The Prioresses of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

A History of the Community Leaders
Winter/Spring Issue 2019, vol. XXIX, no. 2

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Sacro Speco is a publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
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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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!
Dear Friends,

**Ora et Labora.** Pray and Work. These action words sum up the fullness of our Benedictine life and our lives in the monastery. They describe the daily schedule and identify a rhythm in our shared life, a balanced rhythm that over a lifetime shapes the person each one of us becomes. We pray to discern what work to do and how to do it and we work to serve where there is need.

About sixty years ago a French nun wrote a small book about such daily life in a monastery: “The Life of Little St. Placid.” Its line drawings and lettered story presages some of the graphic novels we see today. In it Placid’s former school friend who had gone to the Roman army came to visit and asked, “What do you do all day?” Placid describes life in the monastery this way: “You could say that we sing our life and we live our song.” A description that still works.

Benedictine sisters arrived in Chicago in 1861, and this issue of **Sacro Speco** shares a time line of the women selected by their sisters to serve as Prioress, and we hear directly from some who served over the past 40+ years. We are grateful for all these years of grace.

Peace,

Judith Murphy, OSB

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**Letters From You**

**ALUMNAE REUNION MEMORIES**

Dear Sr. Judith,
I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful reunion weekend hosted by the Benedictine Sisters. I think it was the best reunion yet; holding it at Misericordia lent to a more personal and formal feel. It was nice to have all the alumnae in one room and the facilities at Misericordia are lovely.

Most sincerely and respectfully,
Kristine Homan ‘88

**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 smeluso@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.”
We will publish letters as space permits.
Monastery News

The summer of 2018 brought both warm weather and occasions for outdoor gatherings on our beautiful monastery grounds. The scenic gazebo, surrounded by rows of thriving grape-vines, played host to many community picnics, Oblate barbeque, and staff lunches. On the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sister Rita Nowak, OSB organized the yearly fall clean-up: a collaboration with DePaul University students who provide this day of service as part of their Catholic Studies Program. Since 1999, St. Scholastica Monastery has partnered with DePaul for this annual tradition.

Multiple peace and justice initiatives have kept our Sisters busy. On September 15th, at the Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, active with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, planned and participated in the Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Responding with Love, Mercy, and Justice event, a discussion of current immigration and detention issues. Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB was a featured speaker at one of the breakout sessions; she addressed the birth of Bethany House of Hospitality and described how this organization cares for women seeking asylum. On September 21st, Sister Benita marked the 70th Anniversary of the UN’s International Day of Peace with an evening prayer vigil. More recently, our Sisters attended area-wide events commemorating the Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life victims at a local synagogue.

On October 7th, Sister Virginia Jung, OSB hosted Columbia Welcomes the World: Benedictine Sisters and Students at the World’s Fair, a Chicago Open Archives event held in St. Scholastica’s community room. During a panel discussion, Prioress Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, the founding principal of Cristo Rey, described the school’s beginnings (now network of Cristo Rey schools) and noted the 20th anniversary of its first graduating class. Also on the panel, Sebastian P. Wuepper, a Ph.D. Candidate in History from Loyola University Chicago, discussed the migration of German immigrants to Chicago, providing a context for our Benedictine community’s founding. Informative table displays showcased 1893 artifacts and student work reflective of this historic time. (see page 31).

From October 17-20, 2018, three Benedictine Sisters representing the Federation of St. Scholastica paid our monastery a canonical visitation. This “every-six-years” assessment provides collaborative feedback offering support, advice, and direction. The Federation Visitators confirmed that the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago continue to do extraordinary work. We are grateful to our Visitators and the Visitation Committee for their guidance and preparation.

In November, at the National Religious Vocation Conference biennial Convocation in Buffalo, NY, NRVC board member and our very own Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, spearheaded an important panel for young Catholics and Vocation directors. During the live-streamed event, You Talk. We’ll Listen, And Together We’ll Grow younger Catholics discussed the church’s challenges and gifts and described how the vowed religious can better connect with them. Following the Convocation, National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov. 4-10) was celebrated in the daily prayers of the Sisters. In addition to these yearly or biennial events, Sister Belinda welcomes young single women ages 18-50 to the Listen: Discernment Group on every third Saturday of the month to discuss books, films, and questions regarding the discernment journey. For more information or to register please visit: www.osbchicago.org/programs

Canonical Visitation 2018
Pictured left to right is the Federation of St. Scholastica Visitators and Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Visitation Committee: Sister Kathy McNany, OSB, Emmanuel Monastery, Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Sister Jacquelyn Ernster, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota, Sister Kathy Maloney, OSB, Sister Lynn McKenzie, OSB (Federation of St. Scholastica President), Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, and Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB.

Save the Date!
St. Scholastica Academy Chicago
Reunion Weekend:
September, 21-22, 2019
Oblate News

Having completed their period of orientation to the Benedictine way of Life, several candidates from both Pueblo, CO, and Chicago, IL joined the St. Scholastica Monastery Oblate community in August and in November, 2018. On August 18th, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, and Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB witnessed the Oblations of Loretta Hernandez and Regina Dow, and the reception of Patsy Lowry as a candidate. The rituals took place in the chapel of the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Pueblo. Additionally, Sister Mary Susan used the opportunity to speak about working as the new liaison between the Colorado Oblates and the Monastery in Chicago. She spoke of looking forward to "walking the journey with them."

On Sunday, November 11th five candidates made their final Oblation in the St. Scholastica Chapel in Chicago. Mary Ellen Healey, James Holzhauer-Chuckas, Patty Rudolph, Mickey Smith, and Rosanne Swanson were received as Oblates by Srs. Judith Murphy, OSB and Benita Coffey, OSB. Barbara Wahler was received as an Oblate candidate.

"I was looking to enrich my spiritual life," said Mary Ellen Healey on becoming a Benedictine Oblate. She and her brothers were educated by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at St. Hilary’s Parish School and Mary Ellen went on to St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago graduating in 1977. When Mary Ellen was just five years old her father died. It is the memory of the Sisters's comfort and guidance during that difficult time that consoles her. Through her years of education from the Sisters, Mary Ellen recalls the message to serve. At one point she even considered becoming a Benedictine Sister of Chicago. Now as an Oblate, she hopes to give back what she was given and continues to be given to her in the spirit of St. Benedict.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, at bcoffey@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x327.
Six Living Prioresses

A Prioress’s role in our community is essential. She balances stability and growth and ensures all Sisters’s voices are heard. According to St. Benedict, the Prioress is “to hold the place of Christ in the monastery,” (RB 2:2) . Each of the nineteen women who have held this important position for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago made significant contributions in service to God’s people. In this issue of Sacro Speco, six living Prioresses reflect on their experiences.

Sister Ann Sharp, OSB
Prioress from 1978-1982

Sister Ann Sharp’s years as Prioress were marked by her kindness, warmth, and attention to each sister and her support of the variety of their ministries. Additionally, during this period, St. Joseph Court Infirmary was planned, built, and introduced as the “new” home for our aging Sisters who formerly lived on the Monastery’s second floor. Also, the Sisters began driving themselves to their ministries and appointments. In 1978, the Altar Bread Department closed and the Archives began in that second-floor room above the laundry where Sister Vivian Ivantic was appointed the Community Archivist. Additionally, the Sesquimillennium of St. Benedict (480-1980) marked many community celebrations worldwide for all Benedictines. Key Peace and Justice initiatives took place during Sister Ann’s term including the establishment of a Benedictines for Peace local chapter. Additionally Sister Miriam Wilson was respected for her work as chaplain at Cook County Jail, and Sister Judith Beaumont practiced civil disobedience by protesting the Trident nuclear submarine.

Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB
Prioress from 1982-1986

When Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan was elected Prioress, she was one of the youngest of the 132 sisters in our “filled to the gills” community. She met individually with each member of the community and came away inspired by their dedication. She was impressed with the sisters’s positive attitudes despite the travails they may have endured. Most importantly, she was moved by the honest, vulnerable nature the normally reticent sisters showed. She felt privileged to hear their stories and to this day treasures those meetings as sacred. These precious moments influence her life and remain an inspiration as time goes on.

Sister Karen Bland, OSB
Prioress from 1995-1999

Before becoming Prioress, Sister Karen Bland was Assistant Vice President and Associate Academic Dean at Wheeling Jesuit College (now University). At the very moment the college was gearing up to receive the new academic year’s first-year students, Sister Karen was elected Prioress. She had to bridge completing her responsibilities at the college with her new role within our community. As Prioress, Sister Karen got to know and collaborate with like-minded Sisters and meet Benedictine women worldwide at a Benedictine Symposium in Rome where she had a private audience with Pope John Paul II. Serving as Prioress helped Sister Karen further develop administrative and personal skills that have proven valuable in her current ministry at Grand Valley Catholic Outreach. Her greatest memories as Prioress: listening with an open heart, overseeing the monastery’s finances, soliciting donations, journeying with Sisters during their declining years, and thanking our many donors.
Sister Jane Smith, OSB  
Prioress from 1999-2007

Sister Jane Smith’s predecessor, Sister Karen, applied for a grant to assess the condition and the usage of our buildings in Chicago and Colorado. When funds were received, Sister Jane hired consultants to help set the direction of the community in a guided year of study followed by a six month period of deliberation. The outcome was difficult: a decision to close our Academy in Cañon City and sell the property.

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB  
Prioress from 2007-2015

During Sister Patricia Crowley’s first term as Prioress, she served on the board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). At that time, the Vatican conducted an historic Apostolic Visitation of Women Religious “to look into the quality of the life of religious women in the United States” as well as a Doctrinal Assessment of LCWR. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were the first U.S. Benedictine community the Visitors saw. She recalls the tremendous support other Benedictines, laity, and clergy gave the community. During her second term, she was elected to the office of President for the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses (CBP). In this role, she was a delegate to the Communionis Internationalis Benedictinarum (CIB), the international organization for Benedictine women, with whom she traveled to Rome, West Africa, France, and Brazil. However, it was journeying with her own Sisters in illness and death that she treasures most from her tenure. In 2011, the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters settling in Chicago brought joy and renewal for the community. Unfortunately, in continuation of the work that Sisters Karen and Jane began in assessing the needs of the future of the community, Sister Patricia and the community made the hard choice to close St. Scholastica Academy-Chicago. This was, indeed, her greatest challenge as Prioress.

Sister Judith Murphy, OSB  
2015-Current

As the current Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy understands that in Benedictine communities all members are to be involved in decision making. Historically when Sisters entered religious life they were likely drawn to the ministry of teaching in which the Sisters engaged. Many of the Sisters, including Sister Judith, are former teachers and principals. Much of our ministry has evolved into less institutional or spiritually based ministries.

We strive to serve where there is need. Our Sisters have worked in homelessness, immigration, spiritual direction, and counseling, parish ministry and many other ministries; some Sisters continue in these works today. Some of these works were concurrent with teaching in parishes and our academies. The Sisters’s work continues to be rooted in Benedictine spirituality and in our call to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need.

For the past 157 years, the many Prioreses of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago have made meaningful and lasting contributions within our own community. We are forever grateful for their service.
St. Scholastica Alumnae & Teachers Reunite

Photos, top row, left to right, 1) 2013 Alumnae with Dr. Lynne Farmer at the SSA reunion in Chicago, 2) Alumnae are pictured with second from left Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB and Andrea Ciccone ’53 (center) in the Chapel following Alumnae Mass; Second row, left to right, 1) 50th reunion SSA grads (1968) take a tour of the Monastery and School and pose for a photo, 2) 1953 Alumnae pause for a photo with Sister Callista Kaley, OSB following Mass 3) Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, and 1968 Alumna grab a quick photo in the Chapel; Third row, l to r, 1) 1983 SSA Alumnae during cocktail hour at reunion and 2) 1988 Alumnae are all smiles at the reunion dinner; Bottom row at cocktail hour of SSA reunion Chicago, l to r, 1) 1958 Alumnae 2) 1948 Alumnae and 3) Kathlyn Myers (left) with 2008 Alumnae.
Cañon City 2018 Reunion

Each year the Abbey Events Complex hosts an Alumni Weekend in Cañon City the third weekend in August. This year Sister Benita Coffey, OSB attended and was also invited to join SSA Cañon City Alumnae for lunch with former school nurse Mrs. Sally Feith prior to the Abbey Reunion events. It was especially memorable as Mercedes (Torres) Downie ’96 and Alycia McKone Cantrell ’96 had made a trip out to Chicago in July to reconnect with Sister Amy Campbell, OSB who at 98 is unable to travel. Sister Benita enjoyed both events, for twice the fun with the Alumnae both in Chicago and in Cañon City!

In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago


Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, sister of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB (1940)

Loretta Williams Downes (1941) (deceased 1/10/2018*), sister of deceased Margaret Williams McNamara (1943)

Patricia Moran Hiassen (1945) (deceased 6/16/2018*)

Robert Hiassen, son of deceased Patricia Moran Hiassen (1945)

Roxanne Stephan O’Brien (1948) (deceased 9/24/2014*)

Betty Horan O’Grady (1948) (deceased 9/19/2012*)

Mary “Ginny” Fitzpatrick Cronin-Wadden (1949) (deceased 7/18/2017*), mother of Maureen Cronin Tamillow (1969) and Brigid Cronin (1978)

Joanne Molony Hopkinson (1951), sister of Mary Ellen Brady (1946)

Margaret Eiden Stein (1953), sister of Barbara Eiden Gauer (1952)


Robert Borchers, husband of deceased Bridget Hennessey (1956), brother of Judith Borchers (1958) and Amy Borchers Ewert (1964)

Thomas F. Hogarty, husband of Marge McCluskey Hogarty (1956)

Ed Jacobs, husband of Janet McDonald Jacobs (1957)

Mary Ellen Andries Steurmer (1957)

Julianne Benedict Derken (1958)

Mary Ellen Mahoney Graf (1958), sister of Joanne Mahoney Schwabe (1950)

Ellen Quinn Holian-Mykrantz (1958)

Nancy Joan Langelund Sedin (1958), sister of Patricia Langelund Funk (1961)


Marie Elaine Carr Rigby (1960), mother of Debby Rigby-Rose (1980) and aunt of Kathleen Supsic (1967)

Kathleen Reed (1963)

George Seidenbecker, husband of Anne Nickel Seidenbecker (1963), brother-in-law of Mary Nickel Dahlberg (1965) and Nancy Nickel (1972)


Laura Kraman, daughter of Mary Burke Siemsen (1970)

Jillian Elizabeth Hansen, daughter of Cecelia Crook VanOver (1972)

Kathleen M. Walsh Deger (1973), sister of Patricia Walsh Pindelski (1968) and Mary Walsh Olzewsuki (1970)

Maureen Shockey Wells (1973), sister of Bridget Shockey Turner (1972)

John Spellman, brother of Sharon Spellman (1977), Mary Spellman (1979), Kathleen Spellman Susan (1981), and Deborah Spellman Eappen (1983)

Patricia Hanlon, mother of Mary Anne Hanlon Newman (1983)


Claire Eileen Owen, mother of Elizabeth Owen Smith (1997)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Carolyn Weaver Duncan (1948), sister of Marian Weaver Darling (1953)

Faith McMahon Smith (1955)

Jennifer Bland Lugiai, mother of Melissa Lugiai Rhines (1987)

The above represents notices received June 1, 2018-November 1, 2018.

* Denotes that death was prior to June 1, 2018, but we only received notice of their death in the last five months.
The Prioresses of the

1861

Mother Frances Knapp, OSB
1861-1862

Mother Nepomucene Ludwig, OSB
1862-1866

Mother Antonia Herman, OSB
1866-1868

1925

Mother Philomena Linbeck, OSB
1909-1921

Mother Imelda Fischer, OSB
1921-1941

New School Building for St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago 1925

Mother Adelaide Rabida, OSB
1941-1953

1980

Sister Ann Sharp, OSB
1978-1982

St. Joseph Court Infirmary wing is built for Monastery 1980

Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB
1982-1986

Sister Mary Benet McKinney, OSB
1986-1995
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mother Laura Walker, OSB
1953-1965

Mother Luitgardis Huber, OSB
1965-1971

St. Scholastica Monastery and Academy in Chicago (in the same building)
Ridge Blvd. 1906

Mount St. Scholastica Academy
Cañon City, Colorado
founded 1890

Mother Suitberta Vollmer, OSB
1971-1978

Mother Theresa Krug, OSB
1868-1877; 1888-1902
Great Chicago Fire 1871

Mother Luitgardis Huber, OSB
1877-1888

Fine Arts Wing is built for St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago 1958

Sister Colette Westrick, OSB
1971-1978

Mother Jean Marie Matern, OSB
1903-1909

St. Scholastica Academy
Chicago 1958

Sister Karen Bland, OSB
1995-1999

Vatican II 1962-1965

Sister Jane Smith, OSB
1999-2007

Mount St. Scholastica Academy
and Academy in Chicago
(in the same building)
Ridge Blvd. 1906

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB
2007-2015

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago celebrate 150th Anniversary in 2011

Sister Judith Murphy, OSB
2015-current

Benedictine Sisters
1890

1906

1958

1966

2011
Join us for these upcoming events

**Feast of St. Scholastica Mass**
Sunday, February 10, 2019
10:30 a.m.
To attend, contact: Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, 773.764.2413 x230

**Crispina and Her Sisters: Women and Authority in Early Christianity**
A presentation by Sister Christine Schenk, CSJ
Sunday, February 17, 2018
3:00-4:30 p.m., free
Open to the public.
For more info, contact: Sister Benita Coffey, OSB 773.764.2413 x327

**National Catholic Sisters Week 2019: Movie Night**
Celebrate NCSW with us!
Monday, March 11, 2019, free
To learn more, contact: Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

**Discernment Retreat**
Friday, March 15-Sunday, March 17, 2019
Young women (18-50) are invited for a spring weekend Discernment Retreat.
To learn more, contact: Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

**Dreams and Spirituality**
Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB
Friday, March 29, 2019 7-9 p.m. & Saturday, March 30, 2019 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
$65 suggested offering including lunch.
For more info or to register, contact: Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

**World Labyrinth Day**
20th Anniversary of St. Scholastica Monastery Labyrinth
Led by Oblate Dan Raven and Sister Mary Melady, OSB
Saturday May 4, 2019 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
To learn more, contact: Sister Mary Melady, OSB, 773.764.2413 x231

For more spirituality programs and retreats, visit:
www.osbchicago.org/programs

Looking for support on your journey?
Our Sisters also offer spiritual direction and counseling. For more information:
www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling
Prayer Ministry

We remember you in our daily prayers.

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from
June 1, 2018 through November 6, 2018

Memorials

In memory of these deceased members of the class of 1968:
Debbie Dariotis Dustman
Cindy Halpin Fairchild
Nora Fanelli
Mary Lou Nagler Hopkins
Ann Gaffke Kavanaugh
Colleen Carter Kelly
Katherine Kokosinski
Mary Ellen McGarry
Evelyn Purtell Miller
Barbara Hanley Minarick
Marianne Minwegen
Patricia Hogan Moore
Jean Nicholl
Peggy O’Connor
Joan Pasterczyk
Tracey Power
Switlana Romaniuk
Mary Knapstein Rutherford
Linda Landi Schar
Barbara Baker Schwind
Dona Steidele Small
Mary Anne Gorman Smith
Linda Conrad Tomas
Janice Tomcik
Mary Ellen Bell Weber
Jane Messett White
Class of 1968
In memory of Hardin Abrams
Judith Borchers
Ellen and Bill Galush
In memory of Paul, George and Herbert Alm
Reina Alm
In memory of Trudy Anderson
Patricia Campion
In memory of Magdalena Assinger
Helga Ruby
In memory of Ronald Baruffi
Ron and Karen Celesnik
In memory of William Francis Beane
Kathy and Jeff Caudill
In memory of Caroline Becker
Helga Ruby
In memory of Bob Begner
Patricia Hartmann
In memory of June Bland
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Robert Borchers
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Nancy Bryers
Ellen Burgess
Ellen and Bill Galush
Joanne Spata
In memory of Nancy Reinarts Branda
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Gabrielle Braun
Margaret Drugan
In memory of Carol Barrett Butler
Richard Butler
In memory of Father James Colleran
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Ignacio Córdova
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Lisa Vedrode Cramer
Holly Rumpel
In memory of Mary Elizabeth Connolly Cren
Frances Cren, RSM
In memory of Mary “Ginny” Fitzpatrick Cronin-Wadden
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Annie Cullen
Margaret Cullen
In memory of George Cullen, Sr.
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Sister Estelle Cullings, OSB
Susan Callahan
In Memory of Kathleen M. Walsh Deger
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Julianne Benedict Derken
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Loretta Williams Downes
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Carolyn Weaver Duncan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Marian Weaver Darling
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Ann Dunning
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Jack and Julie Evans
Don and Leslie Dickerson
In memory of deceased members of the Fitzgerald family
William Fitzgerald
In memory of Janet Ford
Suzanne Ford
In memory of Eugene L. and Severina Renie V. Gallo
Joanne Spata
In memory of Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Lois Hayhurst Gaquin
James Gaquin, Jr.
In memory of Terrence Gleason
Lois Sweeney Gleason
In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB
Suzanne Walsh
In memory of Mary Ellen Mahoney Graf
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Thomas E. Green
Therese M. Green
In memory of Patricia Hanlon
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Jillian Elizabeth Hansen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Emily Hartman
Nancy Bryers
In memory of Patricia Moran Hiassen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Robert Hiassen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Iris “Toni” Hillenbrand
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Ralph and Nancy Deptolla
Anita and John Dunn
Sandra Fasl
Marion and Joe Goetz
Steve and Pam Hillenbrand
Douglas and Peggy Person
Joyce Perso
Albert E. Santoni
Paul Santoni
Kevin and Kim Smith
Robert and Ann Stein
In memory of Patricia and Charles Hinni
Mary and John Yena
In memory of Margaret “Peggy” Hogan
Michael J. Hogan
In memory of Thomas F. Hogarty
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
LuAnne Jautz Feik
In memory of Ellen Quinn Holian-Mykrantz
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Joanne Molony Hopkinson
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Catherine Hopkinson
Prayer Ministry—June 1, 2018 - November 6, 2018

In memory of Sheila Murphy Hulserman
Greta Rusk
In memory of Ed Jacobs
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Susan Jardien
Mary Lou Baldwin
In memory of deceased members of the Jerney family
Patricia Jerney
In memory of Dr. Ronald Johnson
Charlotte Johnson
In memory of Arlene Jorgensen
Mark Jorgensen
In memory of Anton Kaplan
Margaret M. Cullen
In memory of Frances Kaplan
Margaret M. Cullen
In memory of Ann Gaffke Kavanaugh
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Gary Klug
Mary Klug
In memory of Anna Knific
Eileen and Rudy Gallegos
Kathleen and Judy Kochevar
Kurt and Anna Marie Perse
Alice and Edward Skerjanec
In memory of Laura Kraman
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Maria Kreiling
Helga Ruby
In memory of Manfred Krupka
Juliana Krupka
In memory of Ed Landry
Angela Schroeder
In memory of Jerome Lanzel
Loretta Langton
In memory of Jennifer Bland Lugiai
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Frederick and Donna Bland
June and Stephen Bland
Judith Borchers
Nancy Bryers and Jean Slifer
Barbara Cullen
Margaret and Wayne Hanson
Patricia A. Levine
George and Helen McArdle
Sheila McGuire
Sherry Stansbury
In memory of Sister Catherine Lynch, OSB
Mary and John Yena
In memory of Victoria Piscitello Mallow
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of John Brendan Maloney
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Leah McCabe
Patricia Hartmann
In memory of Eugene McGuire
Amy and Scott Gilbert
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McKenzie
Patricia Martin
In memory of Charlotte McKenzie
Patricia Cielinski, OSB
Judith Zonsius, OSB
In memory of Joan Helen Meersman
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Jean Minelli
Michael and Debbie Cielinski
Patricia Cielinski, OSB
In memory of Anthony Peter Mitchell
Patricia Cielinski, OSB
In memory of Patricia Hogan Moore
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Robert Murray
Barbara Hickman
In memory of Ronald Murray
Kathleen Janessa
In memory of Liljana Nacevska
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Jackie LeSanche
In memory of Helen Nadziek
Peg and Wayne Wagner
In memory of Joan Napoli
Ellen Ward
In memory of Roxanne Stephan O’Brien
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Hilda Odeh
Jackie LeSanche
In memory of Timothy O’Donnell
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Mary and Charles Smoot
In memory of Betty O’Grady
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Claire Eileen Owen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Denise Perse
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Helen Perse
Margaret M. Cullen
In memory of Richard (Dick) Perse
Margaret M. Cullen
In memory of Taylor Perse
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Florence Piotrowicz
Donna Dehnert
In memory of Elizabeth Pirman
Mary Pirman
In memory of George Radacy
Susan Ernst
In memory of Kathleen Reed
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Kathleen M. Dorgan Rhea
Jerry Rhea
In memory of deceased members of the Rhodes family
Joseph Rhodes
In memory of Marie Elaine Carr Rigby
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Sharon Rodie
Susan Ernst
In memory of Camille Sabia
Florence Sabia
In memory of Bonnie Saccucci-Perez
Seth Alexander
In memory of Gloria Marie Sanchez
Siobhan O’Neill Meluso
In memory of Elliott Satinover
Patricia Hartmann
In memory of Marianne Schwarz
Renae Alm
In memory of Nancy Langelund Sedin
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Julie and Bob Sawyer
In memory of George Seidenbecker
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In memory of William Shane
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In memory of Lawrence “Gene” Sharum
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Uncle Pete Ministry
Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB
In memory of Faith McMahon Smith
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Marian Weaver Darling
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In memory of John Spellman
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Rosalie Stefan
Bob and Mary Bzik
In memory of Peg Eiden Stein
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Barbara Gauer

“...I remember you constantly in my prayers.”
In memory of Mary Ellen Stuermer
Diane Adler
Benedictine Sisters and Oblates of Chicago
Ann Cannon Miller
In memory of deceased members of the Sullivan family
John Wren
In memory of Darren Venn
Edward and Ann Phillips
In memory of Chet Vogrig
Eileen Moorman
In memory of Peter Vrdolyak
Wayne and Peg Wagner
In memory of Thomas Weber
Jean Weber
In memory of Maureen Shockey Wells
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Gerhard Welsch
Helga Ruby
In memory of Flo Wolfe
Charlene Balkin
In memory of deceased members of the Wren family
John Wren
In memory of David Zola
Noreen Ferrari and Barbara Logue
In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB
Valerie Stockmar
In memory of Scott Allen Zwolinski
Kardasz family

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her birthday
Thomas Auer
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon
In honor of Katherine Gehrke on her special birthday
Sheila Kelly
In honor of Agnes Glavich on her 89th birthday
Josephine Krasovic
In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 105th birthday
Mary and Bob Bzik
John and Joan Delisi
Patricia Finnegan
Eileen and Larry Klonowski
Ann and Robert Kneesel
James and Regina Murray
Dan Raven and Wencke Braathon
Patricia Prusa
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In honor of Jackie LeSanche
Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill
In honor of Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB
Mary Louise Reuscher
In honor of Richard and Cynthia McCallister
Rob and Dina Bachta
In honor of Florence Sabia on her 85th birthday
Teresa and Richard Brown
In honor of siblings’ birthdays (Mary Jo, Ken, Patti, Francine, George, Sam, Judy, Steph, Lee, Mike, Cathy, and Steve)
Jeanne and Martin Stanton

Special Occasions

In honor of Danette (Danny) Bergin on her 86th birthday
Betty and Bud Chess
In honor of Sister Karen Bland and other OSB members who served at St. George School, Chicago, Illinois
Joseph Rhodes
In honor of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB
Ellen Ward
In honor of Mary Ellen Molony Brady on her 90th birthday
Catherine Hopkinson
In honor of Thomas and Jaimie Caudill’s wedding
Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill
In honor of the SSA Chicago, Class of 1973
Catherine Sullivan
Jamie Ryan Thometz

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.
Note from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,

As the new year begins, we look forward to a most blessed year, with you by our side. Your friendship and support continue to enable our Sisters to further their mission. Your partnership not only honor the past by caring for our retired Sisters, but also enables our religious community to continue in their ministry today.

We are especially thankful for your support of our recent appeal to protect the St. Scholastica Chapel from the ravages of time and weather. It is through your most generous response that we have been able to repair our roof, seal the envelope of the building and restore our damaged frescos. We deeply appreciate your continued support in helping us to provide a comfortable worship space for all. Please know we are truly grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

Wishing you a blessed 2019!

Gratefully yours,

Joanne Spata, Director of Development

Save the Date!

25th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Awards

Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Park Ridge Country Club
Message from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

We continue to be so very grateful for the gracious support of our many friends and donors in so many ways. Thanks to your very generous response to our appeal last year the needed repairs to the roof over the chapel have been completed and the art restored.

In September we welcomed alumnae from SSA Chicago graduating classes (years ending in 3 and 8) for their Class Reunions. The Reunions are an occasion of great enjoyment and reconnection among our Alumnae and between our former students, the Sisters and their teachers. Together we have much about which to be pleased and proud as we hear what they have done and are doing.

We are beneficiaries of the kindness of many individuals and a number of foundations. To name a few, The Bernard Heerey Family Foundation generously supports our Sisters with specific health issues; while Serve Our Aging Religious (SOAR) thoughtfully provides special equipment and furnishings for our retired sisters in St. Joseph Court. The National Religious Retirement Office, which oversees and distributes the annual collection for retired religious Sisters and Brothers, also helps to support our aging Sisters. Meanwhile, the Helen Brach Foundation benefits our community through underwriting the cost of continuing education for some of our Sisters, to provide for our future.

We are also grateful for our monastery’s growing groups of Oblates in Chicago and in Colorado. These women and men study the teachings of St. Benedict and strive to live out the values of Ora et Labora, not as vowed members, but rather throughout their daily lives. Their commitment called "Oblation" is a solemn promise. Our Oblates are a great support to us in many ways.

We are pleased to share with you our Annual Report. Know that we hold all our friends and benefactors in our daily prayers.

Gratefully yours,

Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see page 31 for a listing of those who donated to Uncle Pete’s Ministries. A “+” cross indicates that the donor passed away this year. Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors’ gifts for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

Foundation Grants

Bernard Heerey Family Foundation
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Helen Brach Foundation
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Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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Other ways to Partner with Us in Mission

Pray for the Benedictine Community
Please keep the Sisters, Oblates, Alumnae, and friends in your prayers. Your prayer support helps sustain us!

Monthly Donor
Automatic monthly donations are an easy way to support the Sisters. To learn more about making donations directly from your checking account or credit card, please contact us.

Matching Gifts
Many employers sponsor matching gift program that match, double, or even triple any charitable contributions that their employees make. Consider asking your Human Resources Department.

Donor-Advised Fund DAR
As a registered 501(c)(3) charity, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are legally able and truly grateful to accept your thoughtful donation through your Donor-Advised Fund.

IRA Charitable Rollover
A deeply appreciated donation and a major tax benefit all in one! If you are 70 ½ plus, you can make a transfer directly from your IRA to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. This gift will not only save you tax on the donation you transfer, but it also counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Appreciated Stock
Your kindness through the donation of Stock will not only help support the Sisters, but may also lower your Capital Gains Taxes.

Memorial Gifts
Families may choose to name the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as their preferred recipient for a memorial tribute, instead of flowers. Pre-printed envelopes are available for the funeral home.

Memorial Card
At your request, a lovely card can be sent to the bereaved, expressing your sympathy and notifying them that a donation was made in memory of their loved one.

Celebration or In Honor of Someone Special
A thoughtful gift for the person who has everything; a donation in their honor to the Sisters. Or, you may consider stating, “In lieu of gifts, a donation to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago may be made”. An acknowledgment card on your behalf will be sent to the honoree.

Of course all donors, deceased loved ones, and honorees will be listed in Sacro-Speco and remembered daily in the Sisters’ prayers.

Questions? Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773-764-2413, ext. 233 or jspata@osbchicago.org.

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Annual Report - 23
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Sister Agnes Kelly, OSB enjoys gardening with her great-niece Magda Sacco as well as art class and, of course, singing as her former students may remember from Glee Club.

Thanks to your prayers, donations, and volunteer time, we are able not only to care for our elder Sisters’s basic needs, but also provide them with programs like music, theater, art, and gardening that enrich their days. We are deeply grateful.
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Revenues & Gains – 2018

Expenses and Losses – 2018

Total Revenues & Gains = $2,601,354

Total Expenses = $2,430,015

*Other includes: Property damage & theft, insurance.
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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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"Columbia Welcomes the World: Benedictine Sisters and Students at the World’s Fair," a Chicago Open Archives event presented by Sister Virginia Jung, OSB. Pictured left to right, Sebastian P. Wuepper, a Ph.D. Candidate in History from Loyola University Chicago, (panelist at the event), Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB, and Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB admiring the display at the October event.

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