

the Crookston Benedictine

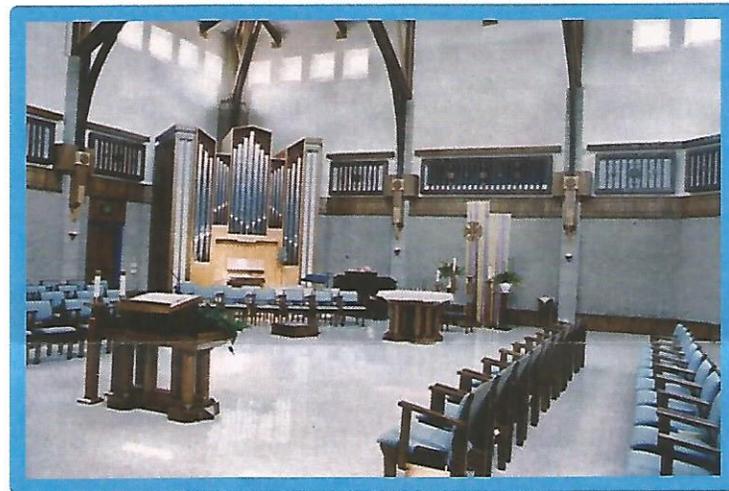
Vol. 38.2

Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Crookston, MN 56716

Fall 2025

Hop, Skip & a Jump

We Sisters are moving...next spring! Under the leadership of Sister Jennifer Mechtild Horner, Pastoral Administrator, we Sisters of St. Benedict of Crookston came to a decision to move to Benedictine Living Community known to us as The Villa and The Summit. The Villa provides full nursing care and The Summit provides assisted living. The plan is that we will begin moving in mid-April 2026. We are moving so that our community can be closer together. We are at an age where we need the services of the Villa and Summit such as: nursing assistance, physical therapy, activities, food service and the celebration of Eucharist in the Villa/Summit chapel.



Sister Jennifer gave us three key concepts to aid in our transition: ENJOY, REMEMBER, and PREPARE. We want to enjoy our remaining time here, to remember the years we've had at this Mount St. Benedict Monastery campus and to prepare by cleaning out our bedrooms and common areas. So yes, we're moving next spring but it's just a hop, skip and a jump (at our ages maybe we'll say a two-minute ride) across the street. Some religious communities facing diminishment have had to move to another town. We count our blessings. We will welcome your visits to our new home when the time comes.

Top Left: Enjoy: Fellowship of friends & family at a Bar-B-Q by Tom & Loretta Danzl.

Top Right: Remember: The original arrangement of the 1994 Mount Chapel circa 1995

Left: Prepare: Teresa Cymbaluk boxes up items for Goodwill.

Right: Remember: The view of the woods & cemetery from the Sisters' window.





FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, our hearts are full of gratitude for the many blessings we have been given. Looking back over the past few months, we find ourselves touched by the generosity and love of so many.

During the last year, we had eight of our sisters go home to God. You read about some of them in our last newsletter and will read about the more recent deaths in this one. As we remember these sisters, we are thankful for the gift of their lives. Each of them in their unique way gave a gift to our community and the world around them. They will never be forgotten but live on in our hearts and the hearts of all who loved them.

We also had a wonderful Jubilee celebration. It was a gift to be able to celebrate the lives of the Jubilarians. Through the faithful living of the Benedictine way of life each of them shared God's love with us and with the world. Sisters Dominica, Jeannine, Karen, Judy and Nancy together celebrated 345 years of commitment to the monastic life. This gift of faithfulness is a witness to the faithfulness so needed in our world.

We had some fun celebrations this summer. Because of the generosity of friends, we had the opportunity to enjoy some fun meals together. You will hear more about these activities in this newsletter. It is always fun to be together as we relax and enjoy time with one another.

We have been blessed by many and never take these blessings for granted. We are also called to bless others. We will share with you some of the ways we share our resources with others.

Finally, we want to let you know that the sisters will be moving. In the spring the sisters that live at the Mount will be moving to the Summit across the street. The decision to move has been made with prayer and discernment. We will share more as the year unfolds.

Count on our prayers for each of you. We ask for your prayers during this time of transition. May God bless all of us.

In Christ,

Sr. Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB



FROM MONASTERY COORDINATOR

Salutations!

The Sisters have been preparing for their upcoming move next spring 2026. While it seems like it is far into the future, time seems to speed up when you need it to slow down. As I go through areas of the building, finding cubby holes of more items needing new homes, it is fun remembering the stories of the past. Did you know, (or remember), the sisters used to harvest their own honey, had a farm with animals, acres and acres of gardens, made and decorated candles, sold land to the city of Crookston and it was named Benedict Addition?

The Sisters are enjoying the generosity of donors; having DQ treats, Widman's candy, eating special meals and desserts, to name a few activities! The way the Sisters show their joy and excitement of these simple things, reminds me of how we all need to slow down, appreciate what we have and enjoy the simplicity of life.

Sue Murphy

SUMMER GATHERINGS & TREATS

We've been making the most of our last summer and fall on these grounds due in no small part to some thoughtful and generous folks. Monastery Coordinator Sue Murphy, and assistants Teresa Cymbaluk and Morgan Ehnert invited the sisters to a picnic in July, thanks to the generosity of donor Richard L. When Richard was an elementary student he attended St. Philip's School in Bemidji. He wanted to express his appreciation to the sisters for his Catholic

education by providing the funds for a picnic meal. Weather conditions necessitated an indoor picnic. Sue, Teresa and Morgan went all out providing the picnic ambiance. We almost felt like we were outdoors, thanks to the lush grassy scene near a stream that was projected unto the wall of our picnic room. Party favors such as jumping frogs, sunglasses and bottles of bubbles were strewn across the length of the picnic table. After the tasty meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans and lots more, we were invited to play various games such as table golf putting, hula hoop, peg balancing, and beach balls. After Richard heard of the good time we had, he provided for another gathering.



Sisters at their indoor picnic



Sisters enjoying their "lost Jubilee" meal

uncertainty, ended up being a great meal with memories to last! To make up the "Lost Jubilee Meal", Richard's generosity allowed the Sisters to have their Jubilee meal, just a little later than originally planned!

The Catholic Daughters of Detroit Lakes delighted us with money for ice cream treats from the Dairy Queen. It was fun to find surprises in our deaneries such as bottles of Coke and Widman's candy. They added sweetness to our days.

Sister Anita Whalen's sister and brother-in-law, Loretta & Tom Danzl, asked if they could put on a barbecue meal for us on August 24. We didn't have to think too long about that tantalizing offer. Tom is a great cook and Loretta is a wonderful, hospitable organizer and like their daughter Margaret, an all-around support person. They brought the food and their grill and smoker from their home in St. Cloud and provided hors d'oeuvres, barbecue pork, grilled chicken, baked beans, & potato salad. The Danzls encouraged us to invite some folks to join us for the occasion. Our staff of C.N.A.'s, housekeepers and some of their family members joined us for the absolutely delicious meal and visiting. Our community is truly grateful to **ALL** our Donors. Your kind and generous gifts assist us in our retirement needs and allow us to reach out to others.

There's a saying about too many cooks in the kitchen. Well, that turned out to be true when we organized our Jubilee meal. Three people involved in the preparation of the meal each thought the other was ordering the meal, but it turned out, no one ordered the meal! What to do?! With quick thinking, Sue and Sr. Jennifer Mechtild went into action and picked up chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy at the local supermarket. What started as chaos and



Tom Danzl getting the ribs ready!

Jubilarians

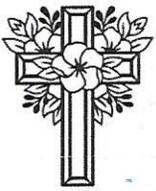


Pictured above: Front Row: Sr. Dominica 80 years, Sr. Jeannine 75 years, Sr. Karen 70 years, Sr. Judy 60 years

Back Row: Sue Murphy, Monastery Coordinator, Sr. Jennifer Mechtild Horner, Pastoral Administrator

Pictured right:

Sr. Nancy Boushey 60 years along with Sr. Fran Solum in San Benito, Texas



THREE GO ON AHEAD

Since our last issue of The Crookston Benedictine, three of our Sisters have gone home to God leaving sixteen of us behind. The obituaries of these Sisters can be found on our website www.msb.net



Sister Evelyn Strei, age 96, died on June 12, 2025 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, Minnesota. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held June 30, 2025 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Mount Saint Benedict

Monastery, with Monsignor Tim McGee presiding.



Sister Marmion Karels, age 91, died on July 20, 2025 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, Minnesota. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held July 29, 2025 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Mount Saint Benedict with Monsignor David Baumgartner presiding.



Sister Myra Schmieg, age 83, died on July 22, 2025 at Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home, Crookston, Minnesota. The prayer service and Mass of Christian Burial were held August 4, 2025 in Sacred Heart Chapel, Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, with Fr. David Super presiding.



BENEDICTINE SISTERS CELEBRATE SR. ANNELLA ZERVAS OPENING CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD

On October 9 the sisters took part in an exciting event for the Diocese of Crookston and the Catholic Church. As representatives of the Benedictine order they were invited to attend the Mass for the Opening of the Cause for the Canonization of Sister Annella Zervas, OSB. as some of the honorary guests. As they arrived each was pinned with a lovely rose corsage. Sister Karen Rose, Prioress of St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota was an honored guest representing the Benedictine community of which Sister Annella Zervas was a professed member. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was filled with people from across the diocese and beyond, including members of the Zervas family. The sisters, along with Sue Murphy and Teresa Cymbaluk were happy to participate in this festive, meaningful liturgy. Bishop Cozzens gave an inspiring homily. The music was rich and uplifting. The joy of this special celebration lasted long after the closing hymn. After all, it's not every day that a Benedictine from our small diocese is on the official road to becoming a canonized saint.



L to R: Sisters Dianne, Rachel, Dominica, Anita, Anne, Karen, Kathleen, Judy, Eileen B., Eileen M. & Kathy

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE." Acts 20:35

If you ask Sister Dianne Maresh "How are you?" she always answers "Thanking God for many blessings." We sisters know we are blessed and we know that our ability to share is one of the glad blessings.

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery Charities Fund is routinely included in our annual operations budget. Sister Kathy Kuchar and Sister Eileen Beutel, who serve on the Charities Committee, decide how the funds will be distributed. They review requests and research how donations are spent. Each year we contribute to established non-profit charities and causes, for example, Doctors Without Borders, North Country Food Bank, Wildlife Conservation Network, National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund and more than fifty others.

Aside from the Charities Fund, our monastery has given significant financial support to **Benedictine causes** including two Benedictine congregations and to the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) in Cleveland, Ohio, where our monastery archives will be housed and managed along with the collections of many other religious communities.

Although Mount Saint Benedict Foundation, which was established to support our monastery's traditional ministries and our retired sisters, was dissolved in 2023, the benefits continue with the transfer of its funds to three entities. Some funds were given to Villa St. Vincent, the eldercare facility used by our sisters. Some funds were retained by the monastery. The major portion of MSB Foundation funds became the **Mount Saint Benedict Endowment Fund** managed by the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Crookston. The grants committee for MSB Endowment Fund presently consists of Sister Kathy Kuchar, Sister Anita Whalen and several lay men and women who were recommended by the outgoing board of the MSB Foundation. This committee is committed to the purposes and guidelines established for the original MSB Foundation in awarding grants. Recent grants went to four Catholic schools in the Crookston diocese and one in Africa, Care and Share in Crookston and a medical respite care center for the homeless in Bismarck.

Recalling all this is one of our blessings, too.



Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
620 Summit Ave.
Crookston, MN 556716
phone: 218-281-3441
www.msb.net

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Check out our website, www.msb.net

Up-Coming Events:

November Sisters' Visitation

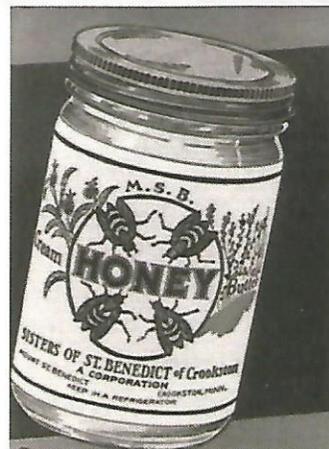
Our congregation president, Sr. Jeanne Weber is coming to check us out.

April/May 2026 Sisters' Move

All the Sisters will be moving over to the Summit and Villa.

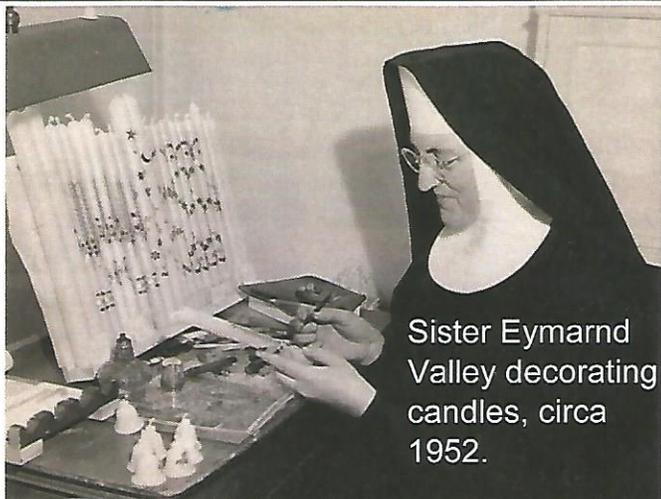
For the foreseeable future, the Sisters' address will remain the same:

620 Summit Ave,
Crookston MN, 56716



Above right: Label for the Sisters' honey jars, circa 1930.

Below: Sisters work in the garden harvesting vegetables, circa 1968. In background, shed and root cellar.



Sister Eymarnd Valley decorating candles, circa 1952.

