

Volume XLV
No. 2 Summer 2021

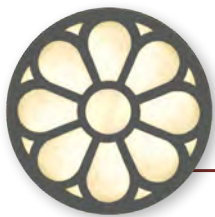
Reflections



of the Benedictine Sisters

HOPE
THROUGH *Work*

QUEEN OF ANGELS MONASTERY • MT. ANGEL, OREGON



Welcome



Dear family and friends,

At the start of summer, the sisters had their annual retreat, a time of intense spiritual renewal and rest. The theme of this year's retreat was: "Heartened by Hope." As we continue our theme for this year, we are reflecting on hope as it is reflected through work. The "work" of our later years is often more contemplative. We have experienced life for many years and we have some wisdom to share as we have learned to accept ourselves just as we are and life as it comes to us.

In an organization that I belong to, one of the slogans that guides life is:

Expectations are premeditated resentments.

In the work of acceptance of ourselves and others, expectations often cloud our vision and the grace that is available if we approach each moment with fresh eyes. If we limit our expectations of ourselves and others, we will have hope and experience mercy.

We are beginning to see an opening after months of being isolated and not able to receive guests. Very soon we will be "back to a different normal," that will include hospitality, that is having you physically present with us. We have been holding all of you and the world in our prayers, but we hope to be able to invite you in, shake your hand and hug you! We will make final decisions regarding this later this year. It will require that everyone who comes is fully vaccinated. That is the work of hope we all can do to support one other.

Sending you many restful, summer moments of peace and joy,

Sister Jane

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Pastoral Administrator

The Benedictine Sisters'

2021 Founders Day Virtual Celebration

October 24, 2021

*Monastery
Mustard*

Back for only our Founder's Day campaign is our famous Monastery Mustard! You can help support the Benedictine Sisters and enjoy their delicious mustard by purchasing a jar. Each 12 oz. jar features our Divinely Original mustard and is available for only \$20. **Supplies are limited to just 300 jars.** Online ordering opens on September 1 at noon. Order at www.benedictine-srs.org/mustard

Our annual dinner will return virtually this fall to YouTube and Facebook. On October 24, we will debut a special video featuring the Benedictine Sisters sharing stories about life in their monastic community. The special event will be the grand finale of our month-long Founder's Day Virtual Celebration. You can support this very important campaign by visiting our website www.benedictine-srs.org/foundersday and becoming a donor or table sponsor.

Thanks to a grant from the Larry & Jeanette Epping Family Foundation, there is no greater time to support the sisters. All one-time gifts will be matched, turning a \$50 gift to a \$100 gift! The foundation will again double-match all recurring donations for the first twelve months. That means your \$20 per month gift becomes a \$60 per month gift for the first year.

We look forward to celebrating our Founder's Day with you virtually this year, and we can't wait to host you in Agatha Hall at next year's dinner. God bless you all!

To Donate or To Learn About
Sponsorship Opportunities

Call (503) 845-2556 or email info@benedictine-srs.org

HOPE THROUGH *Work*

by Michael Trevino, Sister Mechtilde Fennimore & Sister Christine Rausch

Pray and work (in Latin, ora et labora) is a cornerstone of the Benedictine charism and an important part of monastic life at Queen of Angels Monastery.

I recently sat down with Sister Mechtilde Fennimore and Sister Christine Rausch to discuss some of the work the sisters have taken on over the years. In casual conversations with the sisters during my time here, I have heard a number of their amazing stories. Those conversations, however, did not do justice to the work the sisters have done over the past 140 years.



Sr. Rebecca Pirkel, Sr. Susan Casey and Sr. Joseph Fennimore (2019) making sandwiches for a church group visiting the monastery.

Many of the Benedictine Sisters were teachers and principals at nearly every level and in all corners of the state. Grade school teachers went beyond the state line, teaching as far as British Columbia and northern California. You could also find Benedictine Sisters in colleges and universities – from La Grande, Oregon, to Fresno, California. Some of the sisters taught music, piano and band at local parishes and Mt. Angel Academy.



Sr. Bernarda Duda (1957) working as a grounds keeper.

For the sisters who remained at the monastery, there was much work to be done. The sisters operated an impressive gardening and canning operation. They grew, picked, and stored apples, peaches, cherries and a variety of other fruits. Many of the sisters tended the numerous vegetable gardens and flower beds. The monastery barns once housed cows, chickens, pigs, and rabbits. There was even a grade B creamery on the grounds.



Sr. Cornelia Saftig (1978) cleaning the dining room after dinner.

Once the food was gathered, it had to be used. Many of the sisters were cooks and kitchen helpers. They cooked in the monastery kitchen for the monastic community, students and guests. They cooked for the monks and students at Mt. Angel Abbey and Seminary. And the work



The sisters canning fruit in the first floor hallway (1994).

did not end with just the cooking, as the sisters also did all of the cleaning work as well, including laundry.

The Benedictine Sisters' ministries extended beyond the walls of the monastery, and beyond the classroom. Many of the sisters worked in outreach ministries helping the most vulnerable populations including migrant



Sr. Maureen Neidermeyer (2018) playing piano at a special donor mass.

Sr. Theresa Henscheid (ca. 1980) at the nurse's station in the Benedictine Nursing Home



Sr. Joan Pokorny (2018) helping clean the monastery grounds.

families, homeless children, refugees and prisoners. Many of the sisters were involved in caring for the elderly as nurses, chaplains, cooks and administrators with the Benedictine Nursing Center (now Providence Benedictine Nursing Center). Many sisters worked at Shalom Prayer Center as administrators, spiritual directors, retreat presenters, and food services staff.

The sisters worked as librarians and archivists at the monastery. They worked as seamstresses, making habits, vestments and clothing. They were artists, taking photos, writing poems, and some



Sr. Germaine Lorentz (1971) proof reader for the Bend Bulletin.

worked as potters, leatherworkers and painters. One could easily fill every page of this issue of *Reflections*

with stories and photos of their work.

Today, many of the sisters are retired, but they remain very active in monastic life. Their ministry of prayer, hospitality and service continues to be an important part of life at Queen of Angels. The



Sr. Christine Rausch (2019) in the archive room.

sisters welcome guests and visitors; they continue to make items for the Monastery Gift Shop; and you can find some of them tending to the gardens and flower beds around the monastery. Every day, they gather in the chapel to pray for you and our world. Every day – through wildfires, ice storms, power outages and extreme heat – they pray.



Sr. Mechilde Fennimore and Sr. Dorothy Rausch (1987) turning the press to make apple juice.

The events of the past year have challenged us all, the Benedictine Sisters included. Yet, through the work and daily rhythm of monastic life, the sisters remained and continue to remain hopeful.



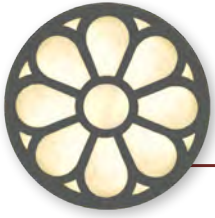
Sr. Colette Ernst and Sr. Perpetua Popp (1976) doing laundry.



Sr. Joseph Fennimore (2018) speaking to Providence Benedictine Nursing Center staff.

Thank you Staff! *by Sister Jane Hibbard*

When we do the work of hiring folks to work with us in the daily administration of the monastery, we hope they will be a good fit for the sisters and for this rather unique working environment. I have always experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in this effort. I believe our employees are “called” to this ministry and it is definitely more than a job. It is a ministry! We are so blessed. I cannot name each of the men and women in this short space, but every one of them exceed expectations over and above the job description. “What do the Sisters need?” I hear that over and over, from donors, our volunteer advisory boards and each and every one of our employees. We are so grateful!



Hope Through Work

An Oblate's Reflection

by Nancy Hendricks, Queen of Angels Oblate

The question is, "How working at being a Benedictine oblate has brought me peace?"

The first word of the Rule is "Listen." Over the past eleven years of my oblate journey, there have been many times of listening. Listening as a pathway to peace.

St. Benedict sprinkled Scripture passages all throughout his Rule since the Scriptures are a guide for human life. The Rule of St. Benedict is a tool to help us grow closer to the Divine.

God's voice, the voice of the Divine, comes to us in our everyday lives, through people we encounter and holy reading that we do. As an oblate, I begin my day with the familiar phrase, "O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise." Praising God, who is Love, opens me to receive God's peace, a peace which is beyond our understanding.

God reminds us in many ways that we need not fear nor be afraid. God does not want us to harden our hearts, but rather to be the light of peace and hope in our everyday lives towards the people that we encounter daily.

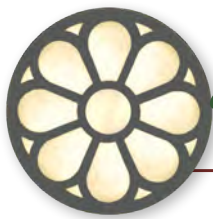
Being a Benedictine oblate brings an invitation to do Lectio Divina daily. This practice does help to expand my heart in peaceful ways. One manifestation of this daily prayer is that my husband and I are creating a 1.5-acre peace garden on our property. Eventually, it will be a place where fellow oblates and others can come and feel the peace and love that God wants us to have. This will be a place where people can abide in the peaceful love of Christ.

Being a Benedictine oblate and participating in retreats at Shalom at the Monastery is another way to experience the deep peace that Christ desires for each one of us. Sharing stories with others, meditating with Benedictine books, praying with the sisters, and participating in Opus Dei, the Work of God, have all been greatly beneficial to me as I live in a peaceful, hopeful way as a Benedictine Oblate.

Wearing my St. Benedict's medal ring reminds me that I am to live with reverence towards all living things, which can lead to peace and love wherever I am, and wherever my fellow Benedictines are.

We pray, "May we bring light to the world, and radiate peace, so that God may be glorified by our lives."





The Creative/Spiritual Life Circle

A new workshop coming to Shalom at the Monastery

The Creative/Spiritual Life Circle is a Benedictine-centered discussion group whose concept is simple: people who gather together on a regularly scheduled basis to share -- without interruptions or cross-talk -- whatever is gratifying us or amazing us or troubling us or puzzling us about the intersection of creativity and spirituality. In the Circle, we draw no conclusions, make no judgments and offer no advice or critiques. We simply listen to each other with the ears of our hearts and draw insights from what we hear. We engage with, and learn from, each other. We practice hospitality and humility.

The Circle is a dynamic experience founded on a four-fold premise:

- That all people are inherently creative because we all share in the image and likeness of our creator, God. The spirituality of living God-centered lives is the ultimate creative act. (Rule of St. Benedict 72:1-12)
- That each one of us has been given gifts of creativity and spirituality that are as individual as we are. These gifts vary from person to person in one way or another, and evolve throughout our lives. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
- That our gifts of creativity and spirituality, like all gifts, are to be used to build up the Kingdom of God. They are not to be buried, hoarded, squandered or ignored. They are to be shared and celebrated in the spirit of faithful stewardship. (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-48; Rule of St. Benedict 57:9)
- That creativity and spirituality blossom in supportive communities, because that's where people thrive, too. (Rule of Benedict Prologue 45-50)

The Creative/Spiritual Life Circle meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, beginning on September 18, from 1:15-2:30pm, in the Chapter Room. The discussion is facilitated by Susan Black, an artist, writer and QAM Oblate Candidate, whose goal is to illuminate the twinned delights of creativity and spirituality.

All are welcome. There are no pre-requisites, qualifications or homework, and no need to bring anything beyond your open mind and your generous spirit. An offering of \$5-10 per session is optional and appreciated.

From the Facilitator: Susan Black

I was born in New York City and grew up in suburban Connecticut, where I lived until moving to San Francisco in 1996. I came to Aurora, Oregon in 2014.



After majoring in English Literature (Art History minor) in college, I pursued a demanding, nearly four-decade career in public relations, corporate communications and freelance writing. My work was centered in New York City, even after I moved West. Recent years have seen me develop my identity as an artist/writer; this process has taken on more depth now that I realize that visual art and memoir writing are expressions of my spirituality, not merely hobbies. Other creative pursuits include reading, gardening and cat- and chicken-keeping.

A lifelong Catholic previously grounded in Ignatian spirituality, I discovered the Benedictines and the Queen of Angels Monastery soon after I arrived in Oregon, and have been privileged to come to know many of the Sisters. Their example and their charism inspired me to investigate Benedictine Oblation. Study as an Inquirer during 2020-21 and getting acquainted with QAM Oblates spurred me on, and I am now a Candidate.

To register: call Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, 503 845-2556 or email dorothyjeanb7@gmail.com, three days before the session. Choose from in-person or by Zoom.

In memory of Jan Alsever, a woman of joy



Supervision for Spiritual Directors via Zoom
2nd Friday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., September through May, \$20

All spiritual directors are welcome to attend the monthly supervision meeting for on-going formation and education. Call Sr. Joan Pokorny at 503-949-6284 or email her at jpokornyqam23@gmail.com to inquire or register.

Book Talk via Zoom

3rd Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
September through June

Monthly Book Talk led by Tim Nelson and Linda Jensen. The group meets to discuss questions about the book of the month and share their insights. Check our website for a full reading list and future dates. Contact Sr. Dorothy Jean at (503) 845-2556 to register.

A Time to Journal with Evelyn Wemhoff
2nd Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., All Year
Donation

This opportunity is for anyone who has previously attended a Proloff Intensive Journal Workshop and desires to strengthen his/her own work in the Journal. Email Evelyn at evelynhwemhoff@comcast.net, or by phone at (503) 845-9847 if you are planning to attend.

Dream Group: Language of the Soul
3rd Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
\$20

Listening to dreams in a group can help us pay attention to God's presence in image and word in our awakened life. Presenter is Clara Jean Dawson.

Spiritual Direction

By Appointment, \$60

with Sliding Scale Available

Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer and Sr. Joan Pokorny are currently offering Spiritual Direction sessions via Zoom, by phone, or in person.

For more information, please contact Sr. Dorothy Jean at (503) 845-2556 or by email dorothyjeanb7@gmail.com, or Sr. Joan at (503) 949-6284.

Prayer of the Heart

3rd Tuesday, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join this contemplative prayer group. Meetings take place in the chapel located on the second floor of the Hospitality Center.

The Creative-Spiritual Life Circle

3rd Saturday, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m

Donation

A Benedictine-centered discussion group whose concept is simple: people who gather together on a regularly scheduled basis to share -- without interruptions or cross-talk -- whatever is gratifying us or amazing us or troubling us or puzzling us about the intersection of creativity and spirituality.

Taize Prayer Service

3rd Sunday, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., October through May

Donation

Join us for our monthly Taize Prayer Service in the chapel. This special service features sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and personal reflection. All are welcome!

To learn more about these retreats, to register for a retreat, or to see other upcoming events at the monastery, visit www.Benedictine-Srs.org or call (503) 845-2556

Shalom at the Monastery – Upcoming Retreats

To Register for a Shalom at the Monastery Retreat:

call the Benedictine Sisters at (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, Attn: Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, at least four days before the retreat. Scholarships available.

Pain, Suffering and Saying Yes to Life presented by Dean Schlecht

September 10-11, 2021

Friday 7-8:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

\$70 (\$25 non-refundable deposit)

Physical or emotional pain can often be a powerful driver of sadness, fear and anger, deadening our spirit and disconnecting us. However, it can be a catalyst for spiritual and emotional growth. Through lectures, Active Imagination and personal sharing, we will explore how to transcend our pain and live joyfully in the midst of it.

Dean Schlecht, M.Div. is the retired manager of a 19-bed psychiatric crisis respite facility. He currently maintains a private practice offering spiritual direction. Dean has offered numerous retreats and workshops at Shalom and elsewhere.

Our Pilgrim Search for God presented by Sister Gertrude Feick

October 1-2, 2021

Friday 3:30 p.m. – Saturday 3:00 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$148.50 includes retreat, meals and accommodations

\$69.50 for commuters, includes lunch

We are all pilgrims in search of God. In fact, in the words of Cardinal Basil Hume, “life is a pilgrimage. We are on a march, and sooner or later we shall reach our destination. That destination we call heaven.” With the voice of Cardinal Basil Hume (1923-1999), from her book *Cardinal Basil Hume: A Pilgrim's Search for God* (Gracewing, 2019), Sr. Gertrude Feick presents Basil Hume, Benedictine monk, Archbishop of Westminster, pastor, preacher and resounding voice of Benedictine spirituality.

Basil Hume continues to offer support and encouragement in our lives as pilgrims, and during difficult times. As Cardinal Hume aptly put it: “This pilgrim way is not easy ... it can be pretty rough and uphill business as I try to make my way along it”, for the pilgrim “wanders through life, often limping, sometimes bewildered, at times quite lost; and the pilgrim is searching, often quite unconsciously, for something or someone to make sense of life, and certainly to make sense of death.” Please join us for this time of prayerful reflection.

Sister Gertrude Feick, a Benedictine Sister of Mount Angel, Oregon, is a member of the Cistercian Monastery of Our Lady of the Redwoods Abbey, Whitethorn, California. In addition to the daily life of prayer, manual labor, and study, she publishes a “Daily Lectio” reflection on the Redwoods Abbey website, and writes book reviews for Cistercian Studies Quarterly and The American Benedictine Review. Sr. Gertrude holds a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Rome

Progoff Intensive Journal Workshops via Zoom presented by Evelyn Wemhoff

October 6-7, 13-14, November 20-21, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. with breaks

\$225 per session / \$625 full course

This ongoing program enables individuals, to draw their life into focus and enlarge their capacities. The process is non-judgmental and non-diagnostic. It honors privacy as well as the dignity of each person. The Progoff Journal is more than a Journal. It is an Inner Workbook.

In a deep and quiet atmosphere, you will learn techniques to enable you to use the Intensive Journal workbook. The workbook is the active instrument of the program. Its structure makes it a dynamic vehicle for journal feedback techniques. The Journal clarifies and helps to self-adjust the needs and potentials of your life. There are Three Workshops:

Life Context will be Oct 6-7.

Depth Context will be Oct 13-14.

Life Integration will be Oct 20-21.

Program Presenter: Evelyn Wemhoff has a history of working with individuals and groups in a great many situations of teaching, leadership, spiritual direction, consultation and discernment. She has led Intensive Journal Programs for more than 30 years.

To Register: Mail checks to Evelyn Wemhoff at One Towers Lane #2243, Mount Angel, OR 97362 or call 503-845-9847 or email evelynwemhoff@mtangel.net

Current and future health and safety guidelines may affect in-person events. For the most current information, visit our website at www.benedictine-srs.org/events

“Ammas, Monks, Archetypes” presented by Father Stephen Harding Coffey, OSB Cam

November 5-7, 2021

Friday 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Sunday 1:00 p.m.

\$99 Via Zoom Video Conference

\$232 In-Person includes retreat, meals, and accommodations

\$129 Commuter includes retreat and meals

This retreat will take a look at 4 monastic figures: Amma Syncletica, St. Benedict, St. Hildegard, and Thomas Merton and their corresponding archetypes: the warrior, the sage, the visionary, and the inner monk. It will include an introduction to the figure, lectio divina on the theme, visio divina of an icon of the figure, and personal reflection on the archetype and its shadow through mandala making. Let figures from our sacred tradition become relevant to our lives as they help us to illuminate parts of ourselves that need further development to grow in wholeness and in our relationship to God

Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam, is an ordained monk of the Camaldolese community of California. He is engaged in extensive retreat ministry as well as spiritual direction for priests, religious, and laity. He formerly served on the staff of Shalom Prayer Center.

“The Story of Ruth and the Season of Advent” presented by Nancy Hendricks

December 4, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\$50 Via Zoom Video Conference

\$59.50 In-Person includes lunch

Advent is a time to prayerfully direct our minds and hearts to Christ's coming at the end of time and to Christ's presence in our everyday lives. During this retreat, we will spend time with the Book of Ruth, meditating on how to live under the impulse of the Spirit and how to participate in God's creative power. We will use Joan Chittister's book *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*. Sister Joan describes those moments as: Loss, Change, Transformation, Aging, Independence, Respect, Recognition, Insight, Empowerment, Self-Definition, Invisibility and Fulfillment.

About the Presenter:

After a career farming vegetables and berries for over thirty years, Nancy Hendricks discerned to shift from feeding people's bodies with food to journeying with people on their spiritual paths by leading retreats. Nancy received her Master's in Pastoral Ministry in 2020 from the University of Portland.

Note: This retreat is in memory of Janet Alsever, a friend of the Benedictine Sisters' retreat ministry.

“The Spirituality of Pope Francis and Its Implication on Our Lives” presented by Owen Cummings

January 8, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$65 includes lunch and materials

This retreat will focus on the spirituality of Pope Francis, and especially his understanding of “accompaniment.” To achieve this purpose, we will present a biographical context for the Pope, and some understanding of his key encyclical letters. The Catholic blogosphere shows some criticism of the Holy Father and even at times some outright hostility. The retreat will attempt in charity to understand such positions also. By the end of the retreat day the hope is that all participants will embrace Pope Francis as the Catholic leader needed for our times.

Presenter: Deacon Owen Cummings, the Regent's Chair of Theology at Mount Angel Seminary in Saint Benedict, Oregon, is a native of Glasgow, Scotland. Author of numerous spirituality/theology books, he received a doctor of divinity degree during the course of his studies in theology in Dublin, Ireland.

“Making Contemplative Prayer Your Own Practice” presented by Geoff Colvin, Ph.D.

February 12, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$70 includes Colvin's new book, materials and lunch

Contemplative prayer is a unique form of meditation, dating back many centuries, that focuses on an inward journey in silence to rest in the presence and action of God already dwelling within us. Information and training will be presented on practical details for developing a personal practice with special emphasis on how contemplative prayer is to be lived throughout the day even for busy people.

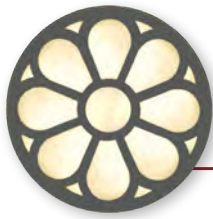
Presenter: Geoff Colvin, Ph.D., is a retired research associate and instructor from the University of Oregon in the Department of Education. He now devotes his time to spiritual writing, conducting retreats, leading gatherings on contemplative prayer, and enjoying retirement.

Note: Please bring materials for note taking.

“Seeing the Environment Through the Lens of Spirituality”

Saturday, April 23, 2020 - 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Agatha Hall - \$30 includes lunch



Oblate update

by Rae Parlier, Oblate Director



Dear Oblates and Friends,

Our annual retreat in May, 2021, was facilitated by Sr. Camille Wooden, co-director of Oblates at St. Placid Priory in Lacey, Washington. Our topic was "My Identity as a Benedictine Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery." This question was followed by many more that encouraged us (and are being asked by Oblates nationwide) to envision and embrace the future of Benedictine spirituality. We were asked to see our oblation as a vocation and appraise realistically our time, energy, and resources for our oblate community and the community we have with the sisters at Queen of Angels.

We concluded that supporting our relationships is critical and we are continuing to develop our small groups, "Reflection Circles." Everyone is enthusiastic about returning to our monthly meetings in person at the monastery starting in September.

On August 21, 2021, eight candidates will be making their Promise of Oblation and five inquirers will be received as Candidates for the coming year. Each candidate will begin a year of formation that will include questions and discussion with a mentor while also participating at Oblate meetings and retreats. Also on August 21, there will be an orientation for folks interested in learning about the Oblate program.

Our monthly meetings, which started being held via Zoom in September, 2020, had a major benefit of allowing Oblates at a distance to participate. We hope to include this new technology during our in-person meetings at the monastery which start on September 12, 2021.

We would like to thank Sister Jane Hibbard, Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, Sister Maureen Niedermeyer, and Sister Dorothy Pulkka for their help to the Oblates with organization and technology.

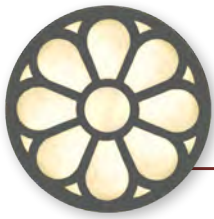
In the peace that Christ gives,

Rae Parlier

Oblate Coordinator

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Interested in becoming an Oblate?
Contact Sister Maureen Niedermeyer at (503) 845-2256



In Memoriam

Sister Julia McGanty, OSB



Born – January 10, 1930

Baptized – January 25, 1930

First Professed – February 10, 1949

Perpetual Profession – February 10, 1952

Entered Eternal Life – June 11, 2021

Sr. Julia McGanty, O.S.B., a long-time member of Queen of Angels Monastery, died in the very early afternoon of June 11, 2021, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the infirmary at Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, Oregon. She was 91 years old.

Born in Yamhill, Oregon, to William and Margaret McGanty, Sr. Julia (Cecelia) McGanty attended St. John's Church in Yamhill as a child and attended schools in Yamhill and McMinnville. She continued her education while in boarding school at Mt. Angel Academy and at Mt. Angel College. Influenced by the prayer life of the Benedictine Sisters, Cecelia asked to enter the religious community and professed her vows on February 10, 1949, taking the name of Sister Julia.

She loved to be of service to others and she was very gracious and caring in the way she helped others. Sr. Julia has served in a variety of ministries during her community life, including work in food service at Mt. Angel Abbey. In 1954 she was called to serve at Christie Indian Residential School on Meares Island in British Columbia, where she supervised playground sports, and performed nursing and cooking duties for the school. When Sr. Julia returned to Mt. Angel, she worked at the Benedictine Village Home, the Benedictine Nursing Home, and the Monastery's infirmary.

Sr. Julia taught religion to children at St. Mary Parish in Mt. Angel for 16 years, and at St. Paul Parish in Silverton, as well as teaching religious education classes in many other parishes throughout Oregon.

In 1974 Sr. Julia attended the Academy of Hair Design in Salem and became a licensed cosmetologist. Following her graduation, she began working at LaDonna's Beauty Center in Silverton, and, later, at Visions Salon and Spa. She has donated hair care services at the River House, Marquis Care Silver Gardens, the Davenport House, and within her own community of sisters. Throughout her work in the Silverton community, Sr. Julia found that serving the community is a source of blessings and joy.

In her Benedictine community, besides being the sisters' beautician, she chauffeured her sisters to doctor appointments, vacations, and many other destinations. She did beautiful flower arrangements for the chapel and dining room. She was a faithful member of the sisters' Schola. She was candle maker par excellence. Each year at Easter, Sr. Julia made the Paschal Candle for the Benedictine Sisters' chapel and for the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center. The first and primary use for this Paschal Candle is during the Easter Vigil. In our chapel, the candle is prominently placed to the side of the ambo and lit every time we gather for prayer until Pentecost. The Paschal Candle is also used at the time of Monastic Profession, and when a sister dies, the Paschal Candle is placed by her coffin before and during the funeral. Sr. Julia performed this service of making candles 50+ years. Her candles are still being used today in the chapel, the chapter room and other places in the monastery, a beautiful reminder of Sr. Julia and her gracious service to her community.

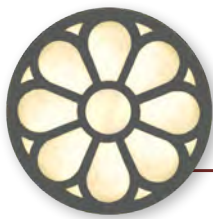
Sr. Julia was exceptionally gracious in her welcoming of others to our monastery. Guests and visitors knew that they were welcomed as if they were Christ, as St. Benedict wrote in his holy Rule for monastics.

Sr. Julia celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession in 2019 with much joy. She was so grateful for the support of her Benedictine community and her family for her many years of faithfulness to God in monastic life at Queen of Angels Monastery.

Sr. Julia is preceded in death by her parents, William and Margaret; her brothers, William and John; and sisters, Margaret and Mary. She is survived by her many nieces and nephews, cousins, and her monastic community, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel.

Gifts to the Benedictine Sisters Retirement Fund are gratefully accepted in memory of Sr. Julia. Gifts can be sent to Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mount Angel, OR 97362.





A Modest Gift, a Major Impact



by Michael Trevino, Director of Mission Advancement

In July, we celebrated the nearly 60 friends and family members who comprise our monthly giving group – the Society of St. Benedict. These outstanding supporters provide continued and sustained support for the sisters throughout the year. As some of the COVID-19 restrictions were being lifted, we were able to welcome a small group of them for a special Mass and luncheon – the first such event at the monastery since February, 2020.

As I went from table to table, meeting and thanking our guests, one of them said something to me that really resonated. She said, “It is a small, modest gift, but it is the best I’m able to do.” I replied that her gift, along with her love and support of the sisters, is truly a blessing to them. I thanked her and continued on to the next table.

What came to my mind later that day was the story from the gospel of Luke. She was

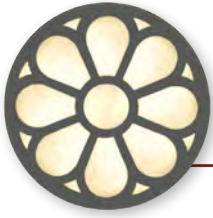
giving all that she could, much like the widow who could only give her two copper coins. However, as I continued to reflect on what she said, I realized that she was making a much bigger impact than even the widow. Her “two copper coins” along with all of those who give each month make a world of difference in the lives of the sisters. She is a part of something larger, a collection of love greater than the sum of its individual parts.

That is what makes monthly giving such a wonderful way to support the sisters. A sizeable gift, spread out over months, and with dozens of friends, means that even a small gift of \$10 a month can have a direct and positive impact on the lives of the sisters. Next time you give, I hope you consider making your gift a recurring, monthly donation. Doing so will make you a member of the Society of St. Benedict, and part of a truly special group of supporters.



Want to have your monthly gift make an even larger impact?

Thanks to a wonderful and generous grant from the Larry & Jeanette Epping Family Foundation, monthly gifts made during our Founder’s Day Virtual Celebration this fall will be double matched for the first twelve months. That means a \$20 monthly gift becomes a \$60 monthly gift to the sisters. To learn more, visit www.benedictine-srs.org/foundersday or call Michael in the Mission Advancement Office at (503) 845-2556.



Thank You!

Century Club Campaign surpasses \$50,000 for the Sisters

We would like to thank all of the nearly 250 family and friends that helped make our 140th Century Club Appeal a huge success. With your kind and generous support, we were able to surpass our \$50,000 goal. Not only was it one of our most financially successful Century Club Appeals, but we received the most notes and prayer requests ever. To all of you who supported this appeal, we thank you. You remain in our prayers and we remain grateful to you for your amazing and humbling support of our monastic community.

Janet S. Alsever Leaves Legacy Gift to Shalom Retreat Ministry

Jan Alsever, a long-time friend of the Benedictine Sisters, spiritual director, and supporter of Shalom Retreat Center, passed away on March 7, 2021 at the age of 78. Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Jan was a long-time resident of Salem. In June 1963 she married Dr. John Alsever, who preceded her in death. Jan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Arizona, and a master's degree in Women's Values from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

In May, the Estate of Jan Alsever, represented by her children Heidi Alsever Christenson and David Bradner Alsever, made a legacy gift of \$420,000 to the Benedictine Sisters and the Shalom Retreat Ministry. Jan's gift ensures and secures a bright and strong future for the retreat ministry at Queen of Angels Monastery. Funds from her gift will be used for future retreats, including Nancy Hendricks' December retreat "The Story of Ruth and the Season of Advent." Jan's legacy will continue to shine through the retreat ministry at Queen of Angels Monastery that was so close to her heart.

The Benedictine Sisters wish to thank Jan and her family for this amazing and wonderful gift. May she rest in peace.

Join Us for Oktoberfest!

We hope you are able to visit us during Oktoberfest this September. From Thursday, September 16, through Sunday September 19, you can visit our Oktoberfest "booth" located in the Hospitality Center and entrance to Agatha Hall. Our booth will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. each day. Free parking is available right in front of the building, 840 South Main Street, Mt. Angel, OR 97362.

Items at our booth will include Sr. Immaculata's famous buttermilk coffee cakes, handmade items (prayer shawls, bracelets, rosaries), and much more! You can pre-order your buttermilk coffee cakes and pick up anytime the booth is open. To order online, visit www.benedictine-srs.org/ofest. Our Monastery Gift Shop will also be open to visitors and features an even larger collection of handmade and religious items.

**Our booth will be
in a new location!**

Inside the Hospitality
Center at Queen of
Angels Monastery,
840 S Main St.

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A Prayer of Hope & Homecoming

by Sister Judith Bloxham, OSB

You know Lord, that we live our lives in the now, not yet;
That we live deep down within the tangle of our days and solitary lives.
As we seek to live and love and pray, help us, Lord,
to nurture 'coming home' within our hearts.

Oh God, our Father, you are our home – a glance held within our heart –
transfigured into Christ within our space-bound lives and time.
We look to You, our Home, and find – a shadowed memory in the Spirit –
the face of Jesus, so lovely, in those we meet each day.