

The Benedictine Tide

The Wave of the Future

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

St. Leo, Florida

Volume 11, No. 2

Fall 2010

Benedictine Sisters of Florida Name New Prioress

On May 9, 2010, after months of prayerful consideration, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida selected Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B. to serve as prioress of Holy Name Monastery for the next six years. She has been a member of the order for more than 50 years and has served as an elected member of the Benedictine Sisters Council. Her administrative roles at Holy Name Monastery have included community treasurer and chair of various committees including the 110th Anniversary, Benedictine Self-Study and Visitation, Election Discernment, chapel renovation and three terms as an elected chapter delegate to the Federation of Saint Scholastica. Sister Cecelia Dwyer, O.S.B., from Bristow, VA (election discernment facilitator) and Sister Esther Fangman, O.S.B. (Federation president) joined the community for the election weekend.

S. Roberta and the leadership team (Council) were installed at Morning Praise on June 30, 2010. Team members include: Subprioress S. Mary David Hydro, Appointed member S. Eileen Dunbar and elected councilors S. Mildred Gelis

and S. Jean Abbott (treasurer). At 10:30 a.m. that same day Bishop Robert Lynch celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the community and their guests. The Bishop and guests joined the community for a buffet luncheon.



**Sister Roberta
Bailey, OSB**

On Sunday afternoon, September 26, 2010, the community hosted an Open House and reception to introduce Sister Roberta to the local community. The community's oblates helped receive guests who were treated to a tour of the monastery and enjoyed homemade cookies as they visited with Sister-friends, or began new relationships with members of the Benedictine community.

Several months prior to the election weekend, in order to determine our direction for the next six years, the sisters committed themselves to three directional goals:

- We will grow together as a vibrant community by deepening our spirituality which will enable us to become more life-giving to others. [See the Family Night photo.]
- We will revive the ongoing formation program to include contemporary issues, topics related to the Benedictine Charism, and relational skills building.
- We will complete the planning process with Zielinski and Associates and implement agreed upon outcomes.

S. Roberta was born in Wilmington, DE and raised in New London, CN and DeLand, FL. She is a graduate of Holy Name Academy, a residential school formerly operated by the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in St. Leo. She received a BS degree in Elementary Education and Library Science from Bellarmine-Ursuline College in Louisville, KY, and earned a Montessori Preprimary Certificate from the Midwest Montessori Teacher Trainers Institute in Chicago. She completed her MA degree in elementary education with a specialization in early childhood education at the University of South Florida.



Sister Roberta receives a blessing from Bishop Robert Lynch during the Mass of Thanksgiving on June 30.

Continued on page 2

Testimonials from Our Friends

The Benedictine Sisters welcome visitors into their chapel at any time and are grateful to the many “regulars” at both the weekday liturgy and Sunday Mass. Here is what a few of our friends say about what continues to draw them to pray with us:

The monastery provides a serene and reverent atmosphere that is truly conducive to personal and collective worship. The sense of belonging to the community is a pivotal reason for our continued attendance.

We enjoy the calm quiet, the sounds of the cascading waters and the beautiful voices of the sisters. The entire Mass is refreshing. We get our “spiritual batteries” recharged with you on Sunday!

In 1989 I met the Benedictine Sisters of Florida through Sister Roberta, (then my school principal and boss.) Sister invited me to Mass and dinner at her home. She also wanted me to meet her Sisters. Twenty-one years later, I still go to Mass with the Sisters. For 10 years I even drove 30 miles each way to come to Mass on Sundays. I enjoy praying with the Sisters very much....and I absolutely love

the Sisters’ singing or should I say “the angels singing”. Their voices are touching and many times bring tears to my eyes. To make the whole experience even better, I recently became aware that there is beautiful music before Mass.

I ride with my friend so I go where she goes! Fortunately, she picked the perfect place for Mass. I like that there are no “extras” to deal with.

I come to the monastery because it is there: it is so easy to find the chapel and there is no parking problem. I enjoy the color scheme in the chapel but that and the quiet are not the real reasons that we come. That’s easy: it’s the Sisters and Barbara (live-in volunteer) with their friendly, caring attitude and their beautiful voices! I feel I am truly making a connection with our Lord. I enjoy the sound of the running water (in the holy water font) which I find soothing. Here at Holy Name chapel I feel like I am wanted and loved along with the other people attending Mass there. After Mass I enjoy chatting with the Sisters and have gotten to know several of them. I hope to get to know more of them in the future.

Sisters of Florida Name New Prioress

Continued from page 1

A respected educator throughout the state of Florida, S. Roberta was most recently principal of Saint Anthony Catholic School (in San Antonio, FL) for 15 years. Until her election she was on the board for the Pasco-Hernando Early Learning Coalition and is currently a member of the boards of directors for the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center and Saint Leo University. She serves on the board of the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children and is the association’s representative to the Southern Early Childhood Association. She was appointed by the governor to serve on Florida’s first Universal Pre-Kindergarten Advisory Committee. She served several terms on the diocesan council for Catholic Schools and Centers and was the first woman on the diocesan liturgy commission.



S. Roberta presented a candle to each member of the leadership team during the installation ceremony on June 30. Pictured are S. Eileen Dunbar receiving her candle and (l-r) Sisters Jean Abbott, Mary David Hydro and Mildred Gelis.

Peace, calmness, stillness and serenity, and don’t forget the simplicity and symbolism of the chapel’s design. I can truly say that this part of my day keeps me centered. The cadence and the rhythm of the ancient psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours – and their message and emotion still say something to us today – the beauty of the Mass Liturgy celebrated by various priests – in the past and the present – (and all the different homily styles!) I’m always impressed by those Sisters in their 90’s who arrive daily by walker or wheel chair! This has been a gift for me for 30+ years. Thank you, Sisters, for sharing.

The *Benedictine Tide* is now on-line at www.floridabenedictines.com.

Editorial Team

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Sister Jean Abbott
Sister Margaret Mary Roberts
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S. Mary Dorothy Celebrates Jubilee of Profession

Sister Mary Dorothy Neuhofer, O.S.B. was among the honorees when Bishop Robert Lynch celebrated the annual jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving on October 23rd at St. Jude's Cathedral for sisters, brothers and religious order priests who celebrate their anniversaries of profession during this calendar year.

Sister Mary Dorothy Neuhofer was born in St. Joseph, Florida, the second child of Joseph P. Neuhofer and Helen Frances Barthle. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Florida (in St. Leo) in 1949, professed her first vows in 1950 and made profession of perpetual vows in 1953. Sister's career began as an elementary school teacher in Catholic schools in Jacksonville, North Miami and Jacksonville, FL.

S. Mary Dorothy began working for Saint Leo University (then College) in 1965 as a Reference Librarian and Cataloger. Over the years, she has served as Director of Reader

Services, Head of Reference and Library Instruction Services, Assistant Director of Library Services, Library Director, and Archivist.

She earned her Ph.D. in Library Studies in 1998 from Florida State University, and she was promoted to the faculty rank of Full Professor in 2000. She has a number of publications, has made numerous presentations, holds membership in several professional organizations, and has served as editor for several publications. She has provided an enormous amount of community service to Saint Leo University, including but not limited to obtaining grant funding for the library, and serving on a number of committees, service to her profession, including president/past president of the American Benedictine Academy, service to the local community including membership on the Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee, and service to our community including serving as Prioress of the Holy Name Monastery.

Sisters Serve as Volunteers In Various Ministries

Sister Roberta continues to serve on the boards of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce, Saint Leo University, Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter, Florida Association for the Education of Young Children and Southern Early Childhood Association, Moore Mickens Education Center, Sacred Heart Child Care Center and the Division of Teacher Education for Saint Leo University.

Sister Margaret Mary continues her membership in the West Pasco Legal Support Association. She is a Florida licensed paralegal and works in the office of Boyko & Griebel in New Port Richey.

Sister Donna continues her ministry as Mayor Pro Tem and Town Commissioner for the Town of Saint Leo.

Sister Jean continues to serve as community treasurer and to represent the Sisters of Holy Name Monastery at the East Pasco Ministerial Association, the Dade City Salvation Army Advisory Committee, the TAD (The American Dream) Advisory Committee, and the Pasco Coalition for the Homeless.

Sister Mary David continues her membership in Benedictines for Peace and the Benedictine Formation Conference.

Sisters Mary David and Dianne frequently conduct tours of the monastery for groups from Saint Leo University.

Good-bye:

Affiliate Pam Williams, April 9, 2010

SLU Visiting Professor Dr. Phyllis Zagano, May 2, 2010

Development Director Theresa Smith, July 7, 2010

St. Leo Abbey chaplains, July 11, 2010

Welcome:

Monastery Chaplains Father Stephan Brown, SVD (university ministry) and Fathers Dan Kajayan and Bill Persia, CSC, (pastors in Dade City). "Back up" and faithful substitute celebrants: Rev. Joe Pastick, Rev. Edwin Palka and Msgr. Frank Mouch

Rachel Collins (new housekeeper)

Sister Atanasia Lwila O.S.B. (African Benedictine, educational leadership student at Saint Leo University)

If you are considering naming the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in your will or other planned giving documents please let us know. There are several ways to contribute to the financial well-being of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida including cash gifts, credit card gifts, pledges, matching gifts, major gifts, planned gifts, and stock transfers.

**Our e-mail is holyname@saintleo.edu
www.floridabenedictines.com**

News Briefs: February – August 2010

Monastery guest Madeleine (“Maddie”) McNeil gave a concert for the sisters on February 5. She sang and played both a mountain dulcimer and a hammered dulcimer.

The monks of Saint Leo Abbey were guests at the monastery for Evening Praise and supper on Feb. 10, the Solemnity of Saint Scholastica. This is an annual tradition between the two communities.

Sister Germaine Bevans, O.S.B., died at 8:35 am on February 12, at the age of 75 with family and community members at her side.

Sister Mary Clare attended the Catholic Foundation Celebration honoring priests from the diocese and benefitting diocesan Tuition Assistance Initiative on Feb. 20

Sister Eileen was selected to participate in the 2010 Leadership Saint Leo program at Saint Leo University. Sister has worked for ten years at the university in the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research. May 29-June 1 Sister attended the Annual AIR (Association for Institutional Research) Forum in Chicago.

The monastery held its annual Lenten Vespers and Soup Supper on March 1. There were 65 participants. Cash donations totaled more than \$1,600 and over 180 food items were collected for Daystar Hope that night.

Sisters Mary David, Mary Romana, Donna and Volunteer Barbara attended a model Seder Meal with Rabbi Gary Klein at the Saint Leo University Community Center on March 10.

The monastery housed college students from the University of North Carolina at Raleigh and Emporia, Kansas, who participating in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge March 14-19. A group from the Brearly School in Manhattan (New York City) stayed at the monastery March 21-27 while they worked at the Habitat site in Dade City. Several a times a year the Sisters supply lunch for Habitat workers.

Sisters Roberta, Jean, Dianne and Eileen sang in the choir for the Lenten Evensong Service at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on March 21.

Sister Mary David and members of St. Anthony Parish provided lunch for the Holy Week Interfaith Service at First Presbyterian Church in Dade City (sponsored by the Ministerial Association) on March 29.

Dr. Phyllis Zagano (housing with the sisters at the time)

did a presentation entitled “Rome, Women and the End of Catholicism” at the SLU Library on April 13.

Sister Mary David made a presentation on April 17 for a singles group from Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Land O’Lakes. The group was doing a driving pilgrimage through the diocese.



The figs were plentiful this year – and thankfully the crows were late discovering them.

Live-in Volunteer Barbara received a visit from Brother Bruce Michalek, OFM, whose ministry is among the American Indians in the Four Corners area (New Mexico/Arizona) on April 25.

Sisters Miriam, Donna and Volunteer Barbara participated in a “Walk for Life” fund raiser at Sacred Heart Parish in St. Joseph on April 25. The proceeds went towards the Catholic Charities Parenting and Pregnancy Support Center in Dade City.

Sister Mary Dorothy attended the Jubilee of her first cousin Sister Dolores Wehle, SNJM at the Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa on May 1.

Former “flower children” Sisters Dianne, Jean and Eileen traveled to St. Petersburg to attend the American Stage Theater in the Park production of the musical “Hair” at Demens Landing Park on May 14 as guests of community friend Barbara Sinnott.

The Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner was held on May 17. Employees Gloria Yates and Pat Neuhofer were recognized for fourteen years of employment, and Trudi Labruzzo was recognized for seven years. Recently retired Health Care employee Trudi Stokes was also recognized for her faithful service to the Sisters.

On May 22 Affiliate Elizabeth Matthai was accepted as a postulant of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.

Six sisters attended a surprise 50th anniversary party for Mr. and Mrs. Richard Havens on May 29. (Richie was our maintenance man for many years.)

News Briefs: February – August 2010

Sister Miriam retired on June 4 with 23 years of service in the Pasco County Schools and a total of 43 years as an educator. Her last position was that of guidance counselor at Pasco Elementary School in Dade City.

A reception honoring Sister Roberta, who was resigning from her job as principal of St. Anthony Schools to become prioress at Holy Name, was held at the Saint Anthony Parish Center June 8.

A one-day Diabetic Camp was held at the Lake House on June 13. The event was sponsored by the (monastery) Lake House Tang Soo Do Martial Arts School which is owned and operated by Morgan and Joan Becker.

Dr. Kirk, SLU's president, walked into the monastery dining room at supper on June 14 to present Sister Mary Clare with a gift of a custom-drawn caricature of her. The gift was to thank her for her twelve years of service as a member of the SLU Board of Trustees.

Sister Jean spoke at the ninth annual TAD (The American Dream) Congress at the Zephyrhills City Hall on June 16.

The sisters enjoyed corn, cucumber and eggplant from Sister Miriam's compost garden on June 17. This is a frequent experience as Sister is an avid gardener.

June 21, 2010. (In Sister Mary David's words): "About 3 pm - loud CRACK! Computer screens went black. Five minutes later we learned that the phones have died (they stayed dead until 8 pm) and the elevator stopped working (wasn't fixed until Tuesday). Tampa Electric (TECO) was called. Only parts of the house were without power. Cell phones were used for emergencies." It was later discovered that a lizard (honest!) had gotten into the transformer. (Thankfully it was not the Geico gecko!)

Sister Glenna Smith, O.S.B., a member of the Bristow VA Benedictine community and a former kindergarten student of Sister Pauline, was elected the President of the Federation of St. Scholastica at the Federation Chapter on June 23.

Sisters Helen, Irma, Donna and Mary Romana attended the 60th wedding anniversary celebration of Jack and Diane Jones on June 26.

Sister Dianne played the organ for the Sunday Mass at the abbey church on June 27 and July 4 while Brother Stan was away on vacation.

Sister Roberta was installed as the thirteenth prioress of Holy Name Monastery at a private service in the monastery chapel on June 30. Later that morning Bishop Robert Lynch joined the community to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. The bishop and guests joined the Sisters at the luncheon.

Sister Roberta attended a rosary service for Tampa Police Officer David Curtis in Tampa on July 2. Officer Curtis was a former Saint Anthony School parent who was killed in the line of duty.

The crows returned to the monastery on July 9 to raid the fig trees on the north side of the house for their share of figs (There were plenty for everyone!).

In early July, Abbot Issac Comancho notified the Sisters that, due to a shortage of Benedictine priests in the abbey community, they would no longer be able to supply a chaplain for Holy Name Monastery. On July 11, Father

Damian Duguesney celebrated the last "Benedictine" Mass in our chapel. In conversation with Sister Roberta the Abbot promised that the monks may resume their ministry as chaplains at the monastery when abbey members finish their studies and are ordained to the priesthood. The Sisters are grateful for the 99 years of faithful spiritual ministry by the monks of St. Leo Abbey and we look forward to a continued relationship with our "Brother-monks".

The sisters enjoyed a meal at Kafe Kokopelli as the guests of owners Glen and Gail Greenfelder on July 29. The meal was in honor of Sister Germaine.

Father Stephan Brown took Sisters Helen, Eileen, Margaret Mary and Volunteer Jo Shine for a "field trip" to the Florida Winery on State Route 52 for a wine tasting on July 31.

The annual community retreat took place August 1-6. Retreat director this year was Dr. Victor Kramer. The topic of the retreat was the writings of Thomas Merton.



The tension can run high on Sunday Family Night with several card games, Jumble and Scrabble.

Continued on page 6

Excerpts from The Benedictine Sisters of Florida: Memories of the First Hundred Years

Compiled in commemoration of the 100th anniversary (1989) by S. Mary Jerome Leavy, O.S.B., 1889

INTRODUCTION: The following (book) is a collection of stories reflecting the first hundred years (of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida) as a community at Holy Name. They are elements shaping our collective memory and culture. Some are of events remembered by “everyone” who was there; others are stories of events remembered by only one person now alive. The purpose of the collecting and recording of the stories is to affirm the collective memory, to preserve what we might otherwise lose over time, to celebrate the richness of our heritage and ourselves. A further purpose is to mark our 100 years of life with a reflection on our memory which, like our community itself, is alive and growing.

The memory of the group includes both joy and sorrow, gain and loss, great moments and the daily recurring events. An effort has been made by all of us to remember and record what has shaped us and helped us to become sisters of one mind living together.

These stories have been collected over the years from “everyone.” No claim is made for factual verification. These are our memories, not necessarily our history. Much has been forgotten; much has been lost in the translation; some has been lost in the fervor of periodic housecleaning – but that is one of the stories.

CHAPTER ONE: GETTING THERE/HERE

None of us now alive has a first-hand experience of the beginnings but our “first story” contains the seeds of many of our subsequent adventures in Benedictine living. The one page formal record that we have of the first months of our common life says simply:

Holy Name Academy, San Antonio, Florida

In the month of December 1888 Rev. F. Gerard, O.S.B. petitioned M. Dolorosa Scanlon Superior of Sacred Heart Convent, Fulton St., Allegheny City, Pa. to take charge of his schools.

In compliance with this petition M. Dolorosa (Scanlon), Sisters Boniface Feldmann, Josephine Felding, Agatha Giesler, with the full consent of their General Superior Ven. Mother Aldegunda Feldmann, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Phelan of Pittsburgh, Pa., Spiritual Director and confessor, undertook the work of the foundation in the State of Florida, Diocese of St. Augustine under the Rt. Rev. Bishop Moore, D.D. Independent house with its own novitiate. M. Dolorosa being elected Superior the sisters assumed the great work, March 1st 1889. And ere long God sent help. May 1st Miss Ada M. Scanlon entered. The first candidate for the South. June 24th, 1889, Ven. Sr. M Agnes Behe joined the community.

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[For the next chapter in our story tune in to the next issue of the TIDE.]

“Like a Sunflower” 2010 Federation Chapter Meeting

Every four years the 20 member-monasteries of the Federation of St. Scholastica send their prioresses and elected delegates to an enriching gathering. This year the meeting was at St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS. Three Florida Benedictines were among the seventy participants: Prioress Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer and elected delegates Sisters Roberta Bailey and Eileen Dunbar.

The agenda included conferences on contemporary Benedictine topics, the approval of the revised Constitutions and the election of a new Federation President, Sister Glenna Smith from Bristow, VA. Sister Esther Fangman, who was ending her 12-year term as president, delivered a poignant informative overview of the federation during her term. Sister Ephrem Hollerman, from St. Benedict Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, was the key-note speaker. Sunflowers (from CA) decorated the meeting room and prayer space. Carey Landry’s “Like a Sunflower” and the sunflowers, turning their faces toward the source of light, served to keep focus on the theme for the week. A special treat was a performance by Micronesian native dancers from Liberty, MO. where some of them have relatives who are Benedictine Sisters.

Requiescat in pace

- + Sister Germaine Bevans February 12, 2010
- + Janie Barthle (wife of employee John Barthle and mother of employee Jenna Barthle) April 1, 2010
- + Louise Bedgood (former employee) April 2, 2010
- + Bill Yount (former employee) May 6, 2010
- + Brunhilde (Hilda) Lively (former student and daughter of former employees Charlie and Theresa Pekarek) June 14, 2010

All Souls Month, November 2010

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

[Psalm 116:9]

Dear Friends of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida:

November is traditionally a time when the Church remembers its deceased members in a special way. At this time of year, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida join with the universal Church in praying for our community members, oblates and former students who have died. We remember, too, our deceased family, relatives, friends and benefactors in a special way in our community prayers and Mass. May they be enjoying the fullness of the magnificence of the awesome presence of God! And, may God have mercy on all the Poor Souls who have no one to pray for them.

To make our prayers more specific and significant, we invite you to send us the names of your deceased relatives and friends. You may write them in the space provided at the bottom of this page or email them to us at [holynome@saintleo.edu](mailto:holyname@saintleo.edu). The basketful of names will be placed before the altar in our monastery chapel as a visible reminder of our commitment to remember your loved ones at the daily celebration of the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours.

This is a gift of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in gratitude for your generosity and many kindnesses to us. As always, you are welcome to join us in the monastery chapel, or in spirit, as we gather morning and evening to pray for you and your intentions.

God bless you! Peace!



Please return this section, with the names of your deceased loved ones, in the envelope provided in this issue of the TIDE.

Please remember in prayers my relatives and friends who have died:

Requested by _____



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Student council officers from St. Anthony's School accepted (with delight) a check from Sr. Roberta for Council activities.

News Briefs: February – August 2010

Sister Mary Dorothy attended the annual meeting of the American Benedictine Academy August 5-8.

The sisters sponsored a table at the sale Sacred Heart Parish Yard Sale August 7. The proceeds of the sale went towards the cost of the construction of a new play for the children in the day care program.

Sister Roberta attended the national meeting of the Leadership Conference for Women Religious in Dallas, Texas, August 8-15.

Dr. Dewey Kramer led Sisters Dianne, Jean, Eileen and Dewey Kramer in a rendition of the Tallis Canon on recorders as a communion meditation during Sunday Mass on August 8.

Volunteer Barbara and Sister Eileen drove to Saint Petersburg to visit the Chihuly Collection and enjoy lunch at the Albert Whitted Airport on August 14.

Sister Mary Dorothy was honored for 45 years as an employee of Saint Leo University at the Saint Leo University

Community Day on August 18. August 19-20, Sister attended workshop entitled "Implement DACS in Integrated CMS: Using Archon" August 19-20. The workshop was sponsored by the Society of American Archivists and took place at the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

Health Care Supervisor Gloria Yates and employee Joyce Muzio attended the East Pasco Professional Women's Networking Group at Bentley Commons in Zephyrhills on August 26.

Father Stephan gave everyone the giggles on August 28 when he misquoted Scripture at Mass, saying "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be exhausted".

Groups of Saint Leo University students came to the monastery to wash and vacuum cars, move furniture, wash windows and ceiling fans, take down cobwebs, clean the basement and kitchen counter spaces on August 28 as part of the SLU Community Service Day.

Visit us on-line at
www.floridabenedictines.com