

Volume XLVII
No. 2 Winter 2023

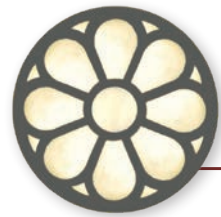
Reflections

of the Benedictine Sisters



*Wishing you a
Blessed Christmas*

FROM THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS



Welcome

Front Cover: 'Saint Anne and Child Mary,' Povey Window in 1903 Chapel



Dear family and friends,

Advent...beginning again the beautiful cycle of life of the church year.

We go from “ordinary time” at a time that feels anything but ordinary to the season of hope, peace, joy, and love. It is also a season of deep gratitude for all we hold dear: family, friends, country, freedom. We yearn for stability in all of those relationships.

A year ago we were just beginning to plan the moves to Providence Benedictine Nursing Center’s Orchard House Assisted Living and Mt. Angel Towers. We were just planning how to downsize and keep what is precious and let go of what has been accumulated over the years we have lived here at the monastery. New life, stability, prayer and the natural caring for others has become our daily routine now. We are very grateful to have the gracious care of the service partners and staff at our new home at Orchard House and Towers. We are living in a very good, new reality.

The monastery is empty, waiting like Mary for the new life that will sprout from the 141 years of life and goodness that have graced these halls. We will be sharing the news of our partners who will carry on here in the near future.

In the larger world, life seems fragile and there is no end to the intentions that are impacting us, both personal and world, that need our attention and prayers.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you.” Thomas Merton

This is how it feels right now. We need the hope, peace, joy and love of this season to spread from our hearts to all over the world. May this cherished time of year bring you comfort and may the days of 2024 find you blessed in all ways by the love of our God.

Peace to you,

Sister Jane

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Pastoral Administrator



Visitors from Switzerland

By Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB



Each year, on the anniversary of their death, we hear the names of our deceased sisters as we conclude Vespers. After Vespers, we can read their obituary in the Necrology binder (a register or list of records of the deaths of people related to a particular organization) in our chapel. This is a tradition for us to remember with gratitude and prayer each deceased sister and her contribution to our monastic community and to the broader church.

I heard the names of Sister Mechtilde Hugentobler on December 15 and Sister Clara Stuedle on July 3 ever since I entered the Benedictine Sisters in 1961 – 62 years.

But when Josef Schönauer of St. Gallen, Switzerland, contacted me last August inquiring about Anna Maria Elisabetha (Sister Mechtilde Hugentobler), who is related to him, the life of Sister Mechtilde came more alive and sacred to me. I sent Josef via email the obituary, photos and other information about Sister Mechtilde.

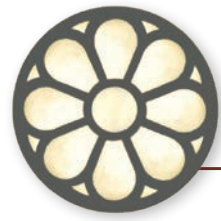


After I sent the material to Josef, he told me that he and his wife, Elisabeth, were coming to visit relatives in Oregon and that they would like to visit Queen of Angels Monastery. October 6 was the day of the visit, when the three of us exchanged further information about the Hugentobler family and the history of Queen of Angels Monastery. We also realized that Sister Mechtilde had an aunt in the monastery, Sister Clara Stuedle from Switzerland as well.

Sister Clara (Matilda) was born in Niederburen, Canton St. Gallen, on July 18, 1866. She entered Queen of Angels on October 24, 1889 and made her profession on April 23, 1891. She worked for several years in Grande Ronde and also in Kakawis, B. C., which were fruitful fields for her religious zeal. She was also novice mistress for many years. Her obituary says she was a model Benedictine nun. For the last six months of her life, Sister Clara suffered resignedly and patiently, the pains resulting from cancer of the stomach. She died July 3, 1939, the 59th sister to die in the community.

Sister Mechtilde arrived in Mt. Angel from Switzerland on October 17, 1923 and was put in the care of her aunt, Sister Clara, who was at the time novice mistress. She made her profession on April 21, 1926. Sister Mechtilde did housework most of her monastic life. After a prolonged illness, Sister Mechtilde died in 1931 at a young age. She was the 41st sister to die in the community.

From just an email from Switzerland, I learned so much more about two of the sisters that I had known only by name. They are a part of the rich heritage of Queen of Angels Monastery. And I was fortunate to make some new friends – Josef and Elisabeth Schönauer of St. Gallen, Switzerland.



From the Archive: The 1903 Chapel

If you ever visited the old Benedictine Foundation Office (now Mission Advancement), you may not have known at that time that it was the sisters' first chapel. Only a few small signs remain in the room the founding sisters used to gather in for Liturgy of the Hours, private prayer, and Mass. This first chapel was built in 1888 and was in use until the second chapel was built in 1903.



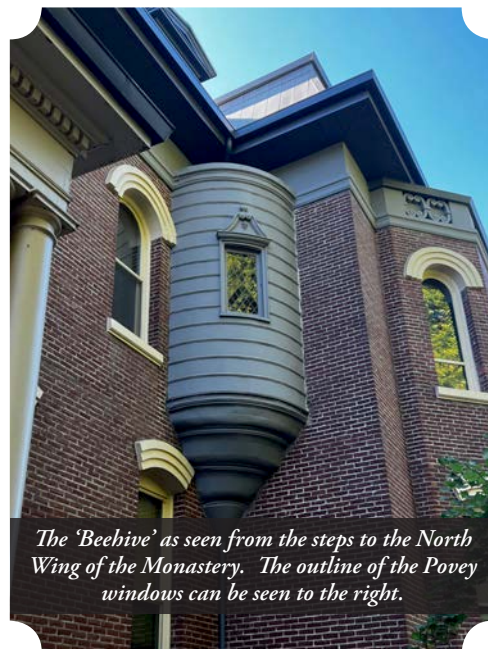
The 1903 chapel was built when the North Wing was added and occupied the third and fourth floors. It too was eventually replaced by a bigger chapel in 1912. However, unlike its predecessor, you don't have to look too hard to see remnants of this beautiful chapel. From the outside, two features can clearly be seen – the Povey windows, and the “Beehive.”

Povey Brothers Art & Stained Glass Works of Portland was the

largest and best known art glass company in the western United States. During their 40-year history (1888-1928) they produced windows for homes, churches and buildings throughout the West. Many of the company's windows still exist in historic buildings. In the early 1950's the windows were transferred to the St. Luke's Benedictine Sisters' Convent chapel in Woodburn, which was across the street from St. Luke School where the sisters taught. When the sisters no longer lived at the convent, the windows were moved back to their original location in the monastery, around 1985. In 2023, the windows were transferred to the Queen of Angels Legacy Collection at Mount Angel Abbey.

The Beehive was actually a passage way from the chapel to the sacristy room. It got its nickname because it resembled a hive or nest affixed to the exterior brick of the chapel. This passage way, just to the right of the altar, was later sealed but you can still partially enter it from the main room.

In 1912, a third chapel was built when the South Wing of the monastery was completed. In 1986, the 1903 chapel became a community room. A balcony was added overlooking the space. The communion rail from the 1912 chapel was used for the railing. Today, the space sits like a blank canvas awaiting a new design and purpose.



The 'Beehive' as seen from the steps to the North Wing of the Monastery. The outline of the Povey windows can be seen to the right.



The Migrating Paintings of Sister Protasia

By Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

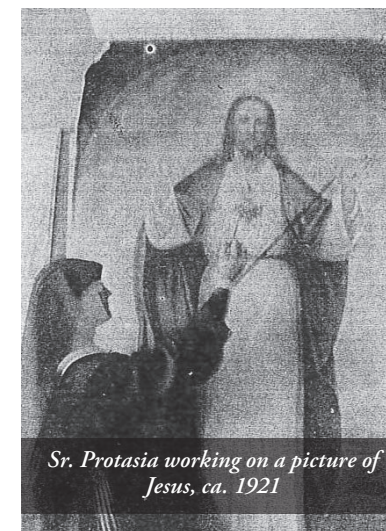
Sister Protasia (Teresa Schreiber Schindler, 1870 - 1959) is well known for planting the sequoia tree in 1893, and for being one of the first American postulant to enter the fledgling community as soon as she was old enough to be admitted as a postulant in the convent. She made her vows on August 1, 1886.

Besides being gifted in music, teaching in the Catholic schools in Albany and Portland, Sister Protasia is admired for her gift of painting, not just your regular sized paintings, but large paintings. When I entered in 1961, Sister Protasia's paintings were in many places in the Queen of Angels Monastery. I prayed the large “Stations of the Cross” in what was the 1912 chapel. The 12'4" X 7'8" “Queen of Angels” painting in the sanctuary was a highlight for me. I loved the beautiful faces of Mary, Jesus and all the angels in the painting. The large painting of the “Christ in the Temple” was in the freshmen homeroom of Mt. Angel Academy where it was admired by the academy students. There are many more, but the space is limited here.



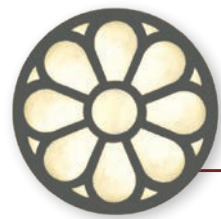
After the earthquake, the paintings migrated to new homes. The “Queen of Angels” painting found the perfect place on the third floor of the Artisan Room, formerly the balcony of the 1912 chapel. The “Christ in the Temple” found its new home on the east wall of Agatha Hall. The “Stations of the Cross” found a special place in St. Anthony Catholic Church, in Tigard, OR.

Now that the sisters have moved to Orchard House and the Towers, some of Sister Protasia's paintings moved with the sisters to their community room in Orchard House. Others were given to Mount Angel Abbey to be included in the newly established Queen of Angels Legacy Collection. Sister Protasia's “Christ in the Temple” has been placed on the third floor of Anselm Hall at Mount Angel Seminary. A perfect place to inspire seminarians in their future teaching role.



Sr. Protasia working on a picture of Jesus, ca. 1921

I admired Sister Protasia, but I never knew her since she died in 1959, before I entered the monastic community. Fortunately, I found a friend who did. Jim Heggie, an oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery, was introduced to the sisters in 1940. He attended first and second grade in the grade school run by the sisters on their campus. Jim also served as an altar server at the sisters' mass. Jim brought up wood for the potbelly stove in Sister Protasia's art studio which was in one of the wooden buildings/warehouses behind the monastery building. Jim remembers that Sister Protasia would reward him with a handful of walnuts or a generous pack of holy cards. It has been a real blessing to hear the memories of Jim about Sister Protasia, who spent nearly 75 years as a Benedictine sister. Jim's memories add a new reality to this beautiful sister who gave of herself generously to her community. Her lovely religious art lives on in the lives of parishioners, seminarians, and many more.



Sister Immaculata's Famous Buttermilk Coffee Cakes



Ingredients for the Cake

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 2 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups cake flour
- 2 tbsp barley malt powder
- 1 3/4 tsp baking powder
- 2 3/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk

for the Lemon Glaze

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp boiling water

As some of you may have noticed, the sisters did not have a booth at Oktoberfest this year. Our community enjoyed this year's beloved local festival as guests and not vendors, a welcomed change. However, for some, it meant they were not able to purchase one of Sister Immaculata's famous buttermilk coffee cakes. A delicious tradition that had become a staple at Oktoberfest over the years.

The fall of 2022 was the last time those coffee cakes were made by the Benedictine Sisters. The cakes are dear to our hearts and will always be a part of our story here in Mount Angel. We also know that they hold a special place in the hearts of so many of you, our family and friends. That is why we are sharing this very special recipe with you.

We hope that you continue to make them. While you are baking, say a small prayer for our community and know that we are praying for each and every one of you.



Sister Immaculata Tuma in the monastery kitchen

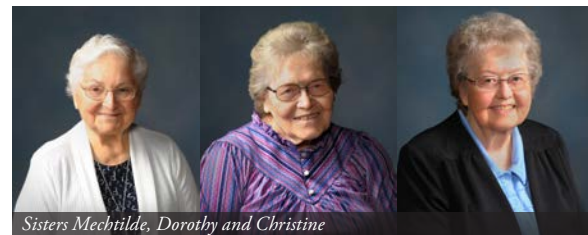
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Prepare two 9" cake pans by lining them with parchment paper and spraying them with cooking spray.
3. Sift together all purpose flour, cake flour, malt powder, baking powder, salt, and baking soda in a large bowl. Set aside.
4. Sift brown sugar and granulated sugar in a mixing bowl.
5. Add vegetable oil to sugars and combine with a spatula.
6. Using a stand mixer with a whip attachment, add eggs to mixture, one at a time, scraping down the bowl with a spatula as needed.
7. Add vanilla and mix on medium speed for 3 minutes.
8. Add dry ingredients and buttermilk to the sugar mixture 1/3 at a time. Scrape bowl with spatula. Mix on high for 4 minutes.
9. Pour evenly into prepared pans and bake for 1 hour. Let cool for 10 minutes and remove from pan.
10. Make the glaze by sifting powdered sugar, then adding lemon zest, lemon juice, and water. Mix well and cover cakes.
11. Enjoy!

Sisters in their 90s Share Words of Wisdom

By Michael Trevino

I recently sat down with the three Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel who are in their nineties – Sister Mechtilde Fennimore (93), Sister Dorothy Rausch (93), and Sister Christine Rausch (92). I gave each of them three questions and gave them some time to reflect on their answers. We gathered in the new Community Room at Orchard House to discuss their answers.



Sisters Mechtilde, Dorothy and Christine

First, I asked what they would say if they could go back in time and speak to themselves as novices. "Continue, God is with you," answered Sr. Mechtilde. "Keep going, this is what God wants," said Sr. Christine. Sr. Dorothy added she would share a simple message of hope.

The next question focused on regret. While each sister shared their own personal stories, the underlying message was clear – regret is a part of life. Sr. Mechtilde said, "try and look at the future positively and trust that it has been chosen for you."

My last question to them was simple – what is something only someone in their 90s can appreciate? "All of life is God's calling," said Sr. Mechtilde. "Trust that God will be with you," added Sr. Christine. Sr. Dorothy sat in her chair and contemplated the question. Her one-word response, "heaven," got the three sisters talking about the next chapter in their journey. "A long life really makes you appreciate heaven," they all said in agreement.

Oblate Update

On September 10, the Benedictine Sisters and Oblates gathered at the Orchard House Community Room for Morning Prayer and witnessed at the oblation of a new oblate and reception of a new oblate candidate. Mary Frances Jackson of Amity, Oregon, became a new oblate candidate and Diane Wells of Portland, Oregon, made her commitment/oblation as an oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery. On November 12, at a special ceremony, Lori Lemley of Ocean Park, Washington, was received as a candidate and Patricia Ames of Tualatin, Oregon, made her oblation.

For more information on becoming an Oblate, visit the Oblate website at www.benedictine-srs.org/oblates or call Sr. Maureen at (503) 845-6141.



Mary (left) and Diane (right)



Lori (left) and Patricia (right)

A Message from Oblate Carol Bosworth

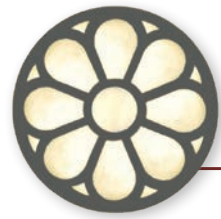
"I made the promises of an Oblate twenty years ago, within the community of these sisters and in Queen of Angels Monastery. Many of the sisters have passed on, but these sisters who remain are now my Benedictine Community. The monastery, though now empty, will always be mine in my heart and memory – neither of which are empty. I am thankful for that.

These sisters are moving past their lives once embodied in a monastery, but they remain in monastic community. They bring their lives as QAM women into this world in a new way, without a building, but not without a home. Their long, experienced lives as vowed Benedictines can help all of us – Oblates and all people – practice the gifts of Benedictine life for all of our families and neighbors as we seek new ways to form community in this troubled world."

In Memoriam

Carol Bosworth passed away on November 7, 2023. The sisters remember her with love, admiration, and gratitude for her years as an Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery.

Lorayne Kraemer Zimmerman, a long time Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery, died on October 13, 2023. Sister Dorothy Jean and Sister Maureen attended her burial at St. Mary Parish cemetery.



An Oblate Reflection

by Dorothy Hill Baroch, OblSB

The revised version of my first book, *Listen to the Heartbeat of the Church*, was released during the Pope's Francis' 2015 visit in Washington D.C. There he repeatedly talked about dialogue and creating a culture of encounter. Not only did he discuss those concepts, he lived them out during the rest of his time in the U.S. He modeled pastoral behavior for bishops and priests, with actions speaking much louder than words. The motivation for *Heartbeat* came during a month-long volunteer period at Queen of Angels Monastery.

Participating in the life of the Benedictine Sisters was refreshing and inspiring. The Sisters had taught our children at St. Mary's Catholic School in Albany, and I knew many of them. What I did not know, and soon learned, was how they lived Benedictine community life on a daily basis. I was drawn into that life-style, but as a wife and mother I questioned how that would work for me. Another volunteer couple joined my husband and me, and the Holy Spirit went to work. We learned from Mary and Bert Nelson about the oblate program. I was hooked. I followed up with the sisters and began my preliminary studies. In 2002, I made my oblation.

My involvement with the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa had opened my heart to serving Jesus in the poorest of the poor. My new Benedictine life showed me the "how" of that service. Woven throughout the Rule are statements of guidance. The gifts of the Benedictine and Co-Worker lifestyles became one. They nurtured and sustained me during the unexpected death of Tom, my oldest child, and the passing of my husband, Ed. After 65 years of marriage, how does one turn the page and begin a new chapter? A recent Shalom at the Monastery Zoom retreat facilitated by Fr. Stephen Coffey helped me clarify the next steps.

I am a wordsmith, dedicated to bringing to life the Word that resides in the lives of the poorest of the poor. The poor that I am to serve are not only those who are financially poor, but those who live with physical and emotional poverty as well. And so, I will continue to work on book #4, *A Journey Like No Other: Stories of Hardship, Persistence, and Purpose*, which is a sequel to already-published *Moments of Victory, Moments of Change*.

I am grateful for my dual-citizenship as a Co-Worker of Mother Teresa and an Oblate of St. Benedict, with a life-line to the Benedictine Sisters at Queen of Angels, and their brother monks at Mt. Angel Abbey.



To learn more about Dorothy, visit her website www.DorothyBaroch.com

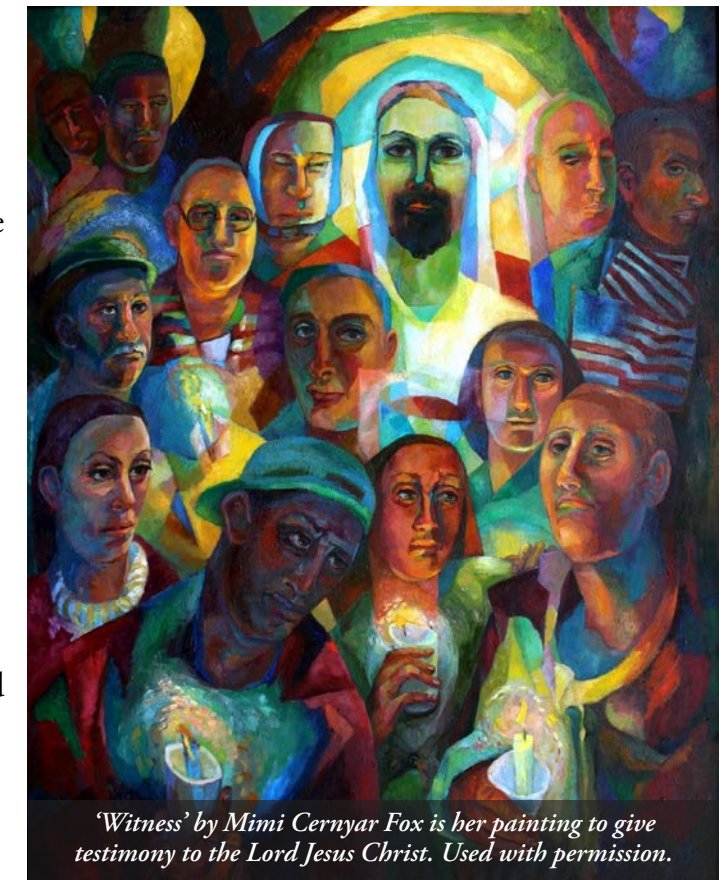


Alumni / Artist Mimi Cernyar Fox Brings Artwork to Mount Angel Abbey

Mimi Cernyar Fox was taught by the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. After graduating high school, she worked a number of different jobs before eventually attending art school under the encouragement of the sisters and the priests from Mt. Angel Abbey.

"At times, I stayed with the sisters on Church feast days," she writes in her autobiography. "They were my adopted 'aunties' as I would affectionately refer to them. They gave me space on their campus to hold shows of my paintings and they continue to inspire my life today."

She received her bachelor's degree from Museum of Art School in Portland, and later on earned a master's degree in art from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.



'Witness' by Mimi Cernyar Fox is her painting to give testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ. Used with permission.



Her artwork was recently on exhibition at Mount Angel Abbey. Her current paintings are inspired by the parables of grace. "Looking back at the content of my earlier work, I can see over the years that they depict human struggle and sometimes desperateness, but always include underlying spirituality, a message of hope and trust in God," Fox said. "Painting in the Field of the Lord," ran from September 3-22. On September 16, she presented on her exhibit in the abbey library. Many of the sisters made the drive up the hill to view her paintings.

Would you like to see Mimi's artwork in person? "Spiritual Paintings of Faith and Hope," an exhibition, is open to the public April 26 – June 30, 2024, in the Atrium of the Coos Art Museum.

Visit www.mimicernyarfoxart.com for more information.



Monthly Workshops

Contact Sr. Dorothy Jean at (503) 845-2556 to learn more about any of our monthly sessions.

Ongoing Formation for Spiritual Directors (via Zoom)
2nd Friday, 9:30 am–11:30 am,
Sep–May

All spiritual directors are welcome to attend the monthly meetings for on-going formation and education featuring lively discussions of pertinent spirituality topics, prayer and skills of the ministry.

Book Talk (Monastery Dining Room)

3rd Saturday, 9:30 am–12:00 pm,
Sep–June

Donation

Led by Tim Nelson and Linda Jensen. This group meets to discuss the book of the month and share their insights. Check our website for a full reading list and future dates.

Dream Group: Language of the Soul, (Chapel)

3rd Saturday, 10:00 am–12:00 pm,
Sep–May
\$20 per person

Listening to dreams in a group setting can help us pay attention to God's presence in image and word in our awakened life. Presenter is Clara Jean Dawson.

Upcoming Retreats from Shalom at the Monastery

Experiencing Mary as the Mother of the Divine and the Mother of Us All

presented by Nancy Hendricks

January 27, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Chapter Room

\$50 / supplies, snacks and beverages provided, bring your own lunch, scholarships available

With meditative readings, icons, art and time for your own writing and drawing, we will spend the day getting to know Mary in many ways.

Presenter: Nancy Hendricks, MA from University of Portland, Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery, and retreat presenter is creating a 2-acre peace garden with her husband.

To register for any of the retreats listed, call Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer at (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, Attn: Sister Dorothy Jean, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, at least three days before the retreat.

Spiritual Direction
By Appointment
\$60 with Sliding Scale Available
Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer and Sr. Joan Pokorny are currently offering Spiritual Direction sessions via Zoom or in person. For more information, please contact Sr. Dorothy Jean at (503) 845-2556 or Sr. Joan at (503) 949-6284.

Prayer of the Heart, (Chapel)

3rd Tuesday, 3:30–4:30 pm,

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.

The Creative-Spiritual Life Circle (via Zoom)

3rd Saturday, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

September through May.

A Benedictine-centered discussion group whose concept is simple: people who gather together to share whatever is gratifying, amazing, troubling, or puzzling us about the intersection of creativity and spirituality.

Laetare Retreat: Come Rejoice With Us

presented by Nancy Hendricks and Susan Black

March 9, 2024

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$25 / snacks and beverages provided, scholarships available

Mid-way through the penitential season of Lent comes a bright spot of hope and joy: the 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. The liturgical color of the day -- rose -- shines like a beacon against the unrelenting purple of Lent, a visual sign to the faithful that Easter is within our sight.

Named for the Latin word for "rejoice", Laetare Sunday helps us remember God's grace, mercy and unconditional love. The day gives new energy to our traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and sharpens our focus on how to live in right relationship with God and others.

Yes, Christ's suffering, crucifixion and death loom ahead of us. But Laetare Sunday reminds us that from the tragedy of the Passion arises the reality of Christ's Resurrection,

More upcoming Retreats from Shalom at the Monastery

with the assurance that we all share in that miraculous gift of eternal life and light. With our faith thus strengthened, we can resume our Lenten observances with renewed commitment.

Please join us for a special gathering to celebrate with words, art and music the joyful anticipation of Resurrected life. Our time together will be guided by Susan Black and Nancy Hendricks, Oblates and experienced Shalom at the Monastery retreat leaders.

Making Our Way with Jesus to the Cross

presented by Susan Black

March 23, 2024

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$20 / book and snacks provided, scholarships available

We invite you to prepare to enter Holy Week by freshly experiencing a traditional practice: following the "Way (the "Stations") of the Cross." Walk, reflect and pray with Jesus as He is condemned to death, as He makes His tortured way through Jerusalem to Golgotha, as He consoles His Mother, as He encounters the kindness of Veronica and the grief of the women of Jerusalem, as He weakens, stumbles and falls, as He is crucified, dies and is buried. Our faith tells us that death is not the end, that it is the necessary door to eternal life, that the Resurrection belongs to Jesus and to us. Facing the reality of Jesus's death helps deepen our belief in this mystery.

This retreat will be guided by Susan Black, based on *The Way of the Cross: The Path to New Life* by Sister Joan Chittister with illustrations by Janet McKenzie. Participants will also have the opportunity to follow the Way using the Monastery's own unique resources: the outdoor version (on the path to the Benedictine Sisters' Cemetery) and the wall plaques designed for indoor display. Both of these meditative art resources were reverently crafted by Sister Angela. Susan Black is an Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery and an experienced Shalom at the Monastery retreat leader.

World Labyrinth Day: Take Steps Together for Peace

May 4, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth,

West End of Shalom Building

No Cost

The Benedictine Sisters at Shalom at the Monastery invite you to walk with them their outdoor labyrinth on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 1 p.m. Please gather at the labyrinth at the west end of the Shalom building.

At 12:45 p.m., there will be a brief explanation of the Peace Walk on the labyrinth. We will then walk the 20-minute Silent Peace Walk, using the format of Benedictines For Peace. Following the walk, refreshments will be served in the Benedictine Sisters' dining room. All are welcome!

Aging: The Open Door to the Rest of Your Life

Guided by Susan Black

June 22, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$50 / snacks and beverages provided, bring your own lunch, scholarships available

Are you standing in the liminal space between the closed door of a known past and the open door to an unknown future?

This retreat is designed to help you see the opportunity presented by the open door of aging. If you regard aging as an integral part of God's gift of life, you can be confident about stepping through that door. How can you support and sustain that confidence? By creating your own Credo of Aging -- a statement of beliefs and approaches that will help you flourish in a new and meaningful stage of life.

This retreat will be a time of personal discovery. Using a variety of creative and spiritual tools, you will review what has brought you to this time of transition. You will design your Credo, an approach to the future that is uniquely yours, because it will be based on your own history and your own aspirations.

Aging is an experience that is both universal and unique. As part of the mortal human community, we all take a journey from birth through life until death. As unique individuals, we take this journey in ways that no one else ever has, or ever will. And along the way, we encounter challenge and opportunity, success and failure, joy and sorrow, clarity and deep mystery. Doors close, doors open, paths unfurl ahead of us and detours and crossroads abound. Always -- if we are paying attention -- there are questions about the meaning of life, and how to fulfill it, how to honor what God has freely given us. Whenever these questions come upon us, that is the time to begin engaging with them. This retreat may be your time.

The retreat will be guided by Susan Black, who has led our monthly Zoom-based discussion group, the Creative/Spiritual Life Circle, since 2021. In 2023, she conducted three well-received retreats: "Enter the New Year with Joy", "The Virtue of Holy Surprise" and "Finding Treasure in Ancient Practices: Walking the Labyrinth and Making Mandalas". Susan is an Oblate, an artist and a writer; to learn more about her, go to the website www.BlackStarStudio.me.

Benedictine Monastic Spirituality & Ecological Wisdom presented by Nancy Hendricks

September 14, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$50 / snacks and beverages provided, bring your own lunch, scholarships available

Benedictine Monastic Spirituality & Ecological Wisdom: The ways that living according to the Rule of Benedict can guide us in our care for the earth.

Benedictine monastic wisdom and spirituality to guide us as we explore ways to care for God's great gift to us: Earth and all of creation. Scripture, The Rule of St. Benedict, and the long monastic tradition will guide us in ways to live in harmony.

The Spirituality of Dorothy Day presented by Nancy Hendricks

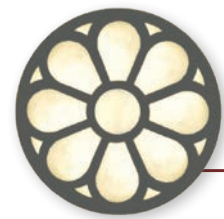
November 9, 2024

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Chapter Room

\$25 / snacks and beverages provided, scholarships available

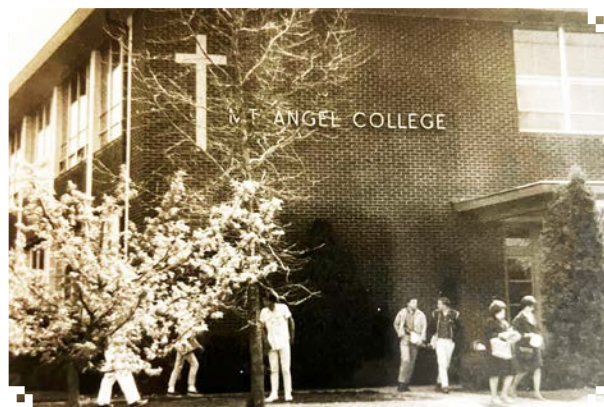
Dorothy's Catholic Worker movement applied the teachings of the Gospel to daily living. Dorothy's love of Scripture, particularly the Psalms, kept her fed during her passionately lived life. We will explore this modern-day prophet and her continuing influence in our world.



Mount Angel College Reunion

If you graduated or attended (for any length of time) Mount Angel College, you are invited to a reunion next year. On Saturday, September 7, 2024, there will be a MAC Reunion event at the Father Bernard Youth Center.

If you wish to receive further details, please email George Fisher, gfisher@peak.org or contact Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, (503) 845-2556. Please share and pass along this information to other alums.



In the Heart of the Monastery, the Sisters' Presence Remains

The Benedictine Sisters have all made their way to their new homes at Providence Benedictine's Orchard House or Mount Angel Towers. After the big estate sale, many of the rooms at Queen of Angels Monastery sit empty. However, in the heart of the monastery, a small group remains dedicated to helping the sisters continue their monastic work.



Spread across four small rooms on the second floor are the remaining staff and administrative offices of the Benedictine Sisters. Sr. Jane Hibbard, SNJM, pastoral administrator, kept her office overlooking the small pond and courtyard behind the monastery. In the same office, Sr. Donna Marie Chartraw has her desk where she does her work for the business office. Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer does spiritual direction and coordinates Shalom at the Monastery's retreats and workshops from her office just down the hall from Sr. Jane. Across the same hallway are the Business and Mission Advancement offices where everything from coordinating the sisters medical care to writing content for the next issue of Reflections takes place. Business office staff: Jolyn Rothgery and Eileen Graser. "We are still here," said Michael Trevino, Director of Mission Advancement, "We aren't going anywhere." There is still work to be done, and there is still a need to fund that work. The staff may have a smaller footprint at the monastery, but the importance of their work is greater than ever.

All mail and correspondence can still be sent to 840 S. Main St, Mt. Angel, OR 97362. The main line phone number, (503) 845-6141, and the Shalom/Mission Advancement phone number, (503) 845-2556, are unchanged. You can always email us – info@benedictine-srs.org.

Honoring our Retired Sisters: Sr. Rebecca Pirkel, OSB



Sister Rebecca was born on January 5, 1942, to Albert and Anne (Doubrava) Pirkel in Hubbard, Oregon, and baptized on January 11, 1942 at St. Agnes Church in Hubbard. She lived in the St. John's District of Portland while her father worked at the ship yards. There, she learned her first language - Czech. She was always proud of her Czech heritage. When she was two, her family moved to a farm in the Yoder District of Clackamas County (near Molalla). She attended Yoder Grade School, a two room school, and walked two miles each day to and from school.

The Pirkel family attended St. William's Parish in Molalla where Sister Rebecca made her First Communion and was confirmed, receiving religious education from the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. The family, made up of all girls, had a large farm, so Sister Rebecca learned how to do all the farm work traditionally given to boys. For high school, she and her sisters drove the family car to Mt. Angel to attend the Benedictine Sisters' Academy.

Sister Rebecca graduated with honors from the Academy in 1960 and entered the Benedictine Sisters there in September. She then attended Mt. Angel College in preparation for becoming a teacher. She pronounced her First Profession on July 11, 1962. In 1964, she was assigned to teach at St. Edward's School in Lebanon. She taught Grades 3 and 4 for three years; then Grades 4 and 5 for one year. While there, she made her Perpetual Profession on July 11, 1967 in the monastery chapel.

Next she was assigned to teach at St. John's School in Oregon City – beginning with fifth grade for one year, then sixth grade for twelve years, eventually becoming the principal. In 1970, she began her Master's of Education Program at the University of Oregon, graduating the summer of 1973.

From Oregon City Sr. Rebecca went to St. Paul Parochial School in St. Paul, Oregon, where she was principal for nine years. She enrolled in the first Leadership 2000 class through Portland State University – Salem Campus, and earned her Administrative Credential. Next Sr. Rebecca went to St. Mary's School in Arcata, California, where she was principal for two years.

She retired from education after 30 years. In 1994 she entered the field of hospitality, working as a hostess at the Franciscan Renewal Center and in guest services at Salishan Lodge and the Inn at Spanish Head on the Oregon Coast. She retired from there in 2011, and moved back to the monastery in Mt. Angel. She was very soon assigned to the Shalom Prayer Center as the Hospitality Coordinator.

In 2016 she was appointed Hospitality Coordinator for the monastery. This included scheduling the private retreatants and keeping up the five guest buildings. She continued in this position until 2023 when the monastery discontinued taking guests.

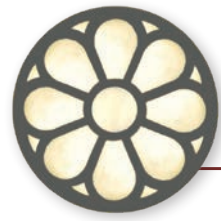
Sr. Rebecca, along with all of the Benedictine Sisters, have had remarkable careers, impacting the lives of so many. We hope that you are able to take a few moments to help honor Sr. Rebecca's 60+ years of prayer, service and hospitality by supporting this year's Retirement Appeal.

The goal for our Retirement Appeal is \$100,000. We prayerfully and humbly ask that you consider a gift or pledge today to support our retired sisters. This year, thanks to the Richard A Kreitzberg Foundation, your gift to our retirement appeal will be matched up to \$25,000. We thank you for your past generosity, your prayers and kindness. Please know that we remember you and your special intentions in our daily prayers.



The Pirkel Family, Joanne, Sister Rebecca, her father Albert, her mother Anne, Dorothy and Barbara in 1978

To make a gift to this year's Retirement Appeal, return the included envelope, or give a donation online at www.benedictine-srs.org/retirement



Becoming a Partner in Mission – How You Can Help the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel



by Michael Trevino, Director of Mission Advancement

I spend much of my day looking at numbers - spreadsheets, reports, giving trends. It is easy to get lost in the data. It is easy to forget the purpose behind the numbers. Fortunately, a quick glance out my window in the monastery is enough to remind me of the most important number of all – 19. There are 19 sisters continuing to carry the torch of Benedictine monasticism in Mount Angel.

Each year, I write a little article about the different ways you can financially support the sisters. Your continued support is instrumental in their ability to continue their mission of prayer and service. My number at the monastery is (503) 845-2556. Please call me if you'd like to learn more about supporting one of our appeals, taking advantage of a matching grant, becoming a monthly donor, or making plans in your estate. For my feature in this issue, however, I'm called to share something different.

I understand that not everyone is able to support the sisters financially. I'd like to share three ways you can support the sisters that only cost a few moments of your time.

First, you can pray for them. Each day, throughout the day, they gather together and pray for the world. That includes you, your intentions, and your family. When you read this, take a moment and pray for them.

Second, pass along their story to someone. I've been working for the sisters for over six years, and I'm still learning about all the amazing things they have done and do. Share a story about how one of the Benedictine Sisters has had an impact on your life with someone who may not know who they are.

Lastly, share Reflections content. Perhaps instead of recycling this magazine, you share it with a friend or neighbor. If you follow them on Facebook, consider sharing their upcoming retreats and events with your circle of friends. If you haven't yet, follow them on social media (@mtangelsisters). Every like, share and follow helps keep their mission going.

Supporting the sisters is as important now as it ever has been. They have left the monastery behind and have found new homes at Orchard House and Mt. Angel Towers. However, their monastic work continues. They gather each day and pray for the world and your intentions; before in the chapel at the monastery, and now in a small chapel at Orchard House. Their journey, and their need for your support, continues.



The Benedictine Sisters Gift Shop is Open for Holiday Shopping

Gift Shop features the handmade items of the sisters. If you wish to come to the gift shop in person, please call Sr. Dorothy Jean (503) 845-2556 for an appointment. If you wish to purchase an item(s) from the Monastery Gift Shop without coming to the gift shop, please call Sister Dorothy Jean to place your order. Your order can be sent to you via the post office or you can pick up your order at the monastery. You can also browse available items online at www.benedictine-srs.org/giftshop. Thank you for your patronage.



Founder's Day

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Thank You For Supporting our Founder's Day Virtual Celebration

We would like to thank those who submitted a gift or note as part of our Founder's Day Virtual Celebration this year. Over the past few years, this has become one of our most successful and popular appeals. We celebrate the founding of our mission and the start of our journey in Mount Angel. During this appeal, we also collect stories and message about the impact many of our sisters have had on the lives of their families and friends. These stories and notes are collected and passed along for all the sisters to read. Thank you for sending them!

We are still hoping to reach our \$75,000 goal this year to maximize our matching grant from the Larry & Jeanette Epping Family Foundation. You can make a gift in support of this appeal on our website, www.benedictine-srs.org/foundersday or by calling our Mission Advancement Office at (503) 845-2556. Thank you for your love and support!

Society of St. Gertrude Welcomes New Members

The Benedictine Sisters would like to welcome the newest members of the Society of St. Gertrude. This important society includes family and friends who have or plan to leave a gift to the Benedictine Sisters in their final plans, estate, or will. These gifts have an incredible impact on our monastic community. Thank you...

Stephen Zielinski

Mary Cernyar Fox

Leonard & Carolyn Obersinner

Virginia McClure

Jack Schwab

Melinda Walker

Donald Simpson

Bonnie Moore

Joan Turner

Donna E Geelan

If you have left a gift to the Benedictine Sisters, please ensure the correct name, address and tax identification number is used to ensure your gift makes it to the sisters.

Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel

840 S. Main St.

Mount Angel, OR 97362

Federal Tax ID # 93-0387331

If you would like more information on leaving a legacy gift to the sisters, or if you'd like to receive a free copy of "Ways to Give: How You Can Support the Benedictine Sisters", please call Michael Trevino in our Mission Advancement Office at (503) 845-2556 or email michael@benedictine-srs.org

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Please notify us of any address changes:

- email info@benedictine-srs.org
- call 503.845.2556
- mail to the above address

One of the plaques at the entrance of the Hospitality Center/Chapel has this abbreviation: U.I.O.G.D. What do the letters stand for? U.I.O.G.D. is an acronym for the Benedictine order's motto. "Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus" means "so that in all things God may be glorified."
(RB 57:9: The Artisans of the Monastery)

May our lives always give glory to God.

Photo by Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

