

*the Crookston*  
**Benedictine**



Spring, 2014 Vol 27:1  
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery  
620 Summit Ave. Crookston, MN 56716

from our administrator . . .



**Sister Jennifer Kehrwald**

As the winter fades in strength we long and hope for spring. We carry this same longing with us into the Lenten season as we long for release from what binds us and for the newness of the Resurrection. Something must end before we can begin anew.

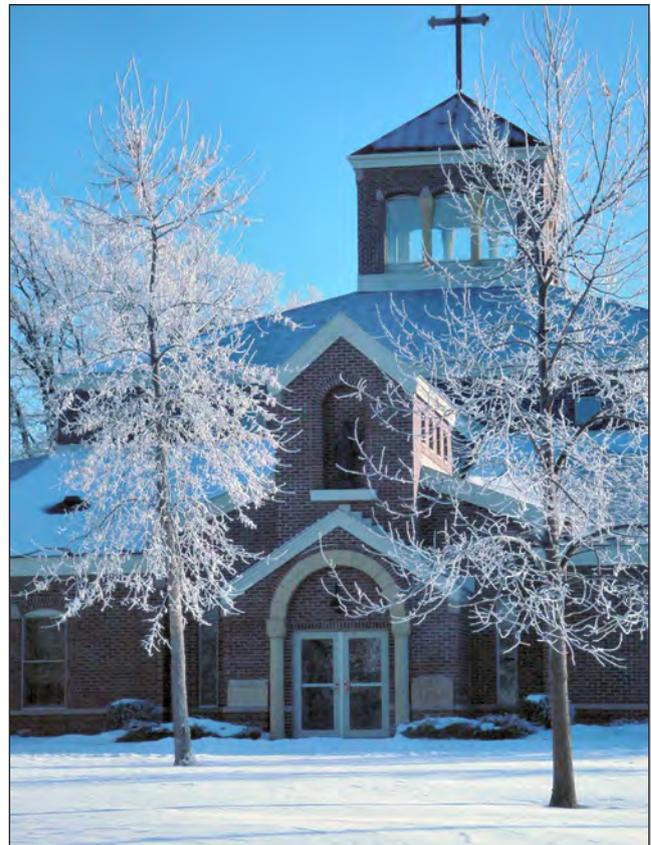
The Sisters are looking forward to beginning a construction project that will provide new and efficient living space for them and their guests. Any of you who have moved into a new house know what cleaning out the old one is like. Yet, you will hear about a wonderful rummage sale we had; and, about trees that needed to be removed.

Sometimes as a new step is taken, activities and ministries in which a person is involved need to be evaluated. Having found a wonderful partner in Benedictine Health System of Duluth for the Villa and Summit ministries 15 years ago, the Sisters are handing this ministry over knowing it will continue with Benedictine values well into the future. This transition gives birth to many wonderful stories.

You will read about other changes and transitions occurring at the Mount. There is some letting go, some

anxious waiting, and some exciting expectation. In these experiences we live in the shadow of the cross. But the cross leads to the resurrected Jesus in whom our hope lies.

We hope and pray that Easter and spring will bring many surprising forms of newness into your lives.



**The Crookston Benedictine** articulates the vision, charism and mission of the Sisters of Saint Benedict, Crookston, MN, and helps the monastic community maintain and build relationships with the wider community.

**The Crookston Benedictine** is published twice a year by the Sisters of Saint Benedict, Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, **Sisters Anne DeMers, Michelle McGurran, Lorraine Kraft, Kathleen McGearry and Denise Schonhardt**, staff.

## Liturgy Schedule

<b>Morning Prayer:</b>	11:20 am Sunday
	8:30 am Monday - Saturday
<b>Noon Prayer</b>	11:50 am Monday - Saturday
<b>Evening Prayer</b>	4:30 pm Sunday
	5:00 pm Monday - Friday
<b>Eucharist</b>	8:00 am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
	11:15 am Wednesday
	4:30 pm Saturday (Sunday Mass)



**Sister Jennifer Kehrwald, administrator, and Sister Kathy enjoy a light moment in the midst of a busy day.**

## New subprioress appointed for sisters

*Sister Denise Schonhardt*

When Sister Kathy Kuchar was a young girl growing up in Mora, MN, she had no idea that the Benedictine Sisters in Crookston even existed, much less that she would be their subprioress, the sister who is second in responsibility to the prioress or administrator.

Sister Kathy is the second oldest of Helen and Stan Kuchar's six children. Kathy graduated from the Mora Public School, and then attended Saint Scholastica College in Duluth. Kathy felt some tugging toward religious life, but she began a teaching job in the Melrose Public School system where she taught for 22 years. While she taught there she completed a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Saint Cloud University. She also became active in *Together Encountering Christ* retreats in the Saint Cloud Diocese.

Kathy felt an inclination toward religious life again, and she began visiting Benedictine monasteries. Kathy came to Mount Saint Benedict as a volunteer in 1992. She said that what attracted her was the warmth with which she was greeted, and she soon fell in love with the sisters. Shortly after that she began visiting with the vocation director, Sister Kathleen McGeary, about

the possibility of becoming a Sister of Saint Benedict.

In 1993 Kathy came to the Mount exploring the possibility of becoming a member. She helped in the cannery, development office and the liturgy office. She also made use of the opportunity to take piano lessons from Sister Victorine Fenton.

When Kathy entered the novitiate, she was able to claim the title "Sister." She was the first to make monastic profession in the new chapel at the Mount. After the novitiate Sister Kathy taught preschool at Sunrise Center for Children and Families with Sister Judy Moen, director of the Center. She made her final profession in 1997.

Even before her final profession, she became principal at Saint Bernard's School in Thief River Falls, and retired in 2013, after serving there for 17 years. As quoted in the *Thief River Times and Northern Watch* newspaper, Sister Kathy praised Saint Bernard's when she said, "This is such a great school, with a great staff, great kids and great parents." She was appreciated equally by her staff as expressed by third grade teacher Kari Rath, "She provides support and advice to help improve teachers and students alike. She has such an appreciation for and commitment to the Catholic faith, and she draws that out of her students and staff. She oftentimes leads by example."

While she was principal she had the opportunity to study leadership as part of a PhD program at Saint Thomas University in Saint Paul, MN.

Upon her retirement, Sister Kathy received a painted portrait of herself with the inscription "In appreciation for your lifelong dedication to education . . . for believing in our children, for guiding through example, for inspiring with passion, for living through loving, for leaving an indelible mark on the future, for touching the human soul . . . You have made all the difference."

In January, Sister Kathy embarked on a new phase of her journey when Sister Jennifer Kehrwald appointed her subprioress.

Taking all things into account it seems that Sister Kathy will approach her new position with the same grace and passion as when she was principal.

# In the Shadow of the Cross

*Sister Shawn Carruth*



**Sister Shawn Carruth**

The photograph on the cover of this issue of the Crookston Benedictine shows the shadow of the processional cross in the Mount chapel as it is cast on the wall behind it. Of course this particular cross is always in its position behind

the altar. But it doesn't seem to demand our attention so much as at the time of the year when the sun is positioned at just the right place and angle to produce this shadow. That's when we pay attention. We notice and we make sure everyone else notices.

All year long we are surrounded by crosses. Sometimes we wear them. We were signed with the cross at baptism. Paul says we were baptized into

take holy water at the entrance of a church or chapel. We make that sign on our bodies when we begin and end prayers and when we listen to the Gospel. But do we pay attention? Do we listen heedfully? Does the cross cast its shadow on our ways of thinking and acting in any noticeable way?

An incident found in the Gospel story according to Mark and Matthew could get us thinking. There Jesus responds to Peter's acknowledgment that Jesus is the Christ with the prediction of his suffering and death in Jerusalem. Peter rebukes Jesus insisting no such thing could happen and Jesus, rebuking Peter in turn, tells him that he is thinking as humans do and not as God does. Then to all, Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:29-34; Matthew 16:16-24)

It seems that taking up our own crosses requires some change in our thinking. In an individualistic culture we might begin to deny ourselves by realizing that it's not all about me. In a consumerist culture, we might recognize that God's way of thinking about human flourishing has little to do with what money can buy. In a culture devoted to personal success we

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# Sisters mark milestones in the life of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery

*Sister Lorraine Kraft*

This year 2014 the Sisters of Saint Benedict are celebrating the NINETY-FIFTH anniversary of the founding of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. We are remembering the events in 1919 that led up to the arrival of 42 Benedictine sisters from Saint Scholastica's in Duluth and their commitment to become part of an independent priory in Crookston.

## Early history of the Mount

Mount Saint Benedict traces its history from the Benedictine communities of Duluth, Minnesota, Saint Joseph, Minnesota, Saint Mary's, Pennsylvania, to eleventh century Saint Walburga's Abbey in Eichstätt, Bavaria. It was in 1919 that the sisters from the Duluth Benedictine Monastery (Saint Scholastica's) established a motherhouse in Crookston. When the sisters arrived in Crookston, they used Saint Vincent's hospital as their monastery.

Bishop Corbett appointed Mother Eustacia Beyenka, prioress who took on the tremendous task of leading the new community, and she witnessed the growth of membership in the monastic life until her death in Crookston in 1936.

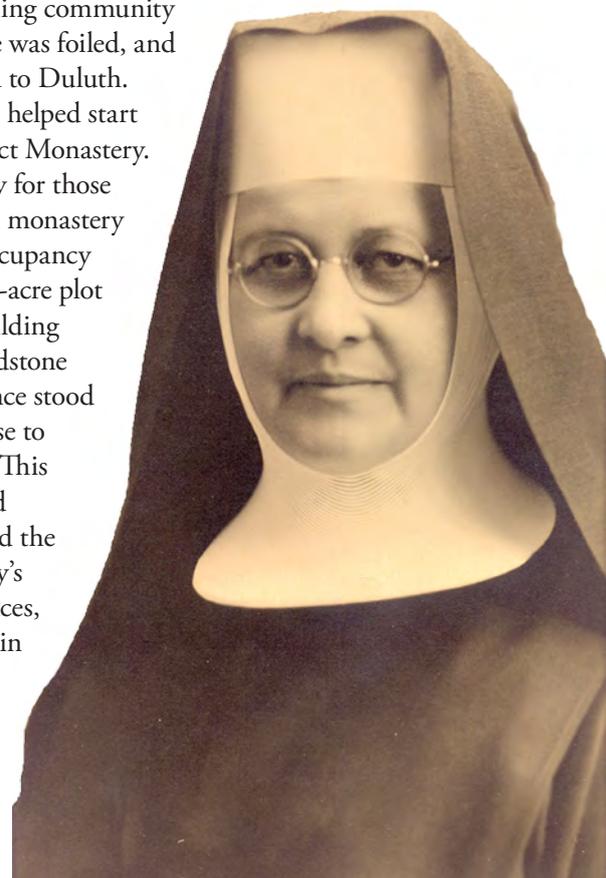
## Founders and builders

Bishop Timothy Corbett was a formidable figure in the newly-established Diocese of Crookston (1910).

He expected that sisters already serving in the Diocese would join the fledgling community in Crookston, but he was foiled, and some sisters returned to Duluth. In the end, 42 sisters helped start Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

It was a happy day for those who saw the original monastery building open for occupancy in 1923 on a new 50-acre plot of land. The new building with four stately sandstone columns at its entrance stood proudly on a hill close to the Red Lake River. This place, quickly named "The Mount," housed the monastic community's prayer and living spaces, and offices for those in leadership ministry in education and health care.

Almost immediately (1923)



**Mother Eustacia Beyenka**

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## Cross

might recognize that God's way of thinking has more to do with bearing fruit than with being successful. As we pursue career advancement and recognition, we might remember that God wants us to have life. In a world where hardly a day goes by in which we are not newly aware of torture and violence near and far, we see Jesus, denying himself any reciprocal violence, taking up his cross in self-emptying obedience (Phil 2:6-8). This, Paul insists, is divine reasoning; it is real wisdom and power—the wisdom, power, and redemption of God (1 Cor 1:18,24,30)

At the Good Friday liturgy at the monastery we sing "Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum" (We adore you, Christ, and we bless you because through your holy cross you have redeemed the world). If each year we come to this liturgy having thought and lived a little more clearly in the shadow of the cross, the obscuring shadows hovering over our world may have faded somewhat so that a redeemed world may be seen and experienced more clearly.

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## History

an academy for girls was established with housing and classroom space in the original monastery building. Many years later (1963) the school expanded with Marian Hall Residence and the Mount Saint Benedict Academy high school buildings. The Academy remained a mainstay on the Mount campus until 1982.

## Outreach and vocation work

Beginning in 1919, the sisters were involved in opening and staffing schools, hospitals and other health care institutions. What made this possible? Many young women answered the call to become part of the Church's mission by entering the Benedictine novitiate and being formed in the ministry of work and prayer. At the high point of membership, the number of sisters was close to 300. Happily, the young women who came to enter the convent were eager to become active in the ministries of prayer and work.

## "Missions" of the sisters

There was much activity in the parishes during the first fifty years of the century to build and staff schools with the possibility of inviting the sisters to work

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**Original monastery building**

**below: Marian Hall Residence**



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History

in the schools and hospitals. So it was that the Sisters took assignments to teach and administer schools in Crookston (1919), East Grand Forks (1919), Moorhead (1929), Detroit Lakes (1919), Red Lake Falls (1919), Bemidji (1926), Thief River Falls (1925), Mahnommen (1930), Barnesville (1929) and Park Rapids (1937).

Outside of the diocese, the Sisters taught at Osseo (1952) and Mahtomedi (1951) in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area; Benson (1953), Rosen (1931), and Slayton (1951) in southwest Minnesota; Lefor, North Dakota (1929); Asherton, Texas (1943), and in Bogotá, Colombia. In addition to the locations listed above, sisters taught at the University of Dayton, University of Mary, Concordia College, Saint John's University, the Northwest Community College and in Rome in the program for English-speaking Benedictines.

On most of the missions there were one or two sisters who gave private music lessons in piano, organ, guitar, violin and voice. In this way, young students were prepared to take an active part in the liturgical



German class at Sacred Heart High School, East Grand Forks, MN. celebrations of their parishes.

During many years the sisters served as nurses and administrators of the hospitals at Bemidji (1919), Detroit Lakes (1919), Crookston (1950), Red Lake Falls (1951), Browerville (1955), and Mahnommen( 1945).

The history of Saint Vincent's Hospital showed interesting changes in the early years: first, it was a facility for acute hospital care (as well as a home for the sisters until the Mount was built in 1923.) Then it was converted to serve as a rest home after the building of Saint Francis Hospital, and finally sold to the city of Crookston, when Villa Saint Vincent and Saint Francis Residence were opened.

### Other Enterprises

The Sisters operated a dairy farm on the Mount premises from 1929-1969. To keep up with the heavy work of



Sister Shawn gives instructions to a group of students in Greece.

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## History

farming, the sisters hired and housed a farmer with his family at Marymount Farm. In the 1960s the use of raw milk in any institution was prohibited by the Health Department, and the maintenance of a dairy herd was discontinued and shortly after the farming operations closed down.

It was important to have sufficient acreage for a vegetable garden to supply the Mount kitchen, which served meals to a growing number of aspirants, postulants, novices, professed sisters and Academy students. The sisters were able to purchase the Krogman truck garden and buildings adjoining the Mount property in 1934. Mount garden produce was valued by many of our missions, volunteers and neighbors, as well as by the Mount community.

**Saint Vincent's Hospital when the sisters lived there in 1919. Right: Sister nurses in the nursery at Saint Francis Hospital, Crookston.**

The cultivation of a bee industry provided honey for the table and wax for candle-making. The Sisters opened the bee yard in 1919 and the candle industry began in 1928.

Many sisters enjoyed the work as beekeepers and honey house workers, as well as candle makers using the wax from our own bee hives. Lovely decorated candles were a work of art and very popular for sale in the Candle House. With regret the bee industry was discontinued by 1968, and the candle house was taken down for safety reasons in the year 2000.)

(To be continued)





Sisters use the new *Liturgy of the Hours* books for morning prayer.

## *New Liturgy of the Hours books enhance sisters' prayer*

*Sister Anne DeMers*

The Liturgy of the Hours is an essential element in the daily life of a Benedictine. This prayer consists of psalms, hymns and readings from Scripture. We pray, not only for ourselves but also for the intentions of those who ask for our prayers and for the whole church. Through the Liturgy of the Hours, we intercede with Christ and pray for the entire world.

Saint Benedict devotes chapters eight through twenty of his Rule to setting guidelines for the Liturgy of the Hours. He reminds us that nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God -- praying these hours in common; absence from this prayer is not to be taken lightly. Daily praying together in the chapel for Morning, Midday and Evening Prayer, month after month, year after year, helps us to be of "one heart and one mind."

With these admonitions of Benedict in mind, our community set out to revise the books we use for these hours of prayer by forming a Liturgy of the Hours Committee. Ease of use became one of the objectives for the committee. This prompted the idea that ease of use would be enhanced by each sister being able to pick up the book, open it and start prayer without turning to different parts of the book for the psalms, antiphons and

hymns. This necessitated making two books for each liturgical season. At any one time each sister would have a book for Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer and Evening Prayer. Books for different seasons would be put into storage until the next liturgical season.

Committee members, Sisters Jennifer Kehrwald, Lucille Schafer, Marmion Karels, Denise Schonhardt and Anne DeMers, worked many hours to complete attractive and readable Liturgy of the Hours books.

Recently the Liturgy of the Hours Committee completed seasonal volumes for use at Morning and Evening Prayer – during Advent/Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. Continuing work on Midday Prayer, common feasts and special solemnities awaits this committee. At this time the committee chooses to take this opportunity to celebrate the completion of these volumes before tackling the work that lies ahead.

Hopefully our efforts will bear much fruit. In the words of Sister Irene Nowell, "As the psalms soak into our bones, they will teach us to listen, not only when we are at prayer, but throughout our whole day, throughout our whole lives. The psalms will teach us to "listen with the ear of our hearts\_ – every day."

# The sun rises on Sunrise Center for Children and Families

*Sister Judy Moen and Sister Anne DeMers*

Sunrise Center for Children and Families, the child care center sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Benedict, has achieved a four-star rating for child care centers--the highest possible in Minnesota's Parent Aware training system. The rating helps parents find programs that go above and beyond what is required to prepare children for school and for life. The Parent-Aware system measures practices that help children succeed.

Before being awarded the 4-Star rating the Center was visited by a trained observer from the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education who evaluated the preschool room on the quality of classroom interactions including emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support.

A 4-star Parent Aware rating means Sunrise Center provides a truly engaging school readiness partner for parents by 1) offering ongoing assessment of children's progress, 2) adapting plans and goals to meet the needs of each individual child, 3) meeting with parents to update them on their child's progress, and 4) setting goals with parents.

While stressing the importance of working with parents, this program provided teachers and other staff with in-depth, ongoing early childhood education training. The teachers and other staff especially focused on devoting themselves to strong, caring relationships with each child and daily committing themselves to

activities and routines that help children learn. In addition, the teaching staff concentrated on children's health and safety. Training, coaching, consultation, observations and technical assistance were provided at no cost.

Through a statewide competitive process, Sunrise Center was also awarded \$20,000 of early learning scholarships from the Minnesota Department of Education.

"I am thrilled to be able to offer scholarships to low-income families which enables them to select quality child care for their children," states Sister Judy Moen, director of Sunrise Center.

Sister Judy goes on to praise the process of achieving the quality rating as one that has helped not only the children to grow but has helped the teachers and staff to continue to improve professionally; the higher standards serve to motivate and energize the children, staff and families. "Before, we were proud of the quality of our program; now we know more about defining quality and are able to offer documentation that supports that quality."

Nancy Halstenson, lead pre-school teacher for 20 years, is even more enthusiastic about her work with young children as a result of the Parent Aware rating process and the changes she has incorporated into her teaching strategies. Nancy states that she is so much more attuned to the capabilities of the children as she continues to develop new strategies that invite children to be engaged and learning. The children are as highly motivated as Nancy and Julie, her aide, and when you





Judy Hulst, administrator of Villa Saint Vincent, receives a blessing from Sister Loia Eckes, prioress of Saint Scholastica Monastery

## Sisters of Saint Benedict transfer Villa Saint Vincent to Benedictine Health System

*Submitted by Villa Saint Vincent with input by Sister Jennifer Kehrwald and Sister Denise Schonhardt*

For 95 years, the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Crookston provided health care and other services to the Crookston community. While describing the first ministry transfer (1919) of Saint Vincent's Hospital from the Duluth Benedictines to the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Crookston, Sister Jennifer Kehrwald, Administrator of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, states, "Jesus gives us the mandate to teach and heal." This has been the driving force of the Benedictines, who, for 1,500 years, have been responding to the needs of people. Sister Denise Schonhardt describes the rich history of this ministry by noting, "Benedictine monasteries have existed as places for healing, praying and learning. She noted that Benedictines have always responded to the needs of the locality.

The Sisters of Saint Benedict of Crookston have never lost sight of their commitment to serving the needs of the Crookston community and region. Through many

ministries: schools, hospitals, nursing homes, teaching and healing have always been their priority. This deep legacy is rooted in deep commitment to the *Rule of Benedict* which states, "Before all things and above all things, care must be taken of the sick, so that they will be served as if they were Christ in person." (Rule of Benedict 36:1)

In 1998, the Crookston Benedictines, entered into a sponsorship agreement with the Duluth Benedictine Health System for the purpose of sharing in the management of Villa Saint Vincent. For the past 15 years, this positive partnership made it much easier for Mount Saint Benedict Monastery to entrust the ministry transfer of Villa Saint Vincent to the Duluth Benedictines.

The Sisters of Saint Benedict of Crookston are pleased and privileged that they have been able to provide health care and education leadership in the Crookston area and beyond. They, now and forever, remain true to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ

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Sunrise Center

walk into the room the energy is contagious.

The members of Sunrise Center's Board of Directors deserve appreciation for the role they played in initiating the Parent Aware program. They realized that they had

an opportunity to create a long-range plan for Sunrise Center. Much concern and effort has gone into receiving this 4-star award, making the future bright for Sunrise Center and Crookston's young learners.

## Rummage sale helps sisters “re-distribute” surplus items

Do you ever have way too much of many things and need to find other owners for all of it? That’s exactly what happened at Mount Saint Benedict, so we decided to have a huge rummage sale which was held on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> on the first floor of Marian Hall. Through the help of the rummage sale committee ( Terry Horgeshimer, Sisters Jennifer K., Kathleen, Brian, Eileen M., Bernadette, and Kathy K.), volunteers and sisters, all of our extra “stuff” was organized into at least four sales rooms. Three areas of



**What one person wants to get rid of, another person considers a treasure.**



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first floor in Marian Hall had a set price for each item in the room ranging from 25 cents to one dollar. Furniture and beds were for sale at the north end of the large lounge and in the hallway. All furniture and beds were priced at reasonable costs, mostly below \$10. There were also delicious cookies, rolls and coffee for sale in the cafeteria.

The main doors to the sale were opened at 8:15, and a large crowd rushed through to find what they needed. It looked like Black Friday at a “big box” store, but through the invaluable help of many oblates, volunteers, sisters, relatives and friends, it all went very smoothly. In the end, our huge rummage sale (also known to us as our recycling sale) was a huge success. There were very few sale items left, and many, many people who had need for items but couldn’t have afforded to pay what the items would cost elsewhere were able to purchase what they needed and leave with big smiles on their faces.

Let us follow the Scripture, "Distribution was made to each according as anyone had need" (Acts 4:35). By this we do not mean that there should be respecting of persons, but consideration for infirmities.  
Rule of Benedict, Ch. 34

# Former Federation of Saint Gertrude president renews friendships at the Mount

*Sister Mary Daniel Neumann*

Sister Mary Rose Hammerling of Saint Benedict Monastery in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, accepted an invitation to visit the Sisters of the Mount for several days in January, 2014, while her companion sister, Prioress Virginia Evard, accompanied Jennifer Kehrwald, to the Federation meeting of Prioresses at Atchison, Kansas.

Sister Mary Rose (formerly Sister Anselm) lived with the Mount community from 1982 to 1990, at the invitation of Sister Cornelia Gust. At that time Sister Cornelia was Prioress of the Mount community and Sister Mary Rose was the newly elected President of the Federation of Saint Gertrude. Since most of the Federation monasteries are located in the United States, Sister Mary Rose's work with the Federation houses was facilitated by living in the States.

## Sisters to celebrate diamond jubilees

80th Anniversary  
Sister Florentine Goulet  
+ Sister Aquina Woehle

75th Anniversary  
Sister Cecilia Smith  
+ Sister Victorine Fenton  
+ Sister Robertine Spurrill

70th Anniversary  
Sister Agnes Kraft  
Sister Flora Klier  
+ Sister Clotilde Nogosek

private community celebration, July 29, 2014



**Two Canadians re-acquaint themselves. Sister Eulalia (left), was raised in Ottawa, Ontario and Sister Mary Rose belongs to the Benedictine Sisters in Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

Her years living at the Mount were appreciated greatly by the Mount sisters. Sister Mary Rose accommodated herself well "as an American." Sister Mary Daniel was her secretary during her two terms as Federation president. In recalling those years of living at the Mount, Sister Mary Rose expressed, "I am so grateful for having had the privilege of living community life at the Mount and having made so many lifetime friendships with the Mount sisters."



**Medal of Saint Benedict (reverse).**

# Remembering . . .

Sister Caroline Liebl

May 6, 1916 - January 19, 2014

Sister Caroline Liebl, 97, died Sunday, January 19 at Villa Saint Vincent, Crookston.



Rosella Liebl was born May 6, 1916, in Mahnomon County, MN, the fifth of seven children of George and Anna (Bastian) Liebl. Rosella's early years were spent enjoying life on the farm with her close-knit family. When she was in second grade the family moved into Mahnomon

where she continued her education through ninth grade.

After Rosella finished ninth grade she continued her education at Mount Saint Benedict Academy in Crookston, MN. This led to her decision to join the Crookston Benedictines. She received the name Sister Caroline as a novice. In 1935 she made temporary vows and three years later she made final profession of vows. She affirmed, "In my heart, I knew this was where I belonged."

Rosella became active in church music at an early age. She recalled accompanying hymns on the organ, albeit with one finger, when she was in fourth grade. She progressed from there to becoming the regular organist and directing choirs.

As a person with many talents and a willingness to become involved in any way possible, Sister Caroline had a variety of life experiences. She excelled as a teacher but also enjoyed her opportunities to minister to the sick, work in music ministry, help in the garden and cannery at Mount Saint Benedict, assist with laundry and respond to numerous other needs.

Sister Caroline's teaching assignments included parochial schools in Red Lake Falls, Moorhead, Park

Rapids, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, and Bemidji in Minnesota, and Asherton, TX. In some schools she served as both principal and teacher. Often she was in charge of liturgical music for the students. Sister Caroline also taught in summer religious education programs and in the summer schools for migrant children in Moorhead and Crookston.

In her later years Sister Caroline often recalled how happy she always was doing whatever came her way. She especially appreciated her years in Texas where she had the opportunity to do pastoral work, conduct church services, baptize babies, comfort the sick and dying, and assist at funerals. When she returned to Minnesota, she continued her ministry to the sick in addition to her teaching duties. After her retirement from teaching Sister Caroline took delight in doing volunteer work at Sunrise Center for Children and Families and in helping at the monastery.

As a much-loved teacher, Sister Caroline acquired many close friends from among her students and their parents, many of whom kept in contact with her. In 1988 she received recognition from the Minnesota Chamber Foundation for Excellence in Education and in 1997 she was honored in the 4th edition of *Who's*



Sister Caroline with Sunrise Center children on her 90th birthday.

## *Who Among American Teachers.*

Sister Caroline was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Henry and Arthur and sisters Loretta Frederick, Evelyn Powers, Clara Kolb and Teresa Smith. She is survived by the members of her monastic community and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials for Sister Caroline may be made to Mount Saint Benedict Foundation, 620 Summit Ave. Crookston, MN 56716.

# Monastery Tales

*Sister Kathleen McGeary*

The Federation of Saint Gertrude Council held its Oct. 8-12 meeting at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. Members included: Sister Joella Kidwell from Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN; Sister Jacquelyn Ernster, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD; Sister Maria Goretti DeAngeli, Saint Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR; Sister Barbara Reinhart, House of Bread Monastery, Nanaimo, British Columbia; Sister Jill West, Sacred Heart Monastery, Richardton, ND and Sister Myra Schmieg, Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN. In addition to their regular meeting, the Council also met with the Mount sisters in small groups on the evening of Oct. 9.

A committee composed of Lisa Altepeter, Sisters Kathy Kuchar, chair, Jennifer Kehrwald, Eileen Beutel, Anne Demers and Denise Schonhardt began the process of re-designing the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Crookston website. Initial tasks of the committee include reviewing the present content and selecting up-to-date pictures for the new site. Two companies will also be involved; one to help set up the website, another to design the templates and graphics.



Christmas day the sisters gathered in Marian Hall to celebrate Jesus' birth. Carols were sung and treats shared. Each sister also received a bag of goodies, along with a gift-wrapped can of soup from a "secret Santa" whose name is still not known.

On Thursday, December 12, 2013 the sisters held a farewell for Penny Millsbaugh. Special thanks were extended to Penny not only for the fine service she offered us as Center Director but also for the wonderful presence she brought to our community. Sister Lorraine Kraft is now the Center contact person for retreats, use of Subiaco Hermitage and the tours at Mount Saint Benedict.

Sunday, October 13, Joyce and Bob Johnson, Carolina and Lonnie Peck, along with Mary and Ernie Normandin, teamed up with our kitchen staff to treat the Sisters to an Oktoberfest. There were "hayride tours" of the Mount grounds and garden, Evening Praise in Marian Hall Lounge, followed by a special supper with fun activities. It was a delightful way to thank God for the bountiful harvest.

On Wednesday, December 18 the Villa Staff set up two stations in Marian Hall dining room to treat the sisters to an omelet breakfast. When the sisters entered the dining room, a Villa staff person took each sister's omelet order. Once the omelet was prepared, it was brought to the sister, along with a muffin, juice and coffee. The sisters greatly appreciated the generosity of the Villa staff.

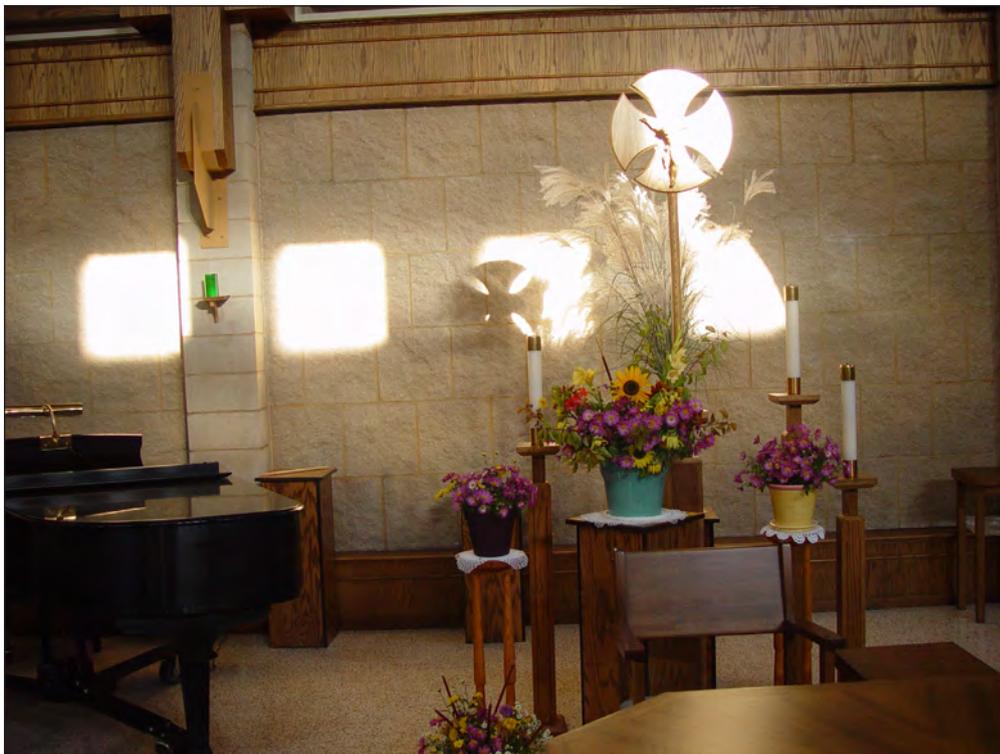
**You think you had snow? Perhaps you did, but this bank is taller the first story of the Mount building!**

# Photo Gallery

Last fall 52 trees needed to be cut down to prepare for new construction. To help with overall construction cost savings, Mount Saint Benedict employees became the project workers. Favorable weather allowed the project to begin on September 27 and be completed by October 31. Some trees were beginning to rot on the inside and many pine trees had already passed their prime. A variety of trees will be planted on the new construction site.



The cannery was filled with activity this year. Here the sisters prepare rhubarb for freezing.



Above: Children from Sunrise Center explore the wonders of a fire truck. Left: Light floods the chapel once again casting the shadow of the cross on the wall.

About a year ago, the sisters in Good Shepherd Hall received the gift of a popcorn machine. Popcorn Fridays have been hit for the rest of the sisters because we frequently gather in their dining room for popcorn!



The architect and construction managers open the bids for the new monastery building. They are (left to right) Preston Euerle, construction manager; Dan Tideman (architect) and Stephen Plantenberg (construction manager). Plans are to begin construction this spring.



More photos of downed trees. Notice the condition of the tree in the bottom photo. We were blessed that this tree did not fall on someone!





Right: Lonnie and Carolina Peck make their final oblation in the presence of Sister Marmion and Sister Jennifer. Bottom: Brent Hermann, nephew of Sisters Petronilla, Olivia and Agatha, gifted the sisters with a concert.



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MARCH 2014

MOUNT SAINT BENEDICT ACADEMY, CROOKSTON, MN



**Back Row:** Ellen Schafer Loux, Janet Spang Stanley, Cecelia Hartl Ferry, Dorothy Kranz Nelson, Josey Smischney Swanson, Beverly Kleinvachter Hauswirth, Dolores Weis Wiggins, Leslie Brink Honebrink. **Front Row:** Margaret Falter Douville, Margaret Brodin Langlie, Mary Loehrer Bredlau, Nancy Wright Moonen, Rose Sung Ramsey

## 50th reunion of the class of 1963

The class of 1963 held its 50th class reunion on September 20-22nd, 2013 in Saint Paul, MN. Fourteen classmates attended the reunion, coming from MN, ND, WA, CA, and NV. They gathered Friday afternoon and ended the weekend with Mass at the Saint Paul Cathedral. The weekend was filled with conversation, memories, a lot of laughter and most of all reconnecting with each other. They found it truly amazing to see how the influences from their years at the Mount still could

be seen and heard today.

The group went on a Gangster Tour of Saint Paul. John Dillinger held them captive on the bus while narrating the history of our capital, prohibition and the agreement of crooked officials with some of the well-known criminals of the era. They went to the former site of the Hamm's Brewery and mansion and heard the description of the kidnapping of William Hamm in 1933. They also did a walking tour of the Wabasha Caves.

The class did a fundraiser-type raffle, benefitting the Sisters at the Mount with a donation of \$800. Dolores Weis Wiggins quilted a beautiful, hand-made quilt, as the grand prize. Other hand-made items were also raffled off on Saturday night.

*Submitted by the Committee: Leslie Honebrink, Beverly Hauswirth, Dolores Wiggins, Margaret Douville, and Cecelia Ferry*

### ALUM---NEWS YOUR CLASSMATES

Class of 1946

REGINA (Klein) WALD writes that life is very simple for her. "I enjoy getting out to work, do volunteer work, enjoy my children and watch my grandchildren and great grandchildren grow up. It couldn't get any better than that."

### CLASS OF 1959

JEAN (Hemberger) CLARK had 3 new great grandchildren this year making a total of 6. Her

mother, Loretta Arends Hemberger now resides at Halstad Living Center.

#### CLASS OF 1965

MARLENE (Przbylski) GRAY, 66, died on October 12, 2013 at her home in rural Climax. Marlene F. Przbylski was born on June 4, 1947 in Warren MN, daughter of Gordon and Eleanor (Borowicz) Przbylski. She went to high school at Mount Saint Benedict and attended UMC and got her degree in LPN. She was united in marriage with Cameron "Butch" Gray on June 28, 1975 at the Sand Hill Lutheran Church in Climax. They made their home in Climax. Marlene put passion into what gave her the most pleasure: her cooking and decorating, her work with her patients, and most of all her family, children and grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, Butch, three daughters, six grandchildren; seven siblings and her mother, Eleanor Solberg of Warren, MN. She was preceded in death by her father: Gordan Przybylski and her in-laws: Cameron Gray and Marian Gray.

#### CLASS OF 1966

JANE (Foltz) LUNDE lives at 1327 Pelican Land, Detroit Lakes 56501 and is retired and spending time with grandchildren.

COLLEEN MARTINEZ who lives in Colorado wrote in September that their house was flooded. Their car was underwater for days. The furnace was gone as well as hay, buildings, and sheds. They had to race out for their lives the water came so fast. They lost some goats, chickens and pigs. After a couple days they got power back but had to deal with the cleanup as debris was all over the area. There were hundreds of people in this dire situation in Colorado.

#### CLASS OF 1969

DARCY (Billadeau) NELSON and her husband Patrick have recently relocated to picturesque Colorado Springs, Colorado. They are enjoying sunny weather, mild winters and a cozy new townhome.

#### CLASS OF 1972

JANELLE FORTIER, 59, died October 26, 2013 at Vibra Hospital in Fargo. She was born on June 10, 1954 in Crookston to Maurice and Beatrice Fortier. After high school she moved to Moorhead and graduated from

## Reunion for class of 1973

The class of '73 are planning a 41st class reunion weekend on July 18-20th. We are planning a get together Friday evening (place to be determined). Jean and Dick Rock are planning a Pot Luck Picnic at their home on the lake Saturday afternoon. We will also include a visit to the Mount, too. We will try to contact as many of our classmates as we can. Anyone with questions or updated contact information can call or email Jean Rock at 218-280-4032, [Jmrock73@yahoo.com](mailto:Jmrock73@yahoo.com) or Mary Lou Nord 763-232-4648, [nordm@district279.org](mailto:nordm@district279.org).

## All School Reunion

for Crookston Schools: Cathedral, Saint Joseph's  
Academy and  
Mount Saint Benedict

June 26 -28

Pre-register: by Paypal through the website [crookstonallschool.com](http://crookstonallschool.com) or mail a \$15.00 check to: All-School Reunion, PO Box 143 Crookston, MN, 56716

Registration: Thursday June 26 on the City Square, resume registration at 10:00 Friday.

Opening ceremony: 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 27.

Saturday: Noon lunch at Mount Saint Benedict for alumni of all Catholic Schools: Cathedral, Saint Joseph's Academy and Mount Saint Benedict.

For more information, please check the website: [crookstonallschool.com](http://crookstonallschool.com)

We hope to welcome all of you. It may be the last time you see Marian Hall before it is demolished.

Moorhead Area Vocational Technical Institute in 1973 with a secretarial degree. She worked at NDSU College of Pharmacy for 30 years. She enjoyed volunteering at Saint Joseph School and at Touchmark Retirement Community. Janelle was preceded in death by her father and mother. She is survived by a half-brother, Jim Mishler of Grand Forks and many relatives and friends.

If you have any news items about alumni, please share them with the Alumni office either by email (ymschafer@ yahoo.com) or by writing to Sister Yvonne Scafer at

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 620 Summit Ave., Crookston, MN 56716.

## Thank You to the Alumni

Who gave June 2013 to Feb. 2014

\$100  
Regina Klein Wald '46  
East Grand Forks, MN

Jane Foltz Lunde'66  
Detroit Lakes, MN

\$50 - \$99  
Veronica Novacek Zavalne'50  
Punta Gorda, FL

Jean Hemberger Clark'59  
Detroit Lakes, MN

\$10 - \$49  
Audrey Mack Parks'53  
Billings, MT

Darcy Nelson Billadeau'69  
Colorado Springs, CO

Delores Dufner'56  
St. Joseph, MN

These donors gave specifically to the Alumni Association.  
Many of these and other alumni gave to Mount Saint Benedict Foundation for the needs of the sisters and the ministries in which they served.

We thank all alumni who give in any way! May God's blessings come to you in great abundance

## Deceased MSB Alumni Eternal rest grant unto them, O God!

MARLENE PRZBYLSKI Gray  
Climax, MN  
Class of 1965  
Died Oct. 12, 2013

SISTER VICTORINE FENTON, OSB  
Crookston, MN  
Class of 1938  
Died August 1, 2013

SISTER LOIS SPORS, OSB  
Crookston, MN  
Class of 1955  
Died July 27, 2013

JANELLE THERESE FORTIER  
Moorhead, MN  
Class of 1972  
Died Oct. 26, 2013

SISTER CARMELLA BUCKLEY, OSB  
Crookston, MN  
Class of 1930  
Died January 30, 2013

## Deceased Parents of Alumni

**Dorothy Rock, 87, of Bemidji, Formerly of Crookston, MN died Oct. 10, 2013 (23 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren) She was the mother of:**

Colleen Martinez '66 – LaSalle CO  
Mary Lou Nielson '72 – Rosemount, MN  
Julie Donahoe '82 – Independence, MN  
Richard Rock '73 – Erskine, MN  
Thomas Rock '78 – Claremore, OK

Charlow Bakken '68 – Crookston, MN  
Marcy Beich '76 – Rochester, MN  
Roselyn Rock '69 – Boise ID  
Rodney Rock '77 – Bemidji, MN  
John Rock '81 – Rockford, MN



## Lenten almsgiving: living in the shadow of the cross



**Sister Denise Schonhardt**

On Ash Wednesday many of us received the cross in ashes on our forehead as we enter the season of Lent in preparation for holy Easter. We are reminded that we live in the shadow of the cross, and we are marked with the sign of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many of you have included the Sisters of Saint Benedict in your almsgiving. We are truly grateful of your mindfulness. I keep saying we are humbled by your generosity, and almost every day I hear the sisters express the same thought. You are remembered in our prayer at the Liturgy of the Hours and at our community Eucharist.

Our prayer is that we enter the season of Lent in communion with our God and with you, and we journey together under the protection of the cross that ultimately leads us to the glory of Easter and to eternal life with our God. We know that we sometimes pass through the valley of death to reach the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem. May the cross lead us to Easter where we can rejoice in alleluias, and where, with Mary Magdalene in the garden, we may hear Jesus call us by name!

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CURRENT

- New Address
- Please add my name
- Please remove my name
- Receiving more than one copy  
(Send all labels indicating which is correct)

Please let us know if you have  
remembered the Sisters of  
Saint Benedict in your will and  
estate planning.

Please contact: Sister Denise Schonhardt,  
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery,  
620 Summit Ave.,  
Crookston, MN 56716-2799  
phone: 218-281-3441, email: denise.schonhardt@bhshealth.org