

PATHWAYS



Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters

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A Letter From The Prioress

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, summertime is still blessing us with sunshine, rain, and the beauty and bounty of gardens and fields. Life abounds and we drink it in, storing up energy and memories for times when sunshine and flowers will be scarce.

By the time you receive this issue of *Pathways* I will have returned from a three-week journey to Tanzania, where my sister Lucia and I will have visited our Twinning communities and spent a few days on a safari to Mount Kilimanjaro and other beautiful places in northern Africa. In the Advent issue of *Pathways* I will share with you an account of that pilgrimage. Until then, I offer you this gift from the writings of John O'Donohue, whose spirit continues to bless us from the "place beyond the veil" where we are back home in the Heart of God.



A Weaving of Blessings

"Blessed be the longing that brought you here and that quickens your soul with wonder..."

"May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path..."

"May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention..."

"May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder..."

"May your angel free you from the prisons of guilt, fear, disappointment and despair..."

"May you know tender shelter and healing blessing when you are called to stand in the place of pain..."

"May your compassion reach out to the ones we never hear from and may you have the courage to speak out for the excluded ones..."

"May you know that you are ever embraced in the kind circle of God."

Quotations from John O'Donohue

Lovingly, with daily prayer and deep gratitude for the blessing you are,

Sister Lois Eckes

Sister Lois Eckes
Prioress

Buying The Field

By Sister Margaret Clarke

September 2009 marks the hundredth anniversary of the completion of the first section of what is now Tower Hall, and the Sisters' move to their Kenwood site. In celebration of this centennial, we present a multi-part history of the construction of the Motherhouse and Academy.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in joy goes and sells all and buys that field." *Matthew 13:45 NRSV*

In 1892 when the group of thirty-two Benedictine Sisters arrived in Duluth to establish a new motherhouse, they chose to rent two sections of the recently completed Munger Terrace townhouses on Mesaba Avenue, which would house the Sisters and their academy. Two years later they were ready to move to their own newly constructed building on Third Avenue East and Third Street which they named Sacred Heart Institute. As the number of Community members grew and the enrollment at the Academy increased, it became obvious that a more spacious building would be needed. In 1899 it came to Mother Scholastica's attention that land in the suburbs had been advertised for sale, and on March 4, 1899, the Chapter voted "to purchase a farm of eighty acres lying about two miles distance from the city and which may in future prove a great good to the Community, as its location is very favorable." The Chapter agreed unanimously to purchase this land for a sum of \$8,000 if the title could be cleared.

The land in question had been claimed in 1861 under the Homestead Law by Frederick Ryder. He eventually deeded the property to his daughter's husband, A.M. Weller, who farmed the land and in 1872 took a three-year mortgage on the property with Nehemiah Hulett in order to have funds for building and improvement of the farm. Mr. Weller, a graduate of Yale University, also opened a boarding school which he called the Yale School. A letter from a former pupil to Sister Pauline Dunphy describes her experience there: "It was called the Weller Farm when we spent a winter there, and went to school in a room which had been cut off in the great hay barn. . . . It was a happy one. The teachers—there were three of them at different times—were all good and kind, and there were almost no rules. I am sure during the school year no one was ever punished." Mr. Hulett foreclosed on the mortgage in 1877 but lived with the Wellers on the farm for a few years. After his death in 1899 there was some legal squabbling over the ownership of the property, but that was eventually resolved, and the Sisters took possession in 1900.



*Cutting wheat in late summer;
view of Kenwood area to the northeast.*



*Mrs. Beyenka tends the chickens. The light-colored building
was the house constructed for the farmhands in 1902.
In 1940, it was moved uphill to become the College post office.*

Buying The Field

Continued from page 3

This land comprised one-half of the eventual quarter-section of property to be acquired by the Sisters: the northern half of the present campus. At the time the Sisters took it over, the farm had been uncultivated for several years and was covered with wild grasses and weeds. Most of the timber in the area had been lumbered off years before but second-growth trees had sprung up along the edges of the property, and willows grew along the banks of Chester Creek, which ran through it. From the hill on the west side of the property, one could catch a view of Lake Superior.

Although the Community could not afford to begin building at once, Mother Scholastica decided that the farm could be utilized to supply milk and fresh vegetables to the missions in downtown Duluth. Dairy cows, draft horses, farm implements and a carriage horse were purchased, and relatives of the Sisters were employed as gardener and farm foreman. Sister Amata Mackett, later to be remembered as the “lumberjack nun” who sold hospital insurance tickets in the lumber camps, was appointed farm supervisor. In 1902 a dairy barn and several other smaller buildings, including a house for the farm laborers, were constructed.



Sisters picking berries on the west hill of the property known as ‘Pine Grove’



Mr. Beyenka, the farm manager and the father of Sister Eustacia, surveys the cabbages.



The Community, including five postulants, enjoying an outing at the creek.



The young ladies from Sacred Heart Institute on a picnic at the farm

No one knows exactly when the Sisters began referring to the property as the “Daisy Farm,” but daisies were indeed plentiful on the property, and it became a popular spot for picnics and outings for both the students and the Sisters. It was on one of these occasions that Sister Adelaide Blais remembered what would probably become one of the most famous utterances of Mother Scholastica. “One summer day,” Sister Adelaide recalls, “when a group of Sisters was sitting in the pine grove, Mother Scholastica, who was present, voiced a prophecy which is verified today: ‘My dream is that someday there will rise upon these grounds a fine building, like the great Benedictine abbeys of Europe. It will be built of stone; within its walls, higher education will flourish; the Divine Office will be chanted, and the beautiful ceremonies of the liturgy will be carried out.’”

In the meantime, enrollment at the Academy was increasing, the number of Community members continued to grow, and by 1905 it became obvious that it was time to start to build.



Younger students from the Institute at the farm; the original Weller barn is in the background.

To be continued in the Advent *Pathways*. Quotations are from Chapter minutes and from Mother Agnes Somers’ unpublished history of the Community. Photos from Monastery Archives.

Happy 90th Birthday



Sister Marilyn Micke

By Sister Pauline Micke (Sister Marilyn's niece)

"Let the trumpet resound . . . This year you shall be sacred. It shall be a Jubilee for you . . . (Lev. 25: 9-12). In the book of Leviticus, this Jubilee year is dedicated to God. It is a time for celebrating God's goodness and care. Above all this Jubilee year will be sacred for all who celebrate it.

This is what Sister Marilyn Micke is doing in this year of 2008. It is, for her, a Jubilee year! On June 11 Sister Marilyn marked her 90th birthday at a dinner party with her monastic Community, family, and friends. It was a night that celebrated her years of service and of God's care and goodness in her life. She speaks of how God has given her good health over the years so that she is able to continue working, even in her 90th year, in the Monastery's business office.

On August 3, 2008, Sister Marilyn celebrated the 70th anniversary of her vows. It is truly a year she is holding sacred in her life. These were 70 years filled with service to others as a teacher, principal, supervisor of schools, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Duluth, and her current work in the business office.

Sister Marilyn feels very blessed over these ninety years of life and 70 years as a Benedictine Sister of St. Scholastica Monastery. She says, "The challenge of life is to learn the art of being all you can be at any age."

Students, friends, family, and monastic Community would affirm that not only does she live these words of wisdom, but she also calls forth the best in others. This is truly a reason to celebrate, for as Proverbs says, "Let her works praise her in the gates."

For the gift you are, Sister Marilyn, may God grant you many more years to be "all you can be."

Photos by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Cecile LaForest

By Sister Jane Casey

Sister Cecile LaForest celebrated her 90th birthday August 18 with her Community and friends attending. Sister Cecile is in her 71st year of monastic profession!

Sister Cecile says that in 1932 her pastor told two visiting Benedictine Sisters that they should not leave town before visiting the LaForest home. Two months later Sister Cecile rode the train alone from Michigan to Duluth to complete high school at the Academy and then entered the Benedictine Community.

Sister Cecile taught at St. Clement's, St. James, St. Margaret Mary, and Sacred Heart in Duluth. She was also in Grand Rapids for 14 years and served as supervisor of schools at the same time that she was principal of St. Joseph's there. Sister Cecile worked in a number of other communities in northeastern Minnesota and went twice to missions in Chicago. She says, "I was blessed with a ministry that provided me with a plethora of experiences that would contribute to the challenge in the formation of youth. Over the years I functioned as teacher, principal, supervisor, and director of religious education. Each assignment was filled with wonder and awe."

Sister Cecile says that "having completed the education run," she moved to St. Ann's in 1991 for a new ministry. As both resident and staff member she was sacristan at St. Ann's for 16 years, a revered and valued presence to the residents.

Sister Cecile has always had a special gift with words. Her notes and verses for special occasions are works of art in written form. One of Sister Cecile's interesting accomplishments was organizing Sister Alicia Panger's numerous notes into a beautiful booklet, *Hillside Handmaid*, which tells about Sister Alicia's ministry in Duluth's Hillside neighborhood.

Sister Cecile has recently moved to the Monastery. God bless you, Sister Cecile, for gracing us with your presence these many years. Thank you and congratulations!

Sister Edith Bogue Wins Lavine Award for Teaching Excellence

Photos by Andy Therrien



At the close of the academic year in May, Sister Edith Bogue received the 31st annual Max H. Lavine Award for Teaching Excellence from The College of St. Scholastica, the college's highest honor for achievement among its faculty. The vetting process for this award is substantial: the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Beth Domholdt, begins with nominations submitted by fellow faculty members, then visits candidates' classrooms, and considers their statements of teaching philosophy. At the final stage of the process, she consults with Sister Joan Braun, whose long-time friendship with Frances Lavine provides a vital link to the vision that sparked establishment of the award in 1977.

"I was very surprised to be nominated," said Sister Edith. "It was the first year I was eligible — and there are an awful lot of fine teachers who have been at the College longer than I have. I didn't really expect

to win the award." The name of the winner is a closely guarded secret until its announcement at the annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch held in May. "The first clue that I probably was the winner came when Beth Domholdt described the way the winning faculty member began the class with a prayer related to the topic for the day — not that many of us pray at the start of class. It was such an honor, and a tremendously moving experience, that I really wasn't able to speak."

In making the award, Dr. Domholdt quoted Sister Edith's teaching philosophy. After describing the many social factors which make success difficult for today's students, Sister Edith wrote "I try to share my genuine enthusiasm about my field of study and about the process of becoming an educated person in every class I teach. If I can generate excitement about learning, curiosity about the way society operates, or skepticism of easy answers, it will have more impact than knowledge of particular facts. If I can help students to see the ways in which the facts and concepts place demands on their actions as well as their minds, I will have helped them towards achieving [Aristotle's ideal of happiness] *eudaimonia*. I count that as success."

As winner of the Lavine Award, Sister Edith was the keynote speaker at Convocation for the more than 700 new students in September. Drawing on 21st century analysis to describe the many benefits that flow to those who complete their college education, she turned to the wisdom of the 12th century scholar Hugh of St. Victor to offer students methods and motivation to harvest the fruit of their education — and avoid various types of "bad behavior" that both modern sociologists and medieval schoolmasters recognized as risk factors.

As the tenth Benedictine Sister to win this award, Sister Edith is following the tradition forged by Sisters Agatha Riehl, Mary Richard Boo, Helen Claire Arts, Monica Laughlin, Janelle Cahoon, Donna Schroeder, Agnes Fleck, Margaret Clarke, and Mary Jean Tuttle — and is happy to be keeping such good company.

Please Pray for the Following Deceased Friends and Relatives

Margaret Lunka
Lucille Scherer 9/20/07
John McCarthy 4/19/08
Ned Goodwin 5/16/08
Donna Pegors 5/17/08
Robert E. Johnson 5/21/08
Janet Hoeg 5/28/08
Stella Rose Sandbeck 5/29/08
Lawrence Etzel 5/31/08

Ann Sheridan 6/1/08
Keith Nesgoda 6/17/08
Mary Homstad 6/28/08
Patricia Marie Smith 7/13/08
George Hellen 7/15/08
+Sister Margaret Mary Hellen's brother
Evangeline Block 7/20/08
Sister Annella Wagner's sister
Catherine (Reider) Connell 8/6/08

Daily Bread

Throughout the years many Sisters worked in food service ministry. Some were dietitians, some bakers, some “hot food” specialists, and others were sent out on missions where they planned, purchased, and prepared meals for Sisters who were teaching or involved in other ministries. Those who worked at St. Scholastica Monastery served the Sisters, students of the College, and students of Stanbrook Hall High School as well as the College students housed at McCabe and Sellwood properties. These are the memories of Sisters who once worked in food service at the Monastery or its missions. Featured in this issue are Sister Grace Marie Braun, +Sister Paschal Pocta, and Sister Johnetta Maher, all with very different food service responsibilities. Future issues of Pathways will feature Sister Bertille Goblirsch, Sister Rebecca Burggraff, Sister Celine Plante, Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, and Sister Annella Wagner.

Sister Grace Marie Braun



*Sister Grace Marie Braun, 1958
Tower Hall Food Service*

The Food Service Departments for the Monastery and College have grown over the years in response to the needs, opportunities, and challenges of an increasingly vibrant campus. I was part of that “historical evolution” when I was in charge of the Food Service Department and served as its dietitian from 1956-1964. During that time—1960-1961—I returned to St. Louis University to complete my M.A. degree in Dietetics.

When I assumed responsibility for the campus food service in 1956, it was just that—a campus food service which prepared all the meals for the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, students (as well as some of the faculty) of The College of St. Scholastica, and Stanbrook Hall High School residents and day students. The Food Service Department’s kitchen/food preparation area was located on the first floor of Tower Hall on the west side of the building where the Information Technology (IT) offices and the CSS bookstore are now located. The two College dining rooms—known as North and South—were adjacent to the Food Service in the area now used by the College book store and College offices. Stanbrook High School resident students had their own dining room on the ground floor of Stanbrook where the Monastery’s Lake Superior Lounge is now located. The day students had a cafeteria right across the hall. Meals for the Sisters were brought in hot food carts by elevator to the second floor of Tower Hall where the Sisters’ refectory was located, now a College classroom area. Food for the Stanbrook students was brought on a hot cart through the tunnel which connects Tower and Stanbrook Hall. Although meals in the College dining rooms were served in a “sit-down, family style” by work-study students, in 1958 the growing

number of students necessitated the change to a portable cafeteria line in the South Dining Room for breakfast and lunch.

The Food Service Department, staffed by Sisters and lay people, included a dining room supervisor responsible for training students to set tables and serve as waitresses; she was also responsible for table decorations and maintaining the guest and faculty dining rooms. The kitchen staff included a laywoman who came in early to prepare breakfast, two Sister cooks and two laywomen responsible for salads and desserts, and a “pots and pans” scrubber who was kept busy throughout the day. There was also a Sister baker (with a laywoman assistant) and a bakery in a separate room at the back of the kitchen. Can you believe that we had homemade fresh bread, sweet rolls, and cookies every day! College students learned quickly that if they knocked on the bakery window, they would get a handout of fresh cookies.

Although I had overall responsibility for the kitchen and dining rooms, my primary responsibility as dietitian was to plan the menus and order the food. I ordered fresh produce and meat twice a week and staple items (canned goods, flour, sugar, etc.) once a month. Meat was ordered as a side of beef, pork loin, and whole chickens, and a butcher came in twice a week to cut the meat and grind the beef according to the menu.

Our big annual event for the Sisters, College students, and Stanbrook Hall students was the Bishop’s Banquet. The Bishop came to have dinner with the College students and again with the Stanbrook students just before Christmas vacation, then returned to dine with the Sisters during the Christmas holidays. The “Bishop’s Banquet” was a very formal occasion, and the College women wore formal dresses and escorted faculty members to the special dinner.

As the College enrollment grew, more dormitory space was needed, and planning began for Somers Hall, a 300-bed dormitory residence, with construction completed in 1964. I served on the Building Committee for Somers Hall, with responsibility for planning the new Food Service there that would be separate from the Monastery. When I finished my food service ministry, I returned to teaching dietetics at The College of St. Scholastica.

+Sister Paschal Pocta

(Sister Paschal was known to be willing to go anywhere—wherever she was needed. Sister Paschal died April 28, 2008, shortly after this interview with Sister Mary Martin Beringer.)

My first mission in 1927 to 1928 was at Holy Name in Wayzata. Sister Cecilia was a great help to me, and the parishioners were very generous—giving us food such as fresh vegetables and plenty of meat. Then I was sent to St. Timothy's in Chicago for four years (1929-1933). I remember enjoying listening to music while I was working even though it was hard there to get the food I needed to do the cooking I wanted to do for the Sisters.

My longest mission was the 22 years I was at St. Gertrude's in Washington, D.C. We worked hard, but I was happy there. I still get mail from adults who were children there—they still seem to remember any kindness.

Another long stay was the twenty years I was at St. James Children's Home (now Woodland Hills) in Duluth. There I was cook and kitchen supervisor. I recall that I would ask the children what kind of cake they would like for their birthdays, and I made just what they asked. As they would go through the food lines they would say, "Pile it on Sister Paschal," and I'd say, "Will you eat it?" and they would answer "I'll eat it." Those were good years, and I enjoyed the children and the lay people. It did seem that whenever I made fresh bread the entire staff would know and they'd show up for coffee! I still hear from some of the children who lived there. How nice it is to know they remember me.

After St. James I worked at Cathedral Convent, at the Monastery (where I finally got my driver's license), then again at St. Gertrude's in Washington, D.C. for two years and finally at Our Lady of Victory in Minneapolis. Since 1994 I have been in prayer ministry at the Monastery.



*+Sister Paschal Pocta, 1969
St. James Children's Home*

Sister Johnetta Maher



*Sister Johnetta Maher
Rockhurst Dining Room*

Where did my interest in hospitality first begin? Possibly it was in my choice of Home Economics Education as a major at The College of St. Scholastica in the fall of 1940. I entered the Duluth Benedictine Community during my sophomore year and continued my educational program. During my senior year in 1945 my first teaching assignment was at Stanbrook Hall, which continued until 1949.

In the fall of 1949 teaching at Cathedral High School was my new assignment where I taught Home Economics until 1964. However, there was a one-year interruption when I was assigned to take Sister Grace Marie Braun's place in charge of the Monastery Food Service while she was away at school. What an experience! But then I returned to Cathedral High School.

During five summers I pursued further education at St. Louis University, which prepared me for my next assignment. Mid-year of 1964 I began 32 years of teaching at The College of St. Scholastica. During those years there were many opportunities to assist with special events of which food is always a part!

Upon "retirement" from CSS in 1997 I was asked to supervise dining room/meeting room events at the Monastery. Officially I was replaced in 2005, but does one ever really leave what has become a part of you? So...when is the next Monastery reception/open house?



*1968: Sister Johnetta Maher, Sister Rebecca
Burggraff, Sister Grace Marie Braun, Sister Mary
Josephine Torborg*

V O C A

Lisa Maurer Enters the Novitiate!

Lisa Maurer became a novice at St. Scholastica Monastery in a Rite of Reception held Friday, August 15, 2008. Lisa has been a postulant at the Monastery during the past year. During the Rite of Reception as a novice Lisa was given the name “Sister Lisa” and presented with a copy of the *Rule of St. Benedict*, which will be the focus of her study during her novitiate year. She also received a special Benedictine medal that she will wear as a novice.

Sister Lisa is from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, and attending the Rite of Reception were her parents, Gene and Diane Maurer, brothers Scott and Dan, and friend Sister Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP, from Sleepy Eye.

“I am both humbled and thrilled to be a novice with the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica,” Sister Lisa says. “I find the Benedictine life a way of fulfilling the longings that God has placed in my heart and soul. Through St. Benedict and his *Rule* and through the life here at St. Scholastica Monastery I find a way I want to follow. I am extremely eager to begin my novitiate year of in-depth study, and I pray that God will bless me with a strong spirit of personal growth and conversion. In the novitiate I want to go deeper and lose myself in Christ that He may shine in me and through me; it is my deep desire to offer myself more completely to God. As a novice, I will look to the holy example and rely on the generous support of my Sisters as I seek God through discernment, prayer, and study. I wholeheartedly anticipate becoming more immersed in Community life here at St. Scholastica as I deepen my commitment to God.”

Prioress Sister Lois Eckes says, “Sister Lisa’s heart is filled with longing to grow more and more in love with God whose love for her is beyond telling. As a novice she will be drawn deeper into that Divine Love through prayer, reflection, study (especially the *Rule of St. Benedict*), and her lived experience in our Benedictine monastic Community.”

Photos by Andy Therrien



Prioress Lois Eckes and Sister Lisa Maurer (center) pose between Sister Lisa’s brothers Scott and Daniel and behind her parents, Diane and Gene Maurer.



Left to Right: Sister Bertille Goblirsch, Sister Lisa Maurer, and Sister Michelle Dosch, Director of Novices and Postulants.

Gretchen Johnston and Carla Flood Become Postulants at St. Scholastica Monastery

August 29, 2008, at a special ceremony at evening prayer, Gretchen Johnston and Carla A. Flood were received into the Community as postulants. The postulant time in the Initial Formation process provides for a period of transition to the Benedictine monastic way of life. Gretchen has been an affiliate with the Community since June, 2007, and Carla has been an affiliate since December, 2007. In the Rite of Entry ceremony both women received a Benedictine cross traditionally worn by postulants, a set of the Community’s prayer books for Liturgy of the Hours, and an apron (formerly known as a scapular) embodying the Benedictine motto “Work and Pray.” After a period of six months to two years, Gretchen and Carla may request acceptance into the novitiate.

T I O N S

Gretchen is from Superior, Wisconsin, and Carla is from Phoenix, Arizona. Attending the ceremony were Gretchen's parents, Mark and Constance Johnston of Cotton, Minnesota, and other family and friends. Carla's mother, Carolyn Flood, from Phoenix also attended the ceremony as did her special friends, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stevenson and family of Duluth.



Gretchen Johnston



Photos by Andy Therrien



Carla Flood

Gretchen Johnston earned her master's degree in piano performance from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 2006 and has taught in Superior for two years. Carla Flood has a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University in Phoenix and is state licensed by Minnesota.

"I feel as if this is preordained—that I am doing something that was meant for me since the beginning of forever," said Gretchen. "Yes, I am a little bit nervous, but joy and anticipation far overshadow the nervousness. I am eagerly looking forward to deepening my walk with God with the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery. The Sisters have a strong commitment to growing together in Christ's love. They have a strong presence in the health care, education, and the spiritual realms of Duluth. I am asking to deepen my life in God with the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery to learn about them and their history and to live with them in the hope of becoming a Sister someday. Discerning my vocation was difficult and will continue to be because it is countercultural. But look what I gain! Many Sisters, a shared call, and commitments and many lessons in loving and living. All through Christ . . . it is another melody in the grand symphony."

Carla said, "The first word of St. Benedict's *Rule* is 'Listen.' As a postulant I am asking about religious life as I live with the Sisters. I seek to know where God is calling me, and what specifically God is calling me to do. While this is actually a lifelong process for everyone, as a postulant I am also asking the Community if they believe I am called to eventually be a part of them. My role is to listen, to learn, to be who I am, to try, and to continue to serve with what I come to know each day. My postulancy will allow me to deepen my relationship with God and with the Community. Being a postulant will strengthen my understanding of religious life—faith and the Catholic Church. I am looking forward to learning academically in a Catholic environment—something I have never done, but have wanted to do for a long time. I will continue my ministry at St. Mary's Medical Center, as well as my involvement in liturgical and other areas of service at the Monastery. I believe this will be a time of growth for me and that this period will help me more fully realize my vocation. There will be challenges along the way—especially in the beginning—but I know that with faith, perseverance, and the support I have here, I will be able to meet whatever comes my way."

Sister Lois, Prioress, says, "As postulants, Gretchen and Carla will be given ample opportunities to continue their spiritual development, grow in self-knowledge, learn about the Benedictine way of life, and cultivate the skills necessary for living in Community. All this they will do enveloped in God's grace and with the love and guidance of our Community."

Highlights

All Her Ways Published!



Photos by Andy Therrien

Sister Joan Braun with a copy of *All Her Ways*

In 1956 Sister Agnes Somers (1895 - 1963) completed *All Her Ways*, a short account of the foundation, development, and artistic possessions of The College of St. Scholastica and St. Scholastica Monastery. In July this year the Monastery published a revised and edited account, including photographs, of that work. Sister Joan Braun, for forty-two years head librarian at the College, edited the book over the past few years and oversaw its recent publication.

"I'm very pleased with the reaction of former students and others who have read the revised edition of *All Her Ways*," said Sister Joan. "This started out to be a project to create an index and blossomed into an entire process that resulted in photos and editing. This process has been extremely valuable and will continue to be valuable among persons who have great respect for what Mother Agnes Somers did during her tenure as prioress of the Monastery and president of the College from 1924 to 1942."

The book and all the people at the Monastery involved in bringing this project to fruition were remembered at a blessing of *All Her Ways* at midday prayer on the Feast of St. Benedict, July 11, 2008. If you would like a copy of *All Her Ways*, please call Monastery Books and Gifts at 218-723-6589. The cost is \$20 plus tax and postage.

Sisters Attend American Benedictine Academy Convention



Photo by Sister Ephrem Holtermann

The American Benedictine Academy Convention was held at Mount Mary College in Yankton, South Dakota, August 7-10, 2008. This year's topic was "Monastic Spirituality: Expanding Merton's Vision." This year's focus on Thomas Merton was very timely because December 10, 2008, will be the 40th anniversary of his sudden death. The purpose of the Academy is "to cultivate, support, and transmit the Benedictine heritage within contemporary culture." Attending from St. Scholastica Monastery were, left to right, Sister Nancy Flaig, Sister Lisa Maurer, Sister Kathleen Hofer, Sister Jean Maher, Sister Martha Bechtold, Sister Laura Daigle, Sister Luce Marie Dionne, and Sister Dorene King.

Highlights

Rome Sweet Rome

By Sister Katie Doyle

A famous actress of the 1940s once said, “Too much of a good thing is wonderful!” That was how I felt after Sister Michelle Dosch and I experienced the Benedictine Studies Program in Rome that is offered every summer. Twenty-four Benedictine Sisters from all over the United States, Canada, and Australia spent five weeks deepening Monastic roots in the area where St. Benedict and St. Scholastica lived and died.

We were the pilgrims of 2008, and in a sense I think our story could be called “The Saunterbury Tales” as we traversed the cobblestones of Rome almost every day. Some days were lecture days, as different Sisters expertly recounted the history of early convent life and monasticism. We then would catch a train that was just a 10-minute walk from the Casa where we stayed and would visit the churches or convents that we had learned about in lectures the day before. Some lectures involved aspects of the *Rule of Benedict*, and another Sister enhanced the spiritual nuances of the *Rule* in her lectures.

There were wonderful day trips to the places where Sts. Benedict and Scholastica were born and raised in Norcia. One trip was to Subiaco where Benedict lived for months in a small cave called “Sacro Speco,” which is still preserved beneath the monastery chapel. We also took the trip to Monte Casino that was the last monastery St. Benedict founded and where he wrote the *Holy Rule*.



Right to left: Sister Michelle Dosch, Sister Katie Doyle, and other Benedictine Studies Program attendees stop to enjoy gelati (Italian ice creams) at an outdoor café

We could not help but be impressed with all the glory of Rome’s grand structures and above all with St. Peter’s Basilica. But I will always remember the tiny whispered graffiti on the wall above St. Peter’s discovered bones: “Here within lies Petrus.” These were found during World War II during the reign of Pope Pius XII. Within the tiny opening was also found a wee mouse skeleton, and the little mouse was laid again with humble Peter’s bones after the precious bones were placed in sealed boxes and replaced in the little hole where they had been found.

It would take many more pages to describe all the wonderful events that we experienced, but I will end here with a deeply grateful heart that this opportunity became mine and Sister Michelle’s—a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. But, “Rome Sweet Rome” can never compare with “Home Sweet Home.”

Stanbrook Hall Reunion

The 2008 Stanbrook Hall all-class reunion was held at The Monastery Saturday, July 26, from 2-4 p.m. Over 50 Stanbrook Hall graduates representing 10 graduation years attended the event.

Attendees visited with each other and with former teachers, toured Stanbrook Hall and Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, and watched a slide show of photos from their yearbooks and the Monastery archives. Right: Stanbrook Hall Class of 1958 attendees.



Photo by Andy Therrien

Spirituality Conference—October 24-25!

The Spirituality Conference entitled “Spirituality and Work,” with keynote speaker Andre Delbecq, will be held October 24-25 at Mitchell Auditorium at The College of St. Scholastica. For information contact Sister Mary Josephine Torborg at 218-723-6659 or mtorborg@css.edu.

In loving memory

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Photo Monastery Archives



Photo by Mary Farrell



Sister Freida (Marie Patricia) Horak, OSB

(March 17, 1934 – May 24, 2008)

Sister Freida (Marie Patricia) Horak, OSB, 74, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died at Benet Hall at the Monastery on Saturday, May 24, 2008. She entered the Duluth Benedictines in 1958 and made her monastic profession in 1960. She was in her 48th year of monastic profession.

Sister Freida was born March 17, 1934, in Menominee, Michigan, and attended Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Marinette, Wisconsin. After graduation in 1952, she took a business course at Green Bay Badger Business College and then was employed by Marinette Paper Company where she was Production and Engineering Secretary until 1958. In 1969 Sister Freida earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from The College of Scholastica and in 1988 a Master's degree in Theology from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Freida taught elementary grades at St. Anthony's, Duluth; Holy Name, Wayzata; St. Thomas Aquinas, International Falls, where she was also principal for three years; St. Joseph School, Grand Rapids; Our Lady of Victory School, Minneapolis, where she served two years as principal; and St. Timothy, Chicago, Illinois. She was also involved with summer catechetical teaching in the Duluth Diocese. She left elementary teaching in 1991 and for eight years worked as a pastoral minister in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and in Waverly, Minnesota. She was called back to the Monastery in 1999 to serve in vocation ministry. In 2000 she was named Oblate Director for the Monastery. In 2002 she became the Monastery's computer support person and was called upon to fill other positions as needed. Sister Freida served on the Board of Trustees for Hibbing General Hospital from 1971-1975 and on the Trinity Hospital Board, Farmington, Minnesota, from 1997 until 2002. She was also a member of the St. Joseph Medical Center Board of Directors in Brainerd.

Sister Freida was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Marie (Schuster) Horak, one brother, Frederick and three sisters, Gertrude (Sabowski), Catherine (Meyer) and Evelyn. Besides the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by one brother, Raymond, numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews, and many friends.



Photo by Sister Edith Bogue



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Benet (Agnes Theresa) Robertson, OSB

(February 2, 1924 – May 17, 2008)

Sister Benet (Agnes Theresa) Robertson, OSB, 84, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died Saturday, May 17, 2008, on Benet Hall at the Monastery. Born in Benson, Minnesota, February 2, 1924, into a family of six boys and three girls, she entered the Duluth Benedictine Community September 12, 1943, and professed her monastic vows July 11, 1945. On August 15, 1970, she celebrated her Silver Jubilee, her Golden Jubilee on July 9, 1995, and her Diamond Jubilee August 14, 2005.

A graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Graceville, Minnesota, Sister Benet obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from The College of St. Scholastica where she majored in Elementary Education. She had a lifetime teacher certification from the State of Minnesota. Sister Benet's teaching years were spent at various schools in Minnesota: St. Clement, St. Margaret Mary, and St. James in Duluth and St. Joseph, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Our Lady of Victory, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and at St. Thomas in International Falls, Minnesota. In May of 1990 she received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis for "outstanding and dedicated educational service" in the Catholic schools. Out of State, she taught at Our Mother of Sorrows in Cincinnati, Ohio, and St. Timothy's in Chicago. In 1995 she returned to the Monastery where she served at the information desk and as clerical assistant in the mailing room. She retired in 2006.

Sister Benet was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary (Nagler) Robertson; two sisters, Leona Hansen and Doris Ferry and four brothers: Reverend Thomas, Roy, Vincent, and Joseph. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, two brothers, Francis and Victor, a sister-in-law, Virginia Robertson, a brother-in-law, Dan Ferry, and many nieces and nephews.



The Splendor of Autumn

By Sister Mary Josephine Torborg

As we gaze upon the horizon ablaze with the most brilliant banquet of colors and hues, we know the season of autumn has arrived. Autumn has a special beauty of its own in which we see the radiance of God's spectacular love vibrantly displayed in all of creation. We find ourselves surrounded with beauty on every side—a beauty that stirs a deep hunger and longing in the human heart. Albert Einstein once remarked, “The most beautiful thing we can experience is a sense of the mysterious; it is the source of all art and science and also the traveling companion of our faith.”

Beauty is essential for the full flowering of the human spirit. It is vital in our search for the Source of All Beauty. Through experiences of beauty the creative imagination sees new possibilities for the continual unfolding and transformation of the human heart. The awakened imagination offers new insights into the Mystery.

On a campus where we try to uphold the values of the Benedictine tradition, we believe that the material things of this world are given to us by God to share with others for their mutual joy and benefit. The ways in which we beautify our campus and our buildings are expressions of this sharing. It is also our fundamental belief that the beauty we bring to the environment in which we teach or minister in any form of work has an impact upon the learning experience. Thus, we try to enhance our environment with this outer beauty of the natural world so we may discover the inner world of beauty within ourselves. As John O’Donohue notes in his writings, “The human soul is hungry for beauty, we seek it everywhere—in landscapes, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion and in ourselves...we feel most alive in the presence of the Beautiful for it meets the needs of our soul.”

It is this passion for beauty that fires us as we plant, weed, and water the gardens in spring and summer and thus we participate in the creative work of God. The awesome delight of experiencing the daily miracles of growth and new life as they emerge about us are a constant element of surprise. A profound sense of the mysterious is ever present in the stillness of the early dawn or as we behold the breathtaking hues of the latest sunset on the horizon. All these surprises of nature nurture the soul.

Each of the seasons has lessons to teach us about life. Spring with its new life and summer radiating the fruitfulness of life provide us with unimaginable beauty and delight. The season of autumn is a time of harvesting and the season for letting go and surrendering. We see nature stripping the trees of their beauty and the gardens being prepared for winter, the season of waiting and gestation. It is interesting to note that even in the stripping processes of nature, there is a certain beauty in the nakedness of the trees that enables us to see the horizons with ever greater clarity. So too in the spiritual life, the process of surrender and letting go helps us to see with greater clarity how to respond to the deepest longing of the human heart, a longing for the Source of all Beauty. John O’Donohue notes; “Beauty shines with a light from beyond itself. Love is the name of that light. At the heart of beauty must be a huge care and affection for creation, for nowhere is beauty an accidental presence. Nor is beauty simply its own end. It is not self-absorbed but points beyond itself to an embrace of belonging that holds everything together...When we endeavor to view something through the lens of beauty, it is often surprising how much more we can see.”

Did You Know Sister Noemi Weygant?

Dear *Pathways* Readers,

I am writing a biography of Sister Noemi Weygant who died in 1995. She was a noted author, nature photographer, College of St. Scholastica professor, and so much more. Suspecting that many of you have rich memories of her, I am requesting your help in creating a genuine, full portrait of her life and her beautiful spirit. Whether you were her student, friend, colleague, or shared in some special measure a passion with her for nature, photography, or life itself, I would like to interview you either by email, telephone, or in person. Please write to me in care of the Monastery Development/Public Relations Office or write directly to lwigginsosb@charter.net.

Blessings,
Sister Linda Wiggins