

The Benedictine Tide

The Wave of the Future

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

St. Leo, Florida

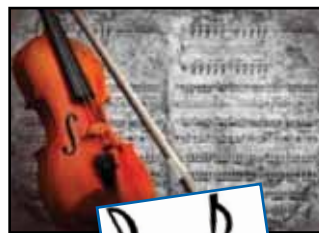
Volume 13, No. 1

Spring 2012

OUR MUSICAL COMMUNITY



“SING TO THE LORD A NEW
SONG; PLAY SKILLFULLY,
DANCE AND SHOUT FOR JOY.”
(PSALM 33)



From the Prioress' Journal



S. Roberta Bailey, O.S.B.

“Sing to the Lord a new song; play skillfully, dance and shout for joy.” (Psalm 33) Sometimes I think this is the charism that resonates in the soul of each of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. We are, for sure, a musical community. Even the Sisters who describe themselves as not being able “to carry a tune in a bucket” are caught up in the melodies of our chants and liturgical music at the Eucharist and daily Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office). There aren't many communities who have weekly choir practice for all the community. Some may have it for a special choir referred to as the schola. But in our community, only duty in the kitchen is an excuse for skipping choir practice on Saturday evenings.

For special feasts the preparation time by the composers, vocalists and keyboardists begins weeks ahead. Saturday community practices may be longer than the customary 10-15 minutes so we can perfect the melodies. “That in all things God may be glorified” most assuredly expresses the goal of our musical gift to the creator of all music. Rehearsals remind us that “practice does make perfect” and that only our very best is a worthy offering to our Creator. I say “offering” and our song is just that - a free will offering. However, you can be sure that for some, the word they would use is “sacrifice.” If you are not musically inclined and you

do not read music, going repeatedly over the notes is indeed “a sacrifice.” It is edifying that everyone endures – or enjoys – choir practice so that our words, our music are in harmony with our hearts.

The words of many of the Scriptural Psalms we use in our daily community prayer convey the motivation that rouses us each day to praise our God. Pray with me now Psalm 57 and see if it does not lift your spirit beyond the cares of your day. “My heart is steadfast, O God. My heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul! I will awake the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations. I will sing of You among the peoples.”

In the practice of *Lectio Divina* (sacred reading) we quickly learn the truth of **Mozart's** words, “The music is not in the notes but in the silence between.” Our community prayer is a balance, a rhythm of song, choral prayer and silence to let the spoken or sung words seep deep into our beings. We invite you to join us sometimes in our chapel for an experience of Benedictine liturgy. And when you pray on your own, let your voice rise in song ... sing a familiar hymn, improvise your own rendition or put on a CD. Nestle into the song and let your spirit soar beyond the place where you are settled.

I love the line in *Peter Pan*: “If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing.” **Saint Augustine** reminds us, “To sing once is to pray twice.” Multiply your daily offering with music: pop in a CD of the rosary or favorite church music. I have a friend who says he loves to travel alone in his car because he can play the radio or a CD and blare out any words he can remember as long as he wants. Other drivers may think you are crazy but God knows the motives of your heart. Join yourself in spirit to the Benedictine Sisters who daily remember you and your intentions in their prayers – sung and spoken.

Benedictine Theme Song

Those who know us, especially our oblates, would say the Benedictine theme song is “Listen, Listen, Listen with the Ear of the Heart.” **If we are to sing this song and make music together, it starts with listening.**

The vision Benedict shares with us through the ages is that God can be found in every person, place and event of our lives. Nothing is unimportant or profane, each is a tone, a part of the harmony that is God. The Benedictine way is a way of seeking God...really hearing and being moved by God's music. Music happens when different notes come together in sound with silence in-between. Harmony, not dissonance, happens when the right notes come together. This reminds me of Community - each member has a part in living a balanced life of prayer and work with a listening stance. Each is in support of the conversion of the heart (improvisation) and focused on continual growth in love of God and neighbor.

Our Oblate Program is for lay persons who choose to express the Benedictine way in their secular lives. This year we are reading and discussing **S. Joan Chittister's** book, *Monastery of the Heart*.

Sunday, May 27th is the next Oblate Meeting at the monastery and our topic is “Our Promise.” We look forward to receiving on that day, candidates **Patricia Clower** and **Marty Copenhaver**.

All are invited to join us! The 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. program includes Liturgy, dinner and instruction. Please RSVP to **(352) 588-8320** by the Wednesday before the meeting.

In Memoriam

Please remember our dear friends and their families in your prayers.

- + **Father Paul Rompf OSB**, Saint Leo Abbey, August 16, 2011
- + **Leo Neuhofer**, brother of Sister Dorothy and Sister Mary Clare and Trudy LaBruzzo, November 13, 2011
- + **Erwin Lange**, Brother of Sister Helen and cousin of Sister Pauline Block, December 17, 2011 – 100 Years of Age
- + **Frances G. Raub**, mother of Missy Raub, friend of the community, December 21, 2011
- + **Lillian Wathen**, mother of oblate candidate Linda Marie Wathen, March 6, 2012
- + **Victor Heidgerken**, friend of the community, February 7, 2012
- + **Betty R. Gruetzmacher**, friend of the community, March 31, 2012
- + **Susan Trudell**, daughter of Pat Mulieri, friend of the community, April 15, 2012



A Musical Community

Music is a part of the spiritual blessings at Holy Name Monastery as the Sisters' varied talents make evident. The traditional aesthetic is the Sisters' liturgical focus, but their backgrounds also include classical, jazz, Indian, Latin and pop music.

Liturgical music is music that is intertwined with the liturgy and each piece has its place and serves a function. For example, the hymn sung during the opening procession has a very different character than the music for the presentation of gifts hymn. The opening of the Eucharistic liturgy is a high point that ends with the singing of the Gloria, usually exhilarating music. The next high point in the liturgy is the alleluia which introduces the Gospel...the heart of the Liturgy of the Word. It alerts us to stand and be ready to hear the Gospel of the Lord.

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the acclamations are important pieces of music because they lead us through the Eucharistic prayer and culminate with the Great Amen. The communion hymn is more low-key, reflective, a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation and thanksgiving for the wonderful gift He gives us in the Eucharist. In the closing rites, the priest blesses the people and the procession leaves the church to music that is soaring and upbeat. Alleluia!

An Unlikely Springboard

Sister Eileen

Sister Mary Albert, SND was the principal of St. Helen School in Dayton, Ohio. I was one of about 1,200 of her pupils. She was a commanding presence, looming tall in the black and white habit, full of purpose and possessed of a very strong will. All of these traits served her well on Friday morning after Mass.

It was then that she stood before all of the students in church, armed only with a pitch pipe and her iron determination to teach us Gregorian chant. I remember her waving her arms around in a way that somehow conveyed what the music was supposed to sound like.

She would stop periodically to blow on the pitch pipe (it normally took several tries before she found the right note) and then resume singing the melodies and having us sing them back to her. And we learned them. When I finished my time at Saint Helen School, I could sing almost all of the "Requiem Mass," several ferial Masses (any Mass that is sung on a day on which the liturgical color is green (no memorial, feast or solemnity celebrated), and other pieces such as the "Victimae Paschali Laudes," "Puer Natus" and the "Ave Maria."

My favorite music in Gregorian chant is the "In Paradisum," the chant that is sung as the casket is being taken out of the church at the end of a funeral Mass. I can still sing most of it by heart. This is curious, because I only sang it twice at a funeral Mass in my life.

The first time was at the funeral of the mother of classmate **Jerry Weisbecker**. It was seventh grade and my teacher, **Mr. Hosbrook**, was a severe, stern, aloof individual. He never said anything about himself, but there was plenty of gossip about his health. His appearance lent some truth to the rumors because he was always chalk white and his skin was virtually translucent some days. But in spite of his health problems, he

took us on a field trip to Columbus, Ohio (the only one I remember during my eight years at the school) where we visited the state capital and saw the Ohio State University campus. We also walked to the nearest public library (there was no library at our school) where we were instructed in the use of reference materials. Mr. Hosbrook was a wonderful teacher and wanted us to learn about everything. That included the "In Paradisum" so that we could sing it at Mrs. Weisbecker's funeral. As the casket was being taken out of the church at the end of the funeral Mass, we sang like angels for Jerry Weisbecker and his family.

Less than a year later, I was singing the "In Paradisum" again, but this time it was Mr. Hosbrook's casket that was being taken out of the church. He had been too ill to return to teaching and died just a few days after the school year had started. I was stung by how quickly he had been overtaken by death.

I find myself thinking of Mr. Hosbrook occasionally, wondering what role his prayers for his students may have played in my vocation. I remember that he pronounced a blessing over us as we, the last class he would ever teach, were about to leave his classroom for summer vacation. When I see him in heaven, I'll ask if he knew we would be singing "In Paradisum" at his funeral, and did he ask for vocations among his students? I suspect I know the answers already, but it will be nice to hear directly from him.

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music."

Composer Sergei Rachmaninoff

Like a Box of Chocolates

Sister Dianne

I taught piano for two years to help pay my way through college. Believe me when I say that I would not have taught that long except that I really needed the money for school. As I think back on that time, I'm reminded of the film *Forest Gump* when Forest relates his mother's philosophy that "life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're going to get."

And so it was my experience with one student who was particularly challenging. This little guy was not in the least bit interested in rhythm or in even playing the correct notes for that matter! Each lesson was spent trying to find a way to help him understand their importance if he was going to play an instrument. For rhythm I tried playing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Merrily We Roll Along" since they have exactly the same notes. The rhythm is what differentiates the two. I remember he put his head down in frustration because he understood what I was trying to convey, but he really didn't want to accept it. Then recital time came. After the performance, my mother who knew of our struggles, came up to me and said that this student had done rather well. I looked at her and said "I have never heard that improvisation until today!" This young child had sat at the piano and played his little heart out. What he played had nothing to do with the music he had prepared for the recital and to this day, I don't know how he figured-out when to finish."



Continued



A Musical Community

And All That Jazz!

Sister Margaret Mary

From the age of just two, every opportunity I had to get my fingers on a piano, I did so. My parents were pestered until they finally gave in and bought me my very own piano. Lessons were begun at the age of eight, but after several years of classical music study, I became bored. It was about that time that a relative gave me a large amount of sheet music... modern music became my primary interest!

In high school, I met a jazz pianist who had his own orchestra. He introduced me to a dance band that had sixteen musicians and I quickly joined. That was the beginning of my "professional" career as a jazz pianist. I played in this group for several years through high school and college. We played for various occasions including weddings and parties. A highlight for me was to play and sing at my own senior prom. Creating my own songs and playing by ear was what excited me most.

I guess I took after my dad who was the musician in the family. He played trumpet and violin and had his own dance band when he met my mother. Today, I feel fortunate to contribute my musical background for prayer services at the monastery, though to be sure it is not jazz!

It's Not Just About the Music

Sister Elizabeth

While I was not fortunate to have learned to play an instrument, music became dear to my heart through Indian dance. Boys and girls alike are taught very stylized dance movements to the Carnatic music of my homeland, India. I learned in third grade and one of my favorite dances was called Mohiniyattam – 'Mohini' meaning a woman who enchants and 'Attam' meaning graceful. The music and movements evoke images in my mind of swaying palm trees and the gently flowing rivers of Kerala from where my family comes.

To this very day, I find inspiration in Carnatic music. Its history dates back to the 15th – 16th centuries AD and still remains fundamental to the lives of Indians today. The Carnatic songs and dances are performed in costume at festivals and special church or school celebrations. The melodic compositions are intended to be sung with varied themes, but most especially religious in nature.

India has a six week-long Music Season in the city of Chennai beginning each December which is known as the world's largest cultural event. The music highlights the cultural heritage of Indians; is a source of spiritual inspiration; and provides pure entertainment. My grandniece, **Pearle**, is pictured competing in a state competition.



When Called Upon...

Sister Mildred

It was one of the first years I taught – very early in my career. The person who played the organ for Mass at Saint Joseph was leaving and my Superior looked at me and said, "I need you to learn how to play the organ for Mass."

I stood there in stunned silence. You see, I only had music lessons

in second grade and then piano lessons my first and second year of college. Though my mother played beautifully, "playing the piano or the organ in a Mass setting was never on my radar!" But when called upon by your Superior to tackle a need, the only response was "Yes, Sister."

During the summer of that school year, I attended Loyola University and as God would have it, one of the Sisters at the convent was the embodiment of musicianship. Her response to my request for organ lessons was "Absolutely." Daily we worked and by the end of the summer, to my astonishment, I was playing the organ. The discerning eye of my Superior must have seen a musicality in me that I certainly did not see in myself.

That summer was only the beginning...practice and perseverance were key elements in my growing ability. My appreciation of the organ's majesty developed along with my students. It wasn't too long before those with piano backgrounds could actually play parts of the Mass for me.

I Love It All

Sister Helen

As early as I can remember, every member of the Lange family played an instrument. Music was the center of our lives. We even had a band which I played in by the age of ten. Lessons on piano and the organ began in third grade and every summer was spent, along with S. Irma, at Lady of the Lake Convent. We had wonderful teachers who inspired my dreams of becoming a concert classical pianist.

The influences of my family and school education exposed me to a variety of musical styles for which I have always been grateful. My first teaching experience in New Orleans required instructing the student choir and band. It necessitated my learning all the instruments as the band conductor was only there once a week.

Teaching in Venice, Florida, the pastor asked if the children could do an end-of-year performance. It was about the same time that we sent a man to the moon. I found *Cowboy on the Moon*, a western operetta in two acts. Directing a live theatrical performance was an exciting prospect, an exasperating process and an extraordinary end product for me and the children!

Music is of God and opens the heart to possibilities we might not have known existed.

Memorable

Sister Nilla

We had to engage our minds and hearts to come up with something creative. My two cousins, my brother and I were sure we would be the new bright stars in the tradition of the Beatles and the Supremes. We girls loved singing "Stop In the Name of Love" (my brother accompanied on the "drums" made out of pots and utensils). Neighborhood presentations based on the pop music we adored were our happening. We even performed weddings, singing or humming our way through the created ceremony.

Formal music lessons were not part of my upbringing, but music was and continues to enrich my life. My father's love for Latin and pop music became the music I loved. He and my mother danced the "Bosa Doblea" at parties and holidays and it was enthralling. As I got a little older, he would dance salsa, mambo and even the twist with me!

Listening now to that music brings fond memories...



Temporary Monastic Profession of Sister Elizabeth Mathai



Sister Elizabeth Mathai pronounced her temporary vows as a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida during a Rite of Profession at the community Mass on the Feast of Saint Benedict, Wednesday, March 21st.

It was a privilege to witness such a profound commitment made by those who offer their lives to God's praise and service. The community processed with Elizabeth into the Chapel toward her deepening commitment to the Benedictine way of life. A reflection by the prioress, Sister Roberta, highlighted the significance of Elizabeth's new bonds.

Sister Elizabeth read her vows while kneeling in front of the altar as she promised obedience, stability and fidelity to the monastic way of life. The solemnity of the occasion was compelling as

Elizabeth's emotions ran high. She then proceeded to the altar where she signed her profession on the Scriptures. The signing on the Scriptures emphasizes the Word of God as the root of the Benedictine life. The community members then came forward to happily and proudly embrace their newly professed Sister. For the next three years, Sister will be guided by **Sister Mary Clare** as she journeys, with God's blessing, as a Scholastic.

A celebratory dinner of Curry Chicken and rice in the tradition of S. Elizabeth's Indian roots was accompanied by hugs, laughter, gifts and *unexpected* entertainment. Our two Sisters from Tanzania, **S. Atanasia** and **S. Winfrida** presented their gifts to S. Elizabeth as they performed a Swahili song and dance that translates "the package (gift) contains love, peace, happiness and hope."

The evening concluded with S. Elizabeth's compatriots **Sisters Alice Ottapurackal** and **Sherly Vazhappilly** (from Saint Anthony School) dedicating a special song from India.



Vocation Office Upcoming Events:

If you or anyone you know would be interested in receiving invitations to the following vocation events, they can contact Sister Mary David, OSB at (352) 588-8320 or email vocation@saintleo.edu.

Time For Seekers - Catholic women 18 - 50 years of age and free to consider a religious vocation. Come away with a deepened awareness of listening to God and your heart. Call for the date of the next gathering.

Share Life - Junior high girls in or entering grades 6 through 8 are invited to Holy Name Monastery on Saturday, June 23 (10 am to 3 pm). Spend the day with the Sisters, ask questions, pray, eat and have fun. Applications due no later than June 17th.

Share Life - High school girls are invited to be with us on Saturday, July 7 from 10 am to 7 pm. You will learn about religious life first-hand; share prayer and meals with the Sisters; have the opportunity to ask "Everything you ever wanted to know about a Sister's life"; and, hopefully, leave having experienced a fulfilling day.

Come/See Discernment Weekends - to fit your schedule! Single Catholic women 20-50 who are free to consider a religious vocation can arrange a weekend that fits their schedule to *Come/See* how the Benedictine Sisters live and pray. Listen and share with others as you discern God's call.

Monastic Experience Week - on your schedule! Single Catholic women 20-50 inquiring into monastic life, can arrange to come for a summer week that fits their schedule. The week is designed to help you listen, learn, discern and be supported in your search by a loving/praying community. Experience monastic life with the Benedictine Sisters.

Please remember us when you sing hymns and ask God to bless us with new members.

ANGELS IN THE WINGS Planned Giving Society

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida enjoy a long tradition of impacting lives through educational excellence, counseling, responding to the needs of the poor and vocational and liturgical enrichment. As devoted friends and supporters who have a high degree of interest in the Sisters' ministries, your life planning gift will help ensure their diverse efforts to carry out the work of our Lord continues and is strengthened.

The **Angels in the Wings Society** is an opportunity for you to make a planned gift to benefit the institution. With full regard for your interests as the donor (your personal and family's well-being firstly), we can assist you to get that will written and your wishes in place.

With your gift, you will be formally inducted as a member of the society. Our first **Annual Dinner of Angels** is planned for the fall 2012 and will honor new members as well as members posthumously.

Please contact Faith Pridmore, at 352-588-8443 to discuss with your advisor what might be possible to benefit you and your family, and then - perhaps - the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, Inc.

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

CHAPTER FOUR: NEXT TO GODLINESS

Great women in our history have become legends for various special gifts and talents. A common legend, or perhaps myth, that colors the lives of many of our senior members is the legend of cleanliness. Cleaning, whether it be housecleaning, classroom cleaning, office cleaning or chapel cleaning, has been a claim to fame among us since the early days. Personal contact with the myth of the perfectly clean convent usually occurred during the novitiate. Cleaning seems to be the manual labor most appropriate to novices and the “youngsters.” These are the folk in the house who never appear to know how to clean properly but whose good will and desire to learn make it possible for determined senior sisters to train them. There are, of course, the amusing tales of bizarre approaches to the common household tasks. For example there was one postulant who had to be in chapel to receive visions immediately after meals while dishes were being washed in the kitchen; she is not recorded as having ever been elevated to the status of novice or saint. Developing allergies to cleansers, mops, rags, or buckets have been tried unsuccessfully by some. But the real legends have to do with the less common tasks, the annual quests for the perfectly clean chapel or dining room, or even the washing down of the outside of the house.

Sister Rosaria recalled that, “Every summer we would have housecleaning. And one of the places that we housecleaned was the chapel. And I can remember **Sister Immaculate** said to me, ‘You’re tall, I think you can reach that statue of the Sacred Heart. Why don’t you? Here’s a rag. Now you try to get up to the top there.’ And I reached the top of that statue and dusted it properly. And I tell you she sat there in her rocking chair, believe me, and she would supervise all of our housecleaning in the Chapel.” Sister Immaculate trained Sister Rosaria so well that in her turn Sister Rosaria became the supervisor and others such as **Sister Ruth Whalton, Sister Jerome Leavy, Sister Joan Pote** and numerous others were the supervisees.

The legend of Sister Immaculate includes the story of her white glove treatment of the wooden paneling of the second floor hall in the “old House.” The wood was dark and covered the wall from floor to ceiling in the pattern of narrow horizontal panels and grooves, wainscoting. Sister would check the perfection of the dusting by passing her finger along a randomly selected groove. Sisters Rosaria and Rosanna were called back to repeat the dusting as novices in the thirties and in the fifties it was Sister Jerome’s turn.



Employee Rachel Sommers teaching her young sister-in-law, AnneMarie Peacock, some “tricks of the cleaning trade.”

Perhaps if we had not moved into a new building in 1961 novices would still have to pass this test of their house cleaning.

Other housecleaning legends include the adjustment from wood floors to terrazzo. The stripping, scrubbing, sealing and waxing of the terrazzo surface of the halls, the dining room, and community room in the Priory building became a part of all major holiday rituals. One group of scholastics in the early 1960s learned by doing, several times in Christmas week, that applying thin, streak-free coats of wax was not as easy a task as it at first seemed. And some of us recall the Holy Week and Easter Vigil that Sister Irma spent “doing” the dining room floor by hand to get it perfect so she could teach some of the rest of us the proper procedures.

Some of the legendary house cleaners who honed their skills on the old frame structure of the original house found it difficult to adapt to the new cleaning required in the Priory building of the 1960s. The outside of the building was painted every five years or so and got washed down by the sisters every summer. There were new chemicals to clean the new materials and the fact that some of this could be accomplished with only minimum amounts of elbow grease made the entire operation suspect in the eyes of the Sisters who “really knew” about cleaning. Somehow though, even with modern conveniences, no one has figured out a way to dispense with the three times a day dishwashing chores. The postulant who tried to replace it with prayer and visions never made it to novice. All of us get regular practice in this area of housecleaning and common chores. **Sister Frances Marie** is the senior sister in the kitchen who does the most to encourage us to raise dishwashing skill to an art. Sister can provide an elegantly simple, nourishing, and tasty breakfast but even after more than fifty years of practice she uses every utensil at hand, and some she has hidden away for that purpose, to produce coffee, toast, cereal, fruit, and eggs.

Somewhere among the myths of convent life there is a Great Angel of Cleanliness, most likely a very venerable senior sister with a strong voice, whose responsibility it is to keep every nook and cranny absolutely spotless. We’ve had such an Angel and her assistants among us from Day One! She was one of the first community members to make an impression on every postulant that crossed the threshold. It is believed that this Great Angel is responsible for the rule that “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

Thus while we are seeking God the next best thing to being godly is being clean in a spotless environment. The domestic chores thus take on the aura of divine mission and while they can be seen as supportive of common life and charity and as aides in preventing boredom and idleness we do constantly manage to keep it all in perspective, at least most of the time and unless we are left alone with a mountain of dirty dishes.

From the Office of Advancement

Dear Friends, Oblates, Family and Benefactors,

My role as the Director of Mission Advancement for the Benedictine Sisters of Florida is to assist people who want to make a difference in their own lives, their family's, their community and in our world.

Whether there is a need today or well into the future, communicating your wishes is your gift – it is your legacy to your family and to the causes about which you care. Creating a will or a plan for the distribution of your assets is easier than most people think. And yet...over 60 percent of Americans die without one!

That is unfortunate because delaying could place your family in difficult circumstances and give the government the ability to make distribution decisions you might not choose.

The gift potential for any given donor is that donor's ability to arrange an end-of-life gift. For those of us in the middle-class, such a gift (from assets not income), is the only significant gift we can make.

If the Benedictine Sisters of Florida or any other charity whose work in helping others you value is not in your will, the state won't consider said charities in probating your estate.

Having a will in place is about your choices. What would you like your legacy to be?

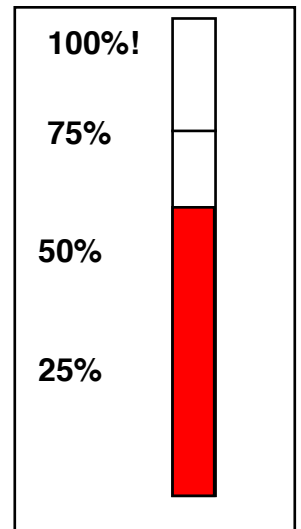
If you need assistance or have questions about putting together your will, give me a call at 352-588-8443 or email at hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

Faith Pridmore

Good Works Annual Giving

****Our Fiscal Year ends June 30, 2012.** If you have not had the opportunity to make a gift or pledge to the 2011-2012 Good Works Annual Giving drive, please do so today! Your support is dearly appreciated as you help us reach our \$200,000 goal.

Many of you have blessed us by raising the amount of your gifts – we are so very grateful. Our efforts together serve to fulfill the two Great Commandments – *that we are to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.*



Ferman Donates a Van

Our prayers were answered! The **Ferman Family Organization** of auto dealerships has graciously and generously donated a nice 2007 Dodge Caravan to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. The community was in need of a replacement (with a chairlift) for their 1995 car which has seen better days. Pasco County Commissioner **Pat Mulieri**, a friend of the Sisters and attorney **Clarke**



Hobby, a former student of **Sisters Roberta and Pauline**, listened, understood our need, and went looking for help. "The Fermans are the most wonderful and giving people and have significantly contributed to the Tampa Bay community's betterment for over 100 years," says Clarke. Both he and Pat were not surprised that the Ferman's response was immediate and positive.

Everyone with whom we had contact - **Steve Straske, Bill Small, Warren Brooks and Robert Packard** were incredibly professional and accommodating. **Sister Mildred** said, "You would have thought we were at the dealership to purchase their most expensive vehicle. They value all their customers as VIPs and made us feel just as special." What a gift!

Gifts-in-Kind

Maria Arpaio
Avadikian Group
John, Justin and Jenna Barthle
Adrienne Beaulieu
Morgan and Joan Becker
Brother Matthew Clarke
Classic Party Planners
Kaye Clusserath
Francis and Anna Crociata
Msgr. George Cummings

CWC
Kathy DiSanto
Daniel Dragan
Victoria Fierro
Julie Gnuent
Frances and Pam Greif
Heritage Park
Gerri Jackson
Marjorie Karan
Pete and Trudy LaBruzzo
Nick McDougal

Crystal Milsinger
James McMullen
Lourdes Milan
Tony Olivito
Veronica Ospina-Kammerer
Sister Regina Ozuzu
Yessica Palacios
Pasco Cty. Benevolent Assoc.
Dr. Donald Pharr
Faith Pridmore
Lynn, John and David Roth

Barbara Raub
Saint Leo Abbey monks
Saint Leo University
Patty Schrader
James and Kathy Sprigg
Beth Underwood
Jim and Kathy Wilkeson
Petra Zamora
Greg Zielinski

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida gratefully acknowledge those whose generous support and active involvement in the life of Holy Name Monastery help us live out our mission. You inspire us by your time-tested values of faith, loving concern for others, and sense of responsibility to the world.

The following represent gifts to our mission from **November 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.**

Kenneth Amow	Raymond and Leona Erazmus	Kenneth and Karen Lund	Anne Silvers '63
Alva M. Anderson	Mary Jean Etten	S. Kathleen Lyons, SND	Fr. Francis X. Smith
Anonymous	Frances Faciane	Bernadette MacDonald	Ruth Ann Smith
Rotary Club of San Antonio	Kelly E. Fagan	Thomas Malouf	Bruce and Lorraine Snyder
Ronald and Jacqueline Arrowsmith	Fred and Diane Farris	Jane E. Martinson	Sophia Sokolowski
Jack and Marian '62 Austin	Helen Fehn	Gifts- Page 2	George and Eileen Sowa
Mary Ellen Backlinie '39	Robert and Vickoria Fierro	Orlando and Jili Matta	James and Cathy Sprigg
Bernard E. Bak	Felicita Finney	Bernice Matthiesen	James F. Squadrito
Kaye H. Baker	Dr. Michael J. Foley	Gerturde and Maureen McCormick	Robert and Julia Steinwachs
Timothy C. Barfield	John and Patricia Frank	Edward and Ines Adan McFadden	Sophie Storch '65
Stella Barthle '50	Beatriz F. Galvis	Mary and John McGoldrick	Margaret W. Stringer
Patricia Becker	Robert and Lynda Gamache	Leanne M. Milian	Steven and Esther Sugarman
Art and Jean Becotte	Suzanne R. Gellens	Christopher and Karen Miller	Peter and Gabriela Suyono
Sisters of Maryland Benedictine	Joseph and Donna Giarratana	Edwin and Mary Miller	Craig and Carrie Taylor
Martha Newman Bennett	Maureen Raub and Barbara Gilboy	John and Clara Miller	Rick and CJ Taylor
Eugene and Ethel Berger	John J. Gillis Trust	R. A. Milliman	Helen Trez
Holly Bernd	Deacon Thomas and Sandy Goldsworthy	Miguel and Caridad Miyar	Howard and Betty Trumm
Randin and Greta Bernosky	Annie Lee Gomez	Barbara Molloy	The Emilia E. Kiss Revocable Trust
Richard Fenton and Donna Blommel	Virginia Gordon	Rita Molnar	Beth Marie Underwood
Jeanette Bolin	Joan M. Greaney	Deirdre Morrow	Salvatore J. Versaggi
Jody L. Bollinger	Glen and Gail Greenfelder	Msgr. Frank Mouch	Robert and Jeanette Vigeant
St. Anthony's Books	Betty Gregg	John Multer	Jack and Jeanie Vogel
Robert and Lucille Brennan	Nancy W. Greiner	Don and Mary Munday	Joseph B. Vogel
Barbara Briggs	Louis and Ann Grieshop	Diana R. NesSmith '57	Linda Marie Wathen
William and Fayette Brown	Betty R. Gruetzmacher +	Christopher and Gina Neuhofer	Elsa and Rodolfo Wehrhahn
Warren and Bernadette Broz	Donald and Beverly Roy	Frank Neuhofer	Thomas and Jean Weightman
Mary Anne Bullock	Saint Leo University	Paul J. Neuhofer	Otto Weitzenkorn
Carolyn Bundy	Iris and Carlos Salcedo	Robert and Patricia Nicholson	Denise Wilt
Jean M. Callahan	Bernard and Kay Halfmann	Oblates	Marc J. Yacht
William and Kathryn '60 Calvert	Omer and Bernice Halfmann	Anthony Olivito	Virginia M. Yorio
John and Trinity Campi	John and Margaret Hall	John and Suzanne Ondrovic	
Robert J. Carr	John and June Hefti	Bro. Mathew J. Clarke, OSB	
Rey and Juanita Casarez	Paul and Wanda Herrmann	Dr. David L. Ostrander	
Lucille Chrisafulle	Msgr. James J. Heslin	Robert and Ursula Page	
Robert and Laurie Christmas	Jennifer A. Hofer	Yessica Palacios	
Saint Anthony Catholic Church	Huizenga Family Foundation Inc	Jean P. Peterson	
Louise Clift '32	Wayne and Marti '61 Huizenga	Allan and Marilyn Powers	
Thomas and Marjorie Coffey	Karen Humphreys	Patricia Nancy Powers	
Warner and Ella Conarton	Norbert and Carole Immel	Thomas and Elizabeth Prather	
Peggy Constantino	Jonathan and Gerri Jackson	Charlene L. Price	
Nancy B. Counihan '45	Jim and Glordine Johnson	Marshall and Faith Pridmore	
Dianne Y. Cross	Richard and Tania Jones	Debra L. Prince	
Monsignor George Cummings	Virginia M. Judge	Richard and Debra Radke	
Barbara Decaire-Kramer '58	Veronika Ospina Kammerer	Lorraine Hissiger and Maria Ramjohn	
Alice DeSchryver	Charles and Maureen Kaupke	Margaret Ricou Randall '49	
Robert and Margaret DiMuzio	Robert and Violet Kehl	John and Phyllis Rearden	
Kathleen DiSanto	Ed and Jean Kelly	Pat and Jeannette '58 Reilly	
Angela M. Donatelli	Larry and Monica Keyes	Sheila R. Riddle	
Benjamin and Vivian Donatelli	Mary Anne Lachance	Gregory and Diane Riehle	
John and Irene Doscher	Arnold Lange	Nicholas Riggione	
George M. Douglas	Kenneth Lange	Karen E. Robertson	
James and Sara Doyle '53	Antonio and Ethel Lapitan	Mark and Catherine Rosendale	
Patrick and Debbie Drewes	Diana K. Larsen	Richard and Elizabeth Rosser	
Elevira Devincezo	Elizabeth J. Larson	John and Lynn Roth	
Dorothy Levy Dubuisson	M. Jerome Leavy	Carolyn Schaefer	
E. Ruth Dubuisson '60	Dr. Robert and Jean Legrand	Thomas and Mary Schrader	
Shirley A. Duggleby	John and Antoinina Leonard	Philip and Marisa Secord	
John Dunbar	Mary Lippold	Barry and Margaret Shaw	
Dr. Maribeth Durst	Lee Delaney Love	Josephine Shine	
Rattlesnake and Gopher Enthusiasts, Inc.			

CALENDAR

- May 1** Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
- May 4** Monastery Employee Appreciation Luncheon
- May 11-14** Semi-annual camping trip (Daytona Beach)
- May 25-27** Oblate Retreat
- May 27** Oblate Sunday
- June 10** Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
- June 7-12** Sisters' Annual Retreat with Rev. Ed Lamp
- June 15** Feast of the Sacred Heart
- June 23** Share Life Program Middle School Girls
- July 7** Share Life Program High School Girls
- July 11** Solemnity of St. Benedict
- August 15** Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

IN HONOR OF:

S. Roberta Bailey

Susan E. Barreto

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Steve and Loraine Cors

S. Pauline Block

Gladys Gray

Edward and Frances Kuchar

Anne Louise Smith

S. Miriam Cosgrove

Marge Cantu

Alice DeSchryver

James and Janice Dunleavy

Judy Eisele

Anna McDonald Heath

Valerie R. Magy

Marshall and Faith Pridmore

Patrick and Jeanette Reilly

Dennis and Robert Swalec

Bette Wismann

S. Donna DeWitt

Joan E. Wehmhoff

S. Helen Lange

Martha Newman Bennett

Carolyn Bundy and Elaine Richard

Thomas and Marjorie Coffey

Yvonne Galatas

Bernard and Kay Halfmann

Edward and Frances Kuchar

Mary Anne Lachance

Raymond LaDue+ and Myrtle Dunn

RB and Lynette Lange

Susan Mullins and Eileen Elvins

John, Lynn and David Roth

Anne Louise Smith

Rick and CJ Taylor

Frederick T. Lee

Elaine M. Lee

S. Elizabeth Mathai

Delli Bevans

Margaret Cundiff

Lynn DePalo

Lorraine DeTullio

Sheila Hagan

Barbara King

Marshall and Faith Pridmore

Edward McFadden, Sr.

Edward and Ines McFadden

S. Dorothy Neuhofer

Frank and Monica Kiley

S. Mary Clare Neuhofer

Anne Louise Smith

S. Dianne Wansley

Clara Wansley

IN MEMORY OF:

Raymond and Dan Becker

Patricia Becker

Fremont and Evelyn Bollinger

Joan L. Bollinger

Jim Brown

Thomas and Elizabeth Prather

Mary R. Buschard

Susan Mullins and Eileen Elvins

Harry Cortese

Jack and Jeanie Vogel

Sam and Marjorie Corwin

Cay Corwin '59

Alicia and Don DeLalla, Ileta Lane

and Marge Lang

Marie A. Delalla

Pat Fenton

Richard E. Fenton

Celestina T. Gifford

Kelly E. Fagan

Milos Karan

Majorie and Kathleen Karan

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Klass

John Klass

Erwin and Emma Lange

Debbie and Doug Hyndman

Erwin Lange

Arnold Lange

Lyndon and Jeanne Lange

Patrick H. Mazur

Jeannie Ledbetter

Yvonne Boyle

S. Elaine Lippolis

Ella Ann Cochrane

James McCall

Edwin and Mary Miller

Mary McCardle

Elaine M. Lee

Patricia Meadors

Debra L. Prince

Fr. Louis Moeller

Richard and Jo Moeller

Mother

Annie Lee Gomez

S. Irma Multer

Warren and Bernadette Broz

Yvonne Galatas

Frank and Monica Kiley

Richard and Jo Moeller

Leo Neuhofer

Jane E. Martinson

Lynn Powers

Vickie Stoupenos

Mary Neuhofer

Robin and Pamela Neuhofer

Dr. Marcellino Oliva

Jack and Jeannie Vogel

Libia Santos Portilla

Dr. William and Katie Calvert

Gordon and Libia Winslow

Frances Raub

Lucille M. Altiero

Barbara Decaire-Kramer

Elevira Devincenzo

Joyce Petrunia

Raub Family

Mr. and Mrs. James Yuhasz

Anna Swiss

Emily McHugh

Maxima Velasquez

Gary and Connie Caudill

Michael John Vogel

Joseph B. Vogel

Howard Wansley

Clara Wansley

*Please remember us
when making
or revising your will.*

Our official name is:
Benedictine Sisters
of Florida.

Our federal ID # is
59-0737887.

NEWS BRIEFS

November 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012

November 1 - Sister Roberta attended the rededication of the Dade City Judicial Building in honor posthumously of **Robert Sumner**, one of this area's most involved and generous philanthropists... a man never to be forgotten.

November 2 - The Sisters joined the monks of Saint Leo Abbey for the evening meal followed by a candlelight procession to the cemetery in observance of All Souls Day.

Thanksgiving and Christmas joy!

November 24 - The Sister's 16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner took place at the Saint Anthony Parish Center. There were 260 meals served with 25 of them delivered to Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter and 30 to Cypress Greens and the homebound. Community friends **Karen Bray, Jennifer Hofer, Lourdes Milan and Jane Martinson** were here to help prepare the food and deliver it. There were many, many other volunteers who graciously worked throughout the day – giving their Thanksgiving Day so that others could enjoy great food and warm fellowship.

November 27 - The First Sunday of Advent and Oblate Sunday, we had seventeen oblates come for Mass, noon meal and Sister Mary David's presentation in the afternoon. **Martha Palmer** played a communion meditation on the dulcimer during Mass and she and **Margaret Sullivan** performed on their dulcimers in the parlor between Mass and dinner.

December 1 - Sister Helen, Barbara Molloy and Faith Pridmore attended the Eighth Annual Peace Breakfast hosted by Sunrise Family Crisis Center. Barbara said, "The two speakers who related their early childhood stories of abuse, moved the audience to tears with their eloquent messages of hope."

December 19 - Sister Atanasia, Sister Winnfrida and Jane Martinson enjoyed the day at Busch Gardens. The passes were a gift to the community from **Trudy and Pete LaBruzzo**. The child in our African Sisters was evident as they experienced their first roller coaster ride! Five other Sisters and volunteers were also able to spend the day at Busch Gardens thanks to Trudy and Pete's generosity.

December 24 - Sisters Roberta, Mary Clare, Dianne, Eileen and Margaret Mary were the choir for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at Saddlebrook Resort on Christmas Eve. The Sisters caroled for the residents at Heritage Park Nursing Home.

December 27 - The Blessing of the Wine, a tradition on the Feast of St. John, was performed in the dining room before supper. The St. Ignatius Youth Group performed a "Lessons and Carols" liturgy in the Chapel that evening. The service was followed by a tea party organized by the St. Ignatius group.

December 29, 30 and January 3 and 4 - Supper was generously provided for the Sisters by **Janet and C.J. Collura**...yummy!

January 2 - A catered supper was donated on the feast of the Holy Name by **Dr. Donald Pharr**.

January 3 to February 21 - We are grateful for the expertise of archivist, **Sister Marie Louise Krenner, O.S.B.** from Mount Scholastic Monastery in Atchison, Kansas community who diligently worked as a volunteer on our archives. Sister was delighted to be introduced to such native fruits as kumquats and star fruit.

January 16 - Sister Dianne volunteers to play the piano for the residents at Heritage Park Nursing Home. She is pictured here with one of residents, **Marianne Morgan**, on Martin Luther King's birthday.

*Continued
The Benedictine Tide - 9*

Marianne hails from Brandon and “really enjoys Sister’s music.”



January 17 - The community Food Angels brought lunch to the Habitat for Humanity workers at their job site. Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco

County has built over 90 Habitat houses since 1994. They are proud to be dedicating their 100th home on May 12th. Family Selection Committee chooses families in need, with a willingness to partner with Habitat, and ability to repay the no-interest mortgage. Partner families invest a minimum of 400 “labor-sweat

easy,” says S. Pauline. If you have interest in helping make some cute dresses and make a difference in a little girl’s life, just call or email Faith Pridmore at 352-588-8443, hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

February 4 - **Sisters Mary Romana, Helen, Martha** (from St. Rita’s Parish in Dade City), and volunteers Barbara, Jane and Margaret attended the Sisters Study Day presentation by **Sister Sallie Latkovich, CSJ** entitled “Mining the Meaning of the Bible” at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Clearwater.

February 8 - Sister Mary David and Barbara helped Saint Leo University students and staff pack 25,000 plus meals (yes 25,000!) for Feed Children Everywhere at Saint Leo University. Sister Jean attended a meeting of the East Pasco Homeless Resource Committee at the Salvation Army Center in Dade City.

February 11 - Volunteers Jane and Barbara, affiliate **Jennifer Hofer** and friend **Lourdes Milan** attended “Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose” with national speaker, **Matthew Kelly**, and **Eliot Morris** at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Tampa.

February 14 - A group of Sisters and resident volunteers enjoyed a fundraising supper at the Dade City Beef O’Brady’s Restaurant. A portion of the proceeds benefited the Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center in St. Joseph where Sister Donna works.

Sister Dianne enhanced her artistic talent at an Icon Workshop taught by **Phil Zimmerman** at the Dade City Center for the Arts February



the event were taken aback when Sister Helen said, “I came today to re-walk my footsteps of 83 years ago when I arrived here from Texas.” Sister related how she and five other Sisters arrived on July 26, 1930 at the station from Texas to join the Benedictine community in Saint Leo. Everyone listening to Sister recall those days was delighted to learn that the station, which was recently renovated, looked the same to Sister Helen as when she walked through it so many years ago.

February 26 - Sisters Helen and Pauline were blessed at the east entrance of the monastery and then traveled by car to Heritage Park Nursing Home, their new home. They continue to attend Sunday Mass and other events at the monastery.

March was another busy month with 248 guests and retreatants!

March 6 - Our Annual Lenten Soup Supper was attended by over 60 people. The event benefited DayStar Hope Center, the local non-profit social services organization which, under **Sister Jean’s** direction, provides food and clothing for those in need. The evening began with prayer service in the monastery Chapel. Sister Mary David spoke to the group at supper, reminding us that “many people and children go hungry every day and as Christians we have a moral obligation to do what we can to eliminate hunger throughout the world.” Sister Jean thanked everyone for attending and for their donations of food and funds for the people who depend on DayStar.

After the meal of soup and bread, everyone participated in a family game with students from Saint Leo University. The game featured questions about the meaning of Lent and our readiness as Christians for Easter.



equity” into building their houses and the houses of others. Hundreds of volunteers come from all over the country to help. Most of the workers on this day have been here in past years and look forward like others to **Sister Donna’s** home-made bread.

January 28 - **Sister Pauline** celebrated her 97th birthday. She is pictured here with **Rozanne Ritter** and **Barbara Molloy** with some of the dresses Sister and Barbara made as part of the “Girls Around the World” project. Rozanne introduced the program to the Sisters and Sister Pauline jumped right on board. The dresses are made out of pillow cases for little girls in Haiti. Rozanne will deliver them to an orphanage there in June. “The pattern is really



14-18th and produced this touching *Sorrowful Mother*. If you are interested in purchasing one of Sister’s pieces, contact her at (352) 588-8320.

February 18 - Sister Helen and volunteer, Barbara Molloy attended the 100th Year Anniversary of the Tampa Union Station. Greeters at



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, social and emotional hungers of the People of God.



Alum Profile – Sheila M. McDevitt

She walks into a room and you are immediately struck with the sense that this is a woman of substance, energy and focus. In fact, upon an initial meeting, one might easily be intimidated. A 1960 graduate of Holy Name Academy’s 8th grade, **Sheila McDevitt’s** memories of those days center on always being the youngest. She entered as a boarding student at the age of five, having lost her mother the year before. Sheila’s father thought living with and being taught by the Sisters was the best option for his daughter. During Sheila’s sixth-grade Christmas break, the academy had to downsize to high school students only. Given her family situation, the Sisters made special accommodations for young Sheila to stay.

“It was a difficult time for me because there were no children my age,” says Sheila. There is vulnerability in this accomplished woman that emerges as she talks about this time in her life. “I was homesick and surrounded by older girls with whom I had nothing in common. Looking back I was probably a handful. But what I have always remembered was **Sister Therese** who taught me how to do for myself. The Sisters made it clear that I could do whatever I put my mind to...being a girl should not hold anyone of us back. I doubt if I would be where I am today, had that not been my early experience.”

Even a quick glance at Sheila’s resume makes it clear that this gal didn’t let anything hold her back. Sheila obtained a law degree from Florida State and Leadership in Professional Service Firms Certificate from Harvard Business School. She worked for TECO Energy, an S&P 500 company and one of Tampa’s largest

Happy Notes from the Vocation Office



The Benedictine Sisters of Florida are music lovers. We are fortunate to have many musicians and singers at Holy Name Monastery. It is something we work at diligently as we know that music raises the spirit.

Very special happy sounds from the Vocation Office are due to the fact that this past December and January, we received two new affiliates who are seriously discerning joining the Benedictine Sisters. **Jennifer Hofer** is from Valrico, FL and teaches American History at Hillsborough Community College and **Nixie Marrero** is a Nurse Assistant from Brandon, FL.

Retreats, vocation presentations, spiritual direction, FOCUS 11 and other programs are instruments to send out love notes from God inviting others to dance and move to our Benedictine music. Recently Sister Mary David gave vocation presentations to teens from Orlando, Tampa and Apopka on retreat at the Abbey. Along with Sister Dianne Wansley, she spoke at the University of Florida’s Newman Center in Gainesville. Opportunities for Saint Leo University students to obtain spiritual direction are an ongoing endeavor. Sister Elizabeth accompanied Sister Mary David to **FOCUS 11**, the diocesan vocation event where they spent two days with over 900 eleven year old children.

employers, for over 26 years. Sheila recently retired from TECO, the last eight and one-half years as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Sheila’s accomplishments, leadership, national, state and local board volunteer services are extraordinary and too numerous to list in their entirety here. The following are just some of her honors: Florida Board of Governors State University System, Chair; induction into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame; Distinguished Alum of Florida State University College of Law; 2002 Corporate Counsel of the Year, Hillsborough County Bar Association; selected for the very prestigious 20-member DirectWomen Class of 2008 to the DirectWomen Board Institute; and Outstanding Contribution Award for Pioneering in Business Ethics, University of Tampa.

Currently, Sheila is president of her own consulting firm advising corporations and law firms on governmental issues and senior executives facing new challenges and opportunities. She is associated with Akerman Senterfitt as counselor in the Corporate and Public Policy Practice group. Sheila is past Chair and a current Saint Leo University Board member and recently donated one of the new business school’s conference rooms in honor of the Benedictine Sisters.

Alumnae News

REUNION 2012!

Be with us November 2 – 4th for the Reunion of the 1952, 1957 and 1962 Classes of Holy Name Academy and Saint Leo Prep. Plan to have lunch with the Sisters at the monastery on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

Alum Reunion 2011

Sisters Roberta, Mildred, Donna and Faith Pridmore, Mission Advancement Director, attended the Holy Name Academy and Saint Leo Prep School reunion dinner on the Saint Leo campus October 28, 2011. The Sisters also attended the luncheon the next day.



Sisters and some of the alumni who attended the 2011 Alum Reunion.



Holy Name Monastery

PO Box 2450

St. Leo, FL 33574-2450

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit 1

Editorial Team

Editors: Sister Roberta Bailey, *Prioress*
Faith Pridmore, CFRE,
Director of Mission Advancement
Writers: Benedictine Sisters
Design and Layout: Susan Garrison

Inspired by What Inspires

A Mass of Thanksgiving for 50 Years of Monastic Profession



March 17th was a glorious day both outside and within the walls of Holy Name Monastery as the community celebrated the **50th Jubilee of Sister Miriam Cosgrove, OSB**. The Mass began with a procession led by Sister Donna DeWitt, the Paschal Candle Bearer, into the chapel and Sister Miriam's placement of her lighted candle, a sign of her offering of herself to God.

Father David Steinwachs from Saint Leo Abbey was the

Mass celebrant. During the Rite of Renewal, Sister Miriam was obviously moved as she read her *Renewal of Profession* and sang with the community, the "*Suscipe*" which she first sang 50 years ago at her perpetual profession. The reflection given by Sister Roberta brought laughter, tears and cherished memories. The Mass concluded with joyful voices in song and the Blessing for the Jubilarian that "the Spirit of God bless our Sister, give her unwavering



faith to continue her journey sharing life and love in imitation of Mary our Mother."

Jubilee attendees included the community, Sister Miriam's sister, **Marge Cantu** from Michigan, and friends from near and far. A

special surprise included **Sister Patricia Anne Driscoll, OSB** from Bristow, Virginia, who had been a classmate with Sister Miriam in the Florida Benedictine Community.

Dinner and fellowship followed in the monastery dining room lovingly decorated in green and yellow. Sister Miriam said she was "flying throughout the day and for several days thereafter!" *All to the glory of God.*