



SAINT SCHOLASTICA



Sister deChantel

BENEDICTINISM THEN and NOW

Our Benedictine heritage can be traced back to the year 480 AD with the birth of **Saint Benedict** and his twin **Saint Scholastica**. The very name “benedict” means “blessed one.” We are reminded that Benedict is the patron of a happy death in the traditional novena prayer recited for the nine days leading up to his feast on March 21st. We pray: “Benedict, blessed both in grace and in name. ..you promised zealously to defend us against all the snares of the enemy in the last struggle of death all those who shall daily remind you of your glorious departure ... protect us this day and every day by your holy blessing.” We pray this for ourselves and also for all our readers, our friends, family, co-workers and donors both PAST and PRESENT. Count yourself included.

As followers of Benedict and Scholastica we, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida share his blessed privilege, in this generation, to be heirs of Christ and the hands of Jesus responding to the needs of the people of God. Our varied ministries touch the lives of many people far beyond the monastery walls.

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We are grateful to **Jo-Ann Johnston** for sharing her piece in the current issue of SPIRIT. (Jo-Ann used a variety of sources including her interview with Sister Roberta to ensure her facts were correct. Thank you, Jo-Ann.)

She writes: Today the Benedictine Sisters of Florida have “a different kind of day-to-day involvement” with Saint Leo University than in the days when they housed and fed students and occupied other roles at the college level, explained Sister Roberta Bailey, OSB, '57, prioress.
(Con't Page 2)



All the different habit choices



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BENEDICTINISM THEN and NOW

(Con't from Page 1)

The Sisters are involved in a variety of community works, true to their commitment of responding “with the compassion of Christ” to the needs of God’s people. Students sometimes become engaged with



the Sisters in community projects. A classic example is a community Thanksgiving dinner that the Sisters host with nearby Saint Anthony Parish. Undergraduates in the Social Work Club take part annually in preparations and fundraising. “One thing we pride ourselves on is that we serve real mashed potatoes, so we have to peel 125 pounds of potatoes,” said Sister Roberta. More than 250 meals are served with just more than 100 delivered to people who are homebound.

One of the Sisters is the director of Daystar Hope Center in Dade City, where students can volunteer in the clothing thrift shop and food distribution center. Helpers are always welcome in the Sisters’ aquaponics project, a self-sustaining fish farm with indoor and outdoor food gardens.

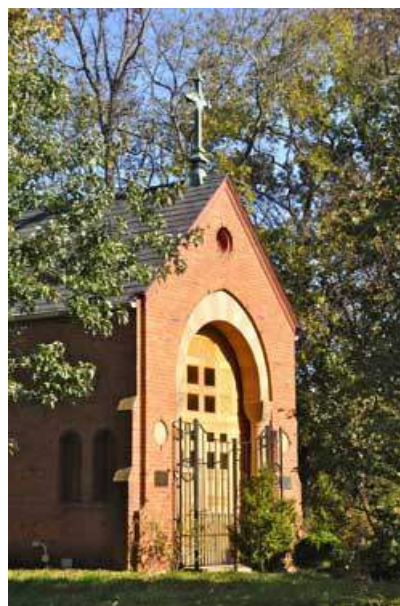
The Benedictine Sisters are sometimes asked to help with the temporary hospitality needs of international graduate students. Last summer, they provided short-term lodging for a graduate student from out-of-state so that she could attend a weekend academic conference. Her stay affected her greatly. “The Sisters were incredibly nurturing and service-oriented. Though not Catholic, I even decided to attend prayers and Mass,” the student wrote. “It was definitely God’s plan for me to be here ... 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 [all] brought me back to what is important.”

More about the Benedictine Sisters and their upcoming GALA on March 2, 2019 featuring local talent and ways you can contribute to the ministries of the Sisters are available on their website:

benedictinesistersoffl.org

As a new Benedictine Sister or Novice, I am venturing into more in-depth material. Not only do I have scores and decades of wisdom, knowledge and insight here at Holy Name, but I have a network available throughout the world.

Recently **Sister Dianne**, my formation director, and I



traveled to Bristow, VA to attend the East Coast Benedictine Conference. This represents another network of wisdom, knowledge and insight. Topics ranged from the beginning of the Catholic faith, and Liturgy (the work of the people) to how we as Benedictines apply our Liturgy in modern times. What a wealth of information! History is so important...if we don't know where we came from and if

that history is not spoken of, we lose the gains of those who have gone before us.

At the conference, I found the presentations steeped in tradition like a blueprint of ancient times. We learned just how we incorporate our precious Benedictine history into our modern era. Of course, for the novices in attendance, the sessions were but bites of rich enlightenment. I am still pondering the nuggets of so much treasure!

Today, as in the time of Saint Benedict, we often find our society hoarding or placing behind glass and alarm our said treasures and collections. But with Benedictines, the treasures are shared freely. Treasures of history are like treasures of the heart—**ABSOLUTELY PRICELESS! Sister Tracey Adams**

(Con't Page 8)



The Benedictine Tide

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Touching Lives Through Prayer and Service

New Website!/New Look!

We hope you like the new Tide header which is also for our new website. **Cheryl Chadick** has been busy working with our coding volunteer, **Frank Notarianni** to give us a new website. It is a process and we hope what we've done makes the site easy to explore and to find information about the Benedictine Sisters of Florida and what we do.

While writing this Winter Tide newsletter, the site is still somewhat of a "work-in-progress." But we hope by the time you receive this publication, the website will be just as we want it! A big thank you to both Cheryl and Frank for all their hard work.

Check it out and give us your feedback at:
hnmdevelopment@saintleo.edu

You Tube Videos

Be sure to also take a look at our three YouTube videos. Each month we are posting a different video about the Sisters and ministries. The first two about coming to Holy Name for a retreat so please let your friends, family, colleagues, and parishes know.



Our November Video, "*Girls Just Want to Have Fun*" is a much more light-hearted look at the Sisters at one of the last baseball games of the Rays. The Sisters are big fans! Hosted by the Rays in a box, we enjoyed hot dogs, peanuts, drinks and desserts—can't see a baseball game without these "specialties."

Thank you **Rays, John Picciano, and Lou Maggio** for a grand afternoon!

Postulant Marietta Dinopol

St. Benedict's Rule begins with his instructions "*listen carefully with the ear of your heart and attend to them.*"

My vocation story is rather complicated, but very much rooted in my desire to be of service to God's people. It has been a long journey to get me to where I am now... with the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in postulancy formation.



My strong feeling for a vocation came while in college. When asking for a blessing from my father, he made it quite clear that he was strongly opposed to my decision. He reviewed with me, the novel Noli Me Tangere (*Don't Touch Me*) written by Jose Rizal who was a Philippine National Hero during the colonization of the country by Spain. The book describes the inequities of the Spanish priests. After this, I did not ask again. Nonetheless, my college days were schooled with spiritual growth as well as social awareness which deepened my faith, longing, and thirst for God.

Throughout the years my focus was on my profession. However, my heart continued to murmur into my ear... listen to me. "Yes I hear you, my Lord," was within me, but I did not attend to the murmurings intently. My search for religious community was tepid until I finally found the *light*.

The Holy Spirit led me to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Before I asked the door to be opened, nagging questions interrupted my thoughts. Finally, I came to realize that my restless heart would only find its rest when I knocked on the door to seek the face of God and respond to His call for His great Glory.

The movements that have been caused in my soul remind me of two disciples who followed Jesus. "Jesus turned and said to them, What do you seek? And they said to him, Rabbi (which means Teacher), where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying and stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (Jn.1: 37-39)

As of now I can say, I am here Lord, and...

**it is good
to be here.**

JOURNEY
OF
Faith



We have a New Affiliate!

Jennifer DeCory

This year 2018 has been profound for me. Like many Catholics, my upbringing was in the Church and then I fell away. Originally from Rochester, New York, I attended college in Buffalo and then moved to Florida to be closer to family in 1999. Life just moved along with work in sales and service at Walt Disney World and other great companies for which I have been fortunate to be associated.

Eventually, I found my way back home to Catholicism and fell in love with Jesus and His Church all over again. This time it was for good as active service in my parish increased. I sing in the choir and have always been a music lover so am relearning how to play the flute. You should know that my two beloved dogs are named Mozart and Melody!

Discerning a vocation began to call to me more and more. I found Sister Mary David at Holy Name Monastery on the St. Petersburg diocesan website. She invited me to visit and discern with the Sisters and they encouraged me to search for what would be my best "fit." I traveled to several monasteries in various parts of the country, researched many religious communities, and read numerous Sisters' vocation stories online. My decision finally brought me back to Holy Name with the blend of prayer and work of Benedictine monastic life. There are multiple reasons this is the right fit for me: I feel closer to God here, I'm developing a closer relationship with Jesus, I'm helping to be of service to others, and now I have all the Sisters as family! It is a blessing to have become an Affiliate of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida this year.

bread for the world

Florence French, Florida Regional Director of the *Bread for the World* organization toured Holy Name Monastery on September 5th.



Florence wanted to see and learn about our Aqua/Hydroponics program. She was so impressed with what we were doing. Her impressions were part of her report to the national organization. Florence closed the report with our Corporate Commitment as a prayer...

true "Sisters" in Spirit!

Pope Praises Benedictine Sisters at the Vatican

ROME - **Pope Francis** spoke during a September 8 meeting with a group of Benedictine Sisters. Forming a community of women from different backgrounds and uniting them in prayer, in care for the earth and in hospitality to others is a powerful witness of Gospel values, the Pope told the group. *"Today there are many people in the world who seek to reflect in their lives the tenderness, compassion, mercy, and acceptance of Christ,"* he said.

Many Benedictine monasteries are found *"in places of great beauty where people go to pray, to find silence and to contemplate the marvels of creation. I encourage you to continue this style and service, so that God's wonderful works can be admired and speak of Him to many persons."*

Pope Francis went on to say, *"Your life in community bears witness to the importance of mutual love and respect. Each of you is different, and so the way you accept one another is the first sign you offer in a world that finds it hard to live out this value."*

"We are children of God," Francis said, *"and your prayer, work, hospitality, and your generosity, all combine to reveal a communion in diversity that expresses God's hope for our world: a unity made of peace, mutual welcome and fraternal love."*

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service—September 10, 2018

Blessing of Blankets



Blessing of Blankets is a ministry of **Debra and Ralph Sailer** who belong to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dade City. Whenever there is someone ill or an elderly individual in need of comfort, the Sailers purchase a blanket and call us to arrange for a blessing before giving it to the person. They even had us bless lap blankets they provided for **Sisters Helen and Mildred**.



Community Retreat 2018

The Benedictine Sisters held their annual retreat July 26 - 31, 2018. We were blessed with an outstanding retreat director, **Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB**, who is the head of the Benedictine order worldwide. Using the theme, "The Benedictine Life and the Paschal Mystery," Abbot Gregory gave several conference sessions each day. *"It is my conviction,"* said the Abbot during one of the sessions, *"that monasteries are among the most important places in our world today. What we offer is a warm welcome, whoever you are and whatever your story in life tells; we say 'come and be with us and find healing in the word of God that we offer you'."*

Retreat was a time of renewal of the spirit for us as we set aside our usual daily activities and had the opportunity for more prayer and lectio in addition to the Abbot's presentations. The atmosphere of the house was peaceful, serene, and quiet except at meals. The table conversations with Sisters from other orders, Oblates and friends who attended were fluid with the exchange of ideas and reflections shared.

20 Years of Service

Sister Eileen Dunbar was one of the honorees at Saint Leo University on August 15th for her twenty years service.



SLU President Jeff Senese
and Sister Eileen

The next time you pick up a college guide in a bookstore, you will understand what Sister does. She is responsible for submitting the information about Saint Leo to such publications. It is part of her job as a data analyst. "I began the position with limited experience in data analytics," explains Sister Eileen. "My college study was in music and foreign language." But Sister soon learned the ropes and is now an SQL user and is also proficient in database software.

Sister Eileen has seen many changes and witnessed

tremendous growth at the university. Her presence, together with that of **S. Roberta** on the SLU Board of Trustees, is a reminder to all of the Benedictine heritage that is the foundation of the Saint Leo University's identity as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

Canonical Visitation January 18-21, 2019

Every six years, each monastery in the Federation of St. Scholastica, of which we are a member, undergoes an Ordinary Canonical Visitation. Through the visitation of its member monasteries, the Federation of St. Scholastica provides a structure by which a community evaluates the authenticity of its lived experience of the Rule of Benedict and the Federation's constitution, *Call to Life*.

The visitation is a means of offering support, advice, correction, exchange of ideas and direction. The entire process is a graced time, meant to foster hope and the development of a clear community supported direction for the future.

Please pray with and for us during these days.



Save the Date—Saturday

March 2, 2019

5:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Our 2019 Dinner/Dance — **“One, Singular Sensation”** will feature a variety of professionals and a few up and coming professionals. We held an audition in the fall and were delighted with the talented candidates we were able to choose from and bring to you!

Along with the Silent Auction, cocktail hour, dinner, dancing, and the show, we are adding a fun online dimension to the event.

For those of you far away, but who still want to support the Sisters, we will email information so you can bid online or check our website the beginning of February:

www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

\$50

**Reserve Your
Table
Today!**

Cocktail Attire

(352) 588-8443

**hnmdevelopment@
saintleo.edu**



Where: Ballroom at Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club

10641 Old Tampa Dr, San Antonio, FL 33576

A Retreatant's Story

People will smile and call me “Flower Child,” though I’m 80, when they see the floral wreath atop my ancient Suburu. Why? they ask. Because it makes me happy I say, and I hope it makes you happy too. We connect – perhaps a child, a truck driver, a fellow gardener.



My husband, **Jerry** and I are New Yorkers, but when he retired twelve years ago, we became “snow birds” in Tarpon Springs to winter near his family. After 56 years of marriage, Jerry died in New York last September and I moved permanently to our Florida home. I lost not only the love of my life, but wise friends and neighbors of 40 years, my Franciscan Spiritual Director, a vibrant church community, my many gardens and my Spiritual Home, Mount Saviour Benedictine Monastery. I have been an oblate there for all those 40 years.

Grateful for my countless blessings, I know God is *emptying* me to make more room for Him. But what does this mean? I grieve and grieve deeply. Jesus is

ever more with me now, though I have followed His way all my life. Now the Spirit is calling me in my dawn meditations out of my darkness and my *Valley of the Shadow*. I trust, I wonder and I follow.

Three days ago, the Spirit led me to Holy Name. Truly a haven for this searching soul. The Sisters’ warm welcome, the prayerful chapel, the flourishing roses and aquaponic greenhouse, the privilege of my hands in the soil. At last, at last the welcome to weed God’s gardens, to care for the earth amid the calls of the wood storks, the smell of the newly mowed meadow, the celestial starlight. And on top of all these gifts, Sister Miriam has agreed to be my Spiritual Guide. I will return monthly and see where this new journey leads me. Deo Gratias! **Judith Grant – 8/2018**

A Natural Balance—Christianity’s Contribution to the Global Ecological Conversation

Sisters Elizabeth, Dianne and Tracy took this 7-week online course exploring the most pressing ecological questions of our time. The primary goal of the course was discovering how we respond to God’s call of caring for the earth by examining the issues from scientific, ethical and spiritual perspectives.

Offered by the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs, CO, the Benedictine charism includes stewarding all God’s creation.

Would You Like to Produce Your Own Food?

Our next training will be in the spring. We will offer several types of classes to facilitate families, educators, entrepreneurs, or hobbyist.

Aquaponics/Hydrogrow 5-Day Course **April 8—12, 2019** **\$900**

Course includes:

- ◆ Course Materials
- ◆ Certificate of Participation
- ◆ Dorm Rooms at Holy Name Monastery
- ◆ Breakfast, lunch, snacks and refreshments (dinner is on your own)

Classroom instruction and hands-on greenhouse methods in our newly upgraded greenhouse. For more information go to Phil Reasons' (lead instructor) website:

www.aquasol.org/5-day-course.html

LIMITED SPACE—REGISTER TODAY!
Call S. Mary Clare: (352) 588-7188
Or email: maryclareneu@gmail.com

Soil Gardening 2-Day Course
Also Available



Aqua/Hydroponics

The aqua/hydroponics garden is flourishing after our recent upgrade. The food harvest to our kitchen in just the first 16 weeks (Feb. 23 to June 16) was 607 pounds of vegetables and berries!

Spinach, kale, squash, broccoli, tomatoes, bok choy, carrots, eggplant, basil, bananas and blueberries are just some of the luscious greens, herbs, and fruits produced. **Sister Miriam** and her volunteers then got busy after that bounty, readying for the fall prep and planting. She is now selling to one of the locally owned restaurants in our area!



Out on the back roads in a golf cart behind Holy Name monastery exploring and checking out the lay of the land in October were **Sisters Miriam and Tracey**. "We were mesmerized by the trees and wild flowers covering the roadway," said Sister Tracey. Their

destination—the 365 Master Garden outing at a local park. They bought some ladybugs to release at dusk for our greenhouse and treated themselves to Italian Ices. In organic farming, ladybugs are a natural method of pest control.



THEN and NOW (Con't from Page 2)

As a Benedictine Sister, I treasure the spirituality of Benedictine Hospitality which calls me moment to moment. We strive to take on the consciousness of Christ—to see, to love, to offer warmth, acceptance, and joy in welcoming others. As Saint Benedict wrote in the Rule, we are *to listen with the ear of our heart* (RB Prol.1).

One of my favorite lines of the Rule of our Holy Father St. Benedict is “*Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ*” (RB 53:1). We are to receive every person met as though encountering the face of Christ - with the same sense of reverence, respect and honor. This was true during St. Benedict's time and is just as true for Benedictines today.

In my homeland, India, when people meet and part they bow their heads and salute each other by saying “*Namaste*” or “*Namaskar*” which means “The divine light in me bows to the divine light within you; I honor the place in you where the entire universe dwells; I bow to the place in you that is love, light, and joy; My soul recognizes your soul; We are the same, we are one.” And so this salute is a form of worshipping the “Other.”

In our Benedictine spirituality too, hospitality is an acknowledgement of the gift the guest represents. “By a bow of the head or a complete prostration, Christ is to be adored and welcomed in them.” Our Holy Rule teaches us that we need to have a spiritual mindset when extending hospitality to others. In this way, we are also extending charitable kindness to Christ, not only for the family of faith, but especially for guests, strangers and the sick.

Recently a guest stayed with us for a couple of weeks. While we were talking during meal time, she shared with me that for ten years she has not been practicing her catholic faith, but longed to do so. We spent some time in conversation and praying the Rosary with one of the senior Sisters. We explained that renewal is a process and we would be here to assist as she felt the need. Upon her leave, the guest said that our genuine hospitality and spiritual support had helped immensely in directing her to that which she was seeking—living in the fullness of her Catholic faith.

When we welcome others with the heart of Christ, accepting them as they are and listening to them with *the ear of our heart* then we are acting as instruments of Jesus Christ in making a difference in other's lives and in our own.

I praise and thank God for giving me a Hospitality of Heart in sharing with guests the peace, love, and joy of Jesus Christ. **Sister Elizabeth Mathai**

Angels in the Wings Luncheon

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida held our annual *Angels in the Wings* Luncheon on November 2nd. We honored one of our former members, **Fayette Wimmers ('64) Johnson**. Faye remained a “friend for life” and returned several times to visit. She had two daughters, Margaret Johnson and Rosemary Rose who notified us of their mother's passing which was March 16, 2017. They said Holy Name was very dear to their mother and that she spoke of her years in the academy and in our community often.



Left to right are: Teresa Hernandez, Pam Smith, Fran Yaremchuk, Carol and Gary Woodard, and Sister Roberta Bailey, prioress.

Catherine Costanzo was also added to our *Angels in the Wings* Legacy Society. Pictured above are some of Cathy's closest friends who wanted to be a part of honoring her.

Cathy's parents died in a tragic car accident when she was only four years of age. She was brought up by nuns in a near-by convent. At the age of 18, Cathy obtained a job and moved out on her own. She was to meet the love of her life shortly there after—Joseph Costanzo was a Private First Class in the US Army who served in world War II. It was a match made in heaven and though not blessed with children, they were fortunate to travel all over the world.

Cathy and Joseph retired to Florida and her love died in 1998 from cancer. Though devastated, Cathy found strength in the Blessed Mother. She became close to our Sisters as one of the St. Mark parish's Columbiettes. She also got involved in a Therapy Dog organization. She took her “Tickles” to nursing homes to visit patients—making people happy was her joy.

All of her friends agreed that even though she had some struggles in life, Cathy would say that she was happy, found love, remained strong in her Catholic

The Giving Season

November and December are traditionally known as the “*Giving Season*” in the United States. As a people, Americans are generous dating back to the very first arrivals and pioneers. Helping one another with whatever task needed to be accomplished was vital to their very survival. That willingness to give is one of the reasons our country is so extraordinary in the history of the world.

Our goal for Calendar Year 2018 is \$165,000 and as of October 31st when this publication went to the printer, we are only at 55% or \$90,875.18 to goal.

Many of you responded to our appeal letter in October and we **gratefully thank you!** We ask those who have not yet made a gift to please consider the Sisters and our ministries in your year-end giving. There are many who need what we offer and together we make so very much happen.



Luminaries of Love

The Sisters invite you to honor your loved one(s) with a **Luminary**. *Give a gift just because, a gift of remembrance, a gift of gratitude or a gift to family.*

We will place the luminaries around the park in San Antonio, FL on **Christmas Eve**. We pray this will be a connection of the heart for you as the funds will help us respond to community needs and provide gifts to the elderly at Heritage Park.

Give us the individual, couple or family's name to place on the bag. Each luminary is a minimum donation of **\$5.00** paid by check, cash, or online with a credit card, payable to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Click the **Donate Now** button on our web:

www.benedictinesistersoffl.org
Or for more information call (352) 588-8443

In Memorium

Fayette Wimmers ('57) Johnson, former member
March 16, 2017

Marquerite Orban ('44) Linbrecht— July 11, 2018

Tom Guertin, husband of Liz Barthle ('59) Guertin
July 12, 2018

James D. Burns, son of Nancy McCabe ('57) Burns
Counihan October 2, 2018

Catita “Kathy” Porras '56— October 15, 2018

Reunion 2018

Holy Name Academy and the St. Leo Prep School were hosted for the 50th Reunion Class the week-end of November 1st to the 4th.

Valerie Mauser Crane, a graduate of the 1962 Class of Holy Name Academy, was honored with the Benedictine Spirit Award 2018. The award was established in 2006 and celebrates an alumnus who is living the values set forth by St. Benedict and St. Scholastica in the Rule. The recipient will have demonstrated uncommon and sustained devotion to the community of Holy Name Academy, St. Leo Prep School, and Saint Leo University.



Profiled in our Summer 2017 Tide newsletter, Valerie attended Loyola University School of Dentistry in New Orleans for dental hygiene. She continues to stay in close touch with the Sisters, especially **Sister Helen**. Valerie was a 6th grade student of Sister Helen at St. Martha's in Sarasota, FL.

Married to Jack Crane, the couple have four children. While raising her family, Valerie practiced clinical dental hygiene for 25 years and then received a BS in Business Administration from Shorter College and over the years, served as consultant for international companies, a faculty member at West George Technical College. Now retired, she and Jack enjoy lake living and spending time with their children and nine grandchildren.

Upcoming Events Calendar

December 2	Recollection Sunday—4:30pm
December 4*	Penance Service—7:00 pm
December 9	Christmas Concert— 2:00 pm Academy of the Holy Names
December 15*	Reflection Day - Pat Livingston
December 24	Christmas Eve Caroling and <i>Luminaries of Love</i> in the Park
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26-31*	Time for Seekers
January 6	Recollection Sunday—4:30 pm
January 13	Concert—2:00 pm First Methodist of Dade City

Check our website for more information about these events, to make reservations (* items), and/or to purchase a Luminary for your loved one(s):

www.benedictinesistersoffl.org

My Remembrances of the Sisters and Teachers of Holy Name Academy

Barbara Browning ('64) Briggs

We students have happy memories of Holy Name Academy. **Sister Carmen** was the principal during my time there. She was from Nicaragua and formal, but friendly and very good to us all. There was, of course, a special closeness to the girls from Cuba, Central and South America.

Sister Mary Grace taught Senior English at the academy and classes at St. Leo College. She treated us like college students. Along with literature, Sister taught us to reason, research, and write. We were always serious in her class. By contrast, a priest from Saint Leo taught Senior Religion and we were rarely serious in his class!

Sister Thomasine and **Miss Fernandez** taught science, biology, physics and chemistry and made science interesting. Miss Fernandez was very young and drove a sporty, gold Corvair. Known for driving it a little too fast, she was a good sport and one day, Miss Fernandez agreed to let us stage an accident and photograph it for the yearbook. She was to look frazzled behind the wheel of the car and the student she supposedly hit was sprawled out on the driveway...that photo did make it into the yearbook!

On one very memorable field trip, the bus drove us to visit the Dade Battlefield in Bushnell and then to Hillsborough State park for a picnic. Upon arriving, the girls jumped into the river for a swim. It was only a few minutes when Sister Thomasine asked us to get out of the water. Our thinking was "What?" But we treaded water while each girl climbed up the ladder. When everyone was out, Sister took us to the edge of the river where we had just been swimming and pointed out the venomous water moccasins lurking under the water! It was a good lesson she taught us in how to stay calm and get out of a very dangerous situation.

Sister Maura taught English, Drama, and Speech. She was also the sponsor of the yearbook, our newspaper and produced all the plays. Sister Maura's enthusiasm and energy were impossible to resist.

History and Government was taught by **Sister Scholastica**. Taking her students to the San Antonio park to hear the political candidates speak before and after an election was a priority for her. We learned about the Civil Rights Movement from historical, constitutional and Christian viewpoints. Sister prepared us well for what was to come in the late 60s and 70s.

Music was an asset we also gained at Holy Name from **Sisters Gertrude** and **Helen. Mrs. Dixie Gentry** taught the business classes, turning us into good typists and Sister Gertrude taught shorthand. I somehow lost my college diploma and teaching certificate after graduation, but I have safely kept my book and Gregg shorthand certificates signed by Sister Gertrude. Thanks to her, I used shorthand everyday in college and law school as well as work!

Home economics instruction came from **Sister Imelda** as she was in charge of the kitchen. Besides her sweet smile and kind manner, Sister will always be fondly remembered for the huge cookies she baked for us.

Sister Anne Marie was **Sister Caroline's** biological sister. She was the librarian and also ran the orange grove business for the Priory. When stressed working on our senior term papers, Sister Anne Marie would tell us just how Sister Mary Grace wanted papers written. She would take time to point a student in the right direction in their research.



Sister Mildred taught school in St. Joseph, FL, but she was with us helping on the weekends. **Mr. Zapada** drove the school bus on all our outings. He even drove us with our dates to the prom. He was another really good sport!

We always had fun whether we were down at the lake-house, working on the May festival or racing down after class to catch *General Hospital* on television. There might have been complaining about wearing our blue plaid “horse blanket” uniforms, but the Sisters in their full habits had it much worse in the Florida heat.

Always encouraged by the Sisters to do our very best, there

(Con't Page 11)

Lee LeRoy Beaton
Former Member—Sister Audrey

Lee LeRoy Beaton was born and brought up in Miami, Florida - the second child of **Anne and Norman LeRoy**. Her elementary education was with the Sisters of Saints Peter and Paul as well as St. Mary's. In grades 5 through 9, she was taught by Benedictine Nuns from Holy Name at Holy Family in North Miami. **Sister Mary Grace** was the principal followed by **Sister Caroline**. "It was **Sister Joan Tant**, my 5th grade teacher," says Lee, "who inspired me to want to be a Benedictine nun."

"I was fortunate to attend Camp Jovita at Holy Name one summer and to spend the first semester of my sophomore year at Holy Name Academy. That year was finished at Notre Dame in Miami with the Saint Joseph Sisters. They were very good at recruiting, but couldn't change my mind about being a Benedictine! It was a dream come true to be accepted into the community in June of 1957 - I was just six months beyond my 15th birthday."

As a postulant, Lee took classes with Academy students to finish her remaining high school requirements. Missions with **Sister Rosanna** and **Sister Carmen** in 1959 were at St. Martha's in Sarasota, at Blessed Trinity, Ocala with **Sister Matilda Ann** in 1962, and at Jacksonville Beach in 1965 with **Sister Irma**."

After Vatican II and all the changes that came about in the Church, Lee (Sister Audrey) now at Holy Name for ten years felt her calling change. She wanted to join the Peace Corp, but knew she first needed to finish her college education. "The hardest part for me was leaving my family - the beautiful Sisters who basically raised me!"

"It was God's glorious plan that a friend would invite me to visit in Jacksonville. Attending a party while there, I would meet my sweetheart and husband, **Hudson Beaton**. He was just returning from Vietnam the day before and I was spending a short week-end with a friend. I took Hudson to meet the Sisters and over the years we visited often—after all they were my family and their acceptance of Hudson and support was of utmost importance to me. We were very happy together and blessed with a daughter, **Jessie** and a son, **Todd**. They gave us five wonderful grandchildren - **Samantha, Alexandria, Jacob, Hollie** and **Madalynn**."

As a military family (Hudson was a career Naval Officer), we traveled to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Italy. What a thrill to visit Monte Cassino and attend Vespers with the Monks - such a moving experience! This is the monastery Saint Benedict founded in the 6th Century and there is a beautiful statue of him in the courtyard. We travelled all over Europe during those couple of years and I worked with the Montessori schools."

Upon returning to the states Lee earned her BS in Elementary Education and her masters in Administration and Supervision from Old Dominion University. In 1986 she earned her EdD in Educational Leadership from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Lee taught elementary and middle school for 25 years and was principal, and Superintendent of Schools spanning another 22 years. She has been Adjunct Professor at Penn State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and Oklahoma University. Now living in Jacksonville, she is an Adjunct Professor at the University of North Florida and even still finds time to substitute teach in her local elementary schools.

Lee also volunteers raising puppies for Canine Companions and is currently raising her 9th puppy!



Sisters and Teachers (Con't) -

were rules and they were fairly applied. I thought they were part of the Rule of St. Benedict, though we never studied it.

The Sisters at Holy Name were strong, smart, caring, religious women. Their message for us was to be kind, fair, and to stand up for what was right. Such has continued because their students have tried to pass down their lessons and treat others as we were treated.

We can never thank the **Benedictine Sisters of Florida** enough for their love and generosity. I for one will continue to try and make them proud until we all meet in heaven.



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 hungers of the people of God.

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*Wishing you a Joyful
Christmas Season*

*Many blessings to you and your family
as we remember and rejoice
in our Savior's birth*

