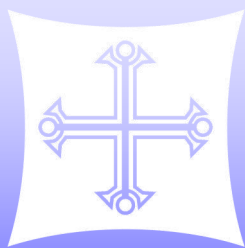




*God grant you:*

*the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

**Wilda English**



***Benedictine Sisters of Florida***

Touching lives through Prayer and Service

**Benedictine Tide—Winter 2017**

# The Light of God

## Peace on Earth

*"Trust what you see, believe the vision! This is the day you will see the glory; here is your God! Christ comes in splendor, the One who is our peace; the whole universe welcomes its redeemer."* With these powerful words we (at the monastery) lift our voices in prayer on Christmas morning!



In anticipation, the evening before, we dare to give voice to God's promise: *"When the sun rises in the morning sky, you will see Christ our redeemer, coming forth from the Most High. Like the morning star, God will shine in our darkness. Light from Light, of our own generation, a child born for us, a Son given to us; He will be called 'Peace on Earth.'*" NOW – it's Christmas! The fulfillment of God's promise has come! The virgin has given birth to a Son, and we name him Wonder-Counselor, Mighty Lord, Eternal God, Prince of Peace!

Each day during the Christmas novena (nine days of prayer) we remember all of you: our family, friends, guests, donors, supporters ... all whose lives we touch and whose lives touch ours. May you be blessed with serenity, joy and good health this Christmas and into the new year and always. Be assured that we will be remembering you throughout the Christmas season at Morning and Evening Prayer and at the daily Eucharistic liturgy.

I wish you PEACE! Please God, the vision of Habakkuk the prophet be a reality in our day: *the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.* Again, I wish you PEACE! **Sister Roberta Bailey**



## Tuesdays

I wake-up at 5:15 am or so to start my day. Prayers in the chapel are at 6:30 am and this is where the *Light of God* begins to appear.

It is in the form of song, psalms and the prayers. What a way to begin a day!

Breakfast follows with my Sisters, volunteers and retreat guests. By 8 a.m., I'm headed to give to others that which

I have only just received myself. I do this with the community food bank, Daystar, run by **Sister Jean**.

My volunteer service there is for the people who have fallen on hard times, the hungry, the poor and the needy. In this place I have learned not to make any rash judgments, a negative shake of the head or even worse, pretend that I don't see them.

It is in these very moments that the *Light of God* comes into play for me. Talking and listening to the individuals gives me the information to assist with their needs and hungers of the day. They are my fellow human beings and I choose to help in such a simple way. I choose to make an effort with eye contact, a touch of the hand to a hurting soul, a smile, a listening ear. Though simple, my effort seems to speak volumes of hope in their despair. Often their hurts are bigger than I or we can mend.

My back-up plan is to simply say, "I shall pray for you and your family." They welcome the gesture and smile as they walk out the door. My hopeful intention is that I have passed on the *Light of God* and that it will continue with them throughout the day and until we meet again.

It is a funny thing—in their eyes they see me as being so helpful and I...I see them as instilling in me the continuation of the *Light of God*! Every Tuesday I am privileged to experience, full circle, His *Light*! **Postulant Tracey Adams**



## Light

Mt. 5:16

Good deeds influence  
Others who will notice and  
Perhaps do good too.  
We can bring God's light into  
The world and others to Christ.

Let your inner light  
Split the darkness; we become  
What we think. Believe  
In goodness, grace, beauty...God  
Help others light their candles.

**Sister Mary David Hydro**

## Sister Helen—104 Years of Love



We celebrated **Sister Helen Lange's** 104th birthday on September 28th with song, laughter and delicious cake baked by **Peggy Befort**. Surrounded by teddy bears, mascots and 104 spectacular roses given by friend **Kym Hoerr**, Sister was delighted. She asked everyone to join her in singing *Home on the Range*, one of her favorite songs. "It is positive and reminds me of my home in Texas," she said.

Thoughtful gifts and lovely cards were opened and Sister also received a Proclamation from the City of St. Leo naming the day, "Sister Helen Lange Day." She sends heartfelt thanks and her special love to all those who remembered her birthday!

Sister went around to everyone present thanking them for coming and gave a mascot to each of the Heritage Park residents at the party. This is the second time that **Guy Moore**, one of Sister's 6th grade Sarasota students, has arranged for three boxes of the soft, fluffy toys to be sent. She loves to give them as game prizes at Heritage.

**Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer, OSB** was honored August 16, 2017 by Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg for her twenty years of service. Held at Bethany Center, **Monsignor Robert Morris** presented a plaque to Sister which reads:

*In grateful appreciation of your 20 years of  
Loyal and distinguished service to  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg  
Board of Trustees, 2017*



**Sister Mary David Hydro, OSB** has been appointed to another three year term on the Board of the Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM).

AIM includes Benedictine monastic communities in the US, Canada and over 400 in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The monasteries of AIM USA and Canada work in cooperation with those from underdeveloped countries. Spiritual and financial assistance helps to educate and grow membership in solidarity of world peace.



## Reunion 2017

The Holy Name Academy and Saint Leo Prep 2017 Alumni Reunion was held in conjunction with Saint Leo University Homecoming November 2 - 5, 2017.

(Pictured back row left to right: **Pat Reilly**, **Margaret Beaumont**, **Anne Grieshop**, **Sister Donna DeWitt**) and front row: **Jeanette Reilly**, **Nancy Counihan** and **Paul Herrmann**.)

Special events just for HNA and SL Prep included a delicious dinner served buffet style on Friday in the Board Room. This was also the scene of Brunch on Saturday morning with **President Lennox** who gave an update about the university. It was fascinating to see how the institution which grew from the academy and prep school has expanded and grown over the years and kept alive the Benedictine heritage so familiar to our alums. At the brunch the Benedictine Spirit award was presented to **John Myers '56**. On Saturday afternoon the Mass of Remembrance was celebrated by **Father Bob Fuchek** in the Abbey Church, followed by a dinner at the Abbey Tavern.

The reunion was a wonderful time to see each other and catch up on what everyone has been doing. Sharing with friends was a highlight of the weekend. Saturday night ended with a bang! I mean that literally. We enjoyed spectacular fireworks over Lake Jovita. It was a great end to a great reunion.



## *To Be a Philanthropist is Noble*

**Did You Know** that 81 percent of donations to nonprofits comes from people like you and me (Faith Pridmore)? Whether we are able to give \$1.00 or \$100,000, giving makes one a philanthropist (a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes). Friends and supporters like you are treasures because without your prayers and generosity, the Sisters' life of prayer and work would not be possible. Your giving to those you do not know is noble.

Noble because it changes the way individuals we serve see themselves, their lives, the world, their future. Together we help to inspire and enrich lives spiritually, physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally. We know that everyone wants nothing more than what each of us hopes for in our own lives...the opportunity to live in God's peace and love.

As you thoughtfully plan your end of year giving, please consider making a gift to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. If you have already done so, thank you! If you haven't had a chance to give, please do so by December 31st!

**As of November 1st, we are at 75 per cent of goal. Please close out the 2017 year by helping to create results, outcomes and impact that will change lives.**

**Thank you for believing in our mission!**

## *Sister Elizabeth Mathai Now a Proud US Citizen!*

**Sister Elizabeth** became a United States citizen on October 23, 2017! Taking the oath of allegiance to the US is the final step in the pathway Sister took in the process of naturalization. She was beaming all day!

Of the experience Sister said, *"Taking the oath was a fulfillment of one of my prayer intentions, my heart's desire and a long time dream. During the ceremony I was so excited, proud and thankful for all those who helped me to reach this mile stone. Pledging allegiance to the flag was one of the greatest moments of my life!"*

Sister is now really anxious to vote!



## *Dancing with the Stars*

The 2018 Dinner/Dance Event is in the planning and we couldn't be more excited! The flyer on Page 5 gives you all the information to reserve your table. It promises to be an exceptional night of fun as our show features professional ballroom dancers from Rhapsody Ballroom partnering with a talented group of "Charity Dancers."

You won't want to miss seeing and voting for your favorite dancer. Some of our dancers include: **Tiffany Coleman, Dr. Rochelle Knowles, Lourdes Milan, Jean Nathe, owner of Campus Gear, Dr. Rudy Wagner (Farina Orthodontics Group). And Gary Woodard.** More to come in January!

You can support by voting online beginning in January 2018 for your favorite dancer! **Each dollar = one vote.**

- **A minimum \$5.00 donation = 5 votes**
- **\$25.00 = 25 votes**
- **\$50.00 = 50 votes for your dancer**

**PLUS: You can vote as many times as you want!**

**Beginning the first week of January, 2018, go to the web address below and follow the prompts to vote:**

**<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/930423/>**

Send the address to family and friends and ask them to vote for your favorite dancer. Funds raised are tax-deductible and help the Sisters and their outreach to others in need.

## *Specific Needs You Might Want to Fund*

You can direct your giving to one of our Special Needs:

- ◆ The Sisters' Annual Retreat with guest speaker - \$1,800
- ◆ Federation Chapter attendance—\$900 ea. for three
- ◆ Missalettes—\$400 per year
- ◆ Communion Hosts—\$250 per year
- ◆ Guest Bibles—ten @ \$10 each



S. Elizabeth was given a very special supper that evening of a distinctly American flare... of course!

Pictured with Sister are friends (L to R): **Hope, Joseph, Janice, Evan.**



# dancing with our Stars

*You are Invited!*

Dinner \* Dance \* Auction \* Show

Vote for Your Favorite Dance Couple!

(Voting will be online and at the event)

**\$50/Person**

*Bring your Friends  
and*

*Reserve your Table Today!*

**(352) 588-8443**

**Or Email:**

**[hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu](mailto:hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu)**

**To Benefit the Ministries of  
*Benedictine Sisters of Florida***

**Sponsorships Available**

*Saturday*

*March 10, 2018*

**Cocktails - 5:30 pm**

**Dinner/Entertainment - 6:30**

**Tampa Bay Country Club**

**10641 Old Tampa Bay Dr**

**San Antonio, FL**



**Barbara Molloy** (red blouse), our live-in volunteer, happily greeted family members visiting from Indiana. Barbara has six children and this is her eldest daughter (in blue dress) **Margi Mountz's** family. Pictured left to right are:

Ted, Margi's husband, Barb's granddaughters **Marley, Julia, Kate, Robin, Caroline, Allison** and grandson, **Chris**.

The children had fun finding their parents' names on our PEACE Donor Wall, but were more excited to be sure about their much anticipated Disney vacation!



## *Hurricane Irma "Refugees"*

We had a full house (and some in sleeping bags) taking refuge at Holy Name from the wrath of Hurricane Irma in September. Friends and family came from as far away as Key West to our south, and from Jacksonville to the north.

Saint Leo University maintenance staff checked on us before Irma landed and during the storm Sunday evening, General Lennox, the university's president even came over to see that we were okay. He laughs when he recalls the Sisters and their guests playing cards during the storm! The Sisters are truly blessed.

While power was lost for a short period, we were fortunate to experience only the rain and high winds. There was no damage even to the aquaponics facility or our gardens. The **Dumont Family** said of their stay *"we feel so blessed by your generous gift of shelter and good care, and by the presence of God at this holy place."*



Our sincere thanks to St. Pete PSI for donating their pressure washing services! The company, owned by **Scott and**

**Anne Bardsley**, went above and beyond in pressure washing not only a section of the building that was stained, but the entire monastery AND even the side-walks! It looks just beautiful and we are grateful for the Bardsley's very generous gift.

You can help us thank them by using their services if you are in need of pressure washing, equipment or janitorial supplies. They have been in the cleaning business for over 30 years and are exceptional corporate neighbors.

## *Aquaponics System Upgrade*



With the huge success of our first Aquaponics training in April, we realized that the system needed to expand. We had a full class of those needing the training to bring back to their poor towns or villages. We also have lots of interest from locals to buy fish and produce. All of this helps make us more sustainable while educating others about healthy food.

The system upgrade will also mean much, much less labor. Pipes will bring water from the large fish tanks to the crops, technology will ensure water temperature and feeding schedule....hours and hours of time saved each week!

With many prayers and the help of some very dear friends, the funds to begin the project were donated in September and October. And then the WOW moment came on November 2nd! **Bob Cohen** and **John Picciano** gifted the remainder needed to complete the project.

**Grateful hearts for the Spirit's promptings.  
Thank you all kind and generous donors.  
God is so good and so are you! Rejoice!**

## *From the Oblate Office*

Oblates keep the light of Christ burning and feed the fire of God's love with Community and our bi-monthly gatherings (and homework!). This year we are studying **Joan Chittister's Radical Spirit** on the 12 steps of Humility in the Rule as a way to a fuller, freer Christian life.

We were pleased to have **Mary Maher** make her oblation on Sunday, September 24th with **Valerie Hinman** accepted as an oblate candidate. We look forward to **Ann Kenney** making her oblation on November 26th.

Together we build the Kingdom (we are all kin in Christ) when we give self to Christ. Whoever/wherever you are you can give a smile, alms, yourself in service/ministry and importantly presence—see the Christ in the other; be the Christ to others. Let your light shine that others may find the Way, the Truth and Life in Christ!

**If you would like to come to our Oblate meetings, just give Sister Mary David a call at (352) 588-8320.**

## *Telling Your Story for the Benefit of Others*

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida are always interested in hearing our guests and retreatants' stories and why they came to Holy Name. Because their experience is sometimes inspirational, educational, and even life-changing, we have initiated a new program that we feel can benefit our friends, donors and readers.

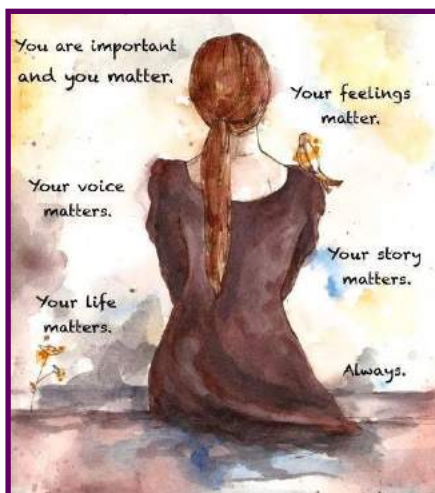
Believing that we learn from others' experiences, permission has been granted by the participants and the first story is proudly included in this Tide edition. They along with the Sisters, hope this story and those you will read about in the future will resonate with you or someone you know. (See story below)

### *"A Spiritual B & B"*

I recently had the opportunity to stay at Holy Name while attending a week-end graduate school conference at Saint Leo University. I had several reasons not to attend because of the cost in travel from Virginia, seven children (from age 3 to age 18), having to take time off my job as a 911 Dispatcher, and putting all my family responsibilities on my husband Brian's shoulders.

We moms care for everyone - our children, husband, parents, friends and neighbors. Taking time to care for ourselves is not a priority. But have I ever learned by spending time with the Sisters! My husband (a fireman) and I have recently been arguing and having trouble solving our conflicts. Big decisions have been weighing me down: whether it would be best to wait to do my second year of graduate school, the advisability of keeping my very stressful job which I've held for ten years; and if my marital relationship was as shaky as I was fearing, all keeping me from sleep and from thinking clearly.

My stay at the monastery was not planned nor was it what I expected, but the experience was profound. My stress level and insomnia were just accepted as part of my life. I never dreamed that spending time in such a quiet and peaceful place would bring such peace



and awareness. The Sisters were incredibly nurturing and service oriented. Though not Catholic, I even decided to attend prayers and Mass. It was definitely God's plan for me to be here! Even the meals with the Sisters brought me back to memories of my grandmother's home and how it felt when she cared for me.

Being cared for and cared about by the Sisters, prayer, time to be introspective, walks in the gardens, talking to God and sleeping soundly, have brought me back to what is important. My perspective has dramatically changed, my energy is renewed and clarity is firm. I had no idea how much I needed that time. Even my husband, since my return home, has seen that I'm more relaxed and easier to talk with. And those big decisions have been made... I will attend my second year of grad school and next year begin a new career helping people in the field of social work.

Family life can still be hectic at times, but I'm grateful for a path and a new sensitivity to the importance of prayer and reflection in my life.

In telling all my friends and work colleagues about my stay, they said it sounds like a "Spiritual B&B." For me, it is extraordinary that God brought me to Holy Name and a life-changing revelation whether I knew it was needed or not!

**Kristina Moore - 8/24/2017**

## *Concerts at the Monastery*

The public is invited to attend free monthly concerts at Holy Name from September through May at 2 p.m. Join us and bring your friends. We host choirs from the area and a social after the concert.

December 10	Dade City Joy Ringers
January 14	Saint Anthony (Dennis Margheim)
February 11	Wesley Chapel Trinity (Julie Pearson)
March 18	Saint Mary's House Band (Sharon Blutz)
April 22	DC First Methodist (Jennifer Ferguson)

Be sure to check our web-site for any unforeseen schedule changes: **[www.benedictinesistersoffl.org](http://www.benedictinesistersoffl.org)**.

### *In Memorium*

Please Pray for the Departed and their Families.

**Lucille Franke** — September 10, 2017, Sister Helen Lange's sister

**Juanita Mayeux**—November 1, 2017, Sister Mildred Gelis' sister



*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

Please Join Us!

## **A DAY OF REFLECTION**

***Thomas Merton (1915-1968), O.C.S.O.***

***A Fascinating Life***

Facilitated by

**Dr. Rickey Cotton**

A noted speaker throughout the country  
on contemplative spirituality and Christian heritage.

Saturday, March 3, 2018

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

\$50

(Includes Lunch)

Please RSVP by February 23, 2018

Maryclareneu@gmail.com or (352) 588-8320

Discount available for Religious

*Throughout the coming holidays—Pause  
and Revel in the Wonder of God's Blessings.*

### *Upcoming Calendar*

<b>Dec. 3rd</b>	First Sunday Advent
<b>Dec. 8th</b>	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
<b>Dec. 10th</b>	Joy Ringers Bell Choir
<b>Dec. 25th</b>	Solemnity of Christmas
<b>Dec. 28th</b>	Study Day for Religious Sister Lynn Marie McKenzie
<b>Dec. 31st</b>	Day of Prayer
<b>Jan. 1st</b>	New Year's (Solemnity of the Mother of God)
<b>Jan. 2nd</b>	Feast of the Holy Name
<b>Jan. 31st - Feb. 7th</b>	Conference of Benedictine Prioresses
<b>Feb. 16th</b>	Ash Wednesday
<b>Feb. 28th</b>	Benedictine Sisters of Florida Founders Day
<b>March 3rd</b>	A Day of Reflection
<b>March 10th</b>	<i>Dancing with the Stars</i> Dinner Event
<b>March 25th</b>	Oblate Sunday
<b>April 1st</b>	Easter