May the grace of this Easter season flow in and around you!

QUEEN OF ANGELS MONASTERY • MT. ANGEL, OREGON
Greetings to all as we move into another season of the year and our lives!

Spring is such a fertile, rich and abundant time of year in the Willamette Valley. It also marks the time of Lent into Easter: the Paschal Mystery which deepens in us in new ways as we celebrate each year the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

It was my good fortune to attend the annual meeting of prioresses of the Benedictine women monasteries in the United States, Canada and Mexico, in February in Cullman, AL. Queen of Angels belongs to the Federation of St. Gertrude, a group of 14 monasteries in the United States and Canada. There are three other federations (Scholastica, Benedict and Congregation of Perpetual Adoration) in the United States and other countries, comprising 43 Benedictine monasteries in all (and that is just the women’s monasteries). Imagine the constant flow of grace that comes from this Benedictine way of life. We are part of a much larger vision.

The theme of the conference was “Fully Human, Fully Alive.” The meetings included the usual business of an organization plus a talk entitled “Love of learning and the desire for God – an American Archival Application.” The final two days were spent participating in a workshop presented by John Picciano, CEO of Catholic Addiction Centers, dealing with the normal human tendencies toward obsessive compulsive behaviors and ways to be ‘fully human, fully alive.’ He stressed being aware of and embracing our own human development. He also gave a sobering presentation on the effects of opioid addiction in our country.

The days were surrounded by the tolling of the bell calling us to the regular, daily prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, the constant flow of grace for all of the intentions of our various monasteries.

As you receive our greetings and news in this issue of Reflections, we bless you with ongoing prayers for all of your intentions and the desire for you to experience the flow of God’s grace in this Easter Season.

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Pastoral Administrator
By Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

“According to [St. Benedict’s] own description, the whole world was gathered up before his eyes in what appeared to be a single ray of light.”
(from Life and Miracles of St. Benedict [Book Two of the Dialogues] by Pope Saint Gregory the Great (540-604))

Many visitors have asked about the textile wall hanging high on the south wall of the Queen of Angels Chapel. In the many times the Sisters have shared the inspiration of the wall hanging, visitors have been surprised and inspired at the story from the Life and Miracles of St. Benedict. We now share the significance and beauty of the art piece with you, our dear friends and readers.

In November of 1999, Eleanor van de Water (RIP 12/5/2005) of Vancouver, Washington, was commissioned to create a textile wall hanging for the south wall of the newly built Queen of Angels Chapel after the 1993 earthquake. The hanging was to depict St. Benedict’s vision of the whole world in a single ray of light. The artist indicated that the art piece is “a burst of light presented in a circular format, to recall the round windows, a major architectural element in the chapel.” Eleanor’s most often chosen theme was “light – as a source of joy, faith, life itself.”

Since the influence of light in the life of St. Benedict was to be depicted, it is no wonder that Eleanor took up this commission. She wrote, “As the light reflected by St. Benedict inspires the sisters of Queen of Angels Monastery, so may the wall hanging challenge each viewer to follow the example of St. Benedict by spreading light in each daily encounter.” Thus, the wall hanging became “another window” in the multi-windowed chapel, designed by the architect, the late J. David Richen of Portland, Oregon.

This contemplative vision of St. Benedict, where the world is held in a single ray of light, a lovely vibrant sunbeam, a prism of holy light, speaks to us of important Benedictine values – values of humility and hospitality, and being grounded single-heartedly in Christ. This Benedictine vision invites all of us to become beams of love bright enough to love and embrace all of humanity. We are to become piercing rays of light and love in our world by our faithful prayer and service.

Our daily Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist draw all into this mystical experience of oneness with our God and all living beings. Come and see, come and worship with us in our Queen of Angels Chapel, a place of peace, light, and unity.
Sister Angela Meister’s grandson, Chris Karkas, an arborist, visited the monastery for a few weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays. During his time at the monastery, he received special permission from the Sisters to climb the Giant Sequoia tree located in the front of the monastery. This tree, an Oregon Heritage Tree, is 125 years old. Although this is not the first time the tree has been climbed, it was the first time photos were taken from the top.

While climbing the historic tree, Chris also took measurements. The last time the tree was measured was in 1993, when it was 100 years old. That year, the tree was 129’ tall and had a diameter of 104.8”. During Chris’ climb, he measured the Giant Sequoia and discovered it now stands at over 138’ tall and has a diameter of 115.2”. An incredible amount of growth in 25 years.

Sister Immaculata’s Coffee Cakes Carry On

When Sister Immaculata Tuma passed away in 2017, the future of her famous buttermilk coffee cakes was uncertain. The coffee cakes, a monastery staple, were given out as gifts to family and friends of the Sisters, and were sold in the Monastery Gift Shop. The coffee cakes most notable appearances were at the Benedictine Sisters’ booth at the annual Oktoberfest where they had become a community favorite.

The tradition of making coffee cakes would need more than just the passing down of a recipe to continue. Fortunately, Sister Immaculata passed down her recipe along with her passion and love for cooking these special coffee cakes to a small group of staff and Sisters who will continue her legacy. Led by Suvannah Moss, a baker from Bon Appétite, Sister Marietta Schindler, and with the help of the entire Queen of Angels community, Sister Immaculata’s famous buttermilk coffee cake will continue to be a monastery tradition for many years to come. Look for Sister Immaculata’s coffee cakes at the Oktoberfest this fall.
Sisters Honor Society of St. Scholastica Members at Special Mass

The Sisters hosted the First Annual Society of St. Scholastica Mass & Brunch on Sunday, February 11. A special Mass was celebrated in honor of this special group of supporters. The Mass was followed by brunch in the monastery dining room. Sr. Jane addressed the group and read a short story on St. Scholastica – the group's namesake. Her story highlighted the important role St. Scholastica played in the life of St. Benedict, her brother, and how they now play an important role in the lives of the Sisters.

The Society of St. Scholastica comprises friends, family, and supporters who give $1,000 or more to the Benedictine Sisters annually. The names of all 62 members of the society were placed in a special basket and were prayed for during Mass. The Sisters are remembering the St. Scholastica members all year. The Second Annual Society of St. Scholastica Mass & Brunch is scheduled for February 10, 2019 – the feast day of St. Scholastica. To learn more or to join the Society of St. Scholastica, visit www.Benedictine-Srs.org/Scholastica.

Monastery Upgrades Supportive Care Center Through Anonymous Grant

Thanks to two grants from two anonymous foundations, the Supportive Care Center at Queen of Angels Monastery is upgrading a number of its rooms. Three rooms are receiving new, electric hospital beds and alternating-pressure mattresses. Five rooms will be receiving new electric recliners designed to provide back support and pain relief. Finally, the common area will receive two new recumbent exercises bikes.

These upgrades are replacing older equipment that is currently being used. The mission of the Supportive Care Center is to provide a safe place for our elderly Sisters to age within the walls of the monastery. Thanks to these grants, we will be able to significantly improve the quality of care for many years to come.

Oktoberfest Grant Goes Towards Monastery Beautification

The Benedictine Sisters are extremely grateful for the Oktoberfest grant received this year. The funds were used to help in the upkeep and maintenance of the monastery’s beautiful and historic grounds. Our deepest and most sincere thanks to the members of the Oktoberfest Board of Directors for this year’s grant, and for their continued support of Queen of Angels Monastery and our monastic community.

Thank You for Your Service, Keenan

After 18 years of service to the Benedictine Sisters, longtime staff member, Keenan Foraker, retired on March 1. Keenan wore many hats during his nearly two decade-long career. No job was too small, and Keenan always went above and beyond to make sure that the Sisters, their home, and the grounds, were taken care of. His kind and caring presence will truly be missed, but the Sisters are joyful and happy that he will finally be able to enjoy his retirement. From the Benedictine Sisters, and the past and present staff of Queen of Angels Monastery, thank you, Keenan!
Upcoming Retreats

“Happiness Retreat”
April 7, 9:30am–3:00pm, $40
During this time together, we will glean the core message of Sister Joan Chittister, OSB’s book, Happiness, William B. Erdmans Publishing Co., 2011. We will discuss and practice the wisdom of pursuing wholeness and peace in your life. Come and enjoy the delightful journey to happiness. Not necessary to have read the book, but helpful.

Presenters: Sister Joan Pokorny and Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB, experienced spiritual directors and retreat leaders.

To Register: Call 503-845-2556 or send a check, payable to Benedictine Sisters, to 840 S Main St, Mt. Angel, OR 97362 by March 30, 2018.
Price includes materials and lunch.

“Welcome to Spring: A Reflective Retreat at Shalom”
April 14, 9:30am–2:30pm, $50
This retreat is a chance to stop and notice and not just walk by the beauties of nature. We can pause to notice in the beautiful outdoors. We can relate through a metaphor, wisely chosen, that describes better than any words some truth for us. Perhaps a mandala will display the lavish designs and colors of spring with which we can identify and take note. Something of beauty or possibility of beauty may surface and an intuitive hunch within us turns into a larger insight of possibilities of change and action.
This brief day of retreat may not only welcome spring around us but even the movement of Spring within.

To Register: Call 971-273-0700 or mail check to Evelyn Wemhoff, PO Box 21083, Keizer, OR 97303.
Price includes materials, snacks, and lunch.

“What is Spiritual Direction?
A Free Informational Session”
April 23, 1–2:30pm
Sister Joan Pokorny, Evelyn Wemhoff, and Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer invite you to explore and learn more about the concept and practice of Spiritual Direction.

“To Consciousness: A Holistic, Spiritual Perspective”
May 4–5, 7–9pm, 9am–4pm, $125
Presenter Dean Schlecht, M.Div. will lead participants through a series of exercises exploring how to use mindfulness and active imagination to expand their own consciousness and how to spot and avoid roadblocks to consciousness.

“Two-Part Progoff Intensive Journal Workshops”
June 3–6, Times Vary by Day, $165–$325
The Progoff Journal is more than a journal. It is an Inner Workbook. The process of the method draws systematically inward until it establishes an atmosphere of quietness and depth in which the refocusing and then the reintegration of life can take place. Presented by Evelyn Wemhoff.

To register: Call 971-273-0700 or mail check to Evelyn Wemhoff, PO Box 21083, Keizer, OR 97303.

“Iconographic Arts Institute”
June 22–30
For more information or to register, visit www.iconinstitute.org.

To learn more about these retreats, to register for a retreat, or to see other upcoming events at the monastery, visit www.Benedictine-Srs.org/Events.
Monthly Programs

Supervision for Spiritual Directors
2nd Friday, 9am–12pm, September through May, $30 each
All spiritual directors are welcome to attend the monthly supervision meeting for on-going formation and education featuring lively discussions of pertinent spirituality topics, prayer and skills of the ministry. Call Sr. Joan Pokorny at 503-949-6284 or email her at j pokornyqam23@gmail.com to inquire or register.

Monthly Dream Group: Language of the Soul
3rd Saturday, 10am–12pm, all year, $20 each
Listening to dreams in a group can help us pay attention to God’s presence in image and word in our awakened life. Presenter is Peggy McGurn, PhD. Discussions held in the monastery.

Taize Prayer Service
3rd Sunday, 7–8pm, October through May, free
Join us for our monthly Taize Prayer Service in the Chapel. This special service features sung and chanted prayers, meditation and personal reflection. All are welcome!

Prayer of the Heart: Contemplative Prayer
3rd Tuesday, 3:30–4:30pm, all year, free
All are welcome to join this contemplative prayer group. Meetings take place in the Chapel located on the second floor of the Hospitality Center.

Book Talk
3rd Saturday, 9:30am–12pm, September through June, free
Monthly Book Talk led by Tim Nelson and Linda Jensen. Discussions take place in Agatha Hall. Visit our website for complete reading list.

Is Spiritual Direction for Me?

By Evelyn Wemhaff
Shalom at the Monastery offers the opportunity for Spiritual Direction.

This is definitely not a new practice in our century. Saint Marie of the Incarnation, a French Ursuline nun in the sixth century, advised: “choose a wise and capable guide” for the spiritual journey. The spiritual journey is unique to each of us. The deep presence and listening of a Spiritual Companion can assist us to be attuned to God’s grace within and sense our future directions.

To explore the question, “Is Spiritual Direction for Me?” I asked several persons who had shared with me what Spiritual Direction is for them:

Question: Why did you seek Spiritual Direction?

I often seek retreat opportunities and spiritual direction at Benedictine communities. They are welcoming places that provide sacred space for quiet and rest. There are wise companions there who listen with the ear of their heart to that in me which is seeking wisdom, expression, clarity and direction. I return to my life with new insight and energy.

I sought out Spiritual Direction after a friend and I encountered a spiritual experience that we could not easily process. I continued because SD does not judge my experience of the Holy.

For me Spiritual Direction is like a life line to God; I need not ever fear for I am always connected to God.

Each person has a different experience of Spiritual Direction because each person comes bringing what is welling up within. The individuals and groups coming to Shalom also have the support of the Benedictine Community there who support with their prayers all who come. May each of us find what we need on our spiritual journey of life.
A Book Review by Sister Marietta Schindler, OSB

“Can You Drink the Cup?” by Henri J.M. Nouwen
Ave Maria Press (2006)

Fr. Nouwen, a chaplain and pastor at L’Arche Daybreak, a home for people with intellectual disabilities, writes about the spiritual life, taking stories from his community friends. He meditates on holding, lifting, and drinking the cup – a cup of life - while holding on to who we are, our skills, our weaknesses, and our differences. His story talks of lifting our cup to share, affirm, and celebrate life together in community. We are encouraged to give thanks for the many blessings we have.

The stories Fr. Nouwen relates of his community friends challenges us to see our sorrows as blessings, and to love unconditionally. We should take time for silence to better experience true freedom. And finally, we should share our hearts with trusted friends, drink the cup of life with people and respond with joy, peace, and a true gift of love.

About The Author
Fr. Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) was born in Holland and was an ordained Catholic priest. He experienced the monastic life with Trappist monks at the Abbey of Genesee and experienced life with the poor while living with the Maryknoll missioners in Latin America. He wrote over 40 books on spirituality and the spiritual life. His books have sold millions of copies and have been translated into dozens of languages.

Benedictine Reading List

The Rule of St. Benedict
A Spirituality for the 21st Century
Joan Chittister, OSB

Seventy-Four Tools for Good Living
Reflections on the Fourth Chapter of Benedict’s Rule
Michael Casey, OSCO

A Guide to Living the Truth
St. Benedict’s Teaching on Humility
Michael Casey, OSCO

Sacred Reading
The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina
Michael Casey, OSCO
Sister Grace’s Handwritten Copy of the Declaration of Independence

Contributions by Sister Christine Rausch, OSB and Sister Rene Foster, OSB

Take a walk through the monastery, and you may find yourself in the Bernardine Room, next to the monastery library and archive room. Adorning one of the walls is a 4.5’ tall, handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence. It was hand-printed by Sister Grace Taylor (1918-2000), a member of Queen of Angels Monastery and a calligrapher. The piece, which was finished in 1968, took months to complete.

Sister Grace, author of The Arts and Crafts: Calligraphy in Particular (1967), was a master of italic handwriting. She learned from renowned calligrapher Professor Lloyd J. Reynolds, receiving her Master’s in Arts and Literature from Reed College in Portland. Sister Grace helped train teachers on how to teach italic handwriting to their students. She published a series of workbooks for children from kindergarten to the eighth grade.

Her Declaration of Independence piece showcases her work and skill beautifully. Today, the piece is on display in the monastery’s Bernardine Room. Visitors to the monastery can view the piece during a tour, visit, or retreat.

Reflections
An Offering of One’s Self

The Oblate Program at Queen of Angels Monastery is doing well. There are currently 85 active oblates. At any given time, approximately 40 regularly participate at the monthly oblate gatherings at the monastery. Many of our oblates are not only active in our monastic community, but also in their own parishes and communities.

Oblates join our community by studying and following the Rule of St. Benedict and the Scriptures. They seek God daily through study, prayer, conversion of life, and works of charity, justice and peace. Currently, the group is studying Pope Francis’ encyclical letter, “Laudato Si’: On Care of our Common Home.”

Interested in becoming an Oblate?

Contact Sister Maureen Niedermeyer at (503) 845-6141 or by emailing qamoblates@gmail.com. You can also read more on our oblate program at www.Benedictine-Srs.org/Oblates.

Upcoming Events:

Oblates meet monthly on the 2nd Sunday of each month. In May, they will meet on May 20 due to Mother’s Day.

The Oblate picnic will be held on Saturday, July 14 at the monastery.

The annual Oblate Retreat will be held September 21-23.
Save the Date

1st Annual Monastery Barbeque

Sunday, July 15, 2018
10am – 2pm

The Benedictine Sisters invite you to join us for Mass as we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Benedict. You are then invited to stay for a short hosted reception and delicious barbeque in the monastery courtyard.

We invite you as our guests, but we kindly ask that you RSVP to (503) 845-2556 or by emailing info@benedictine-srs.org.

10am - Mass | 11am - Reception | 12pm - Barbeque
Join us for all or just a part the day’s activities.

The Monastery Gift Shop will be open, and tours of the monastery and grounds will also be available!

More Information Available Online at www.Benedictine-Srs.org/BBQ
Sister Jill Aigner, O.S.B., a member of Queen of Angels Monastery, died October 7, 2017, at Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, Oregon. She was 94 years old.

Sister Jill was born to Mildred and Irving Shepard of Glen Ellen, California and was named Mary Margaret, but she was always called Jill as she had an older brother, Jack. She was followed by a brother Milo and a sister Joy. Her paternal grandmother, Eliza Shepard, was Jack London’s half-sister, so as Sister Jill wrote in her memoir, A Stranger in My Skin, she “was part of a family with famous connections.” She and her family lived on a 1,500-acre ranch, in Sonoma Valley, which was purchased by the famous author Jack London in 1905.

After graduation high school, she attended Stanford University, but illness and World War II cut into her education. During the war she married Henry Aigner and moved to San Rafael, California. In 1960 she turned to teaching both elementary and secondary students at the Mill Valley Public Schools. She and Hank adopted two children Hal and Jean. In the early 1970’s, she was separated from Hank and within the next year, she felt called to “work for the Lord” and was accepted as a Frontier Apostle in Prince George, British Columbia.

After surviving one winter, she went to work at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane. There she met Sister Jean Ann Berning, who invited Sister Jill to visit her at Queen of Angels Monastery. Sister Jill visited in Mt. Angel and wrote, “Something ’took,’” and in the fall of 1972, she entered the monastery at the age 49, making temporary profession on December 21, 1974.

In 1973, Prioress Antoinette Traeger appointed Sister Jill Aigner as the director of the newly established “Shalom Prayer Center.” In 1983, Sister Jill went to the House of Bread Monastery, Nanaimo, British Columbia, to do retreat work as the Director of the Bethlehem Retreat Center and to continue her work in Priory Productions. When the House of Bread Monastery became an independent monastery, Sister Jill changed her “stability” from Queen of Angels Monastery to the House of Bread Monastery.

In 2010, for health reasons, Sister Jill transferred her stability from House of Bread Monastery to Queen of Angels Monastery, where she lived in the Health Care Center, participating fully in community life.

Sister Jill authored her memoir, A Stranger In My Skin: An Unconventional Path to God, Monastery Press, 2007, as well as three other resources for seekers. Sister Jill, being a very gifted author, was an avid and expert photographer. Her exquisitely beautiful photographs were used in Priory Productions films strips as well as for gifts of photo cards and framed photos.

Sister Jill suffered a major stroke on Friday, September 29 and died peacefully in the monastery at 10:55 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Sister Jill is preceded in death by her parents, her two brothers, Jack and Milo, and is survived by her sister Joy Shaffer, her daughter and son, Jean Leete and Hal Aigner, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins, many friends, and her monastic community, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. Memorial gifts may be made to the retirement fund of the Benedictine Sisters.

A vigil was celebrated in the monastery chapel in Mt. Angel on Tuesday, October 10, and a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, October 11, followed by her burial in the monastery cemetery.
Sister Josephine Schultz, O.S.B.,
a member of Queen of Angels
Monastery, died January 9, 2018, at
the Providence Benedictine Nursing
Center, Mount Angel, Oregon. She
was 95 years old.

Sister Josephine Schultz, originally from
Windsor, North Dakota, was the sixth
of nine children born to Matthias and Martha
(Wanzek) Schultz. In 1936, to escape the dust bowl
conditions in North Dakota, her family moved
to Oregon, settling in the farming community of
Canby. Two years later the Schultz family moved
to a farm between Mount Angel and Silverton. Sr.
Josephine graduated from Mount Angel Academy
and professed her vows on Feb. 10, 1941, at the age
of 18.

During her eight decades as a Benedictine, Sr.
Josephine Schultz has had three different but
highly distinguished careers. She earned her
bachelor’s degree from Mount Angel College
in 1948 and then served as an elementary-
school teacher/principal for 20 years. In 1962,
she received a master’s degree in library science
from Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles,
California, and began to work as a librarian. She
served as the librarian at Mount Angel College
for 10 years and then worked at the Oregon State
Library until 1981. Counting the monastery
library years, Sister Josephine served as a librarian
for over 40 years. In 1987, she received certification
in pastoral care and served as a chaplain at Mount
St. Joseph’s Care Center in Portland. From 1989
until her retirement in 1993, she served as pastoral
services director at the Benedictine Nursing Center
in Mount Angel.

In 2015, due to health issues, Sister Josephine
moved to the Providence Benedictine Nursing
Center, where she had served as Chaplain and
Director of Pastoral Service from 1990 - 1993.

There she continued to minister
to other residents, her family,
friends and her monastic
community by her humble
acceptance of her health
condition and her dedication to
prayer. Sister Josephine maintained
a very positive outlook on aging and
life throughout her retirement years.

Sister Josephine has been at Queen of Angels
Monastery for 79 years, blessing her community
with her leadership, enthusiasm, generous service,
love of monastic life and prayer, and perseverance.
She loved being in the beauty of the Northwest,
being an avid back packer and hiker. As a young
sister, she climbed the 1893 giant sequoia, planted in
front of the monastery. She enjoyed a trip to Europe
with Sister Theresa Henscheid, traveling to the
Benedictine communities of Engelberg and Maria
Rickenbach in Switzerland and to Rome, Italy.

Sister Josephine suffered gradual diminishment
of old age and died peacefully in the Providence
Benedictine Nursing Center at 5:50 p.m., on
Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Sister Josephine was preceded in death by her
parents; her sisters Regina Schultz, Dolores Etzel,
Louise Waldrock, and Monica Gaffke; and her
brothers Anthony and Felix. She is survived by
her sister Rita Hudak of Mount Angel; and her
brother, Edward Schultz of Garibaldi, Oregon,
as well as many nieces and nephews, cousins,
many friends and her monastic community, the
Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel. Memorial
gifts may be made to the Benedictine Sisters.

A Vigil was held in the monastery chapel in
Mount Angel on Monday, January 15, and a
Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday,
January 16, followed by her burial in the
monastery cemetery.
Keep Up With the Benedictine Sisters Online

The best place for News - Pictures - Upcoming Events

facebook Twitter Instagram @MtAngelSisters

Online Giving Now Available

You can now make your gifts to the Sisters online through our new safe, secure, and easy-to-use giving portal. New features allow you to select the area of need you wish to support, and even set up recurring gifts. Visit our website to learn more.

www.Benedictine-SRS.org/Donate

You can now join the Society of St. Benedict online by setting up a recurring monthly gift, or join the Society of St. Scholastica by making a gift of $1,000 or more. All online!
Has a Benedictine Sister changed your life?

A letter from John Michels, Mt. Angel College, Class of 1963, and member of the Society of St. Gertrude

About seventy years ago when I was in the second grade at Saint Mary’s Grade School in Mt. Angel, I first found out why I prayed to God. My mother, father and sister taught me how to pray, but I had no idea why I was saying what I was saying. As a second grader and later in grade school, I was taught that we prayed to God because He is our Father in Heaven, our maker, and loves us unquestionably. Who taught us these and other facts about prayer? Of course, at that time in 1947, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. They were our teachers and models of holiness and prayed with us and for us. That tradition of prayer has never stopped. The Sisters of Mt. Angel have continued to pray for me and others throughout my life, even for the repose of the soul of my late spouse, Kazuko, who they only met once – 20 years ago!

What can we do to continue this holy prayer for us and our relatives and friends? By remembering the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel in our will and estate plans we can ensure their continuing prayer and love for us in the next life with God, his son Jesus, all the angels and saints. There is not time like the present to prepare financial remembrances to the Benedictine Sisters who taught us why we pray. For, as Saint Benedict of Nursia said in the Rule of St. Benedict, “while there is yet time, and we are still in the flesh…we must make haste to do now what will profit us forever.”

We are pleased to announce two new members to the Society of St. Gertrude, a special group of supporters who have ensured the future of the Benedictine Sisters through their estate plans or wills.

Margaret F. Berning • Mary Jeanne Berns
Easter Prayer

By Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM

Gracious God,
Your Son, Jesus Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Bring on the new dawn…
…where cures can be found
…where the rivers run clean
…where the skies and the soil thrive
Come and make your home with us this Holy Day
That we might glimpse the oneness of heaven and earth.
May the grace of this Easter season flow in and around
Us throughout the year.

Amen