



The Benedictine Tide

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

Spring 2014
Volume 14, No. 1

RECALL Celebrate Embrace

RECALL THE PAST • CELEBRATE THE PRESENT • EMBRACE THE FUTURE



RECALL



Embrace

The faithful and often to a greater degree the non-faithful, have relied on religious monastic women to read the signs of the times, trust in God's guidance and providence and be led by the Lord's spirit. This has been true in the past, is true today and will be true well into the future for the lives touched by the Benedictine Sisters of Florida through Prayer and Service.

February 28, 2014 marked the 125th Anniversary of the Sisters. Following the Rule of Saint Benedict which is based on the teachings of Jesus, the Sisters have and continue to have a profound impact on humankind as centers of prayer, education, stability, hospitality and conversion of life.



Celebrate

A Hallmark Year



It was February 28, 1889, when our Benedictine foundresses arrived in San Antonio, Florida. **Mother Dolores Scanlan, Sisters Boniface Feldmann, Josephine Feldung, Agatha Giesler and Sister Agnes Behe** traveled from Allegheny City, Elk County, Pennsylvania at the request of the pastor and people of east Pasco County who were in need of educators for their children.

This past February 28, 2014, marked the 125th Anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Friends, family, supporters and benefactors celebrate with the Sisters as we **Recall the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future**. The Spring *Tide* 2014 newsletter focuses on some of the institution's history with some recollections about life in the current monastery as well as the first one. The next two *Tide* newsletters, Summer and Winter 2014, will address the present and the future.

RECALL the Past

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida look to their present and their future through the prism of their past. Their history and monastic life have been purposefully woven by the fabric of Saint Benedict's writings and direction. The life for Benedictines, religious and lay, is grounded in the Word of God and the values of Community, Prayer, Hospitality, Good Works, Stewardship, Peace and Justice. The Sisters' primary legacy has always been centered on prayer for friends, alums, individuals upon request, each other, their local community and the world at large.

The annals record: "On March 1st the great work (of education) began." Within a short time the Sisters began to staff the school in St. Joseph, Florida and opened Holy

Name Academy, a boarding school for girls that would become nationally known. Eventually they operated St. Benedict's Preparatory School for boys, and in 1970 the first accredited Montessori School in Florida. They also staffed schools in Texas, Louisiana, and throughout Florida.



As the years passed and other needs of the people of God became apparent, the Sisters have responded with the compassion of Christ. Ministries then and now include feeding the poor, guiding seekers, providing hospitality for retreatants, serving on non-profit boards such as Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, Sunrise Spouse Abuse Prevention Center. As volunteers, some of the Sisters help at DayStar Hope Center, Hospice and in the local Guardian ad Litem program.

In addition to the countless parents, students and children of students who received superlative educations, there have also been many others who have experienced the essence of Benedictine values at Holy Name. The stories you have shared, your thoughtfulness in staying in touch and the spirit of your generosity are blessings.

The Sisters have many memories of living in the original hotel/convent and the current building. We thought you would enjoy some recollections of days now past. More of such recollections appear in "The First 100 Years" that has been published in past *Tide* newsletters along with the latest "Chapter" in this *Tide*. You can get "caught-up" with previous *Tide* newsletters on the web-site: www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

Sisters' Recollections

Yesterdays, Today and Tomorrows

Blooming now and every spring in my garden is a fragrant bush with both blue and white blossoms called *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. The mother plant resides at my former work site Pasco Elementary School and its photo was put on their Facebook this week in all its lovely glory.



The brief nine months I lived in the first Holy Name Convent, as it was called then, was many yesterdays ago. As a young girl of 18 recently moved from Detroit, the event I recall vividly when living in that frame building, was controlling the fear we all felt as a hurricane passed over our rattling roof and creaking wooden boards. What relief when the calm returned and I could go to the back porch and watch the tall camphor tree leaves gently sway as if the Spirit had returned again. Half a year later, the wrecking equipment that destroyed the condemned building probably had an easier task due to Mother Nature's preparation.

I've had many more yesterdays in the current building, some sad and many happy. As I celebrate the present moment living in gratitude for 54 years of yesterdays, I ask the Lord to let the community bloom and thrive into tomorrow so that all our yesterdays, today's and tomorrows will glorify our loving Creator.

– Sister Miriam Cosgrove, OSB

Healing through Change

A month after my dear Mother's death in January of 2006, I had an experience that profoundly changed my thinking about the passing of a loved one. Let me first say that my Mom and Dad, **Frances** and **Michael Hydro** absolutely loved my Sisters in Christ at Holy Name. They would visit the Monastery even if I was not here! They hosted several Sisters at their North Carolina home on vacation. My Mom was also very dear to the Sisters, so it seemed fitting that the night before the Memorial Mass in our Chapel, I would invite everyone to gather and share stories of her.



Sr. Mary David with her mom

S. Donna and I entered the Community together and came to be very close. My Mom often referred to Sister

as her "third daughter." Many lessons learned from Mom were shared, especially how we had been pen pals for years regarding happenings, prayer intentions and funny stories. She was a woman of God who loved life and passed her joy on to others. Even in those last days, she never complained and would manage to always have a cute quip for everyone. In our last phone conversation, she shared that she was very proud of me and that she loved the Sisters she had come to know through me.

That evening of sharing with my Community of Sisters held no sadness for me – just healing. I found only gratitude for the relationship. What was profound for me was that the relationship did not end with her death, it just changed. I've shared this experience with a number of people who have "lost" parents and my prayer is that those of you reading my recollection will find it as healing as they have. The passing of our dear ones is truly a celebration of life and the wonderful memories we hold dear.

– Sister Mary David Hydro, OSB

"Nowhere Near Ready!"

The first three years of life at Holy Name Convent (1930-33) were in readiness for my monastic life and ministry in teaching. Then the big day came when we would be given our assignments. I can remember the excitement and nervousness, because in no way did I feel ready to teach.

The day that **Mother Rose Marie** gave me my first assignment is indelibly etched in my memory. She told me I would be sent "home" and my head went into a spin – home? why? What had I done wrong? Up to the dorm went I and cried and cried, desperately trying to determine what it was I had done to displease the Mother Superior. The other Novices tried to comfort me, but to no avail. Upon hearing my reaction, Mother Rose Marie came to my bed and assured me that what troubled me was not the case at all. She said, "I just need your help in Texas."

Really (I thought) you...the Mother Superior need "this little baby's" (how she often referred to me) help in Texas? What a turn-around in my good fortune. Then, upon being informed that I would travel to Texas with Mother Rose Marie, it was all I could do to contain myself.

This woman we novices called "Mother" was gracious and caring. She taught us to always remember who we are and what we represent. And yet, she gave us the gift of being confident in ourselves and not being afraid.

Continued on page 4

With the readiness provided, the *Rule of St. Benedict*, a guardian in Mother Rose Marie and the Benedictine monastic life, I flourished in the classroom. From the small town of St. Leo, I landed right where I was meant to be. Looking back, my Mother Superior probably knew that being with and caring for the little ones would be what I would most cherish. I still see their faces!

– *Sister Helen Lange, OSB*

Academy and then Home

St. Joe was a very small town just “up the road a piece” when my three sisters (**S. Mary Dorothy, Trudi LaBruzzo, and Lena Pearson**), and I graduated from the elementary school and started high school at Holy Name Academy. It wasn’t that this was a “mysterious” place, but it certainly held great wonder and was totally different from what we were used to.



The Convent, as it was called then, connected to the three-story classroom building by a lovely colonnade. Classes were held on the first floor, some boarders lived on the second and the third floor had an auditorium and library. There were no school bells, so you never knew when class would finish...in the warmer months near summer, the time went slowly. The teachers, nonetheless, kept us moving from class to class on time! Classes were small so senior graduations were held outdoors under the cover of the wide colonnade...memorable.

This was home for me. When I entered the community, it was in the original building. Postulants and Novices slept dormitory style. Each of us had a cubical with bed and night stand. The cubicles were separated with sheets hanging from poles. Later when I made Temporary Vows, luckily a cubical which led out to an outside porch was given to me. “Lights out” was early in those days...I confess there were a few nights I sat out there!

The current monastery was being built when many of us were out on mission teaching school. Summers would be spent in college course work to enhance our teaching

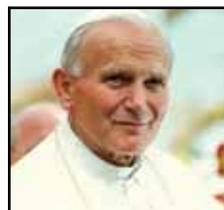
skills. When a few of us returned at the end of the 1960 summer, our current home was completely built. The Sisters and students had moved in from having lived in local families’ homes (the Convent had been condemned so there was a year of other “housing”). We arrived very late at night to blackness. Not only were there no street lights, but no hall lights. We had to “feel” our way to the room in which we had been told to sleep. The next morning in the light of day, the building looked so big and was it ever something to have just two in a room and the privacy of a sink. Life was good!

– *Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer, OSB*

A Thunderbolt

From the age of five, becoming a nun was my future. Though my family practiced our faith actively and I embraced it whole-heartedly, those “teen” years of the 1960s would pull me in other directions. Friends, dances, the beach, clothes – it was all part of me. And yet, nothing seemed to bring me satisfaction and peace. There was always some turmoil, unrest and questioning going on in my head.

In my mid-30’s, after surgery for a burst appendix, the doctors said it was a close call on the operating table. While in that hospital bed, thoughts were of my life and



why happiness was not mine. Watching television that very same day, coverage of **Pope John Paul II’s** visit to Miami came on the screen. His words and his face came to me as Jesus. And so began my search for what that little girl of five knew at such a young age.

There were visits to monasteries and convents as far as Massachusetts. Nothing seemed to be quite right. Then a dear friend, **Mari Moranda**, brought me to St. Leo. I was a Tampa girl, but had never heard of the college or the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.

Walking through the door of the Monastery, it hit me like a thunder bolt. There was an almost indescribable feeling that overcame me. **Sister de Chantal** met with us both. At that point because of her previous visits and interest, the Sisters were sure that Mari was going to enter. But that was not what came to be. God, through Mari, brought me to Holy Name and the peace and happiness for which I yearned.

– *Sister Nilla Cabrera, OSB*

All Kinds of Monastics!

Raccoons and screech owls and snakes, Oh My! One of my favorite memories of the house is of the “monastics” with wings or on four legs or even with no legs at all!

We shared our figs behind the house with a crowd of crows who uncannily knew exactly when the figs were

ripening. They would take the top figs and we would get the ones below. The crows really annoyed **S. Pauline**, so I gave her a water pistol at Christmas to use the next time the crows showed up.



There were also two juvenile raccoons who liked to spend the night in a tree out back. They used to drive **Viking**, our dog crazy. He would bark at them incessantly until poor **S. Jean** would finally

have to get out of bed and bring him into the basement for the night.

S. Cecilia was scared out of her wits by a black racer snake that was so long it looked like a garden hose. It had been attracted to the driveway standing water at the back side of the house. NOTE TO SNAKE LOATHERS: We haven't seen that snake for a very long time. Could be that **S. Cecilia** scared him as much as he scared her!

S. Pauline had her own encounter with a snake. She kept her basket of yarn in the sewing room on the second floor. Imagine her astonishment one day when she found a snake warmly curled up in the yard.

I was once told that fun-loving **S. Patricia Anne** announced to **S. Miriam** that she had a visitor who would come up on the elevator. Whoever it was, she could meet her guest there. As the door opened to an empty elevator, **S. Miriam** glanced down on the floor to see the biggest, most beautiful toad (as she explained) ever to be elevated to the rank of a "visiting guest."

I was startled on my way to bed one night to discover a "healthy" rat standing on the east stairway. We stared at each other for a moment in shock and then I hurried back down stairs to communicate the fact of our new visitor. When **John**, our "go to" maintenance man, checked the next morning, our "visitor" had gnawed a hole in the old door at the bottom of the stairs. The rat must have gotten bored and left (that happens sometimes in monasteries).

S. Germaine loved owls and their majestic beauty. When a pair of screech owls built a nest in a bush immediately next to the dining room, we were all overjoyed to watch the little ones grow and even learn to fly. I still think of **S. Germaine** whenever I see an owl.



There are many more stories of God's creatures visiting us here at Holy Name and without a doubt, I'm sure there will be more in our new home across the street!

— *Sister Eileen Dunbar, OSB*

Sister Mildred Gelis, OSB 70th Anniversary of Living Involved



Sister Mildred Gelis, OSB celebrated her 70th Anniversary of service to God and His people on Friday, April 4, 2014. The day began with a Mass in the morning celebrated by **Father David Steinwachs**

and then Vespers and dinner that evening.



The Benedictine Sisters and dear friends of **S. Mildred's** recalled her days teaching at Sacred Heart and her "wheels" to get to work and back.

In the cards and well wishes, a former student at the academy, **Mary**

Ann Crantz '63 said, "You have been an inspiration in my life for 57 or more years! **Mary Ann** went on to say how much she wanted to attend the anniversary. "I would have stood up in front of everyone and related how much you mean to me with all the adjectives pieced together to describe you."

Sister Mildred was very moved by everyone's kind words. She expresses heartfelt thanks for helping her to celebrate her 70th. "It just makes my eyes tear-up," said **S. Mildred**, "to think of the many friends I have made throughout the years. When they express their feelings that somehow I have made a mark on their lives, it makes you feel blessed, so very blessed. I pray that God will shower upon you many blessings and I look forward to our paths crossing many times in the coming year."

From the Oblate Office –

Our Oblates are part of the Sisters' family and are remembered in prayer daily at the Eucharist. As part of this 125th Anniversary Year, we are studying the History of Holy Name Monastery. The next meeting is May 25th and will be the final part of remembering and savoring the wisdom of those valiant women who went before us. Even if you haven't been able to attend each meeting, please join us and benefit from their wisdom.

We were delighted to have **Alva Anderson** transfer her oblation to Holy Name Monastery at a rite on January 26, 2014.

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

(Continued from Winter 2013 Tide) CHAPTER FIVE, PART 6 MISSIONARIES TO THE PARISH SCHOOLS

Mission transportation often proved as challenging to the sisters as identifying stored treasures. The nine sisters missioned in Sarasota in the early 60s were “blessed” with a station wagon to transport them daily to Mass and home to the Priory for Recollection Sunday each month. It was necessary that the Prioress remember to assign three young and agile sisters to this mission; they were required to climb the back of the car over the tail gate and to ride facing backwards. Those subject to episodes of car-sickness were not candidates for this missions”extra.” The daily ride to Mass was several blocks and the experience became routine after a few weeks. The sisters attended the earliest Mass on Sunday and thus the spectacle of three fully habited sisters hitching up skirt and scapular to climb

into the back of the wagon was witnessed by only a few holy souls. The two hour trip to the Priory once a month was another adventure altogether. The Lord was with the sisters, however, when this bit of novelty would have been disastrous.

On one occasion the “Sarasota” sisters were to travel to Lakeland for a school festival at Santa Fe High School in support of the mission sisters there. Just outside of Lakeland the highway was under construction. At the crest of a small hill the two eastbound lanes were merged to one and the traffic was forced, rather suddenly, to slow down. **S. Benedicta Begin**, who was driving, slowed but the car following did not react as swiftly and slammed into the back end of the sisters’ car. Fortunately rather than nine there were only six traveling and the back of the car was empty. No one was seriously hurt, but several were badly shaken. The flu had hit the convent at Sarasota just in time to prevent three sisters from being seriously injured. But it was not always thus.

One of our most traumatic memories as a community is of Easter Sunday 1968. “Everyone” had been home to the Priory for Holy Week; the new liturgy had been celebrated fully in the chapel. The sisters were returning by car to the various missions. The group having the longest journey, to Miami, had left in time to arrive before dark. As they were making their way south on the Florida Turnpike in the Ft. Pierce area, the car experienced a malfunction which later was diagnosed to have been some combination of a blown tire and locked brakes. **S. Matilda Ann Wilson**, who was driving, lost control and the car left the highway and hit a utility pole which effectively cut the pole into two halves. **S. Monica Storm**, the front seat passenger, saw what was happening and took a protective posture; she and **S. Matilda Ann** survived with injuries. **S. Christine Dalgaard** was killed instantly and **S. Leona Monroe** died of her injuries a few hours later. As the news spread by phone to the missions, the meaning of Easter was brought home in a new way. This was the first such automobile tragedy to hit the Priory community, but not the last. In October of that same year **S. Rosanna Matthiesen** died as the result of an early Sunday morning accident in the parking lot of Holy Family Church. These losses of beloved sisters did remind the community that the search for God leads in mysterious ways but always, if one is faithful, to the Goal.

Please note: there are just two chapters remaining in the Memories of the First 100 Years book. They can be accessed on the website: www.benedictinesistersoffl.org. The first chapter appears in the Fall 2010 Tide.

The Future is the Children

The Benedictine Sisters’ ministries are varied and broad in scope. You may be aware that one ministry close to our hearts is *A Present Gift for Future Promise*. This program is a partnership with Saint Leo University to assist Sisters from developing countries obtain higher education. These women qualify for a scholarship in the Masters level from Saint Leo and the Benedictine Sisters of Florida provide the housing and meals. With your support, we currently have **Sisters Petra Mkongwa** (see the Spring 2013 Tide for her story) and **Sister Justina Ekibenda** staying with us. It is a fulfilling and meaningful program because of the children’s lives they will influence, but also because we learn so much from each other.



S. Justina Ekibenda, FSSB is a Franciscan Sister of Saint Bernadette. She hails from Tanzania, East Africa where she grew-up with four sisters and four brothers. One brother is a priest currently in Illinois getting a Ph.D. in mathematics.

Sister Justina received her Bachelors at Olean University in Buffalo, New York in Journalism and was accepted with a scholarship in the Masters Educational Leadership program at Saint Leo University. “There are so many orphans and the lack of resources in the rural areas of my country are significant challenges,” relates Sister. “The education we receive in the United States will greatly benefit them...new understandings and ideas are what will propel them and our country forward into the future.”

In Loving Memory of Sister Pauline Block, O.S.B. *January 28, 1915 – November 14, 2013*



Our dear **Sister Pauline Block** slipped peacefully into her eternal rest on November 14, 2013. She came to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in 1930 from Olfen, Texas, the daughter of **Paul** and **Hattie Block**. Sister was one of six children, **Wilbert, Andrew** and **James**

Block, Gladys Gray and **Frances Kocich**. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Florida January 27, 1930 and made her perpetual monastic profession June 11, 1936.

Sister was one of the five cousins (**Srs. Helen, Irma, Rosaria, and Rosanna**) who came from Olfen. It was said that, "Things will never be the same at Holy Name after the Texans settle in." Each added spirit and vigor to the community which was still reeling through the Depression years.

S. Pauline possessed a special gift in reaching children. There was no doubt upon entering Sacred Heart College in Cullman, Alabama that elementary education would be her focus. Her training included a concentration in reading at the primary level. Most of her 58-year teaching career was devoted to the little ones in the Order's parochial schools in New Orleans, Slidell Louisiana, Ocala, Sarasota, Miami and in San Antonio. Sister was adamant about ensuring that every child she taught could read.

"She was tough," is the remark most given by returning students who visited through the years. They became successful lawyers, doctors and school principals who "never forgot their second grade teacher."

In addition to her joy in teaching, Sister Pauline prepared children for their first communion and taught cat-

echism at the Diocesan Summer Camp Good Council. A talent for sewing and crocheting helped raise funds from their sale in the gift shoppe. The past few years of her life were spent diligently sewing adorable dresses from pillow cases (part of the *Girls Around the World* project) for little girls in third-world countries.

There have been many Jubilee celebrations in honor of S. Pauline's 98 years of dedication to helping God's people. In celebrating her 70th Anniversary in 2002, **S. Roberta Bailey** gave the reflection which pondered the changes seen over those many years (Sister's 80th was celebrated in 2012): "the opening and withdrawing from schools, changes in attire, changes from Latin to English, all the changes after Vatican II, World Wars I and II and the societal changes that would rock the foundations of our world."

S. Pauline's very presence in the community was always of stability, faith, strength, endurance and steadfast love of God. She will long be remembered by her family, friends and Sisters in Christ.

The Vigil service for S. Pauline was held on Sunday, November 17 in the monastery chapel and the funeral Mass with **Celebrant Abbot Isaac Camacho, O.S.B.** was held Monday, November 18, 2013. Family members from Texas, local friends and former students were in attendance

Memorials may be made in Sister Pauline's honor for the New Holy Name Monastery Building Fund, P.O. Box 2450, St. Leo, Florida 33574-2450. For more information, call (352) 588-8320 or email: hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

From the Vocation Office –

An intention so often remembered in prayer and at Adoration on First Sundays is Vocations. God is still issuing religious life invitations to women. **S. Mary David** strives to help communicate His very special invitation. Please help her by passing the word at your parishes. She has brochures and other vocation information that we are happy to send throughout the country! Contact information is below.



FOCUS 11 is a program of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and the Diocese of Orlando that annually brings

sixth graders together for vocation exposure. There are typically 450 students in attendance. Volunteer **Dr. Rochelle Ayala** and S. Mary David spoke with a good many of them as the children visited their booth. A survey was collected from the students with comments such as, "*the Sisters are prayerful, hardworking and fun-loving;*" "*parents should encourage Church vocations;*" and "*there are fewer vocations because people don't know about religious life.*"

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida ask everyone to remember to sow and nurture vocation seeds with your prayers and maybe even the question – "Did you ever think of becoming a Sister?"

S. Mary David Hydro, OSB, (352) 588-8320
vocation@saintleo.edu.

RECALL Celebrate Embrace

RECALL THE PAST · CELEBRATE THE PRESENT · EMBRACE THE FUTURE

45,625 Days

February 28, 2014 marked the 125th Anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. A Gala Celebration hosted by members of the Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club included dinner, dancing, presentations, silent auction and raffles. A sell-out crowd of 220 community leaders, friends, family and supporters; lovely words at the podium from **Bishop Robert Lynch, Dr. Arthur Kirk, Jr.**, President of Saint Leo University and Chairperson **Gerri Jackson**; and warm fellowship combined to completely overwhelm the Sisters. It was a much appreciated affirmation of the sacrifices made and the gifts shared by the current Sisters and those who went before them.



A New Door

The Benedictine Sisters have a long and distinguished history of making history. The 125th Year represents another hallmark as the institution builds a new **Holy Name Monastery** on property the Sisters own across the street from the current massive monastery. "We are pleased," says **S. Roberta Bailey**, "that the sale of our current monastery and property to Saint Leo University will keep the property in the 'family' and continue to be used for ministries that uphold the same Benedictine values that we Sisters espouse. The tradition of prayer and service for God's people will continue to impact humankind as a center of education, stability, hospitality and conversion of life.

Join Our Journey!

In September 2013 a **Special Gifts Campaign** was launched. While the bulk of the construction funds comes from the sale of the current monastery, we are raising an additional **\$500,000** to ensure the completion of the project. Volunteers serving on the campaign, along with the Sisters' friends and family also want to be sure the Sisters do not have to dip into savings to complete the building. With God's guidance and the generosity of those who have made Major Gifts or Pledges in Phase I, the campaign is going very well.

Blessed with Not One, But Three Challenge Matches!

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida have been very fortunate to receive three Challenge Matches: the first was from an anonymous donor of

\$100,000 and the second was \$25,000 from Bishop Robert Lynch, the Diocese of Saint Petersburg. Thanks to our campaign volunteers and donors, we have now met and exceeded these two challenges!

Not only are we deeply moved by these challenges, but we learned of a third challenge match on April 21st. The donor of this most gracious gift also wishes to remain anonymous. The challenge is for \$100,000 and is also a one-to-one match which means:

- A gift of \$50 is really worth \$100
- A gift of \$500 is really worth \$1,000
- A gift of \$5,000 is really worth \$10,000

Together we will reach our \$500,000 Campaign Goal.

You are Invited! The campaign is now in Phases II and III when we invite and involve other supporters and the general public to join the journey. We pray that you consider a gift at an amount comfortable for you. All gifts will be helpful in our ability to raise \$100,000 and thus receive this \$100,000 match.

Please note that if you choose to make a pledge, it can be paid over a period of three years and does count towards the match.

The Sisters ask that you give generously from your heart to the campaign as the Sisters have given to you from their hearts through prayers and ministries over the past 125 years.

Make your gift today and it will be matched 1:1. For questions and further information, please contact

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Faith Pridmore at (352) 588-8443 or hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

We are eternally grateful for the time and gifts of our Special Gifts Campaign volunteers:

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Glen and Gail Greenfelder

Co-Chairs:

Janet Collura and Pat Thompson

Committee Members:

Tony Coleman, Gerri Jackson, Jean LeGrand, Barbara Molloy, Msgr. Frank Mouch, Yvonne Nelson, Ph.D., Beverly Roy, Carol Stanton, Ph.D., Holly Sokolowski, Ph.D., Jeanette Reilly '58 and the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.

The commitment of time, talent and treasure from our many friends and supporters, we are able to help those less fortunate live a better life; to pass on the belief that we serve God by serving others; and to continue a tradition of Benedictine values.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their generosity to our Special Gifts Campaign.

Devotion Gifts

\$25,000 – \$100,000

Anonymus - 2
Dr. Arthur and Beverly Kirk
Sheila McDevitt
Diocese of Saint Petersburg
Don Tapia

Vision Gifts

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Janet Rodriguez Collura
Joseph and Rose Herrmann Foundation
Allan and Marilyn Powers
Bernd Holly and Sophia Sokolowski
Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.
Zielinski Company

General Gifts

\$500 – \$9,999

Anonymus
Patricia Becker
Warren and Bernadette Broz
Francis and Anna Crociata
Monsignor George W. Cummings
Dr. Edward and Teresa Dadez
Shirley A. Duggleby

Gladys Gray
Louis and Ann ('52) Grieshop
Karen Humphreys
Jarrett Ford Lincoln Mercury
Knights of Columbus – Hudson
Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand
Jane Martinson
Dawn Miller
Joan and Robert Miller
Barbara Molloy
Monsignor Frank Mouch
Yvonne Nelson, Ph.D.
Leo Neuhofer
Marshall and Faith Pridmore
Donald and Beverly Roy
Herman and Monica Schrader
Patsy Shafchuk
Carol Stanton, Ph. D. '63
Margaret W. Stringer
Marion Tarallo
Sara Arline Thrash
Charles Waller, Esq.
Roberto and Silvia Zacarias

Peace Gifts

\$25 - \$499

Anonymous - 2
Joseph Barbara
Mary Lynn Beaumont
Dellie and Kiran Bevans
Andrew Block
Kevin and Cynthia Borland
Boyko and Griebel, PA
Barbara Brush
John and Trinity Campi
Raul Cantu
Columbiettes of St. Mark's Parish
Linda M. Defluiter
Maureen Dempsey
Janis S. Dooley
Ruth Dubuisson '60
Raymond and Leona Erazmus
Deacon Tom and Sandy Goldsworthy
William and Lois Gregg
Don and Eloisa Grimm
Frank and Norma Hammer
Elizabeth Hauer
Paul and Wanda Herrmann
Ruth Hill
Jonathan and Gerri Jackson
Mary Jones
Anne Kenny
Larry and Monica Keyes
Dr. William and Linda Kirk
Bernice L. Kobel
Frances Kocich
Arnold and Ernestine Lange
Dennis and Joan Lange
Wilma Jean Larney '58
Stanley Lutz
Gabriella Maertens
Bernice Matthiesen
Norbert and Billie Jean

Matthiesen
Leanne M. Milian
Guy and Ann Moore
James and Patricia Mulieri
Giacomo and Dawn Parisi
Malloy and Lena Pearson
Tom Piazza
Teresa Poot Gomez
Maureen Raub and Barbara Gilboy
Mary C. Redpath
Elaine Richard
Karen E. Robertson
John and Lynn Roth
Elizabeth Ryan
Iris and Carlos Salcedo
Philip and Marisa Secord
Laura Spurrell
S. Kathleen Stagnaro, OSF
Margaret Sullivan
John H. Swart
Mary Alice Wheeler
John and Carole Wiggins

In-Kind Gifts

Carl and Joyce ('60) Harig
David Hollister

For more detailed information about the campaign, visit our web-site at: www.benedictinesistersoffl.org. Included you can view our 4 minute video and the campaign brochure.

To view photos of the monastery construction progress visit <https://benedictinesistersmonastery.shutterstock.com>.

That in all things God may be glorified.

WISHING FOR:

The Benedictine Sisters have about ten (10) videos of historic significance (ceremonies, the centennial, etc.). VCRs are going out of vogue and will soon be obsolete like so many other electronic technologies.

We are asking for someone who has this capability to kindly donate their services so that this history is preserved. If you can help, please contact **Faith Pridmore (352) 588-8443** or email her at hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

November 28 – Our 18th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held at St. Anthony's Parish Center with almost 200 guests in attendance. Homecooked food by **Chef S. Donna** and special pies donated by *The Tootsies* put many smiles on those in attendance.



December 26-January 1 – *Time for Seekers Days* was an open invitation for guests to visit the monastery and share in prayer, meals and fellowship with the Sisters.

January 18 – **S. Miriam** and **Barbara Molloy** went to a Respect Life function at St. Timothy Church in Lutz.

January 21 – The Benedictine Sisters of Florida hosted the Dade City Chamber Breakfast at the Dade City Business Center. **Janet Collura** and **Pat Thompson** kindly



donated the fee and along with "*The Ladybugs*," made the breakfast too! **S. Roberta Bailey** gave a presentation and the event proved to be

an opportunity for the community to learn more about the Sisters and their ministries.

January 30 - February 5 – Sister Roberta was in Atchison, Kansas for the annual meeting of the Benedictine Prioresses.

February 10 – The Sisters celebrated Saint Scholastica Day.

February 14-18 – **Sister Dianne** participated in a week-long Icon Workshop held at Saint Leo University.

February 28 – The 125th Anniversary Year began with a Gala Celebration held at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club.

March 3-6 – **Sisters Mary Clare, Jean** and Roberta attended a LCWR workshop at Bethany Center.

March 7-9 – A Saint Leo University student and **S. Eileen** went to a grant-funded experience in St. Paul, Minnesota.

March 13 – The Lenten Soup Supper was held to benefit DayStar Hope Food Pantry. Guests were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or make a donation. There was close to \$1,500 in contributions. **S. Jean**, Executive Director of DayStar, thanks all who participated.

March 21 – St. Benedict's Day was celebrated by the

Sisters who attended Mass at Saint Leo Abbey and dinner with the monks.

March 26 – Sister Roberta and **Father David** attended a Commission for Religious Meeting in Clearwater.

From the Advancement Office –

There was an interesting article in the *New York Times* on March 30, 2014 entitled, *Why Fund-Raising is Fun*. Opinion writer, **Arthur C. Brooks** talked about what he discovered while researching donors and what psychologists have long known about them. We know that giving brings great joy to the donor. As Brooks learned, "Charitable giving improves 'self-efficacy,' one's belief that one is capable of handling a situation and bringing about a desired outcome."

Giving of our time and/or money makes us active as problem solvers and psychologists tell us that "problem solvers are happier than by-standers and victims of circumstance." For Brooks, the problem solver slant had not overtly been a part of his thinking. He takes it a step further and quaries that if charity raises well-being, "is there any obvious reason it would not also indirectly stimulate material prosperity as people improve their lives?" Brooks was astonished after his research and writing a book about philanthropy that he "hadn't intuitively understood this all along." Those of you who are way ahead of us in this regard, would further my education with your thoughts. Please let me hear from you by email at hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu. Read the entire article online at the *New York Times Sunday Review*, March 30, 2014, Pg. 12.

Give Day – Tuesday, May 6th

The Florida Next Foundation and the **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay** along with community foundations across the country have established a special day in their respective communities for giving. It is a 24-hour giving challenge to encourage community support and educate communities about philanthropy. On May 6, 2014 you can log on to www.givedaytampabay.org and make a donation to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida or another charity of your choice. By giving on that day, you also help us win bonus prize funding throughout the day.

What do I do? It's EASY, the Sisters will have a customized profile on the Give Day Tampa Bay website. No other nonprofit will have access to our donors as all data is linked to our unique profile on the site. You will only be able to make a donation on the site during the 24 hours of May 6th. Go online in the "wee hours" if you are awake because that will qualify the Benedictine Sisters of Florida for more bonus prizes during the rest of the day. Thank you!

Alum Profile – Carol Stanton, Ph.D.

“It is the name I have carried throughout my life – *Sister Mary Marmion of the Holy Spirit*,” says **Dr. Carol Stanton**, a 1963 Holy Name Academy graduate and for seven years a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. “I have always tried to stay in the wake of the Holy Spirit.”

Carol grew up in Lakeland, the oldest of 14 children. Her parents, **Dr. Jack** and **Carolyn Stanton** were Jesuit educated and valued Catholic education. Carol and her sister **Kathy** were “day hops,” traveling the 90-mile round trip to Holy Name Academy for high school. Though Carol was accepted at Marquette University, she felt pulled in another direction. “My father had already sent the housing deposit to Marquette. But I told Mom and Dad that if I didn’t try the convent then, I would never do it. They gave me their blessing. One day in August they and about seven of the kids drove me up to Holy Name where **S. Donna** and I were the only two postulants.”

The strong grounding in spirituality that Carol felt she was receiving from the Sisters and a desire to be active in the church led her in the Community’s direction. “The Rule of Saint Benedict resonated with me in its humanity and common sense. It is really all about living together via the gospel. To this day it strengthens me,” explains Carol.

“I treasure the years I spent at Holy Name. Along with spiritual grounding, I was exposed to excellent teachers and many leadership opportunities. As a Sister I was among the first to go to the new Sister Formation Program at Mt. St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kansas. Coming from the missionary south, I had never seen so many Sisters in one place in my life!” Armed with a degree in English Literature, Carol began teaching in 1967 at Blessed Trinity School in Ocala with **Srs. Rosaria** and **Immaculate** and again, in 1969, with **Srs. Jane** and **Mary David**.

During the mid-60’s, dramatic changes took place in society and within the Church. Vatican II had called the church to open out to the world. “It was a time of great positive energy at Holy Name and St. Leo. I recall **Pat Reilly** (formerly **Brother Francis** at the Abbey) getting all of us involved in social justice work with the migrants in Trilby and Lacoohie. I helped out in the children’s summer art program and we worked with the VISTA volun-



teers. For the first time ever the men of the Abbey and the women of Holy Name Monastery had a joint retreat. They were great years!”

It was also a time when many left the religious life. “A number of my friends had already left. When it came time to renew my vows for the two years before final vows, I had decided to renew for only 30 days and leave that summer. I stayed up all night praying and wrestling with the decision and early in the morning I went downstairs and changed my renewal to two years.” During those two years the possibilities for laity

serving within the church exploded. “I saw that the possibilities for a lay woman to live a life ‘of the Holy Spirit’ were boundless and I was committed to working in the church. But it was really hard to leave the Sisters. I went around to each of them to say goodbye, crying my eyes out.”

Carol finished an MA in Religious Education at St. Louis University and was hired as Director of Early Childhood and Family Religious Education in the newly formed Diocese of Orlando. After a time as a TV News reporter and anchor in Orlando and a run for U.S. Congress in 1984, Carol later returned to the Diocese as Director of Communication. In 1990 she moved to Ireland where she earned a Masters of Philosophy in Ecumenics and a PhD in Theology at Trinity College, Dublin. Most recently she was Director of the Lay Ministry Formation Program and San Pedro Retreat Center’s Marketing /Programming for the Diocese of Orlando.

Just retired, Carol and her husband **John Parrell** live in Orlando and devote their time to three grandbabies and Carol’s parents in New Smyrna Beach. John, a paralegal, volunteers at Hope Community Center in Apopka teaching English as a Second Language and Citizenship Preparation. Carol is a Free Lance Journalist and Workshop/Retreat Facilitator. Both are Benedictine Oblates.

“I tell everyone that those years as a Benedictine Sister, between the ages of 18 and 25, were my spiritual formation for life. I am grateful for the example of the many wonderful Sisters, past and present, in the Holy Name community. Today I am concentrating on using my time as meaningfully as possible. I continue to find grace in my religious name, ‘*of the Holy Spirit*.’ It is in that Spirit I hope to continue to contribute to my family, church and world; in that Spirit I see myself as a very real part of the legacy of the Benedictines Sisters in Florida.”



Holy Name Monastery

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CORPORATE COMMITMENT

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

Editorial Team

Editors: Sister Roberta Bailey, *Prioress*
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From the Hospitality Office –

Hospitality is a Benedictine value mentioned in the Rule of Saint Benedict, Chapter 53 – “Let all guests be received as Christ.” It is easy to remember old friends when we think of our Hospitality Ministry and recent retreat groups. Repeat retreatants recently include: the **3rd**



violence.”

Bob Burkhardt, organizer of AA Retreats, brought his group again this year April 11-13. If you are interested in future retreats with Bob contact him at: the-retreat-bob@junop.com.

One of Saint Leo University’s religion classes, “Service Learning/Servant Leadership” made their annual visit.

The Lenten Soup Supper is another of our Hospitality events. Held this year on March 13th, it focuses the attendees on the many hungers for faith, food, fellowship and hope.

Holy Name Monastery, the Sisters’ home is open to you. Whether for a day visit, a week-end or more, we welcome you. So many of our guests comment most especially on the peace they feel here as they take time away from the rush and noise of life. All are remembered in the Sisters’ prayers and we ask you to remember us in prayer as well.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Sundays	Family Activity Night
First Sundays –	Recollection Sunday
	4:30 p.m. Adoration and Holy Hour for vocations
Third Fridays –	Peace Compline
May 2	Employee Appreciation Luncheon
May 26	MEMORIAL DAY
June 5-10	Community and Oblate Retreat
June 10 p.m.	Annual Community Meeting
June 19-25	Federation Chapter Meeting in Atchison, KS, [Attended by prioress and delegates]