



# The Benedictine Community of St. Paul's Monastery

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Monastic Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Reader,

Pope Francis decreed that the Holy Year of Mercy (Jubilee) would begin on December 8, 2015, with the opening of the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. Peter at the Vatican. Local area doors would also be opened to offer grace-filled moments as we discover our path of conversion. Here at St. Paul's Monastery, we have our Monastic Door of Mercy. As we began our New Year of 2016, each Community member reflected on what she needed to do to be open to God's mercy. This openness is the call we have all received from Pope Francis. You are invited to walk through our Monastic Door of Mercy to become open to God's Mercy in your life.



"The Jubilee celebrates a mercy that never tires. It is a mercy that always looks for new ways and new signs to manifest itself and goes in search of those who think they do not need it or are not worthy of it. We are servants of a God who is at work to restore dignity to those who have lost it, to help those in need, to make us capable of loving and healing the broken and hardened hearts." *from the Pontifical Council Cor Unum - Jubilee of Mercy*

We continue to seek God's mercy and invite you to grow in God's compassion and love.



## **Community Members participated in Mass marking the Close of the Year of Consecrated Life and the Annual World Day for Consecrated Life.**

On Sunday, January 30th, seven members from our Community joined about 200 religious brother, sisters, consecrated priests, consecrated virgins, members of secular institutes and others to celebrate the Mass closing the Year of Consecrated Life. Following the Mass, Sister Rosella Schommer and Sister Linda Soler were among the honored jubilarians.

The Community will celebrate this year's jubilarians, Sister Rosella Schommer (70 years), Sister Carol Rennie (60 years), Sister Margaret Kramer (60 years), Sister Mary White (50 years), and Sister Linda Soler (25 years) later this spring.

## Opening of the Juried Art Exhibit: Seeing God

Artists, patrons, friends and Sisters gathered on Jan. 27 to open the fifth annual Seeing God: Juried Exhibit of Sacred Art at St. Paul's Monastery Gallery. The exhibit features the work of forty talented artists. This exhibit follows in the footsteps of Nick and Heille, who founded and led the Northeast Minneapolis Spiritual Art Show for eleven years. The work of these artists has a home at St. Paul's Monastery because Benedictines have always prized the way God speaks through artists.



First Place: Robin Sand-Anderson

Second Place: Rita Corrigan (picture above)

Third Place: Barbara Bend

Merit Award: Fred Somers

Honorable Mentions: Lucy Brusica, Sister Jackie Leiter, OSB, and Beth Andrews

We are grateful to the artists for the time they have invested in developing their practice and in choosing to submit a piece to this exhibit. This exhibit and experiences like these are made possible by donations. Please consider making a gift to support this important work. *Sam Rahberg*

*Come and visit the exhibit - opened daily 9 am - 6 pm.*

*Exhibit closes March 4, 2016.*



### Discernment Retreat - Open Door III

On the weekend of January 29-30, Linda Anderson, Vocation Director, with representatives from five other religious organizations co-facilitated a discernment retreat for anyone who is discerning God's will for their lives. Eight men and women participated. They experienced a variety of prayer practices, including Taize prayer, lectio divina, soul prayer collage and Mass. They also heard presentations on the foundational voices of the different religious communities' charisms.

[For more information about other discernment events.](#)



### Sister Mary White works with Visitation School Staff in preparation for Anti-Trafficking Training.

As a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Anti Human Trafficking Working Group (AHTWG), Sister Mary White, OSB, has met with staff members of Visitation School (pictured) to introduce a prevention training program for their students. Part of the mission of the Working Group is to provide opportunities for education and public awareness and Sister Mary is one of the Anti Trafficking Educators. The Working group provides the materials for groups that are interested in learning more about this growing problem.

Sister Mary also showed the DVD to a group of Sisters at the Monastery to deepen the community's awareness of this social justice issue.

(Pictured above: Mary Pat Ferraro, Anne Williman, Sister Mary White, and Ann Feitl)



### **Four Young Women from China are hosted by the Sisters.**

On Saturday January 16, the Hill-Murray community welcomed 18 students and six chaperones from China. The group shadowed current H-M students and teachers for 10 days.

Besides immersing themselves in the H-M culture, they went on several outings, such as touring the Cathedral, ice skating in Rice Park, visiting the University of St. Thomas, attending a variety of H-M athletic events and experiencing the Mall of America.

Four women chaperones (pictured above) stayed at the Monastery. They shared meals and exchanged stories with the Sisters. The Sisters blessed the women the evening before their departure and hugs and smiles were exchanged in the morning as they left to start their journey home. Pictures may be viewed on our [Facebook page](#) and [Website](#).

### **Upcoming Monastery Events**

1. **(BC) Embracing the Holy Time of Lent** -Sun., Feb. 7, 4-6 pm
2. **(BC) Great Conversation: The Spirituality of Sustainability** -Thurs., Feb. 11, 9 am-1 pm
3. **Ash Wednesday**, Feb. 10 - Mass - 11:30 am
4. **Feast of St. Scholastica** - Thurs, Feb. 11 - Mass- 11:30 am (followed by Festive Meal) - (Please RSVP to 651- 777-8181)
5. **(BC) Living Life Wide Awake** - Sat., Feb. 13, 9 am-3 pm
6. **(BC) Shape of the Divine: Retreat with Clay** - Sun., Feb. 14, 1 pm thru Mon., Feb. 15, 1 pm
7. **(BC) School of Lectio Divina** - Fri., Feb. 19, 1 pm thru Wed., Feb. 24, 1 pm
8. **(BC) Tending the Artist's Heart** - Sat., Feb. 27, 9 am -1 pm
9. **Prioress Dinner** - Thurs, Apr 7 - 5:30 - 8:30 pm (Invitations coming in March.)

(BC - Benedictine Center Events - go to [Monastery website](#) or call 651-777-7251)

As we continue to live the Year of Mercy and approach the Season of Lent, let us bring the words from Pope Francis's message into our lives and then provide witness through our actions.

"The season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favorable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God's word and by practicing the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy - counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer - we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need"

*"So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." James 2:17*

### **Contact Information**



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Please join us in praying for [Vocations](#) to serve God's people.