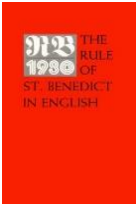


Our Oblates see Parallels on the Journey



After 105 years of living out the vocation call of seeking God according to the Rule of St. Benedict, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Crookston are now into diminishment. The signs are: a) decreasing membership; b) an aging population; c) no new members; d) a lack of elected leadership.

In association with the Sisters of St. Benedict, the Oblates, too, have been living out the wisdom of Christ expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict. Although the Oblates' journey has been shorter (48 yrs.), they, too, are experiencing diminishment: a) fewer in number; b) many elderly and inactive; c) no new members; d) a lack of discerned leadership.

The Mount St. Benedict Oblate Program began with Sister Anne Marie Geray as the first director from 1978-1982. Other directors were: Sister Petronilla Hermann, 1983-1989; Sister Mary Ann Stuart, 1989 - 2004. After the sudden death of Sister Mary Ann Stuart in August of 2004, Sister Cathi Merck and Sister Lorraine Kraft were appointed interim directors for the year 2005-2006; Sister Marmion Karels, 2006 -2014; Sister Kathleen McGeary, 2015-2022; Dan & Beckie Conway, 2022-2024. During all these years the Oblates and Sisters were a support to one another through prayer, countless gatherings, newsletters and retreats.

While the Sisters would love to still host the Oblate Program, it is no longer possible to do so at this age and stage of community life. Without leadership and formal meetings at the monastery, the Oblates have been encouraged to find new ways of being Oblates as the Mount St. Benedict Oblate Program is now inactive from this point forward. Transferring Oblate membership to another Benedictine Community is an option. And, as the Sisters transition to the nearby Summit and Villa, the Oblates will have opportunities to visit the Sisters, pray with and/or for them and offer volunteer service. Whether Sisters or Oblates, St. Benedict would want his followers to age with grateful hearts and share in Community life until God brings us all together to Everlasting Life.



Sister Kathleen McGeary, OSB



Sister Marietta Geray

Sister Marietta was a teacher and continues to be a lifelong learner. She has wide interests and values reverence for everything. She resides in a senior living center in St. Cloud where, just for the fun of it, she organized a residents' bell/chimes choir.



Sister Louella Walsh

Sister Luella was born in Greenbush, Minnesota. Her gentle heart took root in south Texas where she has ministered for decades. She is one of three of our Sisters who also are members of the Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd there. She welcomes Christ in the guests who come to their monastery.

WRAC Visits MSB Archives

A team of three archivists from Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) of Cleveland, Ohio, were at Mount Saint Benedict July 26-28 to meet our sisters, learn something about our community's charism and see our archives collection. Mount Saint Benedict Monastery archives is an organized collection of textual documents, photographs, art and artifacts pertaining to this monastery's members and activities spanning more than one hundred years. Currently our archives is housed and managed here at the Mount.



From Left: Ellen Pierce, Sarah Lubelski, S. Susan Durkin, S. Anita, and S. Rachel

In searching for a future home for our archives, our community and many others were impressed with the vision, initiative, inclusivity, professionalism and organization of WRAC. Our Benedictine community has decided to place our archives collection in the WRAC repository in Cleveland sometime within the next few years and to entrust its management to them.

The Mount Saint Benedict Crookston collection will remain separate and intact there, capable of receiving additional materials and accessible to vetted researchers. Real and virtual exhibits will be open to visitors in person and online.

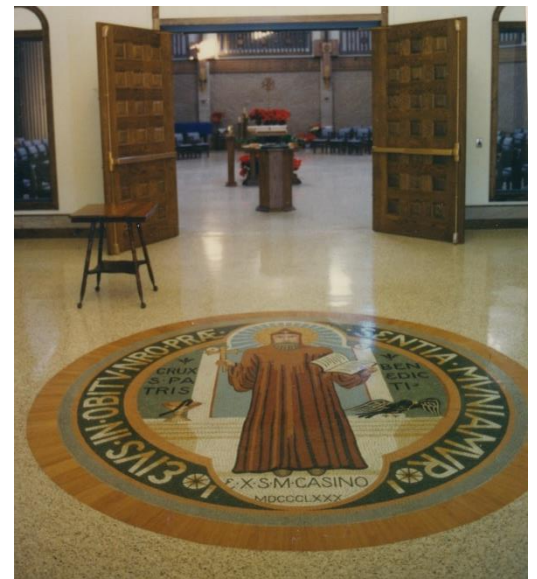
Presently WRAC is engaged in a capital campaign to build a state-of-the-art repository and plan to break ground in the spring of 2025. Mount Saint Benedict has made a sizable contribution to the campaign. If you wish to join us in contributing to this worthy cause, you may contact

**Women Religious Archives Collaborative,
2475 E. 22nd Street,
Cleveland, Ohio 44115.**

Check out their website (archivescollaborative.org) and Facebook (**Women Religious Archives Collaborative**), too.



Top picture: 1922 Mount building entrance mosaic of St. Benedict



Right picture: 1994 Mount chapel entrance with same mosaic of St. Benedict