duluth assisted with this process.

In 1964, St. Scholastica Priory (now Monastery) began to receive oblates directly who then affiliated with us. Some who had been enrolled through St. John's Abbey transferred their affiliation to us. Today, we are reviewing our history and records to help us discern where we will grow as an oblate community into the future.

All over North America, meetings are being held. People are standing up and saying, in the words of Sister Teresa Jackson of Cottonwood, Idaho: "Look! Benedictine life is alive, thriving, exciting, growing, reaching out to give meaning to a world that is so hungry for God's presence." Oblates are becoming empowered to live their calling, their vocation as Oblates. As Benedict said in his Rule, we must "listen with the ear of our heart."

In future articles and formation sessions, we will explore more about this unique way of living the Benedictine life through oblation. If you would like information or have questions about becoming an oblate, contact either of the co-directors.

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Two Sisters Celebrate Their Ninetieth Birthdays

by Sister Therese Carson and Theresa Butler



Sister Mary Christa is surrounded by Sisters and former colleagues at the Benedictine Health System Duluth office.

Sister Mary Christa Kroening celebrated her birthday twice, first with her monastic family on August 18 (three days after her birthday) and again on September 19 with her former colleagues at the Benedictine Health System.

She was the liturgist for the Community from 1982 to 1998, and then began working for the Benedictine Health System as Associate Director of Mission Integration and then as Director of Liturgical and Ritual Services. She designed the sacred spaces within healthcare communities and wrote liturgies to meet the spiritual needs of their residents. She published an award-winning book of prayers, *Inspiration Through Prayer: Common Prayers for Health Care Organizations*.



Sister was part of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue that brings together people from diverse faith backgrounds. She lent her organizational skills to local nonprofits, including CHUM and Damiano, that work for the benefit of the poor and struggling. An avid gardener, for many years she raised vegetables in the garden down by Chester Creek. She retired from the BHS in 2014 and now spends her time on Benet Hall, reading and praying.



Sister Annella Wagner. In *Summer Pathways* we recalled the creation of the Monastery Peace Doors which were inspired by a homily given at Sister Annella's 50th Jubilee. In the Annual Report we celebrated Sister Annella's 70th Jubilee. In this issue we celebrate Sister Annella turning 90. She is grateful for all of these occasions: 50, 70, and 90!

She celebrated twice, first on October 8, her birthday, with a special picnic on Benet Hall, and later with her Sisters and guests on October 13.

Sister Annella made her first monastic profession in 1949. Over the years, she has served in a variety of ministries: food preparation, management, and caring for aging Sisters in Benet Hall. As Dietary Manager at St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd, she supervised and mentored work-study students. Her sincere and fair supervision earned her the 1979 Outstanding Lay Educator award from the Brainerd School District.

Her work allowed her to attend many national conferences and food shows, at which she won two trips but elected for the money to be donated to the Mary Queen of Peace Chapel and Sisters' retirement fund. She also won a 750-pound beef cow, which she donated to her Community.

Sister Annella continues in her ministry of helping bury her Sisters. When she sits with Sisters who are dying, it is a sacred and peaceful moment when God comes for them. At funerals she has been coffin minister, bearer of the Holy Rule, and the cantor who intones the *Suscipe* when the Sisters' bodies first arrive at the Chapel.

Sister Annella is thankful for her good health and many blessings during her 90 years.

+Sister Marguerite Baxter, OSB



Sister Marguerite Baxter, OSB, age 94, died at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth, Minnesota, on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, in her 72nd year of consecrated life.

Born in Iron Mountain, Michigan on February 22, 1925, and given the name Florence at her baptism, she was the youngest of seven children born to Charles and Margaret (Scully) Baxter. When she was two years old, her family moved to Houghton, Michigan. After graduating from Houghton High School, Florence followed her older sisters to The College of St. Scholastica and selected Medical Technology as her field of study. In her senior year she entered Duluth's Benedictine Community and graduated with a BA in chemistry and minor in biology.

As Sister Marguerite, her earliest ministry was as a teacher in elementary schools, first in Duluth at Sacred Heart and then in Minneapolis at St. Bridget's. She was transferred to the clinical laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital where she completed her training, was certified as a medical technologist, and worked for the next twelve years.

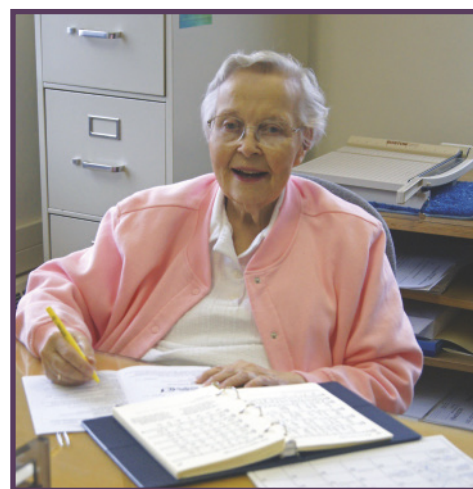
In 1968, Sister Marguerite earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She returned to teaching, now as Chair of the Medical Technology Department and later as co-chair of the Health Science Division of The College of St. Scholastica. For the next twenty-five years the Department flourished under her leadership. In 1997 Sister Marguerite was awarded the status of *faculty emerita* and became student advisor for the Health Sciences Division, which she thoroughly enjoyed for three years.

In 2000, Sister Marguerite was assigned to the Monastery Liturgy Office where she planned and prepared computerized materials for liturgical services. Throughout her life, she revealed the depth of her intelligence in the way she mastered and carefully organized all her ministries with precision and attention to detail.

Sister Marguerite was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers William, Charles, and Robert, and her sisters Margaret Elizabeth Monroe, Alice Gribble, and Catherine Rubbo. Besides the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by 27 nieces and nephews and many friends and associates. Her funeral was held on Saturday, June 15, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at the Monastery. Morning Prayer and Wake service were followed by the Mass of Christian Burial, with Fr. Seamus Walsh celebrating. She was interred with her departed Sisters at Gethsemane Cemetery.



Sister Marguerite in the Clinical Chemistry Lab at St. Mary's Hospital



In the Liturgy Office, 2015

+Sister Joyce Fournier, OSB

Sister Joyce Fournier went home on August 7, 2019 in her 68th year of Monastic Profession. A gifted photographer and framer, Sister was recognized throughout the region for her talent and expertise.

Born to Leo and Anne (Harder) Fournier in Warren, Minnesota on October 17, 1930, Joyce grew up with two brothers and two sisters; a younger brother James, died shortly after birth. She and her siblings learned responsibility early by assisting their parents in the family bakery. She learned hospitality, hard work, quality customer care, how to run a successful business, and how to get up very early in the morning.

Joyce was a Girl Scout Leader, editor of her high school newspaper, and salutatorian of her graduating class. She entered St. Scholastica Monastery in January 1950 and professed her perpetual vows in 1955. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1977, her Golden Jubilee in 2002, and her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

After earning a BS in Education from The College of St. Scholastica she served for twenty-seven years as teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Duluth, Arizona, Hibbing, International Falls, Chicago, and Washington, DC. She served as subprioress from 1975 until 1984 and then as maintenance director at St. Gertrude School of Arts and Crafts in Washington, D.C.

Upon her return to Duluth, Sister Joyce began working with Sister Noemi Weygant, a noted photographer who suffered from macular degeneration. Deeply impressed by her work, Sister Joyce's interest in nature photography blossomed. She suggested to Sister Noemi that her photos should be framed and so founded *Scholastica Framing and Photograph*. It served the Monastery and public for many years.

Sister Joyce could always be counted on for early morning drives to the airport. She was a dependable driver and companion for medical appointments or shopping. She loved to bring people together. On weekday mornings, her office became a gathering place over coffee and goodies. Always ready to go the extra mile, she enriched the lives of those fortunate to know her. She once said, "Though my life is certainly different from the one I planned for myself as a young woman, it has been rich and rewarding." And so, it has for us too!

Sister was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Marie (Huard) Fournier and Judith Fournier, and her brothers Dale, Charles, and James. Left to cherish her life are her nieces and nephews, her cousin Fr. Denis Fournier, OSB, her many friends especially her lifelong friends Catherine Little and Madonna Domenichetti, and her Community, especially Sister Grace Marie Braun with whom she shared many years of leadership.

The Sisters are grateful to the staff at Benet Hall and Essentia St. Mary's Hospice for the loving care they provided our Sister Joyce.

Morning Prayer, Wake Service, and Mass of Christian Burial were held on August 17, 2019 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel with Father William Fider, presider. Interment was in Gethsemane Cemetery. Dougherty Funeral Home handled the arrangements.



"There's so much beauty everywhere."



Sister Joyce made a frame for 'Selfie with a Sister' at an open house.



Center for Spirituality and Enrichment

St. Scholastica Monastery - McCabe Renewal Center

One Mission, Two Locations

Schedule for Advent 2019

For more information and later events, go to the Center website at retreatduluth.org

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

Online: retreatduluth.org

Email: retreat@duluthosb.org

Phone: 218-723-6699

Listen with the ear of your heart...

The ear is one of the very first organs to develop in the womb, and our sense of hearing is thought to be the last to go in the dying process. In the opening sentence of the Holy Rule, St. Benedict entreats us to “listen with the ear of your heart.” In fact, all the great spiritual teachers stressed the importance of silence, of listening. The spiritual master Gandhi kept a practice of spending each Monday in silence so that he could listen for – and hear – the truth. Recently I came across a wonderful proverb: “Listen or your tongue will make you deaf.” Clearly, the great spiritual traditions teach that everything begins with listening. This is not like idle listening to the radio or to the TV in the background while at home. It is a deep, attentive listening, a listening that begins in our ears and moves to our hearts so that we can reflect, discern, and be changed.

How do we learn to listen this way in such a noisy fast-paced world? For me, I can only attempt this type of listening in a quiet uninterrupted space. It is a space that I intentionally go to each day, a special corner of my room where I can open myself to the Voice of the One who loves us. I had a Benedictine professor during my graduate studies who said, “It is only in the stillness and silence that you will hear God. Seek the silence.” I have found this to be absolutely true in my own life and prayer.

Sometimes I feel a yearning to deepen and refresh my prayer and connection to God. I crave a retreat away from daily life, time to just let go and be with God

and the whole universe. Longer retreat experiences allow me to recover my sense of awe and wonder, reminding me of who I am and to Whom I belong. The extended quiet teaches me how to improve on the way we humans are made to listen, and in so doing, to live more fully into God’s dream for me.

St. Scholastica Monastery offers such a place in our private guest rooms. Those who stay love the silence, the slower pace, the *something different* here that helps them re-enter their life with a greater sense of peace and hope. They find a place to *listen with the ear of their hearts*.

A fellow retreat center director, Fr. Thomas Lightner, OSB shared this story:

Rabbi Kuk used to tell his disciples, “God is everywhere and God is the same everywhere.” When work became too much for him though, he withdrew into the desert for prayer. His disciples were astonished at this. One day they asked him, “Rabbi you said that God is everywhere, and God is the same everywhere. Why do you go to the desert to pray if God is everywhere?” “You are right,” Rabbi Kuk responded. “God is everywhere, and God is the same everywhere. However, I am not the same everywhere. That’s why I go into the desert to pray.”

It is in the listening that we are changed. Seek the silence and you will hear.

Dawn Carrillo

***Lectio Divina* Advent Series**

Mondays: November 25, December 2, 9, and 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at St. Scholastica Monastery

Lectio divina, a Benedictine form of contemplative prayer, is a powerful practice that enables us to open ourselves to God so that we can better recognize and hear God's voice in our lives. You may attend any or all of the four sessions. Prior experience with *lectio divina* is not required.

Facilitator: Sister Luce Marie Dionne, OSB is a licensed architect, immersed in scripture, the Rule of St. Benedict, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and sustainability for the planet.

Cost: \$5/session or \$20 for 4 sessions.



Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 12 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at McCabe Renewal Center

Please let us know you are coming! Call McCabe at (218) 724-5266 or email retreat@duluthosb.org.

Coffee with the Saints

Friday: December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at St. Scholastica Monastery

Come and share coffee and conversation about **Augustus Tolton** (1854-1897).

Augustine Tolton was the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when

he was ordained in 1886. Born into slavery, he and his family achieved freedom after the Civil War. Upon his ordination, Tolton was sent to serve the black community in the United States. Encountering many race relation problems throughout his life, 'Good Father Gus' was known by both the black and white communities for his eloquent sermons, his beautiful singing voice, and his talent for playing the accordion.

Facilitator: Sister Sarah O'Malley, OSB, has authored 12 books on pastoral topics and has given many retreats both in Phoenix and Duluth on a wide variety of topics

Cost: Freewill offering. Please register for this event.

Taizé Prayer

Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel (St. Scholastica Monastery)

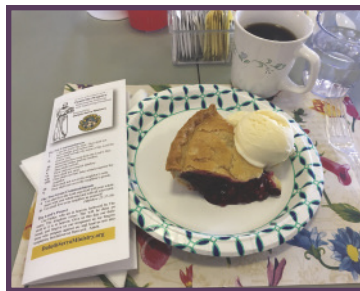
Taizé prayer is a very reflective, meditative prayer in a common setting. Gather for an hour of prayer to encounter the mystery of God through the beauty of simplicity. Hear scripture readings and prayer petitions, and join in singing simple, repetitive songs initiated by a song leader, allowing you to relax and join in prayer and song as you feel comfortable. In the sacred space of contemplative silence God often touches us deeply, and healing and transformation happens.

Registration not necessary.



Highlights

Serra Club Pie Social



Each spring the men and women of the Serra Club hold a social for the Sisters with coffee and pie. This year it was held on Benet Hall for the comfort of our elderly Sisters. Fr. John Petrich opened the social with a prayer.

We always look forward to talking with our Serran friends who work tirelessly to promote and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Sister Kathleen Hofer with Jim Perrault and Thomas Vecchi

Sisters attend the American Benedictine Formation Conference Symposium



Two sisters from Duluth attended the American Benedictine Formation Conference Symposium. Benedictine women whose ministries are in the areas of vocations or initial ongoing formation met to share ideas and support. The symposium was held at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, South Dakota on May 5-10.

Fifth from left in first row is Sister Donna Schroeder. Third from the right in the second row is Sister Lisa Maurer.

March for Justice, Lights for Liberty

Duluth's Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice (ICMJ) is a grassroots movement whose members work for justice for the people seeking asylum at our borders. A recent statement said, "We of the Twin Ports faith community have come together to speak to the conscience of fellow citizens. ... Let us respond in the best tradition of our nation and the shared values of our faith communities by inviting them into our communities and assisting them to rebuild their lives. ... All faith traditions profess the value of each human life. We make this passionate plea: that our beloved nation shows respect and care for our migrant sisters and brothers from all parts of the world."

The planning group, comprised of people from diverse faiths and backgrounds, organized a march in June. Steady rain did not deter them from walking from Lake Avenue and Superior to the Federal Building. Then in July they held a Lights for Liberty prayer service at Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth as part of a nationwide vigil for an end to inhumane conditions in migrant detention camps, especially those where children are separated from their parents.

Above: Sister Dorene King at the march.



Right: At Lights for Liberty, participants lit candles and placed them one by one in a sand table.



CHUM Rhubarb Festival



For many Duluthians, the Rhubarb Festival in late June marks the beginning of summer on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Coinciding with the bountiful rhubarb crop, the festival offers rhubarb pies, pastries, brats, burritos, and lemonade. If it can be made with rhubarb you will probably find it there. There is live, locally sourced music, a climbing wall, and many other children's activities, all with a view of freighters on the Lake.

This year the Sisters helped at the Coloring Contest booth and the Storytelling booth, where we read to young children and sent them home with a book.

From left to right: Sister Mary Christa Kroening trims rhubarb in the Monastery garden; boxes of rhubarb waiting to become pies; Sister Dorene King brings a story alive for her listeners; Sister Josine Krausnick waits to read to another group.



Highlights, Continued

Commissioning Rite

On the first Sunday of August, the Sisters receive their Commissions, the ministries they will undertake in the coming year. This year's message was to trust in the Holy Spirit as we plan for our future. The image of veiled women walking into the unknown (at far right) is by Minneapolis fabric artist Joan Kloiber. The quote is from Antonio Machado who said,

"Traveler, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more; wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again. Wanderer, there is no road, only wakes upon the sea."



Grand Opening of the St. Anthony Center with *New Hope For Families*



Last March we transferred ownership of the former St. Anthony's church and rectory to Duluth's New Hope For Families, a faith-based nonprofit that is raising public awareness about the increasing number of children entering foster care, largely because of the epidemic of opioid and methamphetamine addictions. They are creating a network of homes for children needing a safe, loving refuge and are building a community of support around foster families. For more information see <https://www.newhopeforfamilies.com/>.

Left to right: Tom Schaer, Nicole Schaer, Therese Gruba, Sr. Theresa Spinler, Sr. Mary Susan Dewitt, Sr. Lois Eckes, Sr. Kathleen Hofer, Sr. Linda Wiggins, Sr. Beverly Raway, Sr. Pauline Micke, and Judith Mary McKeever.

Presentation on Praying in the Presence of Icons

Sister Therese Carson and the Benedictine Living Community of Duluth Chaplaincy collaborated to offer a presentation for residents and friends on religious icons, part of the *Spiritual Smorgasbord* series at the BLC-Duluth. Sister Therese shared her knowledge and experience of using religious icons as a medium for prayer. She shared the impact that icons have had in the Catholic Church over the ages, and how they can be beacons of beauty and grace for connecting with God. The presentation ended with a spirited discussion among the attendees about how we experience God through art, architecture, music, and the natural world.



CHUM Night Out

On the first Tuesday in August, communities throughout the country hold a Night Out where neighbors get out and meet one another in a spirit of camaraderie. The event began in the 1980s to promote police-community partnerships in neighborhoods across the country. We bring food to share at the CHUM Night Out to mingle with people of the Central Hillside neighborhood



Above: While volunteers get the food ready down the line, a father shows his son how to mark each person's hands with a stamp.

Right: Sister Lois Eckes with Deb Holman who works in Street Outreach. She meets people who are living on the streets or in the woods, provides goods or services to keep them safe, and helps them keep appointments so they can move into housing.



Sisters Welcome New CSS President

In August, Dr. Barbara McDonald became the 13th president of The College of St. Scholastica. The faculty, staff, and Sisters welcomed her at a gathering in the Benedictine Commons. Dr. McDonald comes to Duluth from North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Left, Sister Mary Catherine Shambour; right, Dr. Barbara McDonald with Sister Beverly Raway.



Highlights, Continued

Benedictine Days with Joyce Rupp, OSM

At our latest *Benedictine Days* event, author Joyce Rupp shared her thoughts on *Keeping Hope Alive in a Troubled World*. Speaking to a full audience of about 150 people at The College of St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge, she said, "Hope has to do with believing beyond today. Hope encourages me to follow my dreams, to believe in the part of me that envisions my wholeness. Hope is trusting that what is happening will eventually make sense, or if it never does become more meaningful, it will still offer an opportunity for growth."

Sister Joyce belongs to the Order of Servants of Mary or Servites.



Ground-breaking for new St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth

On September 25, after years of planning, Essentia Health in Duluth broke ground on a new state-of-the-art St. Mary's Medical Center. Though rain threatened the skies remained closed. Sister Beverly Raway opened with a prayer and then blessed the ground, the speakers, and the onlookers with a shower of holy water.



(left) Doctor David Herman (CEO of Essentia Health-Duluth), Dr. Robert Erickson, Sister Beverly Raway, and Duluth Mayor Emily Larson listen to State Senator Erik Simonson (right) tell the story of how, through a bipartisan effort, the state legislature crafted and passed funding for Vision Northland.



Members of the Essentia Health-Duluth Board of Directors break ground. The earth was brought in for the occasion, as the ceremony took place under a large white tent on the drive in front of the Second Street Duluth Clinic. The south end of that building, along with a parking deck, will now be demolished and foundations dug for the new twin-towered structure.



Sister Clare Marie Trettel Receives Award at the BHS Annual Conference

At the Benedictine Health System's Annual Leadership Conference in September, Jerry Carley, President and CEO of the Benedictine Health System, presented Sister Clare Marie Trettel OSB the "Distinguishing Leader" award.

Sister Clare Marie has been involved with the Benedictine Health System for thirty-two years in various capacities as board member and on committees.

The Sisters are grateful for her many years of faithful, competent service with the BHS and in the Monastery.



Sisters give final conference blessing to attendees



Benedictine Sub-Prioresses Meet at St. Scholastica

From September 26 to October 1, we were blessed by the presence of twenty-two Benedictine subprioresses, house coordinators, servant-leaders, and deans from monasteries throughout the US and Canada. These are different names for the wise, hard-working women who care for the needs of their Sisters and take part in the daily operation of the Monastery and in long-term planning. When the prioress is absent or unable to fulfill her responsibilities, the subprioress exercises authority in her place and provides continuity in leadership.

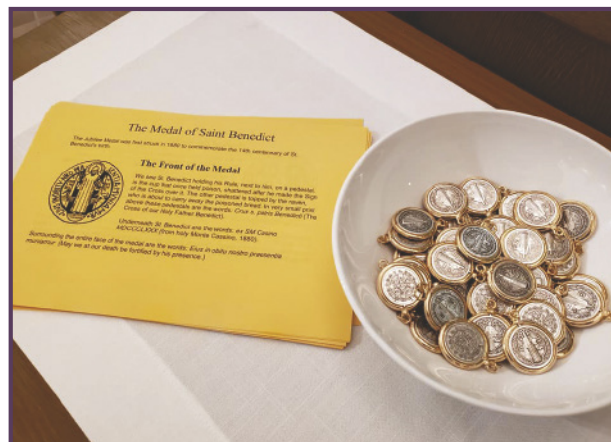
Subprioresses meet once a year in mutual support to encourage each other, share experiences, and expand their knowledge in order to further the Benedictine vision and values.

On Sunday afternoon, despite it being cold, blustery, and occasionally rainy, most of the Sisters went out on excursions, even those who would soon return to ninety-degree weather. Some took a ride on the *Vista Queen* in Duluth's inner harbor, the open lake being too rough. Others traveled up the North Shore to a ski resort near Lutsen and enjoyed the autumnal view of the Sawtooth Mountains from the gondola.



College Athletes attend Prayer Service

Athletes of the College of St. Scholastica attended a prayer service where each received a St. Benedict medal. It is a reminder that they must be more than good at their chosen sport; they must also live up to the ideals embodied in their College and mirror them for the rest of the student body. This service is held for all athletes throughout the year. Go, Saints!



Sister Joan Chittister interviewed for film project

Sister Joan Chittister, OSB was interviewed in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel for a "Sisters II" documentary by *Story Front*. Joan is a charismatic visionary and acclaimed author and founder of *Benetvision*, a resource and research center for spirituality of the Benedictine Monastery in Erie, Pennsylvania. Twenty years ago, *Story Front* was instrumental in the production of *Sisters*, a documentary featuring how Benedictine monasteries were meeting the challenges of change in the 21st century. The *Sisters* film reached national audiences in 2005 and in 2005-2006 it became part of the PBS Independent Lens series.

Now, twenty years later, Benedictine communities are intentionally responding to the spiritual needs of the 21st Century. They are developing spiritual retreat centers, converting areas within the monastery for meeting and retreat space and overnight stays.

With the "Sisters II" documentary, *Story Front* hopes to share and preserve the Benedictine way of life so that we can continue to bless others in our culture through hosting retreats and spiritual programming. This film intends to bring fresh exposure and understanding to the retreat center movement within monastic communities worldwide.



Story Front made a monumental leap in getting film production started by interviewing Sister Joan Chittister this September. She was visiting Duluth as the keynote speaker for the Benedictine Health System Leadership Conference. The Sisters were also blessed by her visit and enjoyed every moment with Sister Joan Chittister. Stay tuned for further updates on the "Sisters II" film.

"There is no amount of darkness that can extinguish the inner light. The important thing is not to spend our lives trying to control the environment around us. The task is to control the environment within us." (Joan Chittister, OSB)

Annual Open House

On October 6, donors, oblates, volunteers, and members of our sponsored organizations were invited to join us at our home. They enjoyed refreshments and a slideshow that showed what the Sisters have been up to in the last year. Sister Beverly Raway gave a welcome and blessing to the honored guests and Development/Public Relations Director Jan Barrett thanked the attendees for all they do to support the Sisters.



*(above) Irene and Bill Moser join us each Sunday for Mass.
(right) Buffet table*



*(above left) Guests listen as Sister Beverly Raway leads all in prayer.
(above right) Joanne Robson and Dale Belsvick
(below left) Teresa O'Toole and Sister Beverly Raway
(below right) Kay Doyle, Dorothy Rappel, and Matt Doyle*



St. Scholastica Monastery
Office of Development
1001 Kenwood Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811-2300

Address Service Requested



St. Scholastica Monastery Christmas Bazaar

Thursday, December 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Rockhurst Dining Room
1001 Kenwood Ave, Duluth, MN*

*Homemade Christmas decorations,
canned and baked goods, candy, crafts!*

Cash or check only



*Join us for Sunday Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.
in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel*

*If you prefer an electronic copy of Pathways,
please email us at Monastery@duluthosb.org*