

the Crookston Benedictine



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

from our administrator . . .



Sister Jennifer Kehrwald

Recently we watched a DVD presentation on Transitions and the Spiritual Journey. As a symbol of life's transitions the presenter used the image of a boat crossing a lake. "Transitions entail leaving familiar and solid ground (terra firma) and embarking on unknown terrain, like the unpredictable and storm-prone Lake of Galilee, and enduring an in-between

place before reaching solid ground once again on the other shore." (Wilki Au) Many times in our lives we might feel like the disciples in the storm tossed boat crying out, "Lord, save me." And we discover again and again that Jesus is present calming the winds of change.

In this issue you will find stories about sisters who have made many transitions and are celebrating God's faithful presence to them: Sister Dorothea's 100th birthday party, jubilee celebrations, our moving into the new living spaces, and sisters passing into eternal life. When these sisters left home and came to Mount Saint Benedict they did not know all the transitions they might be called to make but they can look back and say, "It has been a good journey. And what is good about it is that God was, is and will be with us."

As always, we are grateful for you, our friends, as companions on our journey.



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, **Sister Denise Schonhardt**, editor, and **Sisters Anne DeMers, Lorraine Kraft, and Yvonne Shafer**, staff.

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Sister Jennifer places the written renewal formulas of the jubilarians on the altar.

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)

Mount Receives Visitors



Sister Joella Kidwell



Sister Michaela Hedican



Sister Karen Joseph

Sister Eileen Beutel

Benedictine monasteries periodically schedule a visitation according to the norms of the Federation of Saint Gertrude, of which we are a member. The Federation recommends that a visitation be held every five years. Our monastery's visitation was held on April 19-25, 2015.

You may ask, "What is a visitation?" A visitation is a time for the community to reflect on how it has been living the monastic way of life, that is, the common life, prayer, ministries, ongoing formation/education, fiscal management, etc. The preparation for the week of visitation included a year-long review of our monastery norms. This provided an opportunity for self-study, that is, how faithful the community has been in following the norms. It also provided an opportunity to update the norms.

The facilitators for the visitation were

Sister Joella Kidwell, President of the Federation of Saint Gertrude; Sister Michaela Hedican, Prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery, Saint Joseph, MN and Sister Karen Joseph of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN. How blessed we were to have three Benedictine sisters who have lived the life, have served their communities and/or federations in various leadership positions and who are astute, compassionate, and passionate about monastic life.

The visitors took time to visit with each sister, either in person or via phone. They also met with the various community committees, boards, leadership team, council and business management personnel. During the week of visitation they attended the daily Liturgy of the Hours & Eucharist and shared meal times with us. Visitation closed with a prayer service which included the official report from the visitors. This was followed by a celebratory dinner. Several sisters stated that the week was a peaceful and affirming experience. Most sisters would agree with the Federation document on "Guidelines for Canonical Visitations": "A visitation is a time of grace, a call to conversion, a call to celebrate life." It was indeed that and more. The monastic community is grateful to our visitors who took time out of their busy schedules to be with us and to offer their wise input.



for it
is a
jubilee;
it shall
be holy
to you

--Leviticus 25-12



Rejoice with our jubilarians!

Eleven sisters celebrated jubilees this year. Golden Jubilarians were Sisters Judy Moen and Nancy Boushey. Diamond Jubilarians included: Sisters Karen Violette and Bridget Durkin (60 years), Sisters Dominica Gerszewski, Olivia Herrman and Regina Hansmann (70 years), Sisters Brigetta Buckley, Edith Bedard, Eulalia Brophy and Joan LaCoursiere (75 years). The diamond jubilarians observed their jubilee at a private community celebration on July 26,. The golden jubilarians rejoiced with the monastic community and their families and friends on July 12 at Eucharist and by visiting with family and friends.



Sister Nancy Boushey and Sister Judy Moen

Golden Jubilarians

Sister Anne DeMers

Sister Judith Moen

Judy Moen grew up in Shooks, Minnesota, the youngest of ten children, and proud of her Norwegian heritage. Judy first considered her future vocation during grade school in Kelliher and during summer catechism classes taught by Benedictines and later, Sisters of Saint Joseph from Crookston. After attending high school at Mount Saint Benedict Academy her Benedictine vocation was confirmed. She entered the community and made her first monastic profession in 1965. After receiving an Associate of Arts degree from Corbett College she began a teaching assignment in Barnesville and continued in that profession in the following locations: Barnesville, East Grand Forks, Benson, Moorhead, Bemidji, and Thief River Falls. Along the way she furthered her education with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education/ Religious Education from the College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth and later engaged in a graduate study at Bemidji State University, earning licensure in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. More recently she was a graduate assistant at Saint Cloud State University and fulfilled the requirements for licensure in Parent and Family Education there while also completing a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry at Saint John's University School of Theology, Collegeville, in 1994.

At this point she dreamed of beginning a preschool program in Crookston while living at Mount Saint Benedict. Under the guidance of her advisor at Saint John's she surveyed local residents to see if a need for a preschool program and child care center existed since some child care services were already present in the area. After receiving a positive response she initiated Sunrise Center for Children and Families in the fall of 1994 with the sponsorship and support of the Sisters of Saint Benedict.

At present Sunrise Center is providing care and education for 48 children and has a waiting list. Recently Sunrise Center for Children and Families,

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Jubilarians

achieved four stars -- the highest rating possible in Minnesota's Parent Aware rating system

"I am thrilled to be able to offer scholarships to low-income families which enable them to select quality

vacations during these 21 years. In 2007 Sister Judy joined two of her sisters and visited another sister and husband in Norway, who live in the valley where their father was born. Currently, however, she doesn't seem to have any further plans. Most likely she will continue to find new ways to make a difference -- "that in all things, God may be glorified."

Sister Nancy Boushey

Sister Nancy returned from Rio Grande City, Texas to celebrate fifty years of life as a Sister of Saint Benedict. Almost thirty years of this time have been spent in southern Texas for the purpose of establishing the Monastery of the Good Shepherd, a dependent monastery of Mount Saint Benedict. Nancy began her journey as the sixth of eight children and grew up on a family farm near East Grand Forks. She attended Sacred Heart School where she came to know the Benedictine sisters. In 1963 she responded to the call to religious life which she first experienced in grade school, and she made her first monastic profession in 1965.

Sister Nancy received an Associate of Arts degree from Corbett College, Crookston. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Benedict, Saint Joseph, MN, and a master's degree from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH. She taught at Detroit Lakes, supervised high school students at Mount Saint Benedict High School in Crookston, and served on both the Red Lake Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota and the Fort Totten Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. At Fort Totten she was adopted by Deacon Tony McDonald's family during an Honors



Sister Judy Moen and her sister Bonita listen intently to their brother Bob.

child care and education for their children. Before, we were proud of the quality of our program; now we know more about defining quality and are able to offer documentation of that quality," states Sister Judy.

Sister Judy's goal of making a positive difference by impacting children and their families in the Crookston area is on track and looking forward.

As for the future, Sister Judy hasn't taken many

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Jubilarians



Sister Nancy receives a handmade quilt from the McDonald family in honor of her jubilee and as a sign of their affection for her.



In the presence of Sister Jennifer Kehrwald, the monastic community and family and friends, Sisters Judy and Nancy renew their monastic profession which they made 50 years ago.

Pow-wow as an expression of the family's love and gratitude for her four years of ministry in their midst.

Sister Nancy then went to minister in south Texas but found that God had other plans for her. After many years of service, she and her companions, Sister Luella Walsh and Sister Francis Solum obtained permission to found a dependent monastery of the Sisters of Saint Benedict, Crookston in Texas. With the help of many friends from Texas and Minnesota, their dream of building a monastery in south Texas near Rio Grande City, became a reality. Shortly after adding a chapel in 2005 the monastery welcomed visitors from Mexico and as far away as the Netherlands. In the words of Sister Nancy, "People will find their time...spent with God very fruitful...the world needs it now."

At present the monastery is on track to becoming independent and is awaiting approval from the bishop and eventually the Vatican. The Light of Christ continues to burn brightly in Sister Nancy's life – she received the Lumen Christi award from Sacred Heart Parish, East Grand Forks, in 2007. Today she continues to reveal Christ's light to the world as she did then.

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Jubilarians

60-year jubilarians

Sister Karen Violette

Sister Karen is the 15th of a family of 16 children and attended school in Red Lake Falls. She knew at age two that she wanted to be a sister. After attending Mount Saint Benedict Academy in her senior year, she entered Mount Saint Benedict Monastery on January 3, 1954. She received a BA from Viterbo College, LaCrosse, WI and has served as teacher and/or principal at Moorhead, East Grand Forks, Crookston, Mahanomen, Osseo, and Red Lake Falls. She worked with children for over twenty years and says she enjoyed every minute of it. Sister Karen served as subprioress of Mount Saint Benedict and spent five years at the Benedictine monastery in Ermeton Sur Biert in Belgium assisting them with their retreat center. She heard French spoken at home so speaking French came easily. She also worked at Care and Share of Crookston for many years following in the footsteps of Sister Justina, her sister. At present she extends hospitality to guests, coordinates the volunteer program and accompanies our sisters for medical appointments.

Sister Bridget Durkin

Bridget Durkin, one of nine children in the Durkin family, became a postulant at Mount Saint Benedict January 3, 1954. Raised on a farm near Ardoch, North Dakota, she attended a one-room country school that included from 10 to 15 students, for her first eight grades.

She attributes her religious vocation to the happy generosity and dedicated spirit of the Presentation Sisters who taught catechism for two weeks at the end of each school year. When she came to Mount Saint Benedict for the first time she was impressed by the friendliness of



Sister Karen (center) is pictured with Sister Kathy Kuchar (left), sub-prioress and Sister Jennifer Kehrwald, administrator.

the sisters but also that of the students at the Academy.

She made her final profession July 11, 1960 as Sister Romana, and not long afterward was asked to replace Sister Rosella Dentz as sacristan. In a spirit of obedience, she remaining doing sacristy work until 2015. After Vatican II she went back to her Baptismal name of Bridget as did many other sisters.

In retrospect the one thing she said she appreciated the most was, "being a Benedictine sister and especially in this community – Mount Saint Benedict."

Another aspect of Sister Bridget's life was as an assistant gardener. She loved the outdoors and spent years of summers in the garden – planting, weeding, watering and harvesting.

To further her artistic ability she attended workshops in gardening and woodcarving and joined the woodcarvers association that met at Mount Saint Benedict. At present Sister Bridget resides at RiverView Memory Care Unit here in Crookston.

70-year jubilarians

Sister Dominica Gerszewski

Sister Dominica's family farmed near Warsaw, ND, and they attended Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Oslo, MN. Her family promoted her vocation to Benedictine life. was an elementary teacher for several

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Jubilarians



Standing: Sisters Kathy Kuchar and Jennifer Kehrwald. Seated: Sisters Dominica Gerszewski, Regina Hansmann and Olivia Hermann.

years. She taught piano in Bemidji, Barnesville, Benson, Osseo, and Slayton where she also taught religious education classes. While teaching piano at Detroit Lakes and, after pursuing CPE training, she volunteered at Saint Mary's and Emmanuel Nursing Homes, and also visited shut-ins. She was organist at Euclid for many years and at present teaches over 30 students in Crookston. Her hobbies include reading, needlework, crocheting and knitting.

Sister Olivia Hermann

Sister Olivia grew up in Georgetown, MN. She has two blood sisters who are members of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Sisters Petronilla and Agatha. She has been involved in music ministry for many years, including classroom music and choir. She taught piano lessons in East Grand Forks, Osseo, Barnesville, Crookston, Red Lake Falls and Moorhead where she also served as liturgist. She was an active member of MMTA, (Minnesota Music Teachers Association). She participated in the Befriender ministry, visited homes of parishioners on a volunteer basis, and assisted with liturgies at Eventide Home in Moorhead. Today she continues to remain active at the Mount, reaching out

to others and lending assistance in many departments.

Sister Regina Hansmann

Sister Regina, from Moorhead has been involved in elementary education at various schools: East Grand Forks, Bemidji, Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, Mahanomen, Benson, Colegio San Carlos, Bogotá, Colombia and at Saint Joseph School in Red Lake Falls where she also served as teacher/principal. She served as director of the Adult Learning Center at Care and Share of Crookston. Noted for her dedication to the Hispanic people and others, she assisted them academically, especially

in English as a second language, citizenship and GED.

75-year jubilarians

Sister Brigetta Buckley

The sixth child in a family of nine children, Sister Brigetta grew up in Bagley as part of a second-generation Irish family that loved music. Religion was important to the family also and she remembers priests and sisters coming to stay at their house at different times – especially to teach catechism. There were few Catholics in Bagley in those days and her mother and father had many godchildren. By way of summer catechism Sister Brigetta became acquainted with some sisters from the Mount. Sister Carmella, her sister, had entered the monastic community already so it wasn't long before Sister Brigetta became a Benedictine sister herself.

She received a bachelors from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa and an masters from the University of North Dakota. She served as an elementary teacher and/or principal at East Grand Forks, Barnesville, Moorhead and Red Lake Falls and then spent twenty

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Jubilarians



Standing: Sisters Kathy Kuchar and Jennifer Kehrwald. Seated: Sisters Edith Bedard, Joan LaCoursiere, Brigetta Buckley and Eulalia Brophy.

years teaching business education at Mount Saint Benedict Academy.

She became Director of Postulants at the Mount and also Dean of Women at Corbett College. She also worked in the post office at the Mount, served as the community secretary for many years and continues to write the community newsline and does some of the liturgy schedules. Music remains a strong interest and she has many others including the Minnesota Twins, needlepoint and other crafts.

Sister Edith Bedard

Sister Edith's was born on April 16, 1919 in Charlesbourg, Quebec, where she was baptized Pauline. At age 13 she experienced the desire to enter the convent, but her mother told her she was too young to make such a decision but to pray to know God's will for her.

She was related to Sister Cecilia Beaudry at Mount Saint Benedict and young Pauline decided to go to the US with her cousin to become a Benedictine sister. After receiving her parents' consent and her father's blessing at age 19, her dream of becoming a sister became a reality. It was difficult at first in spite of Sisters Cecilia and Cuthbert LaCoursiere's help, because she couldn't speak English and she was quite homesick. When she received the Benedictine habit, she was given the name Sister Edith.

The years flew by quickly and Sister Edith soon became known for her many culinary and sewing talents and an efficient, competent performance of her assignments. This led to appointments as dietary supervisor at hospitals in Red Lake Falls, Crookston and Mahanomen. She spent many years in her last assignment, joining Sister Cuthbert LaCoursiere at the Chancery in Crookston. There they provided meals and hospitality for the bishops of the time and for their staff. Sister Edith won many prizes for her culinary and baking skills at county fairs. She still wears a Benedictine

habit and spends her retirement time praying in chapel for others and greeting them with her joyous spirit of hospitality.

Sister Eulalia Brophy

In 1920, Sister Eulalia was born the second youngest of three brothers and six sisters in Shauanvton, Saskatchewan, Canada, and was baptized Mary Doris. She learned many of her characteristics from her parents: generosity, thoughtfulness and a great deal of initiative which sometimes got her into tight spots later in life. Sister Charitas, her sister had entered Mount Saint Benedict when Mary Doris was one year old, and she contributed to the awakening of Sister Eulalia's religious vocation. Sister Eulalia earned a BA Degree at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, and taught school in Lefor, ND, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and East Grand Forks and also acted as principal at some of these schools. After she retired she worked at the switchboard and was in charge of the guest department. She has contributed many cards, embroidered dish towels and candles for sale in the gift shop. Her goals for her ministry were "To instill a love for learning in the young, and to show Benedictine hospitality to all those I encounter in my work."



Sister Dominica with her certificate of achievement from MusicLink.

Music Everywhere!

By Sister Lorraine Kraft

The Mount Saint Benedict chapel was crowded with families who came to hear students of Sister Dominica perform in a May 17th piano recital. The program consisted of piano solos and duets. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for parents, grandparents and friends who continue to support the musical talents of their youngsters.

Certificates were given out to those who participated in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association district and final concerts. In January, eight students

participated in the district contest at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Some of these students were selected to take part in the final contest in Minneapolis on March 14. One student, Cassidy Baatz, was chosen to perform in the twenty piano honors concert which took place on June 6th in the Convention Center in Minneapolis.

Certificates of accomplishment were given to fifteen students who participated in the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs program. All of these pianists received a Superior rating which is the highest of the ratings given. Several students—Emma Boll, Emma Sherman, and Brooke Cymbaluk--- each earned a Gold Cup for having a Superior rating for the last three years. “Challenge” awards from MMTA were earned by Emma Boll, Ethan Boll, and Charlotte Whiting.

The final award given on the recital day was to Katherine Geist who passed a theory test with an excellent rating.

Sister Dominica Gerszewski prepared all of these students for the spring recital.

Recently she received commendation from the Music Link Foundation in appreciation for ten years of dedicated service in Crookston. Music Link is a program, sponsored by the MMTA, which gives special attention to gifted children who would not otherwise be able to learn how to play the piano.

To Sister Dominica we say “Thank You” and to all her piano students, we say “Congratulations” and wish them many more years of musical achievements.

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Jubilarians

Sister Joan LaCoursiere

Sister Joan was five years old when Sister Cuthbert, her sister, spent two weeks vacationing on their farm in Dorothy, MN. She remembers thinking that she didn’t want to take care of bees like Sister Cuthbert but she was drawn to teaching school and was happy when told that she could be both a teacher and a sister.

She earned a bachelors degree in biology and history from Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD and a masters degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a masters in pastoral ministry from Creighton University in Omaha.

She taught in Mahanomen, East Grand Forks,

Crookston. She served as principal in East Grand Forks and Crookston. She served as pastoral coordinator in Fertile and Mentor. Sister was a spiritual companion to the homeless at Care and Share in Crookston and worked in pastoral care in Good Shepherd Hall at Mount Saint Benedict.

As the 7th prioress of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery (1985-1989), Sister Joan faced many challenges including diminishing membership. She immersed herself in scriptural prayer and drew from it the strength to make peaceful and patient response to people and events that entered her life. As a Benedictine, Sister Joan has tried to live out the motto, “That in all things God may be glorified.”

For more on our diamond jubilarians visit www.msb.net

Pope Francis calls for a Year of Mercy

Sister Denise Schonhardt

Pope Francis has called for a Year of Mercy. The Church will begin the celebration of the Year of Mercy on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015. It will end on the Feast of Christ the King, November 2, 2016.

In proclaiming the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote about Jesus' teaching on mercy.

In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times" (Mt 18:22). He then goes on to tell the parable of the "ruthless servant," who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (Mt 18:35). . .

This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offenses becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. . .

Pope Francis reminds us of the teaching of mercy found in the Beatitudes and of our obligation to respond mercifully to the plight of "those living on the outermost fringes of society."

Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall



obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year. . .

In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today! . . . Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! . . . May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!

Pope Francis implores us to forgo obsessive accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few at the expense of those "living on the outermost fringes of society. He reminds us that these are our brothers and sisters of the same Father. The pope calls us to live the fullness of Jesus' mercy found in his parables, the beatitudes and in his giving of self at the crucifixion. Let us recall the words of Jesus, "Blessed are the merciful." and "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me."

May we not hear "I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." . . . "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Prayer for mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly
Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees
Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from
being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene
from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the
words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by
forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed
in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in
ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after,
loved, and forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with
its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace
from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may
bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother
of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

Earth, our home: are we caring for it?

By Sister Lorraine Kraft

Pope Francis has written an encyclical on climate and climate change: “On Care for Our Common Home.” What is it that has drawn his attention and his moral energy to address very complex conditions in the whole Earth, the home that we hope to preserve for future generations? Along with the whole scientific community, Pope Francis notes the massive changes occurring in the air, land and water and the effects of deteriorating natural resources.

We are more or less aware of climate changes, as we hear about warming which is diminishing the ice caps of the globe, north and south, raising the ocean levels and flooding coastal areas. We hear of the wildlife which cannot survive as grasslands and forests are destroyed and are no longer a place of nurture for them. We hear of the pollution of waterways and oceans which are stuffed with man-made trash and industrial waste.

Landfills are expanding at the expense of housing and other necessary building and living spaces. (Satirists imagine methods of sending our trash to outer space!)

To counter more serious problems in the environment should be the goal of all nations, all governments, and all individuals—be they rich or poor. Can we begin to think of replacing consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, and wastefulness with a spirit of sharing? There is virtue in learning to give up, or better than that, moving away from what I want to what God’s world needs.

Sharing to a greater degree is necessary as we consider the population increase, and that as numbers increase, the share of wealth by individual families and persons decreases. A few facts will help to convince us of the need to respect and conserve the Earth’s resources.

There are seven billion (7,328,495,816) people living on the earth and by 2024 (just ten years from now) we will see the number go up to eight billion. Part of this overwhelming growth is represented by the United

remembering...

Sister Flora Klier



Sister Flora (Alvina) Klier died peacefully at Villa Saint Vincent on Friday, February 6, 2015. She was born in Park Rapids, Minnesota on May 2, 1924 the third of four children born to Mary (Thiesen) and Anthony Klier. Alvina began thinking about religious life when she was about fourteen because of the Benedictines who

taught summer catechism in her parish of Two Inlets. She entered community on September 4, 1942 and

made her final profession in August of 1947.

Because she was exceptionally skilled at food preparation, Sister Flora's first ministry was charge of the dietary departments of hospitals in Detroit Lakes and Browerville, Minnesota for a number of years. She was then assigned to the dietary department of Mount Saint Benedict in Crookston (we at the monastery fondly remember her homemade angel food cake and other delights!). While working in the dietary department, she became interested in the large twelve-acre garden here at the Monastery under the direction of Sister Benigna Schneider. She was given charge of this garden in 1974, where she helped raise food for more than one hundred sisters at the Mount, for mission schools where more than fifty sisters worked, and for Care and Share. Her volunteer helpers in the garden also were able to get the

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Environment

States population of 322, 583, 006, actually third in the rank of most populous countries in the world, surpassed by the populations of China and India. The United States' land mass is a small fraction of Earth's land, but its inhabitants plus the population of Japan, consume up to one-half of the world's resources. There is unending competition among the industrial giants of the world to produce more and more, and consequently, use more and more of Earth's resources.

Competition to have what everyone else has is a major factor in the amassing of wealth among us. The procurement of the best: the best property and housing, the latest in technology, the best in vacations and luxuries. These are a few areas where we as a society should rethink priorities.

Again it is good to turn to Pope Francis, as he points out the essentials of human life, and, in particular, of Christian life, in the recent encyclical he has written: "Laudato Si."

"Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more." A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfillment." (Laudato Si #222)

In the same section of this document Pope Francis urges us "to return to simplicity, which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack."

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Sister Flora

vegetables they needed for their own use.

In the 1990's, she and her volunteers yearly raised 3,735 pounds of potatoes, 21,522 pounds of carrots, 11,142 pounds of squash, 2,544 pounds of peas, 1,775 pounds of beans, 141 bushels of tomatoes, 850 pints of raspberries, 249 pints of strawberries, 2,437 pounds of spinach, 777 pounds of lettuce, 12 bushels of large apples, 18 bushels of crab apples, and much more! Sister Flora was a master at good care of the soil, using only minimal fertilizer and pesticides. In order to enrich the soil, she planted buckwheat and later plowed the full-grown crop under. She used lady bugs to combat aphids and also enlisted the help of cats to keep the mice and birds from stealing produce as well as a dog to scare away the deer.

Not only was Sister Flora extremely talented with the garden, she also had artistic talent in cake making and decorating for special occasions as well as wood carving. She belonged to the Wood Carvers' Club of this area and created intricate wood carvings. She also restored broken statues and painted them for a number of churches in the area.

Sister Flora remarked a few years ago, that living at the Mount has always been very special. She stated that all the beauty surrounding the monastery is just a little bit of heaven for her.

Sister Flora was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Mathilda and Delores, and her brother, Marcellus. She is survived by her sisterinlaw, Ida Klier, her niece, Rose Pitcher, family members, many friends, and the members of her monastic community.

Gifts in memory of Sister Flora are preferred to Mount Saint Benedict Foundation

Sister Florentine Goulet

Sister Florentine (Cecelia) Goulet died peacefully at Villa Saint Vincent on Tuesday, April 7th, 2015. She was born in Gentilly, MN on October 10, 1916, the youngest of five children born to John J. and Alphonsine (Saint Martin) Goulet, second generation French-Canadians. At the age of two, Cecelia's mother



died in the flu epidemic following World War I. Her schooling began in District #140, a one-room school in Polk County. After two years, Cecelia's father looked for a more challenging educational environment and settled on Mount Saint Benedict Academy.

Cecelia came naturally to a love of music, as her father played the violin

and the family sang songs of the day in three and four part harmony while milking the cows. At Mount Saint Benedict Academy, Cecilia's love of music and the arts flourished. At the age of ten, she felt drawn to religious life at Mount Saint Benedict, where her older sister, Sister Anne, was already a member. Cecelia became a postulant in September of 1932, received the name Sister Florentine as a novice in 1933, and shortly after while in temporary commitment, was assigned to assist Sister Gertrude Knopke, the music instructor at Assumption Convent in Barnesville, MN. Sister Florentine made Final Vows in 1937. She continued as an educator and music teacher in other parishes of Red Lake Falls, Mahanomen, Crookston and Mahtomedi, MN and Lefor, ND. While at Mahtomedi, she received a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Saint Catherine with a major in music. Other professional preparation was at Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD, Wisconsin State University in Madison, and Columbia University in New York City.

It was also while in Mahtomedi that Sister Florentine recognized the number of talented artists and musicians in the surrounding area. Because of this she organized a meeting of several people that became the beginnings of the White Bear Lake Arts Council. Today, now named the White Bear Lake Center for the Arts, it continues to provide a gateway to diverse arts experiences.

As early as 1953, Sister Florentine realized that she was having difficulty hearing. By 1963, she realized that her impairment would necessitate a change in ministries. In 1975, she pursued and was accepted at the Graduate School of Counseling at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., where she successfully completed a course in CUED speech. When Sister

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Sister Florentine

Florentine returned to Minnesota, she joined the staff of Shekeda Hearing, Inc. in White Bear Lake, providing audiological services especially to long-term care facilities, group homes, and industrial hearing conservation pro-grams. She also participated in the Peer counseling Program developed by the University of Minnesota. While aiding seniors with hearing disabilities, Sister Florentine also served as their friend, confidant, and advocate for needs that were otherwise unmet, especially those needs involving legislation and compliance with existing laws. She appeared on TV Channel 5 Eyewitness News in Minneapolis as the Health Expert of the Day. In 1992, the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech recognized Sister Florentine for her dedication to improving the lives of older Minnesotans by presenting its Professional Service Award to her.

In addition to her work with the hearing impaired, Sister Florentine was very active in the parish of Saint Louis the King in Saint Paul. In a farewell tribute in 1994, the pastor cited her keen appreciation for the liturgy as the obvious font of her faith-filled life of commitment to God, to her Benedictine community, and to the Church at large.

In August of 1994, Sister resided in Oslo, MN to aid the pastoral administrator. She returned to the monastery in 1995, where she helped her community members and others in the Crookston community with hearing loss.

Sister Florentine was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Sister Anne and Caroline (Goulet) Brunelle, and her brother, Leonard. She is survived by nieces and nephews, friends, and the members of her monastic community

Sister Helen Margaret Obermiller

Sister (Gerard) Helen Margaret Obermiller died peacefully at Villa Saint Vincent on Saturday, March 21st, 2015. Helen Margaret was born in Faith, Minnesota on November 21, 1918 to Francis and Josephine (Rubash Hoss) Obermiller, the youngest of 27 children. Her father had eleven previous children and



her mother brought fourteen siblings to the union which concluded with another brother, Stan, and lastly Helen Margaret. Stan remembers that “it was standing room only in the playpen”.

Helen Margaret had a happy childhood with much praying, singing, dancing, skating, reading, and teasing! She related

that her family was rich in everything but money! Since either her mom or an older brother was always on the country school board, sister remembers that they had “the magic key [that] could always open our way to good library books.” In school (and later in the monastery), she was known as the giggler.

She began thinking of religious life as an 8th grader because of the love of liturgy she acquired from Father Charles Cannon, her pastor, the Benedictine sisters who taught at Saint Michael’s in Mahanomen, and her mother who took Helen Margaret with her to daily Mass. She entered community in January of 1936 and made final profession as Sister Gerard Obermiller on July 10, 1940.

Sister’s early years of ministry included teaching in many parochial schools around the diocese including Thief River Falls, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, and in Mahtomedi and Lefor, North Dakota. She received a three-year teaching diploma from Viterbo College, where she later also received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education before going on to graduate studies in the teaching of English from North Dakota State University. Sister’s ministry then included teaching high school English at Sacred Heart High School, Lefor Public School, and Mount Saint Benedict High School. Sister Helen Margaret had a passion for classic literature including Shakespeare. On a postcard from England to the monastery in 1979, she wrote, “Greetings from Shakespeare! Like Simeon of old, ‘I am ready to die’, I have seen Stratford.”

In addition to teaching another of Sister Helen Margaret’s talents was as a gifted writer; she was a

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Sister Helen Margaret

member of the Crookston Benedictine staff and also wrote much poetry. She wrote poems in honor of her mom, her brother Stan, members of her monastic community and others, as well as about nature and things such as her “Ode to an Onion”

Ode to An Onion

*O pungent white-faced bulb,
Filmy, smooth and moist,
Your outer coat peels easily,
And layers slip away,
Revealing yet more richness
Of inner onion life.
Mid trickling tears I ponder
My many-layered self
Of pompous pride and “smugful whims”
Too clingy to let go.
Unless each layer strips away,
Can the depth be ever reached?*

When asked in autobiographical information about her greatest recognition or honor, however, she replied, “I have always received recognition for my greatest talent, namely that of cleaning”. She remembered her contributions to community as “teaching and scrubbing”.

Sister Helen Margaret was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers and sisters: Paul Obermiller, Albert Obermiller, Edward Obermiller, Benedict Obermiller, Mary Obermiller, Agnes Obermiller, Alvina Obermiller, Theresa Obermiller, Cecilia Obermiller, Leona Obermiller, Vera Obermiller, John Hoss, Fred Hoss, William Hoss, Bill Hoss, Harry Hoss, George Hoss, Lambert Hoss, Lawrence Hoss, Raymond Hoss, Mary Hoss-Margaret Hoss, Anne Hoss, Evelina Hoss, Ida Hoss, and Stan Obermiller. She is survived by family members, friends, and the members of her monastic community.

Sister Germana Marthaler

Sister Germana (Teresa) Marthaler, 88, died Monday, August 31, 2015, at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN.

Teresa was the sixth of eleven children of German-American parents, Albert and Nettie Marthaler on February 5, 1927 in Todd County, MN. She was raised on a farm. She knew how to help with milking the dairy



herd, running the milk separator, shocking grain, and driving the tractor.

She graduated from Cathedral High School in Saint Cloud, and in 1949 she entered Mount Saint Benedict Monastery as a postulant. She was invested in the Benedictine habit in 1950 when she

received the name of Sister Germana. She made final monastic profession on July 11, 1955.

Sister Germana taught in elementary parochial schools in Barnesville, Mahanomen, Bemidji, Moorhead, East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls. She also was skilled as a secretary and bookkeeper, and she worked in this field in Crookston, Detroit Lakes, East Grand Forks and Grand Forks, ND, where she worked for 15 years at United Hospital (now Altru).

Sister Germana was gifted in many ways. She was mechanical and could fix lots of small things: rewire lamps, clean corrosion off battery operated things, check tires, fix door knobs and figure out how to run the newer battery operated clocks, radios, TVs. If one ever wanted a tool – hammer, pliers, screwdriver, etc. she had it. Her family attests to the fact that she was a good baker and made cakes and boiled frosting. All this was before the box cakes and ready-made frosting. She was good at making bread.

Sister Germana was a great lover of dogs, and she grieved at the death of her dog, Dancer.

Her father died in 1955 and after that, during her summer vacations, she would drive her mother to see all the people and places she wanted to visit. After her mother died in 1985, she and Sister Andre, her Benedictine sister, spent their vacations at her sister's guest cabin on the Mississippi River near Saint Cloud. She enjoyed boating and just sitting on the shaded dock reading and napping. She was clever at doing crossword puzzles and Suduko. She loved to read and could devour a book in a day or two.

Sister Germana was an avid and knowledgeable sports fan. The Sacred Heart Eagles teams were the best. While at Sacred Heart in East Grand Forks, she attended any

Monastery Tales

Sister Denise Schonhardt

The Twin Forks Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, under the direction of Shirley Derrick offered to sing for the sisters at the Mount this spring. After the performance, they moved to the chapel area to sing for themselves simply for the sound of it. Before they headed for home, the sisters served a quick cold supper for them in the dining room. Many of the members recalled their educational weekends at the Mount in years past. They were delighted to return for this one evening to share with us here.

Tom Foltz gave the sisters rosaries of olive wood a DVD of their family's trip to the Holy Land. Many sisters enjoyed "an armchair tour" of the Holy Land. They are grateful for the rosaries and the generosity of the Foltz family.

The third grade class from Sacred Heart School in East Grand Forks visited at the Mount! They had the opportunity to visit with the sisters, particularly the sisters who sent return valentines to them. The students joined the sisters for Mass and then after lunch and a tour they headed for home.

After the long winter months, the oblates gathered at the Mount, April 19. They joined the sisters for Evening Prayer and dinner. At the May meeting Sister Jennifer spent some time with them talking about the construction of the new monastery. She thanked Sister Marmion for her many years of leading them as the Oblate Director. Sister Kathleen will serve as the new Oblate Director when they resume meeting in the fall.

April 26 was Good Shepherd Sunday, the day the sisters celebrate the founding of Mount Saint Benedict in 1919. The volunteers were our guests at the evening meal.

The Mount Saint Benedict Foundation has a new employee! Heidi Whiting began working in the Foundation Office on Monday, April 27. She will coordinate the tasks of the Foundation while Sister Denise remains the Foundation Director.

The sisters entertained the MSB employees at the annual employee recognition dinner on May 13. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of employees!

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Sister Germana Marthaler

sporting event possible. Also at the top of her list of favorites was UND hockey. She attended quite a few games with her brother-in-law, Jack. Watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings games was an absolute must for her.

Sister Germana lived for many years in Sacred Heart Convent, East Grand Forks, and she became attached to the people of Sacred Heart Parish. She considered it to be her home parish.

Without seeming overly pious, she was very prayerful and reverent.

Sister Germana is survived by three sisters, Sister Mary Peter, OSC, Sauk Rapids, MN, Imelda also

known as Jackie (Jack) McCann of Sartell, MN and Joan (Charles) Pfannenstien of Saint Louis Park, MN and one brother, Rev Andrew Marthaler of Sauk Center, MN., many nieces and nephews and the members of her monastic community of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN.

She is preceded in death by her parents Albert and Nettie Marthaler, brothers Paul, Anthony Lawrence and Albert and sisters Annella Hougnon and Sister Andre Marthaler, OSB.

Gifts in memory of Sister Germana may be made to Mount Saint Benedict Foundation

Alumni News

Class of 1948

On a bright spring day Elaine (Audette) Miller from Red Lake Falls visited Mount Saint Benedict. Present from the class of 1948 were Sisters Adeline Karels, Evelyn Strei and Lucille Schafer. Our graduation scrapbooks provided interesting history. The story of Elaine's nickname, "Frenchie" came to life in the retelling of stories. A big surprise came when Elaine brought a good sized book which she had written. The colorful story of her mother's life from the beginning in the historic town of Huot through the struggle of moving to land in Saskatchewan Canada in 1917 is a fascinating account of the ups and downs of pioneer living. Elaine's book, "Delima Rose" is not only delightful but reminded us in part of our own country living. We enjoyed dinner in the dining room where Elaine was greeted by many of the sisters who knew her from the days at the Mount Academy.

Class of 1949

Sister Rosalia Fink from Rio Grande City, Starr County, Texas, wrote about the history and organization of the "South Texas Empowerment of Women Center". This is the fruit of Sister Rosalia's dream of getting a center for women and children who suffered from domestic abuse or violence. The Women Center was incorporated as a Texas corporation in January 2010. Sister Rosalia Fink, Sister Jeannine Spain and Mr. Francisco G. Zarate are the founders of the corporation. Its mission is: A catalyst for peace, safety and nonviolence in the home. The STEWC has been in existence for over five years. A private donor in Rio Grande City donated three acres of prime real estate for construction of the proposed transitional housing shelter. A beautiful home office information center building was constructed as of December 2014 with the help of many fundraisers organized by Sister Jeannine Spain and others plus donations. The Center has bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room,

meeting room, laundry, a reception room, living room and a small office.

Class of 1950

Sister Yvonne Schafer was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor and lymph nodes from a previous uterine tumor (stage 4). Sister Yvonne had radiation and chemo and is asking for your prayer support. She is the Mount Saint Benedict Alumni Contact Person. Sister Yvonne is taking care of Sister Lois Spor's Work of the Alumni News for Mount Saint Benedict Academy/High School. Thank you for your interest in the Alumni News! God bless You! Sister Yvonne Schafer.

Class of 1951

Sister Marmion Karels and Sister Lorraine Kraft enjoyed a visit with classmates Shirley (Marcks) Batchelder and Joyann (Young) Espeseth who came to Mount Saint Benedict in early September 2014. Lillian Huderle'49 also came from Bemidji and enjoyed visiting many Sisters here as well.

Class of 1964

Peggy Kryzsko writes concerning the death of Sister Flora Klier in February, 2015, that back in her junior, senior years at the Mount she was privileged to have worked with Sister Flora. "What a gracious lady and lots of humor in her. It was just plain fun to be in that kitchen in 1963-1964." Greetings from Peggy to all the Sisters.

Leota Roesch visited the sisters at the Mount in late May. Leota lives in Mesa, AZ and serves on the staff at a parish near Mesa. Among other things, she oversees the RCIA, religious education, sacramental preparation and adult education. Last summer Leota undertook a well-known pilgrimage known as the *Santiago de Compostela* (or *Camino de Santiago*) in Spain, walking an incredible number miles. This was the fulfillment of a life-long dream. The sisters appreciated and enjoyed her presentation and slide show of the pilgrimage. Such a journey takes a lot of stamina, courage and faith. Congratulations, Leota!

Judy (Kanthak) Crumb writes that her son, Shaun was ordained a priest on May 30, 2015 at Maryknoll, NY. Shaun said, "I joined Maryknoll because I like the adventure of mission." Shaun is currently serving in north China as a missionary.

Sister Judy Moen celebrated her 50th Jubilee of Profession July 12th at Mount Saint Benedict along with Sister Nancy Boushey. Sister Judy is the director of Sunrise Center for Families and Children.



Back row: Bernice(Mohs) Merschman, Lillian(Unzen) Warner, Ann (Hoffman) Sturm, Margaret(Schick) Kauffman. Front Row: Sister Cheryl Morehead and Sister Judy Neisen

Class of 1965

On June 22-24 six members of the Class of '65 gathered at the lake home of Lillian (Unzen) Warner and her husband in Cushing, Minnesota.

Those in attendance were Sister Cheryl (Sharyn Morehead), Sister Judy Niesen, Margaret (Schick) Kauffenkam, Ann (Hoffman) Sturm, Lillian (Unzen) Warner, and Bernice (Mohs) Merschman. Theresa (Scholand) Leiphon due to other commitments was missing from the gathering.

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You may be wondering why this group gathered -- all entered as "candidates" in September of 1964, and as "postulants" on January 2, 1965. We graduated from the Mount on May 26, 1965.

Fifty years have come and gone and many of us had not seen each other in that time. We have gone on many different and exciting journeys since that day in 1965. Some left the convent at various stages of formation, some married and raised a family along with being teachers and accountants. Sister Cheryl and Sister

Judy now reside at the Benedictine Monastery in Clyde, Missouri.

We may have gone our separate ways but had many stories to share of life, careers and children. In the end it was just like the day after graduation. We just picked up where we left off 50 years ago. The amazing thing is we even recognized each other immediately after all those years!

If any other members of the "Class of '65" read this article please send us information about you. Send information to Bernice (Mohs) Merschman at dbmerschman@gmail.com It would be such a joy to hear from many classmates and God willing we can all gather some day in the future.

A BIG thanks to Lillian for such great hospitality and to Sister Cheryl for initiating the gathering.

Class of 1973

Judith Halek wrote in her Christmas letter that her life is going through a rather dramatic change this year. On August 19th she was diagnosed with an aggressive Stage 3, Diffused B-Cell Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkins, located in the abdominal and pelvic region. She had very intense R-CHOP chemo sessions. She completed the final session on December 15, 2014. If you would like to read up on the past and present progress report, check out: <http://caringbridge.org> Sign in with your email and a password, they will send you a link to get access and then type: JUDITH HALEK to get into her site. (Our prayers are with you Judith.)



Class of 1974

During the weekend of June 6-8 some of the class of 1974 guys got together at Craguns Resort for a golf outing. Twelve of the nineteen showed up to golf and reminisce about old times. The ones who golf call ourselves the MSB Golf Team even though many of you will remember that in "74" we didn't have golf as a sport! So now you see what kind of stories were presented. Some have overcome illnesses and injuries over the years but for the most part are still healthy enough to travel for this gathering. A donation was presented for the Alumni Fund on behalf of the members of the class of "74" who participated. This is with special memories and thanksgiving that you sisters showed us over the years. Members were: Dick Gramer, Fargo, ND; Tom Pryzbylski, Cedar Falls, IA; Gary Pawlik, Minnetonka, MN; Mike Sirek, Sioux Falls, SD; Rick Polles, Canton, MA; Tom Smith, Owatonna, MN; Greg Mercil, Mentor, MN; Scott Anderson, Grand Rapids, MN; Jim Kujawa, Park Rapids, MN; Keith Keller, Crookston, MN; Kim Menard, Detroit Lakes, MN; John Regan, Crookston, MN

Class of 1976

Patty (Ewals) Glass writes that she was a boarder

in Mount Saint Benedict Academy from Detroit Lakes. She is a niece of Rosemary (Ewals) Heit '53 (deceased 6/5/2004). Two of her sisters also attended Mount Saint Benedict. Shirley (Ewals) Morrison from the class of 1973 and Diane (Ewals) Gibson from the class of 1974. Shirley lives in South Haven, MN and works in Saint Cloud. She raised four wonderful children, two boys, two girls. She is a grandmother and an avid quilter. Diane is living in Hastings, MN. She raised her three daughters and is also a Grandmother of two grandsons. Patty is living in Eagan, MN and has been there

since 1982. She has worked for Thomson Reuters (formerly West Publishing) for 16 years. She has three children, the eldest daughter is 28 and the girl/boy twins are 23. Her parents Edgar and Lucy Ewals still live in Detroit Lakes.

IN SYMPATHY

WITH PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STAFF

Sister Agnes (Raphael) Kraft – cook at MSB High School Died Nov. 6, 2014 Cousin of Sister Lorraine Kraft '51

Sister Flora Klier – cook at MSB High School Died Feb. 6, 2015

Charles Karels – died Jan. 23, 2015 Brother of Sister Adeline Karels'48 and Sister Marmion Karels'51

Sarah (Walsh) Johnson'45 – died Jan. 4, 2015 Sister of Sister Luella Walsh '45

Annella (Mohs)Erpelding'56 – died Feb. 11, 2015 Sister of Regina Neu '57, Corrine Schmit '58, Sister Eileen '60, Mardelle Mohs, Bernice Merschman '65, Paula Johnson Dehn '66 and sister in law Charlotte (Derosier) Mohs '70

Gordan "Bud" Salem – died Mar. 1, 2015 Husband of Terry (Klein) Salem'57, father of Brenda Salem'81 and Lea Ann Salem attended '81- '82 and uncle of Jodi (Salem) Jorgenson '79

Photo Gallery



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Alumni

Gerald Dentz – Died Oct. 9, 2014 Brother of Mary Anne Dentz '62 and Sister Rosella Dentz

Joseph Petersen – died Jan. 31, 2015 Brother of Sister Vivian Petersen '52

Alfred Mohs – died on July 7, 2015 Brother of Regina Neu '57, Corrine Schmit '58, Sister Eileen'60, Mardelle'64, Bernice Merschman'65, Paula Johnson, Dehn'66 and sister in law Charlotte (Derosier) Mohs'70

Madonna “Donna” Marie Benoit '52 – died February 17, 2015

Eileen Catherine (Fritz) Warren'52 – Died February 27, 2015

Mary “Susan” (Kilsdonk) Devincenzo/Mowry '65 - Died March 3, 2015

Sister Florentine Goulet'33 – died April 7, 2015

Jane E. (Braaten) Piechowski'60 – Died June 16, 2015


Therese “Terry” (Coutts) Prochaska '43 – Died June 18, 2015



TOP: Sister Jennifer and the community raise their hands in blessing over the Oblates after their renewal of oblation.
ABOVE: Sisters Eileen Mohs and Myra display their unique aprons made from men's shirts.



TOP LEFT: The sisters honor Sister Bridget Durkin with an afternoon tea in appreciation for her many years as sacristan. TOP RIGHT: Sister Norma Jean Edie displays the wooden box she rosemaled. ABOVE RIGHT: Sister Mary Fay entertains family during a recent visit. ABOVE LEFT: Children from Sunrise Center entertained the sisters for the Fourth of July.


SAINT BENEDICT OF CROOKSTON
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
620 Summit Ave.
Crookston, MN 56716-2799

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- (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: 218-275-4079, email: denise.schonhardt@bhshealth.org

Visit us on the web at www.msb.net

Why a new monastery?



Sister Denise Schonhardt

More than 10 years ago we sisters began to think about the feasibility of continuing to maintain and live in Marian Hall. It was evident that Marian Hall was much too large for the community. With the aging of the community, sisters were finding it more and more difficult to navigate the long hallways to the dining room, the chapel and other places in the building. One time I did a measurement of the distance from my office to the front door and I discovered that it was one city block!

Factors other than distance entered into our decision:

- Marian Hall is 50 years old, the infrastructure had begun to fail and the plumbing and electrical systems would need replacement,
- there were 100 bedrooms in the building for 40 sisters living there, and
- the building was built as a residence for high school girls, not as a monastery and therefore it lacked privacy on many different levels -- no space for confidential community meetings and no bathrooms in the bedrooms.

After considering all of the above, we conceived of a smaller living space, that would accommodate our needs and facilitate our desire to live a more monastic lifestyle.

Phase I of the building has been completed and Phase II has begun. Phase I was the construction of the bedroom wings. Phase II consists of the gutting of the present Good Shepherd Hall and the creation of kitchen and dining room space plus other common areas.

We sisters have moved into our new bedrooms and we are rejoicing in the new spaces. Imagine having a private bathroom and thermostats in each bedroom! We think we have died and gone to heaven!

An open house is in the plans to be held sometime in the spring. We hope you will join us.