

the Crookston Benedictine

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Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN 56716

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Check out our website, www.msb.net

Novena for National Elections

Many Americans, it seems, are worried about the safety of our upcoming national elections. It is also a concern of Benedictine monasteries regarding matters of justice and peace. We are one of several Benedictine women's communities belonging to the Congregation of St. Gertrude. Each community in the congregation has agreed to offer prayers for our national elections, that they may be carried out with honesty, integrity and peace. Our monastery will have a novena (nine consecutive days of prayer) preceding the National Election Day of November 5. In addition, on Monday, November 4, we will offer a day of fasting and silence. We invite you to join your prayers to ours for these intentions.

All Souls Mailing

You may recall that in past years we sent a letter inviting your prayer requests for deceased loved ones during November. This year we will not be sending what might be called an "All Souls" mailing. However, we want to assure you that we will remember your deceased loved ones in our Masses and prayers throughout the month of November.

- If you wish, you are welcome to send their names to our community email account: crxbenedictines@gmail.com
- Another option is to visit our website: msb.net Click on the Prayer tab at the top of the page and slide down to [Prayer Requests](#). Then click on [Share Your Prayer Request](#).

Even if you do not contact us with a request, we will pray for all the deceased loved ones of our readers.



New Monastery Leader Sue Murphy & Pastoral Administrator Sr. Jennifer Mechtild Horner



Mount St. Benedict Leaders & Advisors
Seated: Sue Murphy, Sr. Jennifer Mechtild Horner
Standing: Sr. Kathy Kuchar, Sr. Eileen Mohs, Sr. Kathleen McGearry, Sr. Anita Whalen

Sue Murphy Appointed Monastery Coordinator

Sister Jennifer Mechtild Horner, Pastoral Administrator of our monastery, appointed Sue Murphy as Monastery Coordinator on July 1, 2024. Sue's family was invited to join us on September 19 for Evening Prayer and a Blessing Ceremony of Sue by Sister Jennifer. Following the reading from the Rule of Benedict, Chapter 72, Sister Jennifer offered a reflection in which she encouraged Sue and the Sisters to practice Benedictine hospitality not only to guests, but also to those with whom we live. We are to welcome one another as Christ "with every courtesy of love." As part of the Oath of Office, Sister Jennifer asked Sue a series of questions. Responding in the affirmative, Sue promised to carry out the duties of Monastery Coordinator. The Sisters, in turn, promised to listen to her guidance, to accept, to support and to pray for Sue. Sister Jennifer closed by offering a special prayer of blessing for Sue.

Sue began working for the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1997 at Sunrise Center, a child care center. She began as an aide and after a year moved into the role of teacher. Sue became the director in 2016. When Sunrise Center closed in 2019, Sue was hired as travel coordinator for the monastery. Reflecting on their years working together, Sister Judy Moen reminded Sue that she was Sue's "boss" at Sunrise Center but the tables have turned. Now, in her role as Monastery Coordinator, Sue is "boss" of Sister Judy (and all of us).

During these years of presence and employment, the Sisters have come to know Sue as a responsible, capable, warm and caring person and an effective leader. They are truly grateful for her enthusiastic acceptance of the position of Monastery Coordinator.



FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends,
I have always loved living in places that enjoy the four seasons. I cannot imagine living where I would never experience the gift each

season has to offer. It is because each season speaks of transition. We move from one season to the next with each season asking something different of us. Transitions are pivotal moments in our lives that mark the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

In this newsletter, you will read about several transitions that are happening at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. As we move into the future, we are called to let go of one way of being and allow other forms of leadership to grow. Transition teaches us that God is with us through it all. As we navigate through transitions, we learn to trust the process, finding balance between holding on to the lessons of the past and stepping confidently into the future.

As the sisters and co-workers move through these transitions, we count on your prayers. We want you to know of our prayers as you navigate the transitions happening in your life. May we all be open to God's grace that accompanies and sustains us through it all.

Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB
Pastoral Administrator



FROM MONASTERY COORDINATOR

Greetings! I started working for the Sisters of Saint Benedict in 1997, under the directorship of Sr. Judy Moen at Sunrise Center for Children and Families, a ministry of the sisters. When it was decided to close Sunrise Center in 2019, I was asked if I would like to come work for the Sisters as their Transportation Coordinator. I didn't have to think long to answer, YES!

Around two years ago, Sr. Jane Becker came into my office and asked me if I would be interested in continuing to work for the sisters, but in a different capacity. Sr. Jane said think about it, but I knew right away what my answer would be...YES!

Over the years as I have worked in different capacities for the sisters, they have always been welcoming me into their lives. I have been witness to their charity and love to all those around them. I am blessed the sisters have confidence in me to oversee their day to day living, along with their vision for the future.

As the Monastery Coordinator, I hope to continue the Sisters' mission of Prayer, Community, Hospitality and JustPeace, for the sisters, along with others that come into our lives.

Sue Murphy



Sister Anne Marie Geray

Sister Anne Marie says her favorite assignment was serving as director of Mount Saint Benedict Center where the talent and encouragement of the Sister staff "...well, it made my job easier and very enjoyable." She seems always to have had a low-key and graceful way of making our lives easier and enjoyable, too.



Sister Karen Violette

Sister Karen recalls the moment she decided she wanted to be a Sister. She was a second grader serving hot cocoa to her classmates after Mass and noticed how good it felt to serve others. She has done that in many roles and was—even at a small Benedictine community in Belgium. Sister Justina is her sister.

Sister Kathleen McGeary and MSB Administration



Sister Kathleen McGeary has served in many capacities over the years as a Crookston Benedictine. She has been a teacher and a Special Education teacher in several grade schools, a parish Director of Religious Education, and a Pastoral Associate. For several years Sister Kathleen served at the monastery as Vocation Director, Director of Resident Volunteers, Oblate Director and a spiritual director. Recognizing Sister Kathleen's leadership skills, past prioresses and administrators called on her to be our Subprioress (Assistant Prioress). She served in that capacity for many years. With a change in our governance structure, Sister Kathleen was tapped for the position of local Monastery Coordinator.

Recognizing Sister Kathleen's need to slow down a bit, Sister Jennifer Mechtild, Pastoral Administrator, recently named her as Pastoral Care Assistant. In this role Sister Kathleen works with the Liturgy Committee regarding our liturgical life and she facilitates community life among the sister residents at the Villa and the Summit.

No matter the position, Sister Kathleen has served with energy and enthusiasm, with great organizational skills, and with a selfless outpouring of time, labor and love. With gratitude for her many years of servant leadership, we wish Sister Kathleen God's continued blessings in her new position.

Heidi Whiting and the Development Office

Heidi Whiting began employment in our Development and Foundation Office in 2015 as Assistant to Sister Denise Schonhardt, Development and Foundation Director. Heidi immersed herself in the details of the job and in time moved into the position of Development and Foundation Director. In addition to the usual work of this position, she contributed to our centennial celebration, overseeing several events involving the public as well as other Benedictine communities. Heidi also had the job of assisting Sister Jane Becker and the Foundation Board in the closure of our Foundation. This momentous work involved numerous meetings regarding legal decisions and preparation of official documents. The closing of the Foundation, sadly, meant our saying farewell to Heidi, a valued employee and community friend. Our prayers, gratitude and good wishes are with Heidi as she brings her many gifts to a new development position for a non-profit in the Twin Cities as Senior Manager of Individual Giving.



Sister Myra and MSB Business Office



Sister Myra Schmieg, our long-time treasurer and bookkeeper, continues to work in Mount Saint Benedict Monastery business office. But now she shares the work with Jolyn Rothgery of Mount Angel, Oregon, and Joann Remer of Grand Forks.

In the fall of 2022, Jolyn, a certified public accountant, was engaged by the Congregation of St. Gertrude to take on much of the financial operations of three of its monasteries including Mount Saint Benedict. And a year later, she took on further accounting duties for the Congregation itself. She says, "Working with Sr. Myra has been an absolute pleasure! One sharp gal and just such a pleasant person. I hope she can relax and just enjoy this phase of her life!"

Joann, a seasoned bookkeeper, pictured above with Sr. Myra, began working on site with Sister Myra one day a week learning the day-to-day operations of the monastery business office. Sister Myra says this about this new arrangement: "It's wonderful! I'm looking forward to reduced hours for leisure."