

# PATHWAYS



Newsletter of the Duluth Benedictine Sisters, Duluth, Minnesota

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# PATHWAYS

NEWSLETTER  
of the Benedictine Sisters

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*Consummatum Est* by  
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## Dear Friends of the Monastery,

Greetings and blessings as we move into the Lenten season, which once again begins on Valentine's Day as it did in 2018. I reflected then on the significance of the "heart connections" between these two celebrations and the readings for Ash Wednesday. The prophet Joel acclaims, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts not your garments and return to the Lord your God" (Joel 2: 12-13a). The psalmist's response includes the plea, "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me" (Psalm 51 vs. 10). I jokingly suggested to a group of Sisters that this year we ought to be marked with ashes in the shape of a heart. And then I began to ask myself, what could wearing a heart mean? What difference would that make? And why do we mark our foreheads, when the readings of Lent urge us not to make a show of our giving of alms, to pray in secret, and to "wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting" (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)?



Checking out the meaning of heart symbols on the internet, I found a stunning array of meanings for the variety of heart emojis (those colorful icons you can add to a text or email message). In general, the heart is a stand-in for the word love, as in I ❤️ NY. The texts also caution one to choose an appropriate colored heart to convey an intended message. A black heart, it is suggested, symbolizes "deep, embarrassing, romantic love" – surely not the message intended by the scriptures for Lent.

So, what does the wearing of ashes in the form of a cross symbolize? First, the sprinkling of ashes on the head, or sitting in ashes as described in the Old Testament (Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3, Jonah 3:1-10), was a sign of repentance and symbolized recognition of the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with one another. The message we hear, as the cross is traced on our forehead, is "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (the Good news). Secondly, ashes represent a sign of our mortality, our frailty and vulnerability summarized in the words spoken, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." And the cross represents the reality that the source of that forgiveness comes to us through the Gospel message of Jesus, who took the cross upon himself and suffered that we might know God's unconditional love even until death.

This is certainly a time in our country and around the world when there is a need for forgiveness and reconciliation between family members, colleagues, peoples, and nations. It is a time to recognize our need for each other, a time to show our solidarity with one another, to support one another in our frailty and vulnerability. We are all guilty of sin either directly or by omission. We acknowledge in the sign of the cross our willingness to begin anew, to repair brokenness wherever we find it, and to build peace in our hearts and in our homes.

Andrew Davis in *Give Us This Day* (February 2024, p. 126) asks, "Are you the type of person who wipes off your ashes immediately...or do you leave them on your forehead the rest of the day?" While we might be tempted to "wash our faces," as scripture advises, the wearing of the cross in solidarity with others is a powerful symbol that we recognize our own vulnerabilities. It is also, as Sister Therese advises in her reflection, a sign that "we are made for life beyond our bodies and minds," and "it is in the confession of your brokenness that real strength and everlasting life can be affirmed and made visible."

Blessings and peace,

Sister Beverly Raway, OSB

# A Brush with the Passion

by Sister Therese Carson

***"Grief can be the garden of compassion.  
If you keep your heart open through everything,  
your pain can become your greatest ally in  
your life's search for love and wisdom."***

**~ Rumi**

After a stroke last autumn, as I tried to order my thoughts about the experience, I began to view it in the context of the passion and death of Christ. In this journey I was aided by daily emailed quotes by the Belgian philosopher and theologian Henri Nouwen, <https://henrinouwen.org/> where he describes suffering as a pathway to a fuller life with God. St. Benedict adjures monastics to keep death always in mind, and certainly this brought me face to face with my very real mortality. Lying in the trauma room at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, paralyzed and apparently floating in white emptiness, I was filled with peace and a loving Presence, and felt only joy and deep gratitude for the stroke team who quietly assessed me, dissolved the clot, and brought me back. I survived because of the outstanding caregivers in Emergency, ICU, and Neurology. Returning home, I became profoundly exhausted, with speech difficulties and disorientation within my body and my surroundings – all normal sequelae of an ischemic stroke. Thanks to quick intervention the brain was essentially intact, but as I returned to my ministries, problems emerged. Musical notation is now a mystery, my left knee buckles without warning, and I must keep reminding myself where I am headed and how to get there, or I lose my way. A certain detachment from past and future events means I live almost completely in the present, a benefit for contemplatives but problematic for active ministry. There is no certainty I will regain these and other small losses – but it is all right. I accept, adapt, and move on. As I recover, I keep hearing my departed father talk about the

fallow season in his large garden that fed our large family. "After the last harvest I turn the soil and dig in compost, and the earth lays empty through winter and regains its strength" — and his tired body did, too, every winter. I claim this fallow season as mine, to rest, regain strength, and let God's voice sink deeply into me; to sift out what to let go, and hold onto what gives me life. My spirit has brushed against the infinite and touched God, and the joyful wound has opened me to His divine will. In those eagerly awaited emails, Henri Nouwen told me about this passage of life. "Every time there are losses there are choices to be made. You can choose to live your losses as passages to anger... or you can let these be passages to something new, something wider, and deeper, ... an exodus to greater life and freedom. ... Christians celebrate moments of joy, but also moments of pain, thus affirming God's real presence in the thick of our lives. ... There is always a reason to hope, even when your eyes are filled with tears." God has indeed opened passages to new possibilities. Having experienced cerebral trauma from the inside, I understand it more than ever, and have been transformed by it. It has helped in my ministry at the Medical Center, where I bring the Real Presence in Communion to aid the healing ministry of Christ. St. Benedict asks that we daily look towards death so that we can let go what is transient and keep our eyes on God. Now this message sings to me of hope and joy. God says, "My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect through your weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). I know that another stroke may come without warning – and I have brushed against death and no longer fear it. As Nouwen said, "It is in the confession of your brokenness that the real strength of new and everlasting life can be affirmed and made visible." What more can we ask of the One who loves us in life, through death, and for eternity?



# Go and Make Disciples

by Sister Lisa Maurer

*The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:16-20)

Before Jesus ascends into heaven, he gives the Great Commission to "go and make disciples." He gives each of us the mission to spread His message and to bring people to Him. That is our call, whether we are single or married, young or old, priest or religious sister. In his apostolic exhortation *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, Pope Paul VI says, "Thus it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole." It is the vocation of all of us to "go and make disciples."

How do we do that? How do we live out Jesus' Great Commission? How can we, right now in our daily lives lead people to Jesus? How do we "go and make disciples?"

**Deepen Your Relationship with God.** Being a disciple maker, like most anything, begins with ourselves. Spend time deepening your relationship with God, allow Him to transform your life. It is when we are walking with God and spending time in prayer that we will have a fullness from which we can offer something to others.

**Be Yourself.** Remember that God has given you the mission to "go and make disciples." Allow God to use your uniqueness to draw people to Jesus. Be creative and think about how you can use your unique gifts and



**Sister Lisa (at center in top row) and students from The College of St. Scholastica made disciples by offering Confirmation retreats.**

talents to spread the Gospel. If you like to bake, use baking. If you are involved in sports, use sports. If you are a good singer, use your music. Whatever gifts and talents you have, share them with others and share them for the good of the Kingdom.

**Be Intentional.** Be intentional about spreading the Gospel. When you share your baking, relate it to the generosity of God. When you are playing sports, show good sportsmanship and give the reason for your actions. When you sing, sing for the glory of God. Whether you know it or not, you have what you need to "go and make disciples." You just have to choose to do it. Share your own story. Tell people how Jesus is Lord of your life.

**Trust in God.** You might feel that living out the Great Commission is too big a task for you. Truth be told, it is! That is why Jesus' very last words, before His Ascension were "I am with you always." And that is why He gave us the Holy Spirit. We are to do our part and trust in God to bring our works to completion for the good of His Kingdom.

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

# An Oblate Journey: Word and Spirit

by Dave Mesner, Obl.OSB (Oblate of St. Scholastica Monastery)



Dave Mesner

Before Jesus speaks a word in the Gospel of Mark, this happens: The heavens are “torn apart.” The Spirit descends. A voice speaks: “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.”

Word and Spirit come to earth through a “ripped” heaven! Is this still happening? Jesus says “Yes!” Every word and action of his is an expression of Word and Spirit. Mark says “Yes!”

This unfinished Gospel calls all disciples to live out Word and Spirit. I say “Yes!” This is the deepest explanation of my call to become an Oblate.

Word and Spirit entered my heart through spiritual direction, *Lectio Divina*, the power of the lectionary, and the living liturgy of the people of God. This heart-calling as an Oblate unfolded in three places and continues today.

## **The Center for Spiritual Development,**

**Bird Island, MN:** My wife Joyce and I were called to southwestern Minnesota in 1987 to begin our ministries. Within a few years I had completed my Ph.D. Dissertation (Paul’s Use of Hebrew Scripture in Romans) from Northwestern University and had begun my pastoral ministry at Bergen Lutheran Church in rural Granite Falls. And Word and Spirit were calling us deeper! We both were introduced to the practice of spiritual direction with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at the Center. We ultimately completed the preparation program offered by the Center and were both certified as spiritual directors. My final project in the certification process was a *Lectio Divina* reading of Romans. Word and Spirit transformed my heart through a robust reading of the text, understanding the text through meditation, praying, and living the Word in the power of the Spirit. I am called to the depth of life-long spiritual nourishment through spiritual direction and the daily joy of *Lectio Divina*.

**Saint John’s Abbey, Collegeville, MN:** Word and Spirit led me to accept an invitation from Luther Seminary to equip pastors to preach the lectionary. I learned the powerful significance of Vatican II and the role of the monks of Saint John’s Abbey in the liturgical renewal. For eighteen years I was blessed to teach the spirituality of the Revised Common Lectionary while living out my calling as a parish pastor. Saint John’s Abbey became a spiritual home for me through retreats and sabbath times. To become an Oblate of St. Benedict was a natural next step. I celebrate the Rule of Benedict as a commentary on the biblical text, and a hermeneutical guide for living the Word. Placing my Oblate commitment on the altar of the Abbey Church was a powerful moment, a culmination and celebration of Word and Spirit.

**St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN:** In 2004 I accepted a call to become Lead Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Duluth. Joyce and I had already begun participating in the ministry of St. Scholastica Monastery through spiritual direction and retreat offerings at McCabe Renewal Center. Attending Oblate gatherings at St. John’s became difficult, and in 2008 I transferred my Oblation to St. Scholastica Monastery.

I have been blessed to experience consistent and deeply nourishing spiritual direction through a serious cancer healing process, a pandemic, and all the good times. We have celebrated four collaborations of bringing *The Saint John’s Bible* to our community. In 2017 we celebrated the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation, guided by *The Joint Declaration on Justification, From Conflict to Communion*, and *The Saint John’s Bible*. Word and Spirit continue to transform and nourish my heart as I live out my calling as an Oblate. Thanks be to God!

**For information about the Oblate program contact**  
**Jane Dolter, Obl.OSB at 218.391.4516**  
**or [janedolter@msn.com](mailto:janedolter@msn.com).**





# Navigating the Lenten Fog

by Dawn Carrillo



Dawn Carrillo

I don't know about you, but sometimes winter makes me feel as if I am moving through a fog: interminable hours of darkness each day, and ice, snow, and freezing temperatures greeting every one of my daily efforts. Did you know that fog can actually decrease the amount of oxygen in the air? For me, winter – and my longing for the

end of it – can seem like a fog, depriving me of my ability to be present now, to breathe in the present moment, and obstructing my vision so that I do not always clearly see what is right in front of me. I have to be diligent in remaining faithful to my morning practices of silence and meditation, anchoring me in the present moment. I focus, with intention, on the rugged beauty of winter in Duluth and try to begin each day with a heart of gratitude.

These kinds of practices, along with all the wonderful connections I am blessed to make in the sacred work that I do, truly help me navigate the fog of winter, or any difficult period I experience. Now, I am aware that some people love fog – my eldest child, for one. I find fog oppressive and a bit spooky. But since my daughter was a young child, fog has attracted and mystified her. She loves to walk in the fog (not on the roads, of course!), encountering the dewy mist, noticing how things sound different in fog, and being open to the potential for seeing the world and herself in new ways. No matter how we feel about fog, it is certainly true that it can teach us.

And now, we encounter the Lenten journey before us...another stretch of fog, of yearning for clarity of vision for ourselves, God, and the world around us. Through the age-old practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we enter the fog with intention, seeking a spiritual "reset," if you will. Hopefully, by Easter,

we have improved our ability to see, hear, and feel. Hopefully, we are more aware, more authentic, more loving people as we gather to remember and celebrate the dying and rising of Jesus, the Christ. A poem by Beverly Fontaine called "Lenten Fog" expresses this beautifully:

*We enter now a season  
that was made for fog:  
dismal and damp,  
boundaries uncertain.  
We enter in with tenuous steps.  
We whisper little promises to ourselves  
and hope to see at end  
a bright new clarity, at best,  
at least, a difference.  
Unsure of our direction,  
yet we start -  
we move toward something better,  
higher,  
more.  
Or less.*

At the Center, we accompany people through the journeys in their lives. As you navigate your own Lenten fog, we invite you to consider the many offerings we have to help nourish you along the way. 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 you,

Dawn Carrillo  
Director of the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment



# Chum Duluth Celebrates Its Fiftieth Anniversary

by Sister Kathleen Hofer

St. Scholastica Monastery has long been a supporter of those in need. For over 25 years we have been an active part of Chum (Churches United in Ministry) as a member congregation. This year Chum is celebrating 50 years of providing love, support, and assistance to those in Duluth facing homelessness, hunger, and poverty. We are one of 40 congregations committed to the work of Chum. Its Mission Statement is,

***People of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.***

As an active member of Chum, the Monastery provides support with Sisters serving on the Board and other leadership roles as well as volunteering in the many works of Chum. Twice a week we send food from our noon and evening meals to feed those in Chum's Drop-In Center and Emergency Shelter. We have supported its programs financially for many years.

Chum's services for the homeless include a Street Outreach program, an ongoing Emergency Shelter, an overnight Warming Center in the winter months, a Drop-In Center open 24 hours a day, a large Food Shelf, Steve O'Neill Apartments for families with children who have experienced long-term or recurrent homelessness, and St. Francis Apartments which provide permanent supportive housing for older adults who are experiencing homelessness.

St. Mary's Medical Center, located in the struggling Central Hillside neighborhood of Duluth, has been a major supporter of Chum. In 1991 they helped finance a parish nursing program begun by Chum, and in 1996 provided funds to renovate the building which now serves as the Chum Food Shelf in downtown Duluth. In 1995 an unfortunate fire destroyed portions of the Chum Drop-In Center, and in February 1997 a capital campaign was formed to renovate and expand the Center and the Emergency Shelter. St. Mary's was a major supporter of the campaign, which was chaired by



**Sue and Rick Sommer pick up food from Sr. Lois Eckes to bring to Chum.**

Sister Kathleen Hofer, then-President of the Medical Center. It was brought to a successful completion with a total of \$1.4 million raised. Over the years St. Mary's has supported Chum Health and Wellness services by providing funds for a medical practitioner at the Drop-In Center. Essentia Health, to which St. Mary's Medical Center belongs, has further supported Chum ministries through grants from its Community Health program, and its employees volunteer their time at Chum.

The number of people helped by Chum continues to grow. In a recent year Chum's Food Shelf served close to 200 households; over 600 people were served by the Warming Center; the number of shelter bed nights provided was approximately 40,000 (averaging over 100 shelter guests per night); and Chum continues to assist adults and families in their return to stable housing.

With all Chum has done over the years to serve the homeless, a major goal is to reduce/eliminate homelessness. Chum is a leading organization in the *Stepping On Up* program, working with other nonprofits in a five-year-plan addressing unsheltered and homeless in Duluth.





# Chum Duluth Celebrates Its Fiftieth Anniversary

*continued from page 8*



*by Sister Kathleen Hofer*

Phase One of the plan provides Authorized Living Zones: safe designated outdoor spaces to provide people living outside with security, basic hygiene and sanitation, and regular contact with a street outreach worker.

Phase Two will add a minimum of 100 beds to Duluth shelter capacity, including places for those released from the prison system who need help living independently again, building their work skills, and re-entering the work force.

Phase Three will add at least 200 units of permanent housing designed to support community and personal growth for those who were previously homeless. These can be hotel/motel conversions, tiny homes, and dorm-style apartments.

The *Stepping On Up* program is collaborative, working with many other groups in the Duluth area to create multiple pathways for stabilization. The final details will be adapted as we learn more and as the needs of unhoused people change. See <https://steppingonupduluth.org/> for information on how you can help.

Over the years the Benedictine Sisters have been pleased to partner with Chum as we carry out our vision and values. We are grateful that this faith-based organization exists in the Duluth community. Chum's mission and works, plus the works of our sponsored ministries, together strengthen our commitment to serve the poor and disadvantaged. Congratulations to Chum for its ongoing and growing service to the homeless in our city.



***Sister Kathleen Hofer recently retired from the Chum Duluth Board of Directors after years of service.***

## Please Pray for Our Deceased Family and Friends

Jeanette Waldorf ..... 7/11/2022  
 Elizabeth H. McGough.....8/20/2023  
 Patricia Ann Starboard .....10/30/2023  
 William Joseph Croke .....11/23/2023  
 Zora Forneris .....11/30/2023  
 Roseann Wagner .....12/9/2023  
*Sister-in-law of Sr. Annella Wagner*  
 Joan Walkowiak.....12/23/2023  
*Oblate*

Kathryn Jane Wrazidlo .....1/6/2024  
 Judy Mary Loraas .....1/10/2024  
 James Joseph Mongé.....1/14/2024  
 Winifred Winkleman .....1/16/2024  
 Thomas Milton Black .....1/21/2024  
 Irene Mae Moser .....1/22/2024  
 Ann Mars .....1/27/2024

# Undoing the Knots: St. Mary's Medical Center Clinical Pastoral Education Center

by Mary L. Parks, Oblate of St. Benedict, Program Associate at St. Mary's CPE Center, Chaplain at Essentia Health

Several years ago, I found myself at a crossroads. A voice inside of me was saying that I needed to find work that was more authentic to my soul. I decided to investigate opportunities in health care after experiencing the death of a loved one in a medical setting. My choice to work for Essentia Health was inspired by another experience, the birth of my son. My primary care provider, an Essentia physician, demonstrated Benedictine hospitality by honoring my personal wishes. I wanted to be part of an organization with that kind of respect for individual human dignity.

My career at Essentia began as a receptionist for Miller-Dwan Medical Center. As I continued exploring opportunities that spoke to my heart, I moved into positions with the Radiology Department, the Cancer Center, and Physician Credentialing. At the same time, I completed training to volunteer as a group leader for the Grief Support Department. The instructor for the training was a chaplain at St. Mary's Medical Center. Remembering the chaplain who had been so helpful during my loved one's death, I expressed my regret at not having attended seminary. "I would have loved to be a chaplain," I said. She then told me about Clinical Pastoral Education, often referred to as "CPE."



**2021-2022 "Super Extended" CPE Group (left to right): Rev. Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Rachelle Swansen, Ann Beck, Rev. Mort Nelson Meyenburg, Mary L. Parks, and Program Manager Rev. Sonja Anderson.**

CPE is personal and professional development for ministry. As I soon discovered, CPE was available at Essentia Health. Furthermore, a seminary degree was not required. I immediately contacted Sister Judith Oland, who was the CPE program manager at the time. Sister Judith encouraged me, but she also made sure I understood that CPE would require a lot of my energy. With a young child at home, as well as other life commitments, I wasn't sure I had that kind of energy to spare. I set the idea of becoming a chaplain aside.

As time passed, however, I continued to sense that there was something more waiting for me. Eventually I decided to revisit the idea of participating in the CPE program. Sister Judith had since passed away, but the current program manager, Rev. Sonja Anderson, encouraged me to apply. Emboldened by her assurance that my lack of formal theological education was not a barrier, I shared more of my personal story with Sonja. Wouldn't my history of addiction disqualify me for work in ministry? To my surprise, Sonja informed me that my experience would be an asset and that my perspective was needed.

I decided to enroll in the CPE program and to say that it was not what I expected would be an understatement.



**CPE staff at the 2023 ACPE National Conference in New Orleans, LA (left to right): Rev. Kate Kolmodin, Mary L. Parks, Rev. Sonja Anderson.**

*continued on page 11*



# Undoing the Knots: St. Mary's Medical Center Clinical Pastoral Education Center

*continued from page 10*



***In the CPE program: Sr. Michaela Hedican of St. Benedict's Monastery, Mary Parks, Sr. Sue Fortier of St. Scholastica Monastery.***

I assumed that I would be trained in visiting hospital patients, responding to traumas, and documenting what I did in the computerized record keeping system. That much was true. What I did not anticipate was the life-changing inner work I was to complete within the safety of my CPE group and my personal sessions with Sonja. I also did not expect the transformative power of unconditional acceptance, which I received from both Sonja and my clinical mentor in the hospital, Sister Sue Fortier.

I have now completed four units of CPE and currently work as Program Associate for St. Mary's CPE Center. In this role, I serve as a chaplain for Essentia Health and



***An image the author found helpful during her personal CPE process "Our Lady, Mary Undoer of Knots," ink drawing by Daniel Mitsui / [www.danielmitsui.com](http://www.danielmitsui.com) (Used with permission).***

also work with current CPE students. Our students represent those interested in hospital chaplaincy, as well as those pursuing ministry in other settings. The Benedictine value of hospitality is a priority for the program, but belonging to a particular faith tradition is not a requirement. What matters is a willingness to undo the inner knots which prevent each of us from being fully present to others. CPE provides a supportive environment in which students can do this intense inner work, allowing each of them the space they need to "listen with the ear of the heart."

***St. Mary's CPE Center is accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. For further information, please email [cpe@essentiahealth.org](mailto:cpe@essentiahealth.org).***



***The 2023 Autumn CPE group, led by Certified Educator Candidate Fellow Rev. Kate Kolmodin, walking the labyrinth at McCabe Renewal Center.***



# Father Corbin Eddy, Monastic Chaplain

by Theresa Butler, Development Office Administrative Assistant

The Sisters are blessed to have a new resident chaplain at the Monastery: Father Corbin Eddy. Father Corbin moved to Duluth in August 2023 and is especially happy to remain on the shores of Lake Superior, having been brought up on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

Father Corbin grew up in a strong Catholic family. He was one of three children to parents Corbin and Helen. His mother attended daily Mass and was very much involved in the Council of Catholic Women at the local, diocesan, and national levels. His father was organist and choir director at their parish. Father Corbin attended St. Ignatius of Loyola school in Houghton, Michigan, taught by the Sisters of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. As a child he learned to play the organ and piano and developed a lifelong love of church music. He felt very much at home playing the organ and serving at Mass, so it felt right for him to attend seminary and to consider the priesthood for himself.

He attended St. Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin for high school and junior college and later the Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. His theological studies leading to ordination were taken at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan, where he earned a Master of Divinity, and a Bachelor's in Sacred Theology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.



**Father Corbin at his baptism in 1942: Fr. N.J. Raymond, Alice Perreault (grandmother) holding Corbin, and Muriel Eddy, CSS 1949 (Godmother).**

He was ordained for the Diocese of Marquette in 1968 and was sponsored by the Sulpician Fathers for further graduate studies, earning a Master of Theology from the University of Ottawa, Canada and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from St. Paul University, Ottawa. He was then assigned to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland where he taught from 1974-1980. He was encouraged to pursue doctoral studies but believed he was better suited for parish ministry and undergraduate teaching.

At the invitation of Archbishop Plourde of Ottawa, he returned to Canada and spent twenty years as a pastor and adjunct instructor at St. Paul University. On the website of St. Basil's Parish where he served for eight years, he is remembered in glowing terms as "a brilliant liturgist and homilist and superb musician who brought with him others of great expertise, which made the parish a very special place, renowned for the quality of its worship." While he was serving at St. Basil's there were parishioners that especially appreciated his homilies and began recording them for broader circulation. A friend at St. Paul University asked if he would consider preparing them for publication. With the help of diocesan staff, his homilies were published by *Novalis* in three volumes corresponding to liturgical years A, B, and 3.



**Fr. Corbin shares memories of the Upper Peninsula with fellow "Yooper" Sr. Theresa Jodocy.**

*continued on page 13*



# Father Corbin Eddy, Monastic Chaplain

by Theresa Butler, Development Office Administrative Assistant      continued from page 12



**Fr. Corbin at the Presentation of Gifts in Sunday Eucharist at Benedictine Living Community-Duluth.**

In 2000 the Sulpicians invited Father Corbin back to St. Mary's in Baltimore where he served as Assistant Professor of Liturgy and Homiletics, Director of Music, and Spiritual Director for the Center for Continuing Formation of Clergy.

In 2007, Father Corbin retired from seminary teaching and returned to his roots. He bought a house in Hancock on Michigan's Keweenaw

Peninsula and began establishing what would become a magnificent garden. He visited his mother, who was living near Chicago, and taught at Finlandia University, an Evangelical Lutheran liberal arts college in Hancock. He continued to serve in area parishes as needed.

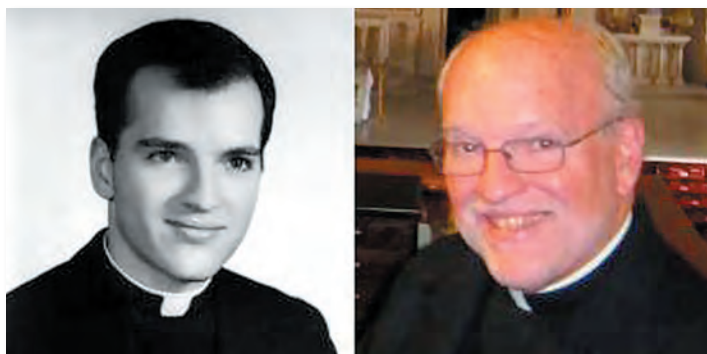
When he came to Duluth in connection with an organists' convention in 2022, he visited the College and Monastery of St. Scholastica. He had heard about it from his cousin and godmother Muriel Eddy Baril, who graduated from CSS in nursing in 1949. He returned to the Monastery for Holy Week in Our



**Fr. Corbin gives a sermon at Mass on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.**

Lady Queen of Peace Chapel and felt at home praying and visiting with the Sisters. After investigating independent living options, the Sisters suggested that he may want to consider living at the Monastery itself.

At the Monastery, Father Corbin celebrates Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel every



**50th Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Corbin T. John Eddy took place Sunday, June 3, 2018, Martha Wiljanen Community Hall Finnish American Heritage Center.**

Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and plays organ for Morning and Evening Prayer. He helps as needed with Masses and confessions for The College of St. Scholastica and at Benedictine Living Community – Duluth.

Father Corbin's dog Jasper moved with him from Michigan to Minnesota and into the small apartment long reserved for visiting or resident priests. Jasper has been Father Corbin's companion for eight years and is now 16. In October Father Corbin led a Blessing of Pets at the Monastery and College for the Feast of St. Francis and Jasper was present for it all. (See *Pathways* for Advent 2023.)

A favorite source of inspiration for Father Corbin over the years has been a meditation by Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman.

***God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know what it is in this life. But I shall be told in the next.***

***I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good, I shall do His work. Therefore, I will trust Him.***

***Whatever, wherever I am, I cannot be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain, He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink. Hide my future from me – still He knows what He is about.***

**~ Saint John Henry Newman**

## Vocation Week



*Sr Dorene with students for Vocation Week 2023.*

In November we honored National Vocations Week (November 5 – 11) with events at The College of St. Scholastica. Sister Lisa set up an information booth outside Storm's Den where various Sisters spoke with students about what it is like to be a vowed religious Sister. Here, Sister Dorene King meets with two students.

## Bishop's Dinner at Stella Maris Academy

On October 29, our Sisters attended the Bishop's Dinner to help raise funds for Catholic Education at Stella Maris Academy.



*Pictured left to right: Sisters Charity Nkwera, Claudia Cherro, Agnes Atai Ongodia, Danile Lynch, Lois Ann Glaudel, Jayne Erickson, Jeanne Ann Weber and Dorene King. Not pictured but present: Sister Kathleen Del Monte.*

## The 'Saints' from Stella Maris Academy

We were blessed on All Saints Day with a visit by these very special First Grade children from Stella Maris Academy dressed as their favorite Saints. They processed in and sang beautifully, bringing us sunshine on a cloudy day. Thank you to the staff of Stella Maris and the children's parents for making the day possible.



*Sisters Theresa Spinler and Clare Marie Trettel with young Saints.*



*Sister Lisa Maurer with St. Therese of Lisieux.*



## Making Christmas Cards for Asylum Seekers

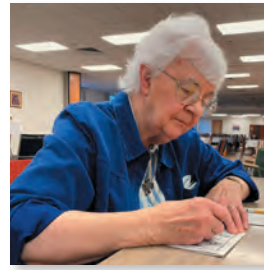
Each year, under the guidance of Sister Dorene King, the Sisters prepare hand-made Christmas cards for children and their families who are seeking asylum in the United States. In November, eight Sisters used their creative talents to bring a little cheer in what is a dark time for these families. Sister Elizabeth Farias (not shown) stopped in to keep our Spanish correct.



*Sister Beverly Raway*



*Sister Dorene King*



*Sister Lois Eckes*



*Sister Therese Carson*



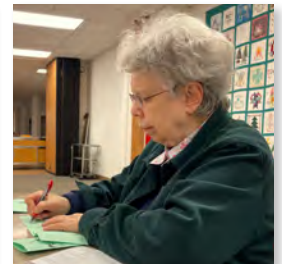
*Sister Pauline Micke*



*Sister Marie Therese Poliquin*



*Sister Theresa Jodocy*



*Sister Jeanne Ann Weber*

## Sister Lisa Maurer Visits St. John's Church in Ortonville, Minnesota



*She spoke at a Women's Breakfast on "Let's Be Saints."*



*She also conducted a retreat for the Confirmation students.*

In January, Sister Lisa traveled to west central Minnesota for her outreach ministry at St. John's Catholic Church in Ortonville.

## Sister Gaudensia Mwanyika Visits Duluth

Sister Gaudensia Mwanyika returned to Duluth in mid-January to raise funds for her school in Tanzania. As part of our twinning relationship with the Congregation of African Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes, we welcome up to two African Benedictine Sisters at a time, providing them with room and board and books – and community – while The College of St. Scholastica provides full scholarships. As part of this program, Sister Gaudensia received a BA and MA in education from the College. During her teaching internships, she was impressed by the mainstreaming of children with developmental disabilities and physical handicaps. This is not the case in public schools in Tanzania. When she went back to Tanzania, she was determined to establish a school that accepted these students.

She raised funds and obtained grants to purchase land near the capital city of Dar Es Salaam, dig a well,



*Sister Gaudensia with students.*

construct classrooms, and buy buses and vans to transport the children to school. At present St. Scholastica School has 460 students in pre-school and kindergarten through grade seven. It is so successful that more children are enrolled each year, and so two new classrooms must be built to accommodate the burgeoning student population. She has come to Duluth to solicit our support.

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery are the fiscal agent for Sister Gaudensia's school and will ensure that



*Tanzania school children.*

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 please make checks payable to St. Scholastica Monastery. Write "Sister Gaudensia" in the memo line. 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 "Sister Gaudensia" in the honor column. Then choose "Twinning (Chile/ Tanzania projects)."

## Sister Beverly Raway Blesses the Hands of Future Nurses

In January, Sister Beverly blessed the healing hands of the junior student nurses of the College of St. Scholastica at their orientation. As they held out their hands she prayed,

***"May your hands and all they do be blessed.  
May they be strong, creative, and gentle.  
May the Spirit guide them. May they provide comfort  
and healing. May their touch remind patients of  
God's divine grace and mercy. May they work with  
compassion, and may they also play and rest in good  
measure. May they feel beauty, create peace, and clap  
with joy. May you be blessed as you learn, respond,  
and serve as a nurse.  
Amen."***



*Sr Beverly blesses the hands of a future nurse.*

She then anointed their hands with oil, an ancient symbol of healing, infused with rosemary, a symbol of remembrance.





## Thom Chartier Makes His Final Oblation



**Sr. Beverly Raway places the oblate pin on Thom Chartier.**



**Sr. Beverly Raway, Jane Dolter (Oblate Director), Thom Chartier, Sisters Lois Eckes and Jayne Erickson (Sister liaisons to the Oblates).**

On November 20, 2023, Thom Chartier made his Final Oblation to our Community.

Oblates are Christian laypeople of any age and of many Christian faith traditions who seek a deeper relationship with God. For Benedictine Oblates, this means following the ancient principles and practices of the Benedictine monastic way of life. Oblates study and reflect on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. With its emphasis on prayer, silence, obedience, building community, and humility, the Rule guides their Christian lives in their parishes or churches, families, workplaces, and in the world.

## Warm Comfort for Our Sisters on Benet Hall

This past autumn the Sisters were delighted to receive a blanket warmer, courtesy of a thoughtful donor who wished to remain anonymous. As we age, we feel the chill more strongly, and even normal room temperatures are too cold. A warm blanket gives comfort and joy and is a daily request from some Sisters.

Thank you to our donor and friend who also loves our dear Sisters.



**Sister Annella Wagner enjoys a blanket from the warmer.**



**New blanket warmer.**



# Advent and Christmas at the Monastery



*Jim Pederson, Sister Teri Spinler, Chris Engstrom, Chris Maki, and Jeremy Goad bringing in the tree.*



*Chapel dressed for Christmas.*



*Milkweed Pod Christmas Star.*



*Crocheted Nativity by Sr. Patricia Anne Williams.*



*Ruth Jimenez, Lisa Askelson, Steve Carlson, Amber Terch, Mike Turner, and Sister Jo Krulc at the Employee Christmas Party.*



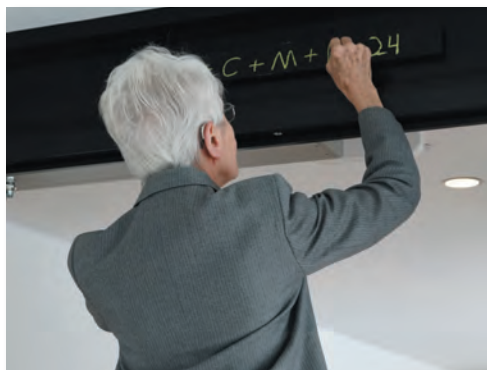
*Advent Vespers with The College of St. Scholastica.*



*Jean Anderson, Sister Dorene King, and Meg Kearns (on piano) caroling at McCabe Renewal Center.*



# Advent and Christmas at the Monastery



*At the Epiphany House Blessing, Sister Beverly Raway blesses the Sisters and Sister Theresa Spinler writes the traditional inscription on the lintel of our new entrance: the initials of the three magi flanked by the year: 20 + C + M + B + 24. 'CMB' also refers to the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."*



*Epiphany blessing of the Community by Sister Beverly Raway.*



*Carolers from the College walked the Monastery halls singing carols.*



*Christmas Eve.*



*The Annual Messiah Sing-Along at the College which Sisters enjoy attending.*

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

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*Monastery Books and Gifts, located in Stanbrook Hall, is a destination for books, gifts, icons, greeting cards, rosaries, medals, First Communion and Confirmation cards, and more.*

*Open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 1:00 to 3:30 pm.*

*For more information, please call (218) 723-6589.*

*If you prefer an electronic copy of Pathways, please email us at [monastery@duluthosb.org](mailto:monastery@duluthosb.org).*