



# Lisle Benedictine Women

Vol. 33, No. 1

Sacred Heart Monastery, Lisle, IL

June 2010

THE CORPORATE MISSION  
OF THE  
BENEDICTINE SISTERS  
OF THE  
SACRED HEART  
IS

*Hospitality* DIRECTED  
BY THE GOSPEL  
AND THE SPIRIT OF THE  
RULE OF ST. BENEDICT,  
THE MISSION IS BASED ON A  
COMMITMENT TO USE  
TIME, TALENT AND RESOURCES  
OF THE COMMUNITY  
FOR THOSE IN NEED.

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

April 22, 1905

c. Sister Jo Anne Form, O.S.B.

## Message from the Prioress...



Dear Friend of the Benedictine Sisters,

For the whole week after Easter, our chapel has resounded with this proclamation each day at Holy Mass. There is nothing more profound in our faith than the celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. He is Risen! He is truly Risen!

Because this mystery cannot all be fathomed and celebrated in just one day, we have had the privilege of having the great fifty days of Easter to bask in this joyous gift to us.

With the Feast of Pentecost on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Easter Season has come to a close. Our hearts, now on fire with the Holy Spirit, can share the presence of Jesus with all whom we meet during this Ordinary Time.

May your Summer days be filled with Jesus' presence. May you recognize him in unexpected places and people. Thank you for being Jesus' presence to us.

Peace,

*Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB.*

Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB

*Alleluia!*

*This is*

*the day*

*the Lord*

*has made;*

*let us rejoice*

*in it and*

*be glad!*

*Alleluia!*

(Psalm 118:24)

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# ~ ~ *In Loving Memory* ~ ~

Sister Roberta Knakal, OSB, a Benedictine Sister for 53 years, died on the feast of the Epiphany, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. She was 79 years old.

The daughter of Frank and Anna Brenn Knakal, Sister Roberta was born in Oak Park, Illinois. She received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation, and was educated at St. Mary of Celle in Berwyn, a parish served by the Benedictine Sisters.

Sister Roberta began her teaching career at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1956. She was selected for this mission not only because she was a teacher, but, more importantly, because the Monsignor Pastor needed an organist for the parish! She returned to Illinois in the early 1960s to complete her BS degree at St. Procopius College. Sister Roberta earned a Masters degree in Mathematics from Boston College, and from 1968 - 1991, she taught math at Benet Academy. In the words of Sister Christine Kouba, OSB, "(being a mathematician) also accounted for her measured preciseness and good stewardship in everything she did".



In 1991, she began serious study of the piano, and until 2002, she gave private piano lessons to local students at Sacred Heart Monastery.

Sister Roberta was a member of the Benedictine Musicians of America and looked forward to attending their biennial conferences. Her composition, "*I Will Sing Forever of Your Kindness and of Your Love, O God*", was published by the group. From 2002 until her death, Sister Roberta was the principal organist at Sacred Heart Monastery and led the

community choir. She was responsible for selecting and preparing the music for all community prayer.

Sister's great joy was fishing. At her wake service, Sisters and family members told stories of her many early morning boat rentals so that she could go out on the lake - to catch some blue gills and, maybe, meet the Lord.

Sister Roberta is survived by her Benedictine community, her sister, Elizabeth Otten, and many nieces and nephews. She is buried on the monastery grounds in St. Scholastica Cemetery.

*May she  
be at peace  
in the  
Risen Christ.*

## MEET SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB** I am currently the Pastoral Associate at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Naperville, a lecturer at Benedictine University, and an instructor in the Diocese of Joliet Diaconate program. I serve as Treasurer for both Pax Christi Illinois, and the DuPage County Senior Citizens Council, which runs the Meals on Wheels program for DuPage County.



What makes me energized for ministry is the diversity of the people that I serve—the young men and women at Benedictine University keep me up to date with their world; with the people at the Parish there is the celebration of surprise each day as I'm presented with the joys and sorrows of life. I am not asked to fix problems but just to help them pray through them, deepen their faith. Currently our Pastor is on sabbatical and for the most part I am in charge of decision-making. The parish staff members are great to work with, and rarely is a decision made without consulting one or all of them.

I recently began a *Lectio Divina* group at the Parish. I am edified that many people come after the 10:00am Sunday Liturgy to re-read and contemplate the Scriptures together. I don't currently have any new plans for ministry; however, I am open to the Spirit to send me where I might be needed.



**Sister Joanne Williams, OSB** I minister at the Benedale Center at Villa St. Benedict. When a senior or a family member is looking for a new living arrangement for a loved one, the first step is often a phone call. I often have several telephone conversations about our facility and philosophy with a prospective resident or their family members before they come for a tour of Benedale Center. Then I can assist them in arranging a trial stay and, hopefully, moving in.

I like this job because I enjoy working with people and assisting the elderly to find the best retirement home for them. Once someone has chosen to move into Benedale Center, I follow up with them to insure they have made the right choice. Residents have daily opportunities for activities and friends. Each Wednesday, with the help of a volunteer, we have an arts and crafts class, often with a seasonal or holiday theme. I spend a lot of time in preparation for the classes so that the participants have a positive, fun experience.

Often a resident will ask for assistance with their funeral arrangements. I am happy to help them with the Scripture and music selections. After a resident's death, I follow up with their family members. Our residents, as well as their family members, are part of our Benedictine family and they are always welcome here.

In fact, several family members have returned as volunteers.



## WE SERVE IN VARIED MINISTRIES

**Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB** I minister at Villa St. Benedict as a Mission Integration Coordinator. Basically the title challenges me to create and foster an appreciation and internalization of the faith based VSB identity. This includes running programs and providing insights on what being Catholic and Benedictine is all about. I also challenge our employees, residents and Sisters to live our core values of *Justice, Stewardship, Hospitality* and *Respect*. I work together with Sister Regina Ann and Sister Benita to coordinate and see to the pastoral needs of the VSB residents and staff. Every day has its own agenda, but each day is enjoyed because of the great group of people that work and live at the Villa.

Each year we try something new to invite the residents into our lives and our home. Most recently we shared our third floor living area, which we call St. Walburga Care Center, with the residents. There was a conversation about the Benedictine saint, Walburga, a tour of the Center, and of course, refreshments – Benedictine hospitality! During the months of February and March, we offered several presentations for the residents and employees: the story of Mother Benedicta Riepp, a visual tour of our campus, the Life and Legacy of St. Benedict, and what it means to be Benedictine.



**Sister Regina Ann Weissmann, OSB** When I was asked to share some information about my current ministry, I realized that this is the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of my monastic life and I will celebrate my Golden Jubilee of Profession this year.

I've ministered in teaching, as a psychotherapist, director of adult formation and now the ministry of my life, Pastoral Care. Having been raised in a family of close relations, my younger years were spent with my grandparents, young uncle and young blind aunt. We had our good days and our not so good days! I learned pretty quickly that what grandma says is what goes. So what does this have to do with my current ministry? I learned to appreciate, respect and love the "wisdom" of age, so I treasure my developing relationships with our Villa FAMILY.

For almost four years I've been a member of the staff at Villa St. Benedict, our continuing care retirement community here in Lisle. I currently minister to the residents in independent living, assisted care and memory care. Each day is a new experience as new residents bless our halls with their own adjustments, downsizing to happen, and above all, new friends to make. In any conversation with new residents, the Monastery Chapel will be mentioned as the greatest factor that helped them choose the Villa. Since my ministry centers around our spiritual life, I'm eager to engage residents in various ministries of worship. I have a growing group of Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and various other servers for the Mass. Not only do they serve, but they provide their own substitutes in the event of illness or conflict of time. What a joy and relief!

As I look to a new year of service, I have the joy of Sister Benita joining me in visiting the residents. This gives us more time and more opportunities to minister to various needs. My great dream is to help our "family" see the oneness of our VSB center and join each other in more and more activities.

# MEET SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Sister Irene Jasien, OSB** I have served as the Pastoral Minister at St. James the Apostle in Glen Ellyn since 1972. My primary duty is to oversee and administer to the pastoral needs of the sick, dying and elderly of the parish. I take Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass at the church. We keep in touch with these parishioners with in-home visits, phone calls and greeting cards on their birthdays. When a parishioner dies, I am present at their wake and funeral, and available for the comfort of the family in the days after the death. Training the Ministers of Care to serve their fellow parishioners is also one of my duties.

St. James has a lively “Young at Heart” senior group. I am involved in planning and implementing their wide variety of activities.

It is easy to sum up why I enjoy what I do:

- love to meet new people and get to know their families and histories,
- feel good about making a difference in the lives of others by my presence,
- feel blessed to be an instrument of peace to those who are sick, suffering or dying.



**Sister De Paul Stava, OSB** I work here at Villa St. Benedict in the Benedale Center for Assisted Living . For forty-four years I taught in our grade schools. But in 1993, Our Lady of Lourdes School, on the south side of Chicago where I taught for 25 years, was closed, and I returned to the monastery. The Sisters were operating Queen of Peace Center, and I began work there. We had only six employees at that time, now there are more than 100 working for Villa St. Benedict.



My day begins early when I load the daily newspapers into my wagon, and distribute them to the residents. About mid-morning, the mail arrives at Benedale Center. I sort all of it, and again, I make my deliveries. About once a week, I take a cart of supplies – paper goods and toiletries – around to the residents. They are not able to get out and shop, so my supply cart is very helpful. Tuesday is bunco, Wednesday is art class, and there’s always a bingo game during the week. All of these activities give me a great opportunity to interact with the residents and practice the core values of *Justice, Respect, Hospitality* and *Stewardship*.

I have a stamp collection featuring first day covers of Christmas and depictions of the Madonna. I enjoy sharing this hobby with all of the residents of the Villa. I enjoy my jobs and hope to continue as long as I am able.

## WE SERVE IN VARIED MINISTRIES

**Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB** I have two part-time ministries. The first is Director of the Office of Worship and Catechumenate for the Diocese of Joliet, where I usually work three days a week. Two days and the weekend Mass times are spent as the Liturgist for St. Jude Parish in New Lenox.

At the Diocese, I have many duties, but there are two major ones for which I am currently on the planning team – the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist and the implementation of the revision of the *Roman Missal*. These two projects will take up much of my time during the next two years.

My ministry at the parish is to provide the necessary catechesis for the liturgical life of the parish. This involves the training and updating of ministers, working with the environment personnel, planning liturgies for the sacraments with those involved in various areas of sacramental preparation, and developing the liturgical life of the Mass through catechetical sessions for the parish and Catechumenate.

In addition to these two ministries, I am also on the Liturgy Committee for the upcoming General Chapter of the Federation of St. Scholastica. From time to time, I do liturgical consulting for parishes and institutions planning for the building or renovating of their church.

I love my ministry because it is an expression of the long history of the Benedictine influence on the liturgical life of the Church. I enjoy greatly both doing the work of preparing liturgies and also catechizing people on the liturgy – this is where I can also share the Benedictine influence on worship.



**Sister Carolyn Sieg, OSB** I attended St. Joan of Arc School in Lisle as a child, returned as a teacher and now, as the principal, I minister to students, faculty, parents and the occasional alumni or grandparent. In the pre-3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade environment in one of the largest schools in the diocese, I maintain a holistic approach adhering to the Benedictine Order. I keep Christ in the heart of the school.

Smart boards were added to almost all of the classrooms this year allowing teachers to take a different approach to teaching. The enthusiasm that is bubbling over all around the school, as students and teachers alike are getting acquainted with the new technology, is quite captivating. Keeping with the “new and improved” I am looking forward to expanding the existing pre-school program while continuing to provide a solid, Catholic foundation for the very little ones.

One of the greatest gifts I have been given is to be a part of St. Joan of Arc School, and I thank God every day.



# SISTER CAROLYN SIEG, OSB RECEIVES OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AWARD

On April 29, 2010, at the Principals' Meeting and Awards Breakfast hosted by Lewis University, Sister Carolyn Sieg, OSB received the inaugural "Bishop Kaffer Outstanding Principal Award." The Catholic Schools Office and the College of Education at Lewis University selected Sister Carolyn from among all the principals of elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Joliet for this award.

When he received word that the Diocese of Joliet wanted to acknowledge one outstanding principal who demonstrates excellence in their role as a Catholic school administrator, Father Gabriel Baltes, OSB, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle, knew who the recipient should be. After working closely with Sister Carolyn when he was previously at the parish and now as pastor, he says, "I never cease to be amazed at the passionate, indefatigable and creative personality that Sister Carolyn brings to her role as principal." Always honored to work alongside Sister, Father Gabriel considers her, "not only a great woman of faith, but also a source of inspiration for my own ministry as pastor."

Sister was chosen amongst her peers on a variety of criteria including her faith leader-

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ship, exemplary academic programs, activity in the community-at-large and the setting of high expectations for her school staff and students. Required references included the pastor, school board president, peer principal, teacher, parent of a student and a civic/community leader.

Junior high literature teacher, Mrs. Patricia Sendlak voiced the feelings of all who have come to know, love and appreciate St. Carolyn. "Sister has been on a journey at SJA School for 42 years. Her standards and accomplishments are remarkable. The selection of Sister Carolyn for this momentous award is merited in all areas and on all levels. I am proud to be associated with her."

Article courtesy of St. Joan of Arc Parish

In the words of Sister Carolyn, from the SJA School website, "In the tradition of the Benedictine Order, I believe that young people should be good stewards of their gifts and talents. Gifts and talents that are enhanced and celebrated by Catholic education enable the students of today to contribute to God's Kingdom and strengthen local communities, so as the adults of tomorrow, they will have a lasting effect on the global community."

If you would like to make a gift to the Sisters' Annual Appeal and have misplaced your donation materials, please contact the Development Office by calling (630) 725-6013, or by email at [development@shmlisle.org](mailto:development@shmlisle.org).

Our Annual Report, mailed in September, will acknowledge all of our generous benefactors by name. The Sisters thank you for your continuing generosity.



# DISCERNMENT AND ELECTION OF A PRIORESS

by Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB

On December 5, 2010, the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery will gather in Chapter for the ritual of electing a Prioress. This ritual takes place every six years as is called for by our Community Norms.

The election of the prioress is the culmination of a year spent in readings, discussions, and developing goals and objectives for the next six years. As Benedictines, discernment is part of our charism which calls us to listen and respond to the voice of God heard in the Scriptures, in our Prioress, in one another, and in the events of life. Personal discernment helps each sister enter into communal discernment. It is in discernment and the development of a listening stance, that each member of the community listens to the wisdom of all the Sisters, and experiences the fullness of life that is seen in the will of God.

In January 2010, the Sisters began the discernment process by being given a series of articles that were read and discussed. These articles form the basis for a session on *Discernment of Monastic Leadership*, which was presented and facilitated by Sister Jane Becker, OSB, from Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN. Sister Jane will continue to facilitate our discernment process in the fall with a session on *Goal Setting and Direction*.

Sister Jane, along with our Federation President, will be present for our Election Process during the weekend of December 3-5, 2010.

Since discernment is integral to the way of our monastic life, this process is not new. However, each time we enter into the discernment process in anticipation of the ritual of election of a prioress, we grow both as individuals, and more importantly, as a community. In this process the role of prayer takes on an increasing importance. Thus, in preparation for December, each Sister has been daily saying a special prayer asking for an increase in the gift of discernment with a 'listening heart'.

The announcement of our new Prioress will be available on our website ([www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org)) on December 6.

“In choosing  
a prioress,  
the guiding  
principle  
should always  
be that the one  
placed in office  
be the one  
selected by  
the whole  
community  
acting  
unanimously  
out of  
reverence for  
God...”

(Holy Rule - Chapter 64)

# BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART TREASURED HISTORY AND TRADITION

by Sister Barbara Ann Svec, OSB

Sacred Heart Convent was founded in Chicago on February 2, 1895, by Sister Nepomucene Jaeger. She was the only sister of Father Nepomucene Jaeger, the founder and first Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey. Father Nepomucene was originally a monk of St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Sister Nepomucene was a member of St. Mary's Convent, also in Pennsylvania.

There were a large number of Czech Catholics in the city of Chicago in the 1880s and 1890s but they had no one to minister to them in their native language. This situation was brought to the attention of the



**Mother Nepomucene Jaeger, OSB**

Abbot of St. Vincent's Abbey. He appointed Father Nepomucene to go to the Czech Catholics in Chicago. After confirming the need to his Abbot, Father Nepomucene founded a Benedictine community of monks in what was called the Pilsen area.

The members of the Benedictine foundation to be known as St. Procopius Abbey,

began working among the Czech people. They soon realized that though they could evangelize the adults, they would need help teaching the children of the families their Catholic faith. Father Nepomucene contacted the superior of the Benedictine convent where his sister was a member. Without his sister's knowledge, he asked if she could be trained to become superior of the foundation he envisioned which would take up the ministry of teaching the Czech children. The superior agreed to do so.

When the time came for Sister Nepomucene to move to Chicago, she was informed about her new ministry. Her comment was, "But I can't speak Czech fluently." However, arrangements had been made for two Czech-speaking volunteers to join her from St. Scholastica's Convent in the Rogers Park area of Chicago. Thus when Sacred Heart Convent began, three Sisters made up its membership: Sister (now known as

Mother) Nepomucene, Sister Zita, and Sister Ludmila.

Their first dwelling was a private home where two sisters lived together. This proved to be a difficult living situation for the Sisters. They had a long distance to go to church and there was no place to set up a school. Providence provided! St. Pius Parish relocated their school, which was about three blocks from the Church, and sold the building to the Sisters for \$18,000. Two months later they were able to move out of the private home and start Benedictine community living at what would become St. Vitus Parish, Convent and School. When they moved they had \$3.00, of which \$2.00 was spent for some food and \$1.00 was placed with a note under the statue of St. Joseph to ask for his protection and help in paying the mortgage.



**L-R: Sister Zita Matous, OSB and Sister Ludmilla Neuzil, OSB**

The Czechs in the area helped them pay off the debt with contributions of nickels, dimes and quarters. They also brought what furniture pieces they could spare to help the Sisters furnish their living quarters.

**The story will continue in the December 2010 issue of Lisle Benedictine Women.**

# GETTING TO KNOW MARY

by Sister Christine Kouba, OSB

On December 12, 2009, **Father Gabriel Baltes, OSB**, presented an Advent Reflection to the Sisters, entitled "*A Portrait of Mary in the Gospel of Luke.*"

Father Gabriel first cited the genealogy of Jesus as written in the Gospel of Matthew. Stressing that Matthew was writing to a mixed Church, namely Jewish Christians and the Gentiles, Father said it was critical for the Jewish Christians to include the Gentiles who were foreign to the Jewish laws and practices. This would be a challenge to include them. Matthew, therefore in writing the genealogy, remained faithful to the Jewish tradition but also wove in some unlikely people who were either not a part of the covenant community or were despicable sinners, yet were a part of the lineage. This was to remind the Jews that the Gentiles, who seemed to be the most unlikely people to receive the faith, would equally be the bearers of the fulfillment of God's revelation. In a repetitive rhythm of the succession of fathers begetting sons who later became fathers, and interestingly enough interspersed with five women ending with Mary, Matthew counts off fourteen generations from Abraham to David; then from David to the Babylonian exile fourteen more generations; and from the Babylonian exile to Christ still fourteen more generations. These generations are symbolic of the historical movements leading up to the fulfillment of God's promise in a rich unfolding of the hopes and dreams they had for the coming of the Messiah. The genealogy ends with Joseph, the just man who became the husband of Mary, the Mother of Jesus called the Christ.

In looking back at the unlikely collection of people and places in the history of Israel leading up to the fulfillment of God's promise, we learn that the Son of God came to save sinners and saints alike. Matthew was pointing to the fact that the Jews and Gentiles in his time, and that includes all of us in our time, can find God in the most surprising places and persons such as the marginalized, the stranger, the vulnerable, and those who have no rights.

Whereas Matthew's Gospel speaks of the harsh reali-



ties of the people surrounding the birth of Jesus, Luke's Gospel is a tender account of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Father Gabriel surmised that if it hadn't been for Luke, Christmas would never have been the joyful celebration it is today. We see Luke tell the story with great reverence for Mary as the perfect model of discipleship. She is the doer and hearer of the Word. He notes Mary's selfless response to the Angel Gabriel where she hears, accepts and responds: "Be it done to me according to your Word." (Luke 1:38)



**Father Gabriel Baltes, OSB**

In her visit to her cousin, Elizabeth commends her for her belief in what was spoken to her by the Angel. Mary knows that Elizabeth, too, is blessed. Both women begin with infertility; Elizabeth being barren and Mary being a virgin, but God acted, and we know that God always acts in situations that are bereft of life. Both are now pregnant with life and the children in their wombs, John and Jesus communicate with each other. It is a powerful drama of life revealing an ordinary visit having extraterrestrial features given that the children in their wombs have an extraordinary mission.

Mary and Elizabeth have a rich encounter with each other being prayerfully grateful to God for the great things God had done for them. They happen to be the only two women recorded in the New Testament who talk to each other. Thus we see Elizabeth with John, and Mary with Jesus, as parallel figures that move the world to a life of grace.

In summary, Mary is the Madonna, an unpretentious, blessed Mother, whose spirit rejoices in God, her Savior. Artists throughout the centuries have painted her portrait. She has been revered and loved for her courage and influence with her Son. Luke reminds us that while raising her Son, she was at times bewildered with the strange things that were happening because of him, but "she kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) What a model we have in Mary!

# THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS AND ST. PROCOPIUS MONKS



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THE  
FEAST  
OF

ST. SCHOLASTICA, February 9th  
with Evening Praise and Dinner



# The Vocation Advisory Council, A New Start

by Sister Christine Kouba, OSB

The Sisters from Sacred Heart Monastery and the Monks of St. Procopius Abbey led by Sister Judith Ann

Heble, Prioress, formed a *Vocation Planning Team*. The purpose in forming the team was to spearhead a lay *Vocation Advisory Council*

(VAC) to advise the two Benedictine communities on ways of attracting vocations to the monastic life. First of all, a meeting of resource people was held on September 23, 2009 to see, if in fact, a lay *Vocation Advisory Council* would be feasible. The recommendation to proceed with the idea was unanimous.

Lay people of various age groups ranging from Benet Academy and Benedictine University students to seasoned thinkers were selected based on their supportive interest in the Lisle Benedictine monastic life and its growth. The first meeting of the *Vocation Advisory Council* was held on January 27, 2010, and the VAC has continued to come together every month since that date.

At the monthly meetings, the Vocation Advisory Council is being introduced to the Benedictine



**Standing L - R: Sisters Sharon Marie Stola, Benita Jasurda, Christine Kouba, Mary Bratrosvsky, Brother Columban Trojan**  
**Sitting L - R: Brother Guy Jelinek, Sister Judith Ann Heble, Father James Flint**

(Monastic) way of life in order to understand its importance and know how Monastic life differs from the Apostolic or Cloistered ways of life. Packets of informative articles including the Rule of St. Benedict, the recent CARA research study on the Best Practices of Vocation Promotion and current articles are discussed at the meetings. The present articles being studied are: *A Theology of Call-How to be Good News to Others*, and *What Does it Take to Attract and Sustain New Members to*

*Religious Communities*, by Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND. The writings and discussions are meant to familiarize the Vocation Advisory Council to the present trends of vocation ministry. This means that the Lisle Benedictine Communities must start something new in vocation ministry. How can this happen?

With a background in Benedictine life and their own lived experiences, the Vocation Advisory Council members are ready to give effective advice and continued support to the two Benedictine communities.



Jesus and Mary Magdalene at the tomb.  
A fresco by Fra Angelico,  
Florentine artist, (1400-1455)

**Jesus said to Mary of Magdala:**  
**“Woman, who are you looking for?”** (John 20:15)

Is Jesus asking you the same question  
but you cannot recognize His voice?  
Would you like to discern His call with someone?

Learn more about how you can do this at  
**[www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org)**, or contact Sister Christine at  
**[ckouba@shmlisle.org](mailto:ckouba@shmlisle.org)**,  
or call **630-725-6080**.

# A BENEDICTINE LIVING LEGACY

STEWARDSHIP - GIFTING - HERITAGE

The Benedictine Planned Giving Collaborative sponsored a second educational seminar, *Make A Date With Your Estate*, on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Monastery. This collaboration between the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, St. Procopius Abbey and the Villa St. Benedict Foundation continues the tradition of education that marks the ministry of the Lisle Benedictines. The mission statement of the *Living Legacy Initiative* reads in part, "...to advance the ministry and mission...through a program of education, communication and collaboration related to prayerful estate and gift planning."



Marc Cervantes, Joseph Cioffi and Jennifer Conrad from the firm of Cervantes & Cioffi, LLP were the presenters at our seminar. They briefly covered the basic goals of estate planning, which include planning for incapacity, tax and accounting issues, intestacy, direct transfers and gifts, wills in Illinois, probate, and trusts. They pointed out that there is a place for a wide range of professionals—attorneys, accountants, financial planners and insurance brokers—in everyone's estate plans. Careful estate planning enables one to provide for children, church and charity, while applying the principles of Christian stewardship.

The audience had the opportunity to ask ques-

tions during the presentations, as well as the break period. One on one conversations took place during the hospitality hour which followed the seminar. We were pleased to welcome many guests from the communities around Lisle, as well as guests from Villa St. Benedict and their family members.

The Collaboration is planning our next seminar for September 26, 2010. Presenters from Cervantes & Cioffi, LLP will address the topic, "Retirement and the New Health Care Legislation". We will meet at Sacred Heart Monastery from 3-5pm.



If you would like to be included on our invitation list, would like more information about the Collaboration, or for assistance with a donation, please contact [development@shmlisle.org](mailto:development@shmlisle.org), or call 630 725-6013.

By virtue of our listing in the Official Catholic Directory, the Treasury of the United States has ruled that contributions to the Sisters fully qualify for federal income, estate and gift tax deduction purposes as provided within the law.

The legal title of our monastic community is:  
**Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart**  
Our FEIN is 36-2169170

Persons interested in making special gifts or bequests are asked to contact:

Sister Jo Anne Form, OSB  
Development Office  
Sacred Heart Monastery  
1910 Maple Ave. Lisle, IL 60532  
630 725-6013  
[development@shmlisle.org](mailto:development@shmlisle.org)

# Bulletin Board

Sacred Heart Monastery is an autonomous member of the **Federation of St. Scholastica**. The General Chapter meeting of the Federation will take place June 18-25 in Atchison, Kansas. The meeting's aim is "to provide resource materials and supportive guidelines to assist the approximately 900 Federation members in their ongoing efforts to deepen their commitment to the Benedictine way of life." The delegates will focus on "how our Benedictine Heritage in the 21st century shapes our lives and our witness."

Representing Sacred Heart Monastery will be **Sister Judith Ann Heble**, Prioress, and **Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky** and **Sharon Marie Stola**, who were elected as delegates by the community. Let us pray for their safe journey and success with their work.

**Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB** will travel to Rome in September to chair a symposium entitled *Benedictine Women: Witnesses of Hope*. It will be the sixth international symposium of the **Comunio Internationalis Benedictinarum**. The CIB has as their goal to bring Benedictine women of different traditions and cultures together for mutual encouragement, deepening of their spirituality and creating links across the globe.

The keynote speakers will be Sister Maricarmen Bracomontes, OSB (Mexico), and Mother Therese-Marie Dupagne, OSB (Belgium).

Sister Judith Ann was elected Moderator of the CIB in September 2006.

## St. Benedict, St. Scholastica, The Rule – are you curious?



The Oblates of Sacred Heart Monastery are lay women and men who gather monthly to study The Rule and the Psalms, practice *Lectio Divina*, and share in the community life of the monastery. We extend Benedictine hospitality to you, and invite you to join us on the second Sunday of each month beginning at 2:30pm.

Call **Sister Benita Jasurda, OSB**  
630 725-6074  
for further information.

Three students from DePaul University visited Sacred Heart Monastery earlier this year. The report of their visit can be found on ChicagoStorytelling.com, which is the online studio for journalism courses at DePaul University's College of Communication. Their story is entitled, "Lisle's Sacred Heart Monastery Serves Community, Struggles to Survive" and can be found in the March 8, 2010 issue.

The Monastery Chapel was resplendent with the beauty of spring flowers beginning Easter Sunday and throughout Easter time because of the generosity of our very special friends, the **residents of Villa St. Benedict**.

**Thank you for your  
continuing kindness.**





*Lisle Benedictine Women*

Sacred Heart Monastery  
1910 Maple Avenue  
Lisle, IL 60532-2164  
(630) 725-6000  
[www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org)

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U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lisle, IL  
**Permit No. 78**

**Cover Design and Layout**

Sister Jo Anne Form, OSB  
Development Assistant

**Editor**

Jane Doyle  
Development Administrator

**Other Contributors**

Sister Christine Kouba, OSB  
Sister Barbara Ann Svec, OSB  
Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Corporate Mission of the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart is Hospitality. Directed by the Gospel and the spirit of the Rule of Saint Benedict, the mission is based on a commitment to use time, talent and resources of the Community for those in need.

We, the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Lisle, Illinois, proclaim hospitality to be our corporate commitment. This mandate, found in the Hebrew scriptures, the Gospels, and reiterated by Benedict to be the cornerstone for our interaction with one another (Rule of Benedict, Chapter 72) and our reception of strangers and guests (RB 53), is our particular corporate response to the needs of this 21st century.

We are proclaiming our commitment to hospitality as one significant way of being counter-cultural in the midst of global fear and mistrust.

We are determined to create an environment of non-violence among ourselves that will allow our own members to experience gentle warmth and reverence for the gift each is to the community. We will create an atmosphere in which the stranger will be recognized as a guest - received as Christ Himself - the gift of God among us.

We are willing to risk and model that strangers, coming together as friends, can nourish one another in the prayerful atmosphere of cenobitic community, can share resources, can host and reverence the other as sacred. In the act of "opening our door" to the other, we in fact open our hearts - emptying ourselves of ourselves. This will be our gift to those "who knock." With open hands, we receive the gift they are to us.