

the *Crookston* Benedictine

Limbourg, Herman and Pol, *Belles heures Jean Duc de Berry, Annunciations*, c. 1408, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



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Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
Crookston, MN 56716-2799

That in all things God may be glorified!



Sister Jennifer Kehrwald

Just as the seasons have a rhythm, the daily life of Benedictines has a rhythm of prayer and work, thus the Benedictine motto, “*Ora et Labora*”. As we rise in the morning we try to be aware of God’s loving presence all around us. We gather together to pray Morning Prayer and to celebrate the Eucharist placing the day’s efforts in God’s hands. We stop at noon to pause and

in our prayer to remember that it is God’s work we do. At evening prayer we express, with all of creation, our trust and hope that God will sustain us through the night. And that our rest will refresh us and renew our strength for the next day’s work.

Over the years our work has become less physically demanding but no less important. We now have more time to visit our sick friends and family members in the hospital and nursing homes. We can be more present to those who are grieving, experiencing loss and hardship. We can rejoice at baby showers, graduations, weddings and anniversary celebrations. Sometimes the sharing goes by “snail mail” but the email wires are humming daily. It is in our prayer that we experience the compassion and hope of Jesus which we share with others and which they share with us.

This summer we celebrated the many years of “*Ora et Labora*” of the jubilarians. What we celebrated is God’s faithful love in the midst of all the ups and downs of life and the loving support of the Benedictine community as well as that of our families and friends.

Many of you, our friends, attended schools in which we taught and you may have put on the top of your papers the initials U.I.O.G.D. The English translation is “*That in all things God may be glorified*”. That is our greatest hope and life’s goal.



Liturgy Schedule

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



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 Denise Schonhardt** editor, **Sisters Anne DeMers, Michelle McGurran** and, **Lorraine Kraft**, staff.

The Work of the Monastery

Sister Anne DeMers

Ora et Labora (prayer and work) has been central to the lives of Benedictine women religious. But to what kind of work does this refer? Chapter 43 of the *Rule of Benedict* states that “nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God,” and by this Benedict does not mean manual labor; he refers to the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer prayed daily in a Benedictine monastery. In other words prayer is the work that comes first.

However, Benedict also states that, “Idleness is the enemy of the soul. Therefore the monks should have specified periods for manual labor as well...” Monastic beginners have been known to mutter, “Ora et labora, et labora, et labora...” when novice directors zealously apply this part of the *Rule*. What, then, is a good balance between the elements of prayer and work in the Benedictine life?

A quick survey of fifteen hundred years of monastic life provides an appreciation for the *Rule*. Known for



As in any family, common tasks need to be performed daily.

its moderation and elasticity, this *Rule* has enabled Benedictine monasteries of women to adapt to various circumstances. The work undertaken by women's monasteries through the centuries reflects diversity.

When our foremothers who left Saint Walburga's Monastery at Eichstätt, Bavaria, arrived in America their efforts to replicate the enclosed life they left behind were impossible. Their mission was to teach the children of German immigrants, while supporting themselves as best they could. In the beginning they experienced cold and hunger and primitive living circumstances as their lot. The balance of prayer and work tilted toward manual labor, due to the struggle to survive and to fulfill their mission. They were forced to abbreviate their prayer by substituting the Little Office of the Virgin Mary for the Liturgy of the Hours used by the Benedictine foundations in Bavaria.

It was impossible for the sisters to observe cloister. At times they even housed school children and



Sisters gather three times a day for prayer and once a day for Eucharist.

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orphans and/or classrooms in their convent, and used a makeshift chapel for prayer. Because they weren't cloistered and were denied the privilege of praying the full Divine Office, the Vatican changed their status as "nuns" to that of "sisters," placing them in a different canonical category.

As these early pioneers continued to meet requests for teachers in other locations the number of Benedictine houses grew rapidly. Their services quickly expanded in other ways, as they founded hospitals and orphanages. Decades passed and more women entered these communities, enabling them to further expand their mission.

The growth of Benedictine motherhouses continued through the first part of the 20th century. During the 1950s the expansion seemed to have reached its peak as communities worked to consolidate what had been accomplished. Growth slackened and the Benedictine communities and their institutions seemed to stabilize.

The second Vatican Council in the 1960s encouraged all women religious to "return to their roots and reclaim the charism of their founders." Benedictine sisters enthusiastically revisited their constitutions and discovered that, in spite of all that had been accomplished, some aspects of the monastic life had fallen by the wayside. It was time to regain some aspects from past traditions—e.g. schedule, forms of prayer, spirituality, customs, and symbols.

American Benedictine women rewrote their constitutions in order to connect their lived experience with their tradition. Houses were changed from "convents and priories" to "monasteries." Benedictine institutions began hiring lay employees and it became evident that the laity could serve in their stead as educators and healthcare personnel.

Benedictine women continued to respond to the needs of the times, working in parishes and diocesan offices, serving the underprivileged and underserved, advocating for social justice concerns and working in new healthcare fields such as counseling and dentistry. Eventually, as lay participation increased, sisters aged, vocations decreased and forms of ministry became more individualized, many Benedictine monasteries divested themselves of their institutions. The balance between prayer and work changed again and seemed to be tilting toward prayer.

Today Benedictine women seek God in the midst of a world where huge cultural shifts are taking place and

where God seems relegated to the sidelines. The need for communities of religious women who recognize and value a deeper contemplative stance toward life becomes more pressing than ever.

Contemplative prayer, continues to give meaning to our lives as we "listen with the ears of our hearts" and intercede for the suffering -- of hungry children, of families of the unemployed, of populations in war-torn countries, of peoples experiencing racism, of people experiencing exploitation and/or slavery, of victims of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change – and the list goes on. It is easy to be overwhelmed by such suffering but for the belief that our Incarnate God – Jesus -- is with all of us, suffering in and for us.

We cannot accomplish the physical work we once did, but hopefully our aging leads us to pray at a deeper level – one that allows us to participate by making up "in our own bodies all that still has to be undergone for the sake of the whole Body" (Colossians 1:24). We continue to embark on the task, in the words of Sister Ephrem Hollermann, "of reshaping an ancient tradition once again, into a form appropriate within the religious and cultural context of a new century and a new millennium" (Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, *The Reshaping of a Tradition: American Benedictine Women*, Sisters of Saint Benedict, Saint Joseph, MN, © 1994).



Sisters celebrate 70th, 75th and 80th jubilees

compiled by Sister Michelle McGurran

In a private ceremony on July 29, 2014, Sisters Agnes Kraft and Cecilia Smith celebrated their 70th and 75th jubilees of monastic profession at a Mass celebrated by Monsignors Donald Krebs and Roger Grundhaus. Sister Florentine Goulet also marked her 75th jubilee along with Sister Flora Klier who marked her 70th jubilee. These two sisters are residents of Villa Saint Vincent, a long-term care facility.

80th Jubilee Sister Florentine Goulet

Sister Florentine Goulet celebrated her 80th jubilee as a professed member of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery at Villa Saint Vincent in Crookston where she is a resident, after a most illustrious ministry in teaching, administration, music, and in peer ministry to hearing-impaired persons.

Sister Florentine's journey began earlier than most of ours did. Her mother died at an early age and the two sisters, Ann and Cecilia Marie, were accepted at Mount Saint Benedict Academy.

At that time elementary school children were included in a department named "minims." There Ann and Cecilia Marie remained until their high school years. After completing high school at Mount Saint Benedict Academy, Cecilia Marie joined her sister Anne and entered the Mount community. She received the name Florentine when she made her first profession in 1930.

Sisters Jennifer Kehrwald, Cecilia Smith, Agnes Kraft and Kathy Kuchar take time for a picture on Jubilee day.



During her years as a professed Benedictine she demonstrated many qualities that were welcome in the community ministries. She was described by one who knew here well as a "courageous, persistent woman who meets obstacles head on and manages to serve God



Sister Florentine Goulet

and humankind in spite of them." Some of the many ministries assigned her were grade school teacher, school principal and music teacher. Sister Florentine's love of music was encouraged by her father who played the violin and taught the family to sing and harmonize even as they worked together. Sister Florentine is remembered by students who studied under her care and encouragement. While in Mahtomedi, Sister recognized the many persons talented in art and music. She dreamed of establishing a center for the arts. Her

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Jubilarians



Minims from Mount Saint Benedict Academy.

dream and persistence later resulted in the birth of the White Bear Area Choral Association., which later became the White Bear Area Center for the Arts. When Sister Florentine retired she was honored with a performance of a musical composition written for her by Paul Hendrickson. Sister Florentine dreamed of a center where for the visual arts and music. She would be



Sisters Agnes Kraft and Cecilia Smith prepare to renew their monastic profession they first made 70 and 75 years ago.

astounded and proud of what has become of her dream which flowered into a center that embraces music, dance, writing and the visual arts.

Unfortunately in mid-life Sister was diagnosed with a progressive and permanent hearing loss which ended her teaching career in music.

Ever resourceful, Sister Florentine observed that many people were suffering from hearing impairment. She wanted to find a way to help them live productive lives. To prepare for this ministry Sister enrolled in Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only university for the deaf in the world. When she returned to the Saint Paul area she discovered many ways to work with the hearing impaired as a peer counselor, teacher and advocate. In 1992 the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech honored Sister Florentine for her untiring work for those in need of help. Sister eventually returned to the monastery and continued to minister to people with hearing impairment.

As her health diminished Sister Florentine became a resident of Villa Saint Vincent where she presently resides and where she celebrated her 80th anniversary in the company of her sisters.

Sister Florentine often expressed her appreciation for the opportunities she had during her years in the monastery to seek God by those she encountered in her journey through life. The gratitude of those who were recipients of her gracious ministry was expressed often by all who benefited by her courageous and persistent efforts to overcome obstacles head on and manage to serve God and humankind in spite of them.

*The desert and the
parched land will be
glad; the wilderness will
rejoice and blossom.*

-- Is. 35:1

75th Jubilee Sister Cecilia Smith



Sister Cecilia Smith

Sister Cecilia, (formerly Sister Damian) was born in 1921 in Devil's Lake, North Dakota, the first of eleven children of Pearl and Alex Smith.

She credits her interest in becoming a sister to the Grey Nuns who taught them. She recalled that she wanted to

become a Gray Nun but Father Damian Priske, OSB brought her to the Mount where she entered the community in August, 1937. She became a novice in 1938, made first profession in 1942 and final profession in 1945. Sister Cecilia taught in elementary schools in the Crookston Diocese in Red Lake Falls, East Grand Forks, Barnesville, Bemidji, and Crookston. In addition to that she taught in Lefor, ND and Asherton, TX. She taught mostly in primary grades. Sister Cecilia received a Bachelor of Science degree from Viterbo College in La Crosse, WI. Her love of learning did not stop with the degree from Viterbo College. She continued to enroll and participate in scripture, theology and spirituality classes.

In 1995 she began taking care of her mother. She wrote, "My experience there was very different from being at the Mount or on mission. I was responsible for everything including house work, cooking, ironing, outdoor work. I also took care of our spiritual life such as saying our daily rosary, reciting the office, going to Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday."



Sister Cecilia proclaims the Word of God from the ambo in the chapel.

While her mother was in a long-term facility in Devils Lake, Sister Cecilia lived with the Mercy Sisters. During the time she visited her mother daily, she was asked to visit the Catholic residents. She soon was asked also to bring them Communion. After the death of her mother, Sister Cecilia returned to the Mount where she volunteers at the reception desk and uses her embroidery skills in creating sets of dishtowels depicting colorful butterflies.. She cannot keep up with requests for her dishtowels.

Work, prayer, holy reading and hospitality are well-established in Sister Cecilia's life as she joyfully continues her journey to life everlasting.



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70th Jubilee Sister Flora Klier



Sister Flora Klier

Rapids by Father Funk and received the name Alvina Theresa Rose Klier. Alvina became acquainted with the Benedictine Sisters from Crookston who taught religious vacation school at Saint Mary's Church in Two Inlets. This was a very special time in Alvina's life and the presence of the sisters awakened in her the desire to become one of them. Alvina was 14 at that time.

Later Alvina worked at Saint Vincent's Hospital and at Saint Mary's in Detroit Lakes. She soon followed her heart's desire and entered the Crookston Benedictine community on September 4, 1927 and received the name Flora. When she was asked what appealed to her about her choice she replied that "living at the Mount had always been very special to me and all the beauty surrounding the Mount is just a little bit of heaven for me."

When Alvina entered the community she was already a skilled cook and for 12 years she served in that capacity at the Mount and in various hospitals and convents. In 1975 Sister Flora was assigned to manage the 12-acre vegetable and fruit garden with the assistance of Sisters Benigna, Constance, Bridget and many generous volunteers. There Sister Flora found her

niche. She said about her assignment, "When you're out all the time you see the beauty of nature. It's a wonderful place."

Sister involved many helpers in the garden and affirmed their gifts. She seemed to have no difficulty managing different personalities. They all seemed to enjoy the work and they also shared in the harvest. Sister Flora, when asked to reflect on her assignments, replied that she rejoiced that her gifts and talents were being used for the service of others. Sister's spirituality was not showy but was deep and visible in the way she worked and treated her co-workers and in the way she revered God's nature that was surrounding her daily.

Sister Flora had many talents besides gardening. She was very artistic and found outlets for this in many ways. She baked and decorated cakes for weddings and community celebrations. Wood carving was another hobby she enjoyed. She repaired broken statues and painted them for a number of churches.

Sister worked hard and long during the harvest time but never neglected her prayer life. One would see her late at night in chapel (sometimes sleeping) in God's presence, her prayer book open on her lap.

As her health deteriorated and she entered another level of care at Villa Saint Vincent, the weary gardener

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To say that Sister Flora had a green thumb would be a very great understatement!

who cherished and worked in God's beautiful world, and rejoiced that her gifts and talents were being used for others, received the gifts of other caretakers. Sr. Flora passed away on February 6, 2015.

70th Jubilee Sister Agnes Kraft

Sister Agnes Kraft (formerly called Sister Raphael) celebrated her 70th jubilee of Monastic profession on July 26, 2014 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Crookston Minnesota. She was born in Karlsruhe, ND, the oldest of twelve children born to Jennie (Merck) and Fred Kraft. Influenced by the example of Sister Bonaventure Merck, Agnes began thinking about being a sister when she was in the fourth grade, but she never spoke about her dream until she was about 17 years of age. Agnes entered the community in 1942 and made her final profession on July 11, 1947.

During this time her practical and orderly ways quickly became apparent and her first assignment as a junior sister was as cook for the sisters in Rosen, Minnesota. She recalled that she learned to bake something new for the sisters to enjoy each day after school. It was where she learned to cook and take responsibility for much of the kitchen management and food preparation. Succeeding assignments were to Mahnomen, Barnesville, Mount Saint Benedict and Red Lake Falls, where she also was a teacher's aide which she enjoyed very much. Earlier she had been dietary supervisor in the Red Lake Falls Hospital.

She was appointed the manager of the kitchen for at the Bishop's house, a position she held for twelve years. Since Bishop Schenk loved to entertain, Sister



Sister Agnes Kraft

Agnes had many opportunities to exercise her ever growing artistic and culinary talents. She used to say "we eat with our eyes" and would always have food attractively arranged and served.

Sister later graduated from Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, Manitowac, Wisconsin with a B.S. in Home

Economics. This was only a continuation of her desire to learn new ways and to improve her skills and those of her staff.

After many years in food service management in hospitals and in the monastery, Sister considered slowing down for a time. She did not stop working



Sister Agnes presents a plate of cookies for coffee. When Sister Agnes managed the kitchen for a major feast day, her food arrangements rivaled those of a five-star hotel.

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Jubilarians

completely and accepted some part-time positions at Saint Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lake, MN and in two assisted living centers in Lincoln Park and Winchester. All three institutions presented her with certificates of appreciation for the work she did. Sister wrote, "I helped with the food preparation and waited on table. It was the joy of my life." After many years in management in large kitchens, the

whole burden was no longer her responsibility. When Sister Agnes returned to the monastery she assumed charge of the monastery gift shop. There she used her talents in quilting and making jellies and marmalade. Both items were very popular and did not remain long on the shelves.

Sister Agnes took any opportunity for growth in professional and spiritual life. She also enjoyed

quiet days at the cottage on Maple Lake. There she enjoyed nature and the opportunity to rest, read and pray. Sister also took piano lessons from Sister Victorine. She enjoyed the lessons and practiced diligently. Sister Agnes was a fan of the Minnesota Twins and she enjoyed following basketball and baseball. Sister Agnes passed away on November 6, 2014. For Sister Agnes, jubilees henceforth will be celebrated with all the saints and angels rejoicing with her.



Above: Sisters Karen and Patrice assist Sister Agnes in the kitchen.



Sister Cornelia celebrated her 90th birthday. She was happy to have her brother, Philip, and her sister-in-law, June, visit for several days .



TOP: Newly elected Federation Council members are Sisters Barbara Reinhart, Nanaimo, BC, Juliana Babcock, Beech Grove, IN, Jacquelyn Ernster, Yankton, SD, Shawn Carruth, Crookston, MN, Theresa Jackson, Cottonwood, ID and Federation President Sister Joella Kidwell, Ferdinand, IN. MIDDLE: Sister Jennifer Kehrwald converses with Sister Virginia Evard, prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery, Winnipeg, MB. BOTTOM: Sisters Myra Schmieg (right) and Denise Schonhardt enjoy a light moment.

Benedictine communities give, receive support

Sister Denise Schonhardt

Benedictine communities do not exist in a vacuum without the wisdom and support of other communities. So it is with the Crookston Benedictines. We belong to the Federation of Saint Gertrude along with several other Benedictine communities of women. Every three years, each community elects representatives along with the monastic superior to attend the Federation Chapter. The Chapter, in monastic parlance, is a meeting to make decisions that affect the entire group. The theme of the 2014 Chapter meeting was, "Behold I am doing something new. Imagine, Create, Embrace"

The Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood, ID, graciously welcomed the delegates and prioresses from each community belonging to the Federation. Representing the Crookston Benedictines were Sister Jennifer Kehrwald, administrator; Sister Shawn Carruth, delegate and presenter; Sister Myra Schmieg, Federation Council member and Sister Denise Schonhardt, delegate.

In recognition of the aging of members and decline in membership for individual monasteries, and thus for the Federation also, the Chapter passed two resolutions.

The first one was to **Commit ourselves to develop collaborative methods to share resources for study/lectio of scripture and monastic spirituality as a means of nurturing newer members and promoting personal and communal transformation of all members.**

The second resolution reads: **Commit ourselves to honestly review our reality and address our critical challenges creatively in order to free us to continue to be a vital monastic presence.**

The first resolution is already being implemented through an initiative to share the wisdom of Benedictine scholars by creating live video of presentations on various Benedictine topics. These presentations would be used in the formation of new

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A history of ministry in pictures . . .



Even before the foundation of the Mount Saint Benedict community Benedictine sisters engaged in ministry in the Crookston Diocese. When the sisters first came to Crookston they lived in Saint Vincent's Hospital first founded by the Duluth Benedictines. In the beginning the sisters were involved in healing and teaching ministries but as the times changed sister's ministries changed also and expanded to religious education, parish administration, dentistry, chaplaincy and other ministries.

ABOVE: Sister Dominica shares her love of music with young people. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Sister Judy exhibits her love of children by founding Sunrise Center for Children and Families. **RIGHT:** Sister Anita Whalen serves the dental needs of the people of Marshall County.





TOP LEFT: Sister Mary Ann Welsch helps a young student with her school lessons. **TOP RIGHT:** Long before it was popular, the Benedictine Sisters practiced organic gardening. **LEFT:** Sister Imelda Esser shares a compassionate look with a patient at Saint Vincent's Nursing Home. **ABOVE:** Sister Anne DeMers greets a group of students wanting a tour of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

Welcome Home Sister Vivian!



*Sister Lorraine
Kruft*

At a celebration of her sixty years of profession as a Benedictine sister, Sister Vivian Petersen recalled the simple mantra which has kept her going strong: “It isn’t a question of doing great things, but of doing little

things with love. I want to love others sincerely in practical, everyday ways.”

Sister Vivian’s twenty years as parish administrator at Saint James Church in Dawson, Minnesota, ended on the last day of June this summer, according to a regulation of the Diocese of New Ulm, which asks all parish workers to resign after their 80th birthdays. Sister Vivian left her beloved parishioners of Saint James parish. Sister continues to assure her sisters and

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Federation Chapter

members with perpetually professed monastics also participating.

The second resolution challenges communities to look honestly at the reality of each Benedictine community. Sister Shawn Carruth, in her keynote address, expressed the concern of many communities when she said, “We cannot go back, the future is a mystery. We need imagination, creativity, love, and energy to embrace what is now as well as what is ahead in order to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God in the world that is.”



Sister Vivian receives a basket of tomatoes from parishioners of Saint James Church in Dawson.

her family that she didn’t initiate any move to leave her parish work, for she loved being a part of “her parish.” Throughout her years there, she always worked with a non-resident priest who served as the sacramental minister.

Sister Vivian was born and raised in Bemidji, the second youngest in the Petersen family of seven.

Her early education was at Saint Philip’s School in Bemidji. During high school she attended Mount Saint Benedict Academy in Crookston. A lifelong dream was fulfilled when she entered the novitiate of the Benedictine Sisters in 1952 and professed permanent religious vows in 1956. What followed was years of serving in the educational ministry of the Sisters. Sister excelled as a classroom teacher and, for some years, as teacher and school principal.

After thirty years of working in Catholic schools, Sister’s ministry took a major turn as she began Theological Studies at Saint John’s School of Theology at Collegeville, and prepared to engage in rural ministries in parishes. She first served as pastoral associate in Detroit Lakes, and as parish administrator in the tri-parishes of Georgetown/Halstad/Felton, and in Callaway. After a few years in the Crookston diocese,

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Tornado devastates Mount Grounds

Sister Anne DeMers

On July 21, the first alert for most of us came with the announcement by Sister Anne Marie, our receptionist at the desk. “Sisters, get up out of bed NOW and go to a safe place on a lower floor. A tornado has been sighted!” The sisters obeyed and huddled in different locations in the monastery for about half an hour. We had no idea of the damage caused until the next day when Lonnie Peck, our grounds and garden supervisor, surveyed our property and posted a report on our bulletin board. According to the National Weather Service the tornado was rated as an EF2 on a scale of 0 to 5 with peak winds at 120 miles per hour. It took over a week to take care of the debris caused by the storm. The winds took over one third of the cottonwood trees in the woods on the west end of our property, including Mother Eustacia’s “memory tree.” However the Mount suffered no major damage to the main buildings and new construction. The destruction inflicted by the tornado on areas of Crookston across the Red Lake River from us proved to be worse. Uprooted trees falling on roofs



Many trees were uprooted during the tornado. Happily no major damage was inflicted on any main building.

of residences and on cars caused much damage.

Following is a list of some of the damage:

- A tree fell on the west roof of our chaplain Monsignor Grundhaus’s residence

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Sister Vivian

she took a position in Dawson in the New Ulm diocese. From 1993 to the present, Sister Vivian was pleased to carry out parish ministry for the people of Saint James Catholic parish in Dawson.

Sister Vivian was awarded the Diocesan Distinguished Service award in 2012 from Bishop John M. LeVoir of the New Ulm diocese in appreciation for her service

as educator and parish administrator. She was asked to serve on the Admissions and Scrutinies Committee for the Permanent Diaconate in 2007. She also served as the pastoral administrative representative to the Committee on Parishes and was a member of the “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign Executive Committee.

Currently, Sister Vivian is living at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Crookston and beginning to discern the many possibilities of her involvement at our monastic home, and “doing little things with love.”

Remembering . . .

Sister Lucille Marie Adelman

December 13, 1933 – May 12, 2014

Sister Lucille Marie Adelman, 80, died at Villa Saint Vincent, Crookston, on Monday, May 12, 2014.



Lucille Marie Adelman, second of the seven children of Andrew and Susan (Vonderharr) Adelman, was born near the tiny, very Catholic and very German hamlet of Rosen, MN. She was born on December 13, 1933, on the homestead that her paternal grandfather had

settled and where her father was born. She was baptized at Saint Joseph's Church in Rosen where she also attended the Saint Joseph's Grade School and was taught by Benedictine sisters from Crookston. She related that she knew in the second grade that she wanted to

be a sister. She chose to enter the Mount community largely because of the influence of the Mount sisters who taught her though she had relatives in religious communities in Saint Joseph, Mankato and Rochester, MN and Dubuque, IA.

Lucille attended Mount Saint Benedict Academy for high school, and she entered the monastic community as a senior in January, 1951. She was invested in the Benedictine habit when she entered the novitiate, July 2, 1951. She also received her religious name, Sister Mary Edward, but when sisters were permitted to revert to their baptismal names, she resumed the name Sister Lucille Marie. She made her final monastic profession on July 11, 1955.

Sister Lucille Marie received a Bachelor of Arts degree in organ performance from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND; a Religious Formation Certificate from the Institute of Religious Formation from Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO and a Masters of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago, IL. She also did some graduate studies at Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN.

Sister Lucille Marie began her ministry first as a kindergarten teacher at the Cathedral Grade School in Crookston and at Saint Joseph's School in Moorhead. She also taught music at the

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Mount Tornado

- The sweet corn in garden was flattened and 60% of our squash taken,
- Approximately 50 feet of fence used to keep deer out of the garden lay flat on the ground under some uprooted trees,
- The north wall foundation post on the high tunnel garden lifted out of the ground; plastic on the east end was torn and some walls were pulled inward.

- A tree landed on the roof of the Poustinia, a rustic structure used by the sisters for days of quiet and reflection.
- 95% of the roof of the pole barn along with some rafters blown off
- Sister Connie's garden shed blown over
- Over 60 trees (apart from the woods) were uprooted or suffered major damage -- many in the area of the cemetery.

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Sister Lucille Marie

Cathedral, Saint Joseph's and Saint Michael's in Mahanomen. She had a brief stint as an assistant records librarian at Saint Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes. In 1962, she began teaching piano at Mount Saint Benedict and serving as the community organist. From 1970 to 1976 she was the formation director at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.



Sister Lucille Marie in a modified habit.

In 1974, she began another phase of her life: offering spiritual direction, first to sisters at the Mount and then to people in the wider community. At this time she also became involved in offering individually directed retreats.

From 1977 to 1987, she offered spiritual direction, individually directed retreats and piano lessons in Browerville, MN. Two of those years, 1985 to 1987, she served as pastoral assistant at Christ the King Parish, thus beginning a third phase of her life, that of pastoral ministry.

From 1987 to 1989, she was the pastoral associate at Saint Joseph's in Red Lake Falls, Saint Dorothy's in Dorothy, Saint Anthony's in Terrebonne and Saint Vincent de Paul's in Plummer. From 1989 to 2002, she served as the Pastoral Administrator at Saint Joseph's Parish in Oslo.



Sister Lucille Marie greets Sister Cathi Merck during a missioning service

When asked what she did as pastoral administrator, she said, "Everything except administer the sacraments!" While in Oslo she also became involved with ecumenical activities.

One of the notable events while she was in Oslo was surviving the 1997 flood! She said, "We had ONE Sunday Mass between Easter and Ascension because we were an island in the midst of the great Red River Lake!"

In 2002, she returned to the Mount, where she began offering spiritual direction and in 2005 she became the liturgy coordinator. She retired from that position in 2011. She moved into assisted living in 2010 because of deteriorating health after having undergone radiation therapy for cancer. She moved to Villa Saint Vincent shortly before her death.

Sister Lucille Marie was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Jerry (Dorothy) of Bellingham, MN, Irvin. She is survived by sisters Irene (Roger) McCulloch of Big Stone City, SD, Rose Ann Wollschlager of Millbank, SD, and James (Betty) of Rapid City, SD, sister-in-law Veronica of Ortonville, MN and many nieces and nephews and the Sisters of Saint Benedict

Her sister Verna Mae and her brother Jerry died shortly after Sister Lucille Marie's death.

Reunion of Mount Saint Benedict Academy class of 1973

The class of 1973 held their 41st reunion the weekend of July 18-20th. On Friday evening 17 of them met at the Golf club for a get-together. On Saturday morning the group visited at Mount Saint Benedict. They enjoyed visiting with the sisters and even met some sisters who had taught some of them in the elementary grades at Saint Vincent de Sales School in Osseo – which was a big surprise for them as well as the sisters – Sister Yvonne Schafer, Sister Marmion Karels and Sr. Olivia Hermann. Sister Lorraine Kraft gave them a tour of Marian Hall and our chapel. They enjoyed refreshments and visiting with a lot of reminiscing about their days at the Mount. Saturday afternoon they went to the home of Richard and Jean Rock (Cournia) on the Union Lake for a Barbecue Picnic Waster Sports and relaxation. Sunday was spent getting ready for going back home. This happy weekend was coordinated by Jean (Cournia) Rock and Mary Lou (Altman) Nord.

THANK YOU to the ALUMNI who gave Feb 2014 to August 31, 2014 (\$100 – 200) Harriet Mooney '47 and (\$10 - \$49) Peggy Kryzsko '64. These donors gave specially to the Alumni Association. Many 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 bless you abundantly!



Members of the Class of 1973.

Decased parents of alumni

Fred A. Herkenhoff, 85, of Saint Cloud, MN died on July 7, 2014. (11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren). He was the father of: Carol Ous '73 - Stillwater, MN, Mick Herkenhoff '75– Crookston, MN, Bob Herkenhoff '77– Saint Cloud, MN, Linda Brown '80 – Saint Joseph, MN, and Tom Herkenhoff – Saint Cloud, MN.

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Class of 1930 Helen Anna (Nicklay) Glawe, 101, passed away on March 25, 2014, at Villa Maria in Fargo, ND. She was born August 9, 1912 in Crookston to John J. and Josephine Nicklay. She graduated from Mount Saint Benedict Academy with a Teacher Training Certificate. She began her 28 year teaching career in rural schools. In 1961 she married Thomas (Bud) Glawe. Preceding her in death were her parents; brother, Arthur; sisters, Sr. Louise Nicklay and Alice Miller and her husband, Bud Glawe. Surviving her are her sister, Dorothy Marr and many nieces and nephews.

Class of 1940 Lorraine (Leguee) Steffen, 90, died on April 22, 2014, at the Villa Saint Vincent in Crookston. She was born in Crookston on September 5, 1923, the daughter of Gordon and Grace Leguee. She graduated from Cathedral High School (All Mount Saint Benedict

Academy students attended the Cathedral High School from fall of 1939 to fall of 1944.) Lorraine was united in marriage to Charles Hugh Steffen and their marriage was blessed by the birth of 16 children. Lorraine was a devoted wife, loving mother and a busy homemaker. She was preceded in death by her great granddaughter, Ashley; her parents; son, Mark; and brother, Gordon. Surviving are 15 children, one daughter-in-law, 36 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren. And one sister-in-law.

Class of 1951 Sister Lucille Adelman, 80, died May 12, 2014, at Villa Saint Vincent, Crookston. She was born on Dec. 13, 1933, to Andrew and Susan Adelman near Rosen, MN. She attended Mount Saint Benedict Academy for high school and entered the monastic community in 1951. Final profession was made on July 11, 1955. Her ministries were in elementary school, music, religious formation, spiritual direction and pastoral associate/administrator. Sister Lucille Marie was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Irvin. She is survived by sisters, Irene McCulloch, Rose Ann Wollschlager, Verna McGovern (died July 3, 2014) and brothers Jerry (died May 29, 2014) and James and sister-in-law, Veronica.

Class of 1964 Peggy Kryzsko was inquiring if the class of '64 was having a reunion for their 50th.

Some members of Class of 1973 from Osseo enjoyed visiting with their former teachers, Sisters Yvonne (top photo) and Sister Marmion.

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Alumni

Class of 1965 Norma Degnan had surgery for brain tumors and would appreciate prayers.

Class of 1966 Verna Mae (Adelman) McGovern, 66, died suddenly on July 3, 2014, at Sanford Health, Fargo, ND. Verna was born on November 27, 1947, in Ortonville, MN to Andrew and Susan Adelman. After graduation in 1966 she worked for Dacotah Paper Co. in Fargo for 20 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Bobby; brothers Irvin and Gerald (Jerry) and sister, Sister Lucille Marie Adelman. She is survived by her children, Scott and Stacy; two granddaughters; sisters RoseAnn Wollschlager and Irene McCulloch and brother, James.

Mary Claire Patnode, 63, died on April 18, 2014, at Maple Grove Hospital. She was born July 18, 1950, in Bemidji, MN to Paul and Eleanor Patnode. Mary Claire attended Mount Saint Benedict Academy for two years and graduated from Bemidji High School in 1968. Her career was in social work and school psychology. Mary married Harlan Johnson in 1992. She is survived by her husband, Harlan; step-son, Sam; step daughter, Jill; sister, Dianne Seyler; brothers, Robert, Charles, and Monsignor Michael Patnode and also many cousins, nieces, nephews and aunts. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents and brother-in-law, James Seyler.

Class of 1969 James Dale Huot-Vickery, 63, of Ely, formerly Crookston, died on June 27, 2014, in Essentia Saint Mary's Medical Center, Duluth. Jim was born March 27, 1951, to Ella Mae Huot-Vickery and James McAllen Vickery. James was an author, woodsman, national park ranger and canoe guide. He is survived by his sister, Jennifer Martin and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ella Mae; father, Jim; sisters Joan and Josita and a niece, Elizabeth Ann.

Class of 1973 Dorothy (Streifel) Anderson is living alone with her cat. Her husband, David, died in Nov.

2013. She now works for Minnkota Power Coop. Inc. for the last 37 years in the in-plant printshop. She has no children – her children have 4 paws.

Alice (Seeley) Vandal writes “Dave and I have 3 sons, Jeremy and Jenny live in Moorhead, MN. Jeremy is still detailing cars and Jenny works at Wells Fargo. Jeremy has struggled for 35 years with cancer, but has remained cancer free for 3 years. Quentin and Sara live in CA. Quentin is a geologist at the Borax mine. Sara stays home and raises their two daughters – Quinlyn (3) and Kassie (3 mos.) Jordan and Stephanie live in Duluth. Jordan works at M.A.P. He helps small communities get grant money for water/sewer. Stephanie stays home with their 3 sons – Owen (6), Finnegan (4) and Samuel (2).”

Judith Halek writes – I am living in New York City for 32 years now. For the past 26 years I've assisted over 1,000 babies into the world. I'm finding the next phase of my life will involve writing, speaking around alternative birth choices. How long I will remain in New York City is undecided. What I strive to do is live moment to moment in the present with awareness and gratitude.

Cherie (Evans) Bender writes that they have two daughters and four grandbabies who all live around Stillwater, MN. Presently she is teaching Adapted Physical Education in North Saint Paul. Her husband, Jack, has an office in their home for New York Life Insurance. They have been married for 31 years.

Dennis and Sherry Coquette live in Crookston and have two daughters, one grandchild and another on the way.

Laurel (Lamm) Hansen writes that their children Adam (23) and Haleigh (22) graduated from college in 2014. They are living outside Chicago, but hope to relocate to Colorado in the next few years.

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Monastery Tales

Sunrise Center presented their Christmas Program in Marian Hall lounge. It was almost more fun to watch the children as they saw their parents, grandparents, etc. rather than the actual performance.

The sisters were invited to attend the Cathedral Christmas Program on December 18, 2014!

Sister Norma Jean painted “Root of Jesse” illustrations for the 6 display windows in the hallway just outside the Chapel. The sisters appreciated her work very deeply.

Our new website went live on 19. Check out msb.net!

Sister Shawn presented on Nov. 30th on the Gospel of John! The morning presentation started a little after 10:00 (muffins and coffee were provided) and the p.m. presentation began at 1:30 – no cookies or muffins!

The sisters have been happy to watch a variety of DVDs. They included:

God is Not Dead This DVD movie tells the story of an atheist philosophy professor who insisted that all of his class declare in writing that “God is dead”. When one of his young students is unable to do this, he is challenged to defend his faith and prove to the class that *God is Not Dead*.

Waking in Oak Creek This is the story of the community of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, that struggled in the aftermath of a shooting in the Sikh temple, killing six. This DVD was gifted to us by the creators of the DVD.

The Francis Effect. This was an excellent view of Pope Francis from the election by the College of Cardinals to his becoming Time Magazine’s Man of the Year

God is Bigger Than Elvis – The Story of Mother Delores Hart, Prioress This is the story of Delores Hart, actress, and how she became Prioress of the cloistered Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America This DVD was published by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and it narrated “the virtually untold story of women who exercised leadership at a time when few women enjoyed such possibilities. There is a story of quiet courage during many dramatic moments in U.S. history. Discover the mystery behind this small community of innovative women who helped shape the nation’s social, cultural, and spiritual landscape.”

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Alumni

Mary Lou (Altman) Nord writes “I am still teaching PE and Health at Maple Grove Sr. High. Terry and I have two children, Jake and Chelsey and one wonderful grandchild – Wyatt. We had a great time at the 41st Reunion. We hope we have even more people at the 45th.”

Janet (Funk) Bohman lives in Shoreview, MN with her husband, Jerry. They have 3 children, Brian age 21, Annie 20 years, and Michael age 18. Janet is a Radiology Manager at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Gerald Eugene Brekken, 59, of Fernley, NV died unexpectedly at his home of natural causes on August 6, 2014. He was born in Crookston on April 26, 1955, son of Albert and Wanda Brekken. After graduating from Mount Saint Benedict High School he worked on the family farm with his dad and brother. He married Bridgett Bergan in 1978 at Saint Cloud, MN. After moving to NV he taught Junior High English in Carson City and Reno until retiring in 2009. Gerald leaves his four children: Jonathan, Leah, Catherine and Joshua; his mother, Wanda of Crookston; seven brothers and three sisters and many other relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, Albert; brother, Curtis and nephew, Jeremy.

Photo Gallery



TOP: Sister Pat Nyquist and Sister Anne DeMers enjoy a picnic meal provided by Villa Saint Vincent. **ABOVE:** Oblates Mary Amiot, Lou Anne McGlynn and join the Sisters for a meal. **RIGHT:** Lisa Altepeter and several children come for tricks or treats on Halloween.



TOP LEFT: Sister Jennifer blesses Sister Anne Marie.
ABOVE: Sister Myra, her family and others join in peeling apples brought by her sister. **LEFT:** Sisters Lorraine, Marmion, Agatha, Judy Moen and Norma Jean enjoy prizes won at a Halloween party.



Sister Denise Schonhardt

Thanks to our donors

Sister Denise Schonhardt

This past summer, the hard drive where I store all my photos became corrupted and spread to the back-up hard drive and I lost all the photos I had taken during 2014. I searched everywhere on those hard drives to see if somehow I had placed them in the wrong place to no avail. Without those photos I could not put out this issue of *the Crookston Benedictine*. Finally, one day I was going to shoot some pictures and I looked at the photos on the camera. There were six months of photos still on the camera!

I was elated and relieved. Even though this issue of *the Crookston Benedictine* is several months overdue, it is actually being mailed.

One thing I have learned over the years is that our donors are not like those hard drives that failed. Our donors do not fail us. They respond to our appeals generously, and sometimes out of their own lack of resources. The generosity of our many donors is beyond belief.

We Sisters of Saint Benedict are aware of the sacrifices our donors make in order to contribute to us. Our donors are in our prayer at the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist.

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

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- (Send all labels indicating which is correct)



Carolina and Lonnie Peck organized a bonfire on the 4th of July.