

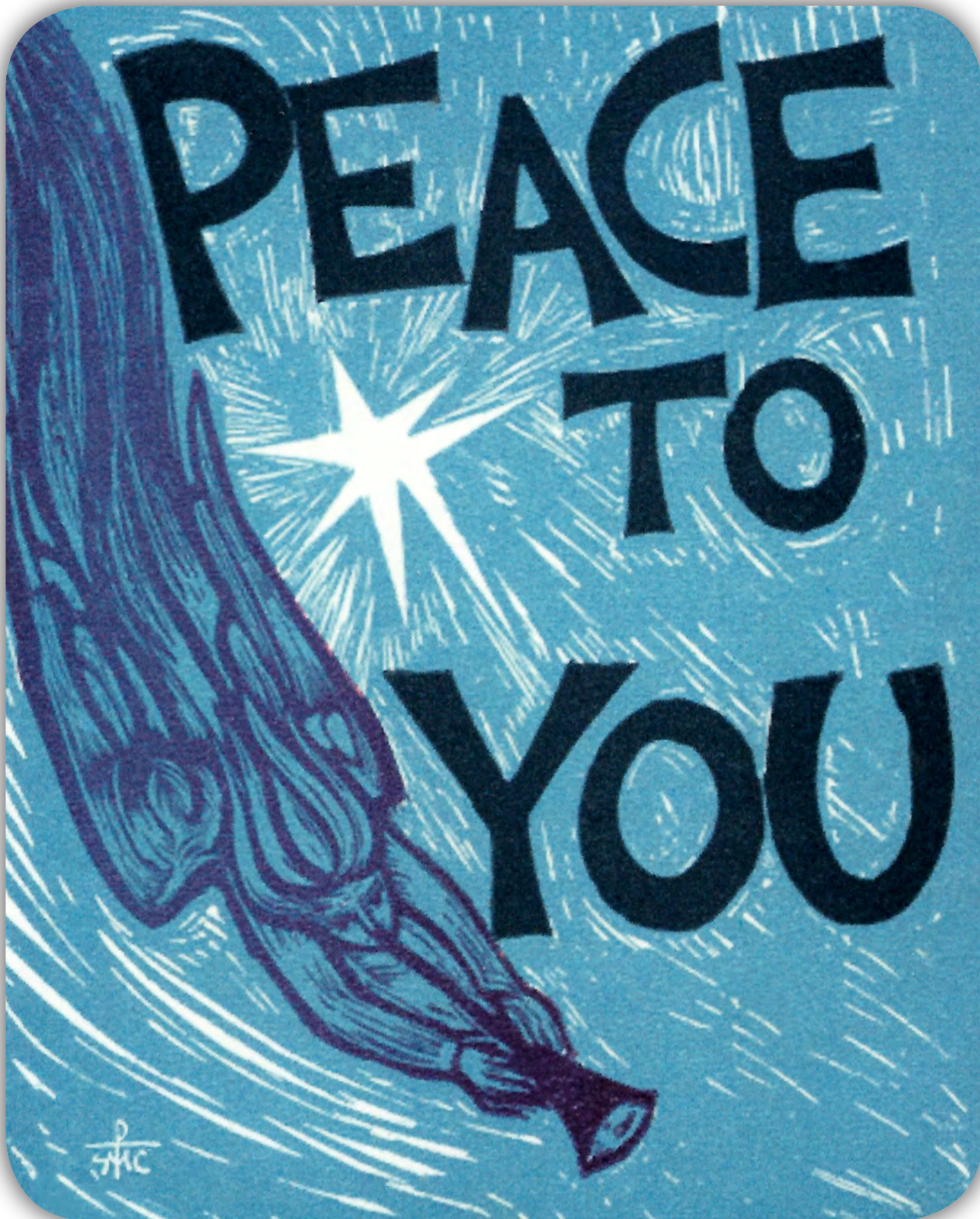


PATHWAYS

Newsletter of the Duluth Benedictine Sisters

Duluth, Minnesota

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Letter from the Prioress

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As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, we are invited once again to enter into the Mystery of Grace awaiting us as we celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season and welcome a new year full of promise and hope. How fitting that our *Pathways* cover features +Sister Mary Charles McGough's artwork depicting the Christmas Angel's heavenly blessing, "Peace to you!" It is the greeting heard by the lowly shepherds, their hopes long buried in poverty, and by Mary, the model for our earthly journey of faith.

Peace is God's gift to us. The transliteration of "Peace" into Hebrew is "Shalom," which means the fullness of well-being, the blessing of living with integrity, in harmony with God and all creation. Peace is the fruit and sign of justice in which the worth and dignity of every human person and the sacredness of all human life is upheld. Peace is the fruit of God's saving activity among us.

"Peace is Divine gift," writes Henri Nouwen, "a gift we receive in prayer. Jesus in his farewell discourse before he died said to his disciples, 'Peace I leave you, my own peace I give to you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.' (John 14:27) Only those who know in the depth of their hearts that they are loved and who rejoice in that love can be true peacemakers because the intimate knowledge of being loved sets us free." And when we are truly free we empty ourselves so that God may more fully work within us. Then we become instruments of peace in the hands of God.

The Advent/Christmas Season celebrates God's intimate love for us, a love expressed totally in the gift of Jesus who is God's self-emptying love made one with us so that we might be made one with God. The angel's greeting of peace reveals the meaning and mission of Jesus to a waiting world languishing under the burden of sin and alienation from God and one another.

May we welcome Christ's gift of peace into our hearts emptied of fear and unforgiveness. May his mantle of redeeming love shield us from spiritual deception and complacency and empower us to be "angels" (messengers) of his transforming presence in our world which still groans under the enormous weight of unbelievable suffering and oppression.

May you rejoice always in God's wondrous love for you made visible in Christ Jesus. Throughout the New Year may this variation on an old Gaelic blessing flow through your whole being and strengthen you to walk always in God's ways:

*Deep peace of the running waves to you, deep peace of the flowing air.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars.
Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.
Deep peace fill your soul and may the God of Peace make you whole.*

Lovingly yours in Christ our Peace and our Hope,

Sister Lois Eckes
Sister Lois Eckes, Prioress



Autumn Reflection

By Sister Almira Randall

Advent is a time of waiting. A time of anticipation. A time of excitement. A time of children asking every ten minutes, “Mom? How many more days?” Advent is a time for setting aside time after the kids have gone to school and you have an afternoon of peace and quiet to sit down and make out your Christmas lists—figuring out how much you can spend on gifts, making other lists of what to get for Dad, for Mom, for the kids, for your spouse, a time for looking at the ads in Target, Walmart, Shopko. Advent is a time for buying Christmas cards before the good ones, the religious ones, are gone from the shelves. Of course, all of this is just “fluff.” It’s not the reality of Advent.

The reality is that the Church is entering into another one of its liturgical seasons. The readings at Mass will change. We’ll be hearing from the Old Testament prophets—Amos and Hosea, Joel and Habakkuk, Jeremiah and Isaiah—especially Isaiah. He was the one who said, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive and shall bear a Son and shall call His name Emmanuel.”

Advent wreaths will appear in churches and in homes and in some homes—those with little children—Advent calendars will be opened little door by little door counting out the days until Christmas. The hymns at Sunday Mass will echo down the aisle, “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel.” Concerning the Advent wreath—I was doing some reading and some interesting facts from Wikipedia, (printed out for me by two friends) where I learned that the candles in the Advent wreath have names. The purple candle lit on the first Sunday is called the Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope and Expectancy. It anticipates the coming of the Messiah. The second purple candle is lit on the second Sunday of Advent and represents Love. It’s a symbol of the love shown in the manger. On the third Sunday a pink or rose candle is lit. It’s called the Shepherds’ Candle, and it is a representation of joy. Lastly, the fourth candle (another purple one) is lit and represents Peace. It’s usually called the Angels’ Candle. The candle in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve and is called the Christ Candle.

In *Traditions From Around the World*, I found these new and interesting facts: the Christians in China light their homes with beautiful paper lanterns during the Advent season. Canadians are very similar to the United States as far as Advent and Christmas are concerned.

I mentioned the Old Testament prophets but I haven’t said anything about the saints whose feast days come during Advent. My favorite one is Saint Nicholas—the reason being that I was born on his feast day. When I was small, my dad used to tell me that Saint Nicholas brought me in his big sack. For a long time I believed him. We were never told in our house where babies came from so that seemed to me a reasonable explanation.

And this is a custom I began in my classroom. Every Advent morning we began with Advent Wreath prayers. Then from a box with different slips of paper, on which were written good deeds, we would draw one slip. It would say something like, “Do something kind for your brother or sister.” Or maybe “Offer to wipe the dishes for your mom after supper.” Little things like that. And that was our offering to Baby Jesus for his birthday.



Photo by Mary Farrell

Remembering: Sister Ann Edward Scanlon (1909-2005)

By Sister Margaret Clarke



Sister Ann Edward Scanlon

Mary Lu Scanlon was born in 1909 into an Irish Catholic family of five children in Proctor, Minnesota. Here she attended elementary and high school, with religious instruction on Saturdays from Duluth Benedictine Sisters. She chose to enroll in The College of St. Scholastica, planning to study secondary education, but eventually turning to history. The summer after her college graduation in 1932, she decided to enter the Duluth Community and became a postulant in January 1933. Almost immediately she was assigned to teach history to junior high students at the Villa Academy. After the novitiate she spent five years at Girls' Cathedral High School and then was sent to CSS to teach history and be a floor "prefect"—counselor and disciplinarian. Summers were spent working on an MA in history at the University of Chicago.

Sisters from Duluth had been attending that university since the earliest days of the community, in spite of the university's reputation as a hotbed of secularism. Sister Ann Edward told of an encounter that she had on her way to school. An elderly gentleman recognized the Benedictine habit and asked if she were attending Loyola or DePaul. "University of Chicago," she replied. The gentleman said, "I knew one, and she turned in her suit," and went on his way. Nevertheless, she was sent there full-time from 1946-49 where she received her doctorate in history, and much later remarked, "I have never turned in my suit!"

Back at CSS, in the subsequent thirty years, she was Professor of History, Department Chair, Dean of Women, Academic Dean, and President of the College—the second after that position was separated from the office of Prioress. In 1975 she retired from teaching to become the Alumni Director and Foreign Student Advisor. Her full retirement began in 1994. She had also been active in many civic, state, and national organizations and was cited by the University of Chicago as a graduate who had made a significant contribution to higher education.



Mary Lu Scanlon's reception into the novitiate, 1933

Photos from Monastery Archives



◀ *Sister Ann Edward as President of CSS. She says “Trying not to be a Pepsodent gal”—in keeping with the dignity of the office.*

Sister Ann Edward and Mother Athanasius survey the area designated for the new Science building, 1963. ▶



Photos from Monastery Archives

One is, of course, very impressed by her academic and professional achievements, but the thing most often cited by those who remember her is her warm, loving, and accepting care for her students and advisees. Even in her years of retirement, Dan Pilon, former CSS President, recalled, “I can still picture her sitting on the radiator” (in the cloister walk) talking to students. She would pound on my door with all kinds of needs.” Sister Joan Braun noted that there were quite a few young women who entered the Community because of her example.



◀ *Sister Ann Edward and Nabuko Shimazu, CSS graduate, in 1978*

Sister Ann Edward on a guided tour explaining the repousse copper cross done by Sister Constantina Kakonyi ▶



Photos courtesy of The College of St. Scholastica

Her obituary notes that “she was very witty and regaled others with her storytelling gift inherited from her father.” This Irish gift of storytelling stood her in good stead in her latter years when she loved to give guided tours of the College buildings. In the true bardic tradition, she was not averse to creating “it could have been” backgrounds for certain locales, and these have become firmly embedded in local lore. “Mariners on the Lake,” she declaimed, “used the lights on the CSS chapel to guide them into the Duluth harbor.” “Builders in the Middle Ages always made the towers on cathedrals different to demonstrate that only God is perfect.”—therefore our non-matching towers on Tower Hall are historically justified. We are still trying to ascertain whether or not the Tower Hall Lobby Parlor is “an exact copy of a room in the Victoria and Albert Museum.” (Visitors to London especially charged with this task have returned conflicting evidence.)

An article about Sister Ann Edward in the Spring '99 *Scholastica Times* asked “Is she, in the end, a holy woman?” Sister Mary Richard Boo replied, “Yes. . .if holiness encompasses concern and action on behalf of others, she certainly embodies that. Always has.” This enduring concern and love for others has made her a treasure to the College and the Community.

Sister Josine Retires and Recycles

By Sister Josine Krausnick and Sister Patricia Anne Williams

It was in August of 1965 with the temperature well over 100, wearing the full black habit with coif, that I arrived at St. Thomas the Apostle in Phoenix, Arizona, to teach. (At some point shortly thereafter we were allowed to wear a white veil to help reduce the sun's heat.) After two weeks I was "at home" in the desert.

I taught second graders (all 45 of them all day) for two years. I was then asked to teach Language Arts to 7th and 8th graders. St. Joseph, my patron saint, surely helped me through the "cultural shock" of going from teaching seven and eight-year-olds to teaching teenagers—13-14 year-olds. It was during these years that I learned to play the guitar and participate in parish liturgies playing sacred music. Years later I formed and directed the Children's Choir (students from grades 4-8) for almost 12 years. I was also a cantor for various parish liturgical events.



Sister Josine Krausnick



Sister Josine directing the Children's Choir at St. Thomas the Apostle School

In 2008 I began working as an instructional assistant in grades 5-8 and in various activities at the school, including helping to direct the 8th grade spring musicals. My passion for this may have come from seeing my brother Dennis, an actor, perform in many Shakespearian plays.

About two years ago I put in action preparations for saying farewell to teaching and returning to Minnesota. In July of this year, after 43 years in the desert, I have come home to the Monastery on the hill here in Duluth. This teacher is now learning all about the ins and outs of a new position—that of Subprioress for this Benedictine community.

Photos from Monastery Archives

In 1978, after teaching five years back in Minnesota, I was assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle again. Adjustments were made to changes there—I had a homeroom, taught classes in religion, math, language arts, and eventually departmentalized to grades 5-6 with a focus on social studies. Much gratification came in seeing students excited about learning geography. Trivia games on the subject along with the growth of teaching technology in the classroom (computers and smart boards) not only enhanced learning, but made it fun for both students and teacher. Participation on the local level of the National Geographic Bee kept enthusiasm alive over the years. Almost every year our school champion qualified and represented us at the state level of competition.



Sister Josine teaching geography at St. Thomas the Apostle

Sister Profile: Sister Mary Josephine Torborg

I grew up on a farm in Richmond, Minnesota, with five brothers and five sisters. We were a very close-knit family with deep religious roots. I was fortunate to have Benedictine Sisters for my grade school, high school, and college education—rooting me firmly in the Benedictine tradition and values. My love of learning seemed to be budding at a very early age as I loved the challenge of learning new ways of doing things.

Having known since 8th grade that I wanted to become a Sister, it was during my senior year at Stanbrook Hall that I made the decision to become a Benedictine. Having experienced the beautiful liturgies, the singing of the Divine Office, and the places of solitude on this campus as a senior high school student, I knew in my heart that God was calling me to St. Scholastica Monastery. My love for the liturgy and the Divine Office continues as I use my talents and gifts in planning special liturgies and playing the organ for the Divine Office.

My teaching career began in the primary grades at Our Lady of Victory School in Minneapolis for six years and at St. Francis School in Brainerd for three years. I was then asked to work on a degree in Dietetics. I served as Food Service Director at The College of St. Scholastica for five years and served as a dietitian at St. Mary's Medical Center with a special focus on oncology patients and teaching diabetic classes for nine years.

I had the privilege of pursuing a Master's degree and a Ph.D in Formative Spirituality from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, after which I began teaching at The College of St. Scholastica in 1986. I served as chair of the Theology and Religious Studies Department for five years and taught, among other things, Introduction to Spirituality, Benedictine Tradition, Women's Spirituality and Literature, Women Mystics, and Spirituality of Aging courses. Following a passion that I had of spreading the Good News of the Gospel beyond the opportunities in the classroom, I initiated a series of thirteen weekend spirituality conferences on various topics of concern in the Church. Keynote speakers came to campus to break open the Word of God and to engage students, faculty, administration, staff, and members of the wider Duluth Community in prayer, reflection, and dialogue. In addition, I enjoy doing retreat work.

Opportunities for spiritual and academic development continue to emerge for me. I was delighted when I had the opportunity to visit our Benedictine roots at St. Walburga's Monastery in Eichstatt, Germany, and St. Hildegard's monastery in Bingen among others. This was a wonderful preparation for the five-week Rome Renewal Program for Benedictine women. We studied our Benedictine heritage and traveled to Norcia, Subiaco, Monte Cassino and many other sites pertaining to our Benedictine roots. Each summer I try to engage in the week-long Monastic Institute at St. John's University to keep abreast of our Benedictine heritage.

Over the years, I have tried to use my many creative gifts in the College and the Monastery serving as co-chair of The College of St. Scholastica Garden Committee for more than 15 years. In the stillness of the early dawn it is wonderful to reflect on the richness and beauty of God's creation as one tends the flowers and plants. Another gift that nurtures my spirit is that of candelmaking. The most rewarding of these candle creations is the engraved wedding candle that I create for couples to use in their marriage ceremonies. It is a wonderful connection to have with them.

I am grateful to my monastic community, the college community and my family and friends for all the ways they have helped me in my journey of seeking God.



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



So, What's New?

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour



Photo by Jeff Frey, courtesy of CSS

“So, what’s new?” is one of our most common greetings expressing both our perpetual curiosity and our boredom. The search for novelty is especially strong among our youth for whom anything older than a year or two is already outdated. But before long, like a child with too many Christmas toys, we lose interest and find everything old, outdated, and boring. “Same old, same old...” we sigh as we become weary of earning a living, child raising, the growing burden of debt. Like Qoheleth in Ecclesiastes 1:2, we complain: “Vanity of vanities...Nothing is new under the sun. Even the thing of which we say, ‘See, this is new!’ has already existed in the ages that preceded us.”

In this writer’s opinion, this *ennui* is what has overcome the faith of a majority of Christians in the U.S. and other first-world nations. We are so overly bombarded with news and developments plus the need to keep working to survive that we’ve come to look at our Christian faith, too, as “same old, same old...” and not having any relevance for the real world in which we’re living. Sad to say, it is more likely the *expressions* of our faith from a previous generation and a lack of interest or knowledge of how our Church has and continually needs to keep responding to new challenges of our time that have caused many to become disillusioned and drop away. Also sad is the fact that some have no faith in the future and think that only a return to the past will solve our problems. “If only we still had the Latin Mass and novenas and the nuns would be in full habits, our churches and seminaries would be filled!” goes a familiar lament.

Though it is true that Jesus never spoke about mammoth problems confronting us today such as overpopulation, nuclear weapons, global warming, frozen embryos, etc., we are not left alone. Jesus promised to be with us all days till the end of time and sent His Spirit “to teach us all things.” Rather than thinking that Christianity is outdated and meaningless today, we should remember that to be a Christian is to be a *new* creation calling us to bring the Good News into the marketplace of our 21st-century world just as Jesus did in His time and as Pope Francis urges us to do today. Instead of bemoaning the loss of interest in our faith or building high walls to protect it, sincere Christians will invoke the Holy Spirit who was given “to teach us everything” and will prayerfully study the Gospels “to put on the mind of Christ.” They will join hands with all others with the same goals for our world remembering that “whoever is not against us is for us.” (Mk 9:40) and that God is forever creating something *new*!

But what is this *new*? When will we see it? Do we need to wait till eternity to see the “*new* heaven and the *new* earth” in the “*new* Jerusalem”? How is the Holy Spirit working in our world today? Though we can cite endless examples of suffering, wars, and an alarming increase in religious persecution in our world, there are also hopeful signs that humanity is becoming more united, that many persons are living better than ever before, and that Christianity is making tremendous strides in a number of third-world nations.

What is needed to awaken so many of us from our lethargy and inaction? We need to recall St. Paul’s admonition, “Behold *now* is a very acceptable time; behold *now* is the day of salvation.” This is what directed seven women recently to give up their careers in today’s world and enter our Benedictine community. They knew that God was calling them to follow Christ’s invitation to follow Him in praying for the world and aiding His work of salvation. Our Church is currently encouraging us all to participate in a *new* evangelization especially to those who have drifted away. We are now in a *new* liturgical year in preparation for commemorating Christ’s birth among us. How will we observe Christmas this year? “Same old, same old” lavish parties and expenditures, or will we BE Christ’s continuing presence in our world by accepting and sharing His lavish, on-going gift of love with those most in need of it? Now that would be something *new*!

Wishing you all a *new* spirit and *new* joy in this holy season.

Happy 90th Birthday, Sister Mary Carol

By Sister Judine Mayerle

Photo by Sister Judine Mayerle



Sister Mary Carol Braun celebrated her 90th birthday at the Monastery on Sunday, October 20, with her “sister Sister” Grace Marie and her Benedictine Community, along with friends who had come to enjoy good conversation, laughter, birthday balloons and flowers, and a delicious dinner topped off with chocolate cake with chocolate frosting (her choice). Her birthday celebration was 400 miles and nine decades from her childhood in Kohler, Wisconsin, where she grew up, the third child of Emma and Anton Braun, with an older sister and brother (+Sister Joan, +Bob) and two younger sisters (Sister Grace Marie and Mary Merline). She enrolled at The College of St. Scholastica in 1941 and entered the Benedictine Community two years later.

The children’s nursery rhyme says “Saturday’s child must work for a living,” and Sister Mary Carol’s journey of ministry spanned more than 65 years, beginning in 1946 until last year when after two falls and three surgeries she moved to Benet Hall, our assisted living floor, where she now resides.

Many of her years as “Saturday’s child” were spent in Duluth. She taught at Cathedral Senior High School (the “old Cathedral”) and The College of St. Scholastica, where she also held several administrative positions, including Academic Dean and assistant to the president. She served the Monastery as a Community organist for more than 50 years and also had secretarial and archival responsibilities. Her ministries away from Duluth included teaching piano at St. Timothy’s School in Chicago; housemother, assistant director, then director of St. Gertrude’s School (residential school for girls with disabilities) in Washington, D.C.; and assistant librarian at Xavier College Preparatory High School in Phoenix.

Sister Mary Carol loves a good joke, bingo, coffee and conversation, “Wheel of Fortune,” and is an avid reader. What don’t most of us know about Sister Mary Carol? She played saxophone in the Kohler High School band and was a basketball cheerleader (“blue, white, fight, fight!”). She loved to dance and enjoyed playing tennis.

What do most of us know about Sister Mary Carol? She’s a **Green Bay Packers** fan!

As for her 90th birthday? She laughs and says, “It was wonderful!”

COMMUNITY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Weekdays—Monday through Friday

7:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
11:45 a.m.	Eucharist Celebration—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
1:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer—Rockhurst Meeting Room
5:15 p.m.	Evening Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel

Saturday

10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
11:45 a.m.	Midday Prayer—Rockhurst Meeting Room
5:15 p.m.	Evening Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel

Sunday

10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Eucharist Celebration—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer—Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel

Join Us!

Benedictine Hospitality

By Sister Martha Bechtold



Image from the illustrated *Rule of St. Benedict*
© St. Scholastica Monastery. Illustrated by +Sister Mary Charles McGough, calligraphy by Meridith Schifsky

It is a long-standing tradition in Benedictine houses to have a front door wishing “Peace,” or its Latin form “Pax,” to all its visitors. If you were to walk up the front steps and approach the main entrance doors of St. Scholastica Monastery, you would be greeted by the message carved into the doors that reads “Peace to you.” When you step inside and approach the front desk, it is our hope that you would experience the peace within the Monastery that you were wished at the front door.

Hospitality accompanies “Peace,” and the term “Benedictine Hospitality” is often referenced in conversation and in literature. The mandate to offer hospitality to all visitors to the Monastery comes from the *Rule of St. Benedict* which states in Chapter 53 “All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ who said ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’” Where peace exists, hospitality follows. What is Benedictine Hospitality? What is its face? What does it offer?

Hospitality is a way of life. It is a lifestyle that, without bias, welcomes other persons who present themselves.

It is a warm, genuine greeting that puts a visitor at ease. It is an offer to help when a request is made. It is a nonjudgmental response to a person whose ideas conflict with our own. It is sincere friendliness at all times to one another, to co-workers, to employees, to the young and to the old. It is withholding criticism or gossip about someone. It is a compliment, the recognition of a project well-done, an expression of appreciation. It is a manner of voicing an opposing point of view without an attitude of superiority. It is kindness.

Hospitality in action is practiced and witnessed daily, not only in our monastic home but also in our sponsored institutions: The College of St. Scholastica, the Benedictine Health System (BHS), and Catholic facilities within the Essentia Health System that are sponsored by St. Scholastica Monastery. For them, it is one of the values that gives life to all their interactions. Their mission integration leaders foster ways of showing hospitality in every workplace.

This is true at The College of St. Scholastica where Sister Mary Rochefort, the Director of Mission Integration, encourages students, faculty, and staff to “create a welcoming atmosphere personally and institutionally.” Likewise, at the Benedictine Health System hospitality is not only “coffee and cookies” as BHS Mission Integration Director Sister Lisa Maurer reminds us. It is a genuine and kind and friendly respect for every person with whom they relate. At Essentia Health too, hospitality is an essential value which they state firmly with their words “Here With You.”

Hospitality does play a major role in Benedictine life. It is our mandate to take Benedict’s directive on hospitality seriously and to fulfill his wishes with all our hearts.

Hospitality photos on the next page include College students and Sisters (Benedictine Friends); Sisters greeting students at The College of St. Scholastica; students and faculty and Sisters in Chapel; Shalom Program graduates; Stanbrook Hall reunion attendees; elementary school visitors; Eucharist in the Chapel; and a Benedictine Center of Spirituality seminar.



Sister Mary Christa Kroening: Benedictine Health System's Senior Consultant for Liturgical and Ritual Services

By Becky Urbanski, Ed. D.

A ready smile and greeting. A wealth of history and knowledge. The legendary white hat. Those clues give away the subject of this article—Sister Mary Christa Kroening, OSB!

Sister Mary Christa was born and grew up in Springfield, Minnesota, the daughter of Lydia and Arthur Kroening, a wholesale and retail dealer for in-season fruits and vegetables. Her siblings include Audrey Ann, Theodore Anton, Patricia LaMae, John Arthur, and Paul Edward. The oldest of six children, Sister Mary Christa was quickly baptized Catholic and named Mary over a bucket of water in their three-room house. Grandma Schmid insisted on performing this baptism herself because she was afraid Grandma Kroening might baptize her first as a Lutheran! Later, her parents arranged for the priest to baptize her Virginia Mae in the church.



Photo by Andi Therrien

Sister Mary Christa explains the Monastery's history during a BHS orientation.

Sister Mary Christa had a typical small-town childhood, moving several times to larger homes in Springfield as her family grew. She walked the five blocks up the hill to St. Raphael's Catholic School through the eighth grade and then graduated as valedictorian from Springfield High School in 1947.

Attending college after high school wasn't an option at that time. Her parents had suggested a high school business curriculum, and Virginia worked for four years as a professional secretary at the Springfield Milling Corporation where White Swan flour was milled and where Vigorena and Holsom Feeds were mixed and distributed. During this time Virginia learned railroad transit and international shipping. After a six-week trip to France and Italy in the fall of 1950, Virginia returned to the mill. Dissatisfied with the limitations of a small town, she was hearing the call to enter a religious community. Her parents were not in favor of her exploring religious life, preferring that she marry and have a family. This disconnect with her parents led Sister Mary Christa to quit her job at the mill and enroll at the University of Minnesota to study music and art.

After one year at the university and encouraged by her friend, Carolyn Schmidt, who lived at the same rooming house as Virginia and her sister, Audrey, and with the blessing of her parents, she transferred to The College of St. Scholastica. During this time and with +Sister Mary Charles McGough as her advisor, she explored all her options while studying elementary education. She entered the Monastery in the fall of 1953 as a postulant.

After first monastic profession in 1955, Sister taught in Hibbing, Crosby, and Sacred Heart in Duluth from 1955-1978. She entered graduate school at St. John's University summers 1965-1972 for a Master of Arts Systematic Theology degree. Pleading not prepared, she returned for another MA in Liturgical Studies in 1980 and spent the next 16 years as the Director of Liturgy at the Monastery. One of her most significant projects as director of liturgy was the chapel-library redesign.

In September of 1997 Sister Mary Christa accepted a new ministry as Senior Consultant for Liturgical and Ritual Services at the Benedictine Health System (BHS) where she still ministers today. At BHS, Sister Mary Christa consults with the System's Participating Organizations on chapel construction and remodeling as well as provides liturgical and ritual services for the facilities and corporate office. During her time at BHS, Sister Mary Christa has completed 24 chapels with eight projects in progress throughout the System. Her impact on the culture and environment at our facilities and at the corporate office is notable and lasting well into the future.



Above left: Leading prayer at the beginning of a BHS September Leadership Conference. **Above right:** Koda Living Community blessing of Chapel altar. **Below left:** BHS orientation 2013. **Below right:** Benedictine Living Community of Arcadia transfer of sponsorship (Sister Mary Christa second from left).



While often thought of as the “energizer bunny of BHS” and as always on the go, in her free time, Sister Mary Christa enjoys gardening, music, reading, and family.



Photo by Sister Patricia Anne Williams

Sister Mary Christa gives a tour of the gardens.

Monastery Books and Gift Shop

By Sister Kathleen Doyle

Five days a week we are gifted with special persons who add their unique charisma to the Monastery Books and Gift Shop.

Monday is graced with Lori Henningsen. With her cheerful personality, Lori is a great asset to the Gift Shop. She has impressive decorating skills that please the eye everywhere one looks in the shop. Lori also sews the delightful children's aprons that Sister Agatha used to do.

"I really appreciate the people and the experiences when I volunteer at the Gift Shop. The smiles, the stories, the sharing, the humor . . . I leave more blessed than when I arrive!" —Lori Henningsen



Tuesday is generosity day. Sharon Rolle is generosity plus. She comes each week with many surprises—can you find them in the shop? Sharon has spent many “generous” years with us at the Monastery, sharing her gifts and talents in so many ways. Everyone shares in her joy and enjoys her welcoming spirit.

“Working at the Gift Shop is not a job—it’s more of a treat and a retreat. Everyone I work with is so nice and we can often get into spiritual discussions. And Sister Katie Doyle is very funny and a very warm and kind individual.” —Sharon Rolle

Wednesday shines with the presence of Roni Sturk. She is another person in the gift shop who vibrates joy and laughter. Roni is also one of our Benedictine Associates. We are blessed at the Monastery to have Roni with us and so are shoppers who come into the gift shop.

“My favorite thing about volunteering at the Gift Shop is Sister Katie! She always greets me with such warmth and joy and then usually goes into some story—you just never know what she is going to say! Sister Katie is always a highlight to any day.” —Roni Sturk





Every Thursday the gift shop is graced with Linda Senta. Linda is the epitome of kindness. She is that rare individual who has “never met a person she did not like.”

“Working in the Gift Shop affords me the wonderful opportunity to talk to the Sisters; their wisdom and experience is invaluable to me. I feel as though I gain more than I give. Having Sister Katie as my ‘boss’ is a delight.” —Linda Senta

On Friday Gregory Haugen is part of the shop’s volunteers. He is gifted with the Benedictine virtue of hospitality. Gregory has wonderful skills of observation and can anticipate everyone’s needs.

“Volunteering was somehow meant to be a part of my spiritual journey. I would be remiss not to mention my sincere gratitude to the Sisters for choosing me as a Benedictine volunteer.” —Gregory Haugen



This is just a short description of these gifted people who radiate throughout the gift shop every week. Anyone coming into the shop is overjoyed with the free goodies in the candy basket consistently replenished by these volunteers. Each of these volunteers actually deserves many pages of praise.

Come in any afternoon during the week to enjoy the warmth of giving radiating from these volunteers. Jesus has described such individuals as those who are “pressed down, shaken together and overflowing” with their beauty as pure gifts.

Photos by Andi Therrien



The Continuing Relevance of the Second Vatican Council

Sister Sarah Smedman and Dr. Gary Boelhower

Although it was months in preparation, Saturday, September 14, did come—and go, with almost universal approbation from the 94 registrants. The daylong conference sponsored by St. Scholastica Monastery and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of The College of St. Scholastica celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican Council II. Keynote speakers, Dr. Massimo Faggioli and Dr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, spoke of the varying reactions to the Council during the fifty-year interim but focused on its continuing implications for the Church today.

In the morning Dr. Faggioli addressed “Vatican II and the Future of the Church.” A professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas, he authored *Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning and True Reform: Liturgy and Ecclesiology in Sacrosanctum Concilium* (both 2012 publications). Dr. Faggioli, a regular contributor to Italian newspapers and journals, keeps current with Vatican events, stating that our knowledge and understanding of Vatican II has increased since the end of the Council in 1965.

Faggioli discussed the Council’s major accomplishments as liturgical reform, the return of the Bible as a book Catholics should read, a new ecclesiology that sees the Church as a true global entity rather than being European-focused and controlled, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. Faggioli described Pope Francis as a Vatican II pope who calls himself the “bishop of Rome”; he has stressed service to the poor and ministry to the periphery of the world as major responsibilities of the Church. An Argentinean, Pope Francis sees the Church’s universality from a different perspective from many of his predecessors.

Sister Theresa Jodocy, OSB, Dr. Denise Starkey, and Dr. Gary Boelhower responded to Faggioli’s talk and questioned him, each from her/his own perspective, respectively, as a Pastoral Assistant for Adult Education, and as theology professors with specific interests in feminism and medical ethics and responsible decision-making.



Dr. Massimo Faggioli



Panel of Respondents included Dr. Gary Boelhower, Dr. Denise Starkey, and Sister Theresa Jodocy, OSB.

Photos by Sister Edith Bogue



Dr. Katarina Schuth, OSF

After Eucharist and lunch, participants reconvened to hear keynoter Sister Katarina Schuth, OSF, Ph.D. professor of the Social Scientific Study of Religion from St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas, speak on “Vatican II after Fifty Years: Effects on our Spiritual Journey and Our Ecclesial Life.”

Having spent more than forty years in seminary education, Sister Katarina focused her presentation around the questions: “How has Vatican II affected your personal prayer life and communal worship?” “How is parish life different for ministers and for parishioners?” Theologically, she stated, the Council was the fruit of 20th-century movements for renewal in biblical studies, liturgical theology, and ecumenical conversation. Sister Katarina explored ways in which the Council brought about reform, particularly in the “rejection of the alienation between the Church and the world, and the rethinking of the relationships between faith and modern science, between the Church and the modern state, and between Christianity and other religions.”

The conference closed with a beautiful prayer for the Church drawn by Dr. Gary Boelhower, from two pillars of the Council—the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*, and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*.

Participants’ responses to the conference were overwhelmingly positive, indicating their appreciation of what they had learned and how they were moved by the day’s events. The most telling suggestion: “Do it again!”

Essentia Health Mission Integration: Father Timothy Backous, OSB

By Sister Susan Fortier

Father Timothy Backous, OSB, a monk of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, is new to Duluth. He likes to be called Timo, an endearing name inherited from his youth. A native of South Dakota, he grew up with his parents and six siblings in the same state as did his friend and author of many books, Kathleen Norris. Timo came to Essentia Health this past July as Vice President of Mission Integration and Benedictine Sponsorship.

Walking into his office to interview him, I immediately got a sense of who he was. His gentle, down-to-earth manner as well as his inviting office spoke of his warm hospitality and the importance of relationships in his life. Hanging on one wall was a drum that a seventh grade girl had made for him. "I love the buffalo with the blue booties," he said with a smile. On another wall was a picture of a shaman, a gift received from a friend. Drawing my attention was a small drum almost like an ornament hanging from his lamp. It was a gift given to him by a Native American man standing outside the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis where Timo used to sometimes celebrate liturgy. "He reached for my hand, held it, and said he was giving me power. He then pulled out this small drum and gave it to me. I've kept it all this time," Timo said. On one side was painted a turtle for wisdom and on the other was a staff symbolizing leadership—gifts needed for his new position. What most people don't know about Timo is that his great, great, great, great-grandmother was a Native American from Northern Montana and that he himself is part Blackfeet Indian.

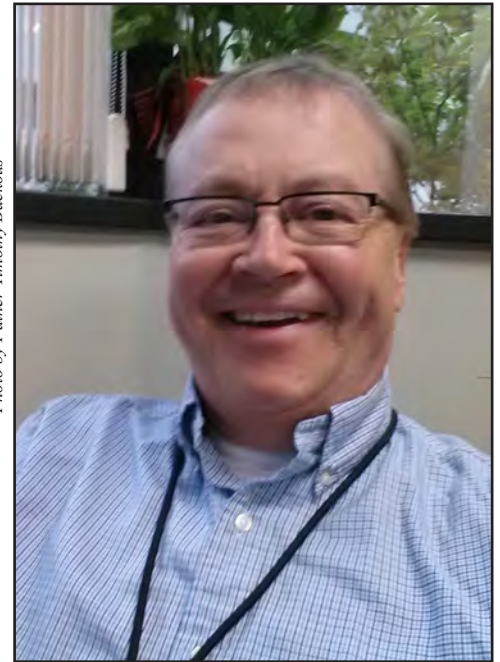


Photo by Father Timothy Backous

Timo holds a doctorate in moral theology from Academia Alfonsiana in Rome. Prior to coming to Essentia Health he wore many hats in the field of education at St. John's University as Athletic Director, Director of Campus Ministry, Director of the Faculty Resident Program, Professor of Theology, and, most recently, the Headmaster of St. John's Prep School.

When asked what gifts he brings to his new position, he speaks of his interpersonal skills, his love for people, his ability to create community, and his complete and total loyalty to the Benedictine way of life and to the Catholic Church. He also sees himself as being "flexible and nimble." "I'm not quick to respond, immediately, to a situation. I like to take time for reflection before responding when I feel the time is right," he says.

Timo loves a good challenge and believes his first among many challenges here will be learning the basics of the health-care industry in a very complex system. Most of his time will be devoted to working with employees at the Twin Ports Catholic hospitals where he hopes to create a spirit of community that will spread to other Benedictine-sponsored facilities across the health system.

During his spare time you can find him walking along Lake Superior, at a local movie theater, reading both fiction and nonfiction and listening to a wide range of music. Welcome Timo! We wish you well as, together, we strive to enhance and strengthen our Benedictine Mission at Essentia Health.

PAX CHRISTI ANNUAL STATE ASSEMBLY 2013

By Sister Linda Wiggins

The Duluth *Pax Christi* Chapter, under the direction of Sister Maria Volk, hosted the *Pax Christi* Annual State Assembly at The College of Saint Scholastica in Mitchell Auditorium on September 21, 2013. The event which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. was a memorable day of celebration, community, and prayer.

The keynote speaker for the event was Edwina Gateley, well-known author, spiritual director, Catholic missionary, and peace activist. Edwina did not waste words or energy on superficialities. “Spirituality and justice are inseparable. Prayer and ritual without a life committed to justice, peace, and elimination of poverty is a sham,” wrote Edwina in her spiritual memoir, *In God’s Womb*. An amazing blend of activist and contemplative, she spoke on *Rebuilding Our Journey—A journey with Vatican II: From Liberation to Grief, to Resistance, to Rejoicing*. Her vision was prophetic; her commitment endless.

Certainly Edwina was a splendid choice for keynote speaker for this year’s *Pax Christi* Annual State Assembly. Currently, there are over 400 *Pax Christi* groups throughout the United States. First formed in 1972 with the onset of Pax Christi, USA, this national Catholic organization and all its branches are composed of those individuals who advocate primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation. Edwina, a life-long Catholic, exemplified these ideals with her creation of the Volunteer Missionary Movement in England in 1969 and her formation of *Genesis House* in Chicago in the early 1980’s—a place where women in recovery from prostitution might find a safe haven and support in their transition.

After Edwina’s morning presentation, one-hour workshops were offered. A variety of topics were covered including:

- JRLC Legislative Agenda; Brian Rusche presenter.
- Fighting Human Trafficking Here in Duluth; Shunu Shrestha, PAVSA presenter.
- Rooting Our Work in Prayer and Human Dignity; Gary Boelhower, presenter.
- Low Income Housing Crisis; Loaves & Fishes Catholic Worker Community Members.
- Reflections on Peace Mission in Iraq, Echoes of Peace Choir Members.
- Idle No More, and Mending The Sacred Hoop—Human Trafficking and Duluth’s Indigenous Community, Reyna Crow and Tina Olsen, presenters.



Keynote speaker Edwina Gateley

Photos by Sister Patricia Anne Williams



Left to right: Sister Maria Volk, Edwina Gateley, Mary Tanner, Michelle Obed, Sister Linda Wiggins, Jean Kilgour, and Sister Mary Rae Higgins

The workshops were again offered in the early afternoon and were well-attended both times. The highlight of the day had to be Edwina’s sharing of her personal journey during the afternoon presentation. As she moved about the stage with frequent gestures, great wit, and her stunning life story, Edwina left her audience totally enraptured by her personal sharing. Her British accent added a certain unparalleled panache. Whether in England or Africa or America, Edwina’s passion for those she sought to help was quite genuine and inspiring. Always, she believes in the “bigness” of God that extends beyond geographical, ethnic, racial, or gender boundaries. In God’s creation there is room for everyone. “The grace of God gestates within us. . . .” What a beautiful gift to take with us at the end of a beautiful day.

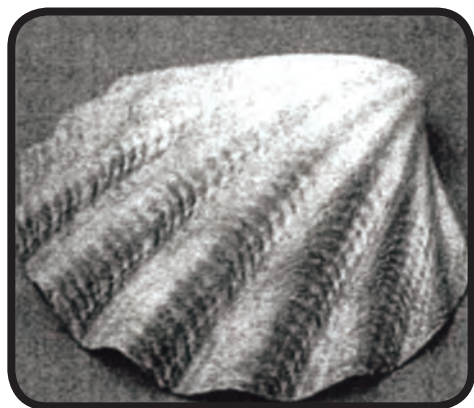
Benedictine Center of Spirituality

By Sister Pauline Micke

The start of our new year—the beginning of our fifth year—has been very busy with retreats of all kinds. We had a summer retreat on July 14, 2013.

On September 28, 2013, we had a new kind of Prayer Retreat. Our facilitator, Sue Swanson, uses art as a tool for meditation, prayer, etc. It was such a success that the participants asked for another one. So, a “Gratitude Retreat” has been scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2014, from 9 a.m. until noon.

October 5, 2013, a Parish retreat was held at St. Mary’s in Cook, Minnesota. Thirty people continued to learn more and grow in their Journey of Faith by considering the Four Pillars of the Catholic Catechism of the Church: What Do We Believe? What Do We Celebrate? What Do We Live? and What Do We Pray? Sister Pauline Micke facilitated the day-long process which nurtured the personal growth of participants as well as the Parish Community’s faith life. Another retreat has been scheduled for April 5, 2013, on Sacraments, led by Sister Paule Pierre Barbeau of St. Scholastica Monastery.



October 19, 2013, was a special day for the Ministry of Spirituality Advisory Board here at the Monastery. Sam Rahberg, Director of St. Paul’s Monastery Center, facilitated a day-long retreat. The retreat—“Listen with the ear of your heart”—was a day of prayer, reflection, and hard work as the Board worked to focus its energies on its own growth and its role as leaders in the Monastery’s ministry of Spirituality. We will continue to communicate with you our focus and goals for the coming year as well as asking for your prayers to support this ministry’s work.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars for the Prayer/Gratitude Retreat on Saturday, February 15, 2014, from 9 to noon with facilitator Sue Swanson, M.Div. For more information or to sign up for this retreat, contact Sister Pauline Micke at 218-723-6555 or pauline.m@duluthosb.org.

Please Pray for the Following Deceased Friends and Relatives:

Rev. Gerald Potter 4/21/2013
John B. Murphy 4/23/2013
Arthur Aufderheide 8/9/2013
Frank Gerard 8/12/2013
William Spehar 8/19/2013
Chester Luczak 8/21/2013
Thomas Oland 8/29/2013
Sister Judith Oland’s brother
Mary Strojan 9/10/2013
Mardelle LeMay Proulx 10/3/2013
Catherine Wattreng

Andrea Burke Hammann 10/7/2013
Virginia Newman Brophy 10/9/2013
Mary Deichert 10/20/2013
Philip Gulan 10/23/2013
Fr. John Sustarsic 10/24/2013
Susan Getchell Semrad 10/24/2013
Howard Eisinger 11/2/2013
Lois Glaudel 11/2/2013
Sister Lois Ann Glaudel’s mother
Fr. Edward Foster 11/10/2013

Highlights

Katherine Boo, 2012 National Book Award Recipient, Speaks at CSS

By Sister Sarah Smedman

Journalist Katherine Boo, 2012 National Book Award winner for her nonfiction book, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, spoke to a full house in Mitchell Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on October 16. The title of her address and subtitle of her book, *Life, Death, and Hope in the Mumbai Undercity*, focused on life in Annawadi, a slum near the airport and behind the luxury hotels serving international dignitaries and wealthy tourists.

Boo gathered her information through reading 3000-plus public records and listening to individuals she depicts graphically and sympathetically. Boo discovered that slum dwellers lacked the necessary words to express their thoughts and feelings, so focused are they on keeping alive. She spent three years tracking individuals, earning their trust, getting them to talk, and listening. Prominent among these are Abdul Hussein, a teenaged garbage picker, sorter, and seller, and Asha, the forty-year-old wife of a drunkard and mother of three children, including Manju, a beautiful, college-educated daughter of marriageable age, who, unlike her mother, distinguishes between right and wrong. Both Abdul and Asha want to escape their lives, regarded as inconsequential by the rich and powerful in an India ever-growing in wealth and significance in the modern world.

Asha succeeds through a scheme to defraud the Maharashtra Department of Education of funds designed to educate poor children. Abdul decides he wants to be honest and upright, and by that route to climb above his destiny. Water and ice, he thought, were made of the same thing. But ice was better than what it was made of. "In Mumbai's dirty water, he wanted to be ice. He wanted to have ideals." Finally, at the end of the book, Abdul grieves, "I have tried to keep the ice inside me from melting. . . . But now I'm just becoming like dirty water, like everyone else. . . . I cannot be better, because of how the world is."

In her talk Boo explained that her purpose was, through limning the stories of individuals, to reveal and effect change in the social and political systems responsible for their conditions. She achieves this through the people she creates in vivid, beautiful prose. The greatest need, Boo says, is a public health system. Everyone in Annawadi is sick. Suicide is often perceived as the only way out. However, most refuse to give up because life IS life, and "my life is important to me."

Photo by Bob Ashenmacher,
The College of St. Scholastica



Kathryn Boo has ties to Minnesota and Duluth. Front: Kathryn's aunt, Sister Mary Richard Boo. Back: Kathryn's mother, Mary Boo of Parkville, Maryland; Kathryn Boo; and Kathryn's sister, Mary Boo of Minneapolis. Photo by Bob Ashenmacher of The College of St. Scholastica.

CSS Homecoming Parade

Photo courtesy of
The College of St. Scholastica



Once again the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery participated in the annual College of St. Scholastica Homecoming parade. The 2013 parade was held Saturday, September 28. The modern Homecoming tradition has been going strong since 2008. The theme for this year's parade was "Saints Nation." Left to right back: Sister Judith Oland, Sister Lisa Maurer, Sister Paule Pierre Barbeau, Sister Lois Eckes, Sister Martha Bechtold, Sister Kathleen Del Monte, Sister Therese Carson. Front: Sister Joan Marie Stelman and Sister Elizabeth Farias.

BHS Leadership Conference

By Sister Lisa Maurer

Right: More than 350 attendees from all of the Benedictine Health System Participating Organizations came together to witness to the BHS Mission while taking advantage of the chance to network with colleagues and learn from the many gifted presenters.



Left: As Sponsors of the Benedictine Health System, many Sisters from St. Scholastica Monastery participated in the conference. Here Sister Mary Christa Kroening is pictured leading Morning Prayer as Sister Paule Pierre Barbeau, Sister Lois Eckes, and Sister Lisa Maurer help lead the singing.

Photos courtesy of the Benedictine Health System

New Affiliate, Maria Kaplun

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour

Tuesday evening, September 17, an insistent woman knocked on the door of St. Scholastica Monastery. She waited and knocked again. Receiving no answer, she knocked yet a third time as the Sisters inside ceremonially tested her patience and determination. Sister Lois Eckes, Prioress, then opened the door to her in the presence of the gathered Community, greeted her, and asked the woman, Maria Kaplun, what it was she wanted. Maria replied that she wishes to be affiliated with the Community as she is discerning a call to religious life. After receiving a blessing from the Prioress and a pledge of support from the Sisters present, she was placed in the care of Sister Mary Catherine Shambour, Vocation Director for the Community, and led into the Chapel for Evening Prayer.



Photos by Sister Kathleen Del Monte



By becoming an affiliate, the candidate expresses her interest in learning more about the Community and the Community about her. After sufficient time, if both feel it is a good “fit,” the candidate may request to become a postulant, the first step toward professed membership.

Maria Kaplun was born in Russia, but with her family immigrated to the United States over twenty years ago, where Maria continued her studies and her graduate work. She has taught at the college level, and has published some of her literary works. Currently she lives in Massachusetts where she has taken a break from teaching and is working on a biography project. Maria is a recent convert to Catholicism and is investigating religious life.

Rev. John Whitney Evans Fund

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

Gifts to the fund are given in memory of loved ones, and the contributions are used by the Knights of Columbus, the Sisters, and the Diocese to support vocation expenses.

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

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

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



Rev. John Whitney Evans Vocation Fund

Please accept my donation of \$100

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

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

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

Donor Address _____

Donor Telephone _____

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

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

In Loving Memory

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Photos from Monastery Archives



Sister Devota organized Bingo days for Benet Hall Sisters

Spring 1954, Sisters teaching at St. Thomas the Apostle in Phoenix: Sisters Janet Lamirande, Devota LaVoie (first Principal) Mary James Murphy, and Cabrini Beauvais

Sister Devota LaVoie, OSB

July 27, 1910—September 19, 2013

Sister Devota LaVoie, OSB, died September 19, 2013, at St. Scholastica Monastery. She was born in Cloquet, Minnesota, on July 27, 1910, to Theophile Joseph LaVoie and Mary J. (Parenteau) LaVoie. Sister was in the 85th year of her Benedictine Monastic Profession.

Sister came to the Monastery in 1923 as an aspirant and completed her high school education at Villa Sancta Scholastica. She began her formal training as a Sister with her postulant year October 7, 1926; she professed her triennial vows on July 11, 1928; and became a perpetually professed Sister on July 11, 1931. Having an extraordinary talent for teaching, she began her mission of education at St. Thomas Aquinas in International Falls where she taught grades four and five from 1928–1935. Then she was moved to St. Rose School in Proctor and taught grades five and six from 1936–1939. Following St. Rose, she taught second grade at St. James in Duluth (1939–1948), returning to St. Rose to serve as principal (1948–1953). In 1953 she received a BS degree in Education from The College of St. Scholastica.

In the fall of 1953 Sister Devota traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, where she opened St. Thomas the Apostle School and served as the first principal. She also taught grades five and seven for two years. In 1955 she returned to Duluth's St. Anthony's School (1955–1957) and taught grades seven and eight. Sister Devota left Duluth (1957–1964) to teach and supervise the teaching of catechetics at St. Anthony's Catechetical School in Ely. She received a CCD Certificate from Marquette University in July 1962, and a CCD Master Certificate from Catholic University in 1966. Sister Devota returned to Duluth and served as CCD Instructor for the Diocese from 1964 to 1969. In September 1969, she relocated again to St. Francis Parish in Brainerd, Minnesota, where she served as a Consultant at the Brainerd Religious Education Center and as Religious Education Coordinator at The Brainerd Regional Human Services Center, a state-run school and hospital complex. She also provided pastoral ministry at the State Hospital to residents there. She found a deep joy in working with children who had severe developmental disabilities. "I wouldn't have given that up for anything. I had a feeling toward those children . . . precious assignment." She retired and returned to Duluth in 1996.

Sister celebrated her Golden Jubilee August 15, 1978, her Diamond Jubilee August 14, 1988, and her 85th Jubilee on August 11, 2013. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Ernest, Harvey, Philip (Brother Louis Andrew), Alfred, and Clement, and her sister Marie Greco. Besides the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by loving nieces and nephews and numerous friends.

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*Deep peace
of the Son of Peace
to you.*