

# *the Crookston* Benedictine

Vol. 38.1

Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN 56716

Spring 2025

## Celebration of Jubilees



Sister Dominica  
Gerszewski  
80 Years



Sister Jeannine  
Spain  
75 Years



Sister Karen  
Violette  
70 Years



Sister Judith  
Moen  
60 Years



Sister Nancy  
Boushey  
60 Years

### Five Sisters to Celebrate Jubilees.

Sister Dominica Gerszewski's chief ministry was teaching piano to both grade and high school students, from which she retired in her nineties. She was also involved in pastoral care to the sick, served as organist for liturgies and taught elementary school.

Sister Jeannine Spain has worn many hats through the years, including serving as a nurse (RN) in hospitals and 5 outpatient clinics in Texas; working at Care & Share Homeless Shelter and assisting with the establishment of a shelter for women in Texas.

Sister Karen Violette taught first grade for many years. Her ministries also included administration (school and monastery), helping out at a monastery in Belgium and hospitality, welcoming and seeing to the needs of our guests.

Sister Judy Moen started ministry as an elementary teacher. In 1994 she opened Sunrise Center for Children & Families which offered a preschool and childcare. Her enthusiasm for life and her delight in children ensured the flourishing of this ministry.

Sister Nancy Boushey's ministries through the years include teaching, youth ministry, retreat work and pro-life work. Along with two other Sisters, she founded the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd in Rio Grande City, Texas, where she is the Prioress.





## FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends,

After a long winter, we are always ready for spring. There is nothing like grass greening and leaves appearing on trees to help our hearts brighten. As gray skies give way to blue, it seems like our hearts are lifted and our spirits sing. By the time you receive this newsletter, we should be seeing some signs of spring.

Since our last newsletter, we said goodbye to five sisters who witnessed the gift of what it means to be a Benedictine. You will enjoy reading about each of their lives. Sisters Bernadette Kostrzewski, Marietta Geray, Carol Jean Schroeder, Luella Walsh and Anne Marie Geray made their monastic profession and faithfully lived their profession for the rest of their lives. Now their monastic profession is fulfilled, and they all live in the loving arms of God.

This summer, on July 11th, the Feast of St. Benedict, we will celebrate the Jubilees of five sisters: Sr. Dominica Gerszewski, 80 years, Sr. Jeannine Spain, 75 years, Sr. Karen Violette, 70 years and Sr. Judy Moen and Sr. Nancy Boushey, 60 years. Together these women have lived 345 years of faithfulness to the Benedictine way of life. As you read about each of these sisters, I think that you, like me, will be struck by the gift of each of their lives. Please hold them in prayer as they prepare for their Jubilee celebration.

We continue to enjoy the gifts that living the Benedictine life together brings. You are remembered each day as we gather for prayer. It is a gift to know that while we might not see you often, we are always united in prayer. May this gift live in our hearts and may we know the hope and joy that it brings.

In Christ,

Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB



## FROM MONASTERY COORDINATOR

As I look forward to the upcoming Sisters' Jubilees, I need to reflect on these past few months.

I have mourned the passing of five Sisters in our Community. While not personally knowing a couple of the sisters, hearing stories of them from the other sisters gave me a glimpse of the extraordinary lives they lived. I had the privilege of getting to know some of the family members of the Sisters. The love and devotion these family members have for their loved ones is inspiring.

Within saying good-bye to the past, the Sisters have sold St. Gertrude's House to the Cathedral Parish. It is nice have a trustworthy and friendly neighbor near the Sisters. The Sisters and I had an open-house visit with Msgr. Baumgartner. Hopefully we were on our best behavior and will be invited back!

As I look towards the future, the Mount Saint Benedict Crookston Archives will be making a final journey to a new home. With this move, I expect future historians and all who seek to know more about the Sisters will learn a wealth of knowledge about the Benedictine Sisters from Crookston, MN. I hope the Sisters' hard work, determination, labor of love and justice for everyone, will inspire others to fulfill their lives as the Sisters have done for over 105 years.

Sue Murphy

### Up-Coming Events:

#### **June 16-20, 2025 Sisters' Retreat**

This year our conference will be presented by Father Joseph Feders, OSB from St. John's Abby, Collegeville, MN.

#### **July 11, 2025 Jubilee Celebration**

This will be a private celebration for the sisters.



## News from MSBCArchives

Mount Saint Benedict Crookston Archives is preparing to be moved and managed by the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) in Cleveland, Ohio sometime in the next couple years. Currently Sister Anita and Sister Rachel have been processing and boxing artifacts. They have just finished working with examples of the traditional habit, headdress and veil. Our readers may recall our sisters wearing the habit.

When our sisters made final profession and on other very special occasions, they wore floor length choir cloaks over the habit. The choir cloak has 72 tiny pleats in honor of the 72 chapters of the Rule of St. Benedict. Preparing it for archival storage was a challenge our archivists met.



Sister Terese Martin  
in choir cloak

"I am most grateful  
for our prayer life  
through the years."  
— Sister Jeannine

LACOURSIERE, VIOLETTE, BENOIT relatives all in the MSB habit:  
Hiltrudis (Joan), Cuthbert, Karen, Gabriel, Justina, Baptiste, Amata, Ernesta



### Sister Frances Solum

Sister Frances is one of our Sisters committed to living in south Texas. While still a member of our monastery, her life is with Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd. Sister Fran has fond memories of her missionary experience in Columbia, South America.



### Sister Evelyn Strei

Sister Evelyn loves beautiful things and memories of walks outdoors in every season. She resides at Villa St. Vincent and greets everyone with her genuine and gentle smile. Do you know anyone else who has been to Italy, Australia, Panama and the Fiji Islands?

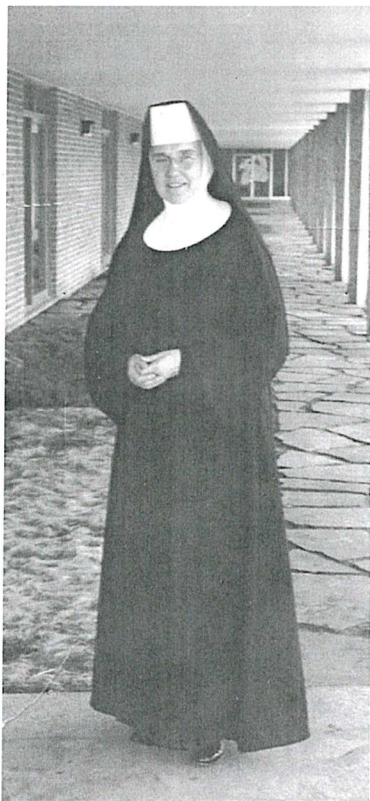


Check out our website, [www.msb.net](http://www.msb.net)

### Lenten Prayer Requests

Although we did not send out a letter to invite your prayer intentions during the season of Lent, we have been praying for you and your intentions throughout the Lenten days. If you have specific needs that you would like us to pray for, here are some options:

- Visit our website: [www.msb.net](http://www.msb.net)  
Click on the Prayer tab at the top of the page and scroll down to Prayer Requests. Then click on Share Your Prayer Request.
- Send your requests for prayers to our community email account:  
[crxbenedictines@gmail.com](mailto:crxbenedictines@gmail.com).
- Or send us a note via the US Postal Service.



Mother Mary John Flynn in Marian Hall Patio c. 1963

"I am thankful that God has called me to this community and that I was called to the ministry of teaching piano for 73 years so that children could appreciate music."  
– Sister Dominica Gerszewski

"I am grateful for the Benedictine life of prayer and ministry." – Sister Karen Violette



## Former Chaplain's House Welcomes New Owner

If you have visited our monastery, you would likely have seen a rambler and garage on the northwest corner just as you are entering the grounds. The house was built for the monastery chaplain in 1974 when monks from St.



John's Abbey, Collegeville, served as chaplains. When they were no longer able to continue this ministry, the home was used as a residence for our sisters for several years from 1992-2006. Msgr. Roger Grundhaus took up residence in the house when he became chaplain in 2007. In 2024, when Msgr. Grundhaus decided to reside somewhere else, Msgr. Baumgartner and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston expressed an interest in purchasing the house for use as the



Sister Anne, Msgr. David, Sister Kathy  
and Sister Anita

parish rectory. The sisters finalized an agreement and sold the house to the Cathedral Parish in November 2024. Msgr. David Baumgartner, Cathedral Parish Rector, is enjoying his living quarters as the first Cathedral priest to take up residence in the new rectory. In a gesture of hospitality to the former owners, he invited the Sisters of St. Benedict to come and see the new rectory and to enjoy hors d'oeuvres supper on March 17. Msgr. Baumgartner stated, "I am so grateful for the new rectory. The house is comfortable. I love being able to walk to the office."



To maintain our community spirit and connection with all our sisters, the Sisters at MSB go over to Villa St. Vincent every couple months. The Sisters enjoy fellowship, snacks, games, and crafts. The Sisters have made scarecrows, paper snowmen and heart wreaths.

Bottom: Sisters Vivian, Karen, Eileen  
M. & Judy making Valentine wreaths



Sisters Jeannine and Eileen B.  
making scarecrows

Top: Sister Kathy  
holding up  
Snowmen of  
Sisters Marmion,  
Evelyn, & herself



"I am grateful for God's call to this community and for the joy of 60 years of walking with my Sisters as we journey together in hope and trust." – Sister Judy Moen





## Five Go On Ahead

Since our last issue of The Crookston Benedictine, five of our Sisters have gone home to God leaving nineteen of us behind. The obituaries of these Sisters can be found on our website [www.msb.net](http://www.msb.net)



Sister Bernadette Kostrzewski, age 92, died on November 15, 2024 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, Minnesota. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held November 25, 2024 in Sacred Heart Chapel,

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Crookston, Minnesota, with Bishop Andrew Cozzens presiding.



Sister Luella (Cyrilla) Walsh, age 97, died January 5, 2025 at Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd, Rio Grande City, Texas. The funeral Mass and burial were held January 10, 2025 at the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd with Bishop Flores presiding.



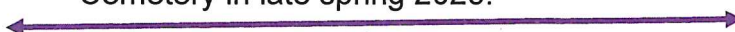
Sister Marietta Geray, age 93, died on November 28, 2024 at St. Benedict's Care Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The Prayer Service and Mass of Christian Burial will be held on May 9 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Mount Saint Benedict Monastery,

followed by interment in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery.



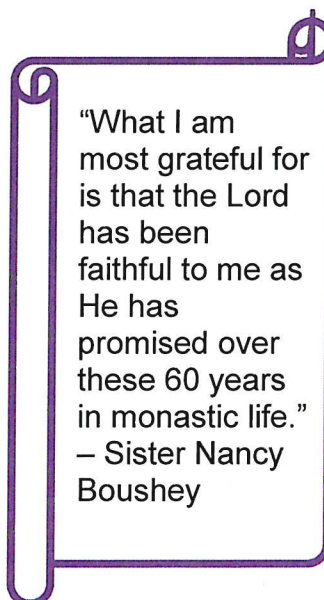
Sister Anne Marie Geray, age 96, died at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, MN on March 7, 2025 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, MN. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held March 19, 2025 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Mount

Saint Benedict Monastery, Crookston, Minnesota with Bishop Cozzens presiding. Interment will be in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery in late spring 2025.



Sister Carol Jean Schroeder, age 95, died on December 3, 2024 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, Minnesota. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held December 12, 2024 in Sacred Heart Chapel,

Mount Saint Benedict with Bishop Andrew Cozzens presiding. Interment will be in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery in late spring 2025.



"What I am most grateful for is that the Lord has been faithful to me as He has promised over these 60 years in monastic life."  
— Sister Nancy Boushey

## Easter Greetings

In a couple of weeks or so, Lent will be coming to a close. All the Sisters of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, along with Sr. Jennifer and Sue, wish you a Blessed and Happy Easter. We pray that our Risen Lord may grant you new life, joy and deep peace.