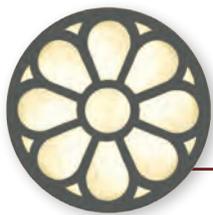


# Reflections

of the Benedictine Sisters





# Welcome

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*Dear family and friends,*

Since joining the Benedictine Sisters here in Mt. Angel as pastoral administrator, I have been reflecting on the unique vocation of monastic life. I offer the following reflection as my initial foray into this discovery.

LISTEN is the first word of the Rule of St. Benedict. LISTEN CAREFULLY. The Liturgy of the Hours, four times a day, informs the life of the monastic community. We gather at dawn, mid-day, before supper and in the evening to praise, thank, honor, plead with God for the needs of the world and for our constant pursuit of our God in every breath we take. This is the focal point, this constant daily prayer, which holds all of the intentions you and our world bring to us.

The value of this daily, constant rhythm is a deep sense of God at the center of everything. Out of this comes every thought, word and action of our day. We receive requests for prayer from every corner of the world and through every possible medium: email, snail mail, Facebook, Twitter and word of mouth. We keep big books of intentions right outside the chapel to record all of the requests and we consciously bring them to mind and heart as we pray the Liturgy of the Hours and celebrate the daily Eucharist.

We believe deeply in this life of God calling us and all of our brothers and sisters to a oneness in Him at the center of all. We believe God hears and listens to all of our deepest prayers and desires. It is the daily, solid, dependable flow of life that keeps us all connected in this wild world.

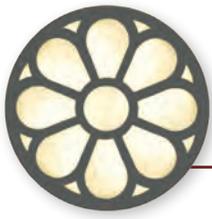
You can depend on us to bring all of your intentions into our prayers. It is the deepest value of the monastic way of life. We are here for you. We LISTEN and pray in your name. We count on your spiritual support as well.

I wish you blessings and peace as we travel the journey together.

Peace and joy always,

*Sister Jane*

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM  
Pastoral Administrator



## The Sequoia Story

By Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer

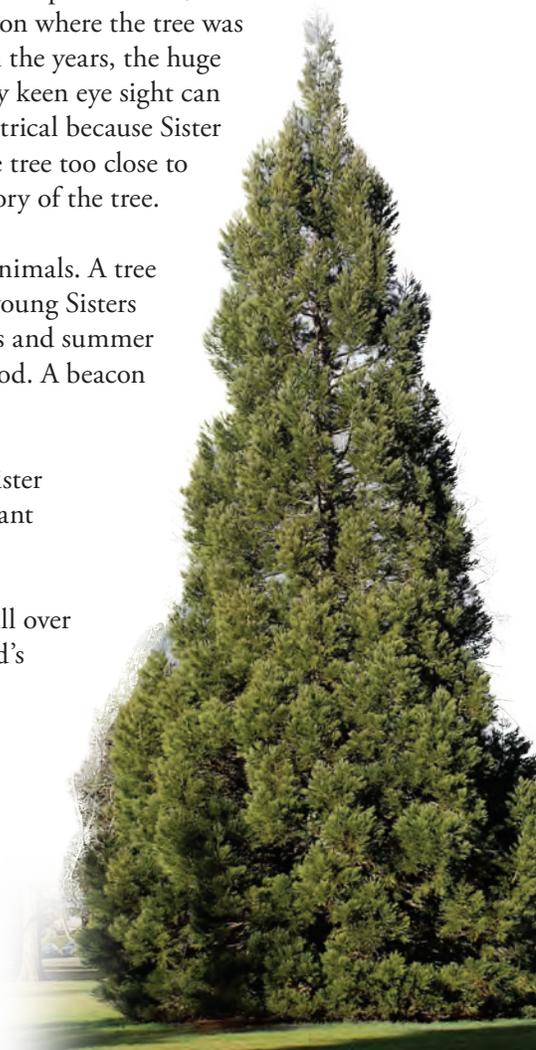


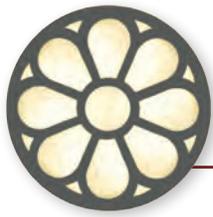
Outside my office window, in the Benedictine Sisters' Development Office, stands the 1893 *Sequoia Gigantium*, or giant sequoia, designated as an Oregon Heritage Tree. When I see the huge, low-hanging branches and the weather-worn bark of the trunk, I am inspired by the tenacity and strength of the tree. From top to bottom, the sequoia is a magnificent tree, a tree "rooted in faith," as Sister Alberta titled her book on the history of the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. Looking up at the top of the tree, I can see the indentation where the tree was

damaged in 1969. It was such a drastic wound, but slowly through the years, the huge gap has been closed by the tree healing itself. Only a person of very keen eye sight can see where the tree was dramatically scarred. The tree is not symmetrical because Sister Protasia Schindler, not knowing it was a giant sequoia, planted the tree too close to the building. A flaw easily overlooked once visitors hear the full story of the tree.

The tree stands as a welcoming place for visitors, birds and small animals. A tree wounded but healing. A tree whose stair-step branches once held young Sisters who climbed it on July 4. A flexible tree that survives winter winds and summer droughts. A prayerful tree that lifts its billowy branches aloft to God. A beacon of lofty green for the weary traveler.

In 1982, the Benedictine Sisters, with particular assistance from Sister Marietta Schindler (a relative of Sister Protasia), planted a small giant sequoia (started from a seed from the 1893 tree), in honor of the community's centenary and as a legacy for future members of the community. Along with the 1893 sequoia, this little tree, grown tall over the past 35 years, is a symbol of new life and constant hope in God's protecting love of the Benedictine Sisters.





# Thank You

## Thank You Epping Family Foundation

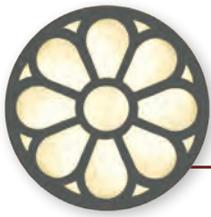
Thanks to a \$117,000 grant from the Larry and Jeanette Epping Family Foundation, Queen of Angels Monastery has received some much needed repairs and upgrades. The grant was awarded in June, 2017. The Benedictine Sisters wish to send their sincerest and most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Epping family for their tremendous support throughout the years.



The first major project completed was a new pathway between the Monastery's north wing and the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center. The old pathway was uneven, poorly lit, and was difficult to walk. Thanks to the Epping Family Foundation, a new pathway was completed and dedicated on September 1. The new pathway provides much safer and easier access between the two locations.

Grant money was also used to repair and replace portions of the Chapel roof and repairs were made to the Monastery's Archive Room. "The Sisters at Queen of Angels Monastery are deeply grateful for the generosity of the Epping Family Foundation," said Sr. Jane Hibbard. "We are blessed by their generous gift."

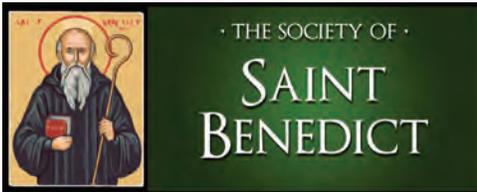




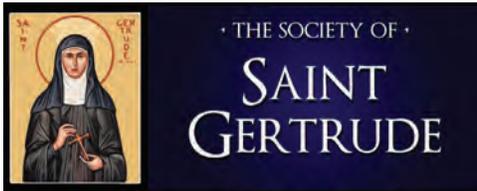
# Donor Societies

## Building a Foundation for the Future

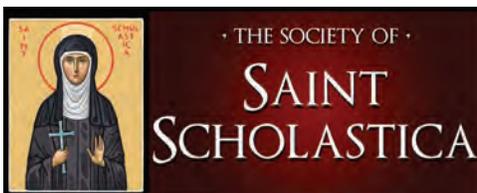
We are proud to announce three programs that will help continue the Benedictine Sisters' ministries, traditions, and legacy well into the future. The "societies" listed below provide you, our friends, family, donors and supporters, three different ways to give and support the Sisters and their monastic community.



For as little as \$10 per month, you can join the Society of Saint Benedict. This society is composed of donors who sign up to give a monthly gift. Monthly giving is easy, convenient, and completely controlled by the donor. You can easily manage the amount, duration, and even the area you want your gift to go. Society of Saint Benedict members will help build a solid foundation for the future of Queen of Angels Monastery.



By leaving or bequeathing a gift to the Sisters through your will or estate, you can become a member of the Society of Saint Gertrude. Members are honored by the Sisters with two display signs located in the Hospitality Center. You can view or download sample language to insert in your estate documents on our website or by contacting the Development Office.



This group of incredibly generous donors include anyone that has gifted \$1,000 or more to the Sisters during the year. Joining this group is now easier than ever. You can join both the Society of Saint Benedict and the Society of Saint Scholastica with a simple \$84 monthly donation. These donors provide an invaluable amount of support for the Sisters, the Monastery, and their ministries.

### *How to Help*

You can join one, two, or all three societies online ([www.Benedictine-Srs.org](http://www.Benedictine-Srs.org)), or with a short phone call to the Development Office at (503) 845-2556. All donors, from \$1 to \$100,000+, are remembered in the Sisters' daily prayers.



On September 9, the Sisters hosted an Open House to help launch Shalom at the Monastery. The event featured a ceremonial procession that began on the steps of Shalom Prayer Center. The group of approximately 50 guests then processed through Agatha Hall and the Monastery, blessing each new location for Shalom at the Monastery along the way. Shalom at the Monastery offers spiritual direction, retreats, and workshops.



### **Monthly Meetings & Workshops**

**Monthly Dream Group: Language of the Soul**  
3rd Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., All Year

**Taize Prayer Service**  
3rd Sunday, 7 – 8 p.m., October – May

**Prayer of the Heart: Contemplative Prayer**  
3rd Tuesday, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., All Year

**Book Talk**  
3rd Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
September 2017 – June 2018

**Supervision for Spiritual Directors**  
2nd Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Through December 2017, February – May, 2018

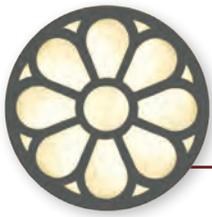
### **Upcoming Retreats**

**The Ways of the Heart:  
Exploration into Friendship**  
November 4  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Presenters: Sr. Joan Pokorny and  
Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer

**Reclaiming the Divine Child Within**  
December 15 – 16  
Friday 7 – 9 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Presenter: Peggy McGurn, PhD

Private and Private Directed Retreats Available.  
Visit [www.benedictine-srs.org/retreats](http://www.benedictine-srs.org/retreats)  
to learn more.

For a complete list of events or to learn more,  
visit our website [www.Benedictine-Srs.org](http://www.Benedictine-Srs.org), or  
call the Development Office at (503) 845-2556.



# Oblate Update

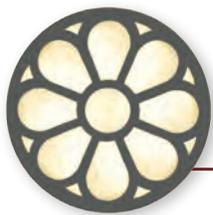


The September 22-23 annual oblate retreat led by Brother Cyril Drnjevic from Mount Angel Abbey, was on Pope Francis' encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care of our Common Home." The focus was on how the encyclical applied to the lives of oblates and communities within a Benedictine framework. On September 24, during Morning Praise, five candidates were inducted, three oblate novices made their final oblation and current oblates present renewed their oblation. There are seven new inquirers starting the Benedictine Oblate journey this fall.

Although the Oblate program has gone through changes over the years, many things remain constant: our ongoing relationship with the Sisters at Queen of Angels and our desire to be in a supportive and loving community that strives to learn and live out the Gospel as Benedict encourages.

If you wish to become an oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery, please contact Sister Maureen Niedermeyer, (503) 845-6141, or email [qamoblates@gmail.com](mailto:qamoblates@gmail.com)

*Future meetings: October through April - the second Sunday of each month  
(except May meeting will be held May 20 due to Mother's Day the previous Sunday).*



# In Memory

**Sister Jerome “Carol” Zerr, O.S.B.,** a member of Queen of Angels Monastery, died April 28, 2017, at the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Portland, Oregon. She was 72 years old.

Sister Jerome (Carol) was born July 11, 1944, in Portland, to Peter and Elizabeth (Moffenbeier) Zerr. Following her father’s death in 1957, her mother moved the family to Mount Angel to care for ailing family members and to be closer to Sister Jerome’s brother, the future Abbot Bonaventure Zerr, who had entered Mount Angel Seminary. Sister Jerome attended high school at Mount Angel Academy and entered the Benedictine community on September 9, 1962, shortly after her graduation. She made first profession on July 11, 1964, and perpetual monastic profession, July 11, 1969. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother, Abbot Bonaventure Zerr of Mt. Angel Abbey.

She graduated from Mount Angel College in 1969, and, later, did graduate work at Portland State University and the University of Portland. She began her teaching career at Kennedy High School in Mount Angel in 1967, and also taught at Sacred Heart School in Portland. In 1977, while still teaching at Sacred Heart School, she began teaching at Central Catholic High School

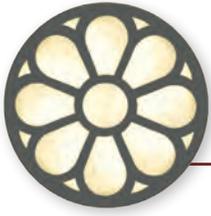
part-time. She continued to teach theology and assist in athletics at Central until her death. Sister Jerome was a well-respected and beloved teacher in her service and dedication to the staff, parents and students of Central Catholic High School for 40 years.



At the time of her 50th Jubilee of Monastic Profession in 2014, she said, “When I entered (religious life), my intention was to work for the Church. The community gave me that opportunity by giving me the spiritual life and an education to be part of a teaching ministry. I feel that I have received so much more than I have ever given.”

Sister Jerome is remembered for her love of the Church and her dedication to her students. She was an avid reader, a dedicated sports fan, especially of the baseball and basketball teams of Central Catholic, a wise and caring teacher, a woman of keen wit, and a devoted member of the Benedictine Sisters.

Sister Jerome is survived by her cousins, many friends, staff, parents, and students from the Central Catholic High School and Sacred Heart Parish, Portland, and her monastic community, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. Memorial gifts may be made to the retirement fund of the Benedictine Sisters and to Central Catholic High School.



# In Memory

**Sister Immaculata “Lillian” Tuma, O.S.B.,** a member of Queen of Angels Monastery, died August 13, 2017, at Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, Oregon. She was 86 years old.

Sr. Immaculata began life as Lillian Tuma, and was born and raised on an 80-acre farm, just outside of Lebanon, Oregon. As a youngster, she attended the two-room Crowfoot School and graduated from Lebanon Union High School in 1949. Each summer she and her brothers went to catechism classes taught by the Benedictine Sisters. She admired the Sisters who taught those classes, but said she “never thought” about becoming a Sister until she was 17 or 18. She entered Queen of Angels Monastery in 1952 at the age of 21. Sr. Immaculata professed first vows as a Benedictine Sister on February 10, 1954.

Soon after her monastic profession, Sr. Immaculata began working as a cook, serving at the Monastery, as well as at Mount Angel Abbey and the Benedictine Nursing Center. She took courses in Dietary Administration for Food Service Managers at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri in 1973 and received a certificate as a Master Cake Decorator in 1974. In 1969 Sr. Immaculata was put in charge of the

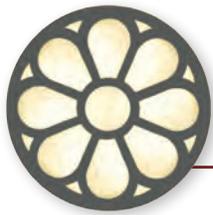
Sisters’ kitchen, and, she served her community in this position for over 40 years. Sr. Immaculata was well-known for her elaborate and beautiful wedding and special occasion cakes, which have graced hundreds of celebrations over the years.



At the holidays, she baked hundreds of cookies, her famous fruit cake, and pastries such as bear claws and butter horns. She also baked the buttermilk coffee cakes, which are sold by the Sisters at the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest and given as gifts to friends and supporters of the Sisters.

At the time of 50th Jubilee in 2004, reflecting on her years as a Benedictine Sister, Sister Immaculata said, “I feel that my life as a religious has been fruitful, life-giving and joyful. It has been very, very happy.” Recently, at her 60th Jubilee in 2014, Sister Immaculata, who was retired but still quite active, liked to say, “I made it this far and the rest is icing on the cake!”

Sister Immaculata is preceded in death by her four brothers: Fred, Ernest, Louis, and James, and is survived by her nieces and nephews, cousins, many friends, and her monastic community, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. Memorial gifts may be made to the retirement fund of the Benedictine Sisters.



**Benedictine Sisters  
Launch New Website**

The Benedictine Sisters launched their new website on September 6 marking the end of a nearly four-month-long project. “This was high on the priority list for us in the Development Office,” said Michael Trevino, the new Director of Development. “Since many of our Sisters can’t be out in the community as much, we wanted to give everyone a way to stay connected with them. Our website is that connection.”

The new website allows visitors to submit prayer requests, view daily prayer service schedules, make donations or gifts, and even download special prayers written by the Sisters themselves. The site also has a complete list of upcoming events, retreats and workshops. Long-distance visitors to the website will appreciate the digital tour and history of the Monastery and the Sisters.

You can visit the new website at [www.Benedictine-Srs.org](http://www.Benedictine-Srs.org).

**Monastery Added to  
Mt. Angel Heritage Trail**



Queen of Angels Monastery has been selected as a location on the new Mount Angel Heritage Trail. Through grant money from the Oregon Community Foundation, and through efforts spearheaded by the City of Mount Angel, a permanent plaque will be placed on the grounds. The metal sign will feature an early photo and brief history of the Monastery building.

**Sr. Rocio Continues  
Tradition of Handmade Rosaries**

*By Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB*



Sister Mary Blanche Smith (1916 – 2014) made rosaries and rosary bracelets well into her nineties and had a marvelous reputation for her craftsmanship. Now Sister Rocio Moreno-Soto

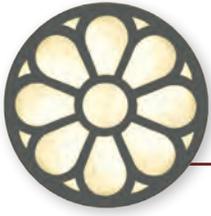
continues the tradition of this holy skill. You are welcome to browse the Monastery Gift Shop, located on the 2nd floor of the Monastery, to shop for Sr. Rocio’s rosaries, rosary bracelets, and necklaces. The Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday by appointment.

**The Sisters Get Social**

You can now follow the Benedictine Sisters on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Just follow @MtAngelSisters to stay connected with the Sisters. Stay up to date with the latest news, stories, and events at the Monastery.

**Sr. Jill Aigner, 1923–2017**

Sr. Jill passed away on October 7, 2017. Her funeral was held at Queen of Angels Monastery on Wednesday, October 11. Her full obituary will be published in our next issue of Reflections, or it can be viewed on our website [www.benedictine-srs.org](http://www.benedictine-srs.org).



## *A Season of Giving*

The Benedictine Sisters would like to thank the over 150 donors who contributed to the annual Century Club appeal. In all, over \$36,000 was raised for Queen of Angels Monastery, the Sisters, and their ministries. The appeal centered around the Monastery's 134th anniversary. In November, our annual Retirement Appeal will kick-off. Look for updates on our website and our e-newsletter. We would also like to thank all volunteers, donors, and supporters who helped raise over \$40,000 at the 13th Annual St. Joseph the Worker Dinner in May. Don't forget, you can always make a gift to the Sisters by stopping by the Monastery, or by calling the Development Office at (503) 845-2556.

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### **Oktoberfest Board Grant Received in 2017**

The Benedictine Sisters are very grateful for the 2017 Oktoberfest grants that will provide a new hospital bed for the Sisters in the Supportive Care Center. Our deepest and most sincere thanks to the members of the Oktoberfest Board for the continued generous support of Queen of Angels Monastery and many other community projects in Mount Angel.



### **Estate Sale: November 9-12**

Queen of Angels Monastery will be holding an estate sale. The sale will begin on Thursday, November 9, and continue through Sunday, November 12. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. each day and will close at 4:00 p.m. The estate sale will be held on the monastery grounds at 840 S. Main Street.



### **Volunteers Near and Far**

An important part of the Benedictine Sisters' lives are the volunteers who come to help with specific projects and who participate in our monastic life of prayer and work. During the month of September, the Sisters were blessed with Al and Diane Zabel, Melbourne, Florida; Nelson and Patti Nelson, Boerne, Texas, and Deacon Dennis and Georgia Kutach of Yoakum, Texas, who have come to help with monastery cleaning and with the Oktoberfest for many years. Much gratitude goes to the many volunteers who live nearby who helped with our book sale in April and with sales at the Oktoberfest booth. We are most grateful for their time and presence.

# Reflections

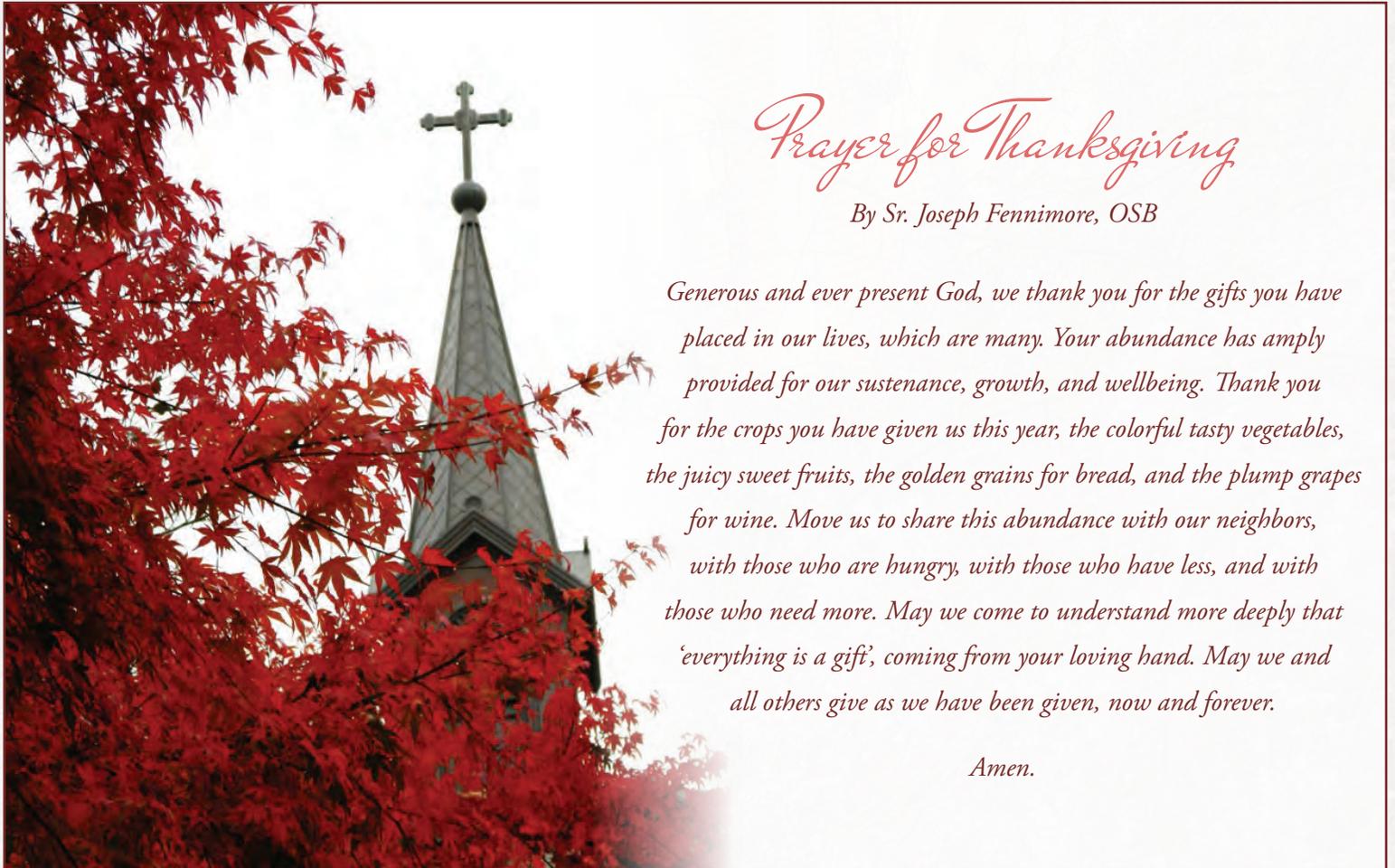
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Please notify us of any address changes:

- email [info@benedictine-srs.org](mailto:info@benedictine-srs.org)
- call 503.845.2556
- mail to the above address

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## Prayer for Thanksgiving

By Sr. Joseph Fennimore, OSB

*Generous and ever present God, we thank you for the gifts you have placed in our lives, which are many. Your abundance has amply provided for our sustenance, growth, and wellbeing. Thank you for the crops you have given us this year, the colorful tasty vegetables, the juicy sweet fruits, the golden grains for bread, and the plump grapes for wine. Move us to share this abundance with our neighbors, with those who are hungry, with those who have less, and with those who need more. May we come to understand more deeply that 'everything is a gift', coming from your loving hand. May we and all others give as we have been given, now and forever.*

*Amen.*