

# PATHWAYS



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## In This Issue

- 3**      **Thoughts from the Prioress**  
          *by Sister Beverly Raway*
- 4**      **Lent Reflection**  
          *Lamentation and Love, by Sister Jayne Erickson*
- 5**      **Vocations Update**  
          *Five Ways to Pray for Vocations, by Sister Lisa Maurer*
- 6**      **Monastery Profile**  
          *Sister Gaudensia Mwanyika, by Jan M. Barrett*
- 8**      **Monastery Article**  
          *The Life and Art of Sister Constantina Kakonyi, by Heidi Johnson*
- 10**     **Center for Spirituality and Enrichment Update**  
          *by Dawn Carrillo*
- 12**     **Renovation Update**  
          *Renovation Nears Completion, by Sister Therese Carson*
- 14**     **Oblate Update**  
          *by Sister Pauline Micke*
- 14**     **Remembering Our Deceased Family and Friends**
- 15**     **Sisters in Ministry**
- 18**     **Monastic Life**

*The section formerly called “**Highlights**” has been divided into **Sisters in Ministry** and **Monastic Life**. **Sisters in Ministry** portrays Sisters working in ministries inside or outside the Monastery. **Monastic Life** is what is happening within our home, and includes prayer, celebrations, and other aspects of Community life.*





## Dear Friends of the Monastery,

When this Lenten issue of *Pathways* reaches you, the Sisters will be moving from the guest rooms and offices we have been occupying in Stanbrook Hall into our newly renovated Monastery space (see page 12). The excitement is palpable as each Sister measures and plans how to arrange her private space and we anticipate adjustment to new patterns of community living. We hope our life together will be richer and Spirit-filled as we gather in our dining room, Chapter meeting room, and lounges with new vistas and experiences to share.



The Community determined years ago in our discernment process that decisions about space should be guided by the value of stewardship. We agreed we would renovate Stanbrook West rather than build new and use Stanbrook Hall as the place for our ministries, especially the expansion of our spiritual ministries. Early on, an agreement was made by leadership of The College of St. Scholastica, the Benedictine Living Community-Duluth, and the Monastic Community to work together on planning for our campus facilities. A Joint Facilities Steering Committee (JFSC) was formed and guiding principles developed, including first and foremost that “the planning and decision-making process will respect the Benedictine values and charism,” with a commitment to the principles of “listening with the ear of your heart” and “all persons having a voice in the planning discussions.” Our topics for discernment quickly narrowed to renovation of space for the home of the Sisters, repurposing of Stanbrook Hall, and planning a campus Student Center for the College.

A subcommittee was commissioned to listen to the needs of each of the campus entities and to make recommendations for the repurposing of Stanbrook. In further discernment, each of the requests was brought to Monastery leadership, to the Monastic Council, and then back to the JFSC for refinement of the recommended space allocation.

Reference to our decision-making process as “discernment” is deliberate. This project was a perfect opportunity for the communities on campus to discover what the process of discernment means. I think we learned that, for the sake of community building and the building of trusting relationships, the process of discernment was as important or even more important than the decisions made.

Discernment is more than simply deciding by a majority vote. In the Benedictine tradition, there are important elements in the Holy Rule which were woven into the fabric of each of our sessions. Benedict advises, “First of all, every time you begin a good work, you must pray most earnestly to bring it to perfection” (Prologue v. 4), which we did in every session with the Sisters and our community partners. We incorporated times of silent reflection and recollection into our prayer and discussion as a reminder that we needed to “listen carefully...with the ear of our hearts” (RB, Prologue vs. 1) to the breath of the Spirit moving among us. And we were careful to heed Benedict’s admonition that “all should be called for counsel,” because “the Lord often reveals what is better to the younger” (RB Ch 3: 1-3). Steps were repeated in a rhythm of prayer, a statement of the matter to be decided, listening to advice and counsel in smaller and larger groups, pausing, pondering, repeating back and confirming what we had heard, asking for clarification, adjourning for reflection, and returning for consensus building.

We are proud of our campus accomplishments and hope in the Spring to invite you to an open house to see the fruits of our discernment and to share our joy. Blessings as you listen to the voice of the Spirit in your Lenten journey.

Peace,

*Sister Beverly*

Sister Beverly Raway, OSB

## Lamentation and Love: a Reflection for Lent

by Sister Jayne Erickson

Love is a two-way street. It implies relationship. To truly love we must learn to give and to receive, to experience great gain and deep loss.

Lamentation and Love. This is the way of Lent. This is the way of Life.

I am filled with gratitude for the gift of Divine Love freely offered by our God. It's there for our taking if we choose to accept it, if we abandon ourselves to this intimate relationship of life-giving love, of naked truth beyond measure.

In this love relationship, God calls us beloved and holds nothing back. God chooses to become human, to become like us out of deep love and devotion, to fill us with the Spirit of light and love. This God, who sees us as we are at our best and at our worst, delights in loving us! Oh, what love! Perfect love.

And what about me? What do I bring to this love relationship? Do I choose to become one with God, to gaze into the heart of God, to soar on the wings of the Spirit (without reservation) into places where God is calling?

What about us? Together, what do we offer? Can we usher in a world of compassion, justice, and peace? "How will they know" that God is Love if we don't proclaim it by our lives?

Pope Francis has referred to Lent as an opportunity for a new beginning, a path towards continual conversion of heart. Lent – a journey filled with pain and sorrow, yet BEHOLD! Transforming Love is at the heart of the story. God's love. Our love...

### Perfect Love

by Sr. Jayne Erickson, 2021

*Love for You burns in my heart when I see Your scars.  
When I see You on the cross,  
I can see Your Heart bleeding for all those You love,  
Those who cannot see –  
Bleeding for the poor,  
And Jesus, Your Heart bleeds for me.*

*Love for You burns in my heart when I come to You,  
When I sit down at Your feet, when I gaze on You.  
May I bleed for those You love, those who cannot see.  
May I bleed for all the poor as Your heart bleeds for me.*

*Oh, what love!  
Your unfailing love, never holding back, always giving of Yourself.  
Oh, what love! Perfect love.  
Jesus, teach us how to share Your Perfect love.*

*Love for You burns in my heart when I gaze on You...*



**Station four: Jesus Meets His Mother**  
Bas relief by Harry Eversfield Donohue, 1938, from Monastery collection. The Latin inscription loosely translates as 'I cry with you'.



## Five Ways to Pray for Vocations

by Sister Lisa Maurer

The Church, in fact the whole world, needs men and women who have fallen in love with God, and are willing to live their lives as priests and religious who commit their lives to prayer, service, and sacrifice. To serve the Church as a priest or a religious is surely a humbling honor which no one can dream up on their own, but which comes from God. We must therefore pray to God for vocations. “The entire People of God,” according to St. Pope John Paul II, “is responsible for promoting vocations, and does so chiefly by persistent and humble prayer for vocations.”



So, how do we do that? What can we do in our prayer lives to fulfill our duty to pray for vocations? As we know, prayer is the support that brings to fruition the seed of a vocation. It is through the power of prayer that those seeking the priesthood and the religious life are sustained and nurtured. Here are five ways that we can partake in the work of building the culture of vocations.

### 1. **Pray for yourself.**

As we pray for vocations it is important for us to pray for ourselves. Remember that the whole point of our lives is to grow in a deep, intimate, and loving relationship with God. We should pray for God's guidance in our lives, that we may discover our own vocations and remain faithful in living them out.

### 2. **Pray for God to open hearts and minds.**

As we pray for vocations it is important for us to pray that God will open the hearts and minds of the persons being called. For women and men to respond to a vocation, they need to be open to listening for God's invitation. Let us pray that the Spirit inspires in them a desire to surrender themselves to God's Will.

### 3. **Pray for those actively discerning.**

As we pray for vocations it is important for us to pray in a specific and special way for those who are actively discerning their vocation. It can be a scary and uncertain time in their lives. Whether or not you know someone who is discerning becoming a priest, brother, or sister, you can offer up prayers asking God to bless these people with courage and understanding.

### 4. **Pray for those in formation.**

As we pray for vocations it is important for us to pray for women and men who are in formation: studying and preparing for their life-long commitment. We can pray that they have strength in their prayer life so that they may grow spiritually. We should pray that they persevere in their studies and that God will lift them up when they struggle.

### 5. **Pray for the perseverance of those already in the life.**

As we pray for vocations it is important for us to pray for perseverance for those already living a vocation. We can offer prayers of thanksgiving for those priests, brothers, and sisters who have served us and been influential in our lives. We can offer prayers of love and support, especially for those who may be struggling, feeling tempted and discouraged. We can ask God to set their hearts on fire, inspire them with visions of the Kingdom, and allow them to experience joy in their vocation.

*If you or someone you know wants more information about vocations,  
email [vocations@duluthosb.org](mailto:vocations@duluthosb.org) or visit [www.duluthbenedictines.org/vocations](http://www.duluthbenedictines.org/vocations)*

## Sister Gaudensia Mwanyika, a Visionary with Her Feet on the Ground

by Jan M. Barrett, Director of Development and Public Relations

One of our friends is Sister Gaudensia Mwanyika. She was born in Tanzania in Uwemba Parish to Michael Mwanyika and Osmunda Samnenuka. In 1990 she entered St. Gertrude Convent, a Benedictine community in Imiliwaha, Tanzania, one of several Benedictine communities with which we have a ‘twinning’ relationship.

The Twinning Program connects us with Benedictines in Chile and Tanzania for mutual friendship, support, and prayer. These international connections broaden our understanding of hospitality. We visit back and forth in a cross-cultural experience that enriches us all and reveals other ways of living the Rule of St. Benedict. We see beyond our own borders and witness with hope as our 1500-year tradition gives life to diverse cultures and new ways of being Benedictine. Watching the ministries of our twinning communities has been a delight and inspiration.

Sisters from our Twinning communities have stayed with us while earning degrees at The College of St. Scholastica. Sister Gaudensia, whose name means ‘joyful’, came in 2007 and studied for a Master of Education degree. While student-teaching in Duluth public schools, she met young people with educational and physical challenges who were accepted and supported by their peers and instructors. Sister Gaudensia said, “I thought, We can do this in Tanzania!” After graduating in 2014, she returned home to build a private, Catholic school that supported traditional students as well as those who are not allowed to attend public school because of disabilities. St. Scholastica School welcomed the first kindergarten class in 2017.

It has been a rewarding experience to watch from the sidelines. A hard-working woman with apparently unlimited skills and energy, Sister Gaudensia obtained land 50 miles from the capital Dar es Salaam, planned the structure, and even helped make concrete bricks for her first classroom – a visionary with her feet planted firmly on the ground. Her school now provides a sound education to children of varied abilities, with priority given to children who are not allowed to attend government schools, as well as those from poorer families whose parents cannot afford private tuition. At the beginning of each year, as the initial class moves one level higher, she adds another grade level and classroom. Today the school teaches about 400 children in kindergarten through sixth grade, with one more grade to come before her first students move on to public secondary school. Sister and her builders will be working hard this year to have a classroom ready for seventh grade students.

St. Scholastica School is registered with the Tanzanian government but is solely funded by generous donors who cover operating expenses, meals for the students, and transportation. Over the past nine years Sister Gaudensia, with the help of a network of supporters, has become skilled at public relations and fundraising. As her student population swells, she periodically returns to Duluth and tirelessly attends events, visits parishes, and meets privately with donors to pay for the next stage of development.



*Sister Gaudensia at graduation*



*Stacking concrete bricks to build the school*



*The children at St. Scholastica are eager to learn.*



Getting the students to class has always been a challenge, as many live five miles away. Their families do not own cars, so the children would have to walk many hours each day. Several years ago, donors paid for a large passenger van to use as a school bus. Intended for 16 passengers, it often carries up to forty. This is uncomfortable and unsafe.



*How many children can be squeezed into a 12-passenger van?*

In December 2022, Sister Gaudensia visited the Monastery and several local Catholic parishes to raise funds for a second large van and another classroom. She was happy to reconnect with her friends in Duluth, including those who have helped her apply for and receive grants. She reports great success in her fundraising efforts, saying, “Your donations from the USA have helped me build the classrooms and bring children to school from the surrounding communities. Without these donations the school would not exist.”

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery are the fiscal agent for Sister Gaudensia’s school and will ensure that she receives any funds appropriated for the school or transportation for the students. If you would like to help her continue her work in building more classrooms and buying additional transportation for the students, please make checks payable to St. Scholastica Monastery. Write “Tanzania school/bus” in the memo line.



*Sister Gaudensia visited St. Michael Parish in Duluth. The president, Fr. Andrew Knop, is an OMI missionary who was happy to help her raise funds for a new bus.*

#### **Mail donations to:**

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

Donations are also accepted online at [www.duluthbenedictines.org](http://www.duluthbenedictines.org) under the “GIVE” button. Enter amount of donation and type “Tanzania school/bus” in the honor column. Then choose “Twinning (Chile/Tanzania projects)”.



*Children listen best when we come down to their level.*



*Reviewing plans for construction of a new classroom*



## Sister Constantina Kakonyi, SND

by Heidi Johnson, Librarian and Archivist for The College of St. Scholastica

Have you ever noticed the large copper sculptures of Venerable Bede and St. Gertrude on either side of the entrance into Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel? These are just two of the many artworks created by Sister Constantina Kakonyi, SND that are displayed throughout St. Scholastica Monastery and The College of St. Scholastica.

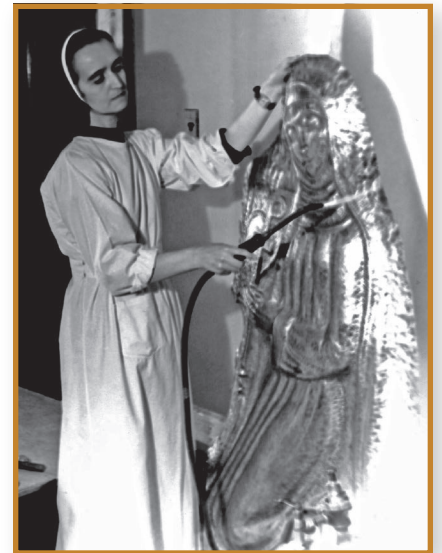
Sister Constantina led a very interesting life with her ideas and convictions coming through her art in striking ways. She is quoted in the College's newspaper *The Cable* in 1982 as saying, "I have a tragic background and it's inside of me – it just sinks in, I can't help it. I paint what I imagine and feel I need no tangible object." She was born on Dec. 24, 1908 in Kalocsa, Hungary to a farm family with at least six siblings.

At age 14, Sister Constantina joined the Kalocsa School Sisters of the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND). She studied at the Notre Dame Institute in Kalocsa and qualified as a teacher. She continued her studies of the Fine Arts at Agoston Benhard College from 1931-35 and then was a drawing and handicraft teacher in a Catholic school in Baja, Hungary for 10 years.

In 1947, she received a scholarship for her achievements from the Hungarian government for further study in Italy and to visit art museums in Europe. Upon the advice of her Monastic Superiors, she did not return to Hungary as the religious institutions were being dismantled at that time due to Communism.

So instead, Sister Constantina came to the United States in the fall of 1950, first on a student visa, and lived in Duluth. In 1959, she was granted American citizenship by a special act of Congress.

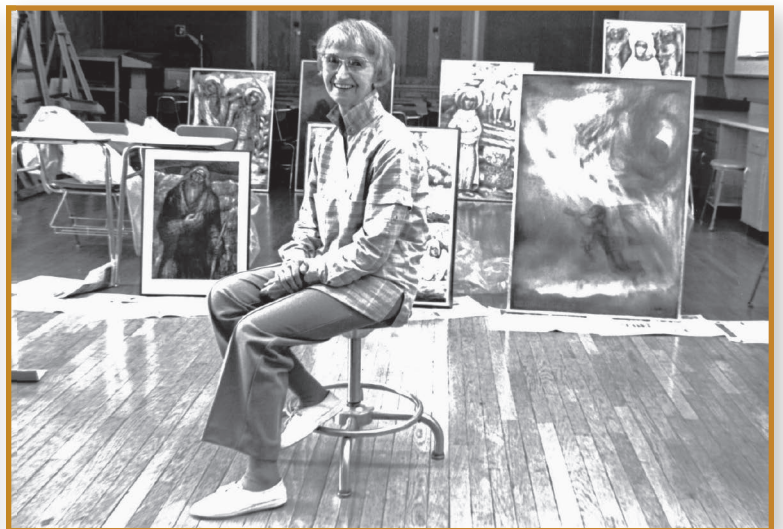
At The College of St. Scholastica, she divided her time between teaching and creating art in the tower on the fifth floor of Tower Hall.



Sister Constantina working on St. Gertrude, in hammered copper, 1954



With students, 1962



In her studio, 1989

She employed a variety of unique mediums in her art, including hammered-copper sculptures of Venerable Bede and St. Gertrude; gold and silver foil dimensional paintings; mono-print inscapes; oil paintings; metal-work crucifixes and candle holders; and melted glass on metal. Many of her pieces are rather large, including the nine and a half-foot long crèche only displayed at Christmas time, which is remarkable given her petite stature.



One of her most famous pieces is the melted glass on metal she made for President John F. Kennedy when he visited Duluth, two months before being assassinated in 1963. Sister Constantina felt a close connection to Kennedy through their Catholic ties and his dedication to fighting Communism. She worked every day from 7:30 am to 2:30 am for two weeks to complete the five-panel depiction of natural resources of the Northland. Even though it was presented at UMD when Kennedy gave his speech, and Sister Constantina brought it to Hotel Duluth afterwards where he was staying, it was somehow left behind when his entourage departed. After his assassination, Sister Constantina said it was simply forgotten. It is currently displayed on the second floor of the Library where its story is kept alive.

Sister Constantina drew inspiration for her art from Scripture, especially the prophets in the Old Testament and the Book of Revelations. Because of her life experiences, she was particularly drawn to the end times. Many people will notice the prominence of eyes in her work. According to Sister Ann Edward Scanlon, OSB, “The emphasis on the eyes is typical of Byzantine artists. Sister believes that the eyes are the most important feature that we have, that if you look into the eyes you should be able to see the soul of the person. This is a bit of her theory.”



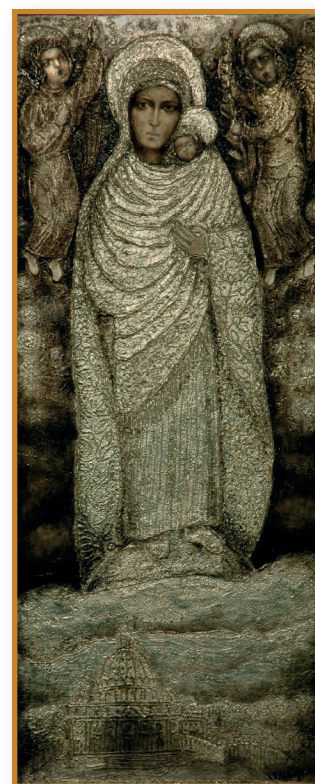
Sister Constantina with President Kennedy's gift, *Northeastern Minnesota Strong and Beautiful*, 1963



*The Holy Family*, 1968

In this piece of the Holy Family from 1968, Jesus has His hand on a book with the words “There can be no delay”, a reference to the Cold War. While it may seem that Sister Constantina was idly waiting all these years in exile for the Communist regime to fall, she is quoted in 1989 as saying, “I am not bored. I am very interested in the Prophets, I am interested in time and space in art. I like to project into the future. I am inspired by the Bible. I enjoy being informed. (She spoke four languages – Hungarian, Italian, German, and English). I read the *World Monitor* monthly and *The World Press* monthly. I listen to my short-wave radio” (*Cable*). Clearly she kept busy creating many artworks (a count in 2020 revealed over 40 at the Monastery, College, and Tweed Museum of Art at UMD), and she stayed connected to the wider world from her room in the tower.

Finally in 1994, with the Iron Curtain falling, Sister Constantina returned to Hungary where at the airport her sister and relatives were waiting for her. She died four years later in Kalocsa where she had been born 90 years earlier. Upon her arrival in her homeland, she sent this message back: “I always will remember and pray for you, and for your family and also for The College of St. Scholastica where I spent many of my best creative years. With heartfelt gratitude, Sr. Konstantina.” We are also grateful for her creativity and dedication to her art and our community and are reminded of her gifts whenever we see the many artworks she left behind to grace our walls and our hearts.



*Hungarian Madonna*, on silver foil, 1990

*Sister Constantina signed her pieces differently throughout her career. Sometimes she spelled Constantina with a “K” and later she used the initial “T” for her middle name of Terézia.*

## Lenten greetings from the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment!



Much of the work we do within the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment involves hearing peoples' life stories. We regard these stories as sacred, and it is, indeed, a privilege to bear witness to them. Many share their joys and their accomplishments, but we also hear their sadness, struggles, and worries, particularly as the last few years have unfolded.



Collectively, as a world society, we have experienced loss, isolation, grief, political and societal polarization, and some shock through these years. It seems we are now grappling with the aftermath of this period, as well as navigating ever-present and ongoing viral threats, the peril of climate change, wars and violence, and continuing division in our families, communities, and world.

Exhaustion and frustration with this situation are frequent concerns raised by participants in Center programs, meetings, and in our spiritual direction practices. We pray together, we give voice to our experience, and we ask over and over the nagging and overwhelming question, *what can we do?*

As a Benedictine spirituality center, we strive to encourage and name the wider perspective for all of us, that of Gospel hope and our faith in the promise of Resurrection — each moment of our lives. Perhaps the question — *what can we do?* — is better contextualized within the movements of the Paschal Mystery: suffering, dying, and rising to new life. In our daily lives, this translates to our constantly evolving human reality: struggling (or actual suffering), letting go, and living into a new reality. Instead of feeling at a loss as to how to answer the question *what can I do*, the dynamics of the Paschal Mystery nudge us to also ask, *what do I need to let go of? What is the new reality into which I need to live? What is my place in that reality?*

One of the most painful places of ongoing and growing division is, sadly, in our churches. As people who hold the belief that Eucharist is who and what we are, it is critical that we address the questions that the Paschal Mystery compels us to answer: *What are the struggles that we face individually, in our churches and communities, our country, and our world? What is it that we are being called to let go of? What is the new life that God is asking us to embrace?*

As we continue on into the vast possibilities for 2023, the answers we find to these questions may confound, confuse, or even shock us. But as people of the Eucharist, we follow where the Spirit leads, knowing that God is as close as our very breath, drawing us ever nearer into God's very life. We are God's beloved, and as the beloved, we are asked to "...all be one...so that the world may believe..." (John 17:21).

For your Lenten reflection, I leave you with a poem by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OFM. This poem, seemingly simple on first read, provides a fresh way to think about the divisions that exist and offers us a way forward—one of humility, empathy, and deep respect for all. Try taking one line a day during Lent as a meditative mantra, mining its riches and deep significance for yourself and all people, all of Creation. Return to your line at various times during the day, staying with the line as long as you need to. Move to the next line the following day, and so on. When you are done, reflect on the poem in the context of the Paschal Mystery: *what is being addressed here? What am I being called to let go of by this poem? What new life will happen if I can embrace the concepts of this poem? How does this poem change me?*



## The One and the Many

*Different peoples, one earth  
Different beliefs, one God  
Different languages, one heart  
Different ways of falling, one law of gravity  
Different energies, one Spirit  
Different scriptures, one Word*

*Different forms of worship, one desire  
Different histories, one destiny  
Different strengths, one fragility  
Different disciplines, one aim  
Different approaches, one road*

*Different faiths – one Father, one Mother, one earth, one sky, one beginning, one end.*

~Ron Rolheiser, OFM

Please visit our website at [retreatduluth.org](http://retreatduluth.org) or email [dcarrillo@duluthosb.org](mailto:dcarrillo@duluthosb.org) for information on the Center and to find out about ongoing and upcoming events and offerings that we have! We would love to hear from you...

A most blessed Lent to all,

*Dawn Holmberg Carrillo*

*Dawn Carrillo, Director of the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment*



# Renovation Update

## Renovation Nears Completion

by Sister Therese Carson

What a long and wondrous journey we have taken since we decided to renovate our Monastery! In 2021, after years of discernment and debate and a year working with architects, we vacated Stanbrook West and moved into guest spaces in Stanbrook Hall. Stanbrook Hall housed our guest rooms and offices, but for two years we have lived in the guest rooms while we journeyed in spirit towards what God had promised: a Monastery under one roof that contains living quarters, offices, kitchen, dining, and meeting rooms — everything needed to carry us into our ‘unknown and blessed future.’

Thanks to the work of architects and builders, this vision is now a reality. We began moving to the renovated Monastery in February.



Visitors enter on the west side of the Monastery into the third floor, as we are built into a steep hillside. Repeated arches bring them from one space into another. The curved lines add depth and tell us we are entering a holy place.



Arches in the new link between the Monastery and Chapel help adjust our spirits from dealing with practicalities to entering the presence of God. The link provides a safe shortcut between buildings for wet or snowy days.



The arches and curved lines are repeated in such details as the tile backsplash in the Third Floor kitchenette, where Sisters can fix a small meal or brew coffee for guests. Narrow vertical lights throughout the building recall candle sconces, a subtle reference to history.



The commercial kitchen will be staffed by two employees and provide meals for the whole Community, including those who dine on Benet Hall. Below is the main Third Floor dining room.







A meeting room is conveniently located near the offices on Third Floor.



The bedrooms are a little larger and the bathrooms barrier-free. Four narrow closets provide storage and there is wall space to add free-standing shelving



Between the north and south wings of the Monastery are two gardens. The lower level is for the Sisters on Second Floor in Benet Hall, with a raised garden on three sides and a retaining wall edged with shrubs. Indirect lighting will make it safe at night. The upper level is near the public entrance and will be a peaceful place for visitors to sit and contemplate the garden. *Of course*, there will be birdfeeders, and also squirrels and chipmunks.



Bishop Daniel Felton of the Duluth Diocese came January 4 for a special Evening Prayer to bless our renovated spaces. We sang the song "Holy Ground" and then prayed blessings: rooms for dining, meeting in Chapter, preparing food, working, and sleeping. He blessed even the mechanical rooms.



We closed with this prayer: "May these walls be filled with faith, hope, love, and unity of Spirit."

## Oblate Update for Lent

by Sister Pauline Micke, OSB, Co-Director of Oblates in Duluth

Each year our Oblate community chooses a book or topic to discuss. In 2022-2023 we have been reading *Reaching for God: The Benedictine Oblate Way of Life* by Sister Roberta Werner, assistant Oblate Director at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Chapter five, "The Importance of the Laity in the Work of the Church and the World," has been the source for our reflection and discussion since April 2022. The call we each receive is that "laity can be a living testimony to faith and the love of Christ in their daily family and social life."

Our Call and Mission as the Oblate Community is stated on page 103: "We are key role models and effective missionaries because of our natural connections to the social, economic, educational and other facets of our lives." We bring the Good News that God created us, loves us unconditionally, and sent his Son to show us how to live and be saved. What a vital and superb call and vocation for our needy world!

CHUM in Duluth has provided a list of food and other donations to help meet growing needs in our community. How will you (we) live out this call/challenge during Lent and beyond?

The list of food items CHUM needs most includes coffee, canned chili, canned beef stew, canned pork and beans, canned baked beans, SpaghettiOs, canned ravioli, canned fruit, canned vegetables, ramen noodles, canned soups, canned chunky soups, Spam, canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, cereal, rice, boxed potatoes, canned and dry beans (any kind), and canned tomato products.

What will your Lent 2023 be like? What role models will you be?

You can contact CHUM here in Duluth to make your response. Go to [Chumduluth.org](http://Chumduluth.org) or call 218-720-6521. Food donations can be dropped off at 120 N First Ave West, Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Drive down the alley and ring the bell.

May you continue to be blessed and grow in this love.

God bless you,  
Sister Pauline Micke, OSB



## Please Pray for Our Deceased Family and Friends

Janet McGowan	10/23/2021	Dorothy A. Hughes	12/15/2022
Helen L. Carlson	7/20/2022	Donald Reuvers	12/16/2022
Jack R. McDonald	10/1/2022	(brother-in-law of Sr. Theresa Spinler)	
Helen Kay Perry	10/14/2022	Marcella Tourville-Simpson	12/16/2022
Lois JoAnne Pempsell	10/18/2022	David Burton Olin	12/20/2022
Rolland Turcotte	11/5/2022	Diana Townbridge Shibler	1/3/2023
Marian Davis Levine	11/6/2022	Diane Dallavia	1/5/2023
Patricia Dougherty	11/20/2022	Pastor Bill Christ	1/5/2023
Ellen L. Campbell	11/25/2022	(Oblate of St. Scholastica Monastery)	
Elaine Mrak	11/26/2022	JoAnn Fairbanks	1/9/2023
Clifford Szczech	11/30/2022	Barbara A. Bakke	1/15/2023



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### Stella Maris “Saints” visit the Sisters

What a delight to have the 1st grade students from Stella Maris Academy visit the Sisters on the Feast of All Saints Day, November 1, 2022.

More than 50 first graders came dressed as their favorite Saint, sang several songs, and visited with the Sisters. At the end, the Sisters thanked them with treats and applause.



*Each child shares the name of their Saint.*

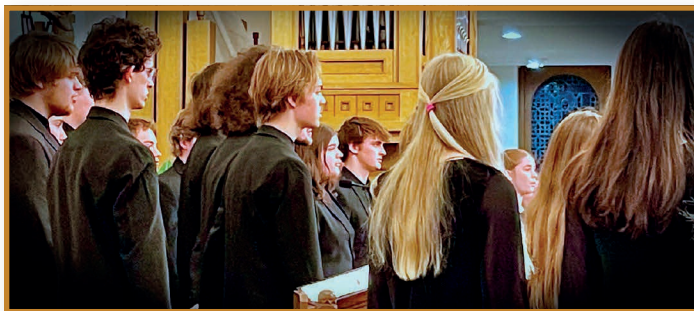


*Sister Kathleen Hofer talks with ‘St. Benedict’.*

The Academy provides a good Catholic education from kindergarten through 10th grade. Although we no longer teach or administer at the many schools we founded, we continue to financially and prayerfully support Catholic education in Duluth. In our prayer advocacy, Sisters pray for every parish, for sponsored healthcare and educational institutions, and for various special needs groups in the Diocese. Four Sisters in particular pray every day for the needs of Stella Maris Academy.

## Advent Vespers with the College

Each year on the first Tuesday in Advent, the Sisters welcome faculty and students of The College of St. Scholastica to sing and pray Vespers. It is an evening of beauty, calm reflection, and peace before final exams.



The College Concert Choir circled the altar and sang ‘A Place Called Home’ by Michael Joncas, which speaks of welcoming the weary and outcast, and the Latin hymn ‘Ave Maris Stella’ by Mark Thomas.

In the Gospel of Luke, Bishop Daniel Felton of the Diocese of Duluth read the story of Mary’s visit with her cousin Elizabeth, and sang the Magnificat in his deep, resonant voice.

Then all picked up lit candles and joined the crowd outside for the lighting of Tower Hall that begins Advent at the College. A time of hope.



*Sister Mary Josephine Torborg and Sister Agnes Atai Ongodia pass out candles in the cloister.*



# Sisters in Ministry, Continued

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION, CONTINUED

### The Sisters and College celebrate our shared Benedictine heritage

On October 24, The College of St. Scholastica invited the Sisters to a celebration of our Benedictine heritage that has made the College one of the best in Minnesota.

Participants were encouraged to sign their name on a strip of paper. These have been joined in a long chain representing those who carry on the Benedictine charism in education.



Front row: Sisters Josine Krausnick, Gloria Ess, Kathleen Doyle, and Marie Therese Poliquin

Back row: Sisters Donna Schroeder, Mary Josephine Torborg, Therese Carson, Kathleen Hofer, Theresa Spinler, Jayne Erickson, Jeanne Ann Weber; Dr. Barbara McDonald (CSS President), and Prioress Beverly Raway



President Dr. Barbara McDonald and Sr. Beverly Raway enjoy a laugh together.

Photos courtesy of The College of St. Scholastica

## SUPPORTING REFUGEES

### Christmas cards for refugee families

On the weekend before Thanksgiving, some Sisters make Christmas cards for the children of refugees who hope to be admitted to our country. This past year, Sisters Beverly Raway, Dorene King, Jeanne Ann Weber, Mary Susan Dewitt, and Therese Carson created winter scenes and greeted the families in Spanish or English.



Handmade Christmas cards for refugee families

### Teaching English to an asylum seeker

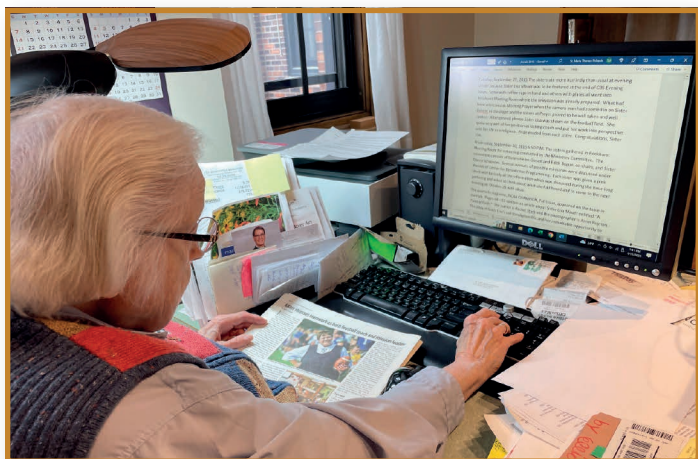
When François, a young man from Burkina Faso, came to Duluth, he was welcomed at a Catholic Worker house. He had learned French to help him travel but spoke little English. Sister Marie Therese Poliquin, 97, who is fluent in French, offered to teach him English. A warm friendship quickly developed. We wish François all the best as he builds a new life in America.



François and Sr. Marie Therese Poliquin.



## Keeping the Community Annals



*Sister Marie Therese summarizes a newspaper article about a Sister's work for the Annals.*

Sister Marie Therese Poliquin began keeping the Annals in August 2013. These are a detailed day-by-day account of our ministries, celebrations, meetings, continuing Formation, and events.

She was appointed Annalist by Prioress Lois Eckes on the suggestion of +Sister Margaret Clarke, who recognized her organizational skills and attention to detail. Sister had learned to keep annals while in ministry at St. Bridget School in Minneapolis.

She said with a laugh, "I never get caught up, but I love doing it. I have learned to keep some written records as backup."

## HEALTH CARE

### Remembering Loved Ones

In December, Sister Joan Marie Stelman collaborated in the Light of Love celebration in Shakopee, Minnesota. Organized by Saints Foundation, the fundraising arm for St. Francis Regional Medical Center and Benedictine Living Community Shakopee, it helps employees and residents honor those who have died in the past year. There is a tree lighting ceremony and caroling by local students. Family and friends hang ornaments on the tree in memory of their loved ones.



*Residents and caregivers gather for Light of Love.*



*Sister Joan Marie is the Senior Vice President of Mission Integration for Benedictine, one of the Health Systems founded by our Community.*

*From left, Sisters Helen Jane Jaeb, Joan Marie Stelman, Dianne Perry. Sisters Helen and Dianne are from the School Sisters of Notre Dame.*

## Supporting Mothers and Children

Sister Lisa Maurer met Santa at the toy giveaway at Women's Care Center in Duluth, which provides support and medical care to pregnant women and their children. She chairs their Board of Directors.



## Supporting Essentia Health Caregivers

At Christmas, Sister Pauline Micke visited St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth to serve cookies and tea to employees.





## Sister Johnetta Maher turns 100

Sister Johnetta Maher celebrated her 100th birthday with her Community and family members on November 7, 2022. Her family visited together in her room and then joined the Community for the party.



*Sister Johnetta with one of her yarn cats, 2018*

Born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, from an early age Genevieve Maher felt called to become a teacher. She was introduced to the Duluth Benedictines as a Home Economics student at The College of St. Scholastica. In her second year, she entered the Community as a postulant, taking the name Johnetta after St. John the Evangelist. Sister Johnetta served as a Home Economics teacher at Stanbrook Hall and Cathedral High School for 20 years. She then went on to teach in the Home Economics department at The College of St. Scholastica for 31 years. Following her retirement from the College, Sister Johnetta served as coordinator of the Monastery dining room and cared for our Heritage collection of art and furniture.



*Sister Johnetta's family: Jim Vidmar, Janet and John Vidmar, and David Vidmar, with Sister Mary Josephine Torborg and Sister Beverly Raway*

## All Souls Day



Each year, as the bright colors of autumn fade, we remember those Sisters who have died since the previous All Souls Day. For a week their photos and biographies appear in the Chapel Gathering Space. Last November, we remembered Sister Melanie Gagne's laughter and Sister Grace Marie Braun's wise, gentle leadership. They wait for us on the other side in the host of loved ones who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.

## Advent, Christmas, Epiphany



*Advent still-life*



*Sisters Theresa Spinler and Jayne Erickson wrapping tree with lights*

Every Advent, Sister Theresa Spinler creates a still-life behind the ambo in chapel, using stones and drift wood from Lake Superior beaches, tall water vessels, and bolts of cloth to create visual movement. It helps guide our private Advent meditations.

During the last week of Advent, a tall spruce or balsam takes its place. White miniature lights are spread on its branches.



## During the Christmas Season...



...one or another Sister will sit in the darkened Chapel before Prayer to enjoy the lights. Such quiet and peaceful traditions connect one year to the next and keep our memories alive.

After the last years of isolation, we were blessed to have guests join us for the First Mass of Christmas and add their voices to ours.



Afterwards we gathered around the Nativity to sing "Silent Night." A party followed in the dining room.



*Our Christmas Nativity in the Gathering Space*

**On the Feast of Epiphany** the Sisters gather in the front hallway for a traditional House Blessing, to place our Community and buildings under the protection of God. We read from the *Rule of St. Benedict*, Chapter 53: The Reception of Guests, and ask God's blessing on our ministry of Hospitality, both to our guests and to each other. "All who come are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"



*Sister Beverly Raway blesses the Community*



With red chalk, Sister Theresa Spinler marks the lintel of the door with 20 + C + M + B + 23, for the year 2023 and the initials of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. 'C M B' also refer to the Latin words 'Christus mansionem benedicat', May Christ bless the house.

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