Wishing you a Blessed Christmas
from the Benedictine Sisters

QUEEN OF ANGELS MONASTERY • Mt. Angel, Oregon
Dear Friends,

This morning I woke up to pounding rain on our metal roofing. It was a very good sound to a third generation Oregonian. We are blessed in this part of the country to celebrate four seasons of the year, each with distinct signs and characteristics. Each season comes with an invitation from our God to go deeper into the reality of our lives, into the rich relationships we share with the Creator and with the community we are privileged to be living with on this earth. Now we are in the season of beautiful, golden autumn with signs of winter on the horizon. What gifts of the spirit are available to us for our growth in God’s life?

You, our families, friends, former students and benefactors are our community. The seasons of our lives are bound up in relationship to you. It is our privilege to walk this journey with each one of you. We are deeply connected through the roots of the sequoia tree, through all the events of our Benedictine ministries, through the town and area of our Mt. Angel community. We are all held in the bountiful grace of God as we walk with one another into the autumn and winter seasons of our lives…and ultimately into the life with God forever.

All the Sisters join me in thanking you for making our first annual Founders Day Dinner such a wild success! I am excited to share with you that we are planning a new landscaping project that will highlight our Saint Benedict School bell (Woodburn, 1903) and the Shalom Prayer Center peace pole. You will find the preliminary plans on pages 6-7.

The leaves are all but gone and we are tumbling into the seasons of Advent, Christmas and New Year. As we count our blessings you are right at the top of the list!

We pray for you and all of your intentions everyday as we gather to praise and thank God for His abundant blessings.

May the generous grace of God be with you this Christmas and in the new year of 2019!

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Pastoral Administrator

Sister Jane
Christmas Eve Mass
with the Benedictine Sisters

Monday, December 24
Christmas Hymns - 7:40 p.m.
Mass - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for hymns and Mass in the chapel, followed by a reception with hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls!

PLEASE RSVP
(503) 845-2556 - info@benedictine-srs.org
Who are you in the Christmas Manger scene?
by Sister Joan Pokorny, OSB

Over the many years we have prepared for this holy season through our Advent practices. Each year brings us closer to the Christ Child. Christmas 2018 is no exception. We come with new insights and new spiritual practices. My new insight is “The greatest gift we can give to others is our full compassionate attention, where we recognize the life of Jesus in everyone.”

As we draw closer to the Christmas season, I invite you to remember the many images of mangers in your life, remembering the scripture stories, your personal Christmas experiences, and family traditions.

This year let us view the nativity scene with an openness that challenges our depth of spirituality.

Let us be inspired anew and called to radical openness, acceptance and faith.

Let us ask the Christ Child for new energy for life and growth, for maturity and a stronger courage in sharing our convictions.

Let us be open to the unexpected and challenged to be more confident and trusting in our God.

How am I drawn to the sacredness of the manger scene? Who and what do I see there that is reflected in my life? The events of our lives touch us in ways that we might not understand or we wish could be easier to comprehend. Chaos, confusion, awkwardness, fear, anger, stir us to places we have not been or do not wish to go. Pondering the images of the manger scene can stir us to the deeper interior where we know that Christ our Savior came to bring salvation. He came to teach us the way to live with each other and be good stewards of our earthly home, in peace and harmony. During this Christmas season, let us draw nearer to the manger, to be with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men to reflect, ponder and pray the mystery of the Incarnation. As we contemplate the mystery before us, may we proclaim the goodness of our God, Emmanuel, God With Us. Let us rejoice in this holy season and tell the good news.
A Mother’s Story of Advent

by Sr. Rocio Moreno-Soto, OSB

A mother explained to her five children about Advent. She told them the story of Mary and Joseph, and how they asked for shelter, but were denied because there was no room for them at the inn, and, because of that, Jesus was born in a manger. The mother explained to her children why they have to pray, receive reconciliation, and make sacrifices during Advent. She explained to them that it was a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. The children were impressed with the story, but wondered why the child of God was born very poor and in a manger. The mother explained that, much like Jesus, we must be good and generous with what we are given so that God could see and be proud. She encouraged her children to pray every day of Advent, and to make a small sacrifice as well for all of the poor, hungry, and homeless. “If you pray and make a small sacrifice each day, by December 24th, you will be truly ready to welcome Him,” said the mother. Advent is a time for preparation, hope and repentance, and to be in God’s grace for the arrival of our Savior.

An Advent Tradition, Kris Kringle

by Sr. Regina Rausch, OSB

The Sisters continue to carry on the tradition of Kris Kringle each Advent. Those wishing to participate draw a name the night before Advent begins. We remember the Sister whose name was drawn throughout the season of Advent. Some Sisters leave inspirational notes, scripture quotes, promises of prayer, or sometimes a small gift or treat.

We keep it a secret until the Feast of the Holy Innocence on December 28th. It isn’t until then that we reveal to each other who our Kris Kringles are.

We may think we know who our secret friend is, but it is always a complete surprise in the end. The Sisters who participate find it fun and try to be creative through the season of Advent. This tradition is truly a way to see Jesus in each other.
Walk with a Sister: A Prayer Walk

The Benedictine Sisters are pleased to announce that guests and community members will be able to sign up for Prayer Walks starting January 1, 2019. Prayer Walks will allow you to take a short journey – spiritually and physically – with a Benedictine Sister. Participants will begin their journey with Benedictine Sisters at the monastery. From there, they will walk to a spiritually significant location on the monastery grounds, such as the stations of the cross, chapel, or shrine of Mary.

Each Prayer Walk will be unique as they represent the different spiritual journeys we are all taking. However, each Prayer Walk will have some common elements, including a recitation of the Benedictine Prayer for Peace as well as one-on-one time with a Benedictine Sister. Participants will have the option of a half-hour and hour-long version of the Prayer Walk. Indoor and outdoor versions of the Prayer Walk will also be available, allowing for year-round usage.

A focal point of the new Prayer Walk will be a new outdoor seating area and garden that is currently in the design phase. It will be located in front of the monastery building, between the giant sequoia tree and the flag pole. It will incorporate four historically and spiritually significant elements – the giant sequoia tree, the St. Benedict School bell, a new peace pole, and the flag pole. Plans are currently underway to transform and landscape the area. It is expected to be completed and ready for Prayer Walks beginning next Spring or Summer.
The historic significance of the four features of the new outdoor seating area and garden

By Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

The Giant Sequoia: Sequoia Gigantium or giant sequoia, was planted in 1893 by Sister Protasia Schindler. She noticed a few young evergreen trees that had sprouted up along the railroad tracks behind the monastery. With the help of other Sisters, Sr. Protasia dug up two trees and replanted them in front of the building. One of the trees survived and grew to enormous proportions. Sr. Protasia once remarked had she known how huge it would become, she never would have planted it there. However, the tree has become a symbol of the Benedictine Sisters. In 1969, a group of students attempted to cut the top of the tree off. They were stopped before they could finish, but the damage had been done. After consulting with a tree surgeon, it was decided to let the tree heal itself. Over the next few decades, the tree slowly healed itself. Today, the only place you can see the damaged portion of the tree is in our logo. The giant sequoia serves as a symbol of healing and growth for the community and all those inspired by its beauty. Information and excerpts from "A Tree Rooted in Faith" by Sr. Alberta Dieker, OSB

St. Benedict School Bell: Money to purchase the St. Benedict School bell came from the sale of chances (raffle tickets). What was being raffled? It was a hand-painted pillow cushion valued at $25 in 1905, or nearly $725 in today's dollars. The winning ticket, #284, belonged to Mrs. Kepinger from Gervais, and was pulled on March 24, 1905. The new bell arrived in April and was placed in the belfry by Mr. Thomas Mitchell. It was initiated and dedicated on May 14, 1905, in the company of friends and patrons of the school. Around the time of the building of the new Saint Luke’s School in the 1950's, replacing the 1903 St. Benedict’s School, the bell was incorporated into the belfry of the renovated convent and chapel on Harrison St. In 1985, when the convent was no longer a residence for the Sisters, the bell was given to the Benedictine Sisters and placed in its current location.

Peace Pole: In an early 1911 photo, there is a United States flag flying on top of the "convent/academy" building at the north end of the building. The Sisters, who came from Switzerland and Germany, were very conscious of being and showing that they were Americans, especially during World Wars I and II. In a 1930 photo, there is a flag pole in front of the 1912 Mount Angel Academy and Normal School out beyond the willow tree. Sometime after the academy was closed in 1963, the flag pole was moved to its current location, just north of the sequoia tree. Every 4th of July, after Mass is celebrated, the Sisters gather around the flag pole, raise the flag, sing "America the Beautiful," and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
Extraordinary Time: Spiritual Reflections from a Season with Cancer, Death and Transition by Laura Dunham, OBLSB, Cascade Books, 2018

Dr. Dunham’s book will offer encouragement, consolation, inspiration and hope to those who have had their own “extraordinary” times. Note: Laura will be giving a retreat based on the themes of her book at the Shalom at the Monastery, October 4-6, 2019. Watch for more details.

Renouncing Violence by Sister Mary Margaret Funk, OSB, Liturgical Press, 2018

A very timely book for our troubled times written by a Benedictine nun of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana, who writes from her deep experience of monastic life. The book offers concrete ways to renounce violence and to become peaceful and compassionate persons in our world.

Both books available in the Monastery Gift Shop.
Honor our Retired Sisters

Sister Alice Ann Schaefer’s journey to Queen of Angels began just 30 miles from the bank of the Missouri River in the small town of Hoven, South Dakota.

After graduating high school in 1951, Sister Alice Ann attended Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. She studied at the Benedictine college until 1952, when she began teaching 1st through 8th grade at a local community school near her hometown. She would return to Mount Marty again in 1953 to continue her education.

While attending summer school at Mount Marty, Sister Alice Ann met Sister Bernadette Eberle, a member of Queen of Angels, and the aunt of Abbot Peter Eberle, the eighth abbot of Mount Angel Abbey. Sister Alice Ann accepted a position teaching 2nd grade at St. John the Apostle School in Oregon City after learning about the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel from Sr. Bernadette.

“I was always drawn to Oregon,” said Sister Alice Ann, “I remember doing a report on the Willamette Valley for a school project.”

She moved to Oregon in 1958. In addition to teaching during the week, Sister Alice Ann also taught a religious education class on Saturdays. While teaching the Saturday classes, she felt herself called to monastic life. In 1960, she joined Queen of Angels. As a postulant, she was sent to St. Mary Elementary School in Mt. Angel where she taught first grade. After taking her first vows in 1962, Mother Gemma Piennett sent her back to St. John the Apostle school to teach.

Sister Alice Ann has always had a love and desire to teach. From South Dakota to Oregon, her teaching career would span over 35 years. In 1991, Sister Alice Ann retired from teaching. However, like with many of the Benedictine Sisters at Queen of Angels, her ministry was not yet complete. After retiring from teaching, she was placed in charge of liturgy and music, a position she held for nearly a decade and truly loved. “After the 1993 earthquake, I remember playing a tiny keyboard in the back corner of our temporary chapel,” she said reflecting back on her time leading the choir. “I would stay up the night before and practice all of the music for the next day.”

Sister Alice Ann continues to be active in the community. She continues to enjoy singing, sharing stories and greeting visitors to the monastery.

Reflections
by Alysa Hilton

The oblates started off their new season with their annual retreat, on the third weekend of September. The theme for the retreat was “The Sacred Book of Nature,” led by oblate, naturalist, and author, Lyanda Haupt. We also celebrated with our annual Oblation ceremony, officiated by Sr. Dorothy Pulkka, and welcomed our newest inquirers, candidates, and oblates to the community.

In early October, oblates Sharon Barnes, Tom Kinzie, and Alysa Hilton attended the first oblate symposium was held at Monastery St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho. This was a weeklong gathering of oblates from the U.S., the Bahamas, and Belgium. The theme was “Oblates for the Future.” It was a special time of listening to one another, learning about other oblate communities and how they are addressing the challenges and difficulties with moving forward, as monasteries decline, especially in the U.S. and Europe. It was also a time of hope, as we worshipped and ate our meals together, sharing our common Benedictine bond with each other and the Sisters.

On a sad note, we marked the passing of oblates Lisa DeVaney in July, and MaryLou Kapple in October. A special memorial offering was taken in October in honor of Lisa’s passion for helping the less fortunate and their pets. The money that was collected will go to the Abiqua Animal Clinic in Silverton, Oregon to help cover the costs for needy pets.

If you’re interested or would like to learn more about our oblate program, contact Sister Maureen Niedermeyer at (503) 845-6141.
Supervision for Spiritual Directors
2nd Friday, 9 am–12 pm, Sep–May (No Jan Meeting), $30
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 jpokornyqam23@gmail.com to inquire or register.

Monthly Dream Group: Language of the Soul
3rd Saturday, 10 am–12 pm, Sep–Jun, $20
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 take place on the first floor of the monastery.

Taize Prayer Service
3rd Sunday, 7–8 pm, Oct–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, 3:30–4:30 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.

Book Talk
3rd Saturday, 9:30 am–12 pm, Sep–Jun, Free

A Time to Journal with Evelyn Wemhoff
2nd Saturday, 1–3 pm, All Year, Free
This opportunity is for anyone who has previously attended a Progoff Intensive Journal Workshop and desires to strengthen his/her own work in the Journal. It is helpful if you email Evelyn at evelynhwemhoff@comcast.net if you are planning to attend. Last minute walk-ins are also welcome. You can reach Evelyn by phone at 971-273-0700.

Becoming a Wisdom Elder Series with Peggy McGurn
Every Tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, February 26 – April 2, 2019
$20 per session, Lunch $8.50
These weekly sessions will provide resources for appreciating elderhood as a blessed time of deepened spirituality and abundant fruition of gifts harvested and newly discovered. Join in these lively discussions on how becoming an elder can be an exciting adventure even while slowing us down physically. To register, call the Benedictine Sisters at (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to the Benedictine Sisters to 840 S Main St., Mt. Angel, OR, 97362
New Year Retreat: Move into 2019 with the Progoff Intensive Journal Program presented by Evelyn Wemhoff
1/18/19 – 1/23/19, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
$395 – includes all three workshops, lunch, snacks and materials
A New Year opens a door to new possibilities. The Progoff Intensive Journal, created by Ira Progoff, is an experience of a life-changing process to give your life greater direction, vitality and purpose. This nationally recognized program can help you move toward a more fulfilling life and discover resources and possibilities you could not have imagined. The Intensive Journal method is a very private work and can be your honest friend in the creative process of shaping your life.
- Life Context ($185) 1/18 – 1/19, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Depth Context ($165) 1/20 – 1/21, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Life Integration ($165) 1/22 – 1/23, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Each module is a two-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. each day. You may take module 1, 2 or 3, but each requires that you have taken the program prior to it.
Special Instructions: Please bring a pen that you prefer for writing.
To Register: Call (971) 273-0700 or send a check payable to Evelyn Wemhoff, PO Box 21083, Keizer, OR 97303, or e-mail her at evelynhwemhoff@comcast.net, by 1/10/19.

Lodging: Call Sister Rebecca, 503-949-4935, Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362. Room: $50 per night, breakfast $7.50, dinner $9.50. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

Pain, Suffering and Saying Yes to Life presented by Dean Schlecht
3/1/19 – 3/2/19, Friday 7-8:30pm, Saturday 9:30am – 4pm.
$130 – includes overnight accommodations, materials, lunch and snack
Physical or emotional pain can often be a powerful driver of sadness, fear and anger, deadening our spirit and disconnecting us. However, it can be a catalyst for spiritual and emotional growth. Through lectures, Active Imagination and personal sharing, we will explore how to transcend our pain and live joyfully in the midst of it.
To Register: call Benedictine Sisters, (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, by 2/20/19.

Come to the Silence: A Lenten Retreat presented by Evelyn Wemhoff
3/25/19 – 3/28/19, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
$175 – includes meals, snacks and materials (only 12 spaces available)
Lent is a time to ponder. This retreat provides an atmosphere to move into silence and quiet prayer. Daily you have time to meet individually with a spiritual director and also to meet with the retreat group for prayer. Your personal residential space, the labyrinth indoors and the many places to walk outdoors will add places of silence and spaces to ponder.
To Register: Call (971) 273-0700 or send a check payable to Evelyn Wemhoff, PO Box 21083, Keizer, OR 97303 or e-mail her at evelynhwemhoff@comcast.net, by 3/18/19.

Overnight Accommodations: $50 per night, please call Sister Rebecca Pirkl at 503 949-4935, to reserve your room.

At Play in Creation: The Wisdom Christology of Thomas Merton presented by Fr. Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam
5/3/19 – 5/4/19, Friday 7-9pm, Saturday 9:30am – 4pm.
$130 – includes overnight accommodations, materials, lunch and snack
This weekend retreat will focus on the Wisdom Christology of Thomas Merton. We will be exposed to his passion for creation, his call to contemplative praying, his spirit of creativity, and his prophetic stance for justice and peace in the world. To register, call Benedictine Sisters, (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, by 1/25/19.

World Labyrinth Day
5/4/19, 1–3 pm, Free
You are invited to come walk with us at Shalom at the Monastery’s labyrinth, located at the west end of the Shalom Prayer Center building. This is a rain or shine event – indoor and outdoor labyrinths available. A brief introduction to labyrinths will take place at 12:45 p.m. More details to come!
For Information or to RSVP, please call (503) 845-2556
Upcoming 2019 Retreats

**A Day Retreat: A Time to Grieve presented by Evelyn Wemhoff**
9/21/19, 10 am – 3pm
$55 – includes lunch and materials

The loss of a significant person introduces you to a Time of Grief which will undoubtedly bring much pain. This Day of Retreat reverently gathers around such a loss and will gently explore the various faces of grief. Gathering with others can provide some experience of connection. The grief you bring to the retreat can be recent or one of the past which still invites you to give it time and attention. Please bring a picture of the person you are remembering.

To Register: Call (971) 273-0700 or send a check payable to Evelyn Wemhoff, PO Box 21083, Keizer, OR 97303 or e-mail her at evelynhwemhoff@comcast.net, by 9/16/19

**Extraordinary Time: Spiritual Reflections on Suffering, Healing, Death, and the Afterlife presented by Dr. Laura Dunham**
10/4 – 10/6/2019
$255 (includes 6 meals, overnight accommodations for 2 nights-single occupancy), $225 double occupancy, $135 for commuters (includes 3 meals), Early bird registration: Deduct $20 (by August 15)

Drawing on the wellsprings of faith, support of community, and Christian spiritual tradition, we will explore the universal themes of suffering, healing, death, and the afterlife through the lens of personal experience. Retreatants are invited to reflect together on the spiritual meaning and graces of their own extraordinary times.

What to bring: Please bring a journal; a memory of one of your extraordinary times; the book, Extraordinary Time.

To register, call Benedictine Sisters, (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, by 10/2/19.

**Meditation Practices for Healing the Inner Child: the Dilemma of Co-Dependency presented by Peggy McGurn, PhD**
12/6 – 12/7/19, Friday 7-9pm, Saturday 9:30am – 4pm
$125. Includes overnight accommodations, materials, lunch and snack. Dinner $9.50 and breakfast $7.50 are at an extra cost. $80 for commuters, includes materials, lunch and snacks. Non-refundable deposit: $25

A common experience during one’s commitment to live holistically is to recognize unhealthy states of being that cause problems personally and relationally. Such recognition can be a wake-up call with accompanying stirrings from the Self. Among the more frequent expressions from the psyche that cause concern are the symptoms of co-dependency.

This workshop will explore the relationship of these symptoms as disconnection from our adult care of the Inner Child. Meditation practices will provide renewed attention to our healing resources for continued re-parenting of one’s Inner Child.

This workshop will help if some of these questions are yours:

- Do you respond to others’ needs while neglecting your own?
- Do you do others’ tasks so as to keep your world neat?
- Do you find it difficult to express your feelings?
- Do you seek affirmation from others?
- Do you fail to recognize your own accomplishments?

To register, call Benedictine Sisters, (503) 845-2556 or send a check payable to Benedictine Sisters, 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, by 12/2/19.

Icon Institute Returns in 2019!

The Benedictine Sisters are pleased that the 2019 Iconographic Arts Institute will again be held at Queen of Angels Monastery, June 21 - 29, in Agatha Hall.

If you wish to register for the institute and/or receive further information, please call 971 254-5523 or email iconinstitute@msn.com.

Visit www.iconinstitute.org to learn more.
The Benedictine Sisters Remember and Thank Elsie Franz Finley

The Benedictine Sisters were deeply saddened by the loss of friend, community leader and philanthropist Elsie Franz Finley. She passed away on August 14, 2018, at the age of 97. Shortly before her passing, Elsie left the Benedictine Sisters a charitable gift of $1,000,000 – one of the largest single gifts ever given to the Sisters. In her final months, Elsie made similar gifts to Blanchet House, Providence Cancer Institute, the University of Portland and other Catholic organizations and causes throughout Oregon. Her remarkable generosity will leave a lasting impression at Queen of Angels and with the thousands of lives she touched.

Elsie was born in Portland in 1921, and was a lifelong resident of Portland and Vancouver. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. She worked at her family-owned First State Bank of Milwaukie. It was the start of a long career working alongside her brother, Bob Franz, and husband, Don Finley. She is remembered for having an exceptional work ethic and for being a pioneering business woman.

Benedictine Prioress from the Bahamas Takes Sabbatical at Queen of Angels

Sister Annie Thompson, OSB, former prioress of St. Martin’s Monastery in Nassau, Bahamas, recently completed a two-month sabbatical and retreat at Queen of Angels Monastery. Sister Annie served as prioress of her Benedictine monastery for 12 years. After retiring in May of 2018, she made her way to Oregon.

“They were one of the first communities to respond,” said Sister Annie. “I was originally going to go to Canada, but the Sisters here reached out, and I decided to come to Mount Angel.”

It was Sister Annie’s first trip to Oregon. Although she had never been here before, she had heard of Oregon. “I like the Blazers; I’m a sports fan,” she said. “This was also my first time at a major Oktoberfest. It was wonderful.”

Sister Annie said she will remember Mount Angel and the Benedictine Sisters for their hospitality and warmth. She will remember Oregon for its vast amounts of land and small populations. “In the Bahamas, we have very little land and a lot of people,” she said. “I would love to come back someday.”

We would like to wish Sr. Annie a very happy retirement, and we look forward to her visiting again.

Thank you, Elsie

Our 2018 Founders Day Dinner was truly a night to remember. Thank you to the over 110 guests that came and made our inaugural fundraising dinner a monumental success. I’m proud to say that we successfully raised over $60,000 for the Benedictine Sisters. We are truly humbled by the support shown.

Please take a moment to read the list of our generous sponsors who have been listed below. A big “thank you” to them and to all of our guests who came to support us. If you couldn’t come, we hope to see you at next year’s dinner on Sunday, October 27, 2019.

Thank you to our table and in-kind sponsors:

- **Title Sponsor**: Larry & Jeanette Epping Family Foundation
- **St. Scholastica Sponsors**: James & Donna Butsch
- **Mother Bernardine Wachter Sponsors**: Chris Bloxham & Ming Fei Jeng, Claude Smith, Dan & Judy Vaughan, Jackie Miller, Catholic Community Services, and Mt. Angel Sausage Company
- **Mother Agatha Hess Sponsors**: Diane Bunn, Dr. Richard Mullins & Barbara Lenfesty, Ed & Carol Johnson, Joe & Darcy Ruef, and Ian & Jolyn Rothgery.
- **In-Kind Sponsors**: Benedictine Brewery, Hanson Vineyards, and Mt. Angel Sausage Company

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**I want to support the Sisters. What can I do?**

There are a number of ways you can support the Benedictine Sisters. Gifts can be made in-person, through the mail, or online. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Visit our website www.Benedictine-Srs.org/Donate to learn more. You can also contact our Development Office at (503) 845-2556 to learn about opportunities available to support the Sisters.
A Christmas Poem

By Sr. Angela Meister, OSB

A wondrous time, a time of wonder
Midnight Mass, snow and cold.
A Christmas tree in tinsel and blue lights.
It was a time of wonder, a wondrous time.

High school, hanging stars all over the school
Up on a ladder, swinging angels and stars.
Memories of snow forts.
It was a time of youth, a wondrous time.

Time flies by, another Christmas
Cutting trees, sleigh rides and happiness.
Poinsettias and holly, and prayers for snow.
It is a time of wonder, a wondrous time.

A Christmas time of life
A time of memories, presents and Christmas trees.
A time of love and peace.

A wondrous time, a time of wonder.