

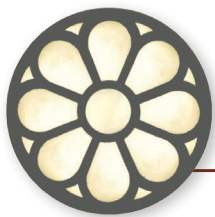
Volume XLVI
No. 1 Spring 2022

Reflections

of the Benedictine Sisters



QUEEN OF ANGELS MONASTERY • MT. ANGEL, OREGON



Welcome



Dear family and friends,

The days are slowly getting longer! Spring is here!
We are beginning a new season of *Reflections*!

Our chosen theme for this year is LEGACY: Legacy of truth, beauty, and goodness. In this issue we will focus on TRUTH.

As educators and life-long seekers, we are always desiring deeper truth. It is God's constant call, and it is a bottomless well. There is always more, more to know and more to love. The paradox is: the more we know and love, the clearer the truth becomes.

How do we know truth? If we stay grounded in God, praying every day for insight, wisdom, and knowledge that leads to love, then truth will be revealed. The two great commandments and the Rule of St. Benedict are the bedrock, touch stones, on which we can base all other truth. Other guides include the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

"All I will ever need to know, I learned in kindergarten" is a phrase that has always caught my attention. Be kind. Treat all other people the way you want to be treated. Be neat and tidy. Look for ways to encourage others. Follow directions. Mind your own business, and many more. All begun in early education and continued throughout life.

From the earliest days as educators, the Benedictine Sisters taught and passed on a legacy of truth. We invited several sisters in this issue to share stories from their years of teaching and learning.

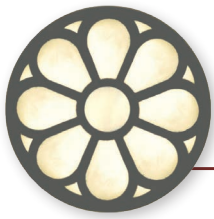
We encourage you to touch into TRUTH in your lives and renew the bedrock reality that you experience. That will be your legacy to those you know and love.

We ask our gracious God to bless your days as we pursue the legacy of truth, beauty and goodness!

In the great truth of the Risen Jesus,

Sister Jane

Sister Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Pastoral Administrator



Queen of Angels Processional Cross



by Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

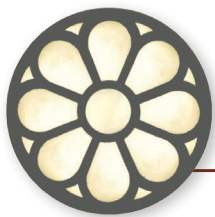
One of the many beautiful features in the Queen of Angels Chapel is the crucifix entitled Corpus Christi by Polish painter and sculptor, Jean Lambert-Rucki (1888-1967). It stands lifted on the processional cross and stationed behind the altar in the monastery chapel. There are unusual marks on the corpus not made by the sculptor.

The story goes that the Corpus Christi, one of several, purchased in the 1950s by Father Dennis Marx, OSB (1918-1982), a monk of Mount Angel Abbey and a staff member of Mount Angel College, was decorated in a background of stain glass by him. The Corpus Christi was positioned in the foyer of the Mount Angel College Student Commons, when it suddenly went missing. How it was returned one day is an act of God's providential care. Sister Bernarda Duda (1912 - 1985) was disking the sisters' orchard east of the College Commons building and the disc hit something hard. When she stopped to see what the disc had struck, she found the lost treasure – the Lambert-Rucki Corpus Christi.

After the 1993 earthquake, when

J. David Richen, architect, was looking for chapel furnishings for the newly built chapel (1998), he found stored away in the attic the Lambert-Rucki corpus. He immediately saw its potential as the processional cross and centerpiece for the new place of worship. On entering the chapel, the beautiful gold Corpus Christi catches your eye and invites you to pray and give thanks for Jesus' death and resurrection. The sisters invite you to see this beautiful piece in their chapel.





Legacy of Truth

A Reflection by the Benedictine Sisters

The Benedictine Sisters started their ministry of passing on the faith, wisdom, learning, and knowledge in their early days of their arrival in Oregon in 1882, starting in Grand Ronde and Gervais, Oregon. Our Shalom at the Monastery retreat ministry continues the ministry of teaching today. We asked a few of our sisters to reflect on this, their legacy of truth.

“From an early age, I wanted to be a teacher, like my mom, who was an elementary school teacher in a one-room schoolhouse. I started teaching Saturday religious education classes for Sister Hilda Flerchinger, OSB, at St. Mary’s Parish in Mount Angel, when I was in high school. After I entered the monastery, my first teaching assignment was at St. Paul School, Silverton, Oregon, where I taught 5th-6th graders and was principal. After the school closed in 1969, I was assigned to St. Luke’s School, Woodburn, Oregon, as principal and 6th grade teacher. After 16 years at St. Luke’s, I was hired to teach freshmen and sophomore religion at St. Mary’s Academy in downtown Portland. I loved teaching religion and instilling Catholic values throughout the school day. With my ministry at Shalom at the Monastery, the Benedictine Sisters’



Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer at St. Luke’s School in Woodburn, 1976.

retreat ministry, I am continuing our Benedictine legacy of sharing truth.

It is a profound and noble task of a teacher to pass on truth to others. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to be called to the ministry of teaching. Both teacher and student are changed and grow to be our better selves in the encounter.”

– **Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB**

“It is my wish that every person and every community desires to live out a legacy of truth. Throughout the entire history of our world, humans have written and spoken of their desire and endeavors to live out, and to leave a legacy of truth for the future. There will always be a desire that all persons, and everything in our world, may have life. With Life as Christ has bestowed it upon us by the Father, in the Spirit, there will always be the desire and search for truth.

At the present time, our earth is not only suffering from a fear of death and sickness due to the pandemic; we are also suffering from the fear of war, not only among nations, but also the fearful experience of hate and distrust among groups and even individuals. May we live out each day with a legacy of love and truthful acceptance of the persons we meet, and of course, those with whom we share life in family and community. This desire and prayer, 'Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life,' is at the heart of the Rule of Benedict,"

– **Sr. Judith Bloxham, OSB**

"I taught first graders at St. Mary's School in Albany in the 1960's. I enjoyed teaching very much. In the mornings, before school started, the children who came early would gather around my desk and chatter away. I never knew what would come out of their mouths. One particular morning, I don't remember what was being discussed, but a student named Tommy suddenly made the following statement, 'if there were no God, nothing would happen.' I have thought about that statement many times; I know that it is a truth that says so much. I have wondered if Tommy had any inkling about what he was saying or if he remembered it."

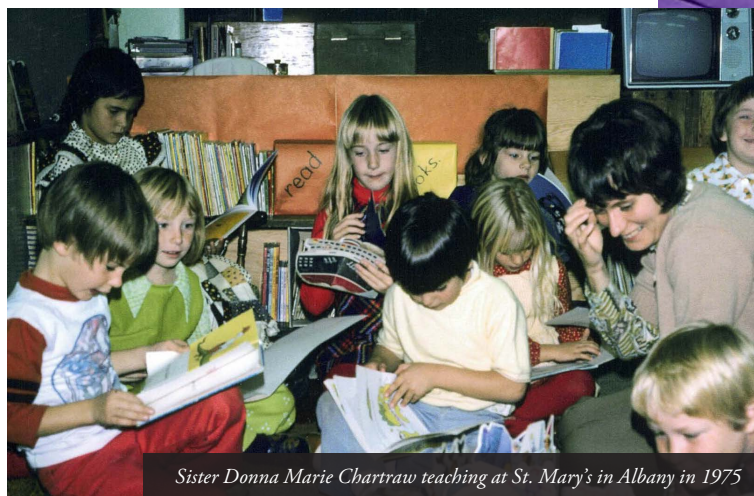
– **Sr. Joseph Fennimore, OSB**

"Having taught grades 1-4 and 7-8 for forty years, in six of our elementary schools (and many more years of religious vacation schools), I can say without reserve that the 'joyful noise' was life giving.

With God being the foundation of life, being able to speak about God in every aspect of working with the students and their families, literally or implied as the situations lent themselves, was the essence of teaching in Catholic schools. The values of our religious beliefs could be freely shared.

I gained much wisdom from students, who never ceased to amaze me with their wisdom. Finding and enjoying the humor was a definite sustainer and helped make everything else a joyful journey."

– **Sr. Donna Marie Chartraw, OSB**



Sister Donna Marie Chartraw teaching at St. Mary's in Albany in 1975

"In all my 45 years of teaching, my favorite years were teaching first and second graders, especially when they were to receive their First Communion. The children were receptive and eager to learn. Having their parents involved was part of the program. Teaching children to be kind was a way of preparing their hearts for Jesus.

When there were conflicts on the playground or classroom we tried to talk about it. Sometimes it meant going into our 'heart room' to talk to Jesus about it. If apologies were needed the children involved were

to make peace with each other. I believed it was important to teach them to be able to accept an apology and shake hands even if they were feeling upset.

Teaching children to recognize that we all make mistakes and can always go to Jesus for help was important. Sometimes we had a prayer service or celebration of forgiveness. To illustrate how we need to let go of negative attitudes and see how God is ready to forgive our mistakes, I had the children write on a piece of paper something they were sorry about. After a short prayer service, we went outside and made a large circle on the playground. In the center was a pot. Each child dropped their paper into it. The papers were then burned to show how God takes away our sins. Then the children exchanged the sign of peace with each other. I also put my paper in the pot. It is important to be a model for them. This was in preparation for their First Reconciliation.

Teaching was a wonderful time to apply lessons to everyday behaviors. Scripture stories, lives of the saints, children's stories in their readers often had opportunities for discussing various values. I must admit, there are times when I miss my teaching years."

– **Sr. Regina Rausch, OSB**

"Entering the community at Mt. Angel after high school in 1949, I was enrolled in Mt. Angel College and found myself set up for teacher training. I did my student teaching and, armed with a certificate and

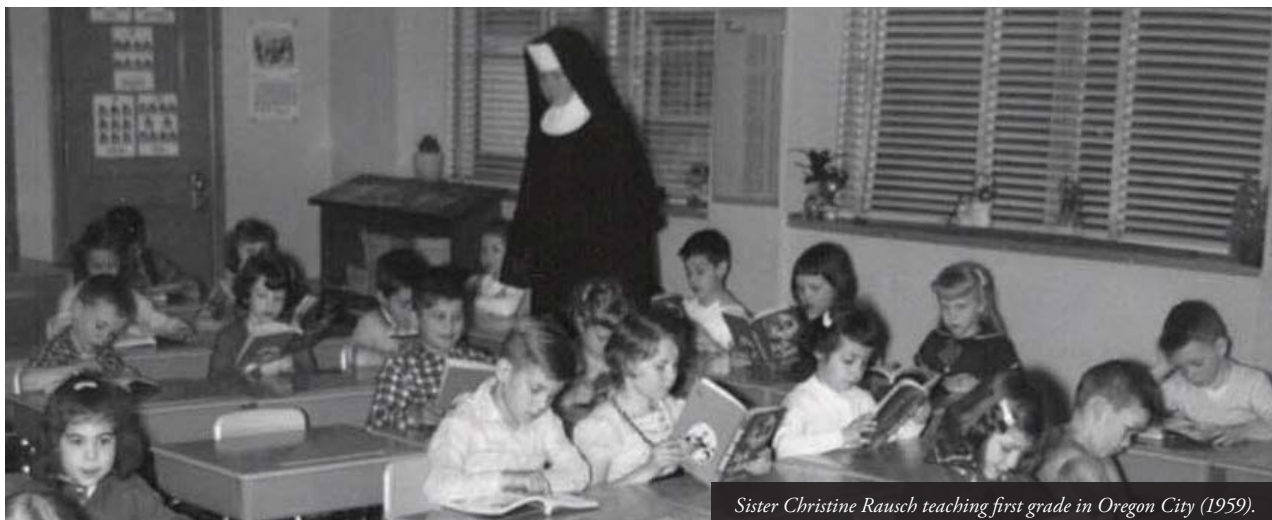


Sister Regina Rausch with her first communion class in 1970.

two years of college preparation, I began teaching first grade in St. Mary's Parochial school in Mt. Angel. With Sister Therese Marie Albrich teaching first grade across from me, I had the perfect model and mentor who helped me enormously and got me through that first year. I found I could teach and even enjoy it.

For teaching religion, I had books and materials that centered on faith through stories and teachings of Jesus. I discovered the richness of the Bible and found that, in a Catholic school, I could integrate religion in nearly every subject; reading, writing, art, song, social studies, etc. Teaching religion became my favorite subject. No more Baltimore Catechism questions and answers, but rather getting children to share what they learned from their heart. Vatican II opened up new ways of presenting faith in textbooks which made teaching even more meaningful.

When Catholic schools began closing, I saw a need to teach children through



Sister Christine Rausch teaching first grade in Oregon City (1959).

religious education classes, so I began working at St. Mary Parish in Mt. Angel again as Director of Religious Education and was able to continue teaching as well in the released-time program. The last 13 years I expanded my teaching to adult education and the Catechumenate program in Stayton. One is never sure if any of what you taught made a difference in the lives of people. You hope that you did. “

– **Sr. Christine Rausch, OSB**

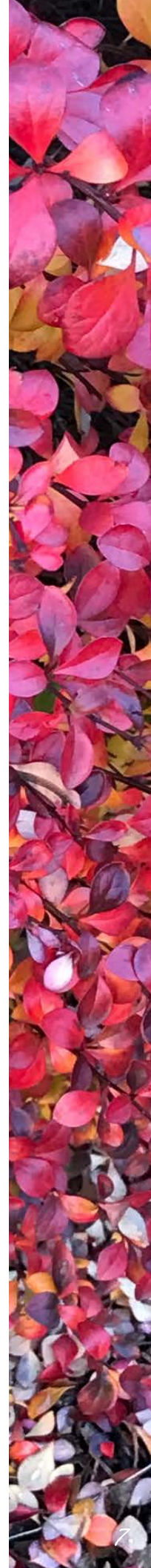
“I have enjoyed teaching in both grade and high school. My first experience was at St. Luke’s in Woodburn where I had a classroom with 49 second graders. There were so many desks that I had to walk down the aisles sideways. The walk-in closet was a place where I could go and shed a few tears of frustration. I felt overwhelmed by the sheer number of children. My favorite part of the year was the time that I spent preparing the children for their first Confession and Holy Communion. They were so eager to receive Jesus who loved them. Their First Communion brought me tears of joy. My own faith in the Holy

Eucharist was strengthened by their anticipation, eagerness, and joy.

I tried to carry over this love and gentle presence, learned from my parents, with my students. There is a joy in being peaceful in our hearts and in our dealings with others. This belief was tested as I came upon two small boys hitting each other over the head with their metal lunch boxes. I suffered a blow to my head, too, but was able to end the quarrel. We sat down and talked about kindness and the fun they had when they were friends playing softball. They remembered stories about Jesus who was kind and merciful, even forgiving those who crucified him.”

– **Sr. Maureen Niedermeyer, OSB**

“My sister and I drove in as day students from a small community called Yoder, where we attended a two-room school. We were somewhat nervous going into the academy as we didn’t know if we would be able to match the skills of the girls who came from larger Catholic schools. One thing that helped us is that we knew many of the sisters who taught in the academy from our



catechism classes at our parish in Molalla.

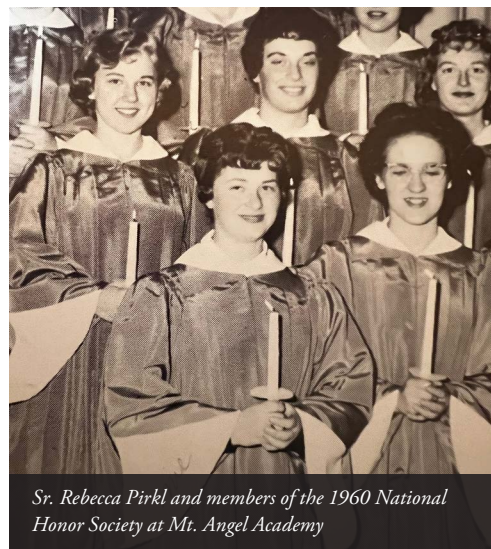
From my years at the academy, I developed a love of learning – especially history and the natural world – and a love of music. Here are a few of the sisters who were on the staff while I was there.

Sister Paula Rickert – I had Sister Paula for algebra, biology, and geometry. She was young, and a very good teacher. She would start class with a joke, or funny story (especially in algebra class), and then we would get to work, and work hard!

Sister Bernadette Eberle – A class that was very significant for me was journalism. Sr. Bernadette taught it, and I took both I and II. I enjoyed the writing and putting together a polished paper. The second year I was the editor of the paper – lots of work, but I enjoyed it. Sr. Bernadette was very patient, kind and helpful. She was also my First Communion teacher at Molalla. I still remember a little song she taught us to sing after communion.

We did have a rather rigorous academic schedule at the academy. However, we also had a variety of activities including; intermural sports, dancing lessons, active student government, National Honor Society, etc. The sisters seemed to be aware that they were nurturing the whole person – not just the mind.”

– Sr. Rebecca Pirkel, OSB



Sr. Rebecca Pirkel and members of the 1960 National Honor Society at Mt. Angel Academy



Sister Rebecca, along with Sister Alice Ann Schaefer and Sister René Foster, will be celebrating their 60th jubilees this summer on July 11, the Feast of St. Benedict.

Sisters Dorothy and Christine Rausch celebrated their 70th Jubilee on February 10, 2022, the Solemnity of St. Scholastica.



Sisters Dorothy and Christine Rausch were born 13 months apart to Marie and Charles Rausch of Rupert, Idaho. Dorothy and Christine dreamed of becoming nuns early in life through



Sr. Dorothy and Sr. Christine at their Jubilee celebration.

the inspiration of the Holy Cross Sisters who taught them in summer vacation school. Following their high school graduations in 1949, the two sisters traveled from their home to Mt. Angel, entering the Benedictine Sisters' community sight unseen in August 1949. They both professed vows on February 10, 1952, and in 1953 their sister, Regina, joined the community as well.

Sr. Dorothy Rausch, 91, has been involved in a variety of ministries during her 70 years as a Benedictine sister. During her early years in community, she worked in the monastery kitchen and laundry, and spent time doing household work and cooking in the sisters' mission houses. Returning to Mt. Angel, she worked again in the sisters' kitchen, as well as in the kitchen at Mount Angel Abbey. From 1960 to 1980 she was in charge of the sisters' large laundry operation. Although hip and knee surgeries limited her physical activity, she continued to fill in at the telephone switchboard, which she did for 60 years, plus she worked in the monastery archives and library for many years. Today, Sr. Dorothy continues to actively participate in the Liturgy of the Hours

and Eucharist each day, making the long trek from the infirmary to the chapel with her walker or wheelchair.

Sister Dorothy commented on this milestone by saying, "These years as a Benedictine sister have been blessed in countless ways. I am so grateful to God for His many graces."

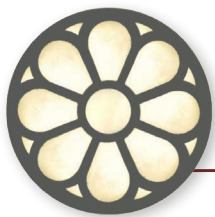
Sr. Christine Rausch, 90, earned her bachelor's degree in education from Mt. Angel College and her master's in Religious Education from Seattle University. She spent 18 years as a teacher in the primary grades in the Benedictine Sisters' schools in Oregon City, Albany, Lebanon, Silverton and Mt. Angel. She also served as a principal for five years in Mt. Angel.

Sr. Christine also worked for 30 years in parish ministry in Mt. Angel and Stayton, serving as director of adult religious education and catechumenate. In 2000 she retired from outside ministry, but she remains very active in various roles for her community. She assists in maintaining the community's archives, in liturgy planning, schola, and in other tasks around the monastery.



The Rausch family, Sr. Regina, Sr. Christine, and Sr. Dorothy, in the dining room following Mass

In reflecting on her 70th Jubilee, Sister Christine said, "These 70 years as a Benedictine sister have been filled with many blessings, challenges, and joys. I continue to grow in appreciation for the love and support of my religious community, friends and relatives."



Book Talk at Shalom at the Monastery by Linda Jensen and Tim Nelson

Book Talk was started at Shalom in 1996 with some of the original members still participating today. Tim and Linda joined the group in 2004, and in 2010 Tim became the group leader. It is a very congenial group with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds. We read a variety of books, including history, Northwest authors, biography, classics, and spirituality, from Dostoevsky to Annie Dillard to Frederick Douglass to Brian Doyle. In December we share poetry. We enjoy fairly far-ranging discussions about the book, the author, other books by the author, the historical times, and influences on or by the author.

Between meetings we often communicate via e-mail. While we often disagree, there is an attitude of welcome of others' opinions. On occasion, some of us don't like the book; but that can make for a more interesting discussion. COVID has added an interesting dimension to the experience. We meet via Zoom which gives us a chance to see and hear one another. For those who don't Zoom, we welcome comments by e-mail. Linda will also take notes during the discussion to share on e-mail with our larger Book Talk community. One can participate as much or as little as one wants.

Eventually we hope to meet in person again. Before COVID, our meetings would include music, treats, show-and-tell, related books, and spirited discussions. We meet the third Saturday of the month from September to June, though we sometimes change the date to accommodate Christmas and Easter. The Sisters have been a ready source of support. For instance, this past autumn, the Sisters' power went off before our Book Talk Zoom meeting. Sr. Dorothy Jean figured out how to manage the Zoom session via her phone. This drained the phone's charge, so, she drove to a place with power so she could recharge her phone, while keeping the Zoom meeting going on the phone the whole morning.



Monastery Windows & Building Get a Cleaning



We are beyond happy to report that the monastery building and windows have been cleaned. The last time was in 2017. Although this may sound like a simple task, our monastery has hundreds of windows and thousands of bricks that needed to be cleaned. The wonderful folks at ABC Window Cleaners did a thorough and wonderful job cleaning up our home – inside and out! We are grateful for them and the Salem Foundation for funding this important project.



MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

SUPERVISION FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS VIA ZOOM

2nd Friday, September through May
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. / \$20 per person

Call Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer at (503) 845-2556 to inquire or register.

BOOK TALK VIA ZOOM

3rd Saturday, September through June
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. / Donation

Check our website for a full reading list and future dates.
Contact Sr. Dorothy Jean at (503) 845-2556 to register.

A TIME TO JOURNAL VIA ZOOM

2nd Saturday, All Year
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. / Donation

Email Evelyn at evelynhwemhoff@mtangel.net, or by phone at (503) 845-9847 if you are planning to attend.

DREAM GROUP: LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL

3rd Saturday, September through May, Agatha Hall
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. / \$20 per person

Led by Clara Jean Dawson, spiritual director.

PRAYER OF THE HEART

3rd Tuesday, All Year
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Chapel

All are welcome.

THE CREATIVE-SPIRITUAL LIFE CIRCLE VIA ZOOM

3rd Saturday, September through May
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Led by Susan Black, artist, Black Star Studio and Gallery, Aurora.

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

3rd Sunday, October through May
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Chapel

This special service features sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and personal reflection.



Sister Angela Meister planting pansies donated by Farmer Dave.

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.

BENEDICTINE SISTERS GIFT SHOP

Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm

Our Gift Shop is open! Be sure to stop by and pick up one of our famous buttermilk coffee cakes for your Easter celebration. Our Gift Shop is full of great gift ideas! For more information, give us a call at (503) 845-2556 or email info@benedictine-srs.org



Shalom at the Monastery Upcoming Retreats

Seeing the Environment Through the Lens of Spirituality

April 23, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Chapter Room

\$30 includes lunch / Scholarships Available.

Staff members from Shalom at the Monastery will present their appreciation of nature's ability to enrich and empower their spirituality. In the afternoon, responders working within the environmental resources will discuss the bountiful gifts that their work safeguards. Participants will be invited to dialogue within the topic.

Teilhard de Chardin's *Mass on the World* presented by Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam

April 29 – May 1, 2022

3:30 p.m. Friday – 1:00 p.m. Sunday

Via Zoom

\$99 / Scholarships Available

This weekend retreat will focus on Teilhard's celebrated text *Mass on the World*. We will explore each of the five sections of this prayer in separate conferences. We will consider how the whole of this prayer emerges from the 5 themes of Teilhard's mysticism, and how it prepares the reader for his later masterpiece *The Divine Milieu*. Ample time for lectio divina and contemplation of the text will be provided.

Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam, is an ordained monk of the Camaldolese community of California. He is engaged in extensive retreat ministry as well as spiritual direction for priests, religious, and laity.

World Labyrinth Day: Take Steps Together for Peace

May 6, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth, West End of Shalom Building

Free

The Benedictine Sisters invite you to walk with them their outdoor labyrinth. 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.

Exploring the Willamette Valley at Queen of Angels Monastery led by Gay Gomez, PhD.

May 7, 2022 (Spring) & October 8, 2022

(Autumn)

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Outdoors / Chapter Room

\$50 per session, includes lunch / Scholarships Available.

This outdoor retreat will provide a guided bird hike in the morning and a tree/flower hike in the afternoon on the grounds of Queen of Angels Monastery situated in the Willamette Valley. Retreatants will enjoy discussions about the birds, trees and flowers that inhabit the monastery grounds as well as the ecosystem and geology of the monastery environs.

Presenter: Gay Gomez, PhD, is a retired professor of Geography, naturalist guide and author of two books on coastal wetlands. She now devotes her time to nature study in western Oregon, gardening and sampling craft beers.

Note: Please bring materials for note taking. Binoculars are welcome but not required. Limited to 12 participants. The retreat will be held rain or shine.

A Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Evangelical Pastor, Nazi Resister, Faithful Witness led by Rev. Terry Allen Moe

June 11, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Chapter Room

\$65 includes lunch / Scholarships Available

This retreat will be an overview of Bonhoeffer's life and thought through short passages from some of his key writings at various turning points in his life. It is for our prayer and reflection how these events and writings might invite us to deepen our love of God and the world at the same time. No prior experience necessary.

(continues on next page)

Outline for the Day

- Session One: Bonhoeffer's Life and Times (1906–1945)
- Session Two: America: Union Seminary/ Abyssinian Baptist (1930)
- Session Three: Finkenwald Seminary/Life Together (1935–1937)
- Session Four: Conspiracy and Imprisonment (1940–1945)
- Session Five: Bonhoeffer for our Times (2022–)

Goals:

1. To dwell on a few of Bonhoeffer's writings at various points in his life;
2. To deepen appreciation for his thought and action in extraordinary times;
3. To consider his spirituality for ourselves in our times.

Terry Moe is a Lutheran pastor, community organizer, and spiritual director based in Portland, OR. He served a mixed race congregation, Redeemer Lutheran, in NE Portland from 1981–2013. During this time he deepened his engagement in both spirituality and organizing in the IAF tradition. His recent memoir, *The Bush Still Burns: How Spirituality and Organizing Transformed a Pastor and Congregation* (Fortress Press: 2021), tells the story. Rev. Moe graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, and was ordained in 1976. He took Spiritual Direction training from Steve Coffey from 1984–1986 coinciding with his first steps into community organizing. He has

long been a friend of the Benedictine Sisters at Mount Angel. In 1998 he completed a Doctor of Ministry program at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. in "Spirituality and the Suffering of God." For over twenty years he has been a student of Dietrich Bonhoeffer most especially under the tutelage of Rev. Dr. Mark Brouder, St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton, OR who is a Bonhoeffer scholar and editor of the 16th Volume of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Works, entitled, *Conspiracy and Imprisonment: 1940–1945*.



The Blue Sapphire of the Mind: Notes for a Contemplative Ecology presented by Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam

August 12 – 14, 2022

3:30 p.m. Friday – 1:00 p.m. Sunday

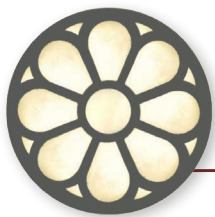
Via Zoom

\$99 / Scholarships Available

This retreat will focus on chapter 7 of Douglas E. Christie's *The Blue Sapphire of the Mind: Notes for a Contemplative Ecology*. We will consider the theme of Eros as it occurs in the classical Christian spirituality of the ancient Church. We will explore the major sub-themes of exchange, intimacy and reciprocity from both psychological and spiritual perspectives and how this exploration contributes to a contemplative ecology.

To Register for a Shalom at the Monastery Retreat:

Call the Benedictine Sisters at (503) 845-2556, or send a check payable to the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel, Attn: Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer and mail to 840 S Main St, Mt. Angel, OR 97362 at least four days before the start of the retreat. Scholarships available, call to learn more. Visit benedictine-srs.org.



Queen of Angels Oblates

Benedictine Oblates are Christian women and men who associate themselves formally with a Benedictine monastic community, like Queen of Angels Monastery, while continuing to live in their own homes and communities.

The Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel have accepted Oblates since 1975. They offer an active program that will enrich and deepen the spirituality of the Oblates who consider the Monastery to be their spiritual home and the sisters, their spiritual companions.

The term “Oblate” means “an offering of oneself.” The practice of associating with a Benedictine Monastery dates back to at least the 9th century. Oblates seek God daily, through study, prayer, conversion of life, and works of charity, justice and peace.

They attend regular Oblate gatherings at Queen of Angels Monastery and join the sisters for Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist celebrations.

Over a period of time, the Oblate Candidate comes to know the sisters and discerns his or her call to being an Oblate. After a period of preparation, the Candidate makes a formal promise – an Act of Oblation – to share the Benedictine way of life and monastic values.

This commitment is not binding in the way that religious vows are, but it brings the oblate into the sisters’ family and engages him or her fully in the prayer, work, and spiritual life of the community.

Those interested in becoming an Oblate should contact Sister Maureen at Queen of Angels Monastery by calling (503) 845-6141.

Oblate Update from Coordinator Rae Parlier

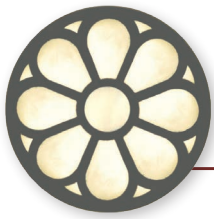
Planning is in progress for the Oblates’ annual retreat on May 13-15, 2022, facilitated by Sr. Teresa Jackson of St. Gertrude’s Monastery in Cottonwood, Idaho. The topic will be on Formation, a broad term which encompasses attitudes and practices that foster the living of the gospel of Christ within the framework of the Benedictine values of stability, obedience, and conversion.

Celebrating 141 Years of Service, Hospitality and Prayer

We recently received a letter from a Mt. Angel College alumni. “Sixty years ago now, two full generations,” the letter begins, “a newspaper article in the Oregon Statesmen revealed that your order was opening an institution of higher learning...I was persuaded to switch there from Willamette University.”

The letter goes on to share James Chesley’s memories of his time with the sisters, and his appreciation for their Catholic teachings. James’ letter is not the first our community has received, and we certainly hope it is not the last. Each year, many people take a moment and write us a letter. The sisters are always delighted to read these notes and updates.

In our 141-year history, it is impossible to count the number of lives that have shaped our journey, and whose journey we have helped shape. Each year, we pause, give thanks, and reflect on the legacy our monastic community has built during that time.

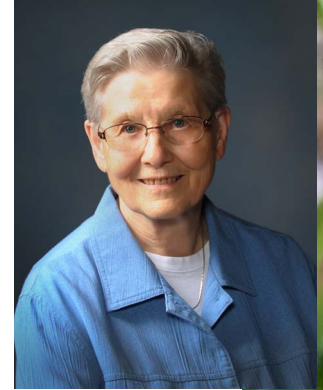


Thank You!

Retirement Appeal Most Successful Ever

The Benedictine Sisters would like to thank the over 240 family and friends who helped make the 2021 Retirement Appeal the most successful ever. With your kindness and generosity, we were able to surpass our fundraising goal by nearly \$100,000! We were truly humbled by the support we received.

This year, our Retirement Appeal focused on the life and story of Sister Theresa Henscheid, OSB. Her remarkable story began in 1954 where she began her work at the Benedictine Village, the precursor to the Benedictine Nursing Center. She spent 44 years caring for others, and today continues her monastic work of prayer and service. We received many kind notes and gifts in her honor and in honor of all of our sisters.



A pillar of Benedictine monasticism is stability. Having a safe place for our community to age is important to us. The generosity expressed during this appeal, and all of our appeals, has allowed us to age in our monastic home. For that, we are very grateful.

Next November, we will be honoring Sister Donna Marie Chartraw, OSB, as part of our 2022 Retirement Appeal. She taught for 40 years in parochial schools, and was Benedictine Sisters' prioress for 8 years. She now serves as an assistant to Sister Jane Hibbard, pastoral administrator.



Society of St. Scholastica Members Honored

On February 10, the sisters gathered in the Queen of Angels Chapel for a special celebration of St. Scholastica, cofounder with St. Benedict of Benedictine communities. During the celebration, the Society of St. Scholastica members were honored at Mass.

The Society of St. Scholastica is composed of 118 family and friends who make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the Benedictine Sisters. This special group collectively gave over half a million dollars to the Benedictine Sisters last year.

Reflections

is published three times a year by the
Benedictine Foundation of Oregon
840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362

Return Service Requested

Please notify us of any address changes:

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salem, OR 97301
Permit #338

Front cover photo and back cover prayer by Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB.

Prayer to St. Scholastica

Holy mother, Saint Scholastica, twin sister of Saint Benedict, we humbly ask, that you will bless all our families, friends, and oblates, with joy, peace, and hope in our day.

Saint Scholastica, contemplative, monastic leader, and model of loving discipleship, intercede for all monastics around the world. Help us to have extravagant love for all peoples and all creation. May all of us be a blessing to one another through our thoughtful, caring love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Icon from the hands of Brother Claude Lane, OSB