

PATHWAYS



Newsletter of the Duluth Benedictine Sisters, O.S.B.

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PATHWAYS

NEWSLETTER
of the Benedictine Sisters

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Icon on front cover is *Our Lady of the Pines*
by +Sister Mary Charles McGough

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRIORESS

Dear Friends of the Monastery,

As we enter this holy season of Advent, I write to you for the first time as Prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery. It has been only a few months since I began this new ministry, and I continue to be deeply grateful for the prayers, kindness, and encouragement that have surrounded me during this time of transition. Your support has been a true blessing as I learn, listen, and grow into this role of service to our Community.

Advent has always been one of my favorite seasons of the Church year. It is a time of quiet hope, sacred waiting, and deep trust in the promise that God is continually being born among us. The beauty of Advent lies not only in the anticipation of Christmas, but also in the daily awareness that Christ is already present—in the ordinary moments of our lives, in our acts of compassion, and in our openness to the needs of others.

Here at the Monastery, the Advent season gently draws us into a rhythm of reflection and renewal. The soft light of the Advent wreath, the singing of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and the quiet of our chapel remind us that God's presence is both intimate and near. It is in this quiet expectation that we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ again—within our community, within our ministries, and within the world.

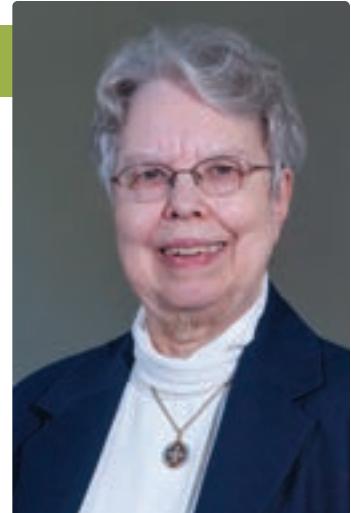
Each day I am reminded of the faithfulness of the Sisters who came before us—women whose dedication to the Gospel continues to inspire us. Their legacy challenges us to carry forward the Benedictine values of prayer, hospitality, stability, and care for all creation. As we continue this sacred journey, I am humbled by the generosity and love that surround the Monastery through friends, Oblates, benefactors, volunteers, and all who share in our mission.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, may this season renew our hope and deepen our gratitude for the countless ways God's light breaks through even the darkest days. May you find peace in the stillness of Advent, joy in the promise of Christ's coming, and comfort in the knowledge that you are remembered in our daily prayers.

With Advent blessings,

Sister Jeanne Ann

Sister Jeanne Ann Weber, OSB
Priress
St. Scholastica Monastery



Christmas Star, made with milkweed pods and coneflower seed pod

Reflection for Advent: Ascend into Advent

by Sister Therese Carson

The Scripture passages for this First Sunday in Advent warn what will happen to the complacent. They begin with the Prophet Isaiah's vision of the Holy Jerusalem crowning a mountain top, an image of an ideal relationship with God. Experience it yourself: move from the clamor of daily life into the silence of prayer. Open your heart and hear God's words deep within. In this state of openness, Isaiah saw the teeming millions streaming up to Jerusalem to be taught wisdom and walk on God's path. And what does God ask? To abandon warfare, turn weapons into farming implements, and feed God's people. There is no need to fight, for when all share freely there is enough.

But what are we doing? We erect walls topped with razor wire to keep out starving refugees, even while much of our food is thrown away. In our eyes they are enemies, so we deny their place in our society and drive them into deportation camps. When we turn and see them through God's eyes, they become part of one great family of humankind, sharing one life and seeking the same path to wholeness. Recognizing this, Pope Leo XIV chose as his motto *In Illo Uno Unum*: "In the One, we are one." Or, as Pope John XXIII said, in the intimate language of agape love, "I have looked into your eyes with my eyes. I have put my heart near your heart."

In the second reading from his Letter to the Romans, Paul asks that we "throw off the works of darkness and put on the clothing of light." We must mature out of our selfish nature and into God's vision of us. And finally in the Gospel reading from Matthew Chapter 24, Jesus warns, "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." A timely warning as wars spread, for what will drive us to nuclear annihilation?

Theologian Henri J. Nouwen considered why we love power. "What makes the temptation to power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life." And we humans love the easy, familiar paths.



Jesus calls us to let go our addiction to violence. He asks us to walk with him on the hard path to peace. On that path, in Nouwen's words, "we let go our comforting illusions and embrace the suffering of the world. We face reality without becoming its victim. When we have descended into our heart and reached out to God from there, solitude can speak to solitude, deep to deep and heart to heart. It is there where love and pain are found together."

And when we have reached that intimate relationship with God and each other, we can begin to move toward lasting peace. It's not the easiest path, but the only one worth the walk.

"In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills." ~Isaiah 2:2.

Being a Good Steward

by Sister Lisa Maurer

Have you ever thought about what it means to be a good steward? We might think being a good steward is about keeping good accounting records and having a good credit score. True enough. Yet, stewardship isn't just about money. It is about taking care of all that has been given to you. Consider your time, abilities, relationships, and vocation as gifts that are to be stewarded.

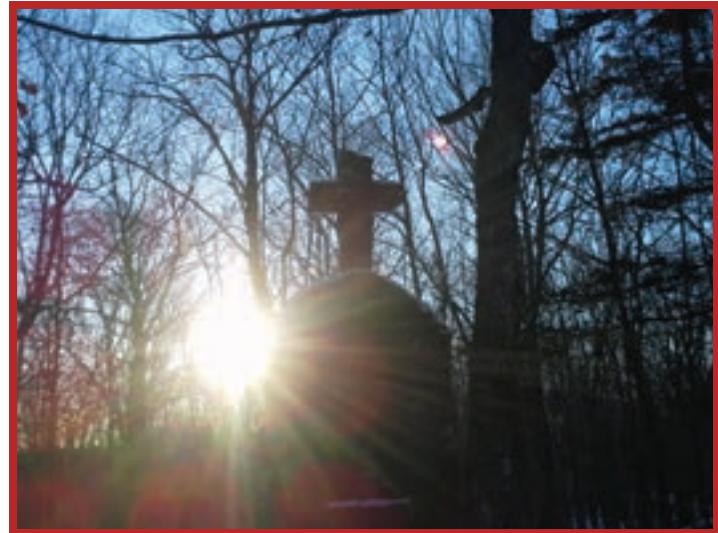
Yes, believe it or not, being a good steward is about stewarding our vocation. We all have the universal call to holiness, and we also have a particular call. That call is not a nameless call. It is not just one call among many. It is a call specific to each individual person. It is a call to our vocation either the priesthood, religious life, the married state, or the single life. Let's take a look at how we can be a good steward of our calling.

A Good Steward Uses Their Gifts

In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) Jesus teaches us that we are to be good stewards of everything in life. This story illustrates that it is not so important how many talents you have or the type of gifts you have been given. It shows that it is important how you use your gifts. We are not to squander our gifts nor are we to hide them or hoard them. As you steward your vocation, you will use your gifts in ways beyond imagining.

A Good Steward Serves Others

Jesus' very life showed us how to be good stewards of the blessings of time, talent, energy, and activity. When He washed the disciples' feet (John 13), He demonstrated that being a good steward is about serving others, no matter the task. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus showed compassion and care for the poor and powerless, the needy and forgotten. As good stewards, regardless of our state in life, we are called to selfless service and to spend our time actively engaged in helping others.



A Good Steward is Willing to Sacrifice

The height of Jesus' good stewardship is found in his suffering and death. He tells us that "even the Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). This statement captures Jesus' willingness to sacrifice and gives us an example to follow. Being a good steward of our vocation isn't always easy. It calls for sacrifice, putting others first, and taking up our cross (Matthew 16:24). Being who and how God calls us to be involves embracing the challenges and sufferings that come in our state of life.

A Good Steward Lives Their Vocation

A good steward grasps the significance of their role in God's plan. They seek the Holy Spirit's guidance. There is no higher way to be a good steward than to be who and how God has called you to be. St. Paul says, "let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him" (1 Corinthians 7:17). Offering a complete yes to God is the first step in being a good steward of your vocation. Then use all you have to fulfill your state in life. That is being a good steward.

If you or someone you know wants more information about vocations, email vocations@duluthosb.org or visit www.duluthbenedictines.org/vocations.

Advent: A Season of Waiting, Wonder, and Welcome

Advent is a time of quiet anticipation — a season that calls us to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The candles we light each week remind us of the growing light of hope, peace, joy, and love that illuminates our world even amid darkness.

For Benedictine Oblates, and for those drawn to Benedictine spirituality, Advent provides a beautiful opportunity to deepen our commitment to the rhythm of prayer, work, and community that St. Benedict envisioned. His Rule begins with the simple invitation, "Listen." Advent invites us to do just that — to listen more deeply for God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives.

As we move through these sacred weeks, perhaps you are feeling called to explore a more intentional spiritual path. The Oblate Program of St. Scholastica Monastery offers a welcoming community for women and men who seek to live out Benedictine values in their daily lives. Oblates remain in their own homes and vocations while sharing in the Monastery's life of prayer, reflection, and service.

Oblates are Christian laypeople of any age and Christian faith tradition 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. We study and ponder the Rule of St. Benedict with its emphasis on prayer, silence, obedience, community, and humility. The Rule is a guide for living a Christian life within parishes or churches, and in our families, workplaces, and in the world.



Through study, fellowship, and formation, Oblates learn how the wisdom of St. Benedict can guide modern living — helping us cultivate balance, mindfulness, humility, and hospitality in a world that often feels hurried and divided.

If you are seeking a deeper connection to God, community, and purpose this Advent, we invite you to learn more about the Oblate Program. You are welcome to join us for prayer, conversation, and discernment as we walk together in hope toward the light of Christ.

For more information about the Oblate Program, please contact Jane Dolter, Director of the Oblate Program, St. Scholastica Monastery, at 218-391-4516 or janedolter@msn.com



The Holy Hush of Winter

by Dawn Carrillo

Winter arrives quietly on the North Shore. Snow drapes itself over the shoulders of the forest. The inland sea stills, breathes deeper, turns to glass, and then to ice. The light grows thinner, more silver than gold, and the world seems to lean inward. In this vast, cold stillness, something sacred emerges—not as spectacle, but as invitation.

There is a kind of holy hush that descends on the Lake Superior region in winter. Life slows, and the land invites us to do the same. It is not a silence of absence, but a silence of presence—a deeper kind of listening, where the voice of Creation speaks in whispers. The crunch of snow beneath boots. The wind threading through bare birch limbs. The slow formation of ice heaves on the lake's edge. Each moment is a word in the larger liturgy of the season.

Here, the cold becomes a kind of sanctuary. Not because it is comfortable, but because it is honest. The wild edges of winter refuse to flatter our illusions of control. The snow buries our plans. The storms bend trees and scatter our path. But even in its severity, there is mercy. There is an unspoken grace in being asked to pause, to yield, to notice.

Winter, after all, is a teacher. And one of its first teachings is this: everything that appears dead is only hidden. Beneath the thick ice, water flows. Beneath the frozen ground, roots hold fast. Beneath the dormancy of the land, life is simply sleeping. What looks like an ending is often a beginning waiting its time. This is not sentiment—it is the rhythm of Creation.

It is also the rhythm of the soul.

Just as the land draws inward in winter, so does the spirit. The darker months ask us to lean into mystery, to rest in unknowing, to let our spiritual lives be composted in the quiet dark. The answers that sufficed in summer may no longer warm us. The prayers we used to speak easily now echo differently in our mouths. But there is something sacred in that disorientation, in the waiting. Something real is growing, even now, out of sight.

And in this waiting, we are not alone.



Photo by Sister Beverly Raway

The winter landscape reminds us that we are part of a vast communion. Deer move in silence through the cedar groves. Red fox tracks trace delicate lines across the snow. Snow buntings flash their white wings at the shoreline. All these lives, visible and invisible, belong to the same sacred web. The wind does not distinguish between us and them. The frost settles equally on stone, on pawprint, on eyelash. To walk the winter trail is to walk with kin.

There is something deeply comforting in that humility. To be just one creature among many. To stand at the lake's edge, breath rising like smoke, and feel yourself small—but held. Held by the earth, by the cold air, by the quiet pulse of a deeper life. You don't need to strive or perform. You only need to be here.

And maybe, that is the heart of winter's invitation: to come as you are. Not perfect. Not finished. But present. The God who walked beside Galilean shores still walks here, too—among frozen stones, across wind-swept ridges, in the deep silence between snowfalls. The table is set not with bread and fish, but with moonlight on the lake, pine needles in the snow, and the fire of a January sunrise.

Come, rest awhile at our retreat center in Duluth—the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment—on the shores of Lake Superior. As a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica, we offer quiet, reflective spaces where you can saturate yourself in the beauty

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND ENRICHMENT



Photo by Gene Gibbons



Dawn Carrillo
Director, Center for
Spirituality and Enrichment
dcarrillo@duluthsb.org
retreatduluth.org
320.260.8233

and truth of the hush of winter. Here, you may come as you are, and we will meet you with the Benedictine spirit of hospitality, compassion, and love. Whether you come for a personal retreat or for an event (see upcoming offerings below), our sacred spaces and thoughtfully crafted programming are designed to help you encounter the God of Creation...to pause, to notice, to be.

Let winter hold you in its quiet embrace, and know that even here — especially here — you are being gently, lovingly transformed.

In the gracious beauty of the Season,



UPCOMING OFFERINGS AT THE CENTERS

- **Advent Retreat: A Time to Discern with Mary**
December 3, 2025 (in-person or Zoom) from 7:00-8:30 pm
- **Taizé Prayer**
December 9, 2025 (in-person) at 7:00 pm
- **Grateful Gatherings** (monthly gathering)
December 10 (in-person) and December 11 (Zoom)
- **The Wonders of Advent: Listening for Hope's Whispers**
December 10, 2025 (in-person) from 2:00-3:30 pm
- **Encountering God in Ukraine: A Journey of Love and Friendship** (Benedictine Conversation)
December 16, 2025 (Zoom) at 7:00 pm

- **A Christmas Visio Divina**
December 30, 2025 (Zoom) at 7:00 pm
- **Women's Christmas**
January 3, 2025 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- **A Spiritual Journey with Matthew** (Scripture series)
January 13, 2026 (in-person) from 7:00-8:30 pm

To register for a retreat or program, sign up for our weekly program email, or learn more about us, please visit retreatduluth.org or call Dawn at 320.260.8233.

A New prioress

by Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

I grew up in North Minneapolis across from Folwell Park. It was a great area to be a child, as there were many families and kids in our neighborhood and so many activities in the park: sliding, skating, swimming, baseball, dances, and so on.

I was the oldest of five children and attended St. Bridget's Elementary School, where I was taught by Benedictine Sisters from Duluth. I came to know them as special people who loved God and others. Catholicism and religion were important to my grandparents and parents, and so to us. Mass was an important part of our lives as well as trying to daily live out the Gospel.

Some of the girls from St. Bridget's went on a vocation retreat to St. Scholastica Priory. Some of the Sisters thought my friend had a religious vocation and I was just going along as a friend, but by the time I graduated from St. Margaret's Academy, I began to wonder whether I had a vocation. A questionnaire from St. Scholastica asked, "Why do you want to be a Sister?" I clearly remember this answer: "To know and to love God and to serve others." I knew then I was going to enter the convent in Duluth, though I had no idea what that answer fully meant and how this would unfold in my life.

Since that decision I've had many opportunities for personal, spiritual, and professional growth. I've been a student, teacher, parish worker, retreat director, team member of the Shalom Spiritual Direction training program, Director of Liturgy, Sub Prioress, and now Prioress of the Monastery. I've been privileged to do volunteer work and ministry with children and adults, the homeless, addicted, and abused. I've served on a variety of boards, including The College of St. Scholastica, hospital boards including Essentia East, and Benedictine Senior Care boards. All these organizations work to improve the quality of life and meaning for many through the values of respect, community, hospitality, and justice. I am proud of St. Scholastica Monastery and all her organizations that are now sponsored by Duluth Benedictine Ministries.

If someone were discerning a religious vocation, I would encourage them to deepen their spiritual life by prayer and service. St. Benedict encourages people to listen with the ear of their hearts to God, to others, and the circumstances of their lives. The Lord is a God of Surprises, and we never know how God's will might be manifested to us. It is also helpful to have a spiritual director - someone who can journey with one as discernment unfolds. It may also be helpful to talk to a Sister, priest, or friend. Many people are praying for those whom God is calling to the consecrated life or priesthood.



Sister Jeanne Ann, Prioress



Sister Jeanne Ann with family at a reunion

MONASTERY PROFILE

St. John the Evangelist is my patron saint, and his feast day is December 27. I find the Gospel and the letters he wrote (1, 2, and 3 John) to be deeply meaningful. His writings, inspired by the Holy Spirit, again and again remind us of the great commandment: Love of God and love of neighbor. This may sound simple, but it is not easy. I am especially inspired by Jesus' Last Supper discourses, found in the Gospel of John, chapters 14 to 17, where Christ calls us to a deep union with him and one another "so that they may be one as the Father and I are One" in union with the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen!

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)



Sister Jeanne Ann, Prioress

Please Pray for Our Departed Family and Friends

Joseph W. Rust	12/30/2024	Sharon J. Hedman	8/4/2025
Beryl Lee Pettigrew	1/26/2025	Roberta K. Stoetzel	8/5/2025
Janet Sandbrink Comfort	2/5/2025	Vernal Arvid Nordling	8/14/2025
Harry Gehring	5/6/2025	Joan Diane Johnson	8/18/2025
Adrian Marvin Lester	5/17/2025	Joyce D. Rigo	8/31/2025
Dolores Ossanna Nesgoda	5/29/2025	Bonnie June Kruger	9/19/2025
Richard Alf Colin	5/29/2025	Margaret M. Riggio	10/2/2025
Benedict E. Mahsem	5/31/2025	Cecelia Leon	10/3/2025
Mary Elizabeth Millard	6/11/2025	Kenneth Alson Goodell	10/7/2025
Grace Rose Hable	6/14/2025	Dr. Martha Andrea Aas	10/8/2025
Frances Joan Abbott	6/22/2025	Rev. Benjamin Hadrich	10/31/2025
Viola Kaltoff	6/25/2025	Neal James Hessen	11/2/2025
Sister of Sr. Mary Josephine Torborg		Dore Stubenvoll	11/4/2025
Marcus Dale Snow	7/4/2025	Rev. Msgr. George Matthias Schroeder ..	11/8/2025
Dr. Robert Egin Wahman	7/13/2025	Mary Louise Boisjoli	11/8/2025
Catherine Marcella Patten	7/17/2025	Robert Leo Galarneau	11/16/2025
David Charles McKee	7/29/2025		

Ninetieth Anniversary of the Health Information Management (HIM) Program at CSS: Benedictine Sisters Play Key Role in establishing Medical Record Education

by Sister Kathleen Hofer

This year The College of St. Scholastica celebrates the 90th anniversary of its program in Medical Record Administration/Health Information Management. Members of St. Scholastica Monastery (then St. Scholastica Priory) were instrumental in developing this program and the field of Medical Records as key to documentation of medical care in hospitals.

Sister Patricia Thibadeau of St. Scholastica Priory established the first Medical Record Department at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, in January 1919. It was initially equipped with only a desk, a typewriter, and eventually a file cabinet. In 1926, Sister Patricia became Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, but her interest in Medical Records remained and she joined as one of the first members of the new national organization, the Association of Record Librarians of North America. Her application for registration was approved in 1933 as registration #12.

When her national association first proposed schools for medical record librarians, Sister Patricia presented a plan for a program at St. Mary's Hospital in conjunction with The College of St. Scholastica. She had the cooperation of the faculty of the College as well as members of the medical staff of St. Mary's Hospital. In November 1933 a tentative curriculum for the medical record program was sent to the national association. The curriculum required students to have extensive hospital-based experience. Sister Patricia received approval of the St. Mary's Hospital Training School for Record Librarians in November 1934.

Following the first official survey of the program in June 1935, the College was notified in July 1935 that they had received full approval from the Association of Record Librarians. In 1935 five women were registered for the new program. Sister Patricia served as director of the program from 1934 to



Sister Patricia Thibadeau

1937. It was the first baccalaureate degree program in medical records in the United States.

Over the years the Scholastica program became well-known and respected, with large enrollments in the College. Sister Loretta Sheehan was one of the first students to enroll in the program and graduated in 1937, after which she served as an instructor at the College while she also served as Medical Record librarian at St. Mary's Hospital. Sister Loretta served as instructor/director of the Medical Record program at the College from 1937 to 1948, and from 1956 to 1964. Following her, Sister Kathleen Hofer served as director from 1964-1965 and 1967 to 1971. Graduates of the program also were very active in the American Medical Record Association, with over 15 graduates serving as president of the national association. Sister

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Patricia Thibadeau served as president in 1944-1945 and Sister Kathleen Hofer in 1977-1978.

In the early 1900s, Sister Patricia became a good friend of Dr. Malcolm T. MacEachern, Director of the American College of Surgeons. The College of Surgeons was developing a process to accredit hospitals for good medical care. Sister Patricia emphasized documenting good information in the medical record as an essential aspect of quality medical care. She worked with Dr. MacEachern as they developed a process for hospital accreditation. When accreditation of hospitals by the College of Surgeons (now done by the Joint Commission) began around 1920, the medical record became a primary source of evaluating quality care in hospitals, which is still true today.

After Sister Patricia's death in 1948, the House of Delegates of the American Association of Medical Records established the annual Sister Patricia Memorial

Fund Lecture. This lecture was held each year on the first day of the annual Medical Record Association national meeting, and was presented by a well-known speaker. This lecture continued for many years.

Over the past 90 years the name of the program at the College was modified a number of times: Medical Record Library Science, Medical Record Science, Medical Record Administration, Health Information Management, Healthcare Informatics and Information Management (including a master's degree). It continues to be a leading program in Health Information Management, with many individuals pursuing a master's degree as participants in the online master's program. The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery have been blessed to play a key role in the development of the well-respected program in Medical Records/Health Information at The College of St. Scholastica.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Conference

by Lisa Roseth, Director of Development and Public Relations

At the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Conference in the Twin Cities in October, a dinner was held honoring the 90th anniversary of The College of St. Scholastica's Health Information Management (HIM) Program.

This pioneering effort reflects the Community's foresight and leadership in advancing education and healthcare, long before the field of health informatics was widely recognized.

We extend a heartfelt thank-you to a special friend of the Monastery and CSS alum, Connie Renda, along with her medical software company, Verisma Systems, for hosting the dinner.

It was a beautiful evening of celebration, as College administration, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered to honor this remarkable milestone—and the visionary Sisters who made it possible.



The speaker here is Dr. Ryan Sandefer, Vice President of Academic Affairs and interim Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs for The College of St. Scholastica.

Blessing of Our Athletes

At the beginning of the school year, student athletes at The College of St. Scholastica are welcomed into Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel for prayer at the start of their competitive seasons.

Here at center is Sister Lisa Maurer (white sleeves) with the women's soccer team.



Coach Dave Reyelts and Women's Soccer Team

College Campus Ministry

The peer ministers from The College of St. Scholastica campus ministry joined us for prayer and dinner on August 20. We pray that God will bless them and inspire them throughout this year.



Madeline Hartley, Emma Anderson, Lilli Young, and Sam Kumrow



Brianna Hendren, Allison Pursley, and Olivia Schiebl



The College of St. Scholastica Commissioning

Before classes begin at The College of St. Scholastica, the Opening Faculty/Staff Institute commissions the faculty and staff for the academic year. The Sisters come to offer a blessing over those who will be guiding young minds over the next year. The day

began with a beautiful opening prayer by Sister Kathleen Del Monte, setting the tone for Faculty/Staff Institute.

Rooted in the Benedictine tradition, this commissioning is a reminder of the shared mission to serve students with wisdom, compassion, and faith. We pray for the faculty, staff, and students as they begin a new year of learning and growth.

Sisters Share Their Insights into the Benedictine Tradition

Dr. Kevin Vaughan invited Sisters to his Benedictine Tradition class at The College of St. Scholastica, where they shared reflections on Prayer and the Benedictine understanding of obedience, stability, and fidelity to the monastic way of life. These last three are the promises that every monastic takes at their Perpetual Monastic Profession. The visits provide students with a meaningful glimpse into the living tradition that continues to shape both the Monastery and The College of St. Scholastica.

Sister Jayne Erickson spoke about the rituals in prayer, describing how rhythm, silence, and community create a sacred space for encountering God. She also invited students to join the Sisters for prayer at the Monastery, offering them the opportunity to experience Benedictine life firsthand.



Sisters Jeanne Ann Weber, (Priorress), Gretchen Johnston and Kathleen

Hofer spoke about obedience. In the Benedictine tradition it is rooted in listening — to God, to community, and to one's own heart. It is a spiritual practice that fosters humility and respect.



Sisters Lois Eckes, Theresa Spinler, and Therese Carson spoke on the meaning of monastic stability. We commit ourselves to belonging to this Community, and when we leave on mission or on vacation, we carry it in our hearts and give our heart and an attentive ear to those in need.

Sisters Josine Krausnick, Jayne Erickson, and Dorene King (not pictured) shared how they live out their fidelity to the monastic way of life.

Vocations Week: Sharing the Benedictine Call

During National Vocations Awareness Week, Sisters spent time at The College of St. Scholastica, sharing their experiences of faith, service, and community life.

Throughout the week, Sisters visited students around campus. Their presence reminded students that vocation is not limited to a single path but is a lifelong journey of listening and response.

The College, founded by the Sisters more than a century ago, continues to be shaped by their values of faith, hospitality, and learning. Vocations Week offered a meaningful opportunity for both students and Sisters to celebrate the ongoing call to serve God and others.



Sisters Marie Therese Poliquin and Dorene King

Community Day Service with the College

On October 1, we were blessed to have students from The College of St. Scholastica join us for a day of service. They cleared gardens and gave the chapel its autumn deep clean. We are so grateful for their helping hands and generous spirits on this day of service, connection, and blessing.



Cleaning the Chapel



Clearing the Angelus Garden



Weeding the apple orchard



Clearing the vegetable garden

Blessing the healing hands

Before being elected Prioress in 2015, Sister Beverly Raway was an ICU and Orthopedic nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center and then taught at the College. Each year, she offers a Blessing of Hands for the incoming junior nursing students at the College. This September it was the Class of 2027.

May their hands bring healing, comfort, and compassion as they begin their clinical journeys.



Monastic Congregation Chapter

St. Scholastica Monastery hosted the 28th General Chapter of the Monastic Congregation of St. Benedict this past July. Benedictine monasteries are each a member of one of four congregations; the Congregation of St. Benedict includes communities from Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, Washington, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and Japan. The Congregation meeting included 36 Benedictine Sisters, with individuals in attendance from all ten of the member communities. The theme of the six-day gathering was "Hope does not disappoint."

The days included business meetings, formal presentations, social events, and an afternoon and evening to explore Duluth and the North Shore. The first formal presentation offered an in-depth coverage of the life of Mother Benedicta Riepp, the Benedictine woman from Germany who came to Pennsylvania in the 1800's to teach German immigrant girls. Mother Benedicta, though she died at a young age, was a strong woman in dealing with all the difficulties her coming to America presented. She traveled from Pennsylvania to Minnesota in the later 1800's, where she was instrumental in the establishment of Benedictine women's communities.

The keynote speaker with two presentations at the General Chapter was Dr. Catherine Clifford, a lay woman who teaches theology at St. Paul's University in Ottawa. Dr. Clifford was a voting participant of the two sessions of the recent



Prioresses and delegates of the 2025 Monastic Congregation of St. Benedict



We congratulate Sister Kathleen Del Monte who was elected to the council of the Monastic Congregation. Sister Kathleen (front left) joins Sister Stefanie, from St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, Illinois (front right), and Sister Jacqueline, St. Paul's Monastery, St. Paul, Minnesota, Sister Nancy (President), St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota and Sister Nicole, Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, North Dakota (back row).

Synod of Synodality in Rome. She is very familiar with Benedictine monasticism and has written on Benedictine Wisdom for a Synodal Church. Dr. Clifford's presentations stressed Benedictine practices that nourish synodal life, such as taking counsel. The Rule of Benedict emphasizes that we call together the whole community – all are heard: introverts are heard, extroverts do not dominate, moving from the 'I' to the ecclesial 'we'. The Rule of Benedict stresses that we listen with the ear of the heart – silence and restraint of speech. On hope, Dr. Clifford stated that hope is generative – the practice of hope is a choice and

hope is a 'we'. She acknowledged it is difficult to live in hope when the world seems to be collapsing.

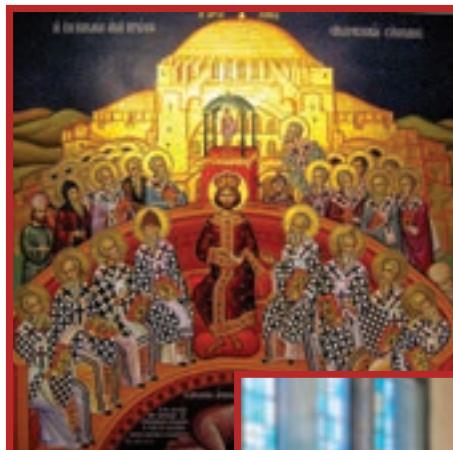
The Sisters from other communities who stayed at our Monastery and participated in the General Chapter were very complimentary of the facilities and the hospitality they experienced. A request has been made for St. Scholastica Monastery to again host the General Chapter of the Congregation of St. Benedict, which is held every three years. Our Monastery is very blessed to have the space available in Stanbrook Hall to host events such as these, which most monasteries are not able to do.

The Church celebrates the Council of Nicaea, held 1700 years ago

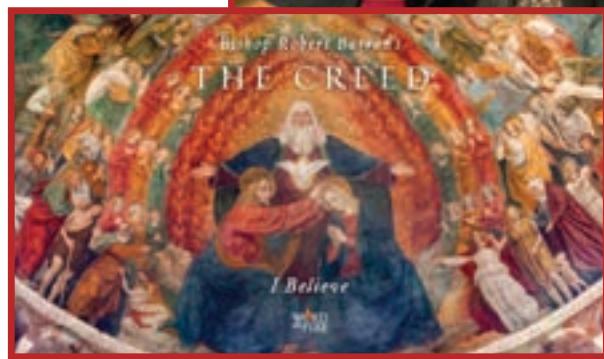
One thousand seven hundred years ago, Christian bishops met in the first Council to obtain consensus on important questions, including the divine nature of God the Son and his relationship to God the Father. This was held in Nicaea, in what is now Turkey.

In August, Bishop Daniel Felton of the Diocese of Duluth and Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Nathanael Symeonides of Chicago led a celebration of our shared history of the Council of Nicaea. Sister Jeanne Ann Weber and other Sisters joined in.

The Braegelman Catholic Studies program at The College of St. Scholastica invited Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk, an Orthodox theologian at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, to speak at Mitchell Auditorium. He explored how Catholic and Orthodox Churches have diverged in their understanding of the Nicene creed between Catholic and Orthodox Churches, and also described the paths where our shared faith brings us together.



Bishop Daniel Felton, Sister Jeanne Ann Weber, and Metropolitan Nathanael Symeonides



The Community is also viewing *The Creed*, a six-part series by Bishop Robert Barron. When we pray the Creed at Eucharist, our recent review of its history will add to its meaning.

Sister Lisa Maurer speaks on Real Presence Radio

Sister Lisa Maurer, Vocation Director, was interviewed on Real Presence Radio by Father Richard Kunst. She talked about her ministry with the Women's Care Center in Duluth.

The Women's Care Center has centers in 12 states, and provides free, confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women. For more information go to <https://www.womenscarecenter.org/duluth>.

Sister Lisa also recently met with the Confirmation class at the Churches of St. Francis and St. Mary to speak about Our Call to Holiness. Her message encouraged the young people to listen for God's voice in their daily lives and to respond with open hearts.

Pictured here, Sister Lisa is joined by members of the Confirmation class following her presentation, sharing in a joyful moment of faith and community.



Sisters' Service on Boards and on the Monastic Council

Sisters serve as members of boards and director councils for the institutions which we founded since our inception 135 years ago, or Catholic entities which more recently we have agreed to sponsor. Two years ago, we formed Duluth Benedictine Ministries (DBM), which is a Ministerial Public Juridic Person and the canonical version of a nonprofit corporation. Now our ministry of sponsorship rests in the DBM, and Sisters and some lay persons act as DBM representatives on various boards. As of October, these are:

Essentia Health

- **Corporate Board:** Sisters Jeanne Ann Weber, Kathleen Hofer, Clare Marie Trettel, and Therese Carson
- **Essentia East Board, St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, St. Mary's Hospital in Superior:** Sister Jeanne Ann Weber
- **Brainerd Lakes/St. Joseph Medical Center Directors' Council:** Sisters Jeanne Ann Weber and Danile Lynch
- **St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota:** Sister Donna Schroeder

The College of St. Scholastica

- Sisters Jeanne Ann Weber, Danile Lynch, Jayne Erickson, and Donna Schroeder

Benedictine (formerly known as Benedictine Health System)

- **Parent board for Duluth and Fridley:** Sisters Jeanne Ann Weber, Danile Lynch, and Clare Marie Trettel
- **Benedictine Foundation:** Sister Dorene King
- **Benedictine Living Community in Duluth:** Sisters Dorene King, Lois Eckes, and Theresa Spinler
- **Benedictine Living Community in Winona (St. Anne of Winona):** Sister Joan Marie Stelman
- **Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota:** Sister Kathleen Del Monte

Other Sisters serve on boards for local organizations that are not sponsored by DBM but which we support financially and through volunteering.

On the Monastic Council

In Chapter Three of the Holy Rule, St. Benedict says that important matters are brought to the entire Community to gather their shared wisdom and judge what is the wiser course of action. We hold three Chapter meetings per year, with additional, shorter meetings to address specific decisions. Benedict goes on to say, "If less important business of the monastery is to be transacted, he shall take counsel with the seniors only, as it is written: 'Do everything with counsel and you will not be sorry afterward' (Sirach 32:24)."

The Monastic Council meets monthly to give guidance and oversight, so that our life and work remains focused

on our mission, vision, and values. This sub-group of the Community Chapter meets monthly to discuss timely matters that require discernment and decision.

Standing Council members include the Prioress (Sister Jeanne Ann Weber), Sub Prioress (Sister Jayne Erickson), and Treasurer (Sister Kathleen Hofer), with additional members in proportion to the Community's size. Serving at present are Sister Beverly Horn, Sister Donna Schroeder, Sister Kathleen Del Monte, Sister Lisa Maurer, and Sister Theresa Spinler.

Sisters Receive Bricks from Legacy St. Mary's Medical Center

On October 7, representatives from Essentia Health honored the Sisters with a meaningful gift: each received a brick from the legacy St. Mary's Medical Center. Many worked there as administrators, nurses, laboratory technicians, physical therapists, and healthcare information specialists. The ageing buildings have been retired and their replacement is a shining structure nearer the waterfront. During demolition, many clean bricks were saved to be mementos of time spent in service.

A presentation by Bret Reuter, Director of Mission Integration for Essentia Health East, recognized the Sisters' founding role and their lifelong ministry of care, compassion, and healing.

Sisters were deeply touched by this tribute and expressed heartfelt gratitude for their enduring partnership with Essentia Health — a relationship rooted in faith, service, and love for the community.



Bret Reuter leads the presentation, as Sisters remember their younger years in ministry at St. Mary's



Chum Rhubarb Festical 2025

Every June, people from all over northeastern Minnesota gather for the Rhubarb Festival, which supports Chum-Duluth, this area's dominant nonprofit agency that advocates for the poor. This year Sister Dorene King, Sister Kathleen Hofer and Sister Lisa Maurer volunteered their time: Sister Dorene helped with youth coloring, Sister Kathleen sold raffle tickets, and Sister Lisa worked on waste management.



Sister Dorene



Sister Kathleen (on right)



Sister Lisa (third from left)

Celebrating 45 Years of Compassionate Care

Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Benedictine Health Center with a special Mass and reception at the Monastery.

Forty-five years ago, Sisters recognized a need within the Duluth community and responded with vision and faith — founding a ministry dedicated to serving seniors with dignity and compassion. What began as a small nursing home has since grown into a full continuum of care, grounded in Benedictine values and committed to holistic healing of body, mind, and spirit.

Through the decades, the Benedictine Health Center has cared for thousands of residents and touched countless families, continuing the Sisters' mission of service and love.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look with gratitude to all who have shared in this sacred work — and with hope toward the next 45 years of faithful care and community.



Bishop Daniel Felton



Sister Theresa Spinler, Deacon Chico Anderson, and Bishop Daniel Felton



Jerry Carley, Benedictine CEO, and Brian Patoock, Executive Director at Benedictine Living Community of Duluth

All Things Apple!

Each autumn when schools have a two-day break, the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment hosts *All Things Apple*, a fun and faith-filled event led by Sister Dorene King. Children enjoy apple-themed games, they create tasty snacks, and Sister Dorene sings apple songs with them.

Afterward, the children join the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery for lunch, sharing laughter, conversation, and the simple joy of being together. The day is a wonderful celebration of community, learning, and the goodness of God's creation—centered around the humble apple!



Annual Retreat: Pathways to Communion

Each June the Sisters take a week off for a silent retreat led by a director. This year it was Sister Jeanne Weber from Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, South Dakota (not related to our new Prioress, Sister Jeanne Ann Weber). Under her direction, we explored the concept of connecting with God and building community through our five senses.

One Sister shared in her evaluation of the week, "I was struck by the many ways that we interact to create a communal spirit: through meditation; through sharing difficult times; through being open and vulnerable with each other, accepting the other's imperfections and loving them; through embracing our femininity and seeing ourselves in a motherly God; and through being deeply aware of our surroundings in our senses, knowing that how we react to what we see, hear, smell, touch affects how we interact with each other."

On Friday evening after dinner, we thanked Sister Jeanne and sang our blessing.



Sister Beverly Raway (in background) leads the blessing.

Sister Clare Marie Trettel turns Ninety

On October 25, we honored Sister Clare Marie on her 90th birthday. Baptized Irene, she grew up in Cloquet where she was taught by the Benedictine Sisters. After high school she came to Duluth to study Nursing at The College of St. Scholastica. Drawn to the Benedictine way of life, she went on a retreat and then entered the Community in 1954. She changed her major to Education and went on to serve God's people as teacher and administrator. She was Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Duluth and taught in the Education Department of her alma mater. In 1987 she was elected Prioress and led the Community until 1993.

Sister Clare Marie still serves on the Essentia Health Board and on various committees. This past year she guided the Community through the discernment and election of a Prioress.

May God bless her years of faithful service.



Sister Clare Marie with Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

Painting with Purpose

On June 30, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery enjoyed a painting class led by John Ebenhoe of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. The project featured a vase in the shape of a Benedictine cross filled with daisies, symbolizing the daisy farm that once stood where the Monastery now stands.

The morning was filled with creativity, laughter, and gratitude as the Sisters reflected on their history and the beauty of community.



Election and Installation of the prioress

After several months of discernment, on June 4 the Community elected Sister Jeanne Ann Weber to a six year term as the fifteenth prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery. Her profile appears on page 8.

She was installed on August 6 at a solemn Eucharist, with Bishop Daniel Felton presiding. Sister Nancy Bauer, president of the Congregation of St. Benedict, led the ritual of Installation of a Prioress. She thanked Sister Beverly Raway for her ten years as Prioress, and then presented the Rule of St. Benedict to Sister Jeanne Ann, saying, "With this support, may you guide and inspire your Sisters as did our founders St. Scholastica and St.

Benedict. May the Rule of St. Benedict be your guide as you listen to the Spirit within yourself, in your monastic Community, the Church, and the world." The Sisters then pledged their acceptance of her authority and came forward one by one to embrace her. Bishop Daniel then blessed her in her new role. "Bless her with the gifts of the Spirit and set her on fire with love for your glory."

Sister Jeanne Ann's message to the Community was, "May we continue to be a blessing for each other, shaped and enlivened by the Rule of St. Benedict."



Bishop Daniel Felton speaks on leadership



Sister Sue Fortier embraces the Prioress



Sister Nancy Bauer gives the Prioress a copy of the Holy Rule

Jubilee Celebration

On August 25, the Feast of the Assumption, we celebrated the jubilees of five Sisters.

For seventy years, Sisters Clare Marie Trettel, Marie Therese Poliquin, and Mary Josephine Torborg.

For sixty years, Sister Beverly Raway.

For twenty-five years, Sister Linda Wiggins.

They gave thanks to the Benedictine Sisters, relatives, and friends who supported them in their many years of seeking God.

We give thanks for their witness, their love, and their steadfast commitment to the Monastery and to the people of God.

Please join us in holding them in prayer, with gratitude for their years of faithful service and with hope for the blessings still to come.



Front row: Sisters Clare Marie Trettel and Linda Wiggins

Back row: Sisters Beverly Raway, Mary Josephine Torborg, and Marie Therese Poliquin.

Butterfly Blessings

On August 28, Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery released five painted lady butterflies into the Garden Court. These had hatched from pupa (chrysalis) to adult in a mesh container on Benet Hall. On a warm summer afternoon, they were released into our Garden Court. Watching them take flight was a beautiful reminder of transformation and renewal—how, like the butterfly, we are called to grow in faith, hope, and love through the Spirit's gentle work within us.



Top: From caterpillar...

Middle: to pupa...

*Bottom: to
Painted Lady butterfly.*



Sisters Josine Krausnick, Lisa Maurer, Luella Wegscheid, Donna Schroeder, Marie Therese Poliquin, and Beverly Raway, get ready to release the mature butterflies into freedom.

Honoring Sisters Beverly Raway and Danile Lynch

At the end of Sister Beverly's second term as Prioress, and as Sister Danile stepped down from her duties as Treasurer, the Community celebrated their ministries with dinner and entertainment on August 27. Sister Jayne Erickson and her friend 'Buddy' explained Chapter 40 from the Rule: "On the Amount of Ice Cream Proper

for Monastics." (The incorrect translation from the Latin was 'On the Proper Amount of Drink.') Sisters in the audience corrected 'Doctor Fraud' (played by the new Prioress Sister Jeanne Ann Weber) and Nurse Fraud (played by Sister Dorene King) who were clueless about the true meaning of the Rule.



Sister Danile Lynch at center left laughs, as Buddy presents a new translation of Chapter 40.



Sister Lois Eckes corrects Doctor Fraud (Sister Jeanne Ann Weber)



Left: Sister Jayne Erickson leads a sing-along.



Right, Sister Beverly Raway thanks the Community for an interesting ten years as Prioress.



The Geraldine (Jeri) Ogren Memorial Garden

Thanks to the generosity of the Geraldine (Jeri) Ogren family, the tiered garden above the Benet Hall Courtyard was transformed into a peaceful, beautiful space for Sisters to enjoy.

Designed by Shoreview Natives, the garden features native plants that not only offer natural beauty but also support vital pollinators such as monarch butterflies, native bees, and honeybees.

A memorial plaque completes the space, honoring Jeri's memory and reflecting her family's love and care.

This is a growing year as the plants become established, so we didn't expect many blooms, but were happy to see autumn asters that held their flowers through the first frosts. We look forward to next summer's surprises.

The Sisters are deeply grateful to the Ogren family for this gift, which will continue to bless the Monastery community for years to come.



The upper memorial garden, with hostas and ornamental grasses on the lower level



Fall Open House at St. Scholastica Monastery

On September 28, Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery welcomed guests to their annual Fall Open House. It was a beautiful autumn day, filled with warmth, joy, and community spirit. Visitors enjoyed tours of the Monastery archives, where they learned about the rich history and Benedictine heritage of the Sisters. The Monastery Books and Gift Shop was also open for business, offering guests a chance

to browse handmade items, books, and keepsakes. Refreshments were served in the Rockhurst Dining Room, offering time for conversation and connection.

The day was a wonderful celebration of friendship and faith—an expression of the Benedictine value of hospitality that continues to bless all who come through the Monastery doors.



Mary Durocher Hudson and Euzar Balinas



Sisters sing the traditional blessing.

The Monastery's Peace Pole

The Peace Pole movement began in 1955 with Masahisa Goi of Japan who, deeply moved by the devastation of World War II, sought to unite people through a simple but powerful prayer: "May Peace Prevail on Earth." From that vision grew a worldwide movement. Today, more than 250,000 Peace Poles stand in over 180 countries, symbolizing unity and humanity's shared hope for peace.

In 2004, the family of Sister Lois Eckes planted a Peace Pole at McCabe Renewal Center in honor of her ministry as Director and her tireless efforts to promote peace through education and prayer. When McCabe was sold in 2025, Sister Lois's family lovingly removed the Peace Pole, and her brother Ralph Eckes refurbished it to its present beauty.

On a warm August morning, Sister Lois, her family members, Sisters, and friends gathered



Participants gather to pray around pole.

for a Peace Pole Re-dedication Ceremony in the Monastery garden. The ceremony began with the Monastery's Land Acknowledgement Statement, honoring the Ojibwe (Chippewa) people, specifically the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Anishinaabe, as the original stewards of the land.

Sister Lois's siblings — Jane, Joan, Lucia, and Danny — shared the story of the Peace Pole and its meaning for the monastic community. Guests were then invited to help plant the pole, each adding a handful of earth as Joyce, another sister of Sister Lois, played a gentle drum rhythm. Then individuals came forward with small national flags to plant at the base of the pole. Now standing in its new home, the Peace Pole remains a beacon of hope and a prayer for peace, honoring all who work to ensure that peace will prevail.



Sister Beverly Raway plants the flag of India

Opening of the Inquiry into the Canonization of Servant of God Sister Annella Zervas, OSB

In 1929, when Amelia Wagner was pregnant, she developed serious complications, and her obstetrician said he would not be able to save her baby and may lose her also. Her mother-in-law Julianna gave her a relic of Sister Annella Zervas to wear and told her to pray to her. This Sister had been born in Moorhead and joined St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota. A holy woman, she had died at age 26 only three years earlier, and already there were relics and prayerful devotions to her, as well as reports of favors. Amelia prayed to God

and Sister Annella for her baby's life. When the child was born healthy and whole in October, 1929, her happy parents named her Annella. When she came of age, Annella joined St. Scholastica Monastery, bringing with her a life-long devotion to Sister Annella Zervas.

Thus, we share an affinity for that holy, unassuming woman who had committed her life to God. Through her gift of music, Sister Annella Zervas had helped her students in Bismarck, North Dakota strengthen

their faith in a loving God. In her last three years she endured a painful hereditary skin disorder with patience and joy. She prayed for strength to endure the pain with grace and died from complications at age 26.

Now she is being considered for canonization as a saint of the Church. On October 9, we were able to live-stream the Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston, Minnesota that celebrated her life. Bishop Andrew Cozzens then opened the formal diocesan tribunal that will investigate her life, record the testimony of witnesses, and gather historical documentation about her life for an eventual report to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Sister Annella Zervas is now a Servant of God. This is a prayer come true for our Sister Annella, who has prayed to her namesake throughout her life.



Sister Annella Wagner listens as Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston explains the process of inquiry.



Sister Dorene and Sister Joana at Como Zoo

Summer Excursions

Mary Tanner and Sister Dorene King took our African students on an excursion to the origin of the Mississippi at Lake Itasca. Sisters Agnes Atai Ongodia and Joana Charles touched the water at its origin. They heard a presentation about Manoomin – wild rice – at the Lake Itasca fishing pier. On the way they passed through the town of Benedict. Yes, there is a town called Benedict in Minnesota.

On another day, Sister Joana Charles and Sister Dorene King drove to the Twin Cities to see the Smithsonian exhibit “Exploring Human Origins” at Luther Seminary. They visited the Como Zoo and fed lettuce to a giraffe.

Sister Joana Charles of Tanzania and Sister Agnes Atai of Uganda, with Sister Dorene King and Mary Tanner



All Souls Day

On November 2 we remember our Sisters who have passed from this life into eternity since the last All Souls Day. At Evening Prayer we listen to a passage from Revelation 21, that includes:

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Then a lighted lamp is carried to the altar for each Sister, as her obituary is read. At the end we pray: "Compassionate God, today we have remembered the life and death of our beloved sisters. We recall how they witness to us by their lives of prayer and ministry and offered their special gifts to this community and to others.

"We experience their loss, but also rejoice for we know that they live beyond the touch of death, and that our love remains with them as we await our final union with them, and with you, Divine Mystery of Love. ... Through your Paschal Mystery, may all who have died, especially from our Community, be forgiven and live forever in the splendor of your divine light and mercy."



Sister Theresa Spinler places +Sister Mary Christa's lamp on the altar.



+Sisters Mary Christa Kroening, Agnes Fleck, Johnetta Maher, and Judine Mayerle

ALL SOULS' DAY



Re-Membering

During the turmoil of the 1970s and 1980s, many professed religious, both men and women, left their orders for lay ministry. This was traumatic both for those who were leaving and those who remained. Later they began meeting annually in a Re-Membering retreat for spiritual renewal and healing, and their most recent meeting was in June.



Front row L to R: Nadine Reiser (Sister Nadine), Josey Warren (Sister Mary Joan), Erin Keeley (Sister Erin), Jackie Solem (Sister Jacqueline), Mary Greving (Sister Jonathan), Dorothy Rappel (Sister Dorothy), Judy Pedersen (Sister Deborah), Dolores Seashore (Sister Delora) Back row L to R: Mary Kay Havonec Johnson, Sister Mary Susan Dewitt, Sally Lotte (Sister Corine), Sister Claudia Cherro, Kathy McQuinn (Sister Karlean), Judith Poquette (Sister Judith), Sister Sue Fortier, Mary Donahue (Sister Claudine), Mary Carlson (Sister Margol), Sister Beverly Raway, Kris Hasskamp (Sister Kris), Raymone Kral (Sister Raymone), Nancy Petroskie (Sister Leon), Barb Wetzel (Sister Frederick), Coleen Erickson (Sister Coleen), Julie Calligure (Sister Yolanda), Mary Kay Thornton (Sister Julianne), Nancy Willette (Sister Felicia), Shalom Kropf (Sister Shalom).

Sister Beverly Recognized as a First Generation College Graduate

In October, Sister Beverly Raway was inducted as an honorary member of the Tri-Alpha Honor Society of the College of St. Scholastica. This is a national honor society for first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Founded in 2018 at Moravian University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, its mission is to “recognize academic excellence, provide mentorship, and foster a community of support and motivation for first-generation students.” At the College, it honors their vision and courage in following new paths and inspiring younger family members to follow in their footsteps.



New Members of the Alpha Alpha Alpha Society



Dr. Barbara McDonald, CSS President, congratulates Sister Beverly Raway.

Obituary

Sister Judine Mayerle, age 84, of St. Scholastica Monastery, was called home on September 5, 2025 at the Benedictine Living Community-Duluth in her 64th year of consecrated life. She entered the Benedictine Community on September 8, 1960, made her First Monastic Profession on July 11, 1962, and her Perpetual Monastic Profession on July 11, 1965. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 2012.

Born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on May 23, 1941, she was baptized Barbara Jean. She grew up in Bovey on the Iron Range, attended school in nearby Coleraine, and helped in the family's hardware store. She recalled, "Sometimes I would stop at St. Mary's Catholic Church and sit in the quiet semidarkness, aware even as a child of His loving Presence. I think my vocation was born in that little church and nurtured by my parents' strong faith. I didn't really pray. I just sat there with Him."

It was in Bovey that she first encountered the women in long black robes who came each summer to teach catechism. She thought they were cool, but she was planning to be a foreign correspondent, wear a trench coat, and carry a press card tucked into her hatband. Years later, on a cold January afternoon, she saw St. Scholastica Priory in Duluth framed in gently falling snow and knew God was calling her. She enrolled at The College of St. Scholastica and studied for a double major in English and History with a minor in Journalism. Though enjoying college life, she was drawn to the solitude of the forest beyond the cemetery and to the Sisters' voices chanting the Divine Office in Chapel. At the beginning of her sophomore year, she entered the Monastery and took the name Judine.

Sister Judine taught at Duluth Cathedral High School from 1964 to 1968 and went on to graduate school, earning a master's degree in Motion Picture History/Criticism from UCLA in Los Angeles, California, and a Ph.D. in Television History/Criticism and Mass Communication Law from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She taught in related fields at The College of St. Scholastica, Northwestern University, the University of Minnesota—Minneapolis, and Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

She enriched her students' education by inviting film and television professionals from Los Angeles to visit her classes, and loved keeping in touch with former students who remember her as their favorite teacher.



Sister Judine returned to Duluth in 1999, where she served on the Board of Trustees of The College of St. Scholastica and the Monastic Council. She worked with consultants in Strategic Planning. In 2005 she produced a 30-minute film Sing a New Song about the Community for use in our vocation ministry. For our 125th anniversary in 2017, she wrote six articles for Pathways Magazine on the history of our Community. While on sabbatical and living near Duluth's waterfront, she would lie awake to listen to the horn of freighters coming into port and she was again a small child, listening in the darkness for the whistle of massive train engines pulling full ore cars south to Duluth.

Looking back on her life, she wrote, "I still sit in the silence with Him. Sometimes I speak. Mostly I listen. I never became a foreign correspondent, but the Benedictine value of stewardship challenged me to use my talents as I followed a different path. Whatever He asked of me, regardless how difficult, I would remember the words of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary: 'Rejoice, fear not, nothing is impossible with God.' Clearly the plans God has for us are so much better than what we might design for ourselves."

Sister Judine was preceded in death by her parents, James and Frances (Kosher) Mayerle, and her brother Mark of Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is survived by her sister Judith (Allan) Burroughs of New Milford, Connecticut, her brothers James (Kristin) of Coleraine and Thomas (Susan) of Edina, and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

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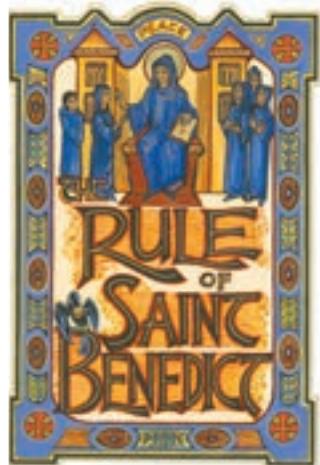
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Below is a testimonial from a reader

"We have a Benedictine Reading group that meets to discuss the daily readings from the Rule for the week. I saw your illuminated manuscript last year while on retreat and gave one to our Community Chaplain. It is a beautiful text, reminding us of the history of our faith and the Rule"

– Carl Ferguson, Gainesville, GA



Hand-crocheted Nativity by Sister Patricia Anne Williams

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.

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