

The Benedictine Tide

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

Summer 2018

A peaceful place
to just be...



Four of many hurricane refugees
sheltering at Holy Name!

Benedictine Caring Hospitality

All guests who present themselves
are to be welcomed as Christ who said:
'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'
(Matt. 25:35)

The Rule of St. Benedict



Always great fellowship with the
St. Mark Columbiettes

Focus 11—a day
with 600
6th graders!



Ricky Cotton
Guest Speaker



R
E
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Celebrating
the Feast
Day of Saint
Scholastica
with the
Abbey
Monks.

Cooking for Mother's Day
at Love Another



Dancers—Katrina Wahlstrom, Ph.D and
Dr. Rudy Wagner



"Thank you for
teaching, guiding,
inspiring and uplifting.
You are a wonderful
example of God's love
at work."

Lay Pastoral
Ministry Retreat

Angels in the Wings '17
luncheon speaker—
Jodi Perez, CFP



"Thank you for allowing me to spend the week-end and
inviting me to meals, prayer and Mass. You have no idea
how much I needed this in my life. Your kindness and
peacefulness will always be remembered."

Kristina Moon

Play it, sing it and
they will come.



Joyful Concerts

Aquaponics



Training

"I'm so very grateful to you all
for many reasons—feel
blessed to have you in my
life."
Sharon Brant



All are Welcome
at Holy Name!



Jeanie Vogel trained another
Guide Dog to actually kneel in
the Chapel!

God's Kingdom coming
together for our annual
Thanksgiving Dinner



"I loved having my daughters help peel
potatoes for the Thanksgiving Dinner."
Jessica Gonzales



Holy Name Alum Reunion

The Benedictine Hospitality Experience

One of the hallmarks of the Benedictine way of living is hospitality. Saint Benedict directs us to treat others as we would treat Christ. By acknowledging the mystery of God in our lives, we become aware of the needs of others and how we might meet those needs. In so doing we strive to be the living expression of God's kindness. We seek opportunities to recognize the needs of others in our outreach and provide a welcoming atmosphere for guests seeking God's presence in reflection, prayer and hope. Benedictines practice a balanced life of prayer and work, facilitate the engagement of others in actions beneficial to the community of humankind, and help guide a path of character strength **so that in all things God may be glorified.**

In helping others to understand and embrace a deeper trust in God and awareness of His presence, an atmosphere for Hospitality is created. Our visitors and retreatants have written about their experiences at Holy Name. Hopefully, their words will serve to encourage all of us to "prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ."

Salve for My Weary Soul



Going to a monastery has always been on my bucket list. I am a mental health therapist and my husband is the pastor at our church, so a lot of times I find myself doing

the work of God rather than resting in God. My husband gifted me a retreat to stay with the Benedictine Sisters for Mother's Day. This is the best Mother's Day gift I have ever received.

I really enjoyed the solitude and opportunity to connect with God all while getting to interact with the Sisters. While there I prayed, walked on the prayer circle, journaled, did the stations of the Cross through the assistance of one of the Sisters, went to the Abbey across the street, participated in prayer time and Mass, reflected on scripture, and as Sister Mary David would say, I had a lot of Holy Leisure just being aware of the presence of God through nature. It was salve for my weary soul.

Karen Culbertson 5/2018

In a Way I Didn't Realize

What a wonderful gift you gave me when I needed it! I was inspired to ask you if there was a way I could be of assistance and your request fit right in with what I was needing in a way I didn't realize. I don't know why, but I believe I'm being led by Christ in an ambitious way through you and the Sisters.

You have made a difference to me. I was welcomed with sincerity and without judgement (I am Orthodox). I do not know what will come, but I'm trusting God to teach me and use me through your (Benedictine Sisters) example.



I ask God to bless you all, to fulfill any personal or Monastery need, and to show you how you impact the lives of others just by being so joyful in your service. Never doubt the way God blesses others

through each of you.

Beth Kinsella 4/2018

A Very Special Order of Angels

Special acknowledgement to the wonderful service I received at your sacred place of worship. The Sisters even allowed me to be apart of their mealtime and family night activity. I was not expecting that kind of kindness. They also prayed for me most sincerely. My special thanks to this very special Order of Angels.

Laura Petrie 8/2018

Nurturing Love

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!

Kristina Moore 8/2017

Refuge from the Storm

Hurricane Irma took me back on the great storm ride with Jesus. However, I was not afraid for I know I was safe. Thank you for giving me such an experience of joyful moments listening to the pouring and pounding wind and rain. Bless the Lord and God bless all you Holy Women.



Marietta Dinopol 9/2017

WHY a RETREAT?

Give yourself some time away from the many distractions we all face in our busy lives.

Come for a day, a week or more ...
~ Relax, reflect, walk on our Prayer Walk, pray ~
Give yourself this special gift and leave refreshed, invigorated and at peace.

Call S. Mary Clare at (352) 588-7188



Directions Home

As I packed this morning, I fumbled around in my duffle bag to make sure I still had my compass—a gift from my husband when we were first going together. I was about to embark on my annual pilgrimage from Key West to New York to visit friends and family, and he gave it to me so I could find my way home to him.

Now, as I prepare to leave Holy Name after a much needed retreat, I take the spiritual compass the Sisters have bestowed upon me, which will always lead me back to this home that I love so very much.

And it reminds me that we always carry God with us - how we have a home in Him, and how, if we let Him, He will make a home for Himself in our own hearts. No compass required.

Oblate Candidate Shelley Barre, 2017

(Just moved to our area from Key West to be closer to the Sisters and Holy Name Monastery.)

Welcomed as Christ

As you see from just some of our visitors' comments—even first time visitors - all remark on how welcome they feel at Holy Name. As the Rule of **Saint Benedict** instructs us, all are welcomed as part of our Community—"welcomed as Christ." It is not just a courtesy, but a form of worship. To welcome the guest is to welcome the visitor's gifts—it is an expression of love.

Hospitality is acting as Christ who said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

(Matt: 25:35)



Though we, the community and our many guests are of different ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities, each is unique and all are enriched by having the opportunity to just be together. The experience is certainly counter-cultural and needed more and more in the world.

Give and you will receive. The Sisters are enriched by the Hospitality shown them. When we "feed the hungers" of others, we too are fed spiritually and emotionally.

Sister Mary David

Happy 93rd Birthday!

We celebrated **Sister Mildred's** 93rd birthday on Saturday, June 25th at her bedside. We brought a favorite of Sister's — a strawberry milkshake. With enthusiasm and joy a chorus of Sisters sang *Happy Birthday* which put a big smile on Sister Mildred's face.



Sister enjoys playing the harmonica for visitors, so if you visit her at Heritage, ask her to play the harmonica for you.

Sister Mildred was especially delighted to see **Sister Pudentiana "Puddy"** who had been visiting us at the monastery.

Many of you might recall that Sister lived with us while attending Saint Leo University. With her degrees in education and leadership completed, we were happy for Sister Puddy that she was looking forward to seeing family and friends upon her return home to Africa. Her joyous spirit will be greatly missed.



Sisters Puddy, Roberta and Tracey

From the Vocation Office

Women who might be looking for a sign regarding a monastic vocation are invited to a *Come & See*. Learn more about our community and maybe find the experience worth further consideration. Viewing the web, reading a pamphlet, or a phone chat just can't compare to a visit.

If you, your parish or someone you know wants to check this out, contact **Sister Mary David**, Vocation Director at:

(352) 588-8320 or
vocation@saintleo.edu



The Stars Aligned!

"Do it again," was what we heard over-and-over again from the attendees at the March 10, 2018 special event themed-**Dancing With Our Stars!** Five couples each gave us a great performance strutting their stuff across the stage at Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club ... the

ladies with beautiful style and grace and the guys with a very definite swagger! The "aha" moments alone were worth the price of admission.



Dr. Krtrina Walhstrom and Dr. Rudy Wagner were dynamite Salsa which originated in the Caribbean in the 1970's.



An authentic Argentine Tango was presented by **Dr. Rochelle Knowles** and her husband, **Rick Brown**. This awesome couple were newly wed in June!



Talented dancer, **Victoria Fields** and handsome **Noel Quiles** with a Cha-Cha!

These busy parents, professionals and SLU students also did an extraordinary job helping to fundraise for the Sisters. We were privileged to have such a great and passionate team in our corner!

Along with their efforts, our sponsors and friends made it possible for a record net of \$42,637 from this annual event. We are grateful for all those who attended, donated and used this new online technology in support of our cause. The event was a blast!



With personality and flair, **Tiffany Coleman** and **Gary Woodard** rocked the room with a rousing Swing/Lindy routine.



A lovely and traditional Waltz from professional ballroom dancer, **Dr. Sergiy Borysov** and his pretty partner, **Jean Nathe**.

Next's year event theme is under raps for now, but we promise another great time for all!

SAVE-the-DATE:
Saturday, March 2, 2019

*That in all things
God may be glorified*

Give Day Report

Give Day 2018 was also a success and helped us to end the 2017/18 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) at \$153,660 or 93 percent of our \$165,000 goal.



This 24-hour fundraising event raised **\$27,715** which was \$7,715 above our goal of \$20,000! We are very grateful to everyone who participated with a gift. The Benedictine Sisters of Florida won a **Bonus Prize of \$1,000** from the Community Foundation of Florida for matching a donor's grant of \$500. Yea!!!

~ Coming Soon ~ Alum Reunion 2018

Start planning now for Holy Name Academy and Saint Leo Prep School Class Reunion which is the week-end of November 1st through the 4th, 2018. The celebration is also Saint Leo University's Homecoming and activities are planned for your enjoyment and for connecting with former classmates, professors, and staff.

The Benedictine Sisters invite you to the monastery for our annual:

Angels in the Wings Luncheon— Friday,
November 2nd at noon

(See information on Page 6 of the Tide about the **Angels in the Wings** luncheon and program.)

Sunday Mass at 10:30 am followed by Brunch

Alums who had Brunch with the Sisters during the 2017 Class Reunion are:



Back row:

Pat Reilly, Maggie Beaumont, Anne Grieshop and Sister Donna DeWitt

Front row:

Jeanette Reilly, Nancy Counihan and Paul Herrmann.

You can give your RSVP to the university or let us know at: **(352) 588-8443** or email at: **hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu.**

Hope to see you there!

Love One Another

Love One Another is a non-profit organization in Dade City run entirely by volunteers to help feed the homeless. The Sisters served a pasta dinner on Mother's Day so that other volunteers could be with their families. The cake was a big hit!



Lucy Avila and Sister Roberta

"It is always a gratifying experience that brings a smile to many faces and a full tummy as well," said Sister Roberta. Gifts of personal care products and some non-perishable food supplies and well-needed take-home boxes from the dinner were distributed.

~ So Blessed are We ~

The Sisters are blessed to have had the St. Mark (New Tampa) Columbiettes "adopt" us some six years ago! They are busy in multiple ways at their parish, at their jobs, at home, and then somehow they find time for us. Their presence in our lives has been such a joy. As a group of women their spirit brings warmth, love and a vitality for life that is infectious.

The fundraising event the group invites us to every year is always creative and fun. For the 2018 event, they even managed to get the Knights dressed up in tuxedos!



"I love the Sisters," says Teresa Hernandez pictured above with Sister Mary Romana



Just one of many, happenings these dear ladies share with us.

God is good!

An Unforgettable Wedding



The Sisters were honored to attend the February 17, 2018 wedding of **Phylomen "Philoe" Wanjiru** and **Larry Peterson** in Tampa. Philoe is from Kenya, Africa and lived at the monastery while attending Saint Leo University. Her brother, Father George is a priest in the Diocese of St. Petersburg and had previously known the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Philoe met her future husband while visiting weekends at Fr. George's parish.

Upon graduation with a degree in Educational Leadership, Philoe planned her wedding which combined the traditions of her culture and traditional aspects of Larry's. The bride, her beautifully decorated head dress, and spectacular gown were something to behold. The couple were joyfully surprised just days before the wedding with the arrival of Philoe's parents who flew all the way from their homeland, Africa! This was the first time they had traveled out of their country.

The groom's father, **Larry Peterson, Sr.** said of the marital union that "although those present at the wedding represented diversity and did not all speak the same language, our Catholic faith united us all. Whatever differences there might be, far from dividing us, immensely enriched us."



The Sisters were delighted to be the choir for the ceremony. A week later the newly weds and Philoe's parents visited us at the monastery.

~ Please Remember in Prayer ~

Bud Grieshop, April 10, 2018—husband of Holy Name alum, Anne Grieshop ('52)

Ruth Dubuisson, June 16, 2018—former member, Sister Placida

Angels in the Wings



The **Angels in the Wings Society** is a special group of individuals who have remembered the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in their wills and estate planning. They have made a profound difference over our 129 year history. In some cases, their bequest, life insurance, appreciated stock, or other such donation whether small or large have kept us going. They know the Sisters provide a place of peace, prayer and spiritual direction for which many have come and continue to



come. Such is our calling, our purpose, our mission. The Sisters are most grateful that their legacy includes us.

Each year we honor our **Angels** with a luncheon and share their

stories. The 2017 luncheon was in honor of **Florian Gude**. His wife, **Sylvia**, had fond memories and love for the nuns while at Holy Name Academy (Class of 1945) and into adulthood. She was the love of Florian's life and he felt strongly that Sylvia would want to make the generous gift to the Sisters.

Pictured above to the left of **Sister Mary Clare** are two of Florian and Sylvia's six daughters, **Rebeccah** or "**Reba**" **Cardillo** and **Connie Parsons** whom we were happy to have with us for the luncheon. Of their parents' life together, their daughters say, "They loved and cherished one another for the 70 years of their life together." Sister Mary Clare shared that she used to babysit for the girls!

Angels in the Wings Luncheon

Friday, November 2, 2018

The Angels Luncheon 2018 will take place at Holy Name Monastery the Friday of the SLU Alumni Weekend. If you would like to attend, please let us know. In addition to honoring friends, we also provide a beneficial service. The event includes a presentation from an invited financial advisor. We believe this is helpful for those new to thinking about their financial planning as well for those more experienced.

Call or email: (352) 588-8443
hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

Leadership Federation of Benedictine Women Religious

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida in St. Leo were represented at their annual Federation Chapter in Cullman, Alabama by **Sister Jean Abbott, OSB, Sister Eileen Dunbar, OSB, and Sister Roberta Bailey, OSB**, prioress. The Federation of St. Scholastica was established in 1922 and comprises 20 Monasteries of Benedictine Women across the country and Mexico.

Delegates from the various monasteries gathered June 13th for a week of discussion and direction planning. The theme of the conference was "Facing Our Critical Junctures with Hope."



Sister Lynn Marie McKenzie, Federation President, addressed the attendees on the second evening with her words of encouragement and also utilized inspirational words from a variety of writers. Facing critical junctures with hope is the call of all Christian disciples. It gives witness to the ceaseless confidence of Jesus Christ who also cried out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" She reminded the gathering that love and prayerful support of one another

throughout our various challenges is the way forward.

The process of formulating direction statements for the next four years began and once agreed upon, elections followed. Sister McKenzie, an attorney on canon law, was re-elected to serve as Federation President for the next four years and new Council members were voted upon as well.

Summer Oblate Day

Our Oblates have caught the "Hospitality Bug" and it is spreading through them to others—family, friends, parishes, workplaces ...

We had a special Oblate Summer Day on Friday, July 13th which was another enjoyable coming together for thoughtful discussion and Benedictine Hospitality! We continued to focus in Step 6 from **Joan Chittister's** book, Radical Spirit.

Next Oblate meeting dates are:

- September 23rd
- November 25, 2018.

If you haven't caught the Hospitality Bug yet, come and get it! RSVP to **Sister Mary David** at:
(352) 588-8320

or
vocation@saintleo.edu



Retreats

Sister Mary David spent two weeks in Minnesota, June 3rd-16th, conducting retreats for two Benedictine Communities of women.

The retreat title was "Keeping the Fire Burning" which focused on the fact that Vocations can't be taken for granted. Reflection on Benedictine values stirred the fire to keep it alive and burning. One Sister had a creative idea that at the end of retreat, the Sisters could write resolutions on wood and drop them in a fire pit. Writing and then the fire experience proved compelling for all.





2017 Giving in the US

Director of Mission Advancement, **Faith Pridmore**, CFRE attended Planet Philanthropy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida June 17—19th. The conference is hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, an international membership and educational organization. There are over 30,000 members with about 4,200 holding the designation, Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE).

One of the educational sessions Faith attended was focused on the recently published report from Guide Star and Indiana University School of Philanthropy. The following represents the comprehensive report takeaways about U.S. giving in 2017 which proved to be a blockbuster. Americans donated a record-breaking **\$410 Billion**, a 5.2 percent increase over the previous year due primarily to a booming stock market and a generally strong economy.

While this milestone year for giving is great news, there is concern: **fewer households are giving** and the gap is being filled by higher income households. The key factors are: the growing wealth disparity in the U.S. and the nonprofit sector's growth (up 23.4%) is faster than individual giving (only up 3.4%).

Other factors that have been unsettling for the non-profit sector are the new administration, a tumultuous political climate, and tax policy changes approved in late December 2017. It is still too soon to know the impact some of these changes may have on giving in the future.

We do know that small charities are being impacted more by this change in donor demographics because they tend not to have great access to high net worth individuals or large corporate donors.

Charities who have built relationships with their donors, are trust-worthy, impact lives, and steward gifts responsibly are typically at the top of donors' lists of favored institutions and the philanthropic industry believes should continue in that space even in an economy that is not so vibrant. It is noteworthy to mention that research indicates people who give to charity typically give to between 4 and 7 organizations. Even in hard times, donors tend to be loyal to charities listed first, second and third on their lists.

The non-profit arena is a tax code, but solves social problems that for-profit organizations can't. I feel privileged to work in this field and am inspired by those served. The meaning and purpose of building relationships is invigorating, meaningful and purposeful. The donors I come to know meet important needs and improve lives with their philanthropy. The entire process of helping others is a labor of love—for the giver and for those on the receiving end of caring. People who give will tell you they receive more than they are giving.

Special Items to Fund

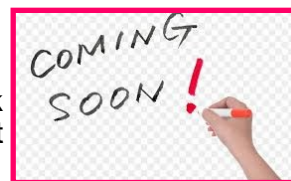
The Sisters outreach along with supporters who lack time but have resources, is a partnership. Our impact comes from working together.

Attending conferences, reading spiritual publications and books, inviting speakers to provide their expertise continues to better prepare us to minister to those seeking God and spiritual guidance.

The following are needs that you might find engaging for you to consider funding:

- Our Annual Retreat \$1,500—\$2,000
- Formation Conference \$2,000
(S. Tracey is in formation now)
- Missalettes \$ 400 Annually
- Communion Hosts \$ 250 Annually

For more information, contact Faith Pridmore at:
(352) 588-8443 or hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu



Watch for Our New Website Design

It's time for a re-design of our website. **Cheryl Chadick**, Development Assistant, is researching website templates this summer. Then the work begins in transferring pictures and text. It's a process that we hope will be completed sometime in August. We're excited!

The Sisters enjoy making "thank you" calls from time-to-time to our friends and supporters. While we make every effort to send a letter in thanks for your kind gifts within two to five days, a call to you helps us to get to know you better.

Please take a moment to send phone #:
(352)588-8443/hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

THANK YOU!

Next Step in My Journey

"My new home seems to be in a monastery located in St. Leo, Florida. I not only have four birth sisters—**Shelley, Aimee, Deanna** and **Danielle**, but now have added spiritual Sisters **Helen, Mildred, Jerome, Mary Romana, Mary Clare, Roberta, Jean, Miriam, Mary David, Margaret Mary, Donna, Eileen, Dianne, and Elizabeth**.



was meant to be – where I could be part of a community dedicated to making a difference."

June 21, 2018 the Benedictine Sisters of Florida formally accepted Tracey as a Novice.



She was presented with Call to Life, the Community pin and sections of the "Handbook for Formation Personnel," pertinent to the novitiate throughout this stage of formation which is a time for intense spiritual formation in the monastic tradition.

Sister Roberta, Sister Tracey and Spiritual Director, Sister Dianne

My path to this life has not been a straight shot or direct route. There have been plenty of ups and downs, twists and turns, calamities and God-sends. As I now know, the timing was in God's hands: I have arrived here neither too early nor too late. And it was in awe, and not a few apprehensions, that I approached this turning point. Would I be equal to the task of continuous spiritual dedication my new vocation asked of me? Would my world seem alternately too small within the semi-cloistered walls of Holy Name, and too large in context of my newfound responsibilities to the world-wide community of the human family? Most importantly, would God accept this flawed and feisty woman into this most blessed of his homes? But as I was encouraged to choose the hymns and psalms that would make up the liturgy for my entrance into the novitiate, I became calmer in the knowledge that this is where I

Sister Tracey's reception was attended by her mom, **Sharon La Fave**, other family members, friends and her parish priest from St. Petersburg, FL, **Father Tim Sherwood**. Lots of welcoming hugs from everyone followed and then a special dinner.

"I have both lovely memories and a few treasured mementos from that day, but one of my favorites was the huge bouquet of roses (see picture upper left) sent to me by longtime Holy Name friend **Fred Hanson**, who taught me how to tend to the monastery's rose beds. Wrapped around it was a large yellow ribbon with *Sister Tracey* spelled out in gold. I hung it on the back of my door where I can see it from my bed, and when I wake up in the morning, I think, *Wow. That's ME.*"

Upcoming Events Calendar

July 26-31st	Sisters' Annual Retreat
August 7-11th	Prioress to LCWR Conference
August 15th	Feast of the Assumption
September 7—11th	Sisters' Community Days
September 16th	Monthly Concerts Resume
September 20-15th	Sub-prioresses Meeting, IN
September 23rd	Oblate Mass, Dinner, Meeting
October 18-22nd	East Coast Formation Conf.
October 22-24th	Prioress to LCWR Regionals
November 1st	All Saints' Day
November 2nd	All Souls' Day
	Angels in the Wings Luncheon
November 4th	HNM Alumni invited to Mass/Dinner
November 22nd	Thanksgiving Dinner
November 25th	Oblate Mass, Dinner, Meeting



Monthly Concerts At Holy Name

Our free monthly concerts begin again September 16th. Each month from September through April, we host a group from the area who bring their special style of music for the enjoyment of all.

A special treat this year will be in October when the choirs of St. Anthony, St. Leo Abbey and Holy Name Monastery combine for a concert. Location for this particular Sunday concert will be announced.

Check the website in August to get the exact Sunday date and group performing (occasionally things change). The concerts are in our chapel and begin at 2:00 pm followed by fellowship and home-made refreshments in our dining room.

You are most welcome to join us.

Summer Fun!



Anytime you are around and it suits you, take a stroll on the Prayer Walk and you will feel the peace that our many visitors experience.

Sister Mary Romana's (pictured above with **Nola Kerrigone**, **Faith Pridmore's** granddaughter) flower garden is a delight of color. She provides God's beauty in the monastery, dining room and outside. Of course, Spring is the optimum time to witness the results of her green-thumb!

Family Night

"Uno means nothing."

"I only needed one more card to have a run!"

"That can't be a word. I don't care what the book says!"

These are sounds heard on Sunday evenings in the monastery when we have Family Night. We gather in the multipurpose room to play games and enjoy each other.

Currently, we have three games going: Uno, Phase 10, and Scrabble. The games played are changed periodically. These stress free evenings are colored in much laughter, especially Sister Mary Romana's giggles. Like with any family, we are brought closer together.

Family Night started 3 or 4 years ago and is now an institution. We don't let too many weeks go by, even if busy, before having our night of fun together. Guests, volunteers, and anyone who happens to be around can join in. So, if you like to play any of our games, we would love to have you!

The Human Library Project

Saint Leo University's May Writers Conference was



The Human Library Project. The idea was to not "judge a book by it's cover." The writ-

ers were to interview participants who provided a title to their own human book. The focus was starting a dialogue regarding various prejudices and stereotypes.

Sisters Mary David and Tracey were asked to participate each as a "Human Book." The Sisters were queried extensively. "We, as the Human Books, explored and fielded difficult questions from the writers regarding our titled book," said Sister Tracey.

Sister Mary David's title: *"Go On Become ... a Nun's Story,"* Sister Tracey's: *"Bungee Jumping into the Spiritual World"* which is how she explains the journey that got her to us..

4th of July



Nothing like a July 4th picnic in the park to lift your spirits! The Sisters enjoyed a marvelous day with the

Allen and Smedley families. **Eric Allen** and **Robert Smedley** of Burri & Company Insurance invited the Sisters for their picnic in celebration of July 4th. There were lawn games and a delicious barbecue of chicken, ribs and brisket and all the fix'ins.

Much appreciation for including us!

Pick a Number...

Saturday, June 9th, the Columbiettes out did themselves again! They brought a delicious bar-b-que lunch and then, **Carol Woodard**, one of the group members led us in a fun game. Instructions were to pick a number from the basket and she called a number. Whoever had the number could choose 1 of 3 gift bags or be tempted to take cash of \$2 to \$10. What we soon figured-out was to take the gift bag as they included gift cards along with beautiful gifts!

Thank you as always St. Mark Columbiettes!

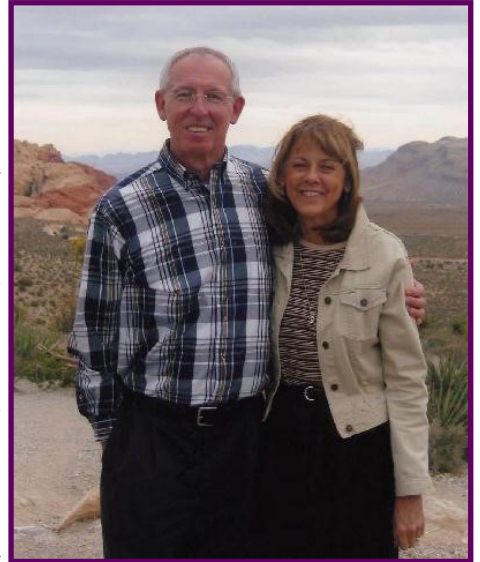


Holy Name Academy Alum Profile

Bonnie Boyd ('64) Claus

Born in Brooksville, Florida, **Bonnie Boyd Claus** came to live at Holy Name Academy at the age of 14 when her parents divorced. Though the first time living away from home, Bonnie found that life with the nuns “was the best thing to happen in my young life. They made me feel just like family.”

Sometimes you never know where your life will lead. Bonnie’s path was not purposeful in any real sense of the word. You see, in high school at Holy Name Monastery, she says she “had a crush on **John Hughes**, Saint Leo Class of 1964. “On career day,” she explains, “he wanted to get an application for the FBI so I accompanied him—they gave me an application as well. I filled-out the application and they offered me a job in Washington, DC. It was as simple as that, yet the beginning of a life for which I could never have dreamed.”



Bonnie was to meet her dear husband, **Carter**, there. He was a rocket scientist making missiles for the navy. “We married in 1969 and moved to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to work for NASA. It was a very exciting time as we were working on the Apollo missions to the moon.”

During their honeymoon in Vermont, “we had taken up skiing which became a great pass-time for both of us.” That would be one of the deciding factors in their eventual move to Denver and Bonnie’s work for the FAA. After a few years, my advancement to the U.S. Geological Survey at the National Earthquake Center took us to Golden, Colorado. This was a dream life that afforded us the opportunity to ski all over the United States and Europe during the next 35 years.”

Over the years, Bonnie kept in touch with as many of her fellow alums as possible. “I even reconnected with **Dawn Woodward Optz** in Las Vegas a couple of years ago. Two classmates I searched for, **Rosemary Obuseck and Janet Pichowski**, sadly had passed before we reconnected.”

Upon retirement in 2012 the couple moved to Henderson, Nevada and Bonnie found a new outlet for all her energy, - quilting. “It has become a passion and over the past six years, I have made quilts for local Catholic churches, an abuse women’s shelter, a senior center, and Quilts of Valor for our vets. Each one made is extraordinarily rewarding for me...never knew how much joy you could receive from giving.”

“It’s funny, **Sister Irma** would not believe that I am sewing because Home Economics was not a strong subject for me in high school. Cooking was easy, but sewing was so frustrating that I did not try again until into my retirement! I feel so fortunate to have had a lady in my life that really took the time to help me through the early stages. It is a gift for which I now receive great joy. I’m even helping teach others in our local sewing club of 250 members.”



A beautiful and colorful quilt Bonnie made as a gift to the Sisters.

“Coming from a broken childhood and family, I know that were it not for the nuns at Holy Name who saved me and gave me strength, my life would not have been as wonderful as it has been.”

*Never underestimate the impact
that you may have on someone else’s life.*

Anonymous



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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 hungers of the People of God.

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*Hope you are having
a safe, fun and relaxing time this summer!*

