



## Development Office has new director

Sister Carol Rennie, Prioress, recently appointed Sister Lucia Schwickerath to the position of Development Director for St. Paul's Monastery. S. Carol and the community were pleased and grateful that S. Lucia accepted this new role. These are challenging times for the Church and for the monastery. "Having S. Lucia in this role will allow us to seek the needed resources to continue and expand our ministries," S. Carol said.

The role of Development Director is no easy task, but S. Lucia has accepted the challenge with an eager heart. Her heritage as a farmer's daughter and her experience with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, DC, have set the stage for her life of dedication and service as a Benedictine.

S. Lucia has taught in St. Boniface School, Hastings, Visitation School, Minneapolis, and has been in full-time parish ministry at St. Peter's Parish, North St. Paul. At the monastery, she has served as Director of Novices, Musician and Liturgist.



Lucia Schwickerath, OSB

S. Lucia brings to her new role as Director of Development a determination to do all she can to advance the mission of the Sisters and to seek out those who have been blessed by God to support the Sisters and their many ministries.

S. Lucia has already begun her work in development and welcomes calls at the monastery.

*Some development challenges which lie ahead for S. Lucia and the community:*

**To continue to advance the mission of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery;**

**To sustain our present ministries of service to others;**

**To assist in supporting the needs of our older Sisters who have now embraced prayer as their full-time ministry;**

**To support new ministries of service;**

**To engage others in the ministries of the Sisters;**

**To ask for financial support for those we serve.**

### Sponsored ministries of St. Paul's Monastery

#### **Benedictine Center**

The Center provides educational, spiritual direction, and retreat opportunities for women and men seeking a more genuine experience of religious faith.

#### **Maple Tree Childcare Center**

A very special place where children (infants through pre-school) are sheltered and nourished with love and learning.

#### **Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS)**

A parish-based outreach ministry for mothers who want to develop and pass their faith and Christian traditions on to the next generation.

#### **Hill-Murray School**

The mission of Hill-Murray is to provide excellent Catholic middle and secondary programs for students of all faiths and races.

# Reflections along the way

Carol Rennie, OSB, Prioress

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 tables.  
Even thinking of 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 shall be with each and all of you.  
(Wisdom 6:12-17)

**W**hat is our faith in the future? We have faith in our future because we know it is a path we are able to discern if we are attentive. As a community, we are looking thoughtfully at what we know about our demographics, and we are in a process that helps consider what we want to do.

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We are confident that we have taken the words from Wisdom seriously and are able to enter into dialogue with each other, claiming each conversation as a mutual blessing. We are women of hope as we consider ways our future may be shaped. We are blessed with many colleagues who support and help us make choices about our future.

We are grateful for the call to consider new ways of living out our Benedictine values without undue attachment to the "way we've always done things."

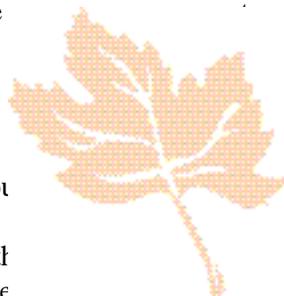
A newly formed Implementation Committee (see page 4) includes members from our lay friends, men and women, in assisting us in affirming the fact that the future will not change until we thoughtfully look at our present. They are empowering us to be confident in our human capacity to think and reflect together, to care

about one another, and to act courageously as we seek to live the Gospel.

In the last issue of *Passages*, I stated that collaboration has always been a hallmark of Benedictines. As we cherish leadership among our friends, so we also cherish the leadership of every sister in this community. I am specifically grateful to the administrative team who assist with the daily rhythm of life at the

(photo below).

The tradition of Benedict lives on, and we embrace it as the call to live lives of fidelity to the Gospel. We are tilters no longer.



Administrative team: Front (l-r) Subprioress S. Catherine Schoenecker, Prioress S. Carol Rennie; Back (l-r) Supervision of lay employees, maintenance of buildings and grounds S. Joan Schneider, Finance Consultant Ms. Jean Hartman, Secretary S. Carole Sweely, Treasurer S. Mary Courteau

## Co-Directors named to minister to Oblate community



Linda Manders (standing) and  
Jacquelyn Bush

**L**inda Manders and Jacquelyn Bush, Oblates, have been appointed Co-Directors for our Oblate program. S. Eleanor Wartman will serve as the liaison to the monastic community. Linda and Jaci are well qualified to assume this role and are supported by the sisters of St. Paul's Monastery as well as by the Oblate advisory committee.

Members of this committee are: Oblates Susan Buelow, Jacquelyn Bush, Linda Manders, Anne McManus, Kathleen Weston, Robyn Westrem and Linda Wilcox.

Also on the committee are Sisters Mary Claire Inhofer, Jacqueline Leiter, and Eleanor Wartman from the monastic community.

## iLLUMINARE, continues to grow

**iLLUMINARE** Cohorts III and IV began in the spring of 2004 and Cohort V met for its first session at the beginning of August. Members of the new cohorts include pastoral associates and parish life coordinators, liturgists and musicians, pastoral ministers and catchetrical leaders, campus ministers, chaplains and youth ministers, business administrators from Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Iowa. Here is what two participants from Cohorts I and II are saying about their experience in iLLUMINARE:

“Participating in the iLLUMINARE opportunity has been the most wonderful blessing in my entire ministry. Through this experience, I have gained insights about myself, about God’s call to ministry, and about ministry itself. I’m feeling filled up and nourished by the care,

the interaction, the environments, the unique ways of showing that what I do is important, not only to me but to the many others my life touches. . . my personal life, my professional life, and especially my spiritual life have all been enriched. I wish the words ‘thank you’ held as much meaning as my feeling for them.”

“iLLUMINARE has helped me to realize that I am not in this alone. I am doing God’s work with His help. I have learned to be more accepting of others and of myself. I cannot do it all and if I try, I am denying others the opportunity to use their gifts. iLLUMINARE has made me see the importance of taking time to make time for what is important, especially prayer—my lifeline.”

**Jacquelyne Witter, Ed.D.**  
**Director**  
**iLLUMINARE**

## Behind the scenes facts, figures

- At present we are 64 sisters, 62 in final profession, two in first profession, two affiliates.
- 157 sisters have died since our community was founded in 1948 from St. Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph, MN.
- Our median age is 74.9.
- 23 sisters are earning salaries.
- We have 127 Oblates and 50 volunteers.
- We employ 41 lay women and men and utilize two lay consultants.
- The ministries in which we are currently involved:

*Education*

*Religious education*

*Liturgy*

*Pastoral ministry*

*Retreat ministry*

*Ministry to children*

*Administration*

*Library services*

*Subsidiary services*

## Opportunities for service and community living



The sisters of the monastery invite interested women to enter our world of prayer, service, and communal living as a volunteer-live-in.

As a volunteer here, you will join the sisters in their daily life of work and prayer. You will volunteer your gifts with us during your stay. This stay may be as brief as a month or as long as a year.

While living at the monastery, you will be invited to join the community in:

- The monastic rhythm of prayer, work, leisure.
- The Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist.
- The opportunity to deepen your spiritual life.
- The daily companionship of sisters and the other volunteer-live-ins.

This program is an opportunity for women who have no dependents and who wish to experience monastic life and ministry. Volunteers will receive room and board at the monastery but not health or dental benefits.

We hope this interests you. If so, please call Virginia Matter, OSB, at 651-777-7251.

## Community Planning: 2004

Strategic planning activities at St. Paul's Monastery are continuing this year through the work of the recently established Implementation Committee.

The committee is chaired by S. Eleanor Wartman and includes the following members: Sisters Carol Rennie, Sarah Voss, Lucia Schwickerath, and Colleen Haggerty (from St. Benedict's Monastery), Ms. Jean Hartman, Mr. Thomas Holloran, Ms. Mary

DesRoches, Mr. Dick Lidstad, Mr. Brad Wood and Mr. Charlie Keffer. There are other resource persons who have been identified and will be called upon for their expertise.

The charge to the committee is to assist the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery in their strategic planning for the re-use of the monastery building and land while promoting the community's mission and vision. The Implementation Committee is reviewing earlier work of the

monastic steering committee and the potential development plan that was presented to that group. Potential partners include St. Therese Home, CommonBond Communities, Tubman Family Alliance and Hill Murray School.

The Implementation Committee has met every two weeks since its initial organizational meeting on July 8. Meetings to date have provided background on the various potential partners with their development proposals and information regarding the demographics and finances of the monastery.

Members of the monastic community attend the meetings at which the potential partners present their plans to the committee. Minutes of all committee meetings are made available to the sisters. Dialogue sessions within the monastery are ongoing to discuss community living, mission, and stewardship issues related to the proposals and to the future of the monastic community.

**Charlie Keffer**  
**Secretary, Implementation**  
**Committee**

### Passages gets a new look!

Because of budgetary considerations, we have changed *Passages* to a 2-color format. We hope you will continue to enjoy this publication and to appreciate our efforts to conserve costs.

**Pat Collins, OSB**

### Please help us keep our mailing list current

If you have moved, let us know your new address. If you are getting two copies, please send both labels, indicating the correct one. You may call our reception at desk 651-777-8181 or the Development Office or fax us at 651-777-4442.

Thank you.

## Jean Hartman begins as finance consultant



**J**ean Hartman joined the monastery business staff this summer after serving on the community

Finance Committee for two years.

A native of Holdingford, MN, Jean's college preparation was at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, where she earned degrees in accounting and business administration. She is also a CPA and an MBA.

Jean worked as controller for different companies, including the Carlson Companies, before she began teaching, first at Hennepin Technical College and then at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

Her husband Jim is the president of a small medical device manufacturing company. Jean and Jim have five grown children and two grandchildren, Charlie and Maggie.

Jeanne also works with the Pillsbury United Communities and is active at St. Joan of Arc, her parish.

## S. Victoria joins her S. Loarn in the Kingdom

**S**ister Victoria (Margaret) Brey died in the early hours of July 16, 2004, in the monastery's health care center following a frontal stroke. She was 86 years old having lived her monastic profession for 66 years.

Born to Ludwig and Frances (Muehlbauer) Brey in Lucan, MN, Sister Victoria was the 9th child in a farming family of 12. Receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation at Our Lady of Victory Church in Lucan, her faith was so enriched she entered the scholasticate in 1935 at St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN, making final vows in 1941.

Her ministry in domestic service began at St. John's Convent, St. Cloud, in 1938, a ministry that continued until she retired in 1990.

In her ministry she served at St. Anne's, Minneapolis, Assumption, Richfield, St. Patrick's, Eau Claire, St. Hubert's, Chanhassen, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale,



St. Joseph's Home for Children, in both St. Paul and Minneapolis, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Paul, the Archbishop's residence, St. Paul, St. Victoria's, Victoria, St. Andrew's, Fairfax, St. Mary's Hospital and Home, Winsted, Maryhill Retreat House, St. Paul, and as an aide in health care at the Priory.

Taking great pride in serving sisters and guests, S. Victoria worked hard during her many years of domestic service and childcare and did so with a touch of humor close by. She once was a tall woman, erect, walking with vigor, with snappy brown eyes ready for any quip tossed her way. Having celebrated her golden jubilee in 1988 and her diamond in 1998, her life at the monastery was busy making towels and working on baptismal gowns and other items for the Cloister Shop. May she rest with those she loves.

**Carole Sweely, OSB**

## Benedictine Awards presented at SBHS, HMS

**T**he Benedictine Award is presented at commencement each spring at both St. Bernard's High School, St. Paul, and Hill-Murray School, Maplewood. The award recognizes an outstanding student whom the faculty feels has demonstrated Gospel values as underlined in the Rule of St. Benedict.

At St. Bernard's, the honor was given to **Stefani Salute**, daughter of Linda and Stephano Salute. Stephanie is attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The honor at Hill-Murray went to **Helen Buron**, daughter of Colleen Buron. Helen is attending the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul.



*Salute*



*Buron*

## Sister Berthel celebrates 90th birthday, *still loving life, music*

**N**ot many musicians are able to trace their professional lineage as far back as Franz Liszt. S. Berthel Duepner can do just that. Her family talent tree reads like this: At St. Benedict's Convent,

St. Joseph, MN, S. Berthel studied with S. Anastasia who studied with Madame Apfelbeck at MacPhail School of Music. Madame Apfelbeck had studied with Theodore Leschetizky who studied with none other than the great Franz Liszt.

S. Berthel, born in 1914 in St. Louis, MO, sometimes jokes that "all the girls in my family went to the convent." Then with a sly smile, she adds that she had no sisters, but had two older and two younger brothers. When she was a baby, her family re-located from Missouri to Minnesota and settled in Robbinsdale.

After making her monastic profession at St. Benedict's Convent, S. Berthel graduated from MacPhail College of Music with a degree in violin. She then taught for ten years before going to the University of Minnesota to pursue a master's degree in piano. "After studying with Dr. Earl Rymer at the University, I finally went back to playing the piano which was always and still is my first love."

Her musical talent touched the lives of countless children and adults



in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and schools in Minnesota at Richfield, Minneapolis and St. Paul.



One of the continuing joys of S. Berthel's life is giving piano recitals in various places: Sun City West, AZ, St. Paul's Monastery and at numerous



senior citizens groups. Franz Liszt lives on in the musical gifts of one of Sister Anastasia's music pupils who started so long ago in a small practice room at St. Benedict's.

S. Berthel has many happy memories, but one is special. She remembers lessons when S. Anastasia would say of Madame Apfelbeck, "The Madame wanted us to play like this." And so S. Berthel "played like this." How many have benefited from that advice?

S. Berthel says that in 1972, she "shifted gears" and took up residence at St. Augustine's Parish in South

St. Paul with S. Bernadine Frischmon and began a second career in religious education where she was Coordinator of Religion.

Now that she considers herself "semi-retired," S. Berthel leads group discussions on various topics. Currently she is studying the Book of Exodus with three classes of adults.

From the early 1970s to 2000, she and S. Bernadine taught summer religion classes at the Native American reservation in Ball Club. Lest anyone think this might have been too difficult an assignment at

her age, let them consider that the Sisters lived in a lakeside cabin and took part in many an enjoyable local activity in the north country. And they did teach religion, too.

S. Berthel has coordinated many pilgrimage trips to Fatima and has been there 17 times. On these trips, she and S. Bernadine have guided others on small side trips to the Holy Land, Spain, Rome and Lourdes.

S. Berthel enjoys the exciting diversity of her life and continues to be in love with music in all forms. She says smiling, "I am so happy at 90 years, very blessed and still going."



**S. Berthel will give a piano and organ recital at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 10 in the monastery chapel.**

*All are welcome.*

## Monastery architecture featured in Pioneer Press



“Among the great works of modern architecture in the Twin Cities, the least well known to the general public may well be the remarkable complex of buildings in Maplewood known as St. Paul’s Monastery”

With these words, Larry Millett, retired St. Paul Pioneer Press architectural critic, begins his Sept. 5, 2004, newspaper article with the heading “Concrete Masterpiece.” Extraordinary photos by Pioneer Press photographer Joe Oden accompany the text. Millett expresses admiration for Val Michelson, the architect engaged by the community in the early 1960s to design their new monastery. “In Michelson’s hands, concrete is the stuff of architectural magic,” says Millette. Valerius Michelson, born in Russia, now 88, lives with his family in St. Paul.

The monastic community living in this “concrete masterpiece” is daily grateful to Val Michelson and to the McGough Construction Company who made those dreams a reality in Maplewood.



## Victor Klimoski to direct Benedictine Center

Victor Klimoski joined

the Benedictine Center staff on July 1 as director. In a unique arrangement with St. John’s School of Theology, he will continue as director of lifelong learning there.

“The two positions share a common focus,” he said, “Both are concerned with lifelong learning and formation. Our partnership with the Center for the past five years suggested that this melded position might be the next logical step in that relationship. In some ways it is an experiment, but one that accents the best of traditions of service integral to the Center and to the School of Theology.”

Victor has been in his position at St. John’s for the past five years, exploring a variety of ways in which the school might support on-going formation among church ministers. Most recently, he has been working with the faculty to implement three resource programs under the title of *Conversatio*. These include a retreat program, a model of peer learning for parish teams, and a grant program to support minister-designed continuing education.

In addition, the School continues offering workshops and conferences focused on a variety of theological and pastoral issues. This fall, for instance, the Center will host a four part series called *Theologians on America’s Common Ground*.

Prior to taking the position at St. John’s, Victor served as academic dean for seventeen years at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Theology at the University of St. Thomas. He holds a doctorate in

adult education from the University of Minnesota and master’s degrees from St. John’s (theology) and Saint Cloud State University (special studies in adult learning).

He completed a post-doctoral program at the University of Georgia on leadership in adult education and is completing a certificate in distance learning at the University of Wisconsin.

Victor also works as a consultant on issues in teaching and learning and outcomes assessment with theological schools and seminaries around the country. For the past twelve years he has been a trainer in the Blandin Foundation’s Community Leadership Program designed primarily for people in Minnesota’s rural areas and small towns seeking to make a difference.

Victor teaches as an adjunct instructor in the Murray Institute at the University of St. Thomas and Capella University, an on-line institution based in Minneapolis. Among his publications is a forthcoming book on theological education written with Katarina Schuth OFM and Kevin O’Neil CSSR.

This fall Victor’s essay on the formation of seminary faculty will appear in *Practical Wisdom: Theological Education for the Church*, edited by Mac Warford.

Victor works at being a poet and self-publishes a collection of poems every two years for friends.

Married to Kathy Murphy for nearly 34 years, Victor and Kathy live in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul. They have two adult children, Anna (married to Paul Gorton) and Sam.



*Passages*

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### **Invitation to Worship**

#### **Sunday**

Morning Praise 10:00 a.m.

Eucharist 11:00 a.m.

Evening Praise 5:00 p.m.

#### **Monday — Friday**

Morning Praise 7:30 a.m.

Noon Praise 11:45 a.m.

Eucharist 5:00 p.m.

Evening Praise 6:40 p.m.

#### **Saturday**

Morning Praise 8:30 a.m.

Noon Praise 11:45 a.m.

Vigil of Sunday 4:45 p.m.

## PRIORY NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVE

The Priory Neighborhood Preserve is a 46-acre natural area at the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Century Avenues.

It is one of Maplewood's most pristine natural areas. Neighbors and visitors come to the preserve to enjoy oak woodlands, prairie remnants, grasslands and numerous wetlands.

As part of Maplewood's Neighborhood Preserve system, the Preserve is open to activities such as hiking, bird watching, and nature study. This is a wonderful asset to our many guests.