

# *Lisle Benedictine Women*

Vol. 46 No. 1

Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2023



*Christ has died.*

*Christ has risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

---

# Message from the Prioress...



Dear friends,

We have just concluded an exciting and energizing set of feasts: Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost.

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we proclaim this mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again.**

During the Easter season, the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost, we display the colorful creation pictured on the front page. This expression of our Catholic identity can be

found in Sacred Heart Monastery, as well as at the Benedale Concierge Desk at Villa St. Benedict. I provide a short reflection alongside this display.

Years ago, Sister Helen found the picture for this “alive creation” on Facebook. This year our international sister from Namibia, Sister Hyacintha, created this display.

On the left, in the midst of freshly grown grass, are the three crosses, the middle one being where our Savior was crucified and died on Good Friday. The other two crosses: the good and bad thief. In front is the tomb where Jesus’ body was placed, with a large rock that originally would have sealed the tomb.

On Easter Sunday, the rock was rolled back and some disciples, including Mary of Magdalene, experienced the Risen Jesus. On Pentecost, a larger group, in an upper-locked room, experienced tongues as of fire, in the person of the Holy Spirit come to rest upon them.

The Resurrection teaches us that Jesus is both fully human and fully Divine. At Pentecost, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the world of believers came to know this truth.

By far, belief in the Resurrection is the greatest event that has ever happened. Because Christ rose from the dead our salvation has been purchased. Life with Christ for all eternity is available to all.

The time after Pentecost gives us an opportunity to continue to reflect and call upon the Holy Spirit to renew us and the face of the earth.

I am excited to share the mystery and meaning of these core truths and pray that the Holy Spirit, dwelling graciously within us, may make us a perfect temple of his glory.

*Sister Mary Bratsosky, O.S.B.*

# *Congratulations!*

**Sister Hyacintha Nepela** graduated from Benedictine University with a double major: a BA in Food & Nutrition and a BS in Biology.

She will be continuing her education at Ben U as she pursues a Masters degree in Integrated Physiology.

When she returns to Namibia, she foresees working in a lab doing research in human physiology, in addition to teaching at university level. She also intends to motivate young girls in her country to study science by organizing science fairs for the lower grades.

To utilize her other degree, she plans to teach good nutrition and cooking to her community.

Sister Hyacintha's graduation was even more memorable with special visitors from Namibia. Her niece Ligamena (*far right*) and Sister Mary Grace (*center*) – a member of her community AND long-time friend from childhood – both traveled here for the occasion!

— — — — —



## **Sister Mary Bratrsovsky OSB, re-elected Prioress**

On December 2-3, 2022 the Sisters gathered for the official discernment and election of a prioress to serve for the next six years. The process was directed by Sister Kimberly Porter, OSB from St. Walburga Monastery in Covington, Kentucky and assisted by the president of the Monastic Congregation of St. Scholastica, Sister Lynn McKenzie, OSB from Cullman, Alabama.

Invoking the Holy Spirit's wisdom and counsel, time was spent in silent reflection as well as group discussion regarding qualifications for spiritual leadership, business concerns of the monastery, and duties related to the needs of the community for this holy and lawful position.

The Sisters gathered in their Prayer Room on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the election after reading Chapter 64 of the Rule of St. Benedict, which addresses the guiding principles of the election of an Abbot/Prioress. After all ballots were read and counted, Sister Lynn McKenzie proclaimed the re-election of Sister Mary Bratrsovsky as Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Sister Mary Bratrsovsky was formally reinstalled as Prioress and then addressed the community asking the Sisters for their support and their resolve to be zealous for God and the demands of this "school of the Lord's service". The commissioning service of the Board of Directors, also known as the Monastic Council, also took place. Appointed were: Sister Sharon Marie Stola, Vice President; Sister Judith Ann Heble, Secretary; and Sister Helen Jilek, Treasurer. These three Sisters affirmed their leadership roles and promised to assist the monastic community in furthering the work of the church by using fully the gifts that have been granted to them through the Spirit.

It was professed that the Benedictine core values of hospitality, stewardship, respect and justice would form the ongoing legacy of the Lisle Benedictine Sisters.



## More Congratulations!

We welcome three new oblates!

In November, Dan Judd (*photo on left*) made his Oblation.

On Pentecost Sunday, Joe Fosco and Phyllis Collins made their formal commitments to Sacred Heart Monastery.

(*below, L-R: Joe, Sister Mary, Sister Karen, Phyllis*)

The Sisters were delighted to celebrate each occasion with the Oblates and their families.



## Come and Be Oblates of St. Benedict

Are you searching for more on your spiritual journey? Is your workload or busyness in competition with your relationship with God? Have you found some distance between you and Church?

Then consider becoming an Oblate, sustained by the way of life presented in the Rule of Benedict.

Oblates are men and women, married or single, who hunger for a deeper experience of God. Join others in prayer, Lectio Divina, and work in the context of an extended Community.

To date we have had 40+ women and men make an Oblation (a Promise) to Sacred Heart Monastery. We meet once a month to socialize, reflect on Lectio Divina, and share the values taught in the Rule of Benedict and how these values have enhanced our lives. Oblates volunteer to assist here at the Monastery with garden work, as receptionists, praying with us at Lauds and/or Vespers, and in our Eucharistic ministries. Needless to say, they also share in the needs of their local communities.

As Director of Oblates, I am humbled and amazed at the depth of spiritual growth I witness in each Oblate, as well as how this wisdom has been taken into their homes and communities. Hospitality, Stewardship, Respect and Justice are alive and practiced well in their lives.

See for yourself if your spiritual life can include a new depth and comradeship as you continue to journey through life.

Sister Karen Nykiel, O.S.B.

630-632-2216

[knykiel@shmlisle.org](mailto:knykiel@shmlisle.org)



## *Spirit, come and renew us*

Kathy and Richard DeMichael stepped up in a tremendous way when Sister Judith Ann was unable to fulfill all her duties as Sacristan and Altar Minister in Sacred Heart Chapel. The Sisters are immensely grateful for all their time, dedication and detailed attention.

*L-R in photo:*

*Sister Mary, Sister Irene, Richard, Fr. Becket, Kathy, Sister Christine*



**Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB**  
**b. 5/11/1942 d. 6/13/2023**

Our dear and beloved former prioress, Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB, was welcomed peacefully into her Savior's arms on June 13, 2023.

Details on her recent challenging health journey have been posted on the CaringBridge website at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/judithannheble>

Our tribute to Sister Judith Ann will be included in the December issue of the LBW newsletter.



*Photo credit: Eric Shumaker*

*Artwork by  
Sister Joanne Williams, OSB*





---

The Sisters were finally able to host their traditional celebration with employees and volunteers, after two years of being unable to get together. Here are some happy memories from February 19th:





## *Volunteers at Sacred Heart Monastery*

*The Sisters are blessed with many friends who volunteer time and talents to assist us on our Board, and with our Chapel and Monastery needs. In spite of physical distancing and suspension of some ministries—some volunteers still anxiously wait to return—the Sisters have certainly felt enriched and uplifted by your love and support in 2022.*

*We are ever grateful, and say, Thank You.*

Judy Arcy	Jane Doyle	Jo Jerak	Tom Omana
Anne Albrecht	Meghan Doyle	Francie Kang	Linsey Schoemehl Payne
Nancy Albrecht	John Durso	Prudence Kapauan	Dan Printz
Lynn Aument	Janet Elischer	Charlotte Kelly	Mary Rammien
Toni Baumgartner	Jean Elliott	Rina Knight	Bill Rendina
Norman Beles	Jill Ferree	Bob Krone	Nancy Riley
Ann Beranek	Jack Flowers	Dick Lamb	Ellen Rodman
Jim Briggs	Adrienne Forstneger	Sue Lamb	Eileen Ryan
Cathy Brummel	Joe Fosco	Cathy Lentz	Kevin Rymanowski
Michael Budd	Beena Francis	Jim Lia	St. Procopius Abbey monks
David Burnett	Mary Furcich	Patrice Lia	Betty Scheet
Carol Cain	Annette Gambo	Barbara Lorr	Tom Shanley
Jerry Carley	Helen Giordano	Gerry Maguire	Joseph Shannon
Cathy Cawiezel	Nick Giuliano	Arlene Malloy	Susan Shih
Ann Chackanad	Carole Gravelle	Carol Mangano	Tom Shilgalis
Helena Chung	Bob Greene	Mary Jane McMahon	Judy Simon
Phyllis Collins	Katie Hannon	John Meis	Diana Stolte
Paul Curtin	June Haptas	Bill Mersch	Shelby Vogrin
Estelle Dambach	Ray Hartman	Peggy Mersch	Jane Weir
Chuck Davidson	Beth Hemzacek	Tim Moore	Christine Welch
Vicky DeLeon	Peggy Hogan	Janice Nowak	Donna Zielazinski
Kathy DeMichael	Roger Huerter	Janet O'Brien	
Richard DeMichael	Sister Susan Hutchens, OSB	Lil Omana	



*With grateful hearts, we acknowledge and thank  
the following donors who gave us their support and gifts  
January 2022 - December 2022*

*With grateful thanks*

**~ A ~**

Helen Ackermann  
Michaele McDonald Adair  
Dorothy Adamek  
Cyrus H. Adams  
Mrs. A. Nancy Adams  
Francis S. Agnoli, MD  
Patricia Aitchison  
Lillian Albarran-Fleming  
Nancy Albrecht  
Charles and Katherine Allberry  
Patrick G. Anderson Jr.  
Mark and Mary Anderson  
Martin and Rebecca Anderson  
Roberta Anderson  
William and Linda Anderson  
Carolyn Vonesh Andree  
Ed and Patricia Angarone  
Anonymous  
Michelle and Joseph  
Archibald III  
Edward J. Archibald  
Mark and Susan Armamentos  
Lynn and Robert Aument  
Laurence and Diane Austin  
Marcella Autero

**~ B ~**

Barbara Bach  
Anne Bailie  
Roberta (Pavlinec) Balicki  
Josephine Barauskas  
William and Sandra Barclay  
Joella Barrett  
Patrick and Karen Barrett  
Dennis and Patricia Batchos  
Baumgartner Construction Inc  
Toni Baumgartner  
Dan and Cathy Baumgartner  
Richard and Marilyn Bazan

Lou and Anne Beccavin  
Mary Lou Bellio Pugliese  
Marguerite and Richard  
Belval  
Benedictine  
Anne C. Benitz  
John A. Benvegenu  
Ann Beranek  
Angela Beres  
Barbara Beres  
Carol Ann Bergant  
Mary J. Berger  
Mary Berkhout  
Perry and Donna Bernstein  
Mary Claire Berry  
Mrs. LaTanya Berry-Johnson  
Judy Beumer  
Adrienne Beutler  
Phyllis Bibbo  
Steven Biel  
Susan and Thomas Binder  
The Birck Family Fund  
Mark and Diane Birkley  
Carol A. Black  
Robert and Patricia  
Blackshear  
Kristin Joan Bladek  
Barbara J. Blair  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith  
Blakemore  
Mary Ann Blandford  
Linda Blaneck-Novak and  
Richard Novak  
Eleanor Volka Blankenship  
Teri and Larry Bobko  
Mary Ann and Brand Bobosky  
John and Valerie Bockrath  
Christine Boesch  
Dolores Bogolin  
Brian and Janet Boland  
Anna Mae Bolbat and Eric  
Shumaker

Danielle Bolisay  
Marilyn Hornick Bonaguro  
Elaine A. Booth  
Bernadette Borgard  
Robert and Eileen Boyda  
Carol (Kranz) Boynton (1955)  
Mary Graff Bozek  
William and Margaret  
Brabeck  
Thomas and Patricia Brady  
Rose Braidon-Hall (Splendoria)  
Ramona Branchaw  
Tom and Chris Bratrsovsky  
William and Cynthia Brejcha  
Mrs. James G. Brennan  
Michael and Kathryn Brennan  
Jim Briggs  
Lorrie Brinn  
Barbara and Dan Brochmann  
Donna Bronoski  
Joseph and Joanna Brooks  
Beatrice Brown  
Dolores Brown & Family  
Charlie and Anne Browne  
Debra J. Broxterman  
Jane Brueggemann  
Charles and Catherine  
Brummel  
Jeff and Tammy Bruner  
Greg and Shari Brunette  
John R. Bruno  
John Bruzan  
Therese M. Buc  
Michael J. and Lynn M. Budd  
LaVerne B. Budilovsky  
David and Kathleen Buettner  
Tom and Wanda Burdett  
Barbara Buri  
Ken and Judith Buric  
Kevin and Stacey Zigmond  
Burns  
Anne Burton



## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

Ed and Kay Burton  
Tim and Molly Bush  
Adelia and Donald Buttitta

### ~ C ~

Carol A. Cain  
Myra Callaghan  
Dennis and Joan Callan  
Cappetta Family  
Abelardo and Iluminada Capulong  
Gloria Caracello  
Judith A. Carlisle  
Charles and Angie Carlson  
Florence Collins Carlson  
Lori and Kevin Carlson  
Bob Carr  
Dolores Carroll  
Tony and Susan Cassa  
Barbara Catrone  
Catheryn Cawiezel  
Linda Celba  
Annamma Chackanad  
Gary and Carol Chandler  
Elaine M. Chase  
Cathy and Norb Chesta  
Ellen and Joseph Chobot  
David and Karen Choie  
John and Sung Eun Choie  
Margaret Y. Chung  
Donna Jean and David Ciuffreda  
Marlene Clark  
Evangeline Clement  
Kimberly Clements  
Susan Cole  
John and Rosemary Collins  
Mary Compton  
Irma Conley  
Mary Lee Smith Conley  
John and Michaelene Conrad  
Lena M. Conway  
Robert and Elisa Correia  
John and Carol Corrigan  
Robert and Helen Corsentino

Elizabeth Cosgrove  
Michael and Joan Costin  
Valdina Creasy  
Michael and Elise Crowell  
Mrs. John J. Cull  
John and Jacki Cullen  
Patricia and Conor Cunneen  
Maureen Cunningham  
Paul and Gail Curtin

### ~ D ~

Mary Jo Dailey  
Bud Daly  
Don and Linda Daniels  
Chuck and Charlette Davidson  
Elaine Davis  
Raulie and Erlinda de Lara  
Miriam Vicky J. de Leon  
Daisy A. Decamotan  
Jesus and Ellen Delos Reyes  
Steve and Therese DeSitter  
Kathleen (Quinn) and Dan Devine  
Kathy and Anthony DiCristina  
Ray and Ruth Dillon  
Joe and Marie Dispensa  
June M. Doherty  
Theresa Dohler  
Joe Donnelly  
Suzanne R. Doolin  
Nancy Doran  
Joe and Laura Dorenkamp  
Bill and Lori Dougherty  
Jane A. Doyle  
Ed and Debra Drager  
Thomas and Susan Drake  
Richard and Sandra Drapeau  
Laura and Bill Drew  
Margaret Ducaji  
Joyce Duffy  
Mary and Andrew Dugenske  
Sallie Gustine Duncan  
Mary Ellen Durbin  
Joan Dziedzic

### ~ E ~

Raymond F. Ecker  
Mary Edmondson  
Michael E. Einweck  
Ken and Sue Ekins  
Elizabeth C. Elmen  
Beverly Z. Esser  
Thomas L. Evers

### ~ F ~

Marcia and John Fagan  
Patricia Fallon  
Norb and Jacque Farnaus  
Nellie and Tom Fassbender  
Marion B. Fayta  
Tony and Patricia Fedie  
Jill Ferree  
Jan Ferreri (Brummel)  
John Ferri  
Richard Fey  
Deacon Bob Fitt  
Jim and Meg Fletcher  
Leonard and Joan Fletcher  
Rose Ann and Jack Flowers  
Dennis and Margaret Flynn  
Maureen Flynn  
Bill and Carla Focke  
Fred and Charlene Forest  
Mary Fornatto  
Adrienne L. Forstneger  
Joe Fosco  
Jim and Andrea Fox  
Sheila Freund  
Dorothy Fritz  
Mary T. Fritz  
Margaret (Sykora) Fullmer  
Mary D. Furcich

### ~ G ~

Bill and Jean Gacek  
Tom and Sandra Gaffney  
Kay Gaido

*With grateful thanks*

## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

With grateful thanks

Louis Gale  
 Dan and Carol Gallagher  
 Annette Gambo  
 Margie and Bill Gamboney  
 Dorothy and Kenneth Garhan  
 Gloria and Tom Garrett  
 Adrienne Pilot Garvey (class 1961)  
 Mary K. Garvin  
 Irene Gasior  
 Frances and John Gattuso  
 Mary Frances Gattuso  
 James Gefre  
 Joanne Jacques Geist  
 Carlene Gerlich  
 Lucy Giancola  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Giangreggio  
 Patricia H. Gibbons  
 Marjorie Gilmartin  
 Helen B. Giordano  
 Rosemary Horna Glickley  
 Gary and Paula Goforth  
 Bernadine Gonda  
 Judith and Edward Gonwa  
 Ofelia B. Gonzales  
 Sara Gordon  
 Florence Gorgen  
 Carl S. Grabinski  
 Marie Graiziger  
 Richard and Patti Grantner  
 Jarie Granton  
 Theresa Gratz  
 Art and Carole Gravelle  
 Marie K. Gray  
 Janice and Michael Greco  
 Joe Green  
 Charlie and Brenda Gregory  
 Andrew Greskovich Jr  
 David Grimes  
 Louise R. Grobl  
 Stephen A. Grobl  
 Renee and Helmut Groetzl  
 Peggy Weatherhead Guccione

### ~ H ~

Mary and Peter Hable  
 Genowefa B. Hadamik  
 Michael and Nancy Conley Haeger  
 Tom and Joan Haffner  
 Rose and John Hamerla  
 James and Linda Hammond  
 Barbara Hanchin  
 Charles and Gertrude Hanley  
 Arleen Hannon  
 Betty Hansen  
 June E. Haptas  
 Sheila Hargrave  
 Patricia F. Harrington  
 Patricia Harte  
 Raymond and Jean Hartman  
 Daniel and Dianne Harvanek  
 Catherine M. Harvey  
 Mary LaVerne McCabe Haubl  
 and Leonard J. Haubl  
 Anthony and Linda Haugen  
 Cecile and Francis Haugh  
 Elizabeth F. Hayes  
 James and Judy Healy  
 Gerard W. and Eileen Heble  
 Kurt and Cindy Heier  
 Diane Hein  
 Chip and Annette Heiser  
 Joan M. Helie  
 Monica Hellenbrand  
 Karen Hembrough  
 Elizabeth Hemzacek  
 Mary Pat Hengesbaugh  
 Mary Ann Nedelsky Henry  
 Catherine Henseler  
 Tim and Margaret Herter  
 Terry Herzog  
 Mary Ann Hiles  
 JoAnn Hill  
 John and Dorothy Hinds  
 Ann Hines  
 Carol and Jerry Hinterlong

Carol M. Hlavac  
 Barbara and John Hocking  
 Pat Hogan  
 Kathi Holper  
 Barbara Hopp  
 Harriet Pribyl Hora  
 Rich and Mary Jean Horna  
 Dorothy A. Horton  
 Bert and Mary L. Hrnicek  
 Thomas Hrszenjak  
 Roger Huerter  
 Lois Ann Hughes  
 Susan Hutchens, OSB  
 Joyce Hutchinson  
 Judith Hyland

### ~ I ~

Susan M. Illing  
 Andrew Isaacson  
 Judy Hanratty Iverson

### ~ J ~

Ronald and Charlotte Jablonski  
 Louise and Len Jachim  
 John and Janet Jachna  
 Chuck and Brenda Jaegle  
 Kathy Jankovic  
 Jane Jankowski  
 Michael and Pauline Jascur  
 William Jasien  
 Shirlee Jasien  
 Millie and Robert Jaskula  
 Shirlee Jecmen  
 Jack and Jo Jerak  
 Jerome and Carol Jeslis  
 Alo Jha  
 S. Hannah Jhang  
 Tony Jilek  
 Julia Jilek  
 Edward and Virginia Johnson  
 Jeanne Johnson  
 Lillian T. Johnson  
 Mark and Gail Johnson

## *2022 Donor acknowledgement continued*

Barbara Johnston  
David R. and Nicole B. Jones  
Ray and Marilyn Jones  
Shirley Jones  
Barbara and Thomas Jurack  
John and Dorothy Jurcenko

### *~ K ~*

Cynthia Kadela  
Laurie K. Kagann  
Jan Kahl  
Maureen Kallen  
Bobby and Lillian Kallus  
Elizabeth Kallus and Luke Berube, PhD  
Robert A Kallus  
Donna Kamyszek  
Su-Pa and Frances Kang  
Ashok and Jyotsana Kapadia  
Alejandro and Prudence Kapauan  
Tina Karakourtis, Tina's Closet  
Gary and Ann Karch  
Theodora Karczewski  
Richard and Laurette Karuhn  
Carol Karvon  
Stephanie and Jeffrey Kastelic  
Theresa and Gary Kaszynski  
Donald Kazak  
Paula and Lester Keck  
Gerald and Patricia Kellen  
Kathleen E. Kelley  
Alice Kelly  
Charlotte L. Kelly  
Noreen Kelly  
John and Regina Kelzer  
Patricia A. Kemp  
Mary E. Kent  
Michael and Terese Kerner

Dorothy Kett  
Carol Keyes  
Gabrielle Kidney  
Michael and Jane Kidney  
Vivian C. Kilzer  
Ann E.N. Kim  
Martha Kinsey  
Greg and Linda Klawitter  
Diane Kleckler  
Harry and Robin Kleronomos  
David J. Klima and Karen M. Klima  
Antoinette Klimowski  
Barbara Knierim  
Rina Knight  
John and Janet Knobloch  
Kurt and Pat Koch  
Jerry Kolpa  
Katherine and John Koschwanez  
Barbara Koth  
Jim and Marilyn Kothmann  
David Kowalski  
Richard and Mary Kozerski  
Stanley J. Koziol  
Mary and Bob Kramer  
Kenneth J. Krauth  
Marlene V. Krawczyk  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Krejci  
William and Marie Krejci  
Alan Kruml  
Chris and Julie Krumme  
Russell and Carolyn Krupicka  
Betty and Ron Krupp  
Michael and Lorraine Krzywosz  
Betty Dao Ku  
Wish and Shirley Kucik  
Karen and Edward Kuhn

Edward and Sharon Kulik  
Gregory A. Kurkjian Jr  
Carol Ann Kusulas  
Anita L. Bosen Kvitek

### *~ L ~*

Marian Lafin  
Julie LaFond  
Sandra and John Lagedrost  
Dona M. Laketek  
Helene Lamarre  
Sue and Dick Lamb  
Ursula and Jim Lambke  
Carol Lapham  
Alison and Tom Lapinski  
Don and Terri Larson  
Oscar P. Larson  
Sharon Larson  
Barbara Lausch  
Judy A. Lauten  
Florence Lazzari  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Leavy  
Gary Ledvora and Colleen Kenney  
Dianne Bebb Lee  
Eileen and Paul LeFort  
Mary F. Lein  
Cathy Lentz  
Leo's Cleaners  
Eileen J. Lestina  
John Levock  
Edward J. Liczwek  
Mary Jane M. Lin  
Walter Liptak  
Margaret Lisle  
Therese H. Liu  
Hubert and Lorraine Livingston  
Santiago and Vivian Lopez

*With grateful thanks*

*We most gratefully hold all our donors and friends  
in our hearts and in our prayers*



## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

With grateful thanks

Barbara A. Lorr  
James D. Lorr and Family  
Robert Arthur Lorr  
Donna Luczak  
Carol Lukowski  
Karen Lundgren  
Paul Luzbetak  
Bro. Pat Lynch, CSC

~ M ~

Robert and Maria  
MacFarlane  
Robert Maday  
Joseph and Barbara Madden  
Thomas and Pamela Mader  
Joann Madon  
Joe and Becky Magera  
Gerry and Karen Maguire  
Mary Maher  
Joseph and Joann Majewski  
Rita and Ann Malec  
Arlene Malloy  
Sandy McWayne Mann  
Corinne Marcello  
Frank and Jeanette  
Marchese  
Guy Marella  
Bernard K. Maresh  
Pamela and Richard Marker  
Chris and Cynthia Marler  
Rose Mary Marquette  
Jay and Judy Marten  
Laura and Ramon Marth  
Andrew Masura

Greg and Marianne Matecki  
Andrew J. Matejcak  
Loretta Matesevac  
Teresa Matlock  
Bette A. Mazur  
Joanie and John McAvoy  
Alma McCabe  
Margaret McCann  
Ruth F. McCarthy  
Jacqueline McCauley  
George and Kathy McConaghy  
Phil and Mary McGovern  
Ronald and Margaret  
McGovern  
Sarah McGowan  
Jean McGrath  
Mike and Maggie McGuire  
Rita and David McIntyre  
McKee-Zurbruggen Family  
Fund  
Elizabeth M. McLean  
Mary Ann Turner McCloud  
Margaret McMahon  
Patrick and Elaine McMenamy  
Jim and Mary McParland  
Ralph and Pamela Meeker  
Carol and Dave Mejdrich  
Carol Mellen (Nedelsky)  
Jim and Kathy Melsa  
Gary Menconi  
Robert and Diane Merna  
Susen Mesco  
Jim and Sharon Meuris  
Barbara and Ken Meyer

David and Rita Meyer  
Sherry Michaels  
Mrs. Sandra Michelin  
Andrew J. Mikuska  
Joseph and Pauline Mikuska  
Robert N. Milano  
Mary Therese and Bob Millar  
Fred Miller  
Kelly and Jacqueline Miller  
Patricia J. Miller  
Helen R. Mills  
Nick and Celeste Minarich  
John M. Misak  
Donna Grimmelbein Misita  
Eleanor Mitchell  
Ron and Cynthia Mitiu  
Tom and Kay Mizerk  
Dennis and Mary Ann Mlynski  
Orrin and Mary Jean Moen  
Steve and Ruth Mohyla  
Anna-Marie Moncrief  
Patrick and Candice Moore  
Nancy M. Moran  
David and Gosha Moravecek  
Nancy Morman and Dan McNeil  
Deacon and Mrs. Robert Morris  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Morrissey  
Margaret Motz  
Terry and Susan Mueller  
Brian and Gisela Mulligan  
James and Sarah Mulloy  
Carol Mulvihill  
Jim and Jean Murphy  
Marion P Murphy  
Tom and Jan Murray

*Words and lists cannot express adequately how very grateful the  
Sisters are for all our friends who give so freely to us.*

*We are especially blessed by the generosity shown by Villa  
St. Benedict residents for our Chapel Flower Fund.*



## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

Dorothy Skokan Myers  
Jeanne Myscofski

### ~ N ~

Mary Ann Naas  
Ted and Marjorie Naegel  
Nomie and Paula Namie  
Mrs. Edwin W. Nasby  
Daniel J. Nasharr  
Ronald and Madeline Nasharr  
Maureen Naughton  
Jean Nedelsky  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C.  
Nemergut  
Mary Newsam  
Jean Marie Nickelman  
Mary M. Norman  
Ann M. Novak  
Mary Noven  
John P. and Kathleen Novotny  
Janice V. Nowak  
Mary A. Nunke

### ~ O ~

Janet O'Brien  
Sharon and Edward O'Brien  
Nina O'Connor  
Steve and Deb O'Connor  
Brian and Tammi O'Dea  
Agnes O'Donnell  
Mary Jane O'Donnell  
Judith O'Hara  
Char O'Keefe  
Bernard and Martha O'Reilly  
Dorothy Mukenschnabl  
O'Reilly  
John P. O'Rourke  
Bernadette Oblak  
Rosemary Oddo  
Rose Onjack  
Deacon Michael and Suzanne  
Opalka  
Joe and Barb Ott  
Michael and Donna Ozog

### ~ P ~

Lorraine Pachankis  
Vicki and Steve Pachol  
Kurt and Monica Padera  
Debbie Pallardy  
Mary J. Palmquist  
Joseph and Jeanne Paluga  
Harry and Marion Panka  
Ted and Mary Parks  
Ron and Christine Paryl  
Tom and Joan Pattermann  
John and Donna Patterson  
Margaret Patterson  
Thomas G. Paulick  
Eugene and Patricia Pawlik  
Carole Pawlikowski  
Carole Payne  
Therese and Gene Mizerny  
Payne  
Marita and Philip Peffley  
Mary T. Pellizzari  
Judy Bales Perle  
Bernadette Petrauskas  
Christopher Pett  
Patricia L. Pfeifer  
Rosemary Phillips  
Anthony Pieranunzi  
Betty Pierce  
Pat and Jim Pignatiello  
Pamela S. Pipkin  
Robert and Janet Pircher  
Dolores R. Pircon  
Mary Jayne Piscitelli  
Linda A. Plimi  
Mary Anne Plos  
Dianne and Robert Pogwizd  
Georgia Mae Pohl  
Rosanne and Joseph Polich  
Michael Pomorski  
Thomas G. Potter  
Sister Mary E. Potthast  
Alan and Marilyn Potyen  
PoundCake Bakery – Bev  
Hudson, owner

Cindy Power  
Rose and Jack Powers  
Leo and Sue Poynton  
Leo and Bernadette Priebe  
Joseph and Jean Prieboy  
Dan and Judy Printz  
John and Judy Provenzano  
(Freda)  
Roger and Vivian Pscherer  
John and Sue Psenicka  
Ms. Patricia Putzbach  
Paul and Robin Pycik

### ~ Q ~

John and Kathleen Quinn

### ~ R ~

Marilyn Radicker  
Aida V. Ramirez  
Clara Raupp  
Georgiana Razniewski  
Margaret M. Rea  
Marguerite M. Regan  
James and Rita Regis  
William and Teresa Ann Reid  
Marion and Mary Kay Reis  
Rosa Rendon  
Sharlin Nasharr Reynolds  
Tom and Fran Rich  
Donna Richardson  
Marion Richardson  
Marilyn Riggs  
Patricia L. Riggs  
William L. Rigsby  
Martha Robbins  
Jim and Rosie Robbs  
A.F. Robinson  
Edward S. Rog Jr  
Diane Roman  
Dennis and Terese Ronowski  
Barbara Roseborough  
Peggy Rotunno  
Charles and Carole Rozhon  
David and Pam Ruda

*With grateful thanks*

## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

*With grateful thanks*

Maureen Vap Ruf  
Edward B. Ruff III  
Joanne Rungaitis  
Leah Rusnak  
Joan and Don Russell  
Nancy B. Russell  
Eileen L. Ryan  
Marie Ryan  
Patricia Ryan  
Matthew C. Rychetsky  
Clarence (Bill) Ryneerson

~ S ~

Bob and Janet Saflover  
Marlene Sage  
Marilyn Sak  
Janice A. Sako  
Pamela and Carlo Santucci  
Steve and Beckie Saul  
Elizabeth Saunders  
Mary M. Sauriol  
Tom and Frances Scarpellino  
Thomas and Judeen Schedler  
Betty and Greg Scheet  
Sharon Mocny Schipiour  
Janet Schmid  
Donald M. and Joann Schmidt  
Hillard Schmidt  
Christine Schrader  
Suellen F. Schulthesz  
Mrs. Janeise Schultz  
Timothy and Julie Schultz  
David and Nancy Schulz  
Paula and Chuck Schumacher  
Christine Schuur  
Kathy and Greg Scriba  
Carolyn Scutella (Delo)  
James R. Sefcik, Jr.  
Greg Sellers  
Edward L. Selvas  
Trini Selvas  
Charles J. Sener  
Rose Sepeda  
Mario Serpico, Naperville  
Cobbler Shoe Repair

Thomas J. Shanley  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shannon  
Frances Shantz  
Ronald Sharko  
Patricia D. Sheehan  
Mary Kathryn Sheetz  
Louise Shepard  
Susan Shih  
Tom Shilgalis  
Gary and Mary Shipp  
Bernadette Shonka  
Janice A. Shuck  
Marie Shultz (Skopec)  
Eric Shumaker  
Michael and Pamela Shuta  
Roger and Joan Shutes  
Irene Siebecker  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Siefert  
Alice Nykl Sima  
Eric and Stephanie Simonson  
Evelyn Sirinek  
Thomas Sirovatka  
Phyllis Skehan  
Robert and Nancy Skrok  
J.P. and P.A. Skubick  
Mary Anna Skul  
Dave and Diane Skupien  
John Slack  
Thomas and Mary Ann Sladek  
JoEllen Slezak  
George A. Sloane  
Clare Slowik  
Kathleen Slucas  
Marie Sluka  
Pete and Mary Sluka  
Mary M. Smith  
Raymond and Theresa Smith  
Robert K. Smith  
M. Patricia Smok  
Dolores M. Smolen  
Leslie Snyder  
Rose (Roller) Sodergren  
Francis A. Sojka  
Dennis and Mary Ann  
Sonnefeldt

Bonnie Spalla  
Ms. Cheryl Sporlein  
Judith Ann Squire  
Janet Srail  
Raymond Sramek  
St James the Apostle Catholic  
Church  
St Procopius Abbey  
Roseann Stachura  
Ernie and Edith Stark  
Rita Stasi  
Stewardship Fund  
Kathryn (Simek) Stimetz  
Ivan and Linda Stodola  
Paul Stodola  
Rudi and Mary Strahl  
Judi Strong  
Ralph and Beatrice Strozza  
Joseph and Jean Stubits  
Frank and Beverly Studnick  
Rosemarie E. Sudimack  
Edward and Shirley Sullivan  
Joseph M. Sullivan  
Patricia Volp Sullivan  
Nancy E. Supena  
Joyce and Walter Sura  
Marilyn J. Hoeft Swanson  
( '65)  
Jerome and Ellen Sychowski  
Arlene Cerven Sypniewski  
1951  
Susan and Marty Szczech  
Judith Szorc  
Peter and Nancy Szymczyk

~ T ~

Edward and Shirley Talbot  
James and Lois Tallarovic  
Glenn and Mags Tan  
John and Patricia Taska  
Kelly Teague  
Thomas and Linda  
Teichgraeber  
Florence Terronez  
Rita Thompson



## 2022 Donor acknowledgement continued

James and Patricia Tierney  
 Alice Tinnes  
 Cory S. Tintera  
 Frank and Callie Mae Tobolski  
 Mary Tomaso  
 Mary Ann Tomsic  
 Traverso's Restaurant  
 Fred and Vicki Tuch  
 Gregory and Marla Turek  
 James E. Turner  
 Rosemarie Turner  
 Joan and Joseph Turos  
 Joseph Tuzzolino  
 John Twarogal

### ~ U ~

James J. Uchtyl  
 Bonita Untiedt  
 Shirley and Ronald Utley

### ~ V ~

Susan R. Vadovicky  
 Carmen and Eugenio Valdes  
 Mrs. Pete (Judy) Valek  
 Bonnie R. Valiant  
 Aldona Valicenti  
 Michael and Patricia Vanhal  
 Jeffry and Kristine Vann  
 Linda and Carlos Vargas  
 Steven J. Vatch  
 Robert and Jean Verbiscer  
 Marilyn Viator  
 David M. Vidican  
 Bernadette Viskocil  
 Sam and Carolyn Vitale  
 Shelby Vogrin

Helen Vopenka  
 Tom and Sue Votruba

### ~ W ~

Donna J. Wagner  
 Edith and Richard Wagner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Francis M.  
   Wagner  
 Melvin and Betty Wagner  
 John O. Walker  
 Carole Piller Wall  
 Sandra Srotyr Wall  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and  
   Nicole Wallace  
 Mike and Judy Walsh  
 William Walsh  
 Sarah and Chase Walton  
 Mary Ann Yackley Walz  
 Eileen Ward  
 Nancy and Bill Warden  
 K. Cobe Watson (Benay)  
 David Wegman  
 Richard and Barbara Weigel  
 Ed Weingartner  
 Jane M. Weir  
 Fran Weiss  
 John Weizeorick  
 Scott and Mary Jo Weller  
 Nancy Deeley-Earley and John  
   Welling  
 Therese Salata Welsh  
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Welty  
 Joyce Wesolowski  
 Keith P. West Jr. and Marie  
   Diener West  
 Frank and Lucy Whalen

Pat and Bob Wheeler  
 Phil and Rosemary White  
 Jeff and Marisa Whitnell  
 Maureen Hacker Wibben  
 Joan Brummel Wiczek  
 Craig and Leslie Wiedder  
 Joy Wilcox  
 John and Lorraine Williams  
 Dennis and Rosemary  
   Wisnosky  
 Catherine S. Wokas  
 Midge Canfield Wolfla  
 Steve and Patti Woodring  
 William and Camille Woodward  
 Josephine Wozny  
 Joan S. Wrenn  
 Lawrence and Annette Wulffe

### ~ Y ~

Donna Yackley  
 Mari Yohannan  
 Yu Hermenegildo  
 Kathy and Ron Yurcus

### ~ Z ~

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Zak  
 Nancy Zak  
 Gloria Zangara  
 Joan Zaorski  
 Barbara Zeiler  
 Natalie Zelman  
 Theresa and John Zigmond  
 Steven and Karen Zimmerman  
 Tom and Debbie Zimmerman  
 Steven and Deborah Zuccarini  
 Theresa Zuchowski

With grateful thanks

We sincerely regret any omission or errors in our acknowledgements, and have also done our best to honor our friends' wishes to give anonymously with such generosity. Please call the Development Office (630.725.6013) with any questions or corrections.

---

## Here and There . . .

- Sr. Christine Kouba



The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) recommended that Religious Sisters heed Pope Francis' call to welcome immigrants searching for living conditions better than the harsh ones in their own countries, and Sister Mary Bratrsovsky responded to that call.

**In January Sister Mary spent two weeks in San Antonio** helping in the Catholic Charities facility, where immigrants arrived by bus from other border towns to stay for a few days and be refreshed from tedious journeys with meals and beds to sleep in. Counselors and lawyers assisted in

preparing legal papers and making connections with sponsors. At that time, there were around 100 immigrants in the facility, including children and babies. Capacity is 700 beds.

The daily routine for volunteers involved sorting and stocking clothes. They showed kindness and compassion to the immigrants and listened to their stories - very emotional and often involving cases of harm or death. It was customary to pray the Rosary each day with them in Spanish, sing hymns and listen to their personal hopes and intentions.

On Sunday it was heart-warming to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, recognized for his merciful, Christ-like approach with suffering people. Sister Mary felt uplifted by this experience and comforted to know that the immigrants were well served at this center in all aspects - physically, emotionally, legally and spiritually - and came home with much to share and pray about.

*Leviticus 19:33-34: "When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you, you shall love the alien as yourself."*

*St. Benedict's wisdom: "All guests who present themselves are to be received as Christ."*



---

**In May, Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky and Christine Kouba ventured on a purposeful road trip.**

Their first stop was Warren, Ohio, to visit with Sister Barbara Pavlik, a Sacred Heart Monastery member who belongs to the Byzantine Catholic SS. Peter and Paul Parish and has lived and served in that community most of her religious life.

The second leg of the trip took them to Erie, Pennsylvania, to deposit ten boxes of used books related to scripture and spiritual reading at the Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM). These books are collected and shipped from this location to various monasteries in poor countries, where they are received as significant treasures.

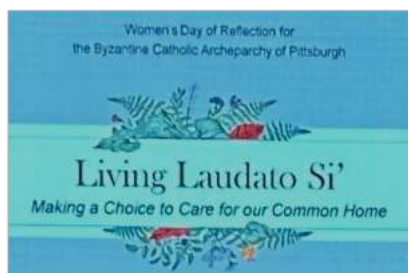
The Sisters then drove to Pittsburg, to spend time with another Sacred Heart Community member. Sister Marion Dobos lives and works at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius as Director of Pastoral Formation for the seminarians, and serves as Director of Religious Education in the Archeparchy of Pittsburg.

*(continued on next page)*



On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Sister Marion (*photo on left*) directed a Women's Day Reflection at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, PA, which Sisters Mary and Christine attended. Our focus was on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si' (*Praise You, Lord*): On Care for Our Common Home", presented by Kat Doyle (*photo on right*), the director of Justice & Peace Ministries for the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the U.S. representative for the Vatican's working group in raising awareness of Pope Francis' encyclical. She reminds people of serious changes needed from our destructive ways of polluting and

offers best practices for reusing, recycling and saving our planet's resources.



The Sisters were inspired by Kat Doyle's enthusiastic and prayerful reflection of the overwhelming beauty of creation that Pope Francis emphasizes. Everyone and everything is connected in relationship, and dependent on our planet for nature's gifts. Our Creator God continues to abide with all creation, and Jesus himself has become a part of the created world. Every one of us is called to value our common home and preserve it for generations to come.

Laudato Si' Action Plan, Archdiocese of Atlanta (78 pages) may be found on-line at <https://archatl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/laudato-si-action-plan-final-enlinks.pdf>

*Also refer to Sr. Marion's article on p. 19 in this newsletter.*

## PLANNED GIVING

Benefits of making a Planned Gift, which include wills, bequests, life insurance and other estate plans:

- Provide a lasting tribute that offers ongoing support for the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.
- Make a gift today without spending current income or retirement resources.
- Realize income tax and future estate tax advantages while providing for your heirs.
- Become a partner in ministry with the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.
- Be remembered in the prayers of the Sisters each day.

The Sisters thank you for considering a bequest to the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.

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:

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



---

# Our Byzantine Sisters

- Sr. Marion Dobos

## The Ointment-Bearing Women

On April 9th we celebrated the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Risen Christ first manifested Himself to women. At our Easter liturgical celebrations Synoptic Gospel writers reminded us of the brave and caring women who went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body after burial. They are called “Ointment-Bearing Women.”

Ointment-Bearing Women? Yes, we all know them! Every family, parish and neighborhood has one or more. Whenever they are needed, they simply are there. No one seems to call them. They just know when to be present and what to do. We don’t even have a name for them now, but we know who they are.

It is that group of faithful people, usually women, who seem just to appear when we need them. At the time of illness or death they are present with casseroles, baked goods and cooked meals ready to eat. They are ready to lend a hand with cleaning, offer a warm shoulder to cry and lean on or a welcoming ear to listen.

Sometimes we call them Mom or Grandma, or Aunt So-and-so, or simply our friends and neighbors. They were present when we were children who needed understanding, and present in our adult life when we were looking for guidance and consolation. They are hard workers and wise elders, no matter what their age may be.

Much like the Ointment-Bearing Women in the Gospels, they always seem to be around when we need them. The Gospel women arose early in the morning and went to the tomb to fulfill a need, to anoint the body of Jesus. No one told them to do this or that they were the ones to do it. They simply did it. There is a lesson here!

As we remember them, we give thanks to the “ointment-bearers” in our lives, faithful people we can count on. These folks are living icons for us. Meditate on this icon and it will tell you where YOU are needed.



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! (English)  
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINNU VOSKRESE! (Slavonic)  
CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI! (Greek)



### Consider the Lilies of the Field (Mt. 6:28) Caring for Our Common Home

Catholic teaching has always promoted care for the earth, our common home. We are all aware that climate change is altering life on earth in many ways. Equally important is the detrimental effect that we're having on nature as a wasteful and throwaway culture. *I believe in God, only I spell it NATURE. (Frank Lloyd Wright)*

Fifty women came together on May 13, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Munhall, PA to learn about Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home." In this encyclical, Pope Francis speaks to the ecological crisis and calls us to examine our conscience. We are called to reflect seriously on how we can preserve the earth for future generations. *The earth, our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. (Pope Francis)*

To break open a practical application to the encyclical two gifted women presented on the topic. Kat Doyle, Director of Justice & Peace Ministries for the Archdiocese of Atlanta gave a two-part reflection on how we can live in and care for our common home by making sustainable choices and taking meaningful action. *The earth sustains humanity. It must not be harmed: it must not be destroyed. (St. Hildegard Bingen, 1098-1179)*

Dr. Sandra Collins, Director of Information Services and a professor in the Sacred Scripture department at SS. Cyril & Methodius, Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA acquainted the audience with biblical references to herbs and plants found in Sacred Scripture. *God grows a plant for every disease. Look around nature and draw from God's pharmacy. (Paracelsus, medieval physician & philosopher)*

This eighteenth annual Women's Day of Reflection sponsored by the Archeparchial Office of Religious Education ended with a basket auction for the women & children in Ukraine. We continue to hold them in our hearts and prayers.

---

## *Benedictine Sisters of the Byzantine Rite Queen of Heaven Convent Now Members of Sacred Heart Monastery*

### COMMUNITY HISTORY, part 2 by Sister Mary Bratrsovsky

Sister Margaret Mary Schima, O.S.B. (*photo on right*) was elected first Prioress of Queen of Heaven Convent in 1969.

Preceding the election on February 2nd was a Ceremony of Foundation for the newly-established Benedictine Priory. Mother Mary Louise, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters in Lisle, Illinois formally presented Bishop Stephen J. Kocisko, Eparch of the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Eparchy, with the Document of Erection, which he then read to the charter members of the new Priory. Also, representing the Lisle Community at this historic ceremony, was the former



Prioress, Mother Mary Aemilia, during whose term of office this Byzantine Rite Foundation was initially launched.

Final Steps to complete the establishment of this Byzantine Foundation were taken in the summer of 1968. Under the leadership of its President, Mother Mary Susan Sevier, the Federation of St. Scholastica voted to accept Queen of Heaven Convent in Warren as autonomous member. On November 19, 1968, a decree was received from Rome stating that the Foundation of Queen of Heaven Convent was granted its independence and could function thereafter as an independent Priory.

Prior to the official independence, the Sisters had been planning to build their own Motherhouse. In 1967, they purchased a beautiful ten-acre site in adjacent Howland Township for this purpose. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on June 30, 1968 and construction of the new Motherhouse began after formal approval of autonomy had been received from Rome.

The Sisters moved into their newly-constructed Motherhouse on December 13, 1969. It was blessed and dedicated on May 3, 1970 by Most Rev. Stephen J. Kocisko, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania assisted by Most Rev. Emil J. Mihalik, Byzantine Rite Bishop of Parma, Ohio.



Sister Mary Judith Konkus, O.S.B. (*photo on left*) succeeded Sister Margaret Mary Schima as Prioress of the community in 1973, serving a 4-year term of office.

On February 1, 1981 Sister Agnes Knapik, O.S.B. (*photo on right*) was installed as the third Prioress of Queen of Heaven Convent. In 1984, she was re-elected to a second 4-year term of office.



In 1986 the Sisters voted to formally change the name of their Motherhouse to "Queen of Heaven Monastery." Such a change in name was encouraged by the Federation of St. Scholastica after its 1986 General Chapter because "monastery" more aptly describes the place where Benedictines live.

*(to be continued in a future LBW issue)*



---

## Here and There . . .

**Sister Beatrice Kayombo, OSB, M.D.,** returned to visit the Lisle Benedictine Sisters and many dear friends over the Christmas/New Year's holidays. Here she renewed friendships and thanked people for continued spiritual and financial support in furthering the educational and health ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Gertrude's Convent in Imiliwaha, Tanzania.\*

Sister Beatrice's extraordinary life story presents a happy, grace-filled, amazing journey. Born prematurely, her mother carried her in a shoe box, walking six hours from their poor, remote village to the nearest hospital.

As a child, Beatrice was quick-witted, bright and eager to learn. During her last year in primary school, she was intrigued by a German missionary priest who taught about God and who would later drive 13-year-old Beatrice over very rough dirt road for five hours to St. Gertrude's Convent.



Several years after making her first vows, she started studying at nursing school in the morning and secondary school in the afternoon. After graduating from both, she became Coordinator of Mother and Child Services in the Diocese, delivering babies and giving immunizations. In 1999, at age 24, she made her final vows as a Benedictine Sister.

At then-Prioress Sister Judith Ann Heble's initiative, Sacred Heart Monastery has sponsored 12 women from religious communities in Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa and Vietnam over the past 20 years. These Sisters live with us while earning undergraduate and graduate degrees at Benedictine University. In 2003, Sister Beatrice and Sister Afra Mgwama from St. Gertrude's became the first two International Sisters to grace our community.

Sisters Beatrice and Afra shared challenges and much laughter as they navigated many first experiences: airports, flights, hotel with automatic doors and elevators, language barriers, a new country and customs ... mysteries solved with careful observation, problem-solving skills, and faith that anything was possible with God's assistance.

At Benedictine University, Sister Beatrice earned her BA degree in pre-med and then her MA in Public Health. Determined to become a doctor to best help her people at home, she enrolled in Medical School in Poznan, Poland. There she lived with the Ursuline Sisters, learned Polish, and in 2014 graduated with her medical degree.

Although originally focused on obstetrics, after privately caring for a former Bishop dying of cancer and realizing that cancer diagnoses were impacting her community, Sister Beatrice decided her residency would be in oncology.

As an oncologist in Dar Es Salaam, Sister Beatrice is determined to do her best to serve her cancer patients - to love them, advocate for them, and pray for them and with them. This renews not only their faith but her faith as well. How important it is for them to trust in a merciful God who knows how to embrace them with infinite compassion and joy and heal them either temporarily on earth for a while or forever in Heaven.

*\*For more information, visit [www.friendsofimliwaha.org](http://www.friendsofimliwaha.org) or Friends of Imiliwaha on Facebook*

# Villa St. Benedict

- Joe Kellogg, Executive Director



What does staying active mean to you?

Residents here at Villa St. Benedict believe in “Living fully, Living well” and our residents live up to it. There is a wide variety of daily activities for all residents with anything from fitness classes, group activities, bean bag toss, even Wii bowling.

Villa center and the assisted living Benedale center can start their day by using our state of the art PEC center (performance



enhancing center) to work on strength, flexibility, or cardio. The PEC center is fully staffed with instructors throughout the morning hours Monday thru Friday.



The number of clubs, group outings, or prayer groups is really what keeps our residents thriving here at Villa St. Benedict. Whether its weekly bingo, card games in the lounge, themed dinners, or movie nights, there is something that caters to all residents here.

When warmer weather breaks and the beautiful 47-acre campus is flourishing, residents take full advantage. There is a beautiful walking path that perimeters the parklike grounds. Throughout the summer Villa St. Benedict staff holds many outdoor events,



concerts, and even car shows for all residents to enjoy.



With the residents and staff creating a community so very special, it's no wonder so many find it easy to call Villa St. Benedict home.

There's Comfort in  
*Community*





The Sisters hosted their traditional High Tea luncheon on April 15th for Villa St. Benedict residents who volunteer their time and talents at Sacred Heart Monastery. Some images from that lovely gathering:







*Lisle Benedictine Women*

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

## 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 & 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.