



The Benedictine Tide

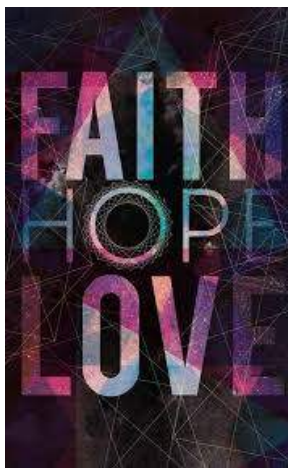
Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

Winter 2016

*At This Season of the Coming of Jesus
We Wish You God's
Faith, Hope and Love*





Stepping out in faith can take a variety of forms. Entering a marriage, entering a religious community, adopting a child even crossing the street! When we look back on what was at the time a daring act of faith, we recognize the act was forming us in faith, fostering our faith, making us a person of faith. Everyday little acts of faith help build our trust in God and our relationships with each other.

Years ago on a store sale display I saw an etched rock plaque that caught my fancy. It reminds me of how I've sometimes felt, especially after an experience of daring: "SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAP AND BUILD YOUR WINGS ON THE WAY DOWN." That daily reminder on my desk prompts thoughts of a teenage act of daring when I truly took a leap in faith and prayed I'd sprout wings on the way down.

When I was a whole lot younger, in my pre-convent days, on hot summer days, the neighborhood teenagers would enjoy spending a day at a favorite swimming hole. It was in the days when parents just reminded us to look out for each other. There was no life guard at the river, no concession stand – just lots of young people and God's guardian angels to keep us safe. The best, often competitive fun was the single rope hanging from a tall, tall branch of a majestic oak tree. The higher you could propel yourself swinging on the rope, the deeper you would plunge into the clear spring water below. Now you have to understand, I am still terrified of vast expanses of water, especially what I judge as deep water. If am in a boat, that's different but being tossed into unknown wetness, please NO. Psychologist might venture to say I had a traumatic birth experience that I was never told about. But at the swimming hole everyone was taking a turn swinging on the rope so I took my turn, too. Grab the rope, push off from the bank and swing out above the clear surface. You realize one had to let go of the rope at the pinnacle of the arc. If you did not let go, you could swing back and forth like a clock pendulum in humiliation to the jeering and catcalls of your supposed friends.

Then there was the glorious feeling of inner satisfaction as you rose to break the surface of the water. You'd made it! You did not drown after all! And each success built confidence as well as trust that

the by-standers would rescue you if one day you did not let go of the rope or failed to come back up. Faith is like that. It grows in small increments – each act of daring, builds your sense of trust. An unknown author describes the faith I know - "Faith is not without worry or care, but faith is fear that has said a prayer."

In this issue of the TIDE you will find touching stories and expressions of faith that will inspire you to say a prayer and then "take the leap, and build your wings."
S. Roberta Bailey

Our Oblates and Their Faith

The Oblate Program at Holy Name Monastery is an opportunity for Christian women and men to come together with the Sisters in prayer, learning, sharing and reflection. We enrich each other as all are travelers seeking our deeper selves in Faith. The following are comments about their faith journey:

I have been struck with the joyful humility of the Holy Name Oblate community and the power of the Holy Spirit service with each other...to learn together, to listen in the presence of God—how good God is.
Barbara Boucher

My faith has been strong and weak at different times of my life. But since I became an Oblate, my faith has transformed me and has become stronger one day at a time. Now the leap of faith is not only thoughts or beliefs, but actions and accountability. It has changed the meaning of practicing Catholic to a work in progress and process. Thank you Lord for St. Benedict, the Rule, and my sisters in Christ at Holy Name.
Beatriz Galvis

I relish fellowship with other pilgrim souls ardently seeking God and His unfathomable quest to draw us ever deeper into relationship with Him. The peaceful calm permeating the Sisters' monastery, their welcoming hospitality, joining in Sunday liturgy, sharing dinner, spiritual guidance, faith and thirsting for God with Oblate members, all contribute to the richness of living my Catholic, Christian faith.
Mary B. Maher

The Benedictine Sisters are witnesses of Christ by word and example and I want to emulate them. The Oblate meetings fill me with a sense of fellowship and have helped me be a better Christian. By providing an opportunity for spiritual growth, the Oblate Program has me reading the Bible and praying more.
Debbie Richardson

They say faith is “caught,” not “taught.” As I have shared the Sisters’ lives and them mine, I have observed in myself and in the Sisters, the organic nature of faith. It is planted, grows, may be injured or sickened at times, is healed with tender care and continues to mature. The value of committed community is immeasurable, as is the continued effort to love...in spite of other inclinations. **Iris Salcedo**

I became an Oblate because of the Benedictine Sisters. But one of the hidden blessings was the group of women who were Oblates. It is so refreshing to find people who love God and the Church; do so much good; laugh and have fun...and such honesty-good group to be with and learn from. **Jean Larney**

Being an Oblate has helped me grow in my faith through understanding of Scriptures—in particular the psalms. This deeper understanding along with learning how to pray and discern one’s life has become a daily natural part of my life. I’ve learned to become centered with Christ and to grow in virtue; to be patient and to take all things to Our Heavenly Father through prayer. **Anne Kenny**

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

I believe that God dwells in each of us and when I meet with my fellow Oblates this is so obvious. It is so wonderful to get together to experience that God concentricity through prayer and discussion. God gives us different talents and gifts, but Faith in God and His love truly unites us. **Karen Humphreys**

As an Oblate, I’ve come to believe the ever-present God speaks to my heart. All I have to do is listen. **Dr. Yvonne Nelson**

I have become more prayerful, more peaceful and loving by being a part of the HNM Oblates. Study and sharing with other Oblates and the Sisters has brought more balance in my life. **Beverly Roy**

Note: The next two Tide publications will be tailored to **Hope** and **Love** respectively.

From the Oblate Office ~

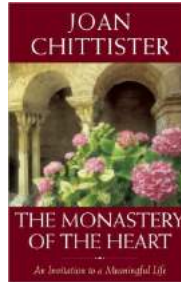
Faith is not things we are told as kids to believe like dogmas. We are meant to have adult Faith. Over the years we come to realize Faith is our relationship with God. It is to know God, not just about God. Faith can change the world into the Kingdom of Peace. For that to happen, we need Faith to live the Gospel.

We could all pray with the disciples, “*Lord increase our faith.*” Take time to nurture your relationship with

God. Affiliation with the Benedictine Sisters of Florida can help you. Our Oblate program helps develop a deeper relationship with God and Jesus. It helps us hear God’s voice and put our faith into action.

This past September **Debi Richardson** made her Oblation and we received two Oblate candidates, **Lourdes Milan and Donna Snyder**. **Mary Maher** is scheduled to become an Oblate candidate.

Congratulations Ladies!



Our Oblate program this year is based on **Sister Joan Chittister’s Monastery of the Heart**.

Nov. 27—“Mutuality and Nourishment”
Jan. 22—“Co-creation and Responsibility”
Mar. 26—“Stability”
May 28—“Humility and Peace”

We welcome Christian women and men. The sessions begin with Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours at 10:30 am in the Chapel; dinner with the Sisters follows at noon; with the meeting beginning at 1:00 and concluding at approx. 3:00 pm.



Please **RSVP** by the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting by calling or emailing:

(352) 588-8320 or email
mary.david.hydro@saintleo.edu

From the Vocation Office ~

Faith is a virtue needed by those desiring to enter religious life. It is a challenge to hear the word of God calling and then to act...even telling someone or making the first step takes faith. Women called to monastic life aren’t children needing to be told what to do. They are adults who “listen with the ear of the heart.” From the beginning they are persistent in growing in faith, their relationship with God/Jesus. As members of a Benedictine Community, they need self-awareness and self-knowledge so they can make the self-gift to God that continues to challenge and grow as each becomes her best self in Christ.

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida assist in this growth process by offering programs to inquiring women. Single Catholic women (20—50 something) are invited to take time to be in touch with self, with God, and to grow in Faith. **(Cont. on Page 4)**



Christmas Concert

Featuring

The Friendship Singers

(Returning after the huge success of their September Patriotic performance.)

Sunday, December 4, 2016

2:00 pm

Holy Name Monastery

12138 Wichers Rd, St. Leo, FL

Refreshments Served After the Concert

Free Will Donations Welcome

Reservations Not Required

Do Your Christmas Shopping Online?

Go to:

Smile.Amazon.com

Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchases to a charity of your choice.

You can benefit the

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

(a 501 (c) 3 charity)

Help the Sisters receive funds from

Vocations (Cont. from Page 3) ~

Nurture Vocation Days are held on a Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. We held several this year—July, August and October. Affiliates who have known us for a while and wish to discern seriously have regular classes and visits. They know living their Faith is easier when we do so together.

Please pray for vocations and if you know someone who might be interested, tell them about us or have them call to arrange a visit or a conversation. We are happy to be of service in the contemplation of one's spirituality where ever that may lead.

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Call us:(352) 588-8320

www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

Women on the Move

The theatre department at Saint Leo University did their research about the Benedictine Sisters of Florida! The original play of the Sisters' story, *Women on the Move*, was presented October 28th, 29th and 30th with a final performance on November 12th as part of the Reunion weekend for alums of Holy Name Academy and Saint Leo Prep.



SLU actresses left to right are: **Stormy Powers**, **Nadia Marshall**, **Amelia Evans**, **Jeanine Ramirez** and seated in front, **Kristin Vitagliano**, the Mother Superior.

The student production took place in the new Saint Leo University Black Box Theatre which was formerly the Holy Name Monastery chapel. Directed by **Alicia Cortes**, *Women on the Move* is the untold story of the Sisters. A story full of tears and laughter. A story with logs, photo-shoots, running, and fights in the cafeteria over sausages and chocolate chip cookies. A story of modernization. A story of a family brought together by the Lord Almighty. This is a story of the women who are overlooked for all they do. They are the *Women On the Move*.

"When I first had the idea to produce a show based on the lives of the Sisters, the motivation was simple: gratitude," explains Ms. Cortes. *"There hasn't been a theatre at Saint Leo for decades, and to have a new home means the world to the students and me. Our gratitude is also about having a community rich in history and faith. We celebrate our Saint Leo family and the Benedictine Sisters, and are honored to be a part of our collective story."*

(Cont. on Page 5)

Annual Dinner/Dance/Auction

The Blessings of Green



and a bit o' Shamrockin'!

Saturday, February 25, 2017

5:30 – 10 pm

Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club

Tickets Available Now

\$50/Person

Purchase Early and Save:

Only \$45/Person

Payment must be received in the
Advancement Office by February 1st

Cocktails

Dinner and Dancing

1 Drink Ticket

Contest—Most Creative Green Outfit



Irish Step Dancers!

Irish Dance Academy
of Sarasota, FL

For More Information or to
Purchase Tickets:
(352) 588-8443

Online Ticket Purchase:
www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

Or Mail Check Payable to:
Benedictine Sisters of Florida
PO Box 2450
St. Leo, FL 33574-2450

Live Auction Donations

We are looking for just a few exciting items for the Live Auction, Feb. 25, 2017. Ideas for “sought after items” to donate include:

- ♦ Fine jewelry
- ♦ Vacation cabin or condo for 4-7 nights
- ♦ Airline miles
- ♦ Balloon ride or other fun experience
- ♦ Cruise
- ♦ Catered dinner party

If you can donate or have a connection to obtain something like the above...or have another creative idea, please contact:

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

Women on the Move

(Cont. from Page 4)

“The play is truly a tribute to the current Benedictine Sisters and all those who went before us,” said S. Roberta Bailey, Prioress at Holy Name.



Narrator-Maggie Sroka

“It is a precious gift we will cherish. Preserving our stories is important as we want never to forget that the opportunities we have today were not simply lavished upon us. They were purchased at a great price, at travel from home; cold, cracked, work-worn knuckles; study by night with midnight oil; stomachs that ached with hunger. And of course keeping one step ahead of the students and what they were up to was always a priority!”

Pictured below: S. Rosaria (Kadyann Stupart) scolding mischievous students under her charge (played by Lois Martinez and Richard Ocampo).



Commemorative Bricks

An Enduring Reflection of Love

You can now honor a loved one, celebrate a special day, remember your departed loved one(s) or simply inscribe a message on a brick at Holy Name Monastery. The bricks will lead to and surround the statue of the Blessed Mother at the front of the property. Your gifts will help toward the maintenance and beauty of the monastery grounds and gardens which provide quiet contemplation for all our visitors.



The location along the walk and around the Blessed Mary statue has limited space.

Reserve your brick(s) today in honor, remembrance or celebration of those you love in this place of peace.

Each brick is 8" X 4" with up to 3 lines of text; maximum of 13 characters per line.

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Brick - \$100 Donation

A Donation of \$100 for each brick can be made by check or credit card:

- _____ Check (made payable to Benedictine Sisters of Florida and mailed to:
PO Box 2450, St. Leo, FL 33574)
- _____ Online via PayPal or credit card at our web-site: www.benedictinesistersoffl.org
- _____ We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express – To order by credit card, call us at (352) 588-8443



Bench - \$500 Donation

**There is also the opportunity for you to visibly honor, give thanks or celebrate a special occasion with a bench along the Prayer Path with a \$500 donation. Bench includes a plaque with your special message.

Fit your message for an engraved brick or a bench with plaque in the spaces below – maximum 3 lines, 13 characters each line (including each letter, space and punctuation):

Return this form with payment method by:

- ◆ **Mail** to Benedictine Sisters of Florida, PO Box 2450, St. Leo, 33574
- ◆ **Online**—The form is online for submission and payment of your order:

**www.benedictinesistersoffl.org
(Click on the "You Can Help" tab)**

Placement of the engraved bricks is expected to begin in January 2017 so order yours now!

If you have any questions or want more information,
Contact: Faith Pridmore (352) 588-8443 or hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.

4th Graders and the 5th Century

S. Mary David Hydro and Barbara Molloy visited Geneva Classical Christian School in Winter Park, FL in September. The students study history chronologically so by the time they are in fourth grade, they are focused on the 5th Century, the time of Saints Benedict and Monasticism.

“While it is a long two-hour drive each way, it is great to be “teacher” and get those hugs and thank yous from these enthusiastic ten year olds,” says Sister. Invited for the third year to share stories about the twin saints, Benedict and Scho-



lastic; to ask questions; and answer some from the students, Sister and Barbara look forward to the experience each year.

The children got a kick out of discovering Sister Mary David’s picture on our blue tri-fold display (behind Sister on the floor) because it was taken at their school!

Aquaponics

Among our many visitors who want to learn about aquaponics was a group of Vacation Bible School youth and their sponsors from St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Dade City. Two of the boys braved “petting” one of the fish being readied to fillet by **Richard Bon**.



Mark Wilcox (left of picture with **Chris Geissler**), is a new member of the Aquaponics team. Farm owner and former Director of Sustainability at Morningstar

Fisherman, Mark brings an array of talents. “On his first visit to discuss our Aquaponics system, Mark wanted to know what the kitchen menu was so he could focus on what to grow here,” said **S. Miriam**. Not only is Mark highly knowledgeable about all edible crops, he is also able to do electrical, plumbing, woodworking, bee keeping, tilapia production and more. What an exceptional asset for our program and answer to prayers!

Mark’s assistant on his farm is **Ara McLeod** who will help as well. Together, they have already brought about great improvements.

While we already miss **Lizzy Reasons**, who has taken a new position, she promises to visit us often. This perky and very competent young lady worked above and beyond her job responsibilities to help S. Miriam get the aquaponics to full function.



Wishing for: A Golf Cart!

The Aquaponics Garden is growing and Sister Miriam needs a golf cart to haul plants, fish, tools, mulch, etc., etc., etc!

If you have a cart, preferably gas powered, that you could donate (tax deductible), the Sisters and their volunteers could sure make good use of it.

Call or email the Advancement Office:

(352) 588-8443 or

hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

*Honoring Our Capital Campaign Donors
At the Entrance to Holy Name Monastery*



Kindness and Generosity Abound!

*We dearly hope all our friends, supporters and family members who helped
to make our dream come true
will visit to see what your investment has created.*

**The Donor Wall includes the names of all donors to both
the Special Gifts and The Future Is Now Capital Campaigns**

**We expect to have the wall installed in December and
dedicated at the opening of the new wing (date to be announced).**

...that in all things God may be Glorified

The Future Is Now Capital Campaign Donors

We thank most heartily the donors to the new wing. You are part of our ability to ever move ahead, striving to be true to our mission of seeking and Glorifying God.

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Saint Leo University Library Staff
Saint Leo University School of Business Staff
Josephine A. Shafchuk
Mary Theresa Spoto
James Triggs
Carol G. Walker

Harriette Josephine Hicks Tinny†
John D. Tinny



Fire Department Had to be Called!

Turning 103 years of age brings with it some risk! So on **Sister Helen Lange's** 103rd birthday, September 28, 2016, firemen were there to ensure the 103 candles on her cake were kept under control!

As has become "the custom of late," Sister had two parties—one with her Sisters at Holy Name and another at Heritage Park where she resides. Fellow residents and the staff, local long-time friends, the Sisters and S. Helen's cousin, **Joan** and her husband, **Steve Schmidt** came together in song after all those candles were blown-out.

Hugs and kisses from S. Helen to everyone who was there and those who remembered her day. Special thanks to **Kym Hoerr** for the spectacular three dozen roses and the yummy cake; to the **Heritage Park staff** for decorating the room and serving; and to **John Hermann** for the cake with 103 candles and getting those cute firemen there!



Happy 103rd!

Kathleen Stanton ('63) Kissel



Brought up in a Catholic family of 14 children, **Kathleen Kissel** learned early on to care about others. Her parents, **Jack† and Carolyn Stanton**, moved their family from Kansas City where Kathy was born, to Daytona and then Lakeland when she was ten years of age. Her father was a successful orthodontist and Kathy's mother stayed home with **Carol, Kathy, John, Rob, Mark, Pat, Mike, Anne, Martha, Tom, Jim, Mary, Bill and Joe**. "I loved growing up in a large family," says Kathy. "We played all sorts of games in our backyard—there were always enough kids to have two teams! But what is really nice now is that as adults, we are great friends and love to be together.— another legacy from our parents!"

Kathy is married to **Harvey** and they share a strong commitment to God, the Church and family. Both received twelve years of Catholic schooling and the values learned have been passed on to their children and grandchildren.

A Catholic education was a high priority for the Stantons who sent their children to Saint Joe's through 9th grade. There was no Catholic high school in Lakeland so they scoped-out Holy Name Academy. **Carol** (a former member of our community) was the eldest child, so made the 50 minute drive each way to Holy Name with a friend everyday. Just one year difference in their ages, Kathy joined Carol the very next year.

Though each school day was long given their commute, Kathy said, "I have always been so appreciative of what the Benedictine Sisters gave to me." Kathy felt she received an excellent education and was well prepared for her post secondary education at Saint Louis University (her parents' alma mater). "The Sisters taught us to be morally responsible and kind to others. There were a lot of South American students because of **Sister Carmen** so kindness and understanding were hallmarks of our education," explains Kathy. "That emphasis in all we were taught—being aware of others and giving back— was impactful."

Kathy and "Harve" have strived to pass on such values to their children, **Jennifer, Rob and Brian**. They began a family foundation to continue their tradition of giving back. "The foundation activities have taught the children the necessity and joy of giving," says Kathy. "I am so very proud of them for they have taken this idea and run with it involving our nine grandchildren." The focus is on helping families meaningfully. Everyone participates and contributes...even the youngest grandchild at five years of age with part of her allowance. Each year family members gather to set goals and strategize their outreach. Some of the activities have included feeding the homeless in St. Augustine, FL through a program, *Dining with Dignity*.

Pictured at the dessert table are Harve and Kathy along with their grandchildren, **Matthew** and **Cate**. Over seventy homeless were served a hot dinner in an empty parking lot. Young Cate says she feels good about her service. "I really like it" and made friends with two of the residents at the Kearny Center. Pictured below are Kathy's son **Rob** and her grandson **Jake** serving at the Kearny Homeless Center Shelter in Tallahassee, FL. Jake said, "I really like doing it because I feel like I am giving back to the community." Wow! This is a family doing good works.

Like their parents before them, the Kissels have established a continuous loving family structure taught by Jesus. They clearly demonstrate that living as God would have us, doesn't happen without vision backed by values of responsibility, love and caring for others.

Much to be proud of and grateful for in this family!





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 and emotional hungers of the People of God.

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Jubliarians Honored

The Diocese of St. Petersburg honored Jubilarians during Sunday Mass at Saint Jude Cathedral on October 30, 2016. Each year religious are celebrated for their extraordinary commitment. The Benedictine Sisters of Florida are represented again by two of our own. Pictured at left, are **Sister Elizabeth Mathai, OSB**, one of two Sisters recognized for making final vows this year and to her left, **Sister Mary David Hydro, OSB** for her 50 years of service to God and His people.



The Celebrate was **Bishop Robert Lynch** (pictured center) who spoke eloquently of the 750 years of service the group represented and the many people who have been blessed by their dedication as nurses, teachers, principals and spiritual directors.

A lovely reception followed the Mass with friends, family and fellow religious.