



The Benedictine Tide

# Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives through Prayer and Service

Summer 2015



*“Many of the greatest works of art, of which music is but one genre, have been created for the greater glory of God. Given that one’s greatest efforts could not be undertaken for a higher purpose, it goes without saying that the results are extraordinary.”*

*The concerts at Holy Name have brought one such art form to life and as such every concert has been inspirational.”*

Jeanie Vogel



**Saint Cecelia** is regarded as the patroness of music because of the story that she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married. Evidence indicates S. Cecilia was not known or venerated in Rome until about 496. She preached and converted some four hundred persons. The Roman Prefect had her arrested and she suffered a tragic death.

Catholic Online



## Music Ministry and Concerts

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida at Holy Name Monastery, like many religious, are enthusiastic patrons of the arts. The monastic commitment to manual work balanced with prayer is conducive to the development of our God-given artistic talents. Like monastics down through the ages, we pay great attention to an aesthetic sense that honors beauty and harmony as attributes of God. In this issue of the TIDE we are focusing particularly on musical gifts, but remember we have Sisters who are gifted in other arts. The quiet environment in monasteries cultivates a climate for rich creative expression in a variety of art forms.

For untold years, music has been a means of focusing the mind and body, facilitating meditation and prayer across language and culture. Shared songs and chants can draw people into a state of alert devotional stillness in many sacred traditions. To enhance the liturgy and periods of prayers that characterize our life together, monastic musicians create arrangements and plain chant (also called Gregorian chant) for psalms, antiphons and Scriptural passages. Chants that make up a large portion of our Liturgy of the Hours require a sincere effort by each individual singer to blend her voice with the group ... no divas here. The intent is to unite hearts and voices into a single community voice.

Music has been a part of our community life since 1889 when our first Sisters came from Pennsylvania. In those days music lessons were customarily reserved for the rich kids. But in our academy for girls **Mother Dolorosa**, first superior and principal, insured that all the girls were exposed to good music, learned to sight-read, sing and play a variety of instruments. We (yes, I am an alum of our academy) studied Gregorian chant and took some form of music lesson – voice, piano, organ, violin.

In the days when the boys at St. Leo Prep (run by the monks at St. Leo Abbey) and the girls at the academy rarely saw each other except for dances at the lake house, the two groups came together at least once a year to delight their audiences with performances of operettas such as *Pirate of Penzance* and *HMS Pinafore*. The May festival each year was performed outdoors on a basketball court where the parking lot now stands in

front of Marmion-Snyder Residence halls. The girls interwove colorful ribbons around the May pole to the melody of “Beautiful Ohio.”

New Sisters joining the community were instructed in the technique of blending voices for gentle singing of chant and practiced often and sometimes LONG, learning to sing two and three part hymns. One summer we had a guest professor who tried his best to help even the musically challenged to perform a 12-part choral arrangement.

**Upon moving into our new house In August 2014, we quickly realized that the chapel acoustics are meant to be shared. It is a perfect setting for concerts. So, since December 2014, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida have been pleased to host a series of concerts.** It seemed fitting that the **children from St. Anthony School** would be the first to share their musical talents in this space. You see, our Sisters came to FL from PA in 1889 at the request of the pastor of St. Anthony Parish to teach the children in their little school. The Sisters also ran an academy for girls in which music and drama were an important part of their cultural experience. So much so, that all their early schools had an auditorium where the students performed band concerts, musical presentations and student-written productions.

The January concert was presented by **Piney Grove Men’s Gospel Choir**. For many years members of that community were employed by the Benedictine Sisters. They worked in our day care, our health care, Marmion Cafeteria and the monastery kitchen; were part of the house cleaning, maintenance and lawn care and laundry staffs. So, you see they fed us, cleaned with us, cared for children and our elderly, and sometimes our dying Sisters. Back in 1911, members of the local African American community were the main work force that helped move the original 3-story, wood-frame convent from San Antonio to the shores of Lake Jovita.

As our community became fewer in number and we sold service centers like the dorms and the cafeteria to the college, we gradually required fewer employees. But in the “heyday” of our relationship we had a custom of going to Piney Grove once or twice a year to a Sunday service at Piney Grove – I think it was called “Women’s Sunday.” We would offer a hymn during the service and afterward we’d be seated at a special table to enjoy a sumptuous dinner. In exchange, we welcomed the





## Holy Name Academy Girls Choir

1950

**Piney Grove choir** to our Sunday service where they rocked the walls with choral presentations we just cannot match. This past January we hosted another such performance here in our chapel. When it was our turn to offer a couple hymns, Sister Roberta remarked: "*We are certainly glad that this is not a sing-off or an episode of The Voice (TV show)!*"

In February, **Saint Leo University "VOICES of CHRIST,"** directed by **Richard Jimenez** presented an hour of praise. March's concert featured **St. Mary's Episcopal choir.** Aside from their excellent performance, from the first moment we were intrigued by two things. Their director, **Sharon Blutz-Bell** led in the procession carrying 3 double-bells in each hand ringing ONE bell at a time. With the choir in place, Sharon sat at the keyboard with an I-Pad displaying her music!

For several years now the Sisters have joined with the choir from St. Mary's Episcopal parish to go Christmas



caroling at the hospice house and at two nearby nursing homes. It is touching to see people who are in various stages of ill health, who have had strokes and cannot speak, people suffering from memory-loss but who smiled and actually began to sing the Christmas carols they had learned in childhood.

The **St. Mark's Singers**, under the direction of **John-Paul**

**Cappa**, provided a program of glorious Easter music. The concluding concert in May was a **HYMN-ALONG** with the audience joining in singing several all-time favorite Christian hymns. Each monthly concert was followed by a social with refreshments provided by some of our faithful volunteers and monastery tours by the Sisters. It is a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Our guests left with a "song in their hearts" and very often on their lips. Have you noticed that liturgical (church) music frequently pops into your head, and you find yourself randomly singing or humming a hymn tune at the most unexpected moments. The music sticks with us and comes across our lips without warning. Familiar tunes or a new catchy melody goes out from church with us into the world, whether or not we want it to. At liturgy, we become what we sing.

This quote from **Bishop Charles E. Johnson** aptly expresses what music means to our community: "*Music, like prayer, has a way of building our faith, and those songs have a way of taking us back and causing us to remember what the Lord has done and what he's going to do, and what he's capable of doing. It is a way of saying 'thank you'.*"

## Our 20th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Saint Anthony Parish Center November 26, 2015



**For Reservations or to Volunteer/Donate:**  
(352) 588-8443/hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

# Sister Elizabeth Mathai, OSB

## Final Profession



### A Day of Tradition and of the Future

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida celebrated a Eucharistic Liturgy and the Perpetual Monastic Profession of **Sister Elizabeth Mathai, OSB** on April 11, 2015.

Through her perpetual monastic profession, Sister follows tradition by making a gift of herself to God. It is a solemn promise to God of stability, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience. Her commitment to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida is part of the vision for our future.

Sister Elizabeth chose for her theme – *What can be sweeter to us than the voice of God inviting us?* And as **Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer, OSB**, Scholastic Directress reflected during the liturgy, *“Sister Elizabeth heard the voice of God calling her to religious life, to follow Christ more closely and has responded wholeheartedly. She is a joyful person, a prayerful person, one who is humble and one who lives by faith and is firmly grounded in love and peace.”*

The solemn event also involved a promise by the Community to accompany Sister Elizabeth on her lifelong journey of seeking God. Living together in the monastic way as Benedictine Sisters, draws everyone closer to God as each grows in faith, in mutual love and in reverence to God and one another.



*“Signing her profession document today represents both a climax and a beginning for Sister Elizabeth”,* said Scholastic Directress **Mary Clare Neuhofer**. *“She must now daily put into practice all that she has promised. We pray to God to help Sister take up her cross daily, to listen to the Will of God and do it, to give obedience from the heart, and to walk in newness of life.”*

Sister Elizabeth gave thanks *“to the Lord for God’s faithful love in my life and for God’s call. I give thanks for the love and support of those who have journeyed with me: my family, friends, those whom I have met in my ministry, and especially the Sisters of Holy Name Monastery.”* Over 90 family and friends including the Monks from Saint Leo Abbey attended the liturgy celebrated by **Abbot Isaac Camacho, OSB**. A luncheon followed with many hugs, blessings and gifts. Sister Elizabeth hails originally from India and was delighted that some of her family members made the day even more colorful by dressing in traditional clothing for the occasion.



S. Elizabeth’s family members in attendance:

Her brother’s son, **Janosh Purackal**  
Nephews **Rojan** and **Ron Varghese**  
**Daisy Varghese**—sister  
**Paul Varghese**—brother-in-law



Daisy is lovely in a Churidar



Ron is wearing a Kurta -often worn for weddings.



Some of our guests enjoying lunch and conversation:  
**Back Table-**  
Abbey monks

**Front Table**  
Friends from Venice, FL



## *And the Celebrations Abound...*

**Sister Petra Mkongwa** a Benedictine Sister from Tanzania, graduated from Saint Leo University's Leadership program on May 2nd. Sister Petra lived with us for two years and while we are always sorry to have our dear African Sisters leave us, it is wonderful to know that they return to their mother country to influence and inspire their villagers, educational staffs and students. Though diminutive in stature, Sister is a strong woman of God. At the graduation party in her honor, Sister gratefully thanked the university, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida and the many donors who made her advanced degree possible.



**Sister Donna DeWitt's 50th Jubilee** was May 16th. The afternoon ceremony began with Liturgy of the Hours in celebration of the Vigil of the Ascension of our Lord. In her remarks, **Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B.**, Prioress, said of Sister Donna that "she demonstrates respect for all persons, deference to others, expressions of hope to the downtrodden, compassion to the weary and joy." "Her 50 year fidelity to her promise of conversion of life, obedience and fidelity to monastic way of life give witness to her running with the baton Jesus thrust into her hand many times over." The prayer service was followed by an ice cream social and fellowship with family, friends and the monks of Saint Leo Abbey. With many hugs, gifts and congratulations Sister was all smiles. "So many wonderful people have touched and enriched my life," said Sister Donna. "I am humbled by the kindness and generosity of all who came in support of me today. Let us continue this journey in mutual love and support of each other."



### *Interested in Volunteering?* **DAYSTAR HOPE CENTER CAN USE YOUR HELP**

There are many available possibilities  
in the store, pantry and office.  
Call DayStar at: (352) 523-0844

**Sister Mildred Gelis, OSB** celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on June 23. Surprised by family, a few home-town friends and the Sisters, tears welled up in her eyes as she walked into the surprise party.

**Juanita Mayeux**, Sister's sibling, drove from Slidell, LA with her husband, **Paul** and a close family friend, **Pat**



**Bledsoe**. When introducing her friends and family to the Sisters and staff at Holy Name, S. Mildred reminisced with party guest **Henry "HJ" Bonnabel**—a friend with whom she attended elementary school!

*"Joining a religious order in service to God was always my life's ambition,"* explained Sister to the party attendees. *"I always want to be known as a religious person who is a friend to every person I meet."* With the many birthday cards and beautiful notes she received, it is a sure bet that Sister Mildred realizes that promise to herself every day.

### **More Concert Comments**

*"Each concert was unique and special in its own way, but my favorite was the last one, the 'Hymn Along.' So many old Marian pieces were recognized by the attendees who joined in with gusto."* Volunteer Barbara Molloy

*"One of the greatest joys as a Sister is to praise God every day in song. It is wonderful to share that experience with others. Music is truly the universal language."* S. Eileen

*"I experienced the transcending power of God; heaven's door opening and the angels hovering over the musicians and the assembly. The concerts moved me to praise and draw closer to God."* S. Elizabeth

*"Music brings us the experience of God's presence and love. It quiets the restless heart. It puts us in touch with the harmony of the universe."* Oblate Marion Tarallo

*"The chapel rafters were ringing with music of love as we hosted other musicians and together expressed our gratitude to God for our many blessings."* S. Jean

*"In prayer, when I really listen, sacred tunes bring the beautiful messages."* Oblate Beatriz Galvis

### Father Damian DeQuesnay

passed peacefully into the arms of his Heavenly Father on May 8th, 2015. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. A

teacher and mentor of the first order throughout his life, Father left an indelible imprint on his students, his colleagues and the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.



*"We were fortunate to have this gentle man of faith serve as our chaplain for close to 50 years,"* said Sister Roberta. Father Damian influenced the formation of postulants and novices through his weekly classes. In 2010, when his mobility was limited, Father was not offering daily Mass in the chapel at Holy Name, but he continued to serve as confessor and spiritual director to many of the Sisters. May he rest in a well-earned eternal peace.

### Stitching 4 Christ

Oblate Joyce Welch, along with ladies from her parish naming their group "Stitching 4 Christ," began sewing pillowcase dresses a year ago. In July, they sent 150 dresses and shorts to orphanages in Africa, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Joyce did a "re-design" on

the dresses so that some would have sleeves. Made out of flannel fabric, these dresses are for the colder areas.



Pictured with Joyce are Mary Specht (left) and Kathy Basford (center).

## Alumnae Reunion

November 6-8, 2015

Holy Name Academy and St. Leo Prep

Celebrating Class Years 1950, 1955 & 1960

All are Welcome!

For information contact SLU Alumni Office

(352) 588-8200

## More Interest in Vocations

There are many people praying for vocations and those prayers are bringing forth more interest this year from eligible women. It is exciting to tell you that we currently have **four affiliates** who have publicly stated they want to discern a vocation with the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. One will come in August as a live-in volunteer and another wants to enter as a postulant in December. With the final profession of S. Elizabeth last month, the future we envisioned with the building of our new home is being realized. God is good.

If you are a woman 18 to 69 and are interested and free to consider a religious vocation, contact **S. Mary David Hydro** at [vocations@saintleo.edu](mailto:vocations@saintleo.edu) or (352) 588-8320.

## Retreat

There has also been renewed interest in **Retreats** at Holy Name this year. We are focused more on providing personal retreats as there is less overnight space available in the monastery. People are asking for a directed retreat—meeting daily with a Sister trained in spiritual direction. Groups are also scheduling *Reflection Days*.

*Come, sing praise. "Who sings once, prays twice."*

To come for a retreat, contact **S. Mary Clare Neuhofer** at (352) 588-8320/email: [maryclareneu@saintleo.edu](mailto:maryclareneu@saintleo.edu).

## Annual Retreat for the Sisters

The Sisters held their own retreat June 11—16 at Holy Name Monastery. Entitled "Celebrating Sabbath," the retreat was facilitated by **Sister Mary McGehee, OSB** of Cullman, Alabama. Several Sisters from other Communities in the area also were in attendance. There were multiple comments that being reminded to live the spirit of the Sabbath is important.

S. Mary gave a few afternoon yoga sessions to help us visualize God's day of rest. As you can imagine, some of us did better at that than others. (And if you've ever tried yoga, you know there were no cameras allowed in the room.)

## YOU CAN HELP

If you are taking the leisure days of summer to catch-up on your reading, go to:

**Smile.amazon.com**

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida are a registered charity on the site. When you purchase a book, the Sisters receive a percentage of the sale.

## Invitations for Conference Presenters

**Sister Mary David Hydro, OSB** gave the Community retreat to the Benedictine Sisters at Lisle, IL June 22-26th. Two sessions a day focused on "Keeping the Fire Going" - the fire of faith, love and vocation. Not to tend the fire can mean the fire fails to give the light of God's love and presence. If we are just going through the motions, our fire smolders and dies. **S. Judith Heble** of that order had suggested S. Mary David, and when it was over S. Judith said she "had been right with her suggestion." S. Mary David said she grew in faith and fire during the retreat too.



**Faith Pridmore, CFRE**, Director of Mission Advancement for the Sisters was honored to address the Benedictine Development Symposium on July 21st. The annual conference in Schuyler, Nebraska brings together fundraising professionals from Benedictine Communities throughout the country. The conference keynote speaker was **S. Georgette Lehmuth, President and CEO of National Catholic Development Conference**. Faith followed with a 90 minute presentation and discussion on donor engagement and stewardship. She garnered new ideas as well from **S. Georgette, Brian Doyle**, Editor of Portland Magazine and **Lee Aase**, Dir. of Social Media at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

### Wish List

We are grateful to those who responded to our past needs and hope there are some who could help with:

**Memorial Trees**—10 to shade Walking Trail (\$500 ea)  
We have 4 donated to date.

**Walking Trail**—at back of property and open to public  
(\$22,000 total; \$15,000 contributed)

**Storage Shed**—for the Aquaponics garden tools/supplies  
(\$1,000 which includes shed floor)

### In Memorium

June 11, 2015—**Emily Servais Gross**, HNA alum 1953  
Please remember Emily and her family in your prayers.

## Are the Benedictine Sisters Remembered in Your Will?

If you are interested in learning about how you can leave a legacy to a charity or charities you value while first taking care of yourself and family, JOIN US. This is also our opportunity to honor those who have made a gift part of their estate plan.

### Annual Angels in the Wings Luncheon

Thursday, November 5, 2015

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Lunch and Presentation

Our presenter is **Michael Avadikian**

Financial Advisor for the Community and a member of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

RSVP by October 27th

(352) 588-43/hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

### From the Oblate Office

Our Oblates come to sing praise with us to God. We are all different, but we all play important parts in God's orchestra. Reflecting on the Sunday concerts, oblate **Jean Larney** says, "Though I don't have perfect pitch, singing makes me a part of praise to God. All of us come together and help each other and something really beautiful comes to be." Oblate **Yvonne Nelson** feels that "the gift of music is that it touches the soul and speaks to God."

Our upcoming Oblate Year (September 2015 - May 2016) will focus on **S. Joan Chittister's** book, Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light as a basis of study and sharing. The oblates helped to shape the curriculum and are sure it will enrich the lives of all participants. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting. We begin with Sunday morning praise and Eucharist at 10:30 am, have dinner with the Sisters at noon and meet from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

### Dates and Topics are:

September 27th.....Faith  
November 22nd.....Humility  
January 24th.....Lectio  
March 27th.....Time  
May 22nd.....Vision

**Come Join Us...Let Us Together Sing God's Praise**

Contact S. Mary David at (352) 588-8320.





**Give Day 2015** was held May 5<sup>th</sup> - a 24 hour online giving challenge hosted by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. Designating one day every year for giving is intended to build awareness of charities in the area and the great work they do. There were 10,193 gifts totaling \$1,724,594 donated to non-profit organizations which beat the first year's (May of 2014) total by close to \$200,000.

Woo hoo! The Benedictine Sisters of Florida's Annual Fund 2014/15 got a much needed lift with **\$9,765** in gifts by the generous donors listed below. They also made it possible for us to win a bonus of **\$500**.

## Give Day Donors 2015

Anonymous—4	Jeanne Lange
Michael Avadikian, Sr.	Wayne and Sandy Mazur
Joann Bollinger	Harry McDargh
Joyce Butler	Lourdes Milan
Sebastian Cabrera	R.A. Milliman
Cheryl Chadick	Barbara Molloy
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Marjorie Corwin '59	Gerard Nathe
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Sister Eileen Dunbar	Iris Salcedo
Richard Fenton	Kathleen Saunders
Virginia Franke	Barbara Sinnott
Karen Humphreys	Laura Spurrell
Diana Jordan	Judge Lynn Tepper
Edmond Kenny	Pat Thompson
Chris and Stacy Kropp	Jeanie Vogel
Donald Kropp	Joyce Welch
Myong Kropp	Lindsay Wiles
Uriah Evan Kropp	Pamela LaCrosse
Cheryl Lange	Angus and Judy Williams

**Faith Pridmore**, Director of Mission Advancement for the Sisters, says that Give Day is *"a more economical way to raise money for charitable institutions versus events which are often costly and take hours and hours of planning. With online giving, donors can sit home in front of their tech gadgets and make things happen."*

**GiveDay will take place next year on May 3, 2016.**

Watch for more information in 2016 and be a part of helping the Sisters in a BIG way!

## From the Advancement Office

### Donors to the Annual Appeal Fiscal Year 2014/15

You are a true inspiration with your continued support of our mission and vision. With you, we are a chorus in spreading the good word about doing good, nurturing souls, and reaching out. Partnering together, we have our signature song.

Like all non-profit institutions, operating funds help fulfill our mission—our reason to be here. Thank you for your commitment and dedication in helping us further our ministries.

**(Please Note:** the following are donors who contributed to the Annual Fund from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, our fiscal year timeframe.)

#### Stewardship Circle

*Gifts of \$5,000 to \$15,000*

Joseph and Rose  
Herrmann Foundation

#### Commitment Circle

*Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999*

Msgr. George Cummings

#### Balance Circle

*Gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499*

Alva M. Anderson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous-Chapel Box  
Patricia Becker  
Marjorie Cay Corwin '59  
Thomas and Eleanor Dempsey  
Raymond and Leona Erasmus  
Glen and Gail Greenfelder  
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Victor and Dewey Kramer  
Barbara Molloy  
Gerry and Roxanne Nathe  
James and Ellen O'Brien  
Suzanne Ondrovic  
Allan and Marilyn Powers  
Margaret Elaine Richard  
Dr. John and Barbara Sinnott  
Jack and Jeanie Vogel

#### Hospitality Circle

*Gifts of \$500 to \$999*

Give Day Anonymous  
Warren and Bernadette Broz  
Dr. Stephen and Joyce Butler  
Mary Kathryn Calvert '60  
Alan and Sandy Chappuis  
Alice DeSchryver  
Florida Medical Clinic  
Thomas and Sandy Goldsworthy  
John and Patricia Grubbs  
Arnold and Ernestine Lange  
Cheryl Lange  
Frances E. Martin '  
R. A. Milliman  
Anthony A. Olivito  
John and Lynn Roth  
Donald and Beverly Roy  
Angus and Judy Williams



#### Peace Circle

*Gifts of \$250 to \$499*

AASYS Group Inc.  
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Gregoire and Kathleen Calegari  
Thomas and Theresa Carollo  
Janet Rodriguez Collura

*Generosity*  
changes everything



Columbiettes—St. Mark Catholic Church  
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### **Friends Circle**

#### **Gifts of \$50 to \$249**

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 Lourdes Milan  
 Leanne M. Milian  
 Christopher and Karen Miller  
 Robert and Joan Miller  
 Jorge and Carol Montealegre  
 Mary C. Moreau

## Friends Circle (con't)

Ellen Motes  
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Jerry and Donna Multer  
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Yvonne Nelson, Ph.D.  
Paul J. Neuhofer  
Denise O'Brien  
Delores Lurito Owens  
Robert and Ursula Page  
Papa Joe's Pizza  
Martha Parisian  
Dominick and Bernadette Passalacqua  
Donald Nathe and Karen Patterson  
Malloy and Lena Pearson  
Tom Piazza  
Susan Pleasants  
Guillermo and Marissa Polanco  
Teresa Poot Gomez  
Clementino and Delfina Poot  
Mark and Connie Powell  
Thomas and Elizabeth Prather  
Marshall and Faith Pridmore  
Margaret Ricou Randall '49  
John and Phyllis Rearden  
Mary C. Redpath  
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We make every effort to ensure that our donors are acknowledged for their kind and generous hearts. If we have made an omission or error, please call or email the Advancement Office so that we can get it right. Thank you.

(352) 588-8443 or  
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## Gifts in Memory of (con't)

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## News Briefs

**March 16—S. Mary David** and volunteer **Barbara Molloy** set-up a booth at Focus 11 and answered questions from 6th grade attendees from the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

**March 28—Michelle Palisi** (owner of a chocolate shop in New Port Richey) kindly taught the Sisters and some ladies from St. Mark's Parish to make candy... a fun event!

**March 30—**The Sisters provided lunch at Calvary Pentecostal Church for the 120 attendees of the East Pasco Ministerial Assoc. Holy Week services.

**April 14—S. Roberta** sang in the *Just the Facts* (SLU faculty/staff choir) concert at SLU.

**April 23—S. Roberta** attended the Pasco Education Fdn. and Pasco Cty. Schools Scholarship Awards Banquet at Spartan Monor.

**April 27-May 1—S. Mary David** attended the American Benedictine Federation Conference in Schuyler, Nebraska.

**May 1-2—Srs. Eileen, Mildred and Roberta** and staff members **Cheryl Chadick** and **Faith Pridmore** attended graduation ceremonies at Saint Leo University.

**May 9—S. Jean** and the **DayStar** volunteers spent the day loading, unloading and shelving food for the poor from the Post Office Food Drive.

**May 29—**The Sisters attended the Ordination to the Diaconate of **Brother Clement Rees, OSB** at Saint Leo Abbey.

The Board of Catholic Charities held their day retreat at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, FL and **S. Mary Clare** attended.

**June 19—**The Saint Leo University Leadership class held their June session at Holy Name and had lunch with the Sisters.

**June 20—**The **Columbiettes of St. Mark's Parish** had one of their lunch parties for us themed "Indoor Barbecue." We played 50's Trivia with prizes. The Sisters feel so blessed that these great ladies have embraced us! (Can you name the five original members of the Las Vegas "Rat Pack"?)

**June 28-July 2—S. Margaret Mary** travelled to Collegeville, MN for the Monastic Institute at St. John's University.

**July 5—** The "Love One Another" dinner was served by the **Sisters and Volunteers: Janet Collura, Barbara Molloy and Jo Shine** at the Dade City Nutrition Center.

**July 10-20—S. Mary Clare** attended the Monastic Liturgical Forum at Immaculate Conception Monastery in Indiana.

**July 11—**The Sisters were guests of the Saint Leo Abbey Monks for Mass and dinner in celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict. **Brothers Benjamin** and **Apollo** made first vows during Mass.

## A Man for All Seasons

**Dr. Arthur R. Kirk, Jr.**

retired from Saint Leo University this summer. As president of the university over the past 17 years, Dr. Kirk brought about extraordinary changes in the school's educational excellence, the professors who teach, the staff and the campus.



The Benedictine Sisters of Florida have enjoyed a close working relationship with the university and continued support due in large measure to Dr. Kirk's leadership. From the beginning of his tenure, he embraced the Benedictine values we cherish and made them integral to the culture at Saint Leo. Truly "a man for all seasons," Dr. Kirk's wisdom, leadership and belief system have made an enduring imprint, moving Saint Leo University from "Good to Great." In addressing the board and donors at the dinner in his honor on April 30th, Dr. Kirk said that "this institution's best years are ahead."

We are blessed that Art and his wife, **Beverly** will be seasonal residents in the local area.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

<b>1st Sundays of the Month.....</b>	Recollection Sunday with Holy Hour at 4:30 pm
<b>4th Mondays of the Month...</b>	House Meetings
<b>September 20.....</b>	Concert at the Monastery Sacred Heart Choir
<b>October 11.....</b>	Concert at the Monastery Dade City First Presbyterian Choir
<b>November 1.....</b>	All Souls Day
<b>November 5.....</b>	Angels in the Wings
<b>November 6-8.....</b>	Reunion—Holy Name Academy / St. Leo Prep
<b>November 8.....</b>	Luncheon at Holy Name for Academy Alumnae
<b>November 15.....</b>	Concert at the Monastery Choir from St. Rita Parish
<b>December 5.....</b>	Community Meeting
<b>December 8.....</b>	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
<b>December 13.....</b>	Concert at the Monastery St. Anthony School Children's Choir



*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 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

## *Monthly Concerts* *at Holy Name Monastery*

*September 20, 2015*

*2:00 pm*

**We begin the 2015-16 Concert Series  
with the Sacred Heart Choir from  
St. Joseph, FL**



We sincerely appreciated hearing from many of you after the last Tide newsletter about all the goings-on at the monastery. Greg Zielinski wrote: "I received the Spring 2015 newsletter and all I can say is 'wow!' regarding the hustle and bustle coming forth from and at the new monastery. The Benedictine Sisters charism seems to be bursting out all over."

We have many volunteers to thank for helping to make it all possible.

*Blessings to Each of You*