Benedict’s wisdom for change

By Sister Pat Coughlin

“Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run twice as fast as that.”

Lewis Carroll wrote these words spoken by the Red Queen in Alice Through the Looking Glass in 1871. One-hundred-and-forty-five years later most of us feel that we are running at least twice as fast just to keep up with the pace of change in our individual and collective lives, and, even as we run, the same place is no longer the same.

We all know that change is part of life, sometimes joyful and exhilarating, sometimes in the form of great loss. Often change, either joyous or tragic, brings us a sense of uneasiness. We can feel like strangers, no longer at home in a familiar place. If the change is radical enough we can have the sense that our security, safety, control and identity are threatened. When this happens we can freeze, become numb. We can become bitter about the losses this change entails. We can become fundamentalists, clinging tightly to a tradition without realizing that the tradition has been changing constantly. We can make small adjustments, just enough to live with the change. We can embrace the change wholeheartedly. Whatever our reaction, we can take some time from running to discern the call within the change and our response to it.

St. Benedict lived at a time of change. In the sixth century the old order enforced by the Roman Empire was crumbling, and barbarians were breaching its boundaries. In withdrawing from the decadence around him and writing a document that furthered the evolution of the monastic tradition he inherited, he created a new order centered on contemplation and emphasizing a balance between work and prayer, stability and lifelong conversion.

We live in an age of deeper changes than those of the sixth century, an age in which the discoveries of science have challenged the worldview of our ancestors in faith. Cosmology, physics, paleontology, ecology, brain research, psychology, scripture studies, historical studies, theology, computer science and the intrusion of cyberspace into our lives have led to radical changes in the way we understand the vast universe we live in and our place in it, the nature of material beings, how we make choices, where we come from, how our bodies function, even who God is and how God relates to the world. No wonder many of us feel mentally and emotionally exhausted from running to keep up. No wonder fundamentalism is on the rise throughout the world.

What does the Benedictine tradition have to say to all of this? Perhaps the answer lies in its ability to hold opposites: solitude and community; silence and dialogue; contemplation and ministry; structure and spontaneity; fasting and feasting; stability and conversion. The

“Where in my life am I running to keep up, and how can I be gentle with my exhausted self?”

Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB

Continued on page 6
We are Benedictine women called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need. *Sacro Speco* is a biannual publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for oblates, alumnae, and friends of the community.

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*Sacro Speco*, a publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

We are happy to share *Sacro Speco* with you and want to make sure you don’t miss an issue! If you need to update your contact information or are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, contact jlesanche@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x371. If you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter who would like to be included in a future mailing, please encourage them to contact us with their current name and address. Thank you and enjoy this issue!
Message from the Priorress

Dear Friends,

Something about the beginning of a new year encourages that we think about change: change we might consider for this year; or, changes we’ve experienced over the past year, some inevitable and others chosen.

Recently, a friend recommended a little book to me, Always We Begin Again: The Benedictine Way of Living by John McQuiston. It adapts the Rule of Benedict to the circumstances of contemporary life. The title suggests an attitude of openness and hope. And the practice of routine contemplation of scripture, called for in the Rule of Benedict, helps us develop perspective to learn from our everyday experiences. It brought to mind Dag Hammarskjöld’s book Markings where he wrote, “Let me read with open eyes the book my days are writing—-and learn.”

Two of the Benedictine vows we take also speak to those of us faced with daily changes: “stability” and “conversion through a monastic way of life.” They lay out a blueprint for life. With the first vow, Benedictines commit to a particular group of people; and in the second vow each accepts the reality that living day by day with others in community in a Gospel and ecclesial attitude of love will call for conversion and facilitate conversion over a lifetime. This conversion is growth away from self-centeredness and toward service and consideration for others.

These two vows are not only useful for those living in religious communities but for all of us Christians who are faced with modern life’s daily changes and seek a path through it all. I hope this issue of Sacro Speco speaks to the changes you are facing and lets you know that through it all, we are walking the journey with you!

In peace,

Judith Murphy, OSB

Letters From You

REMEMBRANCE

A year has slipped by since the death of Cecilia McNulty Woods (SSA, Cañon City, 1962). Although no letter reached you at her passing, the following thoughts express the admiration—and love—we had for Cec. Prior to her death on August 9, 2014, she and I talked and laughed daily, and in those phone chats she shared stories from her years at St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, Colorado. She asked that I write of those events for her.... The stories make up “The Book of Cecilia”—a unit in my book called Glimpses...Now I Can See.” The entire book is dedicated to Cec—for her life, for her love, for her laughter.... She held nothing but admiration for the Sisters—her teachers and friends, and for her classmates, not only in the class of 1962, but also in those that preceded and followed....Thank you for all the memories and love.

-Elizabeth A. Roberts, PhD (SSA, Cañon City, 1962)

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

If you have a letter you would like to share here, please contact:

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Attn: Sacro Speco Newsletter
7430 N. Ridge Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60645

Or email nsotelo@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.”

We will publish letters as space permits.
Monastery News

When Sister Susan Kilduski took trumpet lessons as a young woman, she probably never dreamed they would help her ministry as a Benedictine Sister. After entering the Benedictines, she discovered she could use her musical talent as a ministry: playing taps at veteran memorials. She said that a recent experience was one of the proudest of her life: playing taps for a 50th Anniversary event that honored Milton Lee Olive III, the first African American recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War. During the war, Olive saw an incoming grenade and used his body as a shield to protect his comrades in service. While he did not survive, others did and were forever grateful. We are so proud of Sister Sue and her ability to share her musical talent at special occasions such as this.

Sister Vivian Ivantic celebrated her 102nd birthday on August 28, 2015. She recently joined Sister Belinda Monahan, the monastery’s Vocation Minister, in giving a presentation to a class of Northwestern University students who are studying Catholicism. The two sisters shared highlights from the monastery’s history, including pictures of the sisters over time, old hymnals, and other memorabilia. The class also visited the chapel at the monastery and learned about the sisters current life of prayer and service. The students enjoyed the visit and we loved hosting them!

Benedictine women’s monasteries around the world created a forum in which to meet, build relationship, and support one another. This forum, begun in 2001, is called Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum (CIB). Sister Patricia Crowley serves as a representative from North America in her role as president of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses. She attended the international gathering in France during September where sisters gathered from countries as far away as Brazil and South Africa.

To commemorate the Vatican’s Year of Consecrated Life, Sister Benita Coffey prepared an Open House for our Rogers Park Neighbors in August and Sister Virginia Jung coordinated a special vesper service in September. The Vatican announced this special year to encourage vocations and highlight the lives of men and women religious who have dedicated themselves to serving the church. The monastery’s communications office has also participated by sharing stories and images in our online media and with the United States Conference of Bishops’ social media office to help raise awareness about the Benedictine sisters.

Our community celebrated the jubilees of six sisters this year. “Jubilees” are the anniversaries of the day that our sisters professed vows to become Benedictines. Since the last newsletter, four sisters commemorated their jubilees and renewed their vows. This includes: Sister Amy Campbell (75 years), Sister Victoria Marconi (70 years), Sister Kathleen McNamara (70 years), and Sister Mary Melady (50 years). Thank you for your years of service, sisters!

Many friends of the monastery knew Peter Zonsius, Sister Judith Zonsius’ uncle, through his charitable ministries. Since his death, Sister Judith has carried on the administrative work to ensure Uncle Pete’s Ministries continues as a charitable organization. Among the many ministries, last year volunteers delivered 12,000 suppers to families in need! Sister Judith and Uncle Pete’s Ministry was honored with an award by the Paluch Family Foundation in October for their commitment to serve as Christ did.

Sister Victoria Marconi is in her 90s, but she still keeps up a ministry of letter writing. Letters pour in every week and she answers each one, sharing God’s love through the medium of pen and paper. Recently, a young man asked if there was a sister who could be his prayer partner while he studies to become a priest. We knew Sister Victoria was perfect for the assignment. The two have kept up a correspondence and in August he came to meet his sister in faith and they took this joyous selfie!
**{Sister Story}**

**Sister Rita Nowak**

*Sister Rita entered the monastery in 1952 and made her final profession to become a sister in 1957. She has served in a number of roles, most recently as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor at the monastery.*

*Sister Rita has skillfully served as a teacher, principal, and sub-prioress throughout her 63 years as a Benedictine sister. It was in her role as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, however, that she happily returned to working close with the earth that she first fell in love with as a child.*

*Sister Rita’s father was a wholesale florist in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and her mother would assist him in caring for the flowers. Rita would go along with her to the greenhouses where the workmen had made her a low “bench.” She remembers, “drawing and coloring bakery goods and cutting them out and placing them on the bench” as if it were a bakery. She also recalls “the greenhouses were warm and full of growing things, wonderful light and earthy smells and cats.” The holidays were the busiest times and she says “whole greenhouses were filled with gold or russet or lavender or red at Christmas and white and yellow and purple at Easter—I loved it! I didn’t know how much this became a part of me.”*

It was only later that she stumbled into caring for the grounds of the monastery. “I found that my work on the grounds was a favorite.” She has been caring for the monastery’s grounds over the last 30 years.

*Over the summer, Pope Francis issued an encyclical about the care of the earth titled, *Laudato Si*. The church has often held a high regard for the care of God’s creation. Sister Rita remembers, “When I entered, Sister Evelyn, our Novice Mistress, instilled in us the concept that work is holy. In fact, The Rule [of St. Benedict] is filled with statements of respect for everything and everyone.... our life together supports the concept of care for all of creation.”*

Pope Francis’ encyclical on the earth was timed at this particular moment in history to address the massive climate change that is occurring and to encourage Christians to take steps towards the care of the earth.

*To learn more about how to care for the earth, Sister Rita has some recommendations. First, she suggests reading about how humans are destroying our common home. More importantly, she says, “go outside and really look at things, listen and feel nature.... You will get to love the earth and then recycling, etc. will be a part of you!”*

“...let the Universe into your life!
-Sister Rita

She also recommends setting aside quiet time to read and reflect with books such as *Radical Amazement* by Judy Cannato, *Ancestral Grace* by Diarmuid O’Murchu, *The Universe Story* by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, or *Ask the Beasts* by Elizabeth Johnson.

*Sister Rita also encourages people to consider simple living. She remembers cleaning a Sister’s room after she passed away and seeing her simple style of living. “She could have had so much more but what she had was enough.”*

*In order to help people get in touch with God’s creation, Sister Rita oversees the monastery’s community garden where people in the neighborhood who live in apartments with no access to land can tend a plot for vegetables and flowers. She believes that if you “get in touch with your heart and with your gut feelings [you can] let the Universe into your life!”*

*It was, in part, the land that drew her to the monastery. “At St. Scholastica Academy, I got to know the Sisters. They led me into an interest in social movements and the wonderful world of biology. It felt right to join them.” The Sisters are grateful she did!"*
promise of stability is not simply a pledge to stick around. It is a grounding in the reality of our lives. Rather than a frantic rush from one thing to another, one project to another, it is a profound acceptance of this particular place and these particular people as one’s way to God. The promise of conversion is not a commitment to engage in a static keeping of a rule, but, “a recognition of God’s unpredictability, which confronts our own love of cosiness or safety. It means that we have to live provisionally, ready to respond to the new whenever and however it might appear.” (Esther de Waal in Seeking God: the Way of St. Benedict.)

Stability is necessary for us to keep our feet on the ground. Conversion is necessary to keep us from becoming mired in that ground and so cease to engage in lifelong transformation. Professed Benedictines make formal vows of stability and conversion, but these two qualities are necessary for anyone seeking to live a full human life.

As we enter 2016, change and the way we are with the changes in our lives might be a helpful subject for reflection: Where in my life am I running to keep up, and how can I be gentle with my exhausted self? What changes in my life are positive, and how can I be thankful for them? Are there any losses that have come with life changes, and do I need to grieve them? What am I being called to do or be through these changes?

**In Memorium:**

*Sister Mildred Zember*

Helen Kathleen Zember was born May 17, 1925, to Frances Cerbo and George Zember, in La Veta, Colorado. Their three daughters and three sons were raised on their farm. They were a devout Catholic family where the faith was clearly important and parents were exemplary teachers and models of strong Christian values.

She entered St. Scholastica Monastery on September 8, 1944. Helen received the name Sr. Mildred at the time of her reception as a novice on July 11, 1945. She professed triennial vows on August 16, 1946, and pronounced perpetual vows on that date in 1949.

With her first year of college already completed in Colorado, she now continued her studies at DePaul University where she was awarded the Bachelor of Philosophy degree. Sister Mildred began her many years of teaching at Queen of All Saints and St. Hilary schools in Chicago.

In the mid-1950's, she was assigned to parish schools in Colorado, first in Pueblo, then in Salida. Many summers over the years, Sister Mildred frequently served in “vacation schools”, the religious education programs for parishes where there were no parochial schools. On returning to the Chicago area, she ministered in religious education at Mother of God Parish in Waukegan, Illinois, and then at Saint Symphorosa. She also engaged more actively on the archdiocesan level and became a certified Director of Religious Education, worked as District Catechist for ten years, and held a position on the Archdiocesan Religious Education Board for three years. She was a recipient of the Catechetical Ministry Award from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In 1983 she became the Director of Religious Education at Queen of the Rosary Parish in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, her last assignment. She also received her Masters degree in Religious Education from Loyola University Chicago in 1986. After retiring, she assisted with the Oblate Program which had always been an interest of hers. A special highlight of her life was to be one of a hundred chosen to receive Holy Communion from Pope St. John Paul II when he celebrated Mass in Chicago. Another was the summer of 2000 when she attended the Benedictine renewal program in Rome.

Sister Mildred died peacefully at the monastery on the morning of October 12, 2015. Her funeral was held Friday, October 16, 2015 at St. Scholastica Chapel and she was interred in All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois. She is survived by her sister Wilma Zember Brown and many nieces and nephews.

By Sister Pat Coughlin. Pat has ministered in the field of education and psychotherapy for 56 years. She currently serves as a Supervisor at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy. She also serves on the Monastic Council as secretary for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.
Lay leadership within Oblate groups is a growing trend among U.S. Benedictine communities. Sister Joan Hentges has led the Colorado Benedictine Oblates, but as she prepared to retire to St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago this summer, she knew that a different structure was needed to support the Oblates.

A leadership team was formed from among the Colorado Oblates and now six members help lead the group, with Sister Joan acting as a mentor from a distance. The leaders range in age from 50s to 70s. They recently met and shared some of their thoughts on the new role they have taken as a team.

“We are working to keep the group viable with the widest participation possible and to avoid dependence on one person as leader,” they wrote in an email. They believe everyone deserves an opportunity to lead and look forward to having one person rotate off the team and one new person rotate onto the team each year. They hope it will provide an array of representation from among their fellow Oblates.

They also want to ensure people feel welcomed to share their ideas, even if they are not on the leadership team. “We ask the Oblates what they think at the meetings, as well as receive private input from them.”

On a regular basis, the leadership team focuses on planning their monthly meetings, preparing readings for the year, coordinating an Advent retreat, organizing an Annual Social, recruiting and forming new Oblates, etc. It is a lot of work, but they hope that over time, they can continue to make the Colorado Oblates a “vibrant, life-giving Oblate group that utilizes the gifts of everyone in the group to help us learn to carry the Benedictine charism into the world.” With such an intentional team, we have no doubt that they will!

Two women, Rosalie Riegle and Mary Rose Close made their Oblation to become Benedictine Oblates in St. Scholastica Chapel on September 20, 2015. Both women had studied Benedictine spirituality for many years before entering into this life-long commitment. “I’ve always been interested in Benedictine spirituality,” reflected Rosalie. “Having quiet prayer time at the beginning of each day helps to unite the disparate parts of my still-busy life.” It was prayer that also drew Mary Rose Close to this day. “I wanted to establish a connection with [the sisters] and to be praying with them.” Welcome Rosalie and Mary Rose!
More than 200 alumnae gathered in Chicago for the 2015 Alumnae Reunion Weekend celebrating the classes of ’0 and ’5. The weekend included a wine reception, dinner, and class photos at the Jean Marie Ryan Center on Saturday. On Sunday, the attendees gathered for the Alumnae Memorial Mass, an honored tradition to remember classmates who have passed away and to give Benedictine medals to the 50th anniversary class. After the Mass, there was a reception and the doors of the school were opened for tours. Alumnae took the opportunity to walk the halls of the school, reminiscing and sharing stories with their families. What a memorable weekend!

(from top row to bottom row, left to right) Former principals Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, ’60 and Judy Borchers, ’58 pose for a photo at the reunion. Patricia Coughlin, OSB, ’57, talks with two alumnae about the St. Scholastica and St. Benedict mural during the campus visit on Sunday. A group of alumnae from the class of 1970 gather around their table at the Saturday evening dinner. Joanne Bookstein, ’65, gives the 50th anniversary class address. Susie Randle Craig ’70, left, poses for a photo with her mother Rosie Randle, a former staff member. Alumnae fill the Jean Marie Ryan Center’s elegant banquet hall for the Saturday night dinner.

See the full album of photos
http://on.fb.me/1RxVqSy
(at right) Alumnae of all ages gathered at The Abbey Winery for a tour, tasting, and reminiscing.

ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY, CAÑON CITY
2015 Reunion Weekend, August 14-16

Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City and The Abbey gathered together in August for the 2015 All-Class Alumnae Reunion Weekend. Gathering from near and far, alumnae enjoyed the full weekend of activities that included a visit to The Abbey Winery, dinner, campus tours, Mass, and more. Sister Benita Coffey, the last sister principal at the school, traveled to Cañon City for the reunion festivities. Next year’s reunion is set for August 19-21. Make sure to save the date! See the full album of photos: http://on.fb.me/1RxXGcj

In Memorian

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Marie B. Rubly Molloy (1937) (deceased 2014)
Jeanne Lochner Keuth (1938)
Georgette Kesselring (1941)
Mary Ann Fallon Farmer (1945), sister of Jane LoSasso (1959), mother-in-law of Lynne Farmer, former Head of School Carol Stutz Hopkins (1945)
Sheila Murphy Hulseman (1953), sister of Eileen Samuelson (1955) and Judith Murphy, OSB (1960)
Donald Andries, husband of Dorothy Delacomia Andries (1954)
Germaine Barkemeyer (1954)
Mary Fahey Klodzinski (1958)
Trudy Campion Anderson (1960), sister of Patricia M. Campion (1957)
Sally Godfrey Arpe (1962)
Jean Moloney Leisten (1963)
Michele “Missy” Kunze (1964)
Sandra Lee Knutson McHugh (1965)
Barbara Jean Bergquist Radley (1965) (deceased 2013)
Thomas E. Carrell, Jr., husband of Jane Ryan Carrell (1966)
Mary Mills (1978)
Maria Basantes, grandmother of Susana Cordova-Gegner (1984)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Jean Kimmick Butler (1960)
Ceilia McNulty Woods (1962) (deceased 2014)
Rose and Felix Taylor, parents of Michelle Taylor (1987)
Sara Elder Donohue (1990)

The above represents notices received June 1, 2015 - October 26, 2015.
Where is God calling you?

- Do you feel God is calling you to something more in life but you’re not sure what it is?
- Do you long to live a life of prayer and service?
- Are you searching for a community where you can become fully yourself?

We invite you to discern God’s call in your life. Whether you are called to single life, religious life, or married life, God has a plan for you.

If you wonder if God may be calling you to become a Sister, contact Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB at vocation@osbchicago.org or 773.338.7063. Sister Belinda is the Vocation Minister, helping women discern God’s call in their lives.

Memories

The grotto was a favorite place for sisters, friends, and alumnae to gather for quiet prayer or, as in the photo below, a family photo! Over time, however, the grotto’s rocks became unstable and, as a result, unsafe. The sisters were forced to remove the upper rocks but wanted to keep the prayerful space. A few years ago, they turned the spot into a place for quiet reflection, adding a table and chairs while keeping the lower rocks and old iron fence. It remains a beautiful area for the sisters to rest, reflect, and pray.
Spirituality Programs, Spring 2016

**Lenten Series on Mercy and Forgiveness**
February 13-March 1
Facilitated by Sister Patricia Crowley and Sister Benita Coffey

**Eco-Spirituality**
April 30
Facilitated by Sister Mary Melady and Sister Rita Nowak

**Dream Workshop**
May 5, 12, 23, 26
Facilitated by Sister Patricia Coughlin

**International Labyrinth Day**
May 7
Coordinated by Sister Mary Melady

Visit our website osbchicago.org/programs to learn more about these upcoming events and to find registration details. We look forward to seeing you at the monastery this spring!

Connect with Your Benedictine Community

Whether you are seeking to deepen your prayer life or searching for a faith community, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago invite you to get involved with the Benedictine community.

**Join us on Facebook or Twitter**

Find out about upcoming programs, see the latest photos, or join the conversation. Follow us at twitter.com/OSBChicago or click “Like” on our Facebook page at facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago.

**Enjoy Daily Prayer or Sunday Mass**

Join the Sisters for prayer in the morning or evening or come for Sunday mass. For information, visit our website at www.osbchicago.org/prayer or call 773.764.2413 x230.

**Become a Supporter**

We are grateful for our many prayer and financial supporters and hold you daily in our prayers. If you are interested in becoming a financial supporter, visit osbchicago.org/donate or call the Director of Development, Joanne Spata, at 773.764.2413 x233.

**Sign up for the Email List**

Register your email at osbchicago.org/email and receive monthly e-newsletters and other special notices about news and events.
Prayer Ministry

You have been remembered in our prayers.

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from June 2, 2015 - November 1, 2015.

Memorials

In memory of Bob Abt
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Dolores Aguirre
Joanne Spata

In memory of Elizabeth Hoffmann Ahumada
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Trudy Campion Anderson
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Judith Borchers
Patricia Campion
Marilyn LaManna Sewall

In memory of Donald Andries
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB
Kathy and Jeff Caudill
Katherine Gehrke
Maureen Kaucher
Greg and Judy Matz
James and Cecile Mikulski
Sister Margarita Walters, O.S.B.

In memory of Sally Godfrey Arpe
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Germaine Barkemeyer
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Maria Basantes
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Sister Maurus Becker, OSB
Harold Perry

In memory of Joseph Biesinger
Karen Kelly

In memory of Michael Bowers
Patricia Heineman-Vernon

In memory of Helen and Karol Brandys
Mary Cielinski

In memory of Joseph Bredemann
Sally Noonan Bredemann

In memory of Jake Brown
Karen Kelly

In memory of Jean Kimmick Butler
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Thomas L. Butler

In memory of Marilyn Carpenter
Vanessa Garvy

In memory of Thomas E. Carrell, Jr.
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Jane Ryan Carrell

In memory of Philip Caudill
Maureen Kaucher

In memory of Ola Cook-Mbah
Nkeiruka I. Mbah

In memory of Irene Stock Cormack
Dorothy Stock Hancock
Jacqueline Stock Seley
Rose Ann Stock Foster

In memory of Margaret Caudill
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Kathy Caudill
Katherine Gehrke
Mary Cielinski

In memory of Ann Cieslinski
Mary Cielinski

In memory of Mary B. Cipolla
Terrence D. Boyle and Chung Hwa Lee

In memory of Kathleen, sister of Mary Connor
Barbara Boland

In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

In memory of Patrick Crowley
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

In memory of Patty Crowley
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

In memory of Judge Richard Cudahy
Judith Borchers

In memory of Borys Chermak
CARE Organization

In memory of Angeline and Michael Cieslinski
Mary Cielinski

In memory of Ann Cieslinski
Mary Cielinski

In memory of Mary B. Cipolla
Terrence D. Boyle and Chung Hwa Lee

In memory of Kathleen, sister of Mary Connor
Barbara Boland

In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB
Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 - November 1, 2015

In memory of Mary A. Cornella
Robert and Elizabeth Cornella

In memory of Ada Burns Crampton
Charlene Balkin

In memory of Joseph Crean
Sister Frances Crean, RSM

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Connolly Crean
Sister Frances Crean, RSM

In memory of Bernabe Cruz
Joseph and Bernadette Browne

In memory of Eleanor DeRose
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Frances L. Dickman
Joanne Spata

In memory of Sara Elder Donohue
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Helen Dorgan
G. D. and K. M. Rhea

In memory of Marilyn Dreier
William and Katherine Milleker

In memory of Georgine Ebert
Sandra and David Atkins
Benedectine Sisters of Chicago
Roger Mogel and Marsha Reed
Myrtle Beach Stamp Club – Joseph Russell, Treasurer
Myrtle Trace Homeowners Assoc. – Les Gerhart, President
Peggy Savage
Carol and Richard Scott

In memory of Susan Eggen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Sister Judith Elms, OSB
Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB

In memory of Louise MacDonald Ellis
Lois Macdonald Simms

In memory of Mary Ann Fallon Farmer
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Rick and Lynne Farmer
John Forsythe family
John Garvey family
Betty and Laurie Gauger
Geraldine and Chris Hahn Grassia
Richard Hahn
Eleanor Handler
Earlynn Hattendorf
DeVerille A. Huston
Dean Larson
Jane and John LoSasso
Thomas and Betty Novak
Laurie Oken

In memory of Robert P. Fash, Sr.
Kathie and Bob Anderson

In memory of Pete Ferrari
Judith Borchers

In memory of Rev. Robert E. Ferrigan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Carolyn Fields
Carl and Kathryn Rittmeyer

In memory of Kris Gast Fitzsimmons
Janice Gast

In memory of Ann Flaherty
Rev. William J. Flaherty

In memory of Jack Fortuna
William and Katherine Milleker

In memory of Arlene Funk
Karen Kelly

In memory of Donald Galassini
Caryl and Robert Galassini

In memory of Teresa Gallen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Bud Gast
Janice Gast

In memory of Kathy Geroski
Jill Newberger

In memory of Sister M. Carolyn Glach, OSB
Helen Davis

In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB
Suzanne Walsh

In memory of Jean Madden Glunz
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Sister Jane Smith, OSB

In memory of Emma Griffiths
Karen Kelly

In memory of Joanne Hennegan
Karen Kelly

In memory of Dick Herdrich
Margie and Ron Auer

In memory of Margaret Hogan
Judith Borchers

In memory of Harry Holland
John and Mardo Petrovich

In memory of Sheila Murphy Hulsenan
Dorothy Andries
Ron and Margie Auer
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Judith Borchers
Patricia Campion
Phyllis Duzmal
Kitty Gehrke and family
Homer and Ruth Gonzalez
Dorothy Koehler Holmes
Jackie LeSanche
Gregory and Judith Matz
Ann and Louis Metzger, Jr.
Joanne Spata

In memory of Theodore Itschner
Patricia Hartmann

In memory of Arlene McGrath Jorgensen
Mark B. Jorgensen

In memory of Anton Kaplan
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Frances Kaplan
Margaret Cullen

In memory of Violet A. Karpinski
Bernard Karpinski

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Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Special Occasions
In honor of James and Allison Bernsteine on their marriage
Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB
In honor of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB on her 75th Jubilee
Kathy and Jeff Caudill
Marie Cushing
Richard Fields
In honor of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly
Emily Hartman
Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 to November 1, 2015

In honor of Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB
Maureen Kaucher
Mary Sotir

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
Kathy and Jeff Caudill

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her birthday
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Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon

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William Van Houghton

In honor of Sylvia and John Hourihane on their 50th wedding anniversary
Kathy Statz Rees

In honor of Yolanda Imhoff on her birthday
Patricia Heineman-Vernon

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB
Patricia G. Prusa

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 102nd birthday
Linda Kneesel Barnard
Andrea Ciccone
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In honor of Penny Kerndt
Jenny and Nick Semaca

In honor of Sister Anne Krall, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly
Emily Hartman

In honor of Jane LoSasso
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In honor of Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB on her 70th Jubilee
Kathy and Jeff Caudill

In honor of Sister Kathleen McNamara, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly
Emily Hartman

In honor of Sister Kathleen McNamara, OSB on her 70th Jubilee
Kathy and Jeff Caudill

In honor of Sister Mercedes Moore, OSB on her 80th Jubilee and 100th birthday
Sharon Bordui

In honor of Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, on her election and installation
Patricia Campion
Kathy and Jeff Caudill
Jane LoSasso

In honor of John Olen on his 49th birthday
Martin and Jeanne Stanton

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Kathleen and Bob Anderson

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In honor of Catherine Rusalem on her birthday
Sister Victoria Marconi, O.S.B.

In honor of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB
Richard Fields

If you have a loved one that you would like the Sisters to remember in prayer, please share their names with us via the envelope provided in this newsletter.
Dear Friends,

Once again we settle into the quiet days of winter and the start of a new year. It is naturally a time of contemplation of our experiences and of appreciation for all that the year has been, and for the blessings that abound in our life. You are one of those blessings!

Thanks to your support, our ministries and mission continue to flourish in Chicago and beyond. In the spring we began to offer spirituality programs at the monastery, in addition to our many individual ministries that we do such as Sister Kathleen’s parish ministry and Sister Virginia’s pastoral counseling. With your donations and volunteer hours, our sisters in the infirmary have the healthcare they need and a lively environment in which to thrive.

We are grateful to all of you for your generous support of us as a community; your generosity helps us to live as community with one another, give service where there is need, and provide a compassionate presence to our world. We pray for you daily for your prayers and generosity that are such an important support to us. May your generosity to us be richly blessed!

Peace and blessings to you!

Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see pages 30-31 for a listing of donors who gave in-kind donations, and for those who donated to Uncle Pete’s Ministries. We are grateful to each of you!

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Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand is a sister with a big heart. For more than 20 years, she has taken part in prison ministry by writing letters to inmates.

This year, she received this painting, pictured at right, from a woman to whom she has been writing for two decades. The woman may be behind bars, but she has turned her life around. She feels that God has given her a chance to minister within the walls of the jail to her fellow prisoners. She created this painting as a way of expressing her gratitude to Sister Eleanore’s long and uplifting companionship.

On behalf of Sister Eleanore and all our sisters who serve, we thank you for making our ministries possible.
Dear Friends,

One of the most pleasant aspects of my position is meeting so many of you, our dedicated supporters and generous benefactors. I especially enjoy sharing in your stories regarding your unique experiences with the Sisters. Each of these tales offers a moving tribute to our Sisters, possessing one common theme; “The Sisters really made a lasting impression on my life”.

Please know that through your friendship and support you have in turn made a major impact on the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago’s lives too! And for this we are most grateful to you. Through your generosity you not only honor the past by caring for our retired Sisters, but you enable our religious community to continue in their ministry today. We are truly grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

We also deeply appreciate the members of our Benedictine Legacy Society. We thank you for planning ahead and leaving a lasting imprint on our future. We are honored to be remembered in your final testament to your life’s work, values and beliefs. It is through your selfless act of naming us in your Will or Bequest, that you not only testify as to what is important to you during your lifetime, but you also make an investment in our future.

Thank you again for all that you do for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Please know that the Sisters deeply appreciate your partnership with them and your continued support. You are each remembered daily in their prayers, and in mine too.

With deepest gratitude,

Joanne Spata
Director of Development

A Special Thank You

We offer special thanks to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation that helps support some of our sisters who need extra care in the St. Joseph Court Infirmary. This Foundation’s generosity has made a great difference in their lives.
Annual Report - 23

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“I thank my God every time I remember you.”

-Phillipians 1:3

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Thanks to your support, our sisters are going to have an extra warm winter. Last year you helped us seal the windows in the infirmary to keep things cozy and increase the efficiency of our heating system. This year, thanks to your generosity and the on-going help from our end-of-year appeal, we are going to install new storm windows and update the thermostats in the monastery building where eight of our sisters over 75 live, along with other sisters. We also extend our gratitude to the many volunteers and donors who have helped enrich our Sisters’ lives with classes in art, music, exercise, and more. The infirmary and monastery is a lively center for learning and living, thanks to your on-going support.

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Your Gifts Support our Elderly Sisters

Thanks to your support, our sisters are going to have an extra warm winter. Last year you helped us seal the windows in the infirmary to keep things cozy and increase the efficiency of our heating system. This year, thanks to your generosity and the on-going help from our end-of-year appeal, we are going to install new storm windows and update the thermostats in the monastery building where eight of our sisters over 75 live, along with other sisters. We also extend our gratitude to the many volunteers and donors who have helped enrich our Sisters’ lives with classes in art, music, exercise, and more. The infirmary and monastery is a lively center for learning and living, thanks to your on-going support.
“...I remember you constantly in my prayers.”

-2 Timothy 1:3
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Revenues and Gains  

Expenses and Losses

Total Revenues & Gains = $2,765,576  
(Graph does not include loss on the sale of equipment of $33,943.)

Total Expenses = $2,509,419  
(Graph does not include realized loss on investments of $657)
The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters in their wills or trusts for which bequests or gifts were made during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Frank A. Fatur
Andrea Hammann
Patricia Hanson
Elsie Hulse
Irene Nowak
Patricia Redmond
J. Phillip Reichmann

These generous friends join fellow Legacy Society members who remain in the Sisters’ thoughts and prayers:

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More than a legal document, your will is a testament to your life’s work, your values, and your beliefs. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago would be honored to be remembered as part of your legacy.

Contact Joanne Spata at 773.764.2413 x233 to learn more.

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Chicago White Sox
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Clark-Devon Hardware Co, Inc.
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Dunkin’ Donuts
Felician- Franciscans
Good’s Fine Picture Framing
Gordon Food Service
Great Harvest Bread Co.
J. F. Morrow & Sons, Inc.
Jewel of the Canyons Bed & Breakfast
Lady Gregory’s Irish Pub
Lettuce Entertain You
Lifeline Theatre
Love’s Yogurt
Lynfred Winery
Metropolis Coffee
Mullen’s Sports Bar and Grill
Murphy’s Rooftop
Northlight Theatre
O’Callaghan’s
Raft Masters
Red Orchid Theatre
Robert’s Cycle
Royal Gorge Bridge and Park
Royal Gorge Route Railroad
Salon Fusion
Scandia Catering & Delicatessen Corp.
Schaefer’s Wine and Spirits
St. Gertrude Parish
Swedish American Museum
Swedish Bakery
The Fish Keg
The Lad & Lassie Shop
The Spice House
The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey
Top Spa Nails
Unan Imports
Uncommon Ground
Ungaretti & Harris, L.L.P.
Women and Children First

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Michael and Mary Zonsius
Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to promote Benedictine spirituality and action in our church and world.

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+ Indicates that the donor passed away this year and has been added to our prayer list.

Other Ways to Share in the Mission

Pray for the Benedictine Community
Please keep the sisters, oblates, alumne, and friends in your prayers. Your prayer support helps sustain us!

Become a Monthly Sustainer
We are grateful for the generosity of those who set up monthly donations that allow us to rely on a dependable resource. If you are interested in learning more about making monthly or quarterly donations to the Sisters automatically from your checking account or using your credit card, we are happy to assist you in setting up this form of gift.

Bequests in Wills or Gifts in Trust
Your planned gifts ensure that your legacy of caring will continue. If you would like to learn more about remembering the Sisters in your will or trust, please contact us or have your estate attorney do so.

Questions?
Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773.764.2413 x233.

Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors’ gifts for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!