

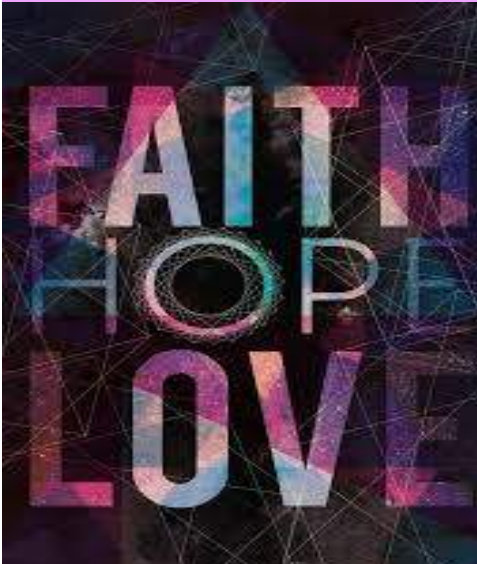


The Benedictine Tide

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

Spring 2017



Hope

A seed in the soil.

A bird on her eggs.

A cocoon, asleep.

The first leaf.

The last hour.

Dreams, dusted.

Dark clouds over cracked land.

Rainbows in the sky.

A star, alone.

A song in the silence.

A call in the void.

A prayer.

By Divya Aradhya



Prayers and Hope Answered

“Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all.”

Emily Dickinson

Are you a hopeful person? Do you expect blessings each day? Do you believe things can change for the better? If you can answer, “YES, I do” – then for you, hope is not some wishy-washy feeling you are holding out for another day. It’s much more than simple optimism. It’s more than the proverbial half-full glass. It’s not a mere desire for something we’d like to have happen. Nor is it a fanciful yearning like wishing for a winning lottery ticket (especially if we didn’t purchase one). When we think about hope in that way it’s just a fuzzy sense of “maybe someday things will be better,” or “eventually I might get this thing I really want.” So, is it any wonder we are such a hopeless society?

Can you think of a time in your past when a circumstance seemed hopeless, but God finally revealed His hope to you – maybe through a spouse or a friend or even a stranger’s story. While what was happening at the time may have appeared hopeless, often later on we can look back on our history (His Story!) and discover God’s plan was at work in our lives all that time... Hope is trusting God and what God has promised. “I know the plans I have for you - plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **Jeremiah 29:11** The prophet continues reminding us what is expected on our part: “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” **Jeremiah 29:12-13**

Hope is real, true, alive, a belief that all things work together for good. But sadly some people don’t really know what hope is. Like belief and love, the meaning of hope has become rather vague in our day. We hope we don’t get sick. We love chocolate. We hope we get the job. We love to lie in bed and read the Sunday comics on weekends. We hope we can pay the bills and maintain our friendships.

Hope awakens our faith that whatever happens, God will be there. Actually, God **is already there** just waiting for us to step into that space still unknown to us. Recall what Paul says in Romans 8: “Hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

So what—or rather, WHO—is the object of our hope?

2 - *The Benedictine Tide*

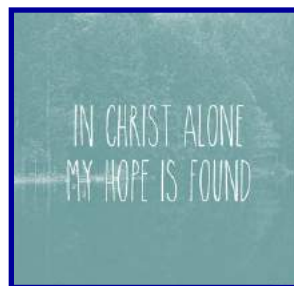
Our God is a God of hope! Without hope, godly living is impossible—holiness is impossible. The psalmist reminds us, “the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” (Ps. 147) In other words, **HOPE** comes when we call on God praying in his name, as Jesus taught us: “Our Father ... give us this day our daily bread ... and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Hope is one of our deepest virtues as Christians. We are a hopeful people. You hear people declare it all the time. They find joy in hope, overflow with hope, boast in hope, hold firmly to hope. We can endure trials because we have hope.

Today, in the midst of Lent, we wait in hope for Jesus’ Easter rising! We know the story, He WILL rise – and we will sing ALLELUIA!

Sister Roberta Bailey

Part of the triad—Faith, Hope and Charity, Hope is the hardest to pin down or explain. It seems such a future thing—like the tot’s hope for a new toy or the teen’s hope to go to the prom. Yet, Hope is an adult thing. Hope is to live and grow in us - Now. **Sister Joan Chittister, OSB** says, “The spiritual task of life is to feed Hope. It is not to be found outside of us. Hope lies in the spiritual life we cultivate within.”



Yes we will meet hardship, sadness, illness, loss and death. A question Sister Joan poses that I’ve asked myself and others in spiritual direction is “What’s right with what’s wrong?” When we reflect we realize that God has used these hard times to teach us and bring us closer to Him and to our true selves. To despair is to give up on God.

Hope accepts whatever happens because God is in charge. The spiritual life is to feed Hope so we can bear struggle and difficulty and emerge the better, i.e. be-come what God intends for us. The foundation of both Faith and Charity is Hope. We’ve been “*Women on the Move*” for 127 plus years and will never settle in. The Benedictine Sisters of FL will

continue to grow and change and keep on giving new expression and meaning to Faith and Charity.

Visitors always say they sense Peace here. I think it is also Hope they tune into.

Sister Mary David

One of the most valuable things I have learned in my life journey is the importance of hoping in God. Hope in God is a determination to believe in God's reality and power, even when the world seems to be crashing down around us. Hope motivates us to persevere even into the darkness, to journey onward despite the obstacles blocking the trail of life. Hoping in who God is and His promises throughout Scripture, promises like God will never leave or forsake us; that He hears our prayers; He knows our needs and desires; He sees our tears; He will not disappoint us; and His holy will is our peace.



For me hoping in God means: placing our needs in His Loving Hands, trusting Him with the whole of our heart, praying constantly and intentionally, and completely depending on His holy will.

The words from [Jeremiah](#), as Sister Roberta mentions in her discussion of Hope, are very much applicable with the process of building our Monastery's new wing. Providing more space for our retreatants was a pressing need. We decided to build it believing that nothing is impossible with God and doing what He places in our hearts to do. With much hope and prayer, miraculously God provided very generous benefactors to support this project. We give thanks and pray God's abundant blessings to all of our supporters, for it is through them that God fulfilled our Hope in Him.

Sister Elizabeth Mathai

Hope involves dreams, visions, creativity. We use the word "hope" for little things we would like to have as well as for life changing events in our lives.

Hope is defined as a desire accompanied with expectation of obtaining what is desired or obtainable. This leads to faith which is the outreach of hope. We put our faith and trust in God and other people in order to fulfill our dreams and visions.

We have all hoped for something in life. Some of our hopes are more important than others and don't always match our ability to meet our expectations.



I recall once hoping to learn the guitar so that I could play for my students. I faithfully attended classes, practiced and practiced, but it was not to be...expectations did not equal reality. In time I was to realize, through my trust in God and His love, that my gifts were elsewhere. Sharing those gifts in the classroom and at the monastery is love.

Trust in God comes through *faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love...for God is love.*

Sister Donna DeWitt

How can we even define hope? It's all about the future and it contains anticipation of things to come; sometimes things that can't be defined, either.

Hope is the antidote to discouragement. If you think about it, to find just one small thing (always a positive thing) for a discouraged person to hope for can unlock the door and put them in tune with life's possibilities. We hope for peace, for good health, for safety for the children, and for abundant crops. These are all things we pray for too. Does the prayer come first or does the hope? Or are they inseparably entwined? We pray to and we pray for. We pray to God and we pray for our hopes to be fulfilled.

If we believe that all things are possible with God, then hope can be a life-giving power in us. One aspect of forgiveness is that we hope for all the good things we want, for the other. If forgiveness is real, then we recognize Christ in the other and we want only the best for them. By giving mercy we can also hope for mercy. St. Paul writes, "In hope we were saved....if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance." So hope strengthens endurance too.



Faith and hope keep us going in the direction we believe God is leading us. We can't know what the future will bring, but we do know who's bringing it.

Sister Jean Abbott

Prayers, Hope and Dreams Fulfilled

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida and those we serve have been given the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and much Love.

The new Holy Name Monastery wing is completed and groups are already scheduled. With God's guidance, YOU our dear friends and most generous supporters, have made it come to pass.

An **Open House** is planned for **April 1st** from 2 to 4 pm All are welcome!

Check our web-site for more information:
www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

Over the past five years the Sisters have continued on a trajectory of *listening with the ear of the heart*. **Saint Benedict's** words in **The Rule** sum up his concept of how we are to live our lives... "This message of mine is for you, then, if you are ready to give up your own will, once and for all, and armed with the strong and noble weapons of obedience to do battle for the true King, Christ the Lord."

God bless **YOU** for Listening.

Schedule Your Retreat Now!

Rooms that are handsomely furnished and comfortable, a chapel of light, a tradition of Benedictine Hospitality in a setting of peaceful tranquility—this is what is in store for you as an individual or a group when you visit Holy Name Monastery.

Our new wing has ten rooms (20 beds) each with private bath; a lovely gathering or meeting room equipped with TV. Wander our spacious and scenic grounds with gardens. Our Prayer Walk and Fountain are places of quiet contemplation and prayer.

No matter the direction...a view to behold.



New Wing Bedrooms Include Private Bath

For more information and to reserve Your stay contact:

Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer
at
(352) 588-8320



We are still in need of wall décor for the rooms and hallway.



Be sure you come for a tour and also to see the newly installed **Donor Wall**. Everyone who kindly and generously gave to the *Special Gifts Campaign* and the *Future Is Now Campaign* are creatively acknowledged—we hope you like it!



All Are Welcome!

Blessing of Green Event February 25, 2017

Everyone got into the “Irish” act as we celebrated the **Blessings of Green and Saint Patrick’s Day!** Some of the costumed attendees were a sight to behold... fun and laughter was the evening’s focus and they came ready.

There were 175 in attendance who dined, caught-up with friends, bid for the Silent and Live Auctions, were entertained by **Irish Step Dancers of Sarasota** and enjoyed music by DJ **Jim Cramer**.



One of the evening’s highlights was **Sister Miriam’s** presentation about the Aquaponics Program at Holy Name which is state-of-the-art farming. Sister also brought some baby fish in a portable tank with information for further explanation of how such farming is done. The green lettuce sitting on her head in the picture is real and it is GREEN. Once you have partaken of how it looks and tastes, you can’t eat the white lettuce served in most restaurants!

For anyone interested, an **Aquaponics Training** is planned at Holy Name Monastery from Monday, April 17 through the 21st. Space is limited, so register now! See Page 10 of this Tide for the details.

We are grateful to the **Sherman Foundation** for making it possible for us to offer scholarships for those who are eligible. **APPLY NOW!**

Sister Donna judged the **Blessings of Green Costume Contest** and presented

the winning prize to **Lynn Hayward**. The awesome prize was a plot of land in Ireland. Lynn is pictured here holding her Certificate of Ownership with official seal. For those who have traveled to Ireland, you know that directional signs are difficult to come by. Specific directions were provided and as it turns out, Lynn already has travel plans to visit the **Emerald Isle** this summer. While her plot is small—about 3’ X 5’ we are confident Lynn will be able to find her “bit “of Ireland and even pay her “property” taxes while there!



John Picciano was our Auctioneer for the Live Auction and definitely managed to shake things up. Bidders for a 7-Night Vacation for Six donated by Jon and Gerri Jackson, an exquisite diamond and sapphire necklace, golf and lunch for 4 at Saddlebrook, a baseball signed by Daniel Strawberry, and a ride on Fr. Garry Welsh’s new, red Batmobile added to the evening’s lively energy.

We gratefully thank our sponsors, donors, volunteers and auction donors ~ without their generosity and time such a stellar event is not possible. We thank you and pray:

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Note: Next Year’s Event will be held Saturday, March 3, 2018

Oblate Program

Our Oblates give us HOPE. They tell us they come to Holy Name for the same reason—to find HOPE in a Community of others whose lives move faithfully into the future, build the Kingdom Now, and reveal God’s face.

We continue with our scheduled meetings to discuss topics from Joan Chittister’s Monastery of the Heart. March 26th, we talked about “Stability” and the next meeting on Sunday May 28th, will tackle “Humility and Peace.”

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP by the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting. The day’s schedule includes Mass/Liturgy of the Hours at 10:30 am, dinner with the Sisters at noon and the meeting from 1 to 3:00 pm. Call (352) 588-8320.

Food Angels for Habitat



Pictured above from left to right are **Sister Mary David, Oblate Barbara Molloy, Sister Margaret Mary** and new **Affiliate Tracey Adams** packing the car with lunch for Habitat for Humanity workers.

The volunteer workers come from all over northern states to get out of the cold during winter. “They are not content to just sit-around, but jump right in to help others in this area,” explains Sister Mary David. “Several days each February, we prepare a special lunch which is always a big hit because of **Sister Donna’s** home-baked bread and cookies!”

In Memorium

Please remember in prayer:

Martha Jean “Martie” Pike Huizenga—HNA 1961
January 3, 2017

From the Vocation Office

HOPE is needed when discerning a religious vocation. Prayer is essential to give us the courage to look and find the way it seems God is leading us. HOPE is primary in planting and cultivating vocations. We’ve been cultivating HOPE through prayer and the offering of Nurture Days.

The next Nurture Day is May 13th. Contact Sister Mary David at **(352) 588-8320.**

Affiliate *Tracey Adams*

Our newest affiliate, **Tracey Adams**, has become a live-in volunteer and seems to be growing with us.

Tracey grew up in Greene, New York on a 160-acre farm. She is the oldest of seven. “It was a storybook childhood with horses, a forest, babbling brooks and our imaginations,” explains Tracey.

At the age of fifteen, she was invited to church by a friend. This was her first time hearing about Jesus. Also given a Bible that day, Tracey read it front to back several times by the age of 18. “It made so much sense to me—the stories changed everything.”

Tracey’s journey has not been a direct path. Through many life experiences, study of the Bible and being open to what God was leading her to, she discovered the Catholic religion. She happened on a road that led to a pond surrounded by life-size statues that mesmerized her. She would come to know that this was the Stations of the Cross. There would be many such “happenings” as the years passed.

RCIA classes, First Communion, travels as a nurse, a grave illness which made returning to her chosen profession difficult and a driving hunger to understand herself and God’s role in her life would be the steps walked in the next few years.

“The Catholic Church provided a rich history and tradition and the Holy Spirit did not give up on me.” There were steps forward and backward, the need



New Affiliate (Con't)

to pare down and let go. Tracey spoke often to her priest, her family, the Saint Leo Monks who would eventually send her to the Sisters at Holy Name; all the time thinking, "What would I do; why would the Sisters want me"?

"I felt the need to just go, continue to listen, pray and ponder in hopes of something....," she explains. "The Sisters encouraged me to take time in finding clarity." To understand why our lives unfold as they do is a blessing; so for the next six months, Tracey travelled with an idea to just follow. She reconnected with family, friends, stayed at Benedictine Monasteries across the country, and even camped on the top of a mountain. "It was while on that mountain, asking and listening, that proved to be the very directional experience I needed and God gave to me."

Coming down from the mountain and coming back was clear. Tracey would visit Holy Name Monastery several more times, staying 4 to 5 days each visit. Then on one of those stays, she asked, "Do I have to leave?" God prepared her throughout her journey to take this next step.

"Living here is a balance of prayer, work, community and personal time." Our yearning for meaning, order, and answers is part of what makes us human and the journey is unique to each of us.



Pictured working on a mailing with **Cheryl Chadick**, Tracey helps in several capacities including Aquaponics and the Community Garden. In February, she accompanied **Sister Mary David** to the

REFOCUS day at Bishop McLaughlin High School. The sixty-three freshmen heard vocation stories that hopefully could be encouragement to consider a call. Next up, Tracey and Sister will go to FOCUS 11, the diocesan vocation awareness day for 11 year olds...450 of them! The journey continues...

News Briefs

Dec. 1st—**Sister Roberta** and **Faith Pridmore** attended the Sunrise Abuse Shelter's Peace Breakfast fundraiser. Sister serves on their board.

Dec. 2nd—**Sister Mary David** did a presentation to the SLU Christian Vision freshmen.

Dec. 3rd— **The Sisters** joined with members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church choir to sing carols at two local nursing homes.

Dec. 7th - **Sister Roberta** attended a meeting of the Moore Mickens Student Advisory Committee.

Dec. 15th— **Representatives from SLU** presented the audience donations from "Women on the Move" performances totaling \$1,100!

Dec. 23rd—**The Sisters** sang for the Church Street Christmas in Dade City.

Dec. 28th—We hosted a Day of Reflection for Women Religious. Featured speaker was **Sister Cecilia Dwyer**, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Bristow, VA. Her topic was "Hospitality of the Heart."

Jan. 14th—**Sister Roberta** attended a presentation sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition. **Ernest Hooper** of the Tampa Bay Times's topic was "2017 and Beyond—Years of the young Child in Hernando and Pasco Counties." At the second of the series on Jan. 21st, Sister was recognized for her many years of service in the field of Early Childhood education.

Feb. 7th—SLU students **Sabrina Kurtz** and **Monica Molina** were guests at the monastery for prayer and meals. They are recipients of SLU scholarships sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters.

Feb. 24th—**Dr. Barry Rabe**, faculty member at the University of Michigan and his wife, **Rev. Dana Runestadt** were given a tour of the Aquaponics facility by Sister Miriam. They want to bring such a program to their missions in underdeveloped countries.

February 28th—"Crossroad-The Underground Railroad to the Civil Rights Movement" was performed at Saint Leo University to culminate Black History Month.

Reggie and Kim Harris are dynamic artists who blend music and history of civil rights. The

couple work primarily with faith-based organizations. We were delighted they came for prayer and supper to Holy Name on March 2nd and surprised us with a mini-performance!



Give Day is May, 2, 2017

YOU don't have to wait!

There is a BIG change this year for Give Day as you can start making donations to the site for the Sisters beginning April 18th!

That's right—donations start on April 18th so we hope you will take advantage of NOT having to stay up until midnight May 2nd to donate. Some of our very loyal donors did that in the past.

The link this year for the Give Day website is:
[https://givedaytampabay.razoo.com/story/Benedictine-Sisters-Of-Florida.](https://givedaytampabay.razoo.com/story/Benedictine-Sisters-Of-Florida)



*****All donations** made from April 18th through March 2nd **will count** towards the Prize Pool **except** the timed donation prizes.

So, for example: *A prize of \$500 for the non-profit that receives the most donations from 7 to 8 pm on March 2nd.*

Community Service in Aquaponics



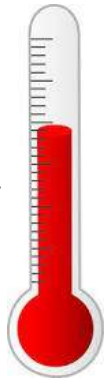
Four young men from the Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility in Brandon assisted Sister Miriam in the Aquaponics area January 28th.

Part of a merit and faith-based leadership training program, they learn practical hands-on understanding of the life changing love of our Creator through food growth. The program is monitored by the Big Small Farm of Dade City.

Bill Backman, a friend of Sister's and one of her aquaponics teachers, volunteers at the residential facility in Tampa. The skills learned are important for the residents in leading a successful life once they are beyond their time there.

Annual Appeal 2016–17

Give Day is a perfect time to make a gift to our Annual Appeal. Your donations at this time also provide the possibility of additional dollars. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in collaboration with corporations in the area, prize monies are given that make a significant difference.



As of March 1, 2017 the Annual Appeal donations total \$91,722 or 61 per cent of our \$150,000 goal. Many of our friends and supporters raised their level of giving this year which has made a significant difference. We are deeply grateful for each and everyone of you.

The Annual Appeal helps the Sisters run the programs offered at Holy Name including: aquaponics, food and clothing for the poor, retreats, vocations, education, hospitality. Last year because the Sisters are here, they responded to over 3,000 requests from people all over the country for prayers. It is one of the most meaningful and often peaceful services the Sisters provide. You hear it in the voices, in the faces and in the writings of those who ask. Be it for a loved one lost or ill; someone struggling spiritually or financially; or prayers for a happy event, marriage or birth, the world needs prayer. **YOU** are a part of making it possible.

The 2016/17 Annual Appeal continues through June 30, 2017.

Saint Leo University Social Club

Members of the SLU Social Club presented \$500 in donations to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida to support our Thanksgiving Dinner. The students raised this sum with two bake sales at the Dade City Farmer's Market and donations from students at a table outside the university dining room.



Left to right backrow are: Dr. Veronika Ospina-Kammerer, the club's sponsor, **Sister Mary David** and **Sherri Smith**.

Seated in front are: Jeremy Hiles, Alexis Martinez, Sister Donna, Linda Campos and Alexis Peterson

Becoming a Catholic

As you will read in the following reflection, **Divya Aradhya's** attraction to Catholicism germinated in prayerful reflective solitude and grew stronger in our chapel during monastic services with the Sisters. God's plan for conversion took effect early in October when Divya began attending RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) at St. Rita's Church.



Divya will joyfully receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at our Easter Vigil and become a Catholic.

God, the Chapel, and I By Divya Aradhya

I don't remember when I started speaking to God. It seems there have always been conversations in my head—expressing my happiness; apologizing for something done or just crying and asking for strength.

As a child, the conversations with God were during walks amidst trees, when I raised my eyes to sunshine and see colored bits of light dancing in front of my eyes. Later when the challenges of growing up were more than I could comprehend or absorb, I'd quietly slip into the last pew of an empty chapel. I'd sit in the comforting silence, enveloped by the beauty of painted glass, high ceiling, the faint aroma of incense, the statue of gentle Mother Mary, and the stark cross of Jesus. Sometimes words came to me, but most times they wouldn't. But I always came out of the chapel with a feeling of deep serenity.

I am from India where Christianity is a minority religion. And yet the kindest strangers I've known have always been Catholics. Be it the nuns from school or the Catholic family who took care of my six-month old when I had to tend to my husband fighting for his life following a motor accident. These were strangers who reached out and made me their family.

When I decided to pursue my graduate education in the United States, it wasn't difficult for me to choose Saint Leo University...Catholic, in the country side—

perfect. I prayed for many days on where I would live were my dream to be realized. "***If God is for us, who can be against us?***" (Romans 8:31) were the words that would constantly echo through my head.

Then one evening, the website of Holy Name Monastery came into view. I sent an email introducing myself and the very next day a warm reply came from **Sister Mary Clare** with an invitation to visit! The thought that this was really happening was overwhelming.

The Sunday night I arrived after a 28-hour journey, Sister was there, waiting, embraced me and led me into this blessed haven. There I was, a strange girl from another country, and yet they had opened their home and hearts to me. ... providing a warm bed, nourishing meals and whole-hearted acceptance.

Though attendance at prayers was not expected of me as a guest, how could I keep away? The beautiful chapel, the quiet prayers, the Gospel readings, the silences and the music. The readings were not known to me, nor the books or page numbers, and I definitely didn't know the songs. But sitting there and letting it all wash over me like gentle blessings, felt right.

Getting to know each of the lovely Sisters and dear Barbara over the next few months, absorbing the essence of this holy place, and responding to the grace, beauty and blessings that surrounded me, the approach and question to **Sister Miriam** as to "What it meant to be 'Catholic'" was an organic progression.

In the months accompanying Sister to St. Rita's Church where she conducts RCIA classes, I was drawn in bit by bit. And I, without really knowing till then that there was something missing, I had Found.

The first time at the front of the church to get blessed, it is difficult to explain the enormity of that moment. When Father placed his hand on my head and blessed me, my eyes filled. I stumbled my way back to my pew and blinked away tears through the rest of the service. The grace and beauty of that solemn moment overwhelms me each time.

Now I take steps, tiny steps to understand more, to open myself up, to acknowledge and give thanks for the bountiful blessings showered upon me and to connect deeper with God who has always known me and called me. Most days I feel like a child who doesn't really know anything, but there is one thing I do know for sure...that this feeling I have is true and deep and God will continue to guide me through this journey of knowing Him.

Aquaponics Training

Holy Name Monastery—April 17th to April 21st

TOMORROW'S FOOD PRODUCING SYSTEMS TODAY!

AQUAPONICS TRAINING AT HOLY NAME MONASTERY

You can produce your own food!

- Are you tired of high prices at the grocery store?
- Are you concerned about the quality of the food that you and your family are eating?
- There are answers. Come to this transforming and inspiring class.



Course Details:

Length: 5 Days - April 17-21, 2017
Includes: Course materials, Certificate of Participation, Meals - breakfast, lunch, snacks and refreshments.
Cost: \$900 Per Person
Registration: Call (813) 600-9297 or email office@aquasol.org

Schedule:

Hydrogrow 5 Day Course
 Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Additional Workshops (Included in the \$900 fee):
 Tuesday 7:00 pm Workshop - "Moringa the Miracle Tree"
 Thursday 7:00 pm Workshop - "Greenhouse Design & Construction"

Qualifying scholarships available!



Fred Hanson, the rose expert, planting roses for the Blessed Mother.



Upcoming Calendar

Services:

- First Sunday of the Month—Holy Hour 4:30 pm
- ◆ April 9th - Palm Sunday—10:30 am
 - ◆ April 13th - Holy Thursday Mass—7:00 pm
 - ◆ April 14th - Good Friday—3:00 pm
 - ◆ April 15th - Holy Saturday (Vigil of Easter) 8 pm
 - ◆ April 16th - Easter Sunday—10:30 am
 - ◆ May 14th—Mother's Day
 - ◆ May 28—Solemnity of the Ascension
 - ◆ June 4—Solemnity of Pentecost
 - ◆ June 15—Solemnity of Corpus Christi
 - ◆ June 18—Solemnity of the Trinity

Concerts:

- ◆ April 23—First Methodist of Dade City
- ◆ May 21—St. Clement Choir

Dr. Holly Haggerty Sokolowski

Holly Haggerty is one of the most spiritually engaged, humble and grateful individuals you will ever hope to meet. She personifies brains, beauty and beneficence in her roles as wife, mother, healer and friend.

The daughter of **Dottie Maye and Patrick J. Haggerty**, Holly grew up in California with her two brothers, **Rick** and **Colin**. While her mother experienced an unstable and difficult childhood, Dottie Maye was a woman determined that her children would not, and was inspired by praying the Rosary daily. Holly's father was an FBI agent and, together, her parents valued kindness, humility, honesty and education.



To know Holly is to understand her upbringing and how those values permeate her life. An auditory scientist, Holly received her doctorate from Stanford University School of Medicine and post-doctoral training at the University of California in San Francisco. She worked for many years on the development of cochlear implantation and the physiology and pathology of the peripheral and central auditory nervous systems, having been inspired as a child by the autobiography of Helen Keller.

Shortly after her marriage in 1992 to **Dr. Bernd Sokolowski**, the couple moved to Tampa and held positions at the University of South Florida. During their 23 years here, Holly raised their daughter, **Sophia** and held an appointment to the Adjunct and Voluntary Faculty of the Department of Otolaryngology of South Florida College of Medicine. Rather than enter the tenure-track faculty line, the adjunct tract allowed Holly to be present with her daughter before and after school. Often, her daughter accompanied Holly when she delivered lectures and seminars at USF.

It was the couple's desire to give Sophia a Catholic school education that would be Holly's introduction to the Benedictine Sisters. **Sister Roberta** was the principal at Saint Anthony School. "Throughout her schooling there, Sophia learned the love of God, prayer and a discipline that was not punishing; the importance of music, charity and volunteering," explains Holly. "I am deeply grateful to the Benedictine philosophy that was imparted on our daughter that modeled a call to service and respect for the common good, and solidarity with people across the world—regardless of differences."

Holly's support for the Sisters' meaningful and essential work is how she helps to make for a better future. "Our family's desire is to use the resources we've been blessed with in such a way that allows the Sisters to continue their wonderful work, as well as to provide them with a beautiful living environment as a mode of experiencing God's presence. These women are the heart and backbone of the Catholic Church, and my loved ones who are priests would be the first to agree! They are immersed in this world in a variety of ways, inspiring us to experience God together so that we are able to tackle challenges in the world with the higher aspects of our character."

Holly accepts the challenges of the world's inequalities not only through her financial support, but in active participation. She is committed to a healing presence by helping others, especially women and children, find hope, justice and compassion. Now living in Colorado, she is privately consulting and working to establish a fund for the education and empowerment of girls and women worldwide. "There are too many women who feel hopeless—they are forced to live a life they do not want. They want an education and understand how it can transform their lives and that of their children. My hope is that by providing said education, we will one day have an abundance of women world leaders who stop the fighting and work for world peace. They will have the knowledge and natural tendency to problem solve. Bringing about such global change is at the very heart of Benedictine philosophy.

Cherished values passed down from one generation to another create a hopeful future. Sophia represents such a future for our world. She is a recent graduate of Wellesley College, a 2016 Fellow of the Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute of Global Affairs, and now works with former Vice President Joseph Biden in the Biden Institute and on the Cancer Moonshot in Washington, D.C.



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CORPORATE COMMITMENT

In an effort to address contemporary local needs, we, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, commit ourselves and our resources to respond with the compassion of Christ to the physical, spiritual and emotional hungers of the People of God.

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The Great Gift of Easter is Hope

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ
“has given us a new birth into a living hope.”*



HE IS RISEN!