

# *Lisle Benedictine Women*

Vol. 43 No. 1

Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2020

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*Our Lady of Lourdes grotto at Sacred Heart Monastery*

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# Message from the Prioress...



“Tis the month of our Mother, the blessed and beautiful days.”

This month, besides being the month of Mother’s Day, my own mother’s birthday, and the feast of our Lady of Fatima on May 13th, it is the month of our Mother Mary.

Amidst the pandemic crisis - living in the new reality of wearing face masks, staying in place, numbers rising for death and sickness, and social distancing - there has been an increase of prayer, of generosity and appreciation of those working to give of their time and money and skilled directions to make our lives safe.

At Sacred Heart Monastery and Villa St. Benedict, we have been blessed with grounds that include a spacious grotto, providing ample opportunity to let us experience God’s beauty while sheltering in place. I am privileged to play a part in its maintenance and thus usually get to meet and greet the many residents that come here to sit, walk, chat or pray the rosary.

Over the years April showers that bring May flowers have kept our grass green. Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto area has remained a quiet, prayerful and colorful space. On occasion, residents have gathered to pray the Rosary.

This year the grotto’s beauty has been enhanced by some outstanding efforts. Maintenance man, Eric Shumaker, has done a miraculous job of repainting the Saint Bernadette statue. Bob Carr, the Greenhouse Manager at Cantigny, gave us flats of spring flowers that could not be planted because the park is closed. And lastly, generous donors have helped purchase plants. Due to pandemic restrictions many individual faithful volunteers have not been able to be on campus to help plant, water and weed. However, Arlene Malloy, who assists part-time in our Development Office, has been devoting even more (solo) time and energy this year to help maintain the grotto.



In 2005 a security fence was added, and in 2011 the Sisters moved the fence line nearer the grotto and added memorial bricks and a sidewalk. Memorial bricks include (and can still include) names of living or deceased sisters, family members, alumnae, and our Villa residents and staff.

I conclude this sharing by asking your prayers for an end to this pandemic. Pray the rosary, love our Blessed Mother, and let her continue to be our intercessor and loving advocate.

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

*(more photos of Grotto on page 23)*

# Celebrating 125 Years!

It was a grand day on February 2, when many of our friends gathered with the Sisters in honor of our 125th Jubilee. Our hearts have been filled with joy and gratitude!

A special Mass was celebrated in Sacred Heart Monastery Chapel, with a reception following in the Villa Great Room.

Our year-long celebration and giving thanks for Lisle Benedictine Sisters continues through February 2, 2021, as the Sisters tell our story both on our website ([www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org)) and on Facebook (Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart). Daily, we feature a short description of one of our Sisters near or on the day or her death if deceased, or on her birthday if living. When not featuring a sister, we share glimpses of the history or features of our lives that are important to our community. Please tune in to our story and accompany us on our journey.



*Celebrating 125 years*



*Celebrating 125 years*



*Celebrating 125 years*





## Welcome, Sister Celestine!

Sister Celestine Shakungu arrived in late January to stay at Sacred Heart Monastery while she furthers her education. She is currently taking English classes at College of DuPage before continuing with theology studies at Benedictine University.

After completing her degree in theology she looks forward to sharing her knowledge with young persons, as well as with the Sisters, especially within the context of community spiritual gatherings.

Sister Celestine is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Oshikuku in Namibia, and she had been working as a secretary in the Archbishop's office.

Sister has been very impressed with and grateful for the welcoming friendliness here; within a few days of her arrival she felt she belonged at Sacred Heart.

May God bless Sister Celestine and all her endeavors!



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Oblates are women and men, married or single, who hunger for a deeper experience of God. Guided by the Rule of Benedict they find their lives enriched as they join others in prayer, *lectio* and work in the context of an extended community.

Our Oblates meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30pm. For more information, please contact Sister Karen Nykiel, OSB at 630-725-6049 or at [knykiel@shmlisle.org](mailto:knykiel@shmlisle.org)



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*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.*

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*With grateful thanks*

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*With grateful thanks*

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

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.

### ***Prayer of Gratitude***

Kind and merciful God, we honor the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and rejoice with them as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

You, O Lord, have sustained them by your grace and love.

We are blessed by their presence in our lives and the witness of their religious profession: stability, fidelity to the monastic life and obedience.

Today, we praise you for their openness through the years to respond to the diverse needs of the Church.

O Loving God, through the intercession of Saints Benedict and Scholastica, we ask your blessing on the Sisters, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



February 2, 2020

### **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)

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Each year the Sisters celebrate with their employees and volunteers, in thanks and appreciation. Here are a few of our guests from February 23rd ...





## *Volunteers at Sacred Heart Monastery*

*The Sisters are blessed with many friends who volunteer their time and talents to assist us on our Board, and with our chapel and monastery needs.*

*They enrich our lives each day by their presence.*

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

Rebecca Anderson	Meghan Doyle	Jane King	Tom Omana
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# Queen of Heaven Monastery

Sister Barbara Pavlik, OSB

## GREETINGS FROM WARREN, OHIO

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.”

I think every heart in our beloved America has felt the same way for the past few months, but probably not for the same reasons. This coronavirus pandemic has uprooted the lives of us all, but it has also been a blessing in disguise. For the most part, it has united the people of this country in ways that our government officials have been unable or unwilling to do. People have become kinder and gentler, and have really gone out of their way to be of service to others; violent crime has also decreased. There will always be those who will protest that their “rights” are being violated. But in spite of all the flaws in how this pandemic is being handled, I know something good will emerge from the fear and panic that has been so much a part of our lives for the past few months. Most of all I pray that it will bring people back to our Risen Lord!



Within our small community we are trying to stay well by following the recommendations and directives for the people of Ohio. Our greatest deprivation is the closing of our churches and the incompleteness of our rich liturgical life in the absence of the Eucharist. We have been able to participate in the Divine Liturgies on the Facebook pages of our Byzantine parishes that live stream, but it still leaves a huge void in our lives. There is no comparison to a full church of people joyously singing “Christ is Risen!”

At Queen of Heaven Monastery, the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ was the best that it could be, given the present circumstances. We missed Sister Marion’s physical presence. She was unable to be with us for Easter because she was in lock down at the Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA.... (so, she had a full liturgical life, and we in Warren, had all the traditional Easter foods). We sisters are so grateful for our beautiful chapel and our daily prayer life. We pray daily for all of you, and especially for those who put their lives on the line daily so that the rest of us can be safe...and for all those who have lost their loved ones to this disease.

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*Christ is Risen!*

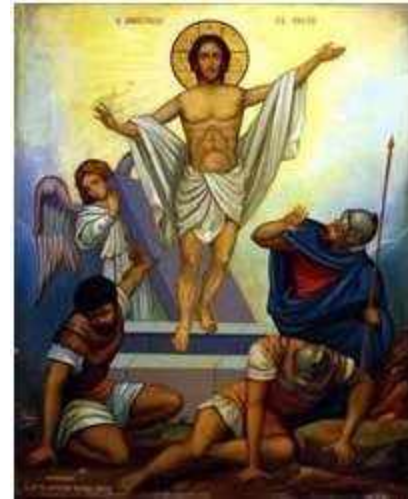
*Indeed He is Risen!*

### **The Icon of the Resurrection**

*Adapted from an article by Athanasios Moustakis 16 April 2017*

This icon is entitled “The Descent into Hell”. The first thing to note is that it is entirely different from the Western-style depiction, which shows Christ emerging triumphantly from the tomb. The astonished guards have fallen to the ground. The Western-style icon **presents a scene that no one ever saw.**

The moment of the Resurrection is a concealed secret. The Byzantine approach is entirely different. It depicts **the results of the event of the Resurrection** for people and for the world.



Christ, in the center, is wearing shining white garments and is within a mandorla. The mandorla is the uncreated, eternal light of Christ. In the writings of the Eastern Christian mystics, God is often prayerfully experienced as light. It is the same light which filled the apostles with wonder when they witnessed His Transfiguration.

### **Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae**

We are searching for all of our Alumnae. If you received this issue of the LBW, but did not receive the March **Echo**, or invitations to our last October Homecoming, you are on our mailing list, but not coded as a Sacred Heart Academy alumna.

Please help us update our records by contacting Beth Hemzacek at [ehemzacek@shmlisle.org](mailto:ehemzacek@shmlisle.org), or send a note to Benedictine Sisters attn.: SHA Alumnae 1910 Maple Ave Lisle, IL 60532.

Homecoming is planned for Saturday, October 17th at Villa St. Benedict. Invitations will be mailed in September.

# Villa St. Benedict

Kathy DiCristina



Life at VSB has changed (temporarily) due to the Coronavirus, but as a "community" we are filled with gratitude. We are thankful that our residents, staff, and Sisters are all safe. Despite the pandemic, we have found ways to remain connected, stay engaged, and support one another with grace.



Villa St. Benedict

May 6 at 4:24 PM

Reminder that video chats are available for families and residents and pets!

Visit here for information and how to schedule:

<https://www.villastben.org/news/>

#VillaStBenedict #SocialSolidarity #ZoomConference #Facetime



Villa St. Benedict

May 1 at 11:30 AM

Distance won't stop the Joy of Dance group from getting together! Here's Judy, fully connected on her devices, spending time on Zoom with her dance group.

[www.villastben.org](http://www.villastben.org) #VillaStBen #SocialSolidarity #SocialDistance #zoomconference



Villa St. Benedict

*Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Sacred Heart Monastery*



Go to our website at [www.shmlisle.org](http://www.shmlisle.org) or our Facebook page *Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart* to view the 4-minute video and catch a glimpse of nature's best scenes from Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Sacred Heart Monastery, Lisle, IL



*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.