#### Beyond words ...

The pain, anguish, sorrow of the cross the loss and death of Life and Hope

All seems lost and alone.

#### Beyond words ...

Surprise!
Faith, Joy, Hope in the rising Son
Even the sunrise that morning seems
different.
It spreads its light, brings warmth,
encourages growth.

Jesus lives!

Now the nail holes in

His hands/feet,

His open side

Are holy, shining like jewels

He gave his life for love of you and me.
If we take time to look and see
We realize He lives in us now
and makes us one

It is Easter whenever we look/see
The good/growth that can come to be
If we share His life
any/every day can be Easter!
Truly this is mystery – beyond words.
Praise The Lord! Amen.

Sister Mary David Hydro, OSB

May you and yours
know and live
God's love
at Easter
and throughout the year.





This is an Easter story only because it happened one Easter Sunday. It has nothing to do with chocolate bunnies, jelly beans or hidden colorful eggs. It has little to do with Easter themes like ladies visiting an empty grave, spreading word of their finding (or lack of finding) or the story of Jesus' resurrection. But it is my BEST Easter story. I hope you can feel my joy in remembering it ... let it ignite a smile, too, and resurrect a story of your own.

It started on Good Friday - I think I was eight years old. A neighbor had shared a collection of her daughter's handme-down dresses! All the dresses I had were made by my mother - probably the envy of many of my friends' mothers. But, I longed for a store-bought dress. And, here was a bagful of wonder - store-bought dresses that would fit me (and neither of my sisters).

I unpacked my treasures oohing and aahing over one after another pretty little dress. Then there was this perfect one! It had pockets ALL THE WAY AROUND the skirt in a continuous line, edged with white eyelet trim. My mother shook her head. "No," she said, "You just don't wear plaid on Easter."



I must have pleaded half the night, or looked so sad she couldn't resist. There I was at Easter Sunday Mass, coat removed and proudly wearing my "new" plaid dress. I suspect I must have played with those many pockets through most of Mass up to the collection. When the basket was passed, an old lady (probably not as old as I am now) leaned over to put a few coins into each of my many pockets and whispered, "Happy Easter." AND IT WAS!

I honestly do not remember what happened with the coins. Knowing my mom "we" probably added them to the collection. That part is not the memory that sticks. What still fills me with delight is wearing that plaid dress, with those gorgeous pockets to Easter Sunday Mass and feeling the weight of a few perfectly placed coins.

So, it IS a resurrection story after all. It "resurrects" the memory of a long-ago happy Easter Sunday, a stranger's generosity, a neighbor's sharing, my mother's bending of society's rules and my childish delight in a simple thing like "a dress with pockets edged with white eyelet."

May this Easter Sunday morning find you rejoicing with delight over the story of Jesus' life-giving miracle. And, may you be witness to a child's delight in simple miracles like the gift of a store-bought dress – even if it is out of season because it's plaid. The pockets make all the difference!

Sister Roberta Bailey

My thoughts, practices and reflections continue to change for each Lenten season. Questions of what, how, when and where this 40 day journey will lead, begin to rise in my mind.



One of the books I'm reading explains how the Old Testament people thought of time. The Hebrews operated in a Qualitative Time frame. Many of us are familiar with Ecc. 3:1-8, "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activitiy: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot..." The passage outlines sections of time, events within a time frame. There is pain, joy, hard work and the fruits that follow. But if one mixes up the time structure, disaster can occur. For example, planting seeds when it is actually time to harvest would yield nothing.

Most of us in the Western world think of time as a measurement. Our world runs on watches, clocks, calendars, and alarms—Quantitative Time. I am coming to realize I can operate in both arenas—Quantitative Time while embracing Qualitative Time. This reality opens up the experience of time and aids me in staying in the present.

As I learn in this process of exploring Benedictine roots, practices and customs, my thinking about Lent is changing. How it feels, tastes, smells, and imaged is both powerful and meaningful on a daily basis. One can look around Holy Name Monastery and experience the transformation: the color purple throughout the monastery, specific prayers, hymns, and readings, and the appearance of four boxes in the chapel. Each box has a purpose: one to place Lenten resolutions, another for the name of someone else for whom to pray, a daily good deed to practice and the fourth box for donations to monastic international projects. The flavor of Lent at Holy Name is truly a season of deepening spirituality. I am learning along with everyone else how to walk within it for a while ... for 40 days.

Sister Tracey Adams (Novice)

For me Easter is a time to relive memories of my family and community in India. I grew up in a conservative Catholic family and our faith was steeped in religious traditions. During Lent, we would go to church every day early in the morning for Holy Mass and then walk the Stations of the Cross. For my family, Easter is even holier and a more important religious holiday than Christmas, as it represents rebirth and renewal.

Lent has become a seven-week period for the Eastern Catholic churches in India. It starts on Monday ahead of Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday, the 50th day. During Lent, most Christians in India follow a strict abstinence from alcohol and meat.

Easter week begins with Palm Sunday and everyone is given a frond of coconut leaves (instead of palm leaves which are not available in India). Following the Mass, a procession takes place with the



community waving their coconut leaves in the air to symbolize togetherness. As children, Palm Sunday was particularly exciting for us as we loved receiving those coconut fronds and shaping them into crosses which would then be displayed on our family altars.

The three days known as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are considered some of the most holy in our traditions. Rigid rituals are followed. Maundy Thursday is observed under the leadership of head of the family (my father). After the night prayer, a biblical passage about the last supper is read while my father would break the unleavened bread into thirteen pieces. Thirteen pieces symbolizes Jesus Christ and the twelve Apostles. With prayers, he gives it to the woman of the family (my mother) after soaking it in a special dip made of coconut milk. It is then distributed amongst the family members according to our age (eldest to the youngest). We use special dishes for this ritual.

Good Friday is referred to as "sorrowful Friday." At Mass, a mixture made of bitter gourd juice and vinegar is given to everyone symbolizing the event which took place when soldiers mocked Jesus by giving him vinegar while on the cross. At noon, a procession follows those carrying a large wooden crucifix through the streets. The fourteen stations on Christ's Journey to Mount Calvary

from Pilate's palace is re-enacted. Later in the afternoon, it is back to church to begin the Crucifix veneration.

Holy Saturday is a day of bereavement - no services are held.

Easter Sunday begins early! Dressed in our very best clothes, we attend Easter Mass at 4 am. There is music in the air and the church bells are rung. The churches and the surrounding areas are illuminated. At church, wine and a piece of cake are served to mark the beginning of the celebrations and the end of Lent. The most important meal on an Easter day is a heavy breakfast comprised of appam (made of rice powder), mutton or chicken stew, steamed bananas, eggs, cakes and other special sweet dishes. The Easter Sunday celebration concludes with a sumptuous family dinner.

Sister Elizabeth Mathai

Like so many Christians, my earliest memories of Easter were of my Mom dressing me and my sisters in our "Sunday Best." She made our dresses with matching hats and new patent leather shoes. My mother was an excellent seamstress so we were always happy with how we looked.

Our family attended Methodist Church and Sunday School classes. Then as junior and senior high schoolers we joined the Methodist youth Fellowship (MYF). It was great fun, but I must admit more of a social than a religious experience for me.

As a young adult, I became a Catholic and more fervent in my faith after making silent retreats at Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra, CA. The instruction given at the retreats was excellent. Until then I had not fully understood Eucharist and what a precious part of being a Catholic it was to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at Mass.

In this the later phase of my life while living at Holy Name Monastery, my Catholic faith has become ever more important to me. I have come to know and appreciate scripture, daily Mass, Holy Eucharist, and Benedictine Community Life as complete fulfillment of my life. God be praised.

Barbara Molloy, Oblate Live-in Volunteer

#### **Annual Soup Supper**

One of our ministries is an annual Soup Supper to collect food goods and alms for Daystar Hope Food Bank and Consignment Shop. S. Jean is director of Daystar and many of the Sisters along



with many kind local people volunteer there.

February is always a very busy time. Open four days a week, 555 families or 1,702 people were served. They received 15,150 pounds of food. 219 of the families also received items from the thrift store valued at \$4,340.

# Dress-up Day at School! October Fest Day and Farm Day

Love is doing whatever it takes to engage your students!



#### **Guess Who!**



#### **Upcoming Events Calendar**

| April 18   | Holy Thursday               |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| April 19   | Good Friday                 |
| April 20   | Holy Saturday               |
| April 21   | Easter Sunday               |
| April 28   | Concert by St. Mark's Choir |
| May 12     | Sisters Serve Meal at       |
|            | Love One Another            |
| May 26     | Oblate Sunday               |
| June 13-18 | Sisters' Annual Retreat     |

Fr. John Shimkus-Oxford, MI

#### From the Oblate Office

In Chapter 49 of the Rule of **St. Benedict** we're told, "The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent." It's just as true to perhaps say "a continuous Easter." We are called to be *New*, to live that new life into which we were baptized. We are messengers, models, makers of a new world by the way we live. Benedictine life is tried and true— it's over 1500 years old, but always new. Our Oblates, knowing support from the Benedictine Sisters of Florida and fellow Oblates, experience this. When we put faith and trust in Jesus, we will be shaped into signs of love and mercy for our troubled world. God's voice echoes and His light can shine through us.

The Oblate second year study of Joan Chittister's Radical Spirit: 12 Ways to Live a Free and Authentic Life, is based on Benedict's 12 steps of Humility. It is helping us to be aware and experience this new life. Eg. "speak kindly" is a way to live the Gospel and find new life for self, for others, and the world. It is a way to build bridges, not walls, between people. This new life comes when we focus on the positive rather than the negative. Are you called to be-come New with us? It is a process—try it with us soon!

At our March 24 gathering after Mass, John Corbett was received as an Oblate candidate. He and his wife are *snow birds* from Idaho and will be able to attend three of five yearly Oblate Meetings.

Let Jesus Easter in you!

#### **Vocations**

Are you discerning a vocational call to religious life? Would you like to receive invitations to our "Seekers" events and retreats? Would you like to arrange a visit with the Sisters at Holy Name?

If your answer is "YES," this is your special invitation to our next "Days for Seekers" during:

#### Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday April 14-21, 2019

You are welcome to visit our community any or all of the days of Holy Week that you can arrange to be free of other commitments. There will be some planned program presentations and time to spend in personal prayer, or to enjoy outdoors on our grounds. The cost is a free-will donation.

- To arrange a day-visit, please contact S. Roberta Bailey, at: vocation@saintleo.edu or (352) 588-8318.
- To schedule an overnight visit, contact S. Mary Clare
   Neuhofer at: maryclareneu@gmail.com or (352) 588-7188

Please share a little bit about yourself ...where you are residing, your parish involvement, your profession, your interest in our community. **God's blessings be with you.** 

#### Sister Helen Lange, OSB

(September 28, 1913 - March 18, 2019)

Sister Helen Lange blessed us and all who knew her with a long, loving, and dedicated life to the Benedictine way. She came to our community from Olfen, Texas in 1930. She was one of eight children all born at home on the family farm to Joseph and Helena Matthiesen Lange. The family was devoutly Catholic - confession, weekly Mass, choir practice was entrenched in the life of the family and that of their small community. Sister Helen felt blessed and loved by her parents. Their deeply religious life included music. They all played an



Sister Helen and her Benedictine family celebrating her 105th!

instrument, sang, and as the children grew older, a family band was formed.

That life along with school, planted the seeds of Sister Helen's vocation as a Religious. Upon high school graduation, she and cousins Irma, Pauline, Rosaria, and Rosanna bravely boarded a train for Florida to join the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. Sister related their departure in her 1999 memoir, Kicking the Habit. Warned by Sister Rita, the girls' guardian for the trip, "there were to be no tears." Sister Helen recalled saying to Rosaria, "My God! What have we gotten ourselves into?" The tears did come ...



It did not take the cousins long to become known as "The Texas Five." They took to their new life staying busy working, praying, and studying the Rule of St. Benedict and the meaning of Religious life. Sister Helen entered Postulancy on July 27, 1930, the Novitiate on January 27, 1931 and made Perpetual Profession on January 28, 1935. She attended Loyola University of the South, Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio, Texas, Barry College (now Barry University) in Miami, Mount St. Scholastic in Kansas, the Catholic University of America, and San Angelo State University, Texas. She also took classes at the Manhattan College of Music. Sister taught elementary and music education for forty-four years throughout Florida and held administrative posts in New Orleans, Ocala, Jacksonville Beach, Sarasota, North Miami, Venice, St. Leo, and San Antonio. Sister was also active in special summer sessions and catechetical camps at Our Lady of Good Counsel Camp.

Upon retiring from the teaching profession, Sister Helen studied gerontology and served as pastoral minister at Bon Secour Maria Manor nursing home in St. Petersburg, Florida and Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. She also served as the on-sight coordinator with the Elderhostel program that was hosted in the 1990's by the Benedictine Sisters at Holy Name.

Sister enjoyed interaction with people and during the past six years of her life at Heritage Park continued her service walking the halls ministering to other residents. Her over-riding philosophy was that "to be happy and have no regrets live a life of hard work and love for God and people." In celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2012 at the Diocese of St. Petersburg luncheon, Bishop Robert Lynch was at a loss because there was no name such as "Diamond" associated with an 80<sup>th</sup> Jubilee!

Many of Sister's students and their parents remained friends throughout her life. They came to visit, invited her to their class reunions, and even travelled distances to attend significant birthday parties in Sister's honor. In notifying many of them of Sister Helen's peaceful passing on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, stories were regaled about what an impact she had on their lives. One parent who had all five of her children go through Epiphany Elementary School in Venice, Florida where Sister Helen served as the founding principal said, "Sister was always so active – I know she is up and down the halls of heaven now!" Another long-time friend spoke to Sister a week before her death and shared that Sister Helen closed their conversation with, "I'll see you in Heaven!" An amazing spirit ready to meet her Savior.

Donations in memory of Sister Helen may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, PO Box 2450, St. Leo, FL 33574.

# ANGELS IN THE WINGS LEGACY SOCIETY

#### Angels in the Wings

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida honored a dear friend, **Catherine Costanzo** at our November 2018 **Angels in the Wings** luncheon.

Cathy's life is profiled in our last Tide Newsletter (Winter 2018) which can be accessed on our website:

#### benedictinesistersoffl.org

She passed from this world in June of 2018 and this gentle, giving lady is with her Lord and Savior.

Cathy asked dear friend,

**Carol Woodard** to be Executor of her estate. Settled in February 2019, Carol presented **Sister Roberta** with a bequest as directed by Cathy. The gift will be used to screen in the dinning room patio.



## Blessing of Blankets

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida are privileged to be a part of the *Blessing of Blankets* ministry of **Debra and Ralph Sailer.** 

The Sailers purchase blankets for those ill or needing comfort and the Sisters bless the blankets. Debra's sister, **Bobbie**, was in need of one and said after receiving and touching it, she could "feel people praying for her." Bobbie said she felt very blessed by the love and concern that we had shown. Debra reports that Bobbie is feeling much better and has gained twelve pounds! Praise God.

#### In Memoriam

John H. Sultenfuss, Sr.—November 7, 2018 Contractor for Holy Name Monastery (Sisters' home 1960-2014/now Benedictine Hall)

Sister Helen Lange, OSB—March 18, 2019



#### **Sister Tracey and Focus 11**

Life throws us lots of challenges—some easy and some not so easy. In my first year as a Postulant, being a part of an event with 600 6th-grade students proved to be a significant challenge. Each year in February, the Diocese of St. Petersburg invites Catholic school students at this juncture in their education to a day of learning about Catholic Vocations. The day is full of activities including getting answers to questions from the various organizations represented (see our display above). Some of us



have more funds to spend to entice the children into checkingout our information table...

How do you think we did with my dog, Chance?

#### Visitation from Federation of Saint Scholastica

Every six years monastery members of the Federation of Saint Scholastica go through an assessment process. The Benedictine Sisters of Florida spent several months of planning in preparation of our assessment. It serves as a best practices opportunity to review and seek advice and examples of what other monasteries are doing.

Two representatives, Federation President **Sister Lynn McKenzie** and **Sister Tonette Sperando** were at Holy Name Monastery from January 19 – January 21, 2019 to facilitate the process. The purpose of the canonical visitation is to provide collaborative feedback, ideas, and advice. Meetings are held with every member of the organization and staff. Every aspect of the Sisters' monastic life and work is discussed to help ensure the organization's mission and vision is being fulfilled. The process is also important in planning for the future.

# A

#### **One Singular Sensation Gala**

#### And they were all Singular Sensations!



**DAVID and REBECCA GROOMES** 

#### **REUBEN MORALES**

#### **CHASE HEMPHILL**

**PLAYBILL** 

One Singular

Our Annual Gala, *One Singular Sensation*, on March 2, 2019 was definitely the best one yet. The professional and

semi-professional singers who entertained us with their Broadway selections received a standing ovation! In addition, we had a surprise visit from St. Benedict. A "special recipe" of Benedictine Brandy was the door prize for the audience member who knew the very first words written in Saint Benedict's The Rule... and we did have a winner!

Many **thank yous** to our performers, everyone who attended, our sponsors, silent auction donors, and those who could not attend, but made donations. You made it possible for us to raise a net total of \$32,266!

The funds raised from the event help the Sisters in their prayer life for individuals by request and for the entire world. God's blessings!



#### Helping Others Changes the Way You Live Your Life

Our friends and supporters help us connect with those dealing with pain, loneliness, and feel broken. Through the simplicity of prayer and a listening heart, we strive to bring light into the darkness.

We do so in the spirit of Jesus Christ living our lives

through Him, in Him and for Him. We could not do it without you ...



### Community Circle - \$10,000+

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#### Stewardship Circle - \$5,000 thru \$9,999

Patricia Becker
Msgr. George W. Cummings
Joseph and Rose Herrmann Charitable Foundation
Joe Herrmann, Trustee
Oglethorpe, Inc.
John Picciano, President
Jack and Jeanie Vogel

#### Commitment Circle - \$2,500 thru \$4,999

Sister Tracey L. Adams Anonymous - 2 Richard Brown Theresa Jablonski Lt. Gen William and Anne Lennox Jr. Saint Leo University

#### Balance Circle - \$1,000 thru \$2,499

Anonymous - 3 Michael Avadikian, Avadikian Nash Group Lee Leroy ('57) Beaton Peter J. Biscardi Janet Rodriguez Collura Columbiettes Tampa #12956 Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Fayetta Wimmers ('54) Johnson† Ginger Judge Drs. Victor and Dewey Kramer John and Janice Makar Christopher and Gina Neuhofer Elaine Richard Donald and Beverly Roy San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union Tim Baldwin, President Dr. John and Barbara Sinnott

#### Hospitality Circle - \$500 thru \$999

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Clara Wansley

Gary and Carol Ann Woodard

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Gail H. Buffong
Mary Kay Miller ('60) Calvert
Margaret Cantu
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Joseph B. Vogel

Virginia McCaskill ('56) Witherspoon

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Jeffrey and Nadine Anderson Dr. Tyson and Kelly Anderson

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Charlene Dino Angela M. Donatelli

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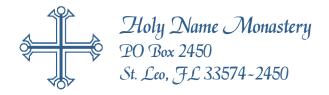
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In an effort to address contemporary local needs, we, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, commit ourselves and our resources to respond with the compassion of Christ to the hungers of the People of God.

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He was a King but He laid His crown down
to be a servant /slave.
He was a King but He laid His life down
for us



His Holy Name

brodain