



The Benedictine Tide

# Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

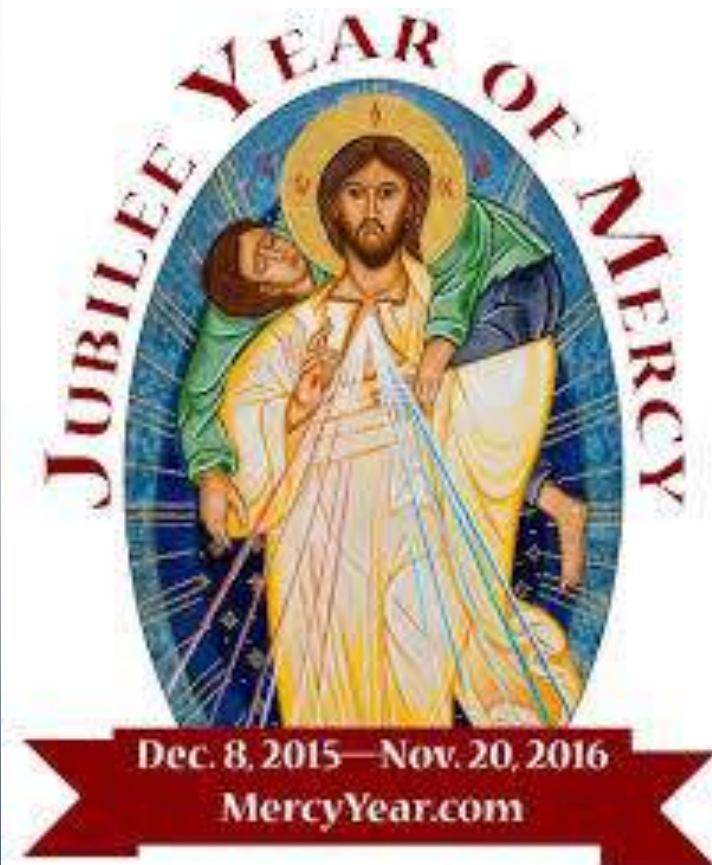
Spring 2016

## A Year of Mercy

**Pope Francis** has done it again – making history with a jubilee celebration that is having a worldwide impact. His official proclamation on Divine Mercy Sunday 2015 announced a Year of Mercy that extends from December 2015 to November 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King. The opening of the Door of Mercy in each diocese symbolically illustrates an extraordinary path to salvation during this time of jubilee.



**St. Faustina Kosalska** is credited for introducing devotion to **Jesus** in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with the title “Divine Mercy.” [In this issue of the Tide, on the next page, you will see the image of Christ that Faustina saw in her visions of Christ.] His right hand is raised in blessing and his left hand rests on his heart from which two rays of light flow. Jesus told Faustina, “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the prayer, *Jesus, I trust in you.*” She herself could not paint but eventually persuaded her spiritual director to find an artist to create the painting which is entitled ***The Divine Mercy.***



By now, as they tell you in the movie theaters, you probably know where the nearest Door of Mercy is – usually in the cathedral, the Bishop’s church in your diocese. Pope Francis’ opening of the Door of Mercy at **St. Peter’s** in Rome on December 8, 2015, was the first of four to be officially opened in and around Rome. A special path leads toward the Holy Door marking out the path for pilgrims to enter through the “Door of Mercy.” However, the door finds meaning only when the believer associates the door with Christ who has said: “I am the door.”

In January, our community gathered in chapel to give expression to a very special act of mercy. We received back into our ranks **S. (Mary) Jerome Leavy** after a 20-year separation. Sister currently resides at John Knox Village in Tampa where she is receiving therapy following a stroke.

Works of Mercy have always been a hallmark ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Since 1889 when they opened two schools the day after their

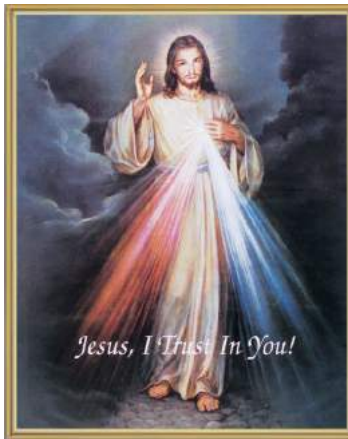
(Cont’d on Page 2)

## Year of Mercy (Con't)

(Cont' from Page 1)

arrival from Pennsylvania, we have provided services to the poor and to children wherever we had convents: Texas, Louisiana and throughout Florida. Our Sisters continue to provide aid to persons who turn to us in times of need. We currently operate a thrift store and food distribution center, provide private and small group retreats and spiritual direction. We host guests who find a sense of peace on overnight stays, join in our prayer life and who volunteer services in our aquaponics operation, the kitchen and reception duty.

During Lent, and into the Season of Easter (actually all year long) we figuratively, and literally want to beat a path to the Door which is Jesus Christ! In the words of Psalm 107, we pray that we may encounter God's mercy in our personal lives and share it with others. *We thank God for such great mercy, for the marvels done on our behalf.*



**Sister Roberta**

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the closing of Vatican II, Pope Francis called us to celebrate a Year of Mercy. As the Council called for renewal in the Church, Pope Francis proclaims that Mercy is the key to the Church's continuing renewal in this "new phase of her history."

March 13, 2016 Pope Francis celebrated three years since his election. He has been a teacher of Mercy daily for us all. He truly "walks the talk" showing us mercy in action—Mercy is the fact of God as he says, "Jesus is the face of Mercy." When we contemplate the face of Mercy we see Compassion, Forgiveness, Acceptance, Encouragement, Openness, and Delight.

Then we can go and BE the face of Mercy to others—most especially the poor and those on the fringes of society. If we want to know how and BE more like our Merciful God, we need to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

We Benedictine Sisters have been practicing the works of mercy through our Ministries:

Feed the Hungry—is what our Corporate Commitment is

all about: responding with the compassion of Christ to the physical, spiritual, social and emotional Hungers of the people of God. Our recent Lenten Soup Supper fed all those hungers. The collection to help support Daystar Hope clothes the naked and comforts the afflicted.

Welcome the Stranger—is our Benedictine value of Hospitality experienced by all our guests and visitors.

Counsel the Doubtful—is how we show compassion to others through spiritual direction, the offering of retreats, days of reflection and our program for Oblates.

Pray for the Living and the Dead—once prayer intentions are asked of us, they are remembered daily.

Instruct the Ignorant—is what brought us to San Antonio over 125 years ago. Our teaching is more than subject matter...it is about faith/life - using words when necessary and sometimes in a classroom.

Admonish the Sinner—through our work for Peace and Justice, we lobby so that legislators can truly represent us and work for the common good.

Forgive and Be Patient—is part of how we strive to grow more like our God of Mercy.

**Sister Mary David**

Having had the privilege of working with her when living in my native India, **Mother Theresa** is The Angel of Mercy for me. Pope Francis when announcing the Year of Mercy, extended "prayer to the saints and the blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life." How very appropriate that this blessed woman's canonization will take place on September 4th of this Jubilee Year of Mercy.



It was on September 10, 1946 during a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat that Mother Teresa received "her inspiration, her call within a call." On that day, in a way she would never explain, Jesus' thirst for love and for souls took hold of her heart. He asked her to establish a religious community, *Missionaries of Charity*, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor.

As they say, the rest is history. Mother Teresa's legacy is profound given that her life was exquisitely beautiful and simple. The love she gave was unconditional, always striving to bring God's mercy and love to everyone with whom she met. In her own words, "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

**Sister Elizabeth**

## From the Vocation Office

God is still issuing invitations for religious life to women.

**S. Mary David** distributes His invitation by sharing our informational brochure. Sister recently led a Reflection Day here, "Nurture Vocations and Hope for the Future."

Several Saint Leo University staff have made contact with Sister to put together a vocation event for young women in the area and also a *Girls Only Retreat Day*. They see how important Benedictine values are today and how they are missing in the life of our youth. These concerned individuals see selfish individualism instead of respect, community, common good and stewardship. They see violence and fear instead of peace, compassion and mercy. Youth desperately need to experience silence, reflection and prayer in this noisy, rushed world.

Because vocation seeds need time to grow and mature, we were present at the St. Petersburg Diocese's FOCUS 11 Vocation Day. There were 450 energetic eleven year olds! Then we attended the Orlando Diocese's FOCUS 11 for eleventh graders.



Sister Mary David meets with our three affiliates (those discerning a vocation) for one or more Saturday classes each month.

It was a pleasure to have the three women who attended *Time for Seekers* days during Holy Week...sharing in Community, Prayer and the celebration of the Triduum.

Please keep praying for Vocations and tell any interested women about the Benedictine Sisters of Florida!

### Helping Others through Sustainable Farming

We officially became an aquaponics demonstration site on January 4, 2016! Training is being held at our very own HNM to benefit all attendees doing sustainable farming. In class were missionaries from Venezuela who operate an orphanage and will begin a system there through the expert aid of **Mr. Phil Reasons** and **Christian Geissler**.



## Next Oblate Sunday

Our Oblates are part of our family and are remembered in prayer daily. We love and care about how they are—a mutual feeling they tell us too! Oblates are lay women and men affiliated with a Monastery and hungry for a supportive community and for growth in the spiritual life.

Looking for a place to share your faith and learn more? Join us **Sunday, April 24th** for our next meeting as we continue our study of **Joan Chittister's** *Illuminated Life*. Topics will include *Vision* and *Zeal*. Please RSVP by the Wednesday before to (352) 588-8320 or [vocation@saintleo.edu](mailto:vocation@saintleo.edu).

## News Briefs

**Jan. 19 and Feb. 2- Food Angels** brought lunch for the 38 volunteers at a Dade City Habitat for Humanity site. Even though only 44 degrees on January 19, work went on!

**Jan. 24-** Oblate Sunday had 26 in attendance and all were delighted to welcome **Ruth Ann Eaton** as an Oblate.

**Jan. 28- S. Michelle Sinkhorn** from Ferdinand, Indiana conducted a training for "Wisdom Connections: Timeless Tradition/ Technological Times."

**Feb. 3- S. Roberta** sang with SLU's FACTS choir "Focus the Nation." The program was on environmental and social justice in the university's School of Business.

**Feb. 5-Volunteer Barbara Molloy and S. Mary David** saw a live performance by **Fr. James Morris** entitled "The Gospel of Mark." You can view some clips of this one-man compelling dramatization at [www.gospelofmark.us](http://www.gospelofmark.us). The performance could be coming to a town near you.

**Feb. 15- Deputy Alan Wilkett**, a member of the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force, gave us a presentation about this tragic issue in Pasco and how we can all help.

**Feb. 15-16- S. Mary David** gave a two-day mission entitled "Lenten Journey in the Year of Mercy" to a group of over 50 parishioners from St. Rita's.

**Feb. 19-** The Stations of the Cross were said at the Chapel and every Friday evening during Lent.

**Feb. 28-** Oblate Sunday celebrated Holy Name's founding 127 years ago on this date. The Oblates viewed a video by nature photographer Carlton Ward that recounts his journey along Florida's waterways.

**March 8-** The annual Soup Supper we host raises awareness of hunger. Alms and food items were also collected for DayStar Hope Food Bank. **S. Jean Abbott** runs the center and some of the Sisters volunteer.



# The Future Is Now ~ a \$1 Million Gift!

People were brought to their feet at our **Hoedown Friday Night** on March 4th in enthusiastic cheering and applause with the presentation from **John Picciano** of a **\$One Million dollar gift** to the campaign. As reported in the December 2015 Tide, John pledged to match gifts to **The Future Is Now Campaign** dollar-for-dollar up to \$750,000. Many of you responded for which we are profoundly grateful. Being the “go-getter” that he is, John wants to see the building of the new wing get started as soon as possible so he decided to go ahead and donate this incredible gift. So instead of giving us \$750,000—he has donated \$1,000,000!

It is not easy to find words of thanks for such a kind and generous soul, but **Sister Roberta** in accepting the check on behalf of the entire Community, touched us all with her remarks:



*“During his visit to the U.S. Pope Francis called our attention to Thomas Merton who on one occasion sent a donation to Catherine de Hueck Doherty for her charitable work with the poor in Harlem. I can think of no better words to express our gratitude to you than what Catherine wrote in her thank you to Merton:*

*‘I got the check, and I will not thank you for it: I will thank God that He made you see things in their right proportion. That check will be a great thing for you. It will reach God’s hands and repose there for eternity. Someday, you and He will face each other and He will open that hand. Perhaps, at that moment, it will seem blank to you, and the check will flutter to your feet and you will hear God say: Thank You – and then you will know what Bliss is.’”*



## Making Room at the “Inn”

For those who may not know, we are building an additional wing onto Holy Name Monastery. The wing was part of the original plans, but thought to be a need in five or six years. Since moving into our new home, we have had more requests than anticipated from women wanting a live-in experience with us and from large groups desiring more than a day retreat.

These are two wonderful challenges to embrace in fulfilling our mission...*All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.* The Rule of St. Benedict

### Campaign Goal—\$1,526,000

Raised as of April 1, 2016	\$1,329,551
Amount Pledged:	\$ 7,670
Amount to Raise:	\$ 188,779

All the funds need to be raised or pledged **BEFORE** we break ground. Construction of the wing will take about nine months.



Give Day ~ May 3, 2016 ~  
Midnight to Midnight!

**Give Day** is the perfect time for you to be a part of bringing us to the campaign goal. Hosted by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, the 24 hour challenge is designed to encourage community support and further educate people about philanthropy. During **the 24 hours**, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida will have the opportunity to raise funds for our **Future Is Now Campaign**, and with your participation, we can **win bonus prize money!**

Last year our Give Day hope was to raise \$10,000 and because of YOU, we raised \$9,765. Thanks to everyone who participated. This year, we hope to raise \$12,000 that will be part of the *Future Is Now Campaign*. You can help us get there with your donation and by being strategic in your giving. There are times and other very specific strategies when donating outlined in the **prize pool**. A few examples: *\$5,000 for the donation received closest to 8:06 pm EST; \$2,500 for most donations during the hour of 6 to 7 pm EST. See the entire list now of bonus prizes on the foundation's web-site: [www.giveday.org](http://www.giveday.org)!*

However, It is **ONLY** on May 3rd that donors can log onto the Give Day website and make a donation. You'll love, as we do, watching the Leader Board to see how we are doing. Go to Page 7 of this Tide to see the **“how to.”**

## Heartfelt Thanks to our Donors Future Is Now Campaign

You Continue to Bless Us and Those We Serve  
(The following are donors to the campaign  
as of April 1, 2016)

### INSIGHT

\$100,000—\$1 Million

Robert M. Cohen  
Oglethorpe, Incorp.  
John Picciano

### TRUST

\$50,000-\$99,999

### DEVOTION

\$25,000-\$49,000

Marti Huizenga '61

### VISION

\$10,000-\$24,999

Joseph and Rose  
Herrmann Charitable  
Foundation

### RESPECT

\$500-\$9,999

Michael Avadikian  
Rochelle K. Ayala  
Susan E. Barreto  
Mark and Tammy  
Barthle  
Patricia Becker  
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
Dr. Stephen and Joyce Butler  
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Frank and Phyllis Mezzanini  
Barbara Molloy



Our Donors  
Are  
Outstanding!

## *Future Is Now Donors (Con't.)*

### **RESPECT**

**\$500-\$9,999**

Ryan and Kaley Pridmore  
Saint Leo University  
John and Barbara Sinnott  
Robert C. Van Allen

### **PEACE**

**\$25-\$499**

Tracey Lynne Adams  
Jeffrey and Nadine Anderson  
Tyson and Kelly Anderson  
Anonymous  
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Stella Barthle '50  
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Mary T. Boynton  
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James Triggs  
Jack and Patricia Ubbink  
Jack and Jeanie Vogel  
Carol G. Walker  
Thomas and Jean Weightman

### **Please Remember in Your Prayers ~**

**Carlos Salcedo**, Dec. 2, 2015 - husband of  
Oblate Iris Salcedo

**Maria Jacob**, Dec. 20, 2015, sibling of  
Sister Elizabeth Mathai

**Clayton Steinwachs**, Jan. 1, 2016, father of  
Fr. David Steinwachs

**Mark Smith**, March 25, 2016, son of Jim and  
Grace ('63) Smith.



## Hoedown Friday Night!

If you want a sure-fire way to get people up and danc'in at a Hoedown, just have someone give you a Million Dollars!

That great news, square dancers and talented singers all made for a fun night!

Many thanks to our event chair, **Janet Collura** and all those who came to the event. We could not do it without our kind sponsors. You can help us thank them by frequenting their businesses: **Oglethorpe, Inc.; Saint Leo University; Lynch, & Gregg; Jarrett Ford Dade City; Creative Contractors, Inc.; Merrill Lynch—The Avadian Nash Group; Premier Title Co. and Hodges Family Funeral Home.**



Individual Sponsorships came from **Dr. Stephen and Joyce Butler, Janet Collura, Frank and Kim Corradini, William Gregg and Jack and Jeanie Vogel.**

### To Do for Give Day: (Con't from Page 5)

1. **Mark May 3rd** on your calendar
2. Log onto [www.giveday.org](http://www.giveday.org) starting at midnight on May 3rd
3. **Search for our name** on the site; **Click on the link** to our special page
4. **Make a Donation!** The minimum is only \$25.
5. **SPREAD THE WORD!!** Tell all your family and friends why you believe in our mission and why they should give on May 3rd.

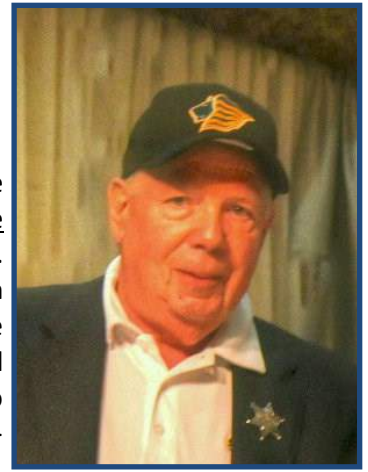
**Questions?** Call Faith Pridmore at (352) 588-8443 or email: [hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu](mailto:hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu)

## Why Do People Give?

A study about why people give back is chronicled in The Seven Faces of Philanthropy.

**Russ A. Prince and Karen Maru File** found that there are seven personalities and motivators of those who choose to be philanthropic—*Communitarian, Dynast,*

*Repayer, Socialite, Investor, Altruist and the Devout.* Of course, many givers are motivated by a combination of these types.



It doesn't take a long conversation for one to understand **John Picciano's** philanthropic motivations ...he is clear about why he gives. John was born in Brooklyn, NY to **Florence and Daniel Picciano.** In 1965 at the young age of seventeen, a shy and reticent John came to Saint Leo.

"The Sisters and the monks were closely interrelated in those days with the students at Saint Leo College," explains John. He feels the Sisters' work and prayer ethic profoundly influenced his life.

**S. Mary Grace Riddles** was John's English teacher whom he credits with making him believe God gave him a very fine mind. "That unconditional acceptance and support in my academic endeavors led to my entering the priesthood and later to a successful business career. Without question, it was the Sisters who turned my life around. The self-doubt upon entering college as a young man was eradicated with the acceptance and praise given me by the Sisters."

John is CEO of Oglethorpe, a corporate health care multi-hospital system dedicated to substance abuse care and counseling. He believes with **Pope Francis'** humanizing of the Church, the role of the Sisters is vital in connecting with that mission. "No one does it better than the Benedictine Sisters in helping people reach acceptance, forgiveness, compassion and connection to God." We think John is a *Repayer, a Devout and a Communitarian!*

### Looking for a Mother's Day (May 8) Gift?

Check-out **Smile.amazon.com**

Amazon donates a percentage of all purchases made on this site... another way you can help!



*Holy Name Monastery*  
 PO Box 2450  
 St. Leo, FL 33574-2450

**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.

**Editorial Team**

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

*Reflection on Laudato Si*

We can't—we won't care for the earth if we don't learn to care for each other—all people. Today there is too much violence and greed. People have forgotten God and the sacredness of life. Religion and family are not central so people don't live in harmony, sacrifice for the common good or treat others well and fairly.

That is one reason that Benedictine communities are so important. Today we are living proof that people can live together in peace. Community is the sign we give to show others that living simply and sharing is both possible and desirable. Our hospitality and other ministries give encouragement to believe in and LIVE the Gospel so all others might know justice and peace.

~ S. Mary David Hydro, OSB

**All are Welcome for Mass and Prayer  
 Chapel at Holy Name Monastery**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

Morning Praise and Eucharist 6:30 am  
 Midday Prayer 11:45 am  
 Evening Praise 5:30 pm

**Saturday**

7:30 am  
 11:45 am  
 5:15 pm

**Wednesday**

Morning Praise 6:30 am  
 Midday Prayer 11:45 am  
 Evening Praise and Eucharist 5:30 pm

**Sunday**

Morning Praise and Eucharist  
 is at 10:30 am  
 Evening Praise 5:15 pm

**Upcoming Calendar**

May 8 Solemnity of the Ascension  
 Mother's Day; Sisters serve  
 Meal at "Love One Another"  
 May 15 Solemnity of Pentecost  
 May 20-21 Election Weekend at HNM  
 May 22 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
 May 29 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body  
 and Blood of Christ  
 June 9-14 Sisters' Annual Retreat  
 June 25 Outing with St. Mark's Columbiettes  
 July 11 Summer Feast of St. Benedict  
 July 29-31 Community Days-Summer Meetings

First Sundays—Recollection Day with Holy Hour