



Passages

VOLUME 18 / ISSUE 3

BUILDING PROGRESS

Jean Hartman

S. Rose Alice Althoff was the last surviving member of the building committee for the current monastery at 2675 Larpenteur Avenue. On April 4 she left us, crossing over to the new monastery side of the road ahead of everyone else. She is now guiding the construction process from above.

On April 14, the sounds of a new beginning started around 7:30 a.m. By the end of the week, the monastery property had a whole new look. While it was sad to see large trees go down, the sisters were happy to save 27 trees to be transplanted on the new monastery property. When the entire development is completed there will be over 500 new trees on the grounds.

As with all construction projects there have been some surprises along the way. An unmarked irrigation system resulted in a few water geysers for the earthmovers. The sisters woke up one morning to 15 trucks waiting to haul earth to another location. (Unfortunately, the trucks arrived at the same time as Hill-Murray students and grandparents coming for Grandparents' Day.) We will continue to address each problem as it comes up and find solutions that work for everyone.

Work is progressing quickly. The hill in front of the current monastery has been flattened for a new parking lot that will eventually serve as Tubman Family Alliance's first floor entrance after they move on site in 2010.

The last week in April, McGough began pouring the footings for the new monastery. Bob Frie, our construction superintendent, very carefully placed medals of St. Benedict at the various corners of the building and took pictures for the sisters to see.

CommonBond expects to begin construction on the town homes in late May or early June. The city of Maplewood will be coming in mid-June to start their road construction work.

We have been told the address of our new monastery will be 2675 Benet Road. Our plans are to move into our new home around March of next year. Watch our web site www.stpaulsmonastery.org for construction updates.

Thank you so much for your support as we discerned our future over the last 14 years. We are very excited about this next stage of our lives and ministries. 



Southern view



Northern view

RESPONDING TO OUR TIMES

Carol Rennie, OSB.

In 2002, North American Benedictine women celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival in America of Mother Benedicta Riepp and two companions. They were monastic missionaries prepared to go wherever they were needed to proclaim the Gospel. This zeal for the Word is part of our prophetic heritage as Benedictines. Because of it we are able to make decisions and take on challenges others might think impossible or even ill-advised. As Mother Benedicta and her companions bore witness, baptism is both a call to conversion and courage.

We Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery draw on the example of our courageous foremothers as we continue to frame our vision and mission. Standing on the firm foundation of those who have gone before us, we are stepping forward in hope and confidence. The building of our new monastery has begun and soon our campus will welcome the Tubman Family Alliance and CommonBond as our new neighbors – and partners in mission. Our decision to work with these two organizations emerged as we considered how best to use our resources in service of a greater good. The care of women and children in distress and the provision of affordable housing reflect the heritage we bear as servants of those in need.

As our campus changes in appearance, we will continue our current ministries — the Benedictine Center, Maple Tree Childcare Center and Ministry of Mothers Sharing. These ministries embody in distinct ways the spiritual wisdom of our life as followers of St. Benedict.

We are always grateful for your continued support and promise our prayers for each of you as we gather daily to praise God's abiding presence in our midst. 🙏

The Sisters of St. Benedict
St. Paul's Monastery

OBLATES' CORNER

Sue Buelow, Oblate

Often I am asked, "What is an Oblate?" or "Why did you become an Oblate?" I believe the answer is different for everyone. There are as many different faces of Oblates as there are those of us who associate ourselves with the Benedictine community of St. Paul's Monastery. Though we are from many faiths and walks of life, we do have one common bond. We all wish to deepen our Christian lives and build a firmer foundation with God in Christ through the study of the Rule of Benedict. We strive to enrich our lives by embracing the "Rule of Benedict" values of prayer, reading scripture, work, hospitality, peace, stewardship and simplicity. These values, based on the Gospel, have a great significance as to how we desire to live out our daily lives.



Sue Buelow, Linda Wilcox, Linda Manders

We earnestly try to carry the monastic values of the Rule of Benedict to our families, our place of worship, work, and relationships. We strive to "listen with the ear of our heart," as we listen and respond to God's call to service.

As we worship and pray with the sisters we receive strength and inspiration from the Benedictine way of life as we continue on our individual spiritual journeys, participating as we can in prayers, Eucharist, and liturgy knowing we are "welcomed as Christ."

The sisters continue to be an inspiration to Oblates as they begin preparation for their move to a new monastery and welcoming of partners on their hallowed land. Surely, this is part of God's plan and we feel privileged to be participants as it plays out in our lives. We offer our love and support during this time of transition and look forward with anticipation in sharing this journey of transformation. 🙏

LITTLE BROTHERS FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY

Kathleen Lindstrom

Four times a year (for the past three years), a caravan of cars pulls up to the doors of St. Paul's Monastery and gently, lovingly drop off some very special passengers. These passengers are visitors and volunteers from the Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) who have come to experience the sisters' hospitality and to absorb the peace and wisdom found inside these walls. Just as important, they have come to spend the day mingling with old friends, sharing life stories and simply finding rest, refreshment and listening ears.

Their first visit this year took place on April 3, when Sam Rahberg, associate director of the Benedictine Center, talked about relationships based on the Benedictine way of life. "Our goal is to put them in conversation with one another," says Rahberg, "to bring in a staff person who will affirm their place in life's journey and to help them build relationships with the monastic community. Some have been coming to each event since this program began."

Carolyn Swenson, coordinator for this LBFE program, says program participants live in homes, apartments, high-rises and nursing homes and have a variety of needs and abilities, which the Center always accommodates. "We normally focus on parties, celebrations, holidays or bingo," she says, "so coming to the monastery has a very different feel to it. It gives elders time away to reflect and to share, to reminisce and to get away from their usual routines." What they encounter when walking through the monastery's doors, Swenson adds, "is a very nice feeling, very open and welcoming, so peaceful." These visits also reflect the Center's main purpose, which is to support the mission and ministries of the Benedictine sisters—one of them being the care of the elderly. It is that commitment and concern that makes the Center's partnership with the LBFE such a natural fit, Rahberg says. "The sisters care for their elders in house, so we respect the dedication the Little Brothers have for elders in our neighborhoods. We welcome them into our beautiful home for a home-cooked meal, a quiet meeting space and a day away to reflect and find nourishment."

And what do these elders think of this special day away? "They tell us the food is wonderful," he says. They also express gratitude for being so warmly welcomed, for the luxury of a day-long retreat, for the opportunity to think about life in different ways, and even for the chance to do some shopping in the Cloister Gift Shop—which can be a rare treat for the homebound.

"And we know it's been a success," Rahberg adds, "because they always ask what we have planned for them next time." What's planned for the rest of the year is as follows: *Telling your Story Through Visual Arts*, with Virginia Matter, OSB, *Reflecting on Movies*, with Carole Sweely, OSB, *Poems About our Lives* with Vic Klimoski, director. "Elders are a delight and can teach us so much," Rahberg says. "In fact, I tend to walk a little slower when they're in the house. It triggers an awareness in me that speed and getting things done aren't so important. It's more about being present and experiencing each other in the stillness of the moment." 📖

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly is an international non-profit organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. It believes that the dignities our elders deserve are companionship, a sense of belonging, a sense of mattering, of being listened to, of being understood and of having a voice.

*"Holiness consists not in extraordinary actions,
but in performing your duties towards God,
yourself and others well."*

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

HOSPITALITY IS PRIMARY

Linda Soler, OSB.

“Our light is to shine before all so that they may see our good deeds.” (Matt. 5:16)
Benedictine hospitality goes where I go. Outside of the Benedictine values of community and prayer, the one Benedictine value that is put to practice on a daily basis is hospitality.

I professed my final monastic vows in 1997 when I made my commitment to the monastic community. Presently, I am working full time at Saint John the Evangelist Church in Faith Formation, Pastoral Ministry, Vocations, and Mass Server coordinator. The children are life giving, and I cannot imagine ministry without sharing hospitality. I attend the College of St. Catherine’s as I complete certification in Pastoral Ministry. I have found that hospitality is essential in a classroom environment. This is a constant call to hospitality on a daily basis.

Serving on the Vocation team at the monastery is another way of sharing monastic values. It is enriching to hear how women are truly seeking the presence of God in their life.



S. Linda Soler

I would not be who I am today without the Benedictine values. They are my tools to be the Benedictine God is calling me to be. I give credit to my religious community for the challenges they have offered me to grow in faith and with their prayers and support bring me to be who I am today. May Saints Benedict and Scholastica be our guides so that in all things God may be glorified. 🙏

S. Linda received the Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society of Religious Studies and Theology award from the College of Saint Catherine on Friday, April 25, 2008, at the College of Saint Catherine. She will complete Pastoral Ministry certification in August, 2008, and continue her education in the Catechetical certification program this Fall.

VOCATIONS—LISTENING

Marie Fujan, OSB.

Recently I was part of the *Career Fair* at Hill-Murray High School. The field house was filled with career representatives from A to Z. My table was labeled CHURCH MINISTRY. Needless to say, sophomores in high school are not ordinarily drawn to a career in the Church. However, I did ask each group for a commitment. Not a life commitment, but a commitment to say this short prayer each day: “Lord, what is it that you want me to be and do today?”

This is a great prayer for sophomores and senior citizens and for everyone in between. I told the sophomores that if they are faithful in saying that prayer and listening *with the ear of the heart*, to what God says in response, they will know what God has in mind for them.

I also made a promise! If they do what God asks of them, they will be happy! This is no politician’s promise. This is the promise of Jesus! It is the promise of the Savior who said, “I came that you might have life and have it to the full.” (Jn. 10:10) The full, abundant life is the life that will bring joy and happiness.

And so, dear readers, I encourage you to say that one line prayer. Could I also ask you to say it in the name of the women God IS calling to our community. My prayer is that we all *listen with the ear of our heart*, thank God for all that is and celebrate with joy! 🙏

CLOISTER GIFT SHOP—MYRIAD OF IDEAS

Virginia Bieren, SSND.

Our Cloister Gift Shop has been discovered by passersby! As construction began, a temporary sign was posted by the entrance to our grounds. Yes! We have been found!

And what are these myriad ideas that the Cloister Gift Shop has for you? Our shop is a lovely gift shop that caters to many people. If you have someone receiving any of the sacraments, we have a gift for that person: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Matrimony. In addition we carry anniversary gifts, jewelry, all occasion gifts, hand embroidered dishtowels, spiritual books, CDs, a variety of crosses, rosaries, pottery and greeting cards.

Continued on page 5

"MAY CHRIST BRING US ALL TOGETHER...."

Rule of St. Benedict



S. GEORGETTA LOXTERKAMP died March 10, 2008. She was 96 years old and in the 75th year of her monastic profession. Sister hailed from Meire Grove, MN, and was the 4th child in a farming family of 13. Entering the Scholasticate in 1928 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN, and after her novitiate, she prepared for a teaching career. Before she faced many different classrooms and while she was still an aspirant in 1930, S. Georgetta started the turkey farm at St. Benedict's.

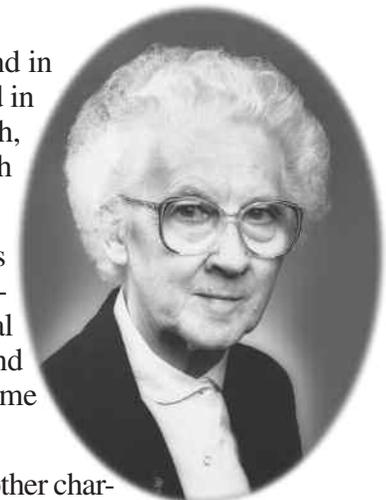
Her teaching ministries took her to St. Bonifacius Grade School in 1933, St. Anne's, Minneapolis, St. Bernard's, St. Paul, St. Andrew's, Fairfax, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, Assumption, Richfield and Hill-Murray High School in St. Paul. Other ministries in her semi-retirement years included the Benedictine Center business office and its library. Because she loved children, she was an aide to infants and the very young in our Maple Tree Childcare Center.

Sister was a charter member of the monastery coming to St. Paul's Priory in 1948 with 177 other Benedictines from St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN. She was very talented in arts and crafts having keen interests in many other areas flowing from her rich background of family, teaching and love of nature. She was generous and caring, eager to serve others. 📖

S. ROSE ALICE ALTHOFF died April 4, 2008. She was 90 years old and in the 70th year of her monastic profession. Her home was in Mooreton, N. D., a fifth child in a farming family of 10. Entering the Scholasticate in 1933 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN, making her first vows in 1938, she began a career in education with emphasis in mathematics and sacred scripture.

Her ministries took her to Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale as principal, St. Paul's Priory as postulant and novice directress, supervisor of schools and then prioress in 1966-1972. Returning to Robbinsdale, she served as pastoral assistant from 1972-1981, then in pastoral care at St. Therese Home in New Hope from 1981-1992. Coming home to the priory and ministering in the Benedictine Center as Interim Director for one year, she then became semi-retired in 1993.

Her time in retirement had been spent in a rich variety of intellectual events. Sister was another charter member of the monastery, a primary leader in the community from 301 Summit to 2675 Larpenteur and her interest never waned in the future plans for the new monastery. 📖



CLOISTER GIFT SHOP continued

Seasonal gifts include Fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Advent, Lent, Spring, gardening time, and Summer.

Many of our customers just like to come in and look every several weeks. You never know what may be new!

Several features that we continuously carry are the Palm Crosses, Timothy Schultz miniature sculptures, and the famous St. John's Bible individual books. The books printed so far by St. John's Liturgical Press include: Gospel & Acts, Psalms, Prophets, Pentateuch and Wisdom. As soon as a new book is finished we receive that book.

Looking for something spiritual, check out our shop. We may have just what you are looking for or a surprise that you didn't even know you wanted!

We are located right inside the door of the monastery. For more information, please call us at 651-777-8181 ext. 138. Hours for the shop are Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Sunday 12:30 -3:00 p.m. 📖

Stop in and visit the Cloister Gift Shop!

CHRISTMAS AT THE MONASTERY EVENT

December 6, 2008

Admission by Invitation only.

If you would like an invitation, please inform the Development Office before Sept. 15.

**vbieren@stpaulsmonastery.org
or 651-777-8181**

This will be the last event in the present Monastery.

CELEBRATIONS—GOLDEN AND MORE!

Every May, the first Sunday, if schedules allow, we celebrate jubilees, silver, golden, diamond and more for those who by God's sheer and tender grace have been given not only 25 years of service but 50, 60, and 70 years. This May, 2008, we had four 70 and three golden jubilarians. All are featured on these pages with brief histories even though their service has been long and steadfast. Our hearts salute them.

70 YEARS



S. Bernarda Maus

S. Bernarda Maus came from Luxemburg, MN, St. Wendeline's parish, when she entered in 1933 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN. After first vows in 1938, she began her career as a music teacher and organist at St. Patrick's in Dickinson, N.D.

Her ministry took her to Pierz, MN, Tacoma, WA, Elrosa, MN, Richfield, St. Bernard's, St. Victoria's, St. Joseph's Home for Children, St. Therese in New Hope and home to the monastery in 1988.

Sustaining her as a Benedictine these 70 years has been a regular routine, community prayers, Mass, reading and her love of teaching primary grades.

S. Bernarda was a social service director at St. Therese Nursing Home working in admissions.

Sister has been living in the monastery's Health Care Center often active for others—visiting the elderly there, leading the daily Rosary, taking care of the mail for the sisters as well as other needs they might have. Teachers might take notice—S. Bernarda taught the first FOUR grades in one room in Elrosa, MN. Sister is an avid reader frequently visiting the library for recent books on spirituality. 📖

S. Margaret Lanners, formerly known as S. Hugh, hails from St. Leo, MN. Entering the Scholasticate in 1935 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN, she took her first vows in 1938 and began a career in domestic service. Her ministry took her to Eau Claire, WI, St. Cloud, St. Joseph, Minneapolis, Hastings, Winsted, St. Paul and Midway Hospital. Retiring in 1994, Sister came home to the monastery after many years of steadfast service. She has been a tall presence on the health care floor. 📖



S. Margaret Lanners



S. Richardine Schackmann

S. Richardine Schackmann came from St. Nicholas, MN. After entering the Scholasticate in 1935 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN, and making first vows in 1938, she began a ministry in domestic service in Browerville, MN. From there she went to Robbinsdale, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Richfield, Winsted, New Hope and retired to the monastery in 1998. After volunteering faithfully in the Cloister Gift Shop for some years, Sister likes to use the monastic library often in search of a Nouwen book. Her main ministry these days is prayer.

How did she get here? Summer religion classes and a friend brought Sister to the Benedictines. The parish provided the summer classes taught by the sisters and Sister's friend was an aspirant at St. Benedict's. She invited S. Richardine to her reception ceremony which inspired her entry that same year. Sustaining her these many years has been the support of the sisters and her prayer life. 📖

S. Luella Nies was born in Cold Spring, MN, entering the Scholasticate in 1936 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN. After her novitiate in 1937, she entered domestic service which took her to St. Cloud, Minneapolis, Hastings, St. Paul, Richfield, St. Paul's Priory and retiring to the monastery in 1993. In ministry, her first love was being a laundress with results making her neat and meticulous. In her "prime," her snappy brown eyes said it all. Her life in retirement was one of continued service until failing health denied this. 📖



S. Luella Nies

Continued on page 7

CELEBRATIONS—GOLDEN AND MORE! continued

50 YEARS



S. Mary Lou Dummer

S. Mary Lou Dummer, from Bird Island, MN, entered St. Paul's Priory in 1956 at 301 Summit Avenue eventually receiving a B.A. in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Catherine. In 1978, she became a Religious Education coordinator, then Sub-prioress after which she entered the School of Theology at St. John's, Collegeville. She has been liturgy director at the monastery, St. Bridget's in Minneapolis and presently at St. Thomas the Apostle in St. Paul. Sister also coordinates the volunteer program at the monastery, has worn many "veils" attending Federation meetings, serving as a representative on the Archbishop's Pastoral Advisory Council and Council of Religious. Sister Mary Lou has traveled with family and friends these last 50 years never imagining her life in community would be filled with such challenges and experiences.

She was attracted to the Benedictines for their love of liturgy and small community living. After being asked to be principal of St. Philip's school in Litchfield, S. Mary Lou had wonderful opportunities for professional enrichments, travel, workshops, conferences. "Fidelity to the Liturgy of the Hours, the Eucharist and Lectio Divina have fed my search for God and sustained me bountifully these 50 years." She looks forward in the future to carry out the community's mission to the elderly, women and children. 🙏

S. Rose Lewis, from St. Paul, MN, claims that at the age of 25 a friend introduced her to the Benedictines and she was impressed. She had had thoughts of joining a religious community since the age of 5 when she had met a sister, her sister's teacher, who planted the original seed. Imagine that power of first impressions....

Her prayer life has sustained her these many years, especially the psalms and the first chapter of James, dear to her heart. Some highlights of these last 50 years she recalls with fondness were, when young, moving from mission to mission, meeting the many sisters who inspired her especially towards reading and nature walks; visiting her only sister in California who would have a secret travel agenda once S. Rose arrived—the surprise trip within another. She remembers with delight her high school education at Derham Hall and the grand teachers especially two she recalls with fondness—S. Helen Francis in history and S. Seraphim for math but she adds all were good teachers.

S. Rose's present and main ministry is the reception desk for which she keeps an open availability. She has some favorite past times—reading, especially mysteries and historical fiction and movies. During this golden jubilee, before and after, S. Rose appreciates life "one day at a time" and is grateful for whatever comes her way. 🙏



S. Rose Lewis

S. Paula Hagen



On June 20th, 1937, Al and Catherine Hagen welcomed me into their little farm family. I joined an older brother, Jim, who has had an incredible influence on my life. At St. Mary's High School in Bird Island, we were definitely rewarded for disciplining both our minds and our behavior.

Blessed with a four-year work and academic scholarship, I attended the College of St. Catherine and majored in Occupational Therapy. That summer at S. Jude Hagen's final profession of vows as a Benedictine Sister, I was deeply touched by the profession of vows liturgy, the fun-loving spirit of the Benedictine family, and their deep commitment to reaching out and sharing their values. I took a risk and made a one year commitment to discern what God was calling me to be. I came, I grew, and I stayed. My commitment to the Benedictine life style and professional excellence became deeply integrated during my first twenty-five years. I be-

came a family therapist, working on adult spiritual formation in parishes and publishing a process to facilitate adult spiritual development. I was assigned to various parishes in MN, AZ, and FL. During this time we published MOMS (Ministry of Mother's Sharing) which became a national outreach ministry of the Sisters of St. Benedict.

In the first fifty years, God has blessed me with a network of Benedictines and professional colleagues who continue to challenge and affirm me to use my gifts to serve God's people. 🙏

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) has a new Retreat Series

Jean Glaraton

Sr. Paula Hagen, retreat director, has mobilized a team of MOMS staff, Advisory Committee members, Regional Coordinators, and Benedictine Oblates to create three hour parish-based retreats. The *On the Journey Retreat Series* is designed to be led by three facilitators or a local retreat director. Parishes offer these retreats using facilitator guides and journals available through the National MOMS office.

Forty customers have purchased *Choice-making* with the intention of offering the retreat. Feedback is positive from the fifteen parishes that have held *Choice-making*. Our second in the series, *Emptying Your Cup: Finding Peace through Letting Go*, is also selling well. 🙏



Choice-makers pray for grace and courage from the Holy Spirit.

“At our Choice-making Retreat, we had women sharing their vision of motherhood at all stages of the journey. They loved it and want to attend the next one.”

Leslie Larou, Good Shepherd, GA.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) Annual Training & Conference



Mary Boespflug

This summer all MOMS Regional Coordinators from across the country will gather for the *Ministry of Mothers Sharing* Annual Training & Conference, June 24-28, 2008, being held here at St. Paul’s Monastery. As we prepare for our time together, we are greatly aware that everything is being held in sacred space and time through continual prayer that encircles this monastic community. The *Ministry of Mothers Sharing* (MOMS) is enveloped in this journey of growth and reverence for all that is, has been, and continues to unfold. We at the National Office are energized and inspired by what is happening as the Sisters embrace this journey to newness and by all that is happening with MOMS across the country within parishes and with our National Leadership of Regional Coordinators. Coming together with the new and experienced Regional Coordinators for this annual event will enrich, renew, and energize this valued and important outreach ministry. 🙏

If you are interested in information regarding this training and conference, contact Mary Boespflug, National Director, at maryb@stpaulsmonastery.org

“Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.”

- Raymond Lindquist

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Dear Friend,

This is a special era! Everyone is excited about the new monastery. I am especially excited about the people who will live in it.

Years ago when I was working in Washington, DC, I wrote to the Sisters at St. Paul's Monastery on Summit Avenue asking to join them in their life in community. It was a new era for me. Since then, we have built this monastery in which we have prayed and ministered for the past forty years.



Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB

Today is a new era; it is a new time; it is a new world. We have changed and our ministries have changed to meet the needs of today's people. Inside the monastery, one thing remains constant. We, the sisters, get up each morning and pray together. Sustained by that prayer, we go out ministering to others and come back at the end of the day to once again pray together. You can count on us. We will be here! Please join us in prayer or feel free to make specific requests for your personal needs.

Prayer is our primary ministry! Our other ministries have changed over the years because the needs of the church and world have changed. Community prayer continues each day. It constitutes who we are as Benedictines. It keeps us faithful to our calling.

We have had "make-do chapels" since the beginning of our history in St. Paul. We will finally have a space set aside for the sole purpose of prayer, a "real chapel." God has blessed us abundantly. Can you see why we are excited?

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB".

Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB
Development Director

HISTORY WITH CHRISTMAS AT THE MONASTERY

Lucia Schwickerath, OSB.

By Christmas, 2009, the sisters will be living in the new monastery.

Dick Lidstad, chair, called together the 2008 committee to plan the last CHRISTMAS AT THE MONASTERY in this historic building.

Last year the December fundraiser took place the night of the first great snowfall of the year. The guests were wonderful and those who planned to attend, DID and were happy they came!

This year, on December 6, 2008, enjoy scrumptious food, a silent auction, small raffles, singing, the unique offerings of: the "Sisters' Bakery" featuring homemade goodies, "Spend time with a Sister," and special merchandise in the Cloister Gift Shop. Get in the mood for Christmas, start your Christmas shopping or just enjoy the evening with food, fun and laughter. Because there are sure to be new offerings, you'll just have to come and see.

Space limitations make this a "reservation only" occasion. Mark your calendar now and watch for your invitation or more information in the fall issue of PASSAGES. Join the excitement and memory sharing. 📖



Archbishop Flynn meets S. Berthel Duepner.

the ARCHBISHOPS

visited the sisters at the monastery. First, Archbishop Harry Flynn graced us with his presence Monday, January 28, 2008, for Evening Praise followed by a dinner and a power point presentation to review our presence in the Archdiocese, our past and our future. Accolades followed as well as appreciation gifts for his early retirement days. His personable presence made us wish he had graced us more often.

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt visited the monastery the evening of April 1, 2008, for Evening Praise and dinner preceded by an introduction to the sisters and followed by a power point presentation. The presentation was a summary of our history before arrival in the archdiocese in 1948, the happenings since and plans for our future by sharing this campus with Tubman Family Alliance, Common-Bond as well as Maple Tree Childcare and Hill-Murray High School. Many stories accompanied the power point presentation bringing back memories of our moves from 301 Summit and into this building in 1965. The evening was a success of memories and gentle laughter.



Archbishop Nienstedt receives monastery information from S. Catherine Schoenecker.



Bonnie Fazekas, left, with S. Doris Jean, Joan Dragos, S. Rose and Mary Zrust during the employee dinner.

DINING OUT

were the monastery employees the evening of February 28, 2008. This is an annual event of appreciation for those who faithfully serve in the monastic environment. After Evening Praise, the dinner was catered by the Tinucci family. Gifted for twenty years of service as a receptionist was Bonnie Fazekas and also Jackie Witter, five years, director of the iLLUMINARE program.

“COME TO THE FEAST, REFLECTIONS ON THE EUCHARIST” was the titled talk Jackie Witter gave to the monastic community and oblates on Sunday, March 9, 2008, from 1-3 p.m. With the power point and Jackie’s energetic and inspiring talk, the audience caught the enthusiasm of the speaker for her topic. Understanding that liturgy is the work of the people which is a communal act of worship intended to be “a Banquet where people linger,” we were truly inspired to seek that “lingering” in future liturgies. Jackie Witter, the present director of the iLLUMINARE project associated with the Benedictine Center, has taught at St. John’s University. She is a faculty member in the graduate Pastoral Ministry program at Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D., and for the Murray Institute at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. She frequently leads parish retreats and speaks on a variety of topics related to ministry, liturgy and spirituality in parishes and dioceses.

“COME TO THE FEAST,



Jackie Witter wins the audience



Volunteer dinner guests: Virginia Bieren, SSND., David Fried, Nancy Burns, Mary Lou Dummer, OSB., Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Kay and Jim Straka.

GROUNDBREAKING

was official for the new monastery at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2008, with sisters, oblates, family and friends in attendance. Due to overcast skies and rain, the ceremony was held in the main garage which had been vacated of its car fleet some weeks prior to construction activity. S. Carol Rennie, prioress, led the prayer service which was followed by a reception near the Benedictine Center. 🏠

from the LIBRARY ALCOVE

Carole Sweely, OSB.

SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN by Lisa See is a novel about the Chinese culture, foot binding at an early age, the significance of men in the family, the placement of women in order of their importance and lack thereof and how girls are raised because of their determined future in the family, culture and country.

The beginning pages tell us the main character is invisible to her mother since she is only a girl (and not a boy) and because she is invisible, she longs to be loved by her mother. I chose this book because of the title, the cover and short description in the book club brochure—the first two are weak, I know, but titles mean something to my choice and covers speak very quickly to my inner spirit. The old adage, “You can’t judge a book by its cover,” does not always ring true for me. The main character whose voice we identify with throughout the story is easy to be with and to understand because she is young so I was taken from the first page. If you wish to learn about a girl’s life in China, the culture, especially marriage arrangements, the limited joys and unlimited sorrows, this might be the book for you. It will stay in your memory for a long time.

If you like reading historical fiction, I would highly recommend Robin Maxwell’s the SECRET DIARY OF ANNE BOLEYN. It took her twelve years to write this plus more for all her research. The diary is given to the present reigning Queen Elizabeth I who knew little of her mother, Anne, and too much of her father, Henry VIII. The diary is a confidential friend of Anne’s as her life in court was suspicious because of her involvement with the King before he was able to rid himself of his saintly wife, Katherine of Aragon. Imagine hanging on to a love when all is so obviously lost as Henry’s was for Katherine along with his need and greed for a male heir. But Katherine was steadfast in her love for the VIII. Learn about court intrigue as well as favors lost and mildly gained all for the games of royalty and those who played them. Anne was one of the many tragic figures in Henry’s wake of destruction and it is through this diary that Elizabeth I comes to love her ill-fated mother and realizes at the same time, how much her mother loved her. If you like history and wish to see how some survived and those who did not in the times of Henry VIII, this story will give you an appealing understanding of Anne and her reversals of fortune as well as a deeper understanding of why Elizabeth I was so reluctant to marry. Well worth your time! 📖

UNSAID

*So much of what we live goes on inside—
The diaries of grief, the tongue-tied aches
Of unacknowledged love are no less real
For having passed unsaid. What we conceal
Is always more than what we dare confide.
Think of the letters that we write our dead.*

— Dana Gioia

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A BLESSING

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,

Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.

And the eyes of those two Indian ponies

Darken with kindness.

They have come gladly out of the willows

To welcome my friend and me.

We step over the barbed wire into the pasture

Where they have been grazing all day, alone.

They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness

That we have come.

They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.

There is no loneliness like theirs.

At home once more,

They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.

I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms.

For she has walked over to me

And nuzzled my left hand.

She is black and white.

Her mane falls wild on her forehead.

And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear

That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.

Suddenly I realize

That if I stepped out of my body I would break

Into blossom.

— James Wright, Poet