



Passages

VOLUME 18 / ISSUE 2

INTRODUCING... MARY BOESPFLUG, new National Director of MOMS

Mary Boespflug

It is with great enthusiasm that I come to St. Paul's Monastery where one is surrounded by an energy that words cannot fully express. I have much to do and even more to learn, but I am so eager to embrace it all because of the support and prayers that underlies everything here.



Madonna by
S. Thomas Carey, OSB.

I bring with me over 35 years of experience in education and ministry working with children and families, hearing their stories and sharing faith life with all ages and families of varied lifestyles. I come to St. Paul's Monastery after 20 years of ministry with St. Edward's community in Bloomington, MN, as Director of Children/Family Ministry. Through my own experience as a mother and the varied ministries within which I have worked over these many years, it is ever more apparent that the home and family is the center of one's faith roots and spiritual awareness.

It has been my own three children who have taught me the most about life and love, about forgiveness and giving, about struggle and acceptance. As adults they now continue to reveal God's loving presence in how we connect at deeper levels. Now, after years of being empty nested, I have become a grandmother and feel a whole new energy around motherhood and the depth of meaning it holds. Kianna is my 'shining star' and Natalie is my 'bright light'. How much more present I am to them than I was to my own children. I wish the Ministry of Mothers Sharing had been in existence when I was raising my children. I know it would have helped my family life and my spiritual awareness.

I am humbled and honored to be part of the MOMS Team as the National Director. As a Spiritual Director, educator, pastoral minister, mother and grandmother, I will use all the experience and learning God has placed within me. The Ministry of Mothers Sharing is well known across the country in many areas and is held in high esteem by those who have experienced its benefits. As it continues to grow and become, there is much the MOMS Team will be doing as we reach out to more areas while continuing the support and communications currently in place.

The monastery's outreach through MOMS is one of deep commitment to, love of and belief in God's action in family life. As the Sisters' prayers continue for you, we ask for your prayers and your continued support for this enriching ministry. 



Mary Boespflug

This is a dream come true for me – to have a 'real' Mom as the National Director of MOMS, whose life experience includes parenting three adult children and who is now relishing grandparenthood with two young granddaughters.

Along with Mary, I look forward to being part of a 'team' that continues the Benedictine tradition of sharing our Gospel values as I now am able to fully focus on the retreats.

Sr. Paula Hagen

Dear Friends,

As we live into the new year it is full of wonder and of gratitude—wonder as it relates to this year of awe in the midst of daily life and the unfolding of our dreams and desires. Once the ground thaws, our new road will be constructed which will be the starting point of new ways our campus will be re-shaped. Our gratitude is to a generous God who gives in abundance through your many gifts and blessings of every sort. Your generosity has helped to strengthen the bond between us.

Praise comes naturally to the monastic tradition, primarily because of our fidelity to our rhythm of prayer especially through the psalms. We offer our blessing to God as our continued gift to each of you. We count on your companionship as we embrace hope on the journey we began so bravely fourteen years ago as we prayed:

*I, Wisdom, am with you.
I am a light that will never grow dim. Love me and you will see me.
Look for me and you will find me,
At the slightest indication of your desire for me,
I will make myself known to you.
Watch for me at the very start of
what you are about,
and you will have no trouble.
You will find me, ever present,
sitting at your table.
Even thinking about my presence will help you.
Be aware of my presence, my concern,
my willingness to inspire and to instruct you.
As you meet with each other,
I will meet with all of you.
WISDOM 6:12-17.*

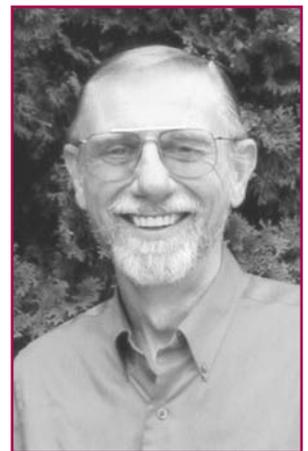
In peace,
The Sisters of St. Benedict
Sister Carol Rennie, Prioress

OBLATES' CORNER

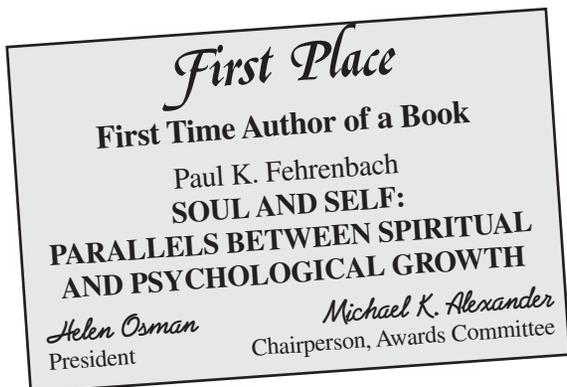
Carol Rennie, OSB.

Paul Fehrenbach, an oblate and now a retired clinical psychologist, wrote a book and it was published by Paulist Press in 2007. The book, SOUL AND SELF, traces the parallels between psychological and spiritual development over the course of a man's lifetime. It

demonstrates the common interest of psychology and religion in the "self" or "soul" and addresses the central question of how we can become more aware of our soul and benefit from its guidance. The Catholic Press Association honored Paul with a 2007 book award. It reads as follows: 📖



Paul Fehrenbach





S. Jacqueline Leiter

FRESH AND NEW

S. Jacqueline Leiter

“Receive me, O God, as you have promised, and I shall live. Do not disappoint me in my hope.”

Sister Jacqueline Leiter made final profession July 11, 2007.

For centuries women and men have professed their monastic promises with the words of the *Suscipe*. These words became central to my experience in my own monastic profession on July 11, 2007.

Amid the busyness of preparing for my monastic profession, I became aware that the important thing about monastic profession was not the promises I was making so much as the changes God was working within my heart. It was about being received in a new way by God and by the monastic community.

Our Benedictine promises are at the heart of our commitment and our expression of life. Obedience helps me be open to listening and following rather than remaining focused on my own will. Stability reminds me to be grounded and provides me with the soil in which to live and grow. Fidelity to the monastic way of life helps me to persevere on the journey and welcome the changes in my heart.

By myself, I really do not have the strength to live faithfully to these promises. But by leaning in to God and with the strength of the community, I am able to receive and be received. God sustains and strengthens me. Where I am weak, God is strong and holds me up. When I worry about challenges that face me in community and in my ministry, I am reminded of the words of the *Suscipe*, *receive me as you have promised*. In every situation, God’s faithfulness is abundant. This confidence strengthens me and frees me to say YES to what lies ahead, even if I am fearful of something new that is unclear at the time.

I am grateful for prayers and many other ways community, family, and friends have supported me in my monastic journey. I ask for your continued prayers on my journey and for other women who are being drawn to monastic life. 🙏

Interview with S. Theresa Clarkin

S. Theresa made first profession July 11, 2007.

How counter cultural is it for a young woman to choose monastic life today?

As I considered monastic life, I realized in today’s society many young women are encouraged to make choices that will give them status and success in a corporate world. Some young women are not encouraged to live a life of discernment, truly seeking God’s will in their lives. In my case I always had family support. I placed my trust in God and community to direct my life in how I can best minister to God’s people.

What was/is hardest for you?

One of the hardest things for me is to learn to let go, and let God’s will be done, trusting in the life of discernment. Other challenges for me are to find a healthy balance among priorities of community, ministry, family and friends as well as being open to change within and in my surroundings.

What brings most joy?

I find peace that comes from living the discernment process, where one continually seeks God’s will in one’s life. I find joy living in community with others who hold the same values and enjoy living together facing the daily challenges and struggles as community.

What has helped you to adjust to monastic life?

Throughout my journey I have felt the support of family, friends, community and spiritual direction. I continue in gratitude and trust. 🙏



S. Theresa Clarkin

CHRISTMAS AT THE MONASTERY...OLD & NEW

Virginia Bieran, SSND.

December 1st was a day to remember as 200 guests arrived during the first snowstorm of the year to celebrate “Christmas at the Monastery...Old & New.” Decorative transformation of the ground floor added to the festivity as the holly and the ivy brought the Christmas spirit alive. The message during and after was, “Let’s do it again next year!”

The evening had a variety of events. The sumptuous German hors d’oeuvres were a highlight of the party. The laden buffet tables beckoned one to return for more. The sisters spent several days baking and creating their wonderful recipes for The Sisters’ Bakery. It took only a short time to clear the tables of homemade candy, cookies, breads and Christmas specials! The silent auction had a wonderful display of baskets, several decorated trees, an executive office chair, houses and treats for the birds, vacation spots in the Cascade Mountains, Ireland and Ruttger’s Lodge at Bay Lake. Seventy top gifts completed the display.

In addition, The Snowflake Tree and the iPod raffles attracted wishful thinkers. ‘Spending Time with a Sister,’ was a unique offer as dates were made for a future “getting together.” A highlight for the guests was the viewing of the architect’s renderings of the new monastery building and hearing about the organizations to be located on the property: CommonBond and Tubman Family Alliance. The partnership of each of these ministries with the sisters was a delight as they shared how they will all work together on one campus.

Guests discovered The Cloister Gift Shop which was open throughout the evening. Featured this season, in addition to Christmas items, were the St. John’s Bible with individual books now available: Gospel & Acts, Psalms, Pentateuch, Prophets and Wisdom. Also available were the St. John’s art work cards for Christmas as well as their other beautiful cards and posters. These are available in the Gift Shop.

Meeting new people, visiting with friends amid the lovely violin music throughout the evening set a tone for festivity and the holidays. Singing Christmas carols and receiving a special blessing by all of the Sisters completed a wonderful evening of friendship and fun. A special gift was presented to guests as they departed to ride the shuttle to the parking lot to drive into the evening snow. ❄️

“What shall we eat first?”



Musicians Shirley Santoro and Marian Hoffman



What quip made Charlie Keffer laugh?

“O Christmas Tree”





SISTER AIDAN BARTHEL died September 11, 2007, after a brief illness. She was 89 years old having lived her monastic profession for 64 years.

Born to Hubert and Anna (Simons) in Cold Spring, MN, S. Aidan was the 4th in a farming family of nine, three boys and six girls. Her home parish was St. Boniface in Cold Spring, choosing to enter the Scholasticate in 1941 at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN.

After her first vows in 1943, she began a career in domestic service at St. Joseph's Home in St. Cloud. Her ministry took her to a variety of settings in Minneapolis and St. Paul and eventually to Archbishop's Binz's residence, St. Benedict's Convent. In 1975, she came back to the monastery to work in varied needed areas.

Sister was a charter member of the monastery arriving in 1948 with 177 other Benedictines from St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN. S. Aidan had a quiet sense of humor which encouraged the giver with an invite for more. Her years were spent in loving service since her life style was a gracious one, generous and eager to satisfy those who might ask for anything in passing. She liked to keep busy, displaying her sewing, any needlework especially pillow slips and dish towels.

Sister is survived by her Benedictine sisters, brother, Raymond, sisters, Betty Eisenschenk, Dorothy Eisenschenk, Margaret Schreifels, Rose Jonas, many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Clemens and Osmund. We pray, after her many years of devoted service, she may be received as gently and dearly as she greeted others being guided by the Morning Star into the everlasting Light where all those we love are waiting for us. 📖

UPDATE ON THE MONASTERY

Jean Hartman

Sometime in April, 2008, the earth will begin to move at the corner of Larpenteur and Century. McGough Construction will begin work on a new road somewhat parallel to the current entrance off Larpenteur. The first order of business will be to create a new parking lot in front of the current monastery so site work can begin on CommonBond Communities Townhomes. At the same time, work will begin on the new monastery building to the north. Patience will be a virtue from April through September as the weather will have the biggest impact on the ease of access to the current monastery building. MapleTree Childcare, the Benedictine Center guests, employees, oblates, volunteers, visitors, and Sisters will all be impacted by the changes. Hill-Murray has graciously agreed to allow MapleTree parents alternative access to the childcare when needed. We will work very hard to keep you informed of where to park when visiting the monastery once the work begins.

Jean Hartman smiles easily amid her work.

On another note, the Sisters are very excited about the plans for the new monastery, especially the chapel. This will be the first real chapel they have had in their 60 year history. They are also working to include as many sustainable building practices in their new monastery as feasible. Once the Sisters move into their new location, Tubman Family Alliance will move their operations from the east Metro to the current monastery.

On December 1, 2007, we celebrated "Christmas at the Monastery." As guests mingled throughout the evening they were amazed at the connectivity among Tubman, Common Bond, and the Sisters. We are truly pencils in God's hands developing a unique community at the corner of Larpenteur and Century in Maplewood. 📖

MARY WHITE, O.S.B.

In future issues, mission sisters will be featured.

The Benedictine life has helped me realize a dream I've had since childhood. That is, to help enhance the lives of children. Children in families with opportunities for economic stability, raised in communities of faith, by emotionally stable adults, have the best chance of a full life. So I seek ways to address economic poverty, as well as that of the mind and the spirit.

Licensed by the state as a mental health provider, I meet with people individually. Some seek spiritual guidance in addition to the psychological. In spite of a deep, sometimes cloaked, hunger for God, many have struggles with religion and church. Some carry ideas about God that must be examined and sometimes "unlearned." It's joyfully humbling to accompany persons in such a sacred part of life.

In addition, as a teacher of adult spirituality through retreats, lectures and a meditation class I teach at St. Mary's University in Minneapolis, I witness peoples' awakening to the best they can be. I enjoy exposing people to ways of praying which best suits their needs, their personality and their culture. Many are surprised to discover that contemplative prayer isn't just for monks, but for everyone. These, and other forms of prayer, such as sacred imaging are powerful means toward healing and wholeness.

Many people I work with lack financial or physical means. I know that the poor are especially precious to God, and that each of us experiences some form of material or spiritual poverty. In gratitude to generous volunteers and donors, I can serve those who can't pay, such as prisoners, the elderly, the underemployed, the chemically addicted, the sick and those on the fringes of society and church. Many find God through their suffering; and I gain personally from this. We all give; we all receive.

I'm so grateful to be a part of God's work in these ways. The Monastery's Justice and Peace Committee welcome any inquiries about how each of you might participate in this work. 🏠

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S. Mary White, OSB.

THANKS TO RADAR

in the Bering Sea near the Aleutian Islands in the summer of 2006, indications were present for a possible sunken sub but it was too cold for accuracy. In the summer of 2007, it was confirmed the USS Grunion with 70 crew members aboard had been sunk there by a Japanese submarine in 1942. S. Faye Buck of St. Paul's Monastery learned of her brother Carmine Parziale's fate on this sub in the summer of 2007. Men who conducted this study were the three sons of the captain of the Grunion, Lt. Cmdr. Mannert Abele.

In October of 1942, the Navy contacted Louise Scott (S. Faye's mother) saying the sub was presumed lost because of no contact. All the family ever knew was Carmine was lost – so the captain's sons sought the sub. The mother never gave up hope for her son's recovery. He was the 7th in a family of fourteen.

S. Faye Buck is holding Carmine's photo taken at age 21 and a vial of water from the Bering Sea. He loved his sub, the USS Barracuda was his first assignment, then serving a year on the Grunion. He was where he wanted to be. Carmine was a trumpet player in a small town band in Weedville, PA, a fun loving fellow who would often tug at his mother for a dance with him around the kitchen. S. Faye spoke of her brother fondly, his pleasant disposition affecting those he knew. So, at last, closure has come to this generous and hope-filled family. 🏠



S. Faye Buck happily remembers her brother.

STUDYING FOR SOUL'S SAKE

Vic Klimoski

Sometimes people reduce spirituality to piety, devotions, or techniques. These three practices certainly have a place in one's spiritual life, but they are incomplete without study. Saint Benedict's inclusion of reading as a necessary part of discipleship in the rhythm of monastic life signals the importance he attached to expanding and deepening one's understanding of the mystery of God. At the heart of all Benedictine Center programming is that same conviction: spirituality – the life of the soul – builds upon intentional efforts to learn. This pursuit of wisdom that is a mark of St. Paul's Monastery extends the ministry of the community to be a place where one can truly “study for soul's sake.”

Concretely, this occurs in a variety of ways in response to different learning styles, spiritual temperaments, stages of life, and availability of time. In the coming months, for instance, we continue our introductions to core spiritual practices – *lectio divina*, centering prayer, spiritual direction, and other resources. Our series of lectures and workshops are more formal periods of study as we invite people to delve into the Passion and Resurrection narratives found in St. Matthew's Gospel, explore the Benedictine vision of social justice, gain insight into the relationship between globalization and the liturgy, between being a disciple of Christ and a good citizen, and between freedom and authority.

While retreats and days of reflection are not traditionally thought of as study, they are occasions for gaining a new perspective on one's efforts to live a balanced life in Christ. The *Meaning In Life* retreats take on important questions related to forgiveness, life transitions, and finding the sacred in the ordinary. Other retreats focus on the Paschal Mystery, the Celtic spirit in creation, the two-fold nature of Christ, and the vocation of teaching.

We continue to offer opportunities to experience how art and artistic expression teach us about God – whether that is with clay, weaving, watercolor, poetry, or film. We examine how the change in seasons or our five senses or even preparing our spring gardens can call us to contemplate the mystery of God in fresh ways.

One of the highlights in the coming months is the weeklong residency in May of Novene Vest, a nationally recognized scholar of Benedictine spirituality. In the course of a weekend retreat, public lecture, and daylong workshop, Ms. Vest shows how the ancient wisdom of the Rule of St. Benedict has dramatic, insightful relevance for contemporary life.

To learn about all the exciting opportunities at the Center in the months ahead, call for a brochure (651-777-7251) or click on to www.stpaulsmonastery.org. 

Belonging

Sister Marie Fujan, OSB

Today I wandered around the monastery asking sisters and employees: “What is one word that comes to your mind when you think of this Benedictine Community?” For all but one, the word came out quickly, knowing that the word could be different tomorrow. Several times the conversation continued beyond the one word. Now...how to bring the words together to make some kind of sense?

*The first word was **sacrifice**, for our life is linked to the sacrifice of Christ. **Peace** was the word for three and another's first word was **serenity** – it's always my first word, said he. Another first word was **hospitality** – receiving all as Christ – doing our part to serve with **heart**. The grounding for it all is **prayer** – the **opportunities** are always there. Many words, many people, yet a **unity**. Another word of the moment was **tired** – then recalling the words of St. Paul: never grow tired of doing good. So for one and all: **Come and See!***

So, dear readers, what is your word? Perhaps you too need to Come and See. Are you searching for a place where you can give your heart? Come and See! In a reflection for January 1, someone was quoting a message from God: “Give me half your heart and I'll show you half of my power; give me all of your heart and I'll change your life.”...Call me with your word at 651-402-5845. 

MINISTRY TO MINISTERS

Victor Klimoski

Each day literally hundreds of women and men “go to work” in one of the twin cities parishes. Most of them are highly skilled, built on years of study and experience. All are deeply dedicated. Many are over-worked and modestly paid.

iLLUMINARE was created in 2002 to provide rest, renewal and rejuvenation to lay ecclesial ministers serving the church. Here's how it's sustained the work of four participants:

Mary Boespflug

Director of Children/Family Ministry,
St. Edwards's, Bloomington

“iLLUMINARE calls you away from chaos. It's a time to share my ideas and struggles with others and to come away feeling empowered and refreshed. These retreats introduce me to new techniques and resources and remind me that I have unique gifts to share with my community.”

Roxanne Smith

Social Justice Director,
St. Joseph the Worker, Maple Grove

“I feel supported in the small group format, and also by the larger monastic community around us. It's a wonderful opportunity to step back and be reflective. I'm always amazed at how relevant the topics are and how they help me learn and grow.”

Chris Sorensen

Pastoral Minister, Divine Mercy
Catholic Church, Faribault

“I know my limitations and know how to take good care of myself. When I know a Renewal day is coming up, I get excited. I know I will be spiritually fed and will have time to reflect on where I am with myself and with God.”

Marge Virnig

Pastoral Minister, St. Cecelia's, St. Paul

“It's a huge piece that helps relieve stress. It offers time to step away, to take a day off to pray, to regroup and to get rejuvenated. These are my “me” times.”

These unselfish individuals are lay ecclesial ministers who respond to their baptismal call by helping build and sustain communities of faith. Working side-by-side with pastors, they design and direct programs for faith formation, social justice, family ministry, youth ministry, liturgy and other church activities that deepen worship and build community.

One recent study said there are 30,000 ecclesial ministers serving parishes throughout the country. That same study also emphasized the need to pay more attention to these professional ministers who focus their talent, energy, and creativity on serving God's people.

For their part, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery responded through the Benedictine Center as it created iLLUMINARE, a program offering renewal and on-going formation to dozens of ecclesial ministers each year (see Box Story). Because of its success, the Benedictine Center expanded its “ministry to ministers” outreach this year by introducing a new series called *Practicing Ministry*.

Vic Klimoski, director of the Benedictine Center, said that ministry to ministry seeks to provide a variety of ways to nurture pastoral ministers and deepen the quality of their pastoral service. “I participated in key conversations convened by the Lilly Endowment of representatives from the 68 projects funded to sustain pastoral excellence,” he says. “The feedback was enlightening. Across projects and across denominations the message was the same: too many pastoral ministers are burned out, overstretched, lonely and alienated from their sense of vocation.

“The case for on-going formation and professional development in ministry is rock solid, but the decline in resources, the cutting back on staffs, and increasing workloads all conspire to shove on-going formation to the backburner.

“What's impressive about the pastoral ministers I meet here and through my work at St. John's School of Theology,” he notes, “is their commitment to the work. Normally, when you get a group of workers together, they start to gripe about their jobs. When we have gathered pastoral ministers for iLLUMINARE, the Ministry Colloquium, or other formational opportunities, however, the positive energy in the room is striking. They don't come to complain but to reclaim the fundamental commitments that brought them to ministry.”

Ministry to ministers will continue to change and evolve based on feedback from the people it serves. But what the Sisters offer pastoral ministers, Klimoski says, will remain the same: the warmth and welcome of a holy place where they can rest in prayer, find spiritual direction, or meet with others to reflect on God's action in the world and in their lives.

“We can't change their job description,” says Klimoski, “nor can we ease their day-to-day burdens. But we can help them draw deeply upon their vocational call that's rooted in baptism and confirmed again and again in the ways they deeply touch the lives of others.” 

BONDS UNBROKEN

The friends of our youth sometimes last a very long time even into the winter of our lives. Granted, winters are longer for some, too short for those we have loved. What we looked for in friends when we were young remains the same as we age, only “the wrinkles of time” change our appearances but not those initial reasons for choosing a friend.

This became clear September 16th when our former members came back for a day of prayer and visiting with plans for the new monastery being revealed.

The greatest revelation to the aging heart, however, was realizing the choices of time had not changed. Those dear friends of long ago have remained in our hearts and our choices back then in friendship have proven true today. What a boon to the aging heart—when we were right in our choices of long ago. Friendship did not have to be tested because it was so very right from its beginning. We are grateful to all those who appeared again in our lives that gifted September day which was almost perfect and to those who were unable to come, we missed your presence. 🍷



Christine Campion, S. Rose Alice Althoff,
S. Mary White, Charlotte Campion



Ann Gaul, formerly
S. Richard



Phyllis Blaeser, Isabelle Phillips, S. Benita Gerold



Elaine Feist, formerly
S. Boniface



Three classmates - Mary Jean Loomis,
S. Margaret Kramer, Pat Ryan



Louise Inhofer, Marcy Sweger Casper,
Mary Jane Wagemaker

from the LIBRARY ALCOVE

Carole Sweely, OSB.

the Christmas Star in ordinary time

Everyone knows about the Christmas star and how it led the Wise Men to the Savior when He was born. Not everyone knows about its history once it performed its most important duty thousands of years ago. After the Wise Men had returned safely to their homes in distant lands with the star ever watching over their safety, that star took a vacation after its fidelity towards the Christ Child. While on vacation, stars simply travel to other areas meeting old and new star friends along the way. There is no time for stars so the vacation was timeless but eventually the star realized it should appear back on duty in the heavens and besides, it had missed some of its close shining friends. Stars are very steadfast in friendship once they realize others' brightness. If too dull, some stars cannot be seen let alone valued.

Once it appears among friends, the star resumed its duty which was to shine brightly and be steadfast in service. Stars have some hidden qualities which are hard to see because of their brightness. One of the Star's major qualities was constancy, another, faithful friendship once the glimmering appeared from one to the other. The bright star had been shining for so many hundreds of years that it yearned for companionship even though it had other stars to count on, those who had stayed close by, not distant as many others.

The Star with its sacred history wished for a human companion so on occasion would shine brightly upon specific areas in North America, especially Minnesota and the Twin Cities. Sometimes, in its search, it would seek the country in southwestern Minnesota but could easily detour going to the northern part of the state as well, especially Duluth because of its scenery, particularly the water as it could see its reflection which it rarely had a chance to do. Getting close to these areas was a real challenge since the Star's brightness was so obvious and people who gazed upon the sky could not help but notice the presence of something so unusual.

It was not as easy as the Star presumed to find that human companion it yearned for so it waited a star's time hovering over Minnesota with great brightness, searching with longing. The Star was very particular about its companion-to-be since his history of guidance for the Savior and Wise Men but he kept seeking that which might make his starry heart a happy one. His brightness did not dim during his search, so many Minnesotans believed they were among the blessed as their state remained a beacon for many years. The weather anchors had a very challenging time predicting since on occasion they mistook the Star for the sun because of its bright proximity. Rarely did drivers in that state become lost since the Star was always there to guide them which was his great love. Even for a Star, it may be difficult to satisfy the hungry heart when one has already received the best so early in one's starry life. 🌟

A GATHERING FOR THE 150TH

To honor the sisters from St. Benedict's on their 150th Jubilee anniversary, St. Paul's Monastery, one of their daughterhouses established in 1948 at 301 Summit Avenue, the sisters at 2675 hosted a gathering for their Stearns county sisters on October 8, 2007. The celebration began with reception greetings, followed with a dinner, program, visiting and tours. The program began with S. Carol Rennie welcoming all, S. Rose Alice Althoff presenting the charter members, (those who came to St. Paul in 1948), S. Susan Bourauel introducing the prioresses who were present, S. Carol mentioning names of those sisters who have served as consultants and community resources. The charter members then introduced their classmates as individual classes sat together during the dinner. The program ended with a power point presentation by S. Eleanor Wartman which included a preview of present plans for the new monastery. After the program, a reception was held in the community room with departure after 4 p.m. evening praise. This was a day of many smiles and happy hearts for renewing friendships of years past, those that often sneak into our hearts unknowingly and stay there waiting to make their presence known when the right occasion pushes them forth for recognition once again. Our hearts were full.



The class of 1944 together again.



Sisters Kathleen Kalinowski, Ellen Catone, Marie Fujan



The Miesville Three - S. Nancy Bauer, S. Sharon Schiller, S. Monica Raway



A joyful time amid friends.

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Ministering Spirits

*Never go anywhere without the angels
who watch God's face and listen to be sought.
Greater than you, yet they have joy to serve you.
Never go blundering through the jungle, thought,
without a clear-eyed one to part the branches,
shout snake or swamp-hole, cry a rock beware.
The angels of the Lord encamp around you
in any place you pitch your tents for prayer.*

*Know that your soul takes radiance from the angels.
She glories in these creatures of her kind
and sees herself thus lightsome, free as wind.
She stands abashed when the flesh rudely brings
its homage to these pure intelligences
and tries to crowd their beauty into bodies
and weight their grace with gravity of wings.*

Jessica Powers

*"Stars are beautiful, but they may not take an active part
in anything, they must just look on forever. It is a
punishment put on them for something they did so long ago that
no star now knows what it was. So the older ones have become
glassy-eyed and seldom speak (winking is the star language),
but the little ones still wonder."*

PETER PAN