



S. Virginia Matter OSB

S. Virginia Matter is from southwestern MN, Walnut Grove, having entered St. Paul's Priory at 301 Summit Avenue in 1955. The pastor, Oliver Dufresne, had asked Virginia in her sophomore year to pray about her vocation, he unknowingly planting the seed. Later, she and another were invited to experience varied ceremonies and the Benedictine life style at 301. Limited time though it was, it touched Virginia's spirit and the community prayer life, happy atmosphere plus family bonding has sustained her ever since.

Sister was among the first on the staff in 1960 at St. Mary's in Winsted and after that, assisted in opening St. Therese Home in New Hope. Later, Sister returned to the monastery as infirmarian and helped develop an ecumenical program for the sisters and senior citizens from the surrounding area, the GOLDENAIRES. She served as pastoral minister at St. Timothy's in Blaine, later studying in St. Louis, MO, preparing in community formation for young monastics. Currently, Virginia is in the Benedictine Center, her present ministry since 1985 in spiritual direction, retreats and teaching pottery.

Highlights in her life include a year in Canon City, CO, while working in a hospital, the year in St. Louis, MO, at the Institute of Formation and Spirituality, a sabbatical experiencing other religious traditions which led to South Carolina, Japan, India, the Hindu/Benedictine ashram of Father Bede Griffiths and working in an orphanage of Mother Theresa's in Karala, India. Sister is grateful to her family, her Lutheran mother who by her witness taught faith values, her father who taught her the love of creation and nature which is displayed in her pottery, her brother and sisters, nieces, nephews, dear friends. She values her Benedictine life with its rich emphasis on prayer and hospitality. She truly is a witness to that which she so firmly believes and appreciates. We are grateful.