

Spring 2026

Benedictine

— Sisters and Friends —



Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future

Sisters of the
Order of Saint Benedict 

The College of Saint Benedict women's basketball team blessed the sisters at Saint Scholastica Convent, including the Bennies' #1 fan, Sister Lois Wedl (front, third from left), with a meaningful visit.



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Groundbreaking Discernment

Kerry O'Reilly, OSB

“Suddenly.”

“Out of the blue.”

“Unexpectedly.”

These are words that are not usually applied to Benedictines who, by virtue of their way of life, reflect and deliberate. They also are not words that would be applied to our decision to build a new monastery.

Our experience as a community reflects the experience of religious communities in the United States. We were larger than most, with more than 1,000 sisters in the 1960s. Today our membership is about 120 sisters located between Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., and Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement facility, in St. Cloud, Minn. The continuous change in membership resulted in adjustments and changes to ministry, to community life, to health care, to buildings. We recognized this reality, and it prompted considerable study and reflection.

As early as 1973, we conducted a Priority Study coordinated by Sister Nora Luetmer to look at ministry. Over the next 50 years, we had internal study groups, professional groups and many meetings to explore implications of membership change and the future. The official decision to build a new monastery was made in June 2022.

This was the first of many decisions. Where would we locate the new monastery? We had always taken good care of our buildings so we could easily move together and live in one building at the present monastery. A drawback to this option was that in selling the other buildings, we would not have the space for quiet and a certain separation necessary for our monastic life.

Another possibility was building near SSC. It has wonderful space and separation, but we then considered our deep roots in St. Joseph. This is where people know us and find us, whether looking for a retreat or to celebrate Eucharist or considering a monastic vocation. So, we decided the west end of our campus offered space and separation and at the same time visibility and invitation to the public. The view of our beautiful woods made it perfect! As we began the process of deciding what we needed in the smaller monastery and what it could look like, some of our Benedictine values came to the forefront in our discussions.

Listening throughout the process was essential. We had many decisions, big and small, and it was vital that we sisters listen to each other as we shared ideas and wisdom. We heard from our architects and contractors and needed to listen and understand. Most especially, we needed to keep the process within the framework of prayer and allow the Spirit to inspire ideas and guide decisions.

Taken by Jojo Tempel



Choosing to Build a New Monastery



Sister Nora Luetmer

Stewardship is another value that helped us focus our discussions. We prioritized protection of natural resources as well as stewarding our own resources. This led to decisions to preserve green space, to build two floors for a smaller footprint and to employ geothermal

and solar energy for savings. We even decided the bedrooms were too spacious and cut them down!

Hospitality was core as a guiding value. What about guests? And our Sunday Eucharist community? Our oblates? We planned with all in mind. The chapel will be way larger than we need as sisters, but hopefully just right to welcome our Sunday community. At first, the monastery will be filled with sisters, so we will keep one of our existing buildings for our guests. Then, in time, guests will join us in the monastery. Our oblates are a vital relationship, and we will share a library within the monastery.

Building a new monastery, a “right size” monastery, was not a sudden decision and certainly not out of the blue. What was unexpected, perhaps, not for us but for those who walk with us, is that we did not do a capital campaign. Knowing that a decision to build or renovate would be necessary at some point, we began saving. We have had amazing support from family and friends, former students and others we have served over the years. We are blessed!

We will break ground in summer 2026 and watch the building of our new home. Come and visit sometime around late fall 2027!

Our new monastery will be located on the west end of our campus where the large yellow barn and our community gardens used to stand. The barn was taken down in fall 2025 to prepare the area for building.

Photo: Taken by Lorie Wuolu

Benedictine Wisdom at TEDxStCloud

Amanda Hackett

S. Michaela, Mary Bruno and Brian Hart,
TEDxStCloud planning team member (left to right),
on stage



TEDx StCloud

**What can a 1,500-year-old text teach us in modern times?
As it turns out, a lot.**

In October 2025, Sister Michaela Hedican and Mary Bruno, local artist and owner of Bruno Press, a letterpress print shop in St. Joseph, Minn., took the stage at TEDxStCloud for a dynamic conversation about the *Rule of Benedict* and what happens when ancient wisdom meets contemporary art.

In 2020, Mary was commissioned to create *The Scroll of the Rule of St. Benedict*, a 36-foot letterpress-printed scroll featuring passages

from the *Rule of Benedict* and vibrant hand-cut illustrations of Benedictine sisters and Central Minnesota's flora and fauna. Faced with the largest project of her career, Mary knew she had to dive deeper into the *Rule* and truly understand the subject about which she was creating. This led her to connect with S. Michaela and Sister Katherine Howard, two sisters of Saint Benedict's Monastery with invaluable knowledge of the text, combined decades of living the Benedictine monastic way of life and endless wisdom.



All photographs taken by Jeff Yapuncich, YuppyPhoto

The first half of S. Michaela and Mary’s discussion on the TEDxStCloud stage revolved around their collaboration experience. As the three women collaborated, Mary noticed that she resonated with many of the values highlighted throughout the *Rule*, including community, hospitality and hard work. She realized that free-spirited artists known for their sassy greeting cards and Benedictine sisters aren’t as different as it might appear on the outside.

Sisters Michaela and Katherine were thrilled to share more about the *Rule* and offer guidance to Mary throughout this project, including which passages of the *Rule* were critical to include and which illustrations might be the most impactful. In their TEDx conversation, S. Michaela expressed that she was so grateful to Mary for using her talents to “make the *Rule* available in the local area and beyond.” The collaboration meshed Benedictine history, the arts and a spirit of lifelong learning — all things that are important to a Benedictine!

The latter half of their TEDx discussion focused on how the *Rule*, written 1,500 years ago, guides us in modern times. S. Michaela reflected on Benedict, who was wise beyond his times and led through

servant leadership. She clarified that the *Rule* is not a list of “dos and don’ts,” but rather, it is a guide that invites us to live out our shared human values in community with one another.

As a non-monastic, Mary added that the *Rule* isn’t confined to the walls of a monastery — the values and instructions within it speak not only to being monastic, but simply to being human. In modern times, the *Rule* guides us to stay rooted in something bigger than ourselves, build community with one another, and offers calm and clarity in a noisy world. She reflected, “Even though it’s [the *Rule*] ancient, it’s really not outdated.”

After taking in this enriching discussion, TEDx attendees had the opportunity to view the Scroll and its magnificence in person at a gallery exhibit in the event venue. Guests were amazed by each handcrafted detail and touched by the story that the Scroll shares.

We are immensely grateful to Mary for bringing the *Rule* to life in a breathtaking way and sharing it with our wider community. We’re also grateful to Brian Hart and the TEDxStCloud planning team for inviting us to participate in this fruitful discussion and impactful event.

Admiring the Scroll



View the entire discussion at https://youtu.be/YL-fNT7gQJE?si=irzKQ48kNbF9L_fB.

You can learn more about the Scroll and how to host an exhibition at www.mcbrunopress.com/the-scroll-tour.

In This Place Your Word is Planted

Cindy Liliana Gonzalez,
M.A.M., M.Ed.

This year marks my third year serving as director of Campus Ministry at the College of Saint Benedict. At its heart, this work is a vocation rooted in community, one that is formed not in isolation, but in relationship. Each year, our ministry is blessed by nearly 20 student campus ministers, young women and men who arrive with faith seeking understanding and a deep desire to serve. Many come without prior experience in ministry, often unsure of what they have to offer. Yet through the encouragement of the sisters and lay ministers alike, they begin to recognize and name their gifts and claim their place in the life of our Church.

To describe the relationship between the sisters and CSB Campus Ministry, I return often to the words of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*: “*Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community.*” Here, this spirit of radical hospitality is not just spoken; it is lived. The sisters embody it daily through their presence, welcome and faithful accompaniment in the lives of many of our students.

Every Sunday evening of the academic year, this life together becomes especially visible. Our students gather early for our 6 p.m. Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel; the Gathering Place begins to joyfully awaken. Voices rise in choir rehearsal, sacristans prepare the

altar with gentleness and the chapel slowly fills with anticipation. Amid it all, Sister Elaine Schroeder, the monastery’s liturgy director, arrives, offering wisdom, encouragement and the steady guidance born of years of faithful service in her vocation. Her presence is an anchor. She teaches our students, and me, that liturgy is an invitation for all to serve.

Throughout the year, our collaboration with the sisters unfolds in many ways, shaped by the rhythms of the liturgical calendar and the realities of our current world. During Advent and Easter, the Blessing of Minds continues to be a cherished tradition, offering students peace as they approach final exams. In moments of grief, too, we lean on one another. Following the difficult passing of Pope Francis, the sisters stood alongside our students, many of whom were nervously preparing to enter the Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, in a candlelight vigil. They offered then and continue to offer us now their prayers and the invaluable gift of presence.

Most recently, we were blessed to collaborate on a prayer service for the common good, responding to the grief present across our local and wider Minnesota community. Planning alongside Sisters Kerry O’Reilly, Mara Faulkner, Delores Dufner and Hélène Mercier was a true gift. Their wisdom, keen relationship with words spoken, written and sung and spirit of deep listening reminded us that



Coming Together for the Common Good Prayer Service.
Photo taken by Tommi O’Laughlin.



Sister Elaine Schroeder (right) with Cindy Gonzalez. Photo taken by Tommi O’Laughlin.



Sisters Laura Suhr, Lisa Rose and Elaine Schroeder (left to right) blessing students during Blessing of the Minds



Sisters Hélène Mercier (left), Laura Suhr (second from left) and Pat Ruether (fourth from right) with Cindy Gonzalez (right) and students at a Feast of Benedict Carnival



Sisters Mary Schumer (back, sixth from right), Pat Ruether (back, fifth from right), Catherine Duenne (front, fourth from right) and Helen Weber (front right) doing a service project with CSB Campus Ministry

Benedictine life is not only rooted in prayer, but in accompaniment — walking gently with one another through uncertainty. Together, we sought to witness a truth at the heart of our tradition: “No one is to pursue what he judges better for himself, but instead what he judges better for someone else” (*Rule of Benedict* 72:7). In this shared work, we were reminded that to uphold the common good is to honor the dignity of every human person, and to do so with care.

The journey of our students is not separate from the realities of the world. As students they experience friendships, grief, loss and the complexities of change. Yet here, within this

Benedictine community, the Word of God is not only planted, but also tended with care. The sisters model a way of being marked by stability, listening and love that inspires our students as they discern the vocations to which they are being called, in service to one another. In the words of Sister Delores Dufner: *“Let your planting not be wasted.”** The care, joy and faithful presence of the sisters ensure that the seeds planted here take root. With lamps still burning, they show us the way and our Bennies, in turn, carry that light forward in hope.

**“In This Place Your Word Is Planted”* is a hymn written by S. Delores Dufner.

Weavers of Wisdom

Photograph taken by
Andra Johnson

“Listen ... incline the ear of your heart’ (*Rule of Benedict*, Prologue 1). With this warmest of invitations, speaking to the desires of Christians in every age, St. Benedict begins his *Rule*: ‘Listen to the God who loves you ... set out on this way with the Gospel of Christ as your guide.’ Prayer, community, service — steady and sturdy, like a three-legged stool — this is the Benedictine way. Oblates live this way of life, sharing in and extending the mission of the sisters. In the daily round of our days, in the many communities to which we belong, oblates strive to live the Benedictine practices of prayer and peacemaking, hospitality and humility, awareness of God in all things. The history of the oblates of Saint Benedict’s Monastery is a tapestry more than a timeline. Imagine the stories, all the unnamed sisters and oblates. Weavers of wisdom who honor the past and present — and confidently look to a future of flourishing.”

— *Mary Stommes, ObISB, Oblate Director*



Marie Hanauska, ObISB

Written by Amanda Hackett

Marie Hanauska’s connection with Saint Benedict’s Monastery began in childhood. Growing up in the Minnesota communities of St. Joseph and St. Cloud, Marie attended schools taught by the Benedictine sisters, as well as the College of Saint Benedict. As such, Benedictine values and ideals were always a thread woven into the fabric of her life.

In early adulthood, Marie moved to the Twin Cities area to get married and raise her family. She recalls that there was always something there that called her to Saint Benedict’s Monastery, even though she couldn’t stay in such close contact.

In 2000, Marie moved back to the area, and her connection with the Benedictine sisters picked up immediately where it had left off. With guidance and encouragement from Sister Mary Anthony Wagner, who served as the monastery’s oblate director from September 1972 to September 2002,

Marie made her perpetual oblation and became an oblate of Saint Benedict’s Monastery. In the years since, her life has continued to be filled with rich blessings and meaningful relationships with the monastic community and other oblates.

Since 2000, Marie has participated in a small oblate group that meets monthly. In these gatherings, oblates read and reflect upon books pertaining to Benedictine and Christian spirituality. She remembers that in her earliest oblate meetings, they would always begin with the “Servant Song.” These meetings nourish her spiritual hunger and fill her days with much-needed community. At 92 years old, Marie is one of the longest-standing members in her group and continues to be inspired by the group’s rich conversations and fruitful gatherings. Marie reflects, “I feel a constant need to be in contact with spirituality — my relationship with Saint Benedict’s Monastery and my oblate group helps fill this need.”

A Timeline of Oblates at Saint Benedict's Monastery

Annerose Schlaudraff, OblSB

“When I offered myself as an oblate of Saint Benedict’s Monastery in 1975 and promised to dedicate my life to the service of God and all people according to the *Rule of St. Benedict*, I wondered how such a promise could be lived from a distance. At the time I was a student of Protestant theology and English literature at the University of Tübingen in Tübingen, Germany, and the road ahead was still hidden. My task then was simple: to complete my studies and trust that life would unfold step by step. And so it did. Marriage, children, many years of teaching, and eventually widowhood have become the landmarks along the way.

Now, in 2026, I look back with a grateful heart — to God and to the monastic community — I count myself among the “absent sisters” at Evening Prayer that has accompanied me all these years. This bond has been a stronghold throughout my life. We have remained united in prayer — first through letters, now through an online oblate group.

Driving from the airport to St. Joseph, Minn., with the first glimpse of the dome, my heart leaps for joy. I am back.”



1930s

The earliest records of college women being received as oblates of Saint John’s Abbey date back to this time during which Saint Benedict’s Monastery could not receive oblates.

1951-1972

Sister Joanne Muggli served as oblate director.

January 15, 1962

Mother Henrita Osendorf, prioress, sent a letter to Abbot Primate Benno Gut in Rome asking if oblates could make their final oblation to Saint Benedict’s Monastery instead of Saint John’s Abbey.

January 31, 1962

Abbot Primate sent a letter in response to M. Henrita asking for two further documents before he could officially grant her request.

February 24, 1962

Abbot Primate granted authorization to M. Henrita that allowed oblates from Saint John’s Abbey to transfer their oblation to Saint Benedict’s Monastery.

September 1972 - September 2002

Sister Mary Anthony Wagner (pictured below) served as oblate director.

September 2002 - May 2010

Sister Hélène Mercier served as oblate director.

June 2010 - September 2018

Sister Laureen Virnig served as oblate director, and the language was changed from “Oblate Program” to “A Way of Life.”

October 2018 - June 2023

Sister Michaela Hedican served as oblate director.

July 2023 - Present

Mary Stommes, OblSB, is currently serving as the monastery’s first lay oblate director.

Tidbits From the Past

Carol Berg, OSB

*S*t. Benedict's *Rule* urges the abbot or prioress to seek counsel from the community members — for, as he wrote, “The Lord often reveals to the younger ones the wisest course to take” (*Rule of Benedict* 3:3). Benedictines have traditionally — in varying degrees — utilized Councils and Chapters to assist leadership in planning a community's immediate and long-range development. The term “discernment” became common particularly after Vatican II with our sisters embracing the concept personally and as a community in order to listen to one another with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our community began a steady process of frequent and prayerful sharing of collective wisdom to envision a continued vibrant monastic life.

The 1970s was a major turning point for this community: a shift in understanding its own evolution and relationship to ministries. Decline in membership brought further study as finances and the rapid aging of the sisters added new challenges and questions. In October 1971, Sister Nora Luetmer became the community's first director of planning and research. She focused on a study of the community's varied apostolates. Her final report, listing decisions facing the community, was the basis for future planning. A Process Implementation Team, established in 1973, worked out structure for a Senate (originally a Synod) to

assist the Council and the Chapter in their planning for the future.

By the late 1970s, S. Nora's original study (filled with statistics!) needed updating. A comprehensive planning program was needed, and in the 1980s, a planning committee was set up with Sister Firmin Escher as coordinator of research and planning. The first major project was the renovation of Sacred Heart Chapel (1980-83), which expanded to include a Gathering Place and an Archives. Clearly, the first goal in the '80s was to review current apostolic works and envision possible future priorities. Numerous task teams were set up, responsible for subdivisions of planning.

Grassroots participation increased. Area meetings were held wherever our sisters were living and working, sometimes three or four missions combining to discuss specific issues. Workshops were held, at which information could be shared as well as brainstorming for more and new options. Study and discussion reports went directly to the prioress and her Council. Most often, these reports were summarized and then presented to the Chapter for a final decision on policy and procedure.



Sister Firmin Escher



Renovating Sacred Heart Chapel



A Review of Community Planning



Sisters celebrate the new Marmion building

By the early 1990s, there were at least 13 task teams and ad hoc groups studying and discussing aspects of community life and the need for changes in direction. Among these task teams were Buildings and Renovations, Global Awareness, Library Resources, Liturgy Revisions and Lifelong Formation. Flow charts became a staple during these years! In 1990-91, “Core Issues of Our Monastic Life” surfaced as a focal point, and areas of community living and outreach were central in future planning. And, in 1994, the Chapter approved a Comprehensive Facilities Plan to zero in on specific projects.

Many listening sessions and renewal discussions were held. Minutes from these proceedings reveal detailed discussions at all levels of the community — anticipating the dawn of a new century. Major construction programs emerged. By repurposing existing buildings, Saint Scholastica Convent was built in St. Cloud, Minn., as a retirement home for

our elder sisters and those needing more medical assistance. At the motherhouse, renovations of the Main Building, Rosamond Hall and Walburg were undertaken. A new Marmion was built.

Post-2000 saw constant envisioning of how the community could develop further in its structure and ministries. Many groups assisted the Planning Office, including Monastery Sites and Facilities, Social Justice, Community Worship and Membership/Admissions. “Strategic planning” became a mantra as facilitators’ meetings and workshops proliferated. The sisters became more involved in community programs, interacting with one another at a pace and scope unprecedented in community history. Setting the community’s trajectory became a total community endeavor.

As prioress from 1961-73, Mother Henrita Osendorf set the tone for all this research and decision making. She wrote: *“Calm and tranquility of spirit are the characteristics of religious whose preoccupation is with basic elements. They do not fear change because they know that they have penetrated to the heart of the matter and are secure in that knowledge.”* Decades after her words of encouragement, our community has indeed met and accepted the challenges facing us — collectively.



Groundbreaking for the addition at Saint Scholastica Convent in 1987-1988.

Sisters Mildred Ann Blatz+ (fourth from left), Josina Ann Holdvogt+ (fourth from right), Colleen Haggerty+ (third from right), Katherine Howard (second from right) and Janice Wedl+ (right).

Reach Out or Outreach?

Marina Schlangen, OSB

The sisters at Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement facility in St. Cloud, Minn., have a whole range of community groups that reach out to them: elementary, high school and college students, senior members who perform in groups or alone, and over 100 active volunteers. So much joy comes through our doors and spreads throughout our home here at SSC — we receive so much in kindness and support from those who genuinely love us, and we love them in return.

We begin with the little ones:



Sister Kathy Rademacher (center) with pen pals

- » Barb Wick, a fifth-grade teacher at All Saints Academy in St. Cloud, was one of the first to reach out for the elementary schools some years ago. She started by having students become our prayer partners. They pray for us, come to visit us twice a year and write to us intermittently throughout the school year. Their letters tell us about their lives with an added prayer in the form of an art project or written word, and the sisters reciprocate. Barb retired this past year, and now Mary Orth continues.
- » Each year, all students from St. Wendelin's Catholic School in Luxemburg, Minn., ranging in age from 4-13, come to put on a Christmas play.

Sister Gen Maiers (right) with a CSB+SJU nursing student

They walk in already dressed in their costumes, and they always include the Christmas Story. Principal Bonnie Massmann is now following what Sister Marius Hiltner did every year up until a few years ago when she moved to SSC.

- » Nearly 30 students from St. Katherine Drexel School in St. Cloud come to sing and dance during Catholic Schools Week. They, too, are a delight and make us recall the high energy of our former days.

We move onto the college students:

- » Each semester, several College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (CSB+SJU) students complete 20 hours of service learning as part of their college classes. Our Wellness Center personnel connect with these students and give them valuable experiences while they're here — we've even had several return to do their internships here.
- » The CSB+SJU Irish Dance Club comes to perform a variety of Irish Jigs, sing and play harp music.
- » CSB+SJU nursing students have worked with us for sessions of clinical experience involving primary prevention and health promotion. These students each met with a sister for three consecutive weeks to assess, draw up a plan and evaluate.





- » Benedictine Friends is a program that pairs a sister with a CSB student and provides the opportunity to get to know one another through group and one-on-one activities. Many current Benedictine Friends make their way to SSC to visit “their” sister, and it’s not uncommon to see former Benedictine Friends reconnect with sisters years after they graduate.

Finally, we recognize our active adult volunteers:

- » These volunteers do a whole range of things, including companioning sisters, staffing the reception desk, driving sisters to medical appointments, assisting in the dining room during meals, facilitating activities like Bingo, visiting with therapy pets, filling bird feeders and planting, watering and weeding flowers.
- » The year usually begins with a group of singers called Friends in Harmony. Directed by Lynn Machula, the group is comprised of 12 singers and a piano player. They sing Christmas and winter songs around Christmastime and come again in the summer to sing patriotic songs and other catchy tunes. They are retired but love to come here because the sisters get involved and sing along.
- » We’ve also enjoyed music from the Cold Spring Area Maennerchor, Paul Imholte with his dulcimer instrument, and Dave Cofell with his guitar. Entertainment provided by our

groups and individuals provides enjoyment, relaxation and a diversion from our regular routine. It helps us to unwind, foster our social connections and even make us healthier both mentally and physically.

- » It all comes together at the end of the year when the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota comes with its 100+ high school singers to do an outstanding performance in our chapel. We are wrapped up with an awesome rendition of youth. After they finish singing, they end the season with a White Elephant Christmas Party with their directors in our dining room.
- » Of course, we can’t forget about the many groups and volunteers who visit us throughout the year: Socks for the Soul, the WACOSA Seniors, the Auxiliary Bingo Group, the Daughters of Isabella, the Serra Club, our St. Nick, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus volunteers, and many others.

For me, reaching out to groups and volunteers effectively involves a commitment, communication and connection. The sisters and staff that live and work here help cultivate an atmosphere of belonging and freedom that lets all of us be who we are so we can contribute our own gifts. To retain volunteers, I’ve found that a solid mission and a good sense of what tasks people can help with and love to do helps them stay.

Stories From the Neighborhood

Mara Faulkner, OSB

“Never turn away when someone needs your love.” – Rule of Benedict, Chapter 4

A tornado sweeps into a small town, tearing up great trees and sending them into homes and yards. Burly men hurry from all directions, carrying chainsaws. With energy and good cheer, they clear one yard after another offering help and hope but asking neither reward nor recognition.



A woman with a white cane teeters on the edge of a room filled with the chaos of furniture and people carrying plates of food. With a flourish, a stranger offers his arm, as if she were the guest of honor and doing him a favor. Together they maneuver through the maze.



Fearing deportation and separation, a mother and her children hide behind locked doors as her food dwindles. A car drives up and leaves a box of food on the doorstep, enough for a week, and drives off into the night.



Photo by Lina Trochez on Unsplash

When we are afraid and in trouble, who are our helpers?

“When you are afraid or in trouble, look for the helpers.” – “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood”



One night, a man in a rehab center has to ring for help for the third time. The night nurse comes on quiet feet. She tells him a joke that has both of them laughing so hard that he forgets his troubles. When he thanks her, she always says, “Of course,” as if this were just where she wanted to be and what she wanted to be doing.



Rifle shots ring out in a church where children are praying. First graders fall to the floor as they have been taught. Children only a little older fling their bodies on top of the little ones, shielding them from the bullets.



In this world where neighbors are killing neighbors in the terrible trouble called war, 28 Buddhist monks and one friendly dog walked 2,000 miles from Texas to Washington, D.C. Each step was a prayer for peace, born of justice and mercy.

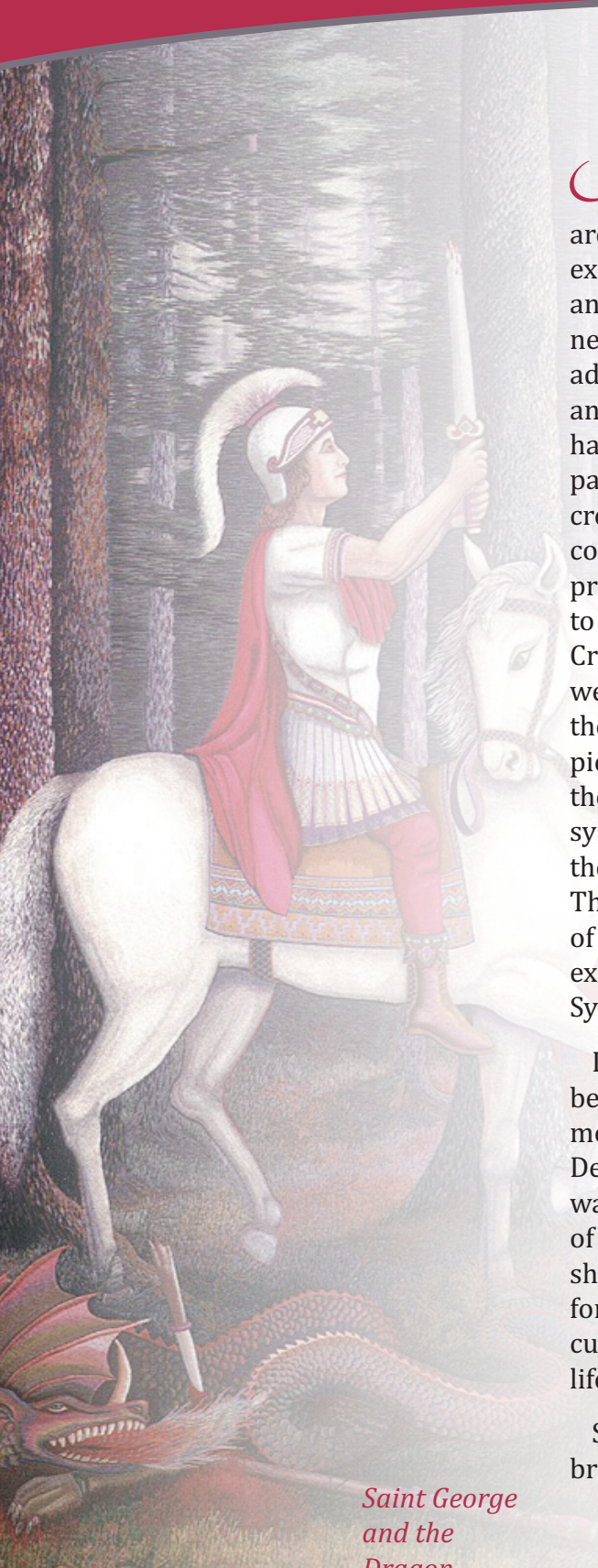


Not far from Jerusalem, bandits robbed a traveler, beat him up and left him half dead by the side of the road. Along came a Samaritan — a stranger, a foreigner, an alien — who tended his wounds and paid for his care. They had never met and might never see each other again.

When our sisters and brothers are in trouble, are we being good neighbors?

A Visual Theology

Judy Kramer, OSB



Among the 7,000 or so items in the Haehn Museum are the makings of countless exhibits, yet the most famous and inquired about are the needlework pieces. Many are adorned with religious symbols and used in items which skilled hands, creative minds and very patient women created. These creations were made of dazzling colors and intricate designs on precious fabric — creations to give glory and praise to the Creator of all. Since the sisters were always about teaching the faith which can hardly be pictured, symbols became the language of the Divine; symbols woven in stitches were the primer of faith education. These creations are the focus of the Haehn Museum's newest exhibit, "A Visual Theology: Symbols Woven in Stitches."

In 1892, Sister Justina Knapp became the director of the monastery's Art Needlework Department. For 40 years, she was the motor, fuel and spark of the department. Though she had only a fourth-grade formal education, her interest, curiosity and skill made her a lifelong learner.

S. Justina often asked her brother, Father Raphael of Saint

John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., who traveled to Europe several times, to bring her books. He complied, and since he studied at the Benedictine Archabbey of St. Martin in Beuron, Germany, the books he brought to S. Justina contained much of that art. This influence is mirrored in her work.

S. Justina acquired a sizeable library and learned the profound meaning of symbols which she defined as "the representation of a moral or intellectual trait which cannot be pictured." As a very young sister, she had taught in a parochial school in Duluth, Minn., for 12 years, and she never lost her love of and dedication to teaching. S. Justina actually created a children's coloring book of basic Christian symbols in the midst of her years within the Art Needlework Department. She encouraged all of the needle arts and continued to study the official documents of the Church concerning ecclesiastic art.

While training other sisters in needlework, S. Justina guided the vestment department and drew nearly all of the patterns for the work of the department. Between 1867 and 1968, almost 50 sisters

*Saint George
and the
Dragon*

2026 Haehn Museum Exhibit

Below: The stitched image of a novice (in a white veil) and professed sister (in a black veil) in Blessed Sacrament Chapel

worked for some amount of time in the department. Orders for vestments, banners, church adornments and even mending of church vesture came to the department from Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Canada, much of the upper Midwest and even from Europe! The venture did prosper financially and helped to fund a new building, Walburg Hall, which provided appropriate space for the department and housing for members of the growing community.

One of the major pieces designed by S. Justina is a Pentecost scene, complete with Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the center surrounded by all 12 apostles — each with a unique face, hairline and robe — as they receive the tongues of fire signaling the descent of the living Holy Spirit. Probably the most famous of her creations, which was embroidered single-handedly by the very gifted Sister Bernadita Brauckmann in 1929-1930, is the tapestry of Saint George and the dragon. George is a favorite, measuring 24" x 38" and housed in a plexiglass case that allows the front and back of the piece to be seen. The piece was made and sent to a Mr. George Hutter

as appreciation for his work as a general contractor for the St. Cloud Hospital. The letter accompanying the gift stated that the sisters believed "divine providence" had brought him to Minnesota when they needed a talented and creative person to guide the construction of the hospital on the shore of the mighty Mississippi River.

In the midst of the years when many patterns were needed to respond to the growing orders at the department, S. Justina produced her book *Christian Symbols and How to Use Them*. The book became a classic addition to the theology of ecclesiastical art. In 2007, it was republished by Kessinger Publishing, LLC. Because the quality of the paper had diminished with time, there is a disclaimer at the beginning of the book stating that, "Because this is such an important and rare work, we believe it is best to reproduce this book regardless of its original condition."

In 1968, the Art Needlework Department formally closed, and it is often thought to be a formative force in promoting the liturgical revival of the 1970s and beyond.

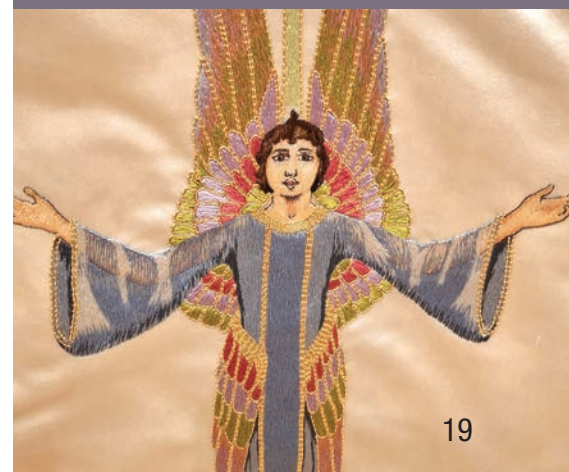


To view dozens of stunning pieces from the historical Art Needlework Department, visit the Haehn Museum's current exhibit, "A Visual Theology: Symbols Woven in Stitches."

Regular Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 12-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed Sunday and Monday

Visits outside regular hours are arranged as requested. For more information, contact Sister Judy Kramer, director of the Haehn Museum, at 320-363-1605.



A stitched angel; a sample of the thousands produced within the Art Needlework Department

Sacred Scholarship in Studium

Amanda Hackett

Studium, a program of Saint Benedict's Monastery, was founded in 1992 to enable sisters to use their gifts and professional training and to provide a setting where retired sisters might continue to share their wisdom and expertise. Within a year of its founding, the monastic community realized that its ministry and work would be enhanced by hospitality to people outside of the monastery. Placing special emphasis on the love of learning and honoring scholarship as a sacred ministry, Studium combines three key elements of Benedictine life: the love of learning, the desire for God and the commitment to beauty.

Studium scholars are comprised of both sisters and visiting scholars, women and men who are in broad agreement with Benedictine cultural and social commitments and for whom the interdisciplinary, intergenerational, interfaith and intercultural setting of Studium offers an appealing venue for their own scholarly work. Visiting scholars may apply to be a resident or day scholar. Resident scholars generally come from a distance and stay in a Studium apartment, while day

scholars generally live in the local area and return home in the evenings. All scholars have access to a private office and are invited to join the monastic community for prayer, liturgies and meals.

Throughout its existence, Studium has welcomed 300+ scholars through its doors, many more than once. In addition to many located throughout the United States, scholars have joined us from all over the world, including Australia, Canada, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Armenia, Nigeria, the Bahamas and Jamaica.

Hundreds of Studium scholars have found this intentional space and community to be just what they needed to pursue their projects which have ranged from books, homily helps, prayer books, hymn collections, retreat conferences, parish histories, articles and more. Perhaps Studium is the community you need, too.

*For more information, contact Sister Ann Marie Biermaier, director of Studium, at **320-363-7172** or abiermaier@csbsju.edu.*

Studium scholar Tracy Rittmueller



Studium scholar Lisa Driver



Dr. Julia Upton, RSM, MPH

“Soon after joining the American Benedictine Academy (now Forum) in 1990, I learned about the Studium program at Saint Benedict’s Monastery. At the time, I wrote to Sister Dolores Super, who was then the director, and asked for more information. Although the time wasn’t right then, I tucked the idea away for some future day.

As the years passed and my life took amazing and miraculous twists and turns, in 2013, it finally became possible for me to consider spending time at Studium. My first residency was three months, and within days I discovered that I had found my Yaddo, one better suited to both my personality and spirituality. Not only was I given a small apartment and nearby office, but I also had the privilege and joy of praying several times a day with 140 Benedictine sisters.

Morning coffee breaks shared with other scholars was a daily delight, and at meals in the monastery, sisters were always interested in what I was studying and discovering. Such support and encouragement were grace beyond measure, which encouraged me to return to Studium for several more stays of shorter duration. Although I did not know it at the time, my experience of living and working in Studium prepared me for a focused and productive retirement. For this I will ever be grateful to Sister Ann Marie Biermaier, director of Studium, and the rest of the sisters at Saint Benedict’s Monastery.”

Patrick Henry

“Benedictines, inspired by love of learning and the desire for God, have been imagining, inventing and creating for a millennium and a half. The sisters of Saint Benedict’s Monastery birthed Studium, a ‘nurturing, supporting community of passionate people which is there when you need them, but out of the way when you need to concentrate.’ It started as a resource for retired sisters, but they soon realized that St. Benedict was right — ‘monasteries are never without guests’ (*Rule of Benedict* 53:16).

I was a Day Scholar at Studium for 19 years. With advice from the sisters and other visiting scholars, I started projects and got through stuck places. It was also a privilege to be able to offer others the sort of critique and encouragement they were giving me. In a culture that’s rush-rush, it is nothing short of salvific to be in a community shaped by centuries of patience and the rhythms of liturgical life. The sisters know when to commiserate and when to prod.

Something Sister Linda Kulzer, of blessed memory, said in a 2013 Studium meeting precipitated a seismic shift in a long-simmering book project: ‘The shortest distance between two hearts is a story.’ I turned a manuscript from which I had kept my distance into a story — and it found a publisher!”

Sister Eilish Ryan, CCVI

“I was a Studium participant from January through May 2017. Nine years later, my months at Studium remain one of the most positive periods in my life. I started shortly after retiring from an active full-time career as a professor and director of the Pastoral Institute at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas.

From the first day, I felt welcome and at home. Sisters Ann Marie Biermaier, Theresa Shumacher and others were caring and helpful mentors. I felt blessed to be able to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and participate in Eucharist daily with the sisters. After hectic years in academia, I enjoyed community meals and interaction. My longtime interest in Benedictine spirituality was nourished as I benefited from so many experiences at both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University.

I spent time most days working on my project, which was to write a textbook to introduce Christian spirituality to undergraduate students. My research hours in the libraries were both productive and personally enriching. Although my project did not result in a publication due to a change at the publishing company, my time at Saint Benedict’s Monastery was not wasted. On the contrary, I came away refreshed, renewed and ready for the years to come.”

Volunteering for Justice

Emily Vranesh

How do you spend your day off from work? Most people spend the day cleaning, shopping or relaxing. Not Theresa Witte — she spends her day off volunteering. She also volunteers on weekends, after work and whenever she has spare time.

Theresa has been a social justice volunteer for almost eight years. She got involved with volunteering at Saint Benedict's Monastery through Elizabeth Reum, the monastery's director of social justice ministries. Theresa and Elizabeth met at a parent's game night, and once Elizabeth mentioned what she does, Theresa wanted to help.

Theresa does a variety of volunteer activities. She helps package and deliver food, fold and sort clothing and bring mattresses from church to church for those experiencing homelessness to sleep on. She has done projects for the Lincoln Center, a nonprofit organization in St. Cloud, Minn., serving people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty, such as making meals, bringing clothing and blankets and even hauling lockers there. One of Theresa's favorite volunteering activities is bringing furniture to people who don't have any. With the help of her friends and family, Theresa searches Facebook Marketplace to find free furniture. She has driven all over the state to pick up furniture and deliver it to those in need.

Theresa feels that every moment of her work makes a real difference. One moment that she'll always remember was when she was at the Guadalupe Mass in Cold Spring, Minn. At Mass, a teenage boy ran up to her and gave her a big hug, thanking her for everything she had given to his family — it had been two years since Theresa had helped that family out. It really shows how much helping others makes a difference.

Even though Theresa has been a social justice volunteer for several years, she has been volunteering her whole life. She says that her mother is the one who planted the seed of volunteering. Theresa describes her mother as someone who has always been a giving person. Back in the day, her mom would dress up as Santa, and Theresa as an elf, and they would walk through hospitals and nursing homes bringing joy to all.

Theresa's love for volunteering continues to grow. She loves seeing the difference that it makes and believes that everyone needs to volunteer at some point in their lives. She reflects:

“Volunteering makes you take a step back to be less selfish and to be thankful of what you have to share.”



Left: Theresa wrapping Christmas presents



Right: Theresa with an empty trailer after delivering furniture

Benedictine Sisters and Friends

Bridging the Gap

*Briana Ross, LALD, Executive Director of
Saint Scholastica Convent*



“We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.”

— Gloria Steinham —

There is something to be said about intergenerational relationships, sharing thoughts or ideas and having a mutual respect for one another. Often, our elderly population is misunderstood. Their minds and bodies may not work as well as they used to, but they still have so much to contribute to this world. One could argue that our younger generation is also misunderstood at times, creating a common ground between the generations.

Over the past five years, Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement facility in St. Cloud, Minn., has partnered with the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University (CSB+SJU), working with students through internships, student volunteers and most recently, student nurses providing health clinics for our sisters. The sisters have always been strong advocates of education and continuous lifelong learning. They’ve invested a considerable amount of time and effort into teaching others, which continues as they age, so this opportunity couldn’t have been more perfect.

Our previous student interns had uniquely different roles. Our first intern, Izzy, worked closely with me learning the many responsibilities of an executive director and general administration of an assisted living with dementia care environment. Our second intern, Jackson, worked closely with our wellness coordinator learning the ins and outs of the wellness/activities department. Both interns

were exceptional working with our sister residents, giving a different perspective on life and becoming part of our team during their short time here.

The student volunteers typically are set up through a service-learning requirement for one of their courses. These volunteers assist with a variety of different things such as activities, crafts, projects, events and one-on-one visits. They come in with a positive attitude, smiles on their faces and are happy to spend time with the sisters. Our sisters also look forward to these visits, enjoying conversation and sharing their wisdom.

The nursing students are a new addition to our student volunteer partnership. Over the past two months, each student has met with one sister individually, completing a health inventory and working with the sister on recommendations for better health. I’ve enjoyed hearing their conversations in the hallways — the students are eager to learn and know more about the sister, while the sisters thoroughly enjoy the company.

We are truly grateful for this partnership with CSB+SJU. Our sisters value the meaningful relationships they’re able to create with the college students. Once these students come to our campus, they become like an extension of our sisters’ family. There is so much to learn from one another; this truly shows it is a wonderful way to “bridge the gap” between the generations.

Photo: Nursing students (front) with Sisters Kathy Rademacher, Lois Wedl, Geraldine Zierden, Carol Berg, Jane Weber, Anita O’Keefe (back, left to right) and Myrtle Schmitz (back, far right)

Evolution of Gratitude Days

Amanda Hackett

Sharing our mission, embodying our Benedictine values and heritage and carrying out our ministries is made possible through the time, talent and financial resources shared by our many benefactors, volunteers, oblates, employees, friends and supporters. We express our appreciation as deeply as we can — through sincere prayer, genuine connection and heartfelt care.

In the past, we've held special events to invite our supporters to spend time with us and to thank them for all that they do throughout the year. Established first as Donor Appreciation Day and aptly renamed Gratitude Day, the first events were held on the Saint Benedict's Monastery campus and included a prayer service, buffet meal in the dining room, trolley rides, campus tours, outdoor music, visits to the Art and Heritage Place, door prize drawings, raffle tickets and more.

Over time, we began to outgrow our building — an excellent “problem” to face when there are too many wonderful people to thank and not enough space to do it! To accommodate our evolving needs, and because the front steps of the Gathering Place were under construction, we moved the event to Gorecki Dining and Conference Center on the College of Saint Benedict campus

in 2011. Our larger venue meant we could expand our activities and offerings, so in addition to the classic events, attendees could learn more about our ministries through ministry booths, play Bingo and enjoy a full-scale program complete with entertainment performed by the sisters. During this program, we also presented the annual Mother Benedicta Riepp Award, named after our foundress and honoring a lay woman who has a relationship with the sisters and whose life exemplifies Benedictine and Gospel values. The first Mother Benedicta Riepp Award was presented in 2007 and the last in 2019.

As the size of our community and physical abilities of our sisters changed throughout the years, we knew that we'd likely need to scale back on this event as we moved forward. However, we didn't expect the transition to happen so suddenly.

Gratitude Day in the early years



Left: Sisters Colman O'Connell+ (left) and Olivia Forster+ (second from right) with guests

Right: Sister Michaela Hedican (left) presents the Mother Benedicta Riepp Award to Lorryne Traut in 2014





Entertainment performed by the sisters



Trolley rides and tours around campus



Enjoying our first post-COVID ice cream social



Sisters Lisa Kittock (left) and Mary Schumer (center) welcome a guest



Sister Theresa Schumacher+ (left) connecting with guests

In 2020 and 2021, we opted not to hold a Gratitude Day event as we prioritized the safety and health of our community and guests throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, we felt ready to welcome back guests — but in a different way.

Recognizing our need to simplify the event, we decided to hold a prayer service and ice cream social at Saint Benedict's Monastery. We offered two different dates and time frames to suit as many of our supporters as possible. The event was well received, and in 2023, we offered the same type of event with an additional third date. In 2024, we tried something different yet again. We held two pie and ice cream socials — one at Saint Benedict's Monastery and one at Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement facility in St. Cloud, Minn.

In 2025, our community was pouring energy and resources into the planning of our new monastery, leading us to the decision not to host a Gratitude Day event that year. Now in 2026, as the groundbreaking for our new home takes place this summer, we have once again decided not to host an event this year. We look forward to welcoming our friends and supporters to our new building when it is ready!

Although we've scaled back on hosting grandiose in-person events over time, we pray that you understand that our appreciation has not scaled back one ounce — in fact, our gratitude to you is constantly growing. Thank you for supporting our community and helping us share Benedictine and Gospel values with the world!

Benedictine Friends

Benedictine Friends is a program that pairs a College of Saint Benedict student with a sister, and the two get to know one another through one-on-one and group activities like Bingo, crafting and making s'mores. This program continues to grow each year, and many connections last long beyond graduation.

An article in a past issue of *Benedictine Sisters and Friends* written by Sister Janice Wedl+ highlights the program's beginnings:

"When the College of Saint Benedict was founded in 1913, Benedictine sisters held most of the positions. They were the teachers, the housekeepers, the cooks, the secretaries, the administrators, the dorm prefects and on and on. Every student came in contact with sisters several times a day.

As the years went on, there were fewer and fewer sisters in the college and on campus. Students could be at the college all four years without ever knowing a sister. The monastery and its occupants were mysterious to them. With most sisters going to secular dress after the 1970s, it was even harder to spot a sister.

One evening, at the beginning of a recent school year, Sisters Linda and Marilyn Kulzer were out for a walk. They met a first-year student who asked if it was true that over 100 nuns lived in the monastery buildings. S. Linda assured her that it was indeed true. The wide-eyed student's response was, 'When will they come out?'

In 1979, Sister Eunice Antony, aware of the lack of communication between sisters and students, began a program called 'Sisters Across Campus.' Later the title was changed to 'Prayer Partners,' and then finally to its current name, 'Benedictine Friends.'"



Sister Baulu Kuan+ (center)



Sister JoAnne Backes (left)



Sister Georganne Burr+ (right)



Sister Ruth Anne Schneider (center)

Bringing Together Sisters and Students



Sister Marie Reisinger (right)



Sister Lisa Rose (left)



Sister Beatrice Eiyneck (center)



Sister Clare Witzman+ (left)



Sisters Lois Wedl (second from left) and Margaret Maus (right)



Sister Kerry O'Reilly (center)



Sister Bernard Heit (right)



Sister Lucinda Mareck (left)



Sister Ramona Bjork+ (center)



Sister Karen Streveler+ (right)



Sister Rita Kunkel+ (right)



Sister Adelia Sirek (right)

Emmaus Experience at Saint Scholastica

Anita O'Keefe, OSB

From the minus-40 windchill weekend in January until spring when the peeping baby chicks were being sold, I recuperated from foot surgery at Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement facility. Along with the Apostles at Emmaus (Luke 24:31), I had my eyes opened!

In countless ways, I experienced the Presence of Christ among the sick. St. Benedict denotes this in Chapter 36 in his *Rule* on the "Care of the Sick." This shows high priority in the service of those who follow the Benedictine way of life. From the simple gesture of bringing a cup of fresh coffee to begin my morning with Jesus in prayer to the expertise of our nurses, I recognized the Presence of Christ. I was impressed with the coordination between all of the staff. It was evident communication exists between nursing, physical therapy/wellness, transportation, laundry, food services, maintenance and environmental services. All services are given in the spirit of the Hebrew word "Hesed" (Mercy overflowing to others).

I saw both the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:34-40) being lived out daily. These works of mercy were intertwined when five sisters died within 23 days. The staff along with us mourned that deep loss and participated in

the wake and funeral services of each one of our beloved community members. Relationships between staff and sisters are often described by others as "family-like." I especially experienced this spirit when my sister, my last sibling, died during recuperation.

Now that I'm retired from 50 years of active ministry in the Church, "gratitude" is the word that wells up in my heart. With the Apostles at Emmaus, I exclaim:

"My eyes were opened!"



S. Anita (right) in physical therapy

WELCOME TO SAINT SCHOLASTICA

Behind the Scenes: Caretakers of the Monastery

Emily Vranesh



The environmental services team (left to right): Tanya Majeski, Sue Borresch and Pam Loso

Every day is different, and the maintenance and environmental service teams at Saint Benedict's Monastery enjoy that no day at work is quite like the other. The two teams are different departments but work closely together, helping each other out when needed.

The environmental services team is made up of three employees who all get along well with each other. Sue Borresch, environmental service lead, said, "Getting along with your coworkers makes the job more enjoyable." The team works together cleaning different things each day, with Sue claiming, "You never know what a typical day will be."

The one thing the team does handle every day is restrooms. People may not realize that the restrooms are checked every day for supplies and cleanliness, while also having the garbage taken out each night. The team also makes sure to protect themselves by wearing glasses and gloves, reading safety data sheets and safety manuals, and staying up to date on protocols with yearly training to refresh their minds.

Sue shared that the most rewarding part of the job is appreciation — the sisters appreciate their work and thank them every day. She also mentioned that their team works well together

with the maintenance team. Whether they need help with cleaning windows or moving heavy stuff, the maintenance team is always ready to step in.

The maintenance team is comprised of seven team members, and the work they do depends on the season. During the summer, they take care of plants, trees and lawn care. Fall keeps them busy with picking up leaves, bringing in lawn furniture and preparing for snow removal. In the wintertime, they are busy with snow removal, ice salting and clearing sidewalks. On snowy or icy winter days, the maintenance team gets to work early to salt and clear snow so sisters, employees and guests can all walk around campus safely.

The maintenance team is a well-rounded group of employees with different skills, such as carpentry, painting and mechanics. People may be surprised by all the different tasks they take care of. Doug Bauer, maintenance supervisor, said, "We have a small team that takes care of many things." The only tasks the team doesn't deal with are electrical and plumbing.

Like the environmental services team, the most rewarding part of the job for the maintenance staff is the satisfaction from the sisters. The sisters appreciate and compliment them, which motivates them, and the team gets along and works well together because they all have the same mission:

to take care of the sisters.

The maintenance team (left to right): Doug Bauer, Nick Reber, Jesse Blonigen, Mike Kellner, Joe Hennek, Rob Warzecha and John Trettle



Connect With Us!



Sisters Laura Suhr (left) and Tamra Thomas



Sisters Eunice Antony (left) and Mary Jane Berger (center) with a Benedictine Friend



Worshiping in Sacred Heart Chapel

Volunteer With Us

Volunteers play a critical role in serving our sisters, sharing our mission, supporting our ministries and enriching the lives of others in our community and beyond. We welcome volunteers at Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., and Saint Scholastica Convent, our retirement and assisted living facility, in St. Cloud, Minn. Opportunities range to fit different skills, interests and schedules. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/partnership/volunteer-opportunities/.

Support Our Social Justice Initiatives

Our community supports social justice initiatives that help those in need regardless of their origins, belief systems or faith traditions. Serve a meal at the Homeless Helping Homeless Lincoln Center in St. Cloud, attend our annual Empty Bowls celebration to support the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf or share your financial resources to support the immigrant population in our community. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/peace-and-social-justice/.

Nourish Your Faith at the Spirituality Center

Renew your soul at the Spirituality Center, a retreat center on our campus offering programs and retreats throughout the year that help nourish your faith, immerse you deeply into our Benedictine monastic life and provide education on social justice issues. You can also join us to practice Centering Prayer, enjoy solitude in one of our hermitages or walk the labyrinth. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/spirituality-center-studium/.

Pursue a Project in Studium

Studium is the monastery's program for scholars, providing time and space for sisters and visiting scholars to pursue projects that align with Benedictine cultural and social commitments. Visiting scholars may apply to be a resident or day scholar, each of whom has access to a private office and is invited to join the monastic community for prayer, liturgies and meals. Learn more on pages 20-21 or at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/spirituality-center-studium/#studium.

Explore the Oblate Way of Life

Benedictine oblates are women and men who seek God in association with Saint Benedict's Monastery in order to enrich their Christian way of life. With the *Rule of Benedict* as their guide, oblates engage in practices that are part of the very fabric of Christian spirituality, such as daily prayer and reflection and offering hospitality where they live and work. Christians of all faith denominations may become oblates and may be married or single. Learn more on pages 10-11 or at www.sbm.osb.org/partnership/oblates/.

Send Your Daughters to 3G Camp

Girls, God and Good Times (3G) Camp is a Catholic Benedictine summer camp for girls in grades 4-11. Campers spend time with the sisters, learn about Benedictine practices and values, participate in traditional camp activities and stay in residence halls at the College of Saint Benedict. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/3g-camp.

Explore the Art and Heritage Place

The Art and Heritage Place houses the Haehn Museum and Whitby Gift Shop. The Haehn Museum displays exhibits that portray the strong cultural, social and religious influence the Benedictine sisters have had in their ministries locally, statewide, nationally and internationally, both past and present. The current exhibit is called "A Visual Theology: Symbols Woven in Stitches" and showcases breathtaking pieces from the monastery's Art Needlework Department.

Whitby Gift Shop boasts a variety of beautiful items for sale, many handmade by sisters and other artisans. Stop in for a museum tour and commemorate your visit by purchasing something special from the gift shop! Learn more about the Art and Heritage Place on pages 18-19 or at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/art-heritage-place/.

Participate in the Benedictine Live-In Experience

The Benedictine Live-In Experience is an immersive program that invites women to take a break from their regular routines to live and volunteer with the sisters. Participants experience the deepening of spiritual growth in the Benedictine tradition, take time for a change of pace and foster friendship and support with sisters and other volunteers. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/ministry/live-in/.

Pray With Us

Guests are invited to join the monastic community to pray Liturgy of the Hours three times per day and submit prayer requests on our website. Your intentions are remembered during Liturgy of the Hours and are shared on a community bulletin board seen by the sisters every day. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/prayer-requests.

Attend a Liturgy Service With Us

Guests are invited to join the monastic community for our daily prayer of Liturgy of the Hours, regular Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Learn more at www.sbm.osb.org/spirituality/worship-liturgy/.

Connect With Us on Social Media

Follow us on social media and join our email list to stay connected with us!

Facebook: Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict

Instagram: @stbensisters

LinkedIn: Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict

YouTube: sbmdevcomm

Share Your Financial Resources

Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission and carry out our ministries. You can make a one-time or recurring contribution online or by sending a check or cash to:

Saint Benedict's Monastery
Office of Mission Advancement
104 Chapel Lane
St. Joseph, MN 56374

You may also consider including us in your estate plans. Learn more about ways to give at www.sbm.osb.org/partnership/mission-advancement/.



The Office of Mission Advancement
104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374-0220
(320) 363-7100 • www.sbm.osb.org



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Empty Bowls: A Gathering of Hope

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 10, 2026**: You're invited to join the monastic community for the second annual Empty Bowls: A Gathering of Hope!

What is an Empty Bowls celebration?

Attendees have the opportunity to "purchase" a bowl handcrafted by local potters and artists and enjoy a shared meal of delicious soups and breads. There are no set prices; attendees are asked to donate what they can. All proceeds support the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf.

What is the impact of this event?

Last year's inaugural event raised a grand total of **\$6,452.81** for the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf. More than 300 people showed up to support this vital community resource!

How can I get involved?

There are various ways to get involved with this community event:

- » We're seeking handmade bowls to be donated and used at the event. The bowls should be in good condition and can be dropped off at the monastery's Gathering Place.
- » You can provide financial or in-kind contributions to help offset the cost of running this event. We want as much of the raised funds as possible to go directly to the Food Shelf.

Organizations or individuals interested in getting involved can contact Elizabeth Reum, director of social justice ministries, at ereum001@csbsju.edu or 320-471-8450.