



# Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### Chapter 53. The Reception of Guests



All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say:

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me*  
(Matt 25:35).

Proper honor must be shown to all, especially to those who share our faith (Gal 6:10) and to Pilgrims.



Once a guest has been announced, the superior and the brothers are to meet him with all the courtesy of Love.

First of all, they are to pray together and thus be united in Peace.

but prayer must always precede the kiss of peace because of the delusions of the devil.

All humility should be shown in addressing a guest on arrival or departure. By a bow of the head or by a complete prostration of the body,

Christ is to be adored because he is indeed welcomed in them.





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## Dear Friends of the Monastery,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon our monastic community. Through the grace of God, the strength of our Benedictine tradition, and the generosity of all who walk with us in spirit and support, we continue to be sustained and renewed.

This year, we joyfully celebrated our jubilarians in August, honoring their faithful commitment and inspiring witness to our shared vocation. We were blessed to recognize:

Sister Marie Therese Poliquin – 70 years  
 Sister Mary Josephine Torborg – 70 years  
 Sister Clare Marie Trettel – 70 years  
 Sister Linda Wiggins – 25 years



**Sister Beverly Raway**

I was also humbled and grateful to celebrate my own 60-year jubilee. Each of these milestones reflects a lifetime of prayer, service, and love for our community.

We are profoundly grateful to the incredible volunteers who have contributed over 2,201 hours of service. Your generous gift of time and talent touches every corner of our life here—your presence is a true blessing, and we thank each of you from the depths of our hearts.

We are pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Annual Report, which reflects the impact of your generosity. Over the past year, we received a total of 1,031 contributions, including gifts from 603 donors and 79 first-time donors, amounting to \$373,809.81. Your contributions have supported a wide range of vital initiatives, including visual aids for our Sisters and new computers to help us remain connected and effective in our ministries.

Community Support: .....	\$234,177.94
Retirement: .....	\$9,990.00
Care of Infirm Sisters: .....	\$13,125.00
Center for Spirituality and Enrichment: .....	\$9,445.08
Vocations/Father John Whitney Evans Fund: .....	\$1,870.00
Twinning Monasteries/St. Scholastica School, Tanzania, Sister Gaudensia: .....	\$33,635.00
Special Projects: .....	\$66,441.79
Other (designation by donor): .....	\$5,155.00
Total: .....	\$373,809.81

We want to acknowledge the generous financial gifts given to the Monastery this past year, which have greatly supported our mission and daily life. Your kindness enables us to continue our work of prayer, hospitality, and service in the world.

It is with a mixture of gratitude and hope that I prepare to step down as Prioress. It has been a profound joy and privilege to serve in this role and to share with you the stories and spirit of our community. On August 9, we warmly welcomed and celebrated the installation of our new Prioress, Sister Jeanne Ann Weber, a woman of deep faith, wisdom, and love for the community. We are confident that she will lead us into the future with grace and strength.

May God continue to bless you abundantly, as you have blessed us.

With heartfelt thanks and every blessing,

*Sister Beverly*

Sister Beverly Raway, Prioress

**Mark your calendar for our annual Donor Open House on Sunday, September 28, 2025.  
 Invitations will be sent out later this summer. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, 70 Years

Sister Mary Josephine has worn many hats during her 70 years as a Duluth Benedictine Sister and continues to inspire others and share her gifts with the Community. Josephine was the seventh of 11 children born to parents Henry and Frances. She and her siblings grew up on a farm in Richmond, Minnesota and had the best of both worlds: time to play and explore the countryside but close enough to walk to school and church. She attended Catholic schools from first grade through undergraduate and was educated by Benedictine Sisters and priests. It was at school and church that she fell in love with Catholic rituals, with which she connected deeply. The influence of these Benedictines, including her three aunts who were Duluth Benedictine Sisters (Sisters Athanasius, Benedicta, and Bernice Braegelman), and her family with strong faith values, helped inspire her vocation. By eighth grade she knew God was calling her to the Benedictine life, but she waited to tell her parents and family until she was a senior at Stanbrook Hall High School in Duluth.

Josephine entered the Monastery of St. Scholastica as a postulant on September 8, 1953. She made her first profession of vows in 1955 and her final profession in 1958. As Sister Mary Josephine, she began teaching 3rd grade and 2nd grade at Our Lady of Victory in Minneapolis and later in Brainerd. After nine years of primary grade teaching, Sister was asked to seek a degree in Dietetics from The College of St. Scholastica (CSS). After completing this degree, she served as Director of the Food Service at CSS for five years. After which she served as dietitian at St. Mary's Medical Center for diabetic and cancer patients for nine years.

Sister Mary Josephine was granted a sabbatical and attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, earning a Master's degree in Formative Spirituality. A scholarship allowed her to continue her studies at Duquesne, graduating with a doctorate in Formative Spirituality.



**Sister Mary Josephine**

While completing her dissertation, Sister Mary Josephine taught part time in the Theology and Religious Studies department at CSS. After receiving her Ph.D in Formative Spirituality, she taught full time in the department for more than 30 years. Classes in Spirituality were relatively new in the Theology and Religious Studies department. She considered it a blessing to promote

the development of the human spirit. Sister Mary Josephine also directed 13 Spirituality conferences which were open to College faculty, staff, and students, as well as the greater Duluth community.

Sister Mary Josephine loved working with students and seeing the light dawn in their mind – to see it all begin to make sense for them. In the end, teaching was her greatest calling. Although she no longer is a professor at CSS, she continues to lead retreats for the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment. She has overseen the Community Dining Room and coordinated the dining needs for special events for more than ten years.

Sister finds the daily cycle of *ora et labora* – prayer and work – a very satisfying part of being Benedictine. Prayers set a rhythm for each day, and the work fits into it. A woman of many talents, she has created and sustained beautiful gardens that remain an oasis of peace. She served as the chair of the CSS Garden Committee for 20 years. She learned candle-making and her wedding candles are an inspirational part of the couple's ceremony. Over the years she has also served as trustee on various boards, including St. Mary's Medical Center and Essentia Health.

Congratulations and thanks, Sister Mary Josephine, on living the full life of a Benedictine for 70 years.



## Sister Marie Therese Poliquin, 70 Years

Marie Therese Poliquin was born on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1925, and was given the name 'Marie', the French form of Mary, and 'Therese' after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux who had been canonized the previous year.

Marie Therese's mother was a first generation American. Her mother's parents immigrated from Quebec, arriving in Duluth in 1870 and her father also came from Quebec. They decided to raise their children bilingual, speaking French in the home as well as English. She was the middle child of three, with an older brother and younger sister. Prayer and faith were central to the family. She attended Duluth Normal School for kindergarten, first, and second grade, St. Jean Baptiste School grades 3 through 8, and the Community's Stanbrook Hall High School. There she attended a retreat led by Father Cashin and made up her mind to become a Sister. Her family's strong faith and her Catholic education influenced her decision.

After graduating in 1943, she attended The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) and earned degrees in Instrumental Music and French. There she first heard the Divine Office chanted and it planted a seed that would bear fruit in her vocation. She taught Orchestra and Instrumental Music for one year at Stanbrook Hall. Her mother then asked her if she wanted to go away to school like her siblings had done, and she told her yes, she would like to get her master's degree.

While Marie Therese was a counselor at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan during the summers of 1947 and 1948, she took classes and was accepted into the School of Music at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, earning a Master's in Vocal Music. She taught for three years in Michigan and then decided it was time to pursue a vocation. She researched various religious communities but returned to the Duluth Benedictines, entering the Community on January 4, 1954, in a class of 22 women. Her decision to gain life experience and an education before entering made her the "old sister" of her class.

After the novitiate, Sister Marie Therese taught at Catholic schools in Duluth and Brainerd and served as the Duluth Diocesan Music Supervisor. During a sabbatical she took classes at CSS and the University of Minnesota



**Sister Marie Therese**

Duluth and completed her French major. She then went to Minneapolis where she served for 28 years in education and parish ministry. For 18 years she taught vocal music and piano at St. Bridget's School for 18 years. She remembers with joy teaching the students to sing. They performed at two concerts every year: Christmas and St. Patrick's Day, and she came to know every Irish song.

For her last ten years in Minneapolis, she served at St. Raphael Church in nearby Crystal as Pastoral Minister and Volunteer Coordinator. She oversaw the work of 1500 volunteers in many different tasks and began the Parish Nurse program. It was during her time at St. Raphael that she polished her computer skills, learning Excel spreadsheets to help her track assignments, a talent she continues to use every day at the Monastery.

In 2005, she returned to the Monastery to take on many roles. She oversaw the employees and volunteers who were receptionists at the Monastery Information desk. Since 2013, she has been in charge of the Monastery Annals, recording in detail events, routine or extraordinary, of the Monastic Community. She served as chauffeur to Sisters and was organist and accompanist for Masses and other liturgies. For a while she taught English to François, a French-speaking asylum seeker from Burkina Faso, sharing laughter with him. At present she serves on the Liturgy and Finance Committees. Her strong second soprano voice is welcome in the monastic schola and at the College's Messiah Sing-along every December.

With her hospitality, utterly charming smile, and love of people, her former college students who were her 'Friends Across Campus' continue to stay in touch. She says the most rewarding part of being a Sister is the prayer life and community life. She loves joining the Community at recreation, including the highly competitive Five Hundred card game where she is a frequent winner. We are thankful for the many spiritual and earthly gifts Sister Marie Therese has brought to our Community for 70 years.

***"I try to live each day fully and will be ready when it is time to leave. Meanwhile the Sisters – in Duluth and in Heaven – are waiting for me to come play cards."***

## Sister Clare Marie Trettel, 70 years

For 70 years, Sister Clare Marie Trettel has dedicated her life to God as a Benedictine Sister and has had many blessings along the way. Irene Trettel grew up in Cloquet, Minnesota, the youngest of four children to parents Roman and Mary. She attended Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (now Queen of Peace) in Cloquet for 1st through 8th grade and grew up with the Duluth Benedictine Sisters as her schoolteachers, principal, and parish organist. The Sisters, along with the members of her family who were consecrated religious including Sister Rebecca Burggraff in Duluth, were the major inspiration for her to become a religious Sister.

Following high school, Irene decided to come to The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) in Duluth. An experience with a kind nurse when she was a young girl inspired Irene to pursue nursing. She remembers fondly living in Victory Hall downtown in her first year at CSS and being bussed up to class with fellow students. In the fall of her freshman year Irene went on a retreat, and it was then that her calling to religious life was made evident. In January of 1954, during her freshman year, she entered St. Scholastica Monastery. She received the name Sister Clare Marie.

At the time Sister Clare Marie entered, there were many Sisters who were in the nursing field and not as many who were teachers, so she was asked to switch her major to education. This decision was the start of a rewarding lifelong career in teaching and administration. Initially she wondered whether she would like teaching, as she had her heart set on nursing. However, over the years she received many graces and blessings in her career as an educator.



**Sister Clare Marie**

She began teaching at Catholic schools in Virginia and Minneapolis and then became Principal in Pine City and Brainerd. She enjoyed working with the students and faculty; her favorite grades to teach were 6th through 8th. As principal of the elementary school, every day was different, and she loved her time there. In 1982, she became Superintendent of Schools for the

Diocese of Duluth and in 1985 began teaching in the Education Department for CSS.

In 1987, Sister Clare Marie was elected Prioress of the Community for a six-year term. One of the joys of being Prioress was getting to know the Sisters in a much deeper way. As a weekly ritual she visited the Sisters on Benet Hall, our assisted living area, and they looked forward to seeing her each week. She recalls fondly the opportunities she had as Prioress, including traveling with other Prioresses to Benedictine Abbeys in Europe. Following her time as Prioress and a sabbatical, she returned to the CSS Department of Education as the Coordinator of the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction Program. She continued to serve in roles in the CSS Department of Education until her retirement in 2017.

Sister Clare Marie has served on many boards and is a trustee for Essentia, Duluth Benedictine Ministries (DBM), and Benedictine. She has enjoyed and has had many positive experiences serving on boards. One of the greatest joys of being Benedictine has been the friendships she made over the years.

We are thankful for Sister Clare Marie's 70 years of faithfulness and dedication as a Duluth Benedictine Sister.

## Sister Beverly Raway, 60 Years

Sister Beverly, the eldest of nine in a Catholic family, was educated by the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Paul's Monastery. With several cousins who were already Sisters, religious life was an accepted path in life. Encouraged by her godmother and her high school biology teacher, she decided to pursue a college education and enrolled in The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) where she earned a degree in Biology and Secondary Education. Inspired by her Benedictine Sister instructors and their spiritual practices, she entered as a postulant in 1963, made her first profession in 1965, and her final profession in 1971.



**Sister Beverly**

As monastic life evolved after the Second Vatican Council and after 11 years of teaching at Cathedral High School in Duluth, she was granted a year of sabbatical and participated in the CREDO program. This religious renewal program was a life-changing experience which strengthened her faith and led her to pursue new ministries when she returned to Duluth. She served as a pastoral associate for about a year. While teaching biology at CSS and functioning as a dormitory prefect, she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in nursing. For the next four years she worked as a staff nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth in the Urology and Neurology and Special Care units gaining experience and skill in the art of nursing. With encouragement from the President of CSS and in response to the repeated question ... "When are you going to go back to school so you can teach for us?" ... she enrolled in graduate programs at The Catholic

University of America in Washington, DC, completing a master's degree in nursing education and a doctorate in Nursing. Returning to Duluth, she taught Nursing for 22 years at the College of St. Scholastica, including overseeing clinical rotations on the Orthopedic unit of St. Mary's Medical Center. She also traveled seven times to our twinning communities in Tanzania, six of those times with

students participating in the CSS-sponsored service-learning experience, where she made life-long friends with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes.

Sister Beverly was elected Prioress in 2015 and re-elected in 2021, leading the community with dedication for a decade. When the Covid pandemic began, she and Subprioress Beverly Horn drew on their healthcare backgrounds to ensure safety. They regularly consulted CDC and Minnesota health guidelines and adapted communal prayer and other practices as needed.

During her ten years as prioress, she helped found Duluth Benedictine Ministries (DBM) to preserve the Benedictine charism and values in our sponsored ministries and led the Community in decisions about the sale of properties and the optimizing and renovating of living spaces and offices.

***"My journey in life has been sustained by the rhythm of daily prayer, the unconditional love of family, friends, and colleagues, and by the Sisters with whom I have lived and worked."***

***~ Sister Beverly***

## Join Us for a Special Workshop

On Saturday, August 30, 2025, Sister Beverly Raway and Rev. Marina Lachecki will lead *Seven Plants: A Deepened Teaching* through the Monastery's Center for Spirituality and Enrichment.

Explore the wisdom and spirituality of seven remarkable plants in this enriching workshop.

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025

Location: St. Scholastica Monastery – Center for Spirituality and Enrichment

Learn more & register: <https://retreatduluth.org/programs/schedule/>

## Sister Linda Wiggins, 25 Years

Sister Linda became a part of the Community after a long and varied spiritual journey. Born September 2, 1945, she was raised in her mother's Methodist faith. Her first love was literature. At Ohio State University, she studied the literature of the English Renaissance, graduating in 1990 with a PhD in English; her dissertation was on Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. For six years she taught English at OSU. She had married and was blessed with two daughters, Helen and Elaine, but sadly her marriage ended in divorce. In 1993 she moved to Crookston, Minnesota where she taught Communications at the University of Minnesota in Crookston and began their Technical Studies Division. She tutored adults learning English as a second language and cared for residents in respite care.



**Sister Linda**

In God's time, Linda began to feel called to consecrated Benedictine life. In 1996 she moved to Duluth, applied for a marriage annulment, and studied the Catholic faith through the RCIA program at Holy Family Parish. She also took classes to become a certified nursing assistant. In March 1997, with the annulment granted, she was joyfully received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Service and moved into St. Scholastica Monastery as an affiliate. There she helped care for the retired Sisters on Benet Hall while deepening her knowledge of what it means to be Benedictine.

In March 1998, she formally entered the Community as postulant. She made her first monastic profession in April 2000 and her perpetual profession in 2003. She continued to study her faith under the direction of a priest while teaching as adjunct professor in English at The College of St. Scholastica (CSS), where she coordinated the McNair Scholars Program and supported undergraduate students from low-income backgrounds or underrepresented groups in their doctoral studies.

Sister Linda served as a delegate to Duluth's nonprofit CHUM and was a long-time member of Pax Christi Duluth. She helped in the purchase and renovation of the hillside home that became Hildegard House, a Catholic Worker refuge for victims of human trafficking. A talented organist, she played the organ at Liturgy of the Hours beginning in 1997 and continued this life-giving ministry until a few years ago. A dedicated gardener, she also helped design and plant the perennial garden in our courtyard and wrote many inspiring articles for *Pathways Magazine* on the spirituality of gardening.

*With the psalmist she prays: "Already you knew my soul when I was being fashioned in secret and molded in the depths of the earth. ... O search me, God, and know my heart, and lead me in the path of Life eternal" (Psalm 139).*

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## The Oblate Program at St. Scholastica Monastery

The Oblate Program at St. Scholastica Monastery offers a path for lay people to share in the Benedictine way of life while continuing to live and work in the world. Oblates commit themselves to deepening their relationship with God through prayer, study, and service, guided by the Rule of St. Benedict.

Through regular gatherings, retreats, and ongoing formation, oblates grow in community with the Sisters and with one another. They bring Benedictine values into their families, workplaces, and parishes—becoming a living witness of peace, hospitality, and service in daily life.

For more information about becoming an oblate,  
please contact the Oblate Director at St. Scholastica Monastery.



# Planned Giving: Leaving a Lasting Legacy

## Consider a Charitable Bequest to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery

As a cherished friend of St. Scholastica Monastery, your generosity helps sustain our Benedictine way of life—rooted in prayer, community, and hospitality. Because of your support, we are able to carry out our mission and touch countless lives with God’s love.

Now, we invite you to consider a meaningful way to extend your impact: a charitable bequest to St. Scholastica Monastery. A bequest is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to create a legacy that endures far into the future—supporting Sisters and the values you hold dear.



**Lisa Roseth**

### Types of Bequests:

- **Percentage Bequest:** A specific percentage of your estate
- **Specific Bequest:** A set dollar amount or particular asset
- **Residual Bequest:** The remainder of your estate after other gifts are made

### Recognizing Your Legacy: Covenant Donors

Those who include St. Scholastica Monastery in their estate plans are honored as Covenant Donors.

Your name will be inscribed in a special book located in the Eucharistic Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel and on our donor recognition board in the Monastery entryway. It is our heartfelt privilege to recognize and give thanks for your enduring commitment.

### Why Consider a Bequest?

#### Receive an Estate Tax Charitable Deduction

Including the Monastery in your will or trust may reduce estate taxes, helping preserve your legacy.

#### Ease the Burden on Your Loved Ones

A bequest can provide tax advantages while ensuring your family is cared for.

#### Leave a Legacy of Faith and Compassion

Your gift ensures the continuation of our monastic mission for future generations.

#### How a Bequest Works

With the help of your attorney, you can include simple language in your will or trust to designate a gift to St. Scholastica Monastery. You may also name the Monastery as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or other assets.

### We are Here to Help!

If you are considering a bequest or have questions about planned giving, please contact me directly. I would be happy to speak with you—confidentially and without obligation—to help you take the next step in creating your legacy.

With deep gratitude,

Lisa Roseth  
Director of Development & Public Relations  
St. Scholastica Monastery  
(218) 723-6540  
lisaroseth@duluthosb.org

# COVENANT PEOPLE

"Covenant People" is the name of the recognition society that honors those individuals who have included the Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association in estate plans by naming it as a beneficiary of their will, life insurance policy or charitable trust. The recognition society also includes names of people who have given the Monastery major lifetime gifts since the beginning of the Development Office in 1989. Covenant People names are inscribed in a book in the Eucharistic Chapel in Our Lady Queen of Chapel and on the donor recognition board in the Monastery entry.



## *Thank you to our Covenant Donors*



+Margaret M. Adams  
 +Rev. Roland Antus  
 +Rev. Vincent H. Arimond  
 +Eileen Baldeshwiler  
 Micki and Tom Bell  
 +Patricia Berres  
 William and +Jeanine (Betty) Beutel  
 +Rose M. Bjork  
 +Lisa S. Borelli

+Father Thomas Bouchard  
 Deborah Anne Broocker  
 George T. Brown and Kathleen M. O'Grady-Brown  
 +Eileen Burgess  
 Carrie J. Butorac  
 Terry Butorac  
 + Harvey and +Florence Cherro  
 James and Judith Cherveney

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 +Roy and Mary (Durocher) Hudson  
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 Dr. Joseph and +Alice Mottillo  
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 +Mary M. Murphy  
 +Edward R. Nacey  
 +M. Bernadette Nicol  
 +George Noble and Kathryn Noble  
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 +Msgr. Bernard Popesh  
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 Roger and Kathy Rigterink

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 Natchana Nimnoradee Roehl  
 +Robert Roehl  
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 +George Rumreich  
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 +Rosalie Thompson  
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 +Mildred and +George Velonis  
 The Harold and Lorraine (Deziel)  
 Weber Family  
 +Nancy L. Weiss  
 +Lucille Weber Welhouse  
 +F.T. and +Florence Westmeyer  
 +Ralph and +Mary Wilkens  
 Tomas and Nancy Willette  
 +Juanita G. Williams  
 Corrine Windus-Howard  
 +Dr. Winnifred Winkelman  
 +Julius F. Wolff, Jr.  
 Ann Starkey Wright  
 Steve and Adele Yorde  
 +William H. Zobbi  
 Keith Zumbrunnen and Katherine  
 Marnich-Zumbrunnen



## The Heart of Service: Honoring Our Volunteers

At St. Scholastica Monastery, volunteers are an essential part of our daily life. Their presence not only helps sustain our ministries but also brings joy, energy, and connection to our Community. With deep gratitude, we recognize the many individuals who so generously share their time and talents in service of the Sisters.

This past year, volunteers have stepped into a variety of roles—each one vital in its own way. From driving Sisters to appointments, to serving as companions who share conversation and presence, these acts of kindness build a spirit of mutual care and respect.

Many volunteers also contribute behind the scenes. They serve as gardeners, tending our grounds with love and helping our campus flourish. Others greet guests and assist visitors at the information desk, offering hospitality to all who enter. And we are especially grateful for the cheerful and dedicated clerks at our Monastery Books and Gifts Shop, who help connect people with items that inspire and uplift.

Together, these quiet acts of service make a profound difference. Each volunteer is a blessing to our community, and we are truly thankful.

If you feel called to volunteer—whether weekly, occasionally, or seasonally—we would love to hear from you! There are many ways to help, and we welcome individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact:

### **Lisa Roseth**

Director of Development & Public Relations  
(218) 723-6540  
lisaroseth@duluthosb.org

Thank you to all who give so generously of their time. Your service strengthens our Benedictine life and helps us continue to be a place of prayer, peace, and welcome.



**Linda Senta**



**Karen, Pat, and Chrissy**



**John, our new gardener**



**Kathy Bouschor**



**Marianne Connelly and  
Mary Bridget Lawson**



## Discover Unique Treasures at St. Scholastica Monastery Books and Gift Shop

At the St. Scholastica Monastery Books and Gifts Shop, you will find a beautiful selection of religious and inspirational gifts perfect for every occasion. Located on the first floor of Stanbrook Hall, our peaceful and inviting shop offers meaningful items designed to uplift the heart and nurture the spirit.

### Our Offerings Include:

- **The Rule of St. Benedict** – Available in several editions to guide and inspire your spiritual journey
- **Handmade Candles** – Crafted with care by Sister Mary Josephine Torborg
- **Bookmarks with Tea Bags** – A comforting and thoughtful pairing for yourself or a friend
- **Credo Greeting Cards** – Faith-filled messages for a wide range of occasions
- **Religious Items** – Rosaries, crucifixes, and icons made with devotion
- **Books and Media** – Prayer guides, spiritual reading, and music to deepen your faith. We also carry titles for Center for Spirituality and Enrichment programs and can place special orders
- **Jewelry and Accessories** – Medals, bracelets, and meaningful keepsakes

- **Home Décor** – Statues, art, and sacred pieces to bring Benedictine peace into your space
- **Seasonal Gifts** – Thoughtful items for Christmas, Easter, and other liturgical seasons
- **Wide Variety of Greeting Cards** – For birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, encouragement, and more

Every purchase supports the mission and ministries of St. Scholastica Monastery, helping us continue our Benedictine work of prayer, hospitality, and service in the wider community.

Come and explore our unique selection in a peaceful and welcoming environment. Whether you're looking for a special gift or a personal keepsake, the St. Scholastica Monastery Books and Gift Shop has something for everyone.

### Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

### Location:

St. Scholastica Monastery  
Stanbrook Hall – First Floor  
1001 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811

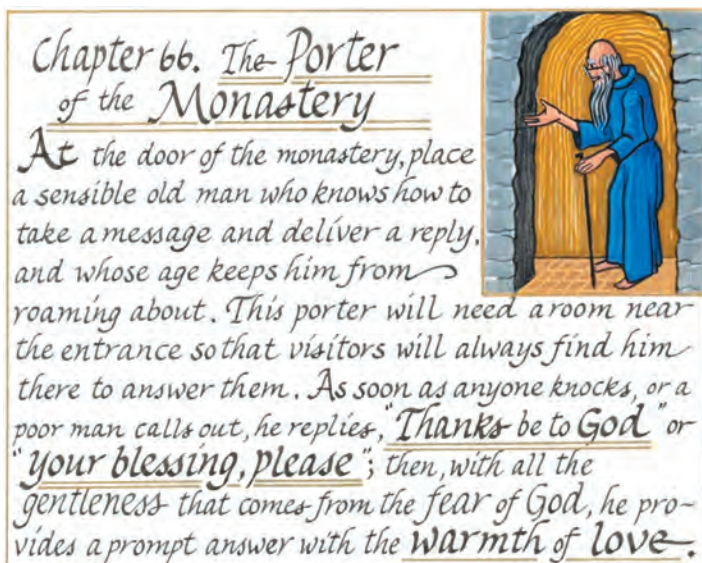
### Parking:

Ample parking is available in front of Stanbrook Hall. Please enter through the main door to access the shop.

Contact Us: Call (218) 723-7009 or visit us online at [duluthbenedictines.org/monastery-books-and-gifts/](https://duluthbenedictines.org/monastery-books-and-gifts/)



# The Benedictine Value of Hospitality as the Heart of Our Life



On this Annual Report's front cover is the illuminated page from Chapter 53: *The Reception of Guests in the Rule of St. Benedict*. Here Benedict reminds us that all are to be welcomed as we would welcome Christ.



**Sister Lois Eckes greets Sister Tamara from St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota.**

that strangers were to be treated with the utmost care. Yes, there would be pilgrims moving from one place to the next who found a meal. Yes, there were also the poor lost ones in rags who no longer had anywhere to go. And yes, they would be clothed in compassion, like God caring for Jacob and his progeny. Benedictines are home missionaries. ... Those who feel estranged come to pray with us to be comforted by stability."

Chapter 66 of *The Rule* describes the duties of the Porter, who welcomes guests to a monastery. Our 'portress' or doorkeeper is Sister Lois Eckes, Director of Hospitality, who greets guests to the Monastery from her office near the entrance to Stanbrook Hall, which holds our guest rooms. But we all welcome guests with a warm smile and help them in whatever they need. Come for Morning or Evening Prayer and a Sister will give you the hymnal and Prayer Book and guide you through the liturgy.

It is essential that we do not distinguish between people. In doing this, we are following the example of Christ, helping change what is unjust and so build up the kingdom of Heaven on earth.



**Sister Mary Josephine pours coffee at the Open House.**

As Fr. Guerric DeBona of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana wrote, "Hospitality is the universal language of charity, and Benedictines have this virtue tattooed on their open hands. ... The guest should never be lacking; that these wayfarers should be welcomed as Christ;

*This edition of the Rule was illustrated by +Sister Mary Charles McGough, with calligraphy by Meridith Schifsky, and is available for purchase in Monastery Books and Gifts.*



## A Joyful Exchange Across Continents

We are deeply grateful for the mutual expressions of gratitude and the beautiful exchange of gifts shared with our African Benedictine Sisters from our twinning communities at St. Agnes Convent in Chipole, Tanzania and St. Gertrude Convent in Imiliwaha, Tanzania, and with our South American friends at Monasterio Santa Maria in Rautén, Chile. Though we are miles apart, our hearts and Benedictine spirit remain closely united through mutual generosity, prayers, and enduring friendships.



*The Benedictine Community in Rautén, Chile.*



**Sister Charity Nkwera** came to us from Tanzania to earn a B.A. and Master's in Social Work at the College. She and others who join us from their communities enrich and enliven our life here. On the left is her former prioress, **Sister Sylvia Kilongo**, and on the right is **Sister Agnes Atai** from a community in Uganda, who is studying for a degree in nursing.



**Mother Sr. Beatrice Kapinga, Sr. Beverly Raway, and Mother General Sr. Redemista Ngonyani** show a beautiful cloth, a gift from their Community in Tanzania.



**Save the Date!**  
**Annual Monastery Bazaar**  
**Thursday, December 4, 2025**  
**(Hours to be determined at a later date.)**

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a joyful day of community, creativity, and holiday spirit at the St. Scholastica Monastery Christmas Bazaar!

We are gratefully accepting donations of:

Handmade crafts and creations

Gently used Christmas decorations

Gently used household items

*(Please, no electronics or VHS tapes)*

Your contributions help make this beloved event a success!

For questions or to arrange a donation, please contact:

Lisa Roseth

Director of Development and Public Relations

218-723-6540 | [lisaroseth@duluthosb.org](mailto:lisaroseth@duluthosb.org)





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**Visit our website:**  
[duluthbenedictines.org](http://duluthbenedictines.org)

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[st.scholasticamonastery](https://www.instagram.com/st.scholasticamonastery)

**YouTube:**  
[youtube.com/@duluthbenedicts/videos](https://youtube.com/@duluthbenedicts/videos)

**Email:**  
[monastery@duluthosb.org](mailto:monastery@duluthosb.org)

## MISSION

We, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, Minnesota, are monastic women who seek God in community through a life of prayer and work. Living in accordance with the Gospel and the Rule of St. Benedict, we respond to the needs of the Church and the world through our ministries.

***Donations to the Monastery provide funds allowing Sisters to continue various missions and the opportunity to do beautiful work. Thank you for helping the Sisters serve in the following ministries:***

Administration	Music
Advocacy	Office and Secretarial Ministry
Architecture	Pastoral Care
Creative Arts (art, writing, photography, icon writing)	Peace and Justice Ministry
Development Ministry	Photography
Education	Public Speaking
Governance	Prayer Ministry
Hospitality	Renewal/Retreat Ministry
Health Care	Spiritual Direction Ministry
Maintenance of gardens/ woodland	Sponsorship
	Telephone Ministry
	Vocation Ministry