Jesus Christ
came to us in history
helpless child of Christmas
who became preacher in Galilee
victim of Calvary
risen Lord
and will come again as Triumphant King.
Jesus comes to us now in mystery,
not only the mystery of
Eucharist on the altar,
but also the Eucharist of
people in need,
our suffering, oppressed
sisters and brothers.
Message from the Prioress…

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that this Advent/Christmas LBW continues to come to you with a promise of prayer which includes a novena of Masses for your intentions. Be assured that we are grateful for your presence and participation in our lives.

Many of our Sisters were able to experience the viewing of the Women and Spirit traveling exhibition on display at the Center for History in South Bend, Indiana. We want to express our gratitude to Hoffman Planning-Design-Construction for providing us with tickets to view this display. The whole experience of reliving the story of Religious Women’s history and contributions to American history over the past 300 years was profound. It made me feel very proud to be Benedictine and to be a part of this story. It also reminded me of the generous persons like you, who helped us make these contributions a reality. Your prayers, your encouragement, your help and financial support have been and are greatly appreciated.

This experience has energized me to provide opportunities for us to tell our stories to you, and invite you to visit us and hear our stories. To do this, I have invited Sister Judith Sutera, a Benedictine and monastic historian, from Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Kansas to give us a presentation about the story of the struggles and successes of Sister Benedicta Riepp, the first Benedictine woman to come to America, on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at 9 am.

Additionally, have you ever wondered what we do at the Monastery? Who are those Sisters? What does it mean to be Benedictine? Come visit with us at our Open House on Sunday, March, 18, 2012, at 2 pm. This time together will include a presentation of our coming to Chicago and then to Lisle. Your visit will include a tour of our Monastery, light snacks and a tour of our retirement community, Villa St. Benedict.

Finally, I invite you to a day of spiritual reflection with us at our “Come and See” on Sunday, March 25, 2012 from 7:30 am to 3 pm. During this time you will experience our Morning Prayer, Eucharistic Celebration, a meal, a presentation on “The Benedictine Way”, and a time for sharing in the afternoon.

You are invited to one or all of the above, but we need to know that you plan to attend. To RSVP, please call 630-750-6010.

Keep in touch with our website www.shmlisle.org or give us a call at 630-750-6010 for continued information.

May the peace that Christ came to bring be yours!

Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB
Prioress

~ ~ ~ INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE ~ ~ ~

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1
We Celebrate Our Jubilarians

It is a year for multiple Jubilee celebrations at the Monastery. We are pleased to share some thoughts from our Jubilarians.

Sister Mildred Slabenak celebrates 70 years as a professed Benedictine Sister and shares her thoughts on Jubilee.

“Jubilee is a time to celebrate, praise and glorify the Lord with music and song, giving thanks for the many blessings received.

Gratitude is shown to loved ones and those lives I have touched. Their sacrifices and generosity helped bring about success to my endeavors.

Jubilee is also a time for refueling. Filled with the Holy Spirit, I am energized and strengthened to continue living a life of joy, peace and good works.

This is what Jubilee means to me.”

Sister Virginia Kallus (on the left in the photo) writes: “My life has been a very happy one. I just celebrated my 65 year anniversary as a vowed religious and every day I praise the Lord for calling me to the Benedictine life.

Every day I keep in step with our community prayer life being present for Divine Office and later the Eucharist. I am one of the cantors.

After retiring from teaching the primary grades back in 1989, I was delighted to be offered a new ministry of serving the elderly Sisters in the St. Walburga Care Center here in the Monastery. I have been involved in serving others all my life and now my heart is willing to serve these Sisters as I keep watch that all is well. Ministering to them is for me a rewarding experience. When I observe their difficulties of mind and body, I can see the face of Jesus in His agony and I believe these Sisters are very pleasing to Him.”

Sister Josephine Kallus (top right in the photo) shares: “God has blessed me in many ways. I have been in this Benedictine community for 65 years serving the Lord and the Sisters with my whole heart and soul.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Sisters as a chauffeur, driving them to their various destinations. I was a beautician before I entered the Monastery and I have been able to continue using my beautician skills in cutting and styling the Sisters’ hair in our beauty shop. I now have an assistant who comes once a week and I am grateful for her help.

Another ministry I have is contacting people who had worked for us or have a connection with us. I spend time with them on the phone, listening to them and consoling them in their sickness or their family concerns. I then ask the Sisters to keep them in prayer as every morning we pray for all those for whom we have promised to pray.

I am most grateful to God for giving me the graces and health to live a life of prayer and service in this Benedictine community.”

Sister Mary Patricia Fallon (in the center of the photo) shares: “From my youth to the present time, I have found fulfillment in living in this Benedictine community, immersed in our sacred liturgies.

I found excitement and anticipation as I embarked on my variety of ministries: teaching grades K-8 for 20 years; serving as an administrator at three schools; over 25 years as Secretary of our
Community and Corporation; in leadership of formation of Sisters in simple vows; to my years of retirement and assisting in the Monastery. When I entered this Community, prayers were regularly in Czech. I came from a fine Irish family, but I set about to learn Czech so that I might fully participate. My parents reminded me of their marriage vows and told me I was making the same kind of commitment to the Benedictine Sisters. My nine brothers and sisters have gifted me with 140 nieces and nephews over the years. But I have never had one day of regret at my choice in life.

This 65th Anniversary has truly been a time to celebrate my wonderful life in this Community."  

Sister De Paul Stava (at bottom of photo) writes: "This 60th Jubilee year was a time to give thanks to the Lord for His goodness to me. I cannot believe that I just celebrated 60 years in this Benedictine community.


The Lord has blessed me in so many ways. I pray that I may continue to serve God faithfully for whatever years I have left."

Sister Benita Jasurda (at the top of the photo) also celebrated her 60th Jubilee this year. She shares: "I would like to give thanks to God, my Benedictine community and my family for the many blessings bestowed on me - my education, the ministries where I have served: administration, teaching, youth and campus ministry.

I have also had the opportunity to travel from Lisle to the Holy Land, Rome, Italy, Poland and Slovakia.

God’s greatest blessing to me is the gift of being a member of this Sacred Heart community.”

Sister Judith Ann Heble writes: “For me, celebrating a golden jubilee is a time to look back and count all of the blessings that have been an integral part of a full life! As I look back on the years since my First Profession in 1961, I give thanks to God for blessing me so abundantly; to my community for providing me with so many rich and fruitful opportunities; and to my colleagues and friends for supporting me throughout the years.

What can be more delightful than to be able to enjoy an 18-month sabbatical during my jubilee year? Not everyone has that opportunity. It gives me reason to pause and breathe in gratitude and to begin the next fifty years with joy and hope.”

The Annual Joliet Diocesan Celebration of Religious Life and Celebration of Jubilee was held on October 15th at the St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Bishop R. Daniel Conlon was the celebrant of the Liturgy. Sisters Benita Jasurda, De Paul Stava, Jo Anne Form, Joanne Williams, Josephine Kallus, Mary Agnes Kallus, Mary Bratrsovsky, and Virginia Kallus attended the Eucharistic Liturgy and meal. Sister Sharon Marie Stola, who works in the Office of Divine Liturgy was also present. Sister Christine Kouba served on the committee.
Part four of our story recalling the early days of the Sisters...

On August 24, 1909 an election of Prioress was held. Mother Mary Nepomucene Jaeger was unanimously chosen Prioress for a term of six years.

Within thirteen years of its foundation the Motherhouse at St. Vitus was hardly able to accommodate the growing community. Therefore 200 acres of land were bought in Lisle. Ground was broken for a new Convent building on October 5, 1910, the feast of St. Placid. That year the foundation was laid. The following spring the building was commenced. During the summer of 1911 the Novitiate was transferred from Chicago to St. Joseph Orphanage in Lisle. On June 16, 1912, the cornerstone of the new Convent was solemnly blessed by the Most Reverend Archbishop J. E. Quigley of Chicago. That same year, September, 1912, the entire Motherhouse and all its operations were transferred to our new home.

On August 16, 1915, Mother Nepomucene was re-elected for another term of six years. But before the expiration of her term, during March 1918, she became ill and felt that for the good of the community it would be better to resign her office. Accordingly, on April 16, 1919, after a service of twenty-four years, Mother Nepomucene, foundress and first Prioress, resigned her office into the hands of the Most Rev. George W. Mundelein, D.D., then Archbishop of Chicago.

Mother Nepomucene’s sole concern had been the spiritual development of the Community. At the time of her resignation the Community numbered ninety-eight Sisters, four novices and five postulants – a total of 107 members.

On April 26, 1919, ten days after Mother Nepomucene had legally resigned her office, Sister Mary Genevieve Biskup was elected the second Prioress of the Sacred Heart Convent, which office she held for six terms.

During the first four years of Mother Genevieve’s administration, the Community grew to 128 members. Two years later, on April 27, 1925, Mother Genevieve was re-elected to a second term of office.

As was noted in the last issue, quite a few schools had been opened and staffed by the Sisters. The parish school traditionally served as a recruiting ground to the priesthood and religious life. In St. Vitus School, the Benedictine Sisters found an appreciable number of postulants, inspired by the sanctity of their mothers or grandmothers. In several instances, two or more girls from the same family entered the religious life. By their interest in the young, the Sisters performed a valuable social service in holding together two generations that otherwise might have been separated by a generation gap.

The story will continue in the June 2012 issue of Lisle Benedictine Women.
Celebrating Our Lay Vocation
as Oblates of St. Benedict
By Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB

Benedictine life is life immersed in the holiness of the “real;” fundamental parts of “real” are prayer and work. Our Prayer life, *Lectio Divina*, can be difficult on our own, but when we gather together to share God’s Word - this Word comes alive. This is how we begin our time together...reflecting on the day’s Word. When we leave, we are spiritually strengthened to meet the demands of the rest of our “real” world: our family, our community, and our work.

These past few months we have prepared ourselves for the coming changes in the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal. It will take a little getting used to; however, we are fortified with the Scripture background as well as the deeper meaning presented. Benedict’s opening word in the prologue “Listen” takes on new meaning as the New Liturgical Year approaches.

In months to come we will once again visit the Prologue in its entirety. We always welcome new members. Are you interested? Come and see. We meet on the third Sunday of the month here at Sacred Heart Monastery, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Want to know more? Contact Sister Karen Nykiel at 630-725-6049 or by email at, knykiel@ben.edu.

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

Is Jesus asking the same question of you 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
or contact Sister Christine at ckouba@shmlisle.org
or call 630-725-6080

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Jesus and Mary Magdalene at the tomb fresco by Fra Angelico
On February 2nd, the 42nd anniversary day of the Sisters' Byzantine Foundation in Warren, Ohio, they settled into their new quarters at the Infant of Prague Manor. Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church is next door. Their monastery and grounds on Squires Lane were sold to the Orthodox Coptic Church of the Eparchy of Alexandria, Egypt. It will be used as a convent for Orthodox Coptic Nuns.

Many of the Squires Lane chapel furnishings and appointments were taken to the chapel at Infant of Prague Manor. The Foundation Cross was placed by the front door of the Squires Lane monastery under the patronal icon of the Dormition of the Mother of God.

The Sisters are actively involved at SS. Peter and Paul Parish. They teach Eastern Christian Formation classes organized by Sister Agnes Knapik. Sister Barbara Pavlik serves as the Parish Secretary.

In August, Sisters Mary Bratsovsky, Agnes Ann Svec, Christine Kouba and Sharon Marie Stola traveled from Lisle to Warren, for a day of visiting with the Sisters in their new home.

Sister Margaret Mary Shima traveled from Warren to Lisle twice this fall. First to attend Sister Judith Ann Heble’s Jubilee and later in October for the annual Sacred Heart Academy Homecoming celebration.

We invite you to meet our Sisters in Warren. We begin with Sister Julia Rohaly, OSB. She is pictured in May 2010 as she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession.

Sister Julia was born in Harbor Creek, Pennsylvania and grew up in Erie. Her parents were George and Julia Pirlock Rohaly, both deceased. Her brothers were John, William, and Michael, and her sister was Anna Bulles, all deceased.

She attended elementary and high school in Erie and worked for a number of years at General Electric. She entered Sacred Heart Convent in Lisle, Illinois and made profession of vows on July 26, 1960. She was a charter member of Queen of Heaven Monastery of the Byzantine Rite which was founded in 1969.

Early in religious life, Sister Julia cooked for the Sisters at the motherhouse in Lisle and at missions in Chicago. She also cooked for the Sisters when they came to Warren. She then worked in food service at Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital in Warren until 1983 when she retired. She baked phoros for Saints Peter and Paul Church and the monastery for many years. At the same time she ministered in the care of infants and children and to home-bound adults.

Sister Julia continues to enjoy life and God’s blessings. She is faithful to community prayer, loves to work with her plants, and avidly collects and gives away recipes. She enjoys contact with her many nieces and nephews who faithfully keep in touch with her. Sister now resides at Windsor House in Champion, a nursing home in a suburb of Warren.

May God grant Sister Julia Rohaly many happy and blessed years!
Let Us Pray The Psalms!

By Sister Christine Kouba, OSB

Unless Christians are exposed to the Hebrew Scriptures and understand the close relationship the Chosen People had with God, the Psalms might appear strange and archaic. However, to Benedictines the world over, the Psalms are as vital for nourishment as the food they eat; being the basis of their daily prayer uniting them with God in the Liturgy of the Hours. Increasingly, the Psalms are beginning to be more popular among Christians today. They are finding them to be heartfelt prayers that relate to their own human needs and their desire for personal contact with God.

This year, the annual retreat for the Sisters and interested lay people, held from June 27-July 1, 2011, was an in-depth study of the Psalms. Father Adrian Burke, a Benedictine monk from St. Meinrad’s Archabbey in Indiana was the Retreat Master. Father Adrian had wisely mastered the historical, mythological, poetic and theological language and background of the Psalms in his studies and reflections, giving him a natural ability to explain the concepts of these Biblical, inspired prayers in his conferences.

Most importantly, Father Adrian emphasized how God formed a chosen people who would be responsible to remember God’s promises and the great deeds God had done for Israel. These understandings were never to be forgotten and so that they would never forget, they were to teach them to their children and pass them on to future generations. God spoke to them through the Prophets making a covenant (contract) with the people saying: “You are my people and I will be your God.” (Jeremiah 30:22). How intimate and trusting was their relationship with the true God of Israel who was reliable in helping them, whereas, the false gods of other nations were lifeless and helpless as seen in their warfare with Israel.

In remembering the wonderful deeds of God and telling God about their troubles was how the Psalms developed. The Psalms are inspired prayers that were composed by professional cantors who were theologically trained. They gathered the peoples’ intentions of praise for God who was gloriously triumphant, the laments of people in their suffering, expressions of gratitude to God who was always on their side, and sorrow for their offenses against a loving God.

The Psalms were always the prayer of the Kahal, the Jewish worshipping assembly. There was no such thing as a Jew in isolation; the Jews were a People of God gathered together to be present in divine worship. Since there were no printed texts, memorizing the Psalms was critical and these prayers were to be carried forth from the assembly to be recited in their homes.

Jesus was born into this Jewish setting and in growing up he memorized the Psalm texts and often quoted the Psalms in his public life. Even on the cross he quoted Psalm 22: “My God my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Now in the Eucharist during the Catholic worship, the Psalms are used as the center-piece of the Liturgy of the Word. It is with Jesus, who is God, and the Savior of Humankind that we pray the Psalms. We are the People of God and are grateful in that Jesus leads us in prayer. May the Psalms open our hearts to true worship!
With grateful hearts, we acknowledge and thank the following donors for their generous gifts

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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

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Buck and fawn captured in a pose on our campus.
Here and There

Sister Sharon Marie Stola traveled on the Pallium Pilgrimage to Rome in late June. She was present at the ceremony which conferred the Pallium on His Excellency, The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain. Bishop Sartain was the Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet before his appointment to the Diocese of Seattle. Sister Sharon Marie is the Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Joliet.

The Sisters held their annual community retreat the last week of June. Led by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB from St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana, the topic of this year’s retreat was *Psalms as Transformational*. The Oblates and other friends of the Sisters were invited to participate in the conference sessions each day. Sister Christine has written a reflection on the retreat on page 7.

From August 9 through 12, Sister Mary Bratrsovsky attended the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses (CBP) and Leadership Conference of Women Religious LCWR) in Glendora and Garden Grove, CA. The theme for the LWCR Assembly was *Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World.*

On August 26, the Sisters welcomed the volunteers from Daybreak of Lisle to the Monastery for Vespers and dinner. DAYBREAK provides transitional housing and supportive services to homeless families with children so that they can work toward recovering economic and familial stability. Sister Mary Bratrsovsky and Sister Helen Jilek serve on the Board of Daybreak.

Sister Judy Ann Heble traveled to West Africa in September for the *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum* Conference. The members of the Administrative Council began their meeting in Koubri, Burkina Faso, then traveled to Togo where they were joined by the Delegates for their yearly Conference. The Sisters visited a number of monasteries in Benin and Togo with a brief visit to Ghana. Photos and additional information about the CIB can be found at [http://www.benedictines-cib.org](http://www.benedictines-cib.org). Sister Judith Ann is serving her second term as Moderator of CIB.

Sister Sharon Marie Stola attended the annual gathering of Benedictine sub-prioresses and house coordinators which took place at Immaculate Conception Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana, from September 26-30.

Sister Mary Bratrsovsky traveled to Duluth, Minnesota for meetings at Benedictine Health System September 20-22. Kathy DiCristina, CEO of Villa St. Benedict, Jo Jerak, Karen Sherman and Lori D’Auben also participated. Villa St. Benedict is co-sponsored by the Benedictine
Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Benedictine Health System.

**Sister Christine Kouba** participated in the National Benedictine Vocation Directors Conference in Beech Grove, Indiana from October 18-24.

The Sisters were gifted with tickets to view the exhibit, *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*, at the Center for History in South Bend, Indiana. *Women & Spirit* is a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with Cincinnati Museum Center. **Sisters Agnes Ann Svec, Barbara Ann Svec, Benita Jasurda, Christine Kouba, Helen Jilek, Jo Anne Form, De Paul Stava, Lois Jean Jensik, Lorraine Dyba-Militano, Mary Bratrsovsky,** and **Sharon Marie Stola** enjoyed the fall colors along the Indiana toll road as they traveled to visit the exhibit.

The Sisters were again honored to host Vespers and a special dinner for guests of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation on November 6. The Foundation supports the international Benedictine university in Rome, Sant’Anselmo. **Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky, Sharon Marie Stola, Karen Nykiel,** and **Judith Ann Heble** represented the Monastery.

St. Joan of Arc School in Lisle won the 2011 National BLUE RIBBON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. SJA is one of only 49 private schools and 256 public schools in the nation (elementary, middle and high schools) to win this prestigious award.

Congratulations to **Sister Carolyn Sieg**, who has served as St. Joan’s principal since 1967.

**Sister Barbara Ann Svec** volunteered for the semi-annual Book Sale at the Lisle Library in October. Sister Barb has been a member of the Friends of the Lisle Library for over ten years. The proceeds from the book sale are used for programs at the Library throughout the year.

The Vocation Advisory Committee is a group of laywomen and men who meet on a monthly basis with **Sisters Christine Kouba, Mary Bratrsovsky, Benita Jasurda, and Sharon Marie Stola** to share their perspectives on the best ways to attract young women to the Benedictine way of life.

On October 29, the Sisters held a Prayer Service at St. Scholastica Cemetery for the deceased Sisters and loved ones of the Community. The cemetery has recently undergone some needed repairs and enhancements. A new asphalt walkway was installed; the previous gravel walk was removed and grass planted; the headstones were reset and leveled with gravel.

We are excited to announce our Facebook page, Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and we invite you to become a friend.

We welcome your visit to the Monastery to share the peace and beauty of our home and grounds.
Villa St. Benedict

Villa St. Benedict is a continuing care retirement community located on the Sacred Heart Monastery campus. Co-sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters and Benedictine Health System in Duluth, Minnesota, Villa St. Benedict is an extension of the BSSH mission of Hospitality. Caring for seniors is the corporate commitment of the Sisters, who founded Queen of Peace Retirement Center, now called the Benedale Center for Assisted Living, which is part of Villa St. Benedict.

Many of the Sisters work and volunteer at Villa St. Benedict. Sister Barbara Ann Svec describes her ministry in this manner.

“When Sister Mary Bratrsovsky was elected Prioress one of the tasks she faced was replacing herself as Mission Integration Director at VSB. She handed over a part of the job to me.

It was a daunting job at first because it involves many different phases. The ministry includes providing opportunities for residents and staff to enhance their understanding of what it means to be Catholic and Benedictine, to infuse the core values of Hospitality, Stewardship, Justice and Respect into our actions and working relationships and to provide for the pastoral needs of residents and staff.

PowerPoint presentations and talks are prepared and presented to accomplish the passing on of much of the information. Religious services are prepared and celebrated regularly. Feasts and seasons are attended to, arrangements are made for funerals and Celebration of Life Prayer Services and much more.

Above all, the residents are visited when they are in hospitals or rehab facilities, or here in their apartments to see if there are any other needs they feel need attention. It isn’t really a “job” because the residents a just a marvelous group of friendly folks.”

Women of Faith for Justice

For the past several months, Sacred Heart Monastery has been the host of a monthly meeting of a group called “Women of Faith for Justice.” The representatives from SHM are: Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky, Karen Nykiel, Helen Jilek and Christine Kouba. There are other Religious Sisters in the group and lay women from the Chicago and Joliet areas.

The focus of the group is to create a space where women of faith can openly address their concerns about injustice and provide opportunities for actions to address them.

Together they meet to pray, share, and affirm one another by using ritual, stories, scripture, and by establishing a sacred space. It is hoped that there will soon be an inclusion of women of different faith traditions; so far the group is of the Catholic tradition.

The contact person is Joyce Ruhaak paxjoyce@yahoo.com. She is from Joliet, Illinois and is retired from the Peace and Justice Office for the Diocese of Joliet. Please contact her for more information.
You’re invited to these special events in March 2012

**Saturday, March 10**, at 9 am, a presentation by Sister Judith Sutera, OSB from Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. Her history themed talk will include the story of the struggles and successes of Sister Benedicta Riepp, the first Benedictine woman to come to America.

**Sunday, March 18**, at 2 pm, an Open House which will feature a presentation of our coming to Chicago, and then to Lisle. There will be tours of our Monastery, light snacks and tours of Villa St. Benedict.

**Sunday, March 25**, 2012 from 7:30 am to 3 pm, a day of Spiritual Reflection “Come and See” for persons interested in our monastic way of life. During this time, you will experience our Morning Prayer, Eucharistic Celebration, a meal, a presentation in the afternoon on “The Benedictine Way” and a time for sharing.
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 Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.
- Make a gift today without spending current income or retirement resources.
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- Become a partner in ministry with the 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. Your gift will be considered as sacred trust since, according to our Holy Father St. Benedict, we are "to regard all the utensils of the monastery, including property, as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar." (Rule of Benedict, Chapter 31)

Despite the unparalleled generosity of Catholics to the Retirement Fund for Religious, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support retirement and elder care. There are almost 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2010 alone, the total cost of care for these women and men exceeded one billion dollars. The real challenge for many religious communities is a lack of retirement savings. Most senior religious worked for many years for small stipends, and there were no retirement plans.

The retirement fund of the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart receives an annual donation from this collection. We thank you for your continued generous support of the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Lisle can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online. Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and we’ll receive a penny donation each time you search! Shop at more than 1,300 GoodShop.com merchants and a percentage of each purchase will go the Sisters!

**Prayer Cards are available from the Benedictine Sisters.**

Mark your special occasions by sending a card from the Sisters. Seven designs are available; all recipients will share in the spiritual benefits of the Divine Office proclaimed daily in the Chapel of Sacred Heart Monastery.

See the next page or our website, www.shmlisle.org, to order, or call Sister Jo Anne Form at 630-725-6013
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Dear Friend of the Benedictine Sisters,

In gratitude to you for showing us God’s love in so many ways, our Christmas gift to you will be a Novena of Masses celebrated


Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart