



Lisle Benedictine Women

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Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2011

Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB Eighth Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery

Congratulations to Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB, who was elected by the Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery, to serve as their Prioress for the next six years. She was installed as the eighth Prioress on January 2, 2011, the feast of the Epiphany. Sister Mary succeeds Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB, who served as Prioress to the Benedictine Sisters in Lisle for 18 years.

Sister Mary was born in Denver, Colorado, the sixth of fifteen children of Mary Agnes and Cyril Bratrsovsky. She entered Sacred Heart Monastery from St. Helena Parish, Fort Morgan, Colorado, following in the footsteps of many relatives who were sisters and priests.

Sister Mary earned a BA in Home Economics and Secondary Education from St. Benedict's College in Minnesota, and an MA in Religious Education from Loyola University, Chicago. She began teaching at Benet Academy in 1967 as an instructor in home economics, when the school became co-ed. As the need for Home Economics classes diminished, Sister moved into the Religion Department. Sister Mary was on the faculty of Benet for 37 years. She served as the Department Chair, introduced student retreats into the curriculum and encouraged her students to work toward justice for all. The Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB Outstanding Christian Service Award is given annually to that senior who believes that action on behalf of justice



is a Biblical imperative and is actively involved in pursuing that justice.

Sister Mary has served on boards and committees at Sacred Heart Monastery, Benet Academy and Villa St. Benedict. In 2001, she received the Rotary Club of Lisle's Distinguished Service Award for her work with DAYBREAK of Lisle Transitional Housing Program. She continues as the President of DAYBREAK, which currently serves five families who are homeless, mentoring them to full employment and permanent housing. In 2005, she retired from Benet and began working as Mission Integration Director at Villa St. Benedict, a Senior Living Center built on the grounds of the Monastery.

Throughout the winter, Sister Mary grows seedlings in the Monastery basement, and spring's warming days will find her in the Grotto weeding and planting. She also finds time to enjoy woodworking and photography.

During the year of discernment which preceded Sister Mary's election, the Sisters established a set of goals which Sister Mary embraced in her remarks at her installation. She concluded by saying, *"If we carefully follow the Rule of Benedict, we will be practicing the Good Zeal to which Benedict challenges us when he tells us to prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ. If we are faithful to living this monastic way, then, the glory of the Lord will continue to shine upon us."*

Message from the Prioress...



My dear friends,

It is with a hope filled spirit that I write these words. The season has been budding with new life. The Liturgical season of Easter has been an opportunity for spiritual renewal. The new life and growth outdoors has colored the world with fragrance and beauty. New residents continue to make Villa St. Benedict their home and the Sisters become blessed with additional life giving companionship.

On May 1, 2011, our Postulant, Lorraine, became a Novice and entered the second stage of her lifelong commitment to seeking a fuller experience of God. The Sisters have been gifted with a woman who loves God, liturgy, music and life! I was privileged to be one of Sister Lorraine's formators. Sister Lorraine has taught me and perhaps one of you that sometimes God may call us to religious life as a second career choice. Seeking God and a life full of meaning might be what you, too, could find living at Sacred heart Monastery. I would invite you or someone you know that might be interested in our way of life to "come and see". You might also want to "come and see" our Villa St. Benedict senior living homes. Both invitations could provide both you and us with a rich and valuable way of life. Check out www.shmlisle.org and www.villastben.org.

Continue to enjoy and live life to the fullest, know that you are in our daily prayers, and may the peace of Christ be with you always.

Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, O.S.B.



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**Monastic Council
members who will
serve our Community
for the next
three years.**

**(back l-r) Sister Helen
Jilek (Treasurer),
Sister Mary
Bratrsovsky
(Prioress), Sister
Karen Nykiel
(front l-r) Sister
Sharon Marie Stola
(Sub-prioress), Sister
Carolyn Sieg**



**Sister Lorraine enters
next phase in the
Novitiate as a Novice**
by Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB



On May 1, Sister Lorraine Dyba-Militano began the next phase of her monastic formation as she entered her Novitiate year. The Novitiate year celebrates a deepening of her relationship to God and to the monastic community. During her Novice year, Sister Lorraine will have a schedule of prayer, study, and interactions with the Sisters. There will be time for her ministry which is preparing and playing music for Mass and Liturgy of the Hours, as well as time for personal reflection. Sister Lorraine will be given instructions by various Sisters on the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, our Federation document, *Call to Life*, and Sacred Scripture. She will also spend time strengthening her commitment to community by studying the Benedictine vows of stability, fidelity to the monastic way of life and obedience. Additionally, she will study topics from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, documents from our Federation and the Church on religious life. A major emphasis for this year is being immersed into living the monastic life as fully as possible. For Sister Lorraine, this is a year of time for growth in understanding the totality of monastic life and a time for prayerful reflection and study.

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART TREASURED HISTORY AND TRADITION

by Sister Barbara Ann Svec, OSB

Part three of our story recalling the early days of the Sisters...

Under Mother Nepomucene's able direction, the community experienced extraordinary growth. However, the crowded location in Chicago was unfavorable to the expansion of the community. Therefore, the Sisters decided to locate to a new Motherhouse in Lisle on a 200 acre farm purchased near St. Procopius Abbey. This new convent was completed on September 5, 1913.

From 1911 to 1920, the Sisters hired two men to do the heavy work on the farm and the Sisters did the garden farming: planting, picking berries, vegetables and tending the four cows. It is a truism to say that the Sisters knew nothing about farm work when they started.

The Sisters scrimped and saved, and lived extremely frugal lives to pay for their new quarters. A quote from some notes written by a Sister at the time details the hardships. *"The shoes we wore were to be changed daily right to left, left to right so that they would last longer and not be one-sided. For starting the fire in the stove, we had paper from the school - children's waste paper which had to be brought home from the missions, but only the ones written on both sides; all that was clean on one side was saved for the Sisters' writings. For meals we were also very saving. We had fruit for special feast days, no more than five or six times a year. This was some home-canned fruit we could*

buy very cheaply and can them ourselves. The peelings were made into jam, not a speck was wasted. Sugar was also saved. We received sweets only for St. Nicholas and Christmas and then very sparingly. For spread for bread for breakfast we used only very cheap molasses or jam from the peelings. Once a week we got tallow made butter. For lunches we had hard dried bread received from the baker. Only on laundry days were we allowed molasses on our lunch bread. For drink, we had roasted barley for coffee; cooked cocoa shells was to be our cocoa. Tea was served for supper."

This particular Sister wrote a couple more pages of notes about other ways they were practicing poverty, just about to extremes and yet she writes close to the end, *"I did not find anything trifling or irritating, I loved it all. I was in the house of God and all is for God...sacrifice and penance brings the grace of God which is so much needed in this world."*



Sacred Heart Monastery in the early 1920s...
now part of Benedale Center.

The story will continue in the December 2011 issue
of *Lisle Benedictine Women*.

Celebrating Our Lay Vocation as Oblates of St. Benedict

by Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB



Standing, l-r: Sister Karen Nykiel (Oblate Director), Catherine Rentz, Sister Johanna Choi, Kevin Doyle, Arlene Malloy, Sister Lorraine Dyba-Militano, Sister Lois Jean Jensik, Sister Benita Jasurda. Sitting, l-r: Barbara Ryan, Maria Murphy, Carole Gravelle, Audry Girard, Gerry Maguire.

The appointment as Director of our Oblate Program was somewhat a surprise to me, however, it is such an exciting role to have in today's society that I readily embraced the position. The Rule of St. Benedict is a way of life not just for monastics but also for those who wish to deepen their own spirituality. Oblates practice mindfulness and moderation. They come together once a month for an increase of spiritual strength, for an opportunity to share their gifts, for re-connecting with monastics during prayer and a simple meal. They are encouraged to offer themselves for the service of God and for the good of their neighbors.

Men and women from all walks of life are invited to come and "Listen." If moved to continue the listening process and find new ways to deepen your faith life...then come, join us as we journey together. We meet on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact me for more information knykiel@ben.edu or 630-725-6049.

Vocation Advisory Council Promotes Action!

by Sister Christine Kouba, OSB

The Vocation Advisory Council (VAC) has been thinking of ways to make Benedictine life of both St. Procopius Abbey and Sacred Heart Monastery better known. VAC members felt that Benedictine life, though based on the virtue of humility, needs to be better publicized so that the community life of these institutions, seemingly hidden behind the monastery or abbey “walls” may be experienced, and the Benedictine motto “Ora et Labora” (Pray and Work) may be seen in action.

Knowing that the *Spirit and Truth* group of young adults meets every Friday night at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle, it was decided to offer VAC members to be speakers for the young adults who have committed themselves to their Catholic faith and who would be open to the spirit of Benedictine life.

On April 8th, 2011, Jane Doyle and Sister Christine Kouba, OSB presented the topic “*Lectio Divina*” (Holy Reading) a Benedictine way of praying with Scripture and a method which is now becoming popular among all Christians. On April 15th, 2011, Cathy Lentz presented a power point presentation on the Liturgies of Holy Week using her own Holy Land pictures to show the places described in the Holy Week scripture readings. Father James Flint, OSB presided at the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration on both occasions. During the discussion period, the young adults were given flyers to invite them to the Holy Week Services at both St. Procopius Abbey and Sacred Heart Monastery.

As an experience of personal contact of young people with the Sisters and Monks, a Grotto Day and Garden Day were planned to include Prayer and Work. The Grotto Day was at Sacred Heart Monastery on April 30th with the Sisters which included Mass, lunch and clean-up work at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on the Monastery grounds. Garden Day was at St. Procopius Abbey on May 14th with the Monks. Their schedule included Midday Prayer, lunch and then planting vegetables in the Abbey garden. Young people from Benet Academy, Benedictine University and the *Spirit and Truth* Group were invited for both events. These events gave the young people a learning experience of Benedictine life and an understanding of why this life is a great way to live. They could see the value of a committed Christian life in a Benedictine life-style.



Jesus and Mary Magdalene at the tomb.
A fresco by Fra Angelico

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

or contact Sister Christine at

ckouba@shmlisle.org

or call 630-725-6080



**Sisters
Beatrice Kayombo, OSB
and
Afra Mgwama, OSB,
an update**



Pictured above in front of Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland, Sister Beatrice Kayombo is continuing toward her dream of becoming a physician. After graduation from Benedictine University in Lisle in 2009, Sister Beatrice began a Masters program in Health Science at BU while studying for the MCAT. In August of 2010, she began her four years of study at PUMS, where she attends classes with students from all over the world. This is an accelerated program which means she has a very heavy load of classes, and it seems there are tests every day. Classes are taught in English, but she has learned some Polish so that she can deal with everyday life such as travel on public transportation to classes and shopping for her daily needs. She was fortunate to find a room for rent in a local convent for a modest sum. The sisters welcomed her with a quiet atmosphere to study, eat, rest and pray. As

Sister Beatrice works toward her goal of being prepared to serve the medical needs of the people of Imiliwaha, Tanzania, she sends her love to all her friends in the United States.



Sister Afra, pictured above remained in Lisle while she pursues a Masters degree from Benedictine University. She was awarded a full scholarship for her studies and graduated with a M.Ed. (Leadership and Administration) on May 15th. She will be returning to Tanzania to serve her people, by providing education to orphans and the children from the poor families who are left behind. She believes that the preparation of the child for his/her future begins in the classroom. Education is our *TUMAINI* (tumaini is the Swahili word for hope). Sister Afra believes education is the most powerful tool for reducing poverty. There are thousands of children in Tanzania who need education.

The African Benedictine Sisters of St. Gertrude in Imiliwaha have begun construction on an orphanage and school. Sister Afra will be an integral part of that school as she applies all that she has learned, both in the classroom and from her experience living in Lisle, to the futures of the children of Imiliwaha. She says, *“I again give thanks to God who provided me with the best place to be “Sacred Heart Monastery” and the Benedictine Sisters for taking care of me spiritually and physically. God’s plan is a mystery and because of that I am in the right place, at the right time, with the right people. I ask your prayers.”*

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Ritual of Light:
The twelve candles around the chapel were lit. Sister Judith Ann Heble began the Call to Prayer by lighting the two candles by the ambo



“Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.”
All responded singing, *“a Light no darkness can extinguish.”*



Covenanting of the Prioress with the Community:

Sister Judith Ann, present Prioress of our community, led the Sisters in the ritual by calling Sister Mary Bratrsovsky forth to accept the role of leadership.

Transfer of Authority:

Sister Judith Ann announced, *“In the name of the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, I proclaim Sister Mary Bratrsovsky now installed as the eighth Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery.”*

Sister Judith Ann presented Sister Mary with the Rule of St. Benedict, saying, *“Sister Mary, as you lead this community as Prioress, may you use this Rule of St. Benedict as a guide and source of inspiration.”*



Sister Judith Ann moved back amidst the monastic community. The Sisters stood, raised their right hand towards Sister Mary in a gesture of blessing and sang: *“May God bless and keep you, may God’s face shine on you, may God be kind to you and give you peace.”*



Covenanting of Community with the Prioress:

As a sign of her teaching role, Sister Mary addressed the community and asked the Sisters for their support and acceptance of her leadership. The Sisters stood and responded to her questions with "I will."



Sign of Greeting:

The Sisters came forth to greet

Sister Mary. Then Sister Mary called forth our extended community to continue to support her and this community and journey with us as we extend our mission of hospitality. The assembly responded with, "I will."



Blessing by the Prioress:

Sister Mary extended her hand in blessing on those present with the prayer: "God of light, unchanging God, today, on this Feast of the Epiphany, you reveal to all persons of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh. Your light is strong, your love is near; draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete."



Brother Charles Hlava, OSB, from St. Procopius Abbey, enhanced the solemnity of the Installation with his masterful accompaniment on the organ.



Sisters and guests enjoyed a reception in the dining room of Villa St. Benedict.



Queen of Heaven Monastery - Our Sisters in Ohio

On November 21, in a private *Ceremony of Change of Status*, the Byzantine Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery in Warren, Ohio, changed their status to a dependent monastery of Sacred Heart Monastery. Sister Margaret Mary Schima, OSB was appointed the administrator. The Sisters will continue to function as a Benedictine monastery of the Byzantine Church in matters of spirituality, traditions and liturgical life. They will follow their own norms, administer their own finances, and retain their Ohio civil corporation.

Queen of Heaven Convent was established in 1954 as a Byzantine Rite Foundation by the Lisle community. In 1969, Queen of Heaven became an independent monastery, and Sister Margaret Mary was elected as the first Prioress.

The Sisters will continue their ministry to the people of the Byzantine Church in Warren.



Sister Margaret Mary Schima



Sister Marion Dobes



Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek



Sister Agnes Knapik



Sister Barbara Pavlik



Sister Julia Rohaly



Sister Mary John Semon

New Leadership at Villa St. Benedict



On February 28, Villa St. Benedict welcomed a new CEO/Administrator, Kathy DiCristina R.N (pictured above right) with a reception in the Villa Center piazza. VSB residents, staff and Sisters from the Monastery attended the celebration. Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB, recognized Kathy for her ten year tenure at VSB, and applauded her as the very best choice to lead the VSB community forward. Kathy joined VSB in 2001 as Director of Nursing/ Assistant Administrator, and in 2006, assumed the full-time role of Assistant Administrator, where she helped to direct and manage operations, programs and services. The VSB Resident Council complimented Kathy on her commitment and passion for her job.

Glenn Trembley preceded Kathy as CEO of VSB. He was hired in 1997 as the Administrator of Queen of Peace Center when the Sisters affiliated with Benedictine Health System. The Sisters wish to acknowledge and thank Glenn for his thirteen years of able leadership which brought Queen of Peace Center to the Villa St. Benedict of today.

HOSPITALITY TO VILLA ST. BENEDICT STAFF AND FRIENDS



Center: Connie Kirkenmeier and family: l-r: her father, Norbert Miloch, mother, Aldona, and spouse, Tom. r: Sister Benita Jasurda.

On Sunday, April 10, 2011, Villa St. Benedict staff and friends of VSB were invited to view a power point presentation by Sister Mary that tells the history of our Monastery grounds. The program shared our story about crops and animals that were a part of our farm and buildings that we had built. Guests were given a tour of our monastery, followed by some refreshments and time for sharing in our dining room.



l-r: Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, Darlene Wachowski, Susan Schumacher, Sister Barbara Ann Svec, Arlette Vixama, Ermaille Austin, Diana Pasch, and Sister Rosalie Marie Major.

New funds established in support of the Sisters

In the tradition of Benedictine Stewardship, the Sisters have established three new donation funds. These funds will create permanent reserves for the maintenance of our Monastery, and attention to the activities which are a part of our daily monastic life.

The **Sister Roberta Knakal, OSB Fund for Music** will honor the legacy of Sister Roberta, who served as Community organist and choir director until her death in 2010. Sister's work spanned 42 years. Beginning in 1968 she was assigned the job of part-time organist, while teaching mathematics full-time at Benet Academy. Donations to this Fund will provide for the care of our instruments, enable us to purchase new song books and materials, and to bring in musicians to assist in our daily prayer.



The **Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB Fund for the Chapel** is established in honor of Sister Judith Ann, who served our Community as Prioress for eighteen years. The Chapel is the center of prayer life for the Sisters, where we gather each day for Lauds, Vespers and the celebration of the Eucharist. Construction of the Chapel began in the midst of the Great Depression. Over the years, additions and restorations were made, culminating in 2005 with a major renovation as part of the Sisters' move to a new Monastery on the campus. Sister Judith Ann coordinated this work. Donations to this Fund will provide for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Chapel.



The **Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, OSB Fund for the Grotto** is established to mark Sister Mary's election as eighth Prioress of the Community. A grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes was established on the Monastery campus in 1929. Originally built of rocks found on the grounds, the Grotto has been a place of prayer for the Sisters, the girls of Sacred Heart Academy, family and visitors through the years. Sister Mary's love of nature and her dedication to the stewardship of God's gifts brings her to the Grotto to plant, weed and beautify. Donations to this Fund will provide for plant material and the ongoing maintenance of this spiritual place on our campus.





The tradition continued as the Monks of St. Procopius Abbey and the Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery celebrated together on the Feast of St. Scholastica, February 9th. The solemnity of Evening Praise was followed by a social and dinner.



On November 14th, the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and the Monks of St. Procopius Abbey were pleased to host Vespers in the Monastery Chapel followed by a special wine tasting dinner in the Villa Center in support of the Benedictine Education Foundation. Proceeds from the evening will go to the scholarship fund at Sant' Anselmo, the Benedictine University in Rome. **Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, OSB** was a special guest, pictured right playing the flute during Vespers, accompanied by **Sharon Christenson** at the piano. **Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky, Jo Anne Form, Judith Ann Heble** and **Helen Jilek** attended the dinner.



l-r: Larry Cena, Gail Schmidt, Toni Baumgartner

l-r: Abbot Hugh Anderson, Abbot Claude Peifer, Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, Sister Judith Ann Heble, Abbot John Brahill, Abbot Austin Murphy, Reverend Father Becket Franks, Dr. William Carroll

A BENEDICTINE LIVING LEGACY

STEWARDSHIP - GIFTING - HERITAGE

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.
- Realize income tax and future estate tax advantages while providing for your heirs.
- 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)

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 our website to order, or call Sister Jo Anne Form at 630-725-6013

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.

Our Annual Report, mailed in September, will acknowledge all of our benefactors by name.

The Sisters *Thank You* for your continued generosity.

GoodSearch & GoodShop



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!

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

Bulletin Board

On April 19th the eighth grade students at St. Joan of Arc School in Lisle presented a Lenten tradition, Stations of the Cross. Begun by **Sister Joan Marie Soukup, OSB** in 1983, this prayerful and meaningful rendition of the Stations incorporates



traditional and modern enactments to illustrate that the stories of 2000 years ago have relevance today. **Sister Carolyn Sieg, OSB**, is the principal at St. Joan of

Arc. Although Sister Joan Marie passed away in 2004, her spirit lives on in this reverent prayer service.

LENTEN PEACE DAY

Way of the Cross, Way of the Immigrant

Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky, Benita Jasurda, Jo Anne Form, Helen Jilek, Afra Mgwama and Postulant Lorraine Dyba-Militano attended the Lenten Peace Day at St. Charles Pastoral Center, April 15. This was an evening of prayer, meditation, meal and presentation of the 2011 Pax Joliet Awards. The evening program was sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Joliet Peace and Social Justice Ministry. The guest speaker was Reverend Edward Shea, OFM, a pastor with numerous years of service in



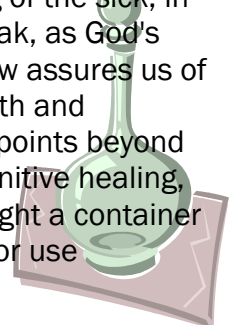
predominantly Hispanic communities. Father Shea is currently serving on the Provincial Council and is Director of Formation for the Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province.

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

Thank you for your continuing kindness.

Sister Barbara Ann Svec spent the last three days of April at the Lisle Library for the annual Book Sale. Sister Barbara Ann is a long-time member of the Friends of the Library and enjoys assisting all the bargain hunters who attend this fund-raising event twice a year.

Sister Jo Anne Form and Postulant Lorraine Dyba-Militano attended the Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral of St. Raymond on April 18th. It is one of the most significant liturgies of our church year, the blessing of oil. Oil is the sign of God's goodness reaching out to touch us: in Baptism, in Confirmation as the sacrament of the Holy Spirit, in the different grades of the sacrament of Holy Orders and, finally, in the anointing of the sick, in which oil is offered to us, so to speak, as God's medicine - as the medicine that now assures us of God's goodness, offering us strength and consolation, yet at the same time, points beyond the moment of illness towards definitive healing, the Resurrection. The Sisters brought a container with the holy oil to the Monastery for use throughout the year.





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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.