

The Benedictine Tide

The Wave of the Future

Benedictine Sisters of Florida

St. Leo, Florida

Volume 11, No. 3

Winter 2010

*The Benedictine Sisters of Florida
Pray that the perfect peace of our new born Savior
will bring an end to war and cover our world
with Tranquility and Harmony.*



As our Christmas gift, we will remember you and your loved ones in our celebrations of the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours throughout the Christmas season.

Cover artwork from portfolio of Irma Multer, O.S.B.
Sister is now 97 years young.

From the Prioress' Journal



By Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B.

Daylight Savings time has slipped under the cover of “standard” time and we have had the first real taste of autumn’s morning coolness. You understand that we have no spectacular color change of foliage here in central Florida but awaking to the clank, clank sound of the hot water wandering through the heating coils in my bedroom reminds me that there is a nip in the outside air. Thanksgiving is coming (when you read this it will be a happy memory) and Advent and Christmas lurk on the horizon.

I have always liked the season of Advent. As a child, this time of year meant endless searching through the Sears catalog for gifts to put on Santa’s list. As a “young” Sister in community, it meant no personal mail until that happy moment on Christmas morning when we got our stack of Christmas cards and letters from family and friends.

Nowadays it’s hard to focus on the patient waiting of Advent when the stores are playing Christmas music while they pack away Halloween trimmings. At Holy Name today, Advent means choosing people to sponsor with Christmas gifts, the “Wrapping Party” when we gather as community to add festive paper and bows to those gifts, hosting our employee Christmas luncheon and un-boxing the decorations we stored under the stairs in time for our House Decorating party. A preview taste of Christmas cookies is the reward at the end of a long evening.

Advent for us involves planning the annual Penance Service for the Sisters of the diocese and members of local parishes. There are extra choir practices to learn new music for liturgies and to refresh our memories on the traditional carols. Some of the Sisters join with other choirs to offer an evening Advent service at a neighboring church and to visit the Hospice House and a local nursing home where two of our sisters are in temporary residence. At 4 p.m. on Sundays, from one week to the next, you can hear the recorder ensemble reaching perfection for their annual 3rd Sunday of Advent prelude to the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

These are the fun and outreach flavors of Advent. There are other less observable signs that we are preparing for the anniversary of the coming of our Savior God in the form of a tiny babe. As in Lent, we like many people make Advent

2- *The Benedictine Tide*

resolutions to spend more time in prayer and spiritual reading and to reach deep in our pockets to help the less fortunate. Sisters also attend pre-Christmas activities at the nearby Catholic school, the university next door and ecumenical projects of the Ministerial Association.

On Christmas Eve a group of the Sisters will travel to Saddlebrook (nearby resort) to provide music for the “midnight” Mass at 9 p.m. Christmas day begins with Morning Praise and Eucharist – a liturgy when we “pull out all the stops” with music. The cooks and the table waiters provide a scrumptious Christmas dinner. After KP duty, the house quiets down for a couple hours. During the night the Christmas elves will have sneaked from door to bedroom door leaving surprises that are usually opened during the down time on Christmas afternoon. Around 4 p.m. we will gather for sung Vespers (Evening Praise) and our Christmas supper party. Santa brings us our exchange gifts and all the presents that come from friends to the community are opened and admired by all.

The week after Christmas is filled with some of the loveliest feasts of the year: Saint Stephen’s Day, Saint John’s Day with the Agape (blessing of the wine) ceremony at dinner and the feast of the Holy Innocents. New Year’s Eve is a quiet retreat-like day that culminates with an evening prayer service and party to which our oblates and neighbors are invited. You won’t hear any midnight bells but you can be assured that there will be Sisters praying for you at the mini prayer gatherings between 8 p.m. and midnight. We no longer have midnight Mass for Christmas or New Year’s – both days we have a 10:30 a.m. Mass which is open to guests.

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus on January 3rd holds special meaning for the Benedictine Sisters at Holy Name Monastery. I am unsure how our foundation came to be dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus but I feel certain that the five Benedictine women who had traveled via train and horse and buggy from Pennsylvania were very grateful to Jesus for their safe travels through the swampy, snake-filled, humid terrain of the south to this lovely spot on Lake Jovita.

Continued on page 3



Guests are welcome to join the Sisters during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the First Friday of each month. Adoration begins at 6:30 p.m. and closes with Evening Prayer at 7:30 p.m. A social with light refreshments (provided by a donor) follows.

News on Peace and Justice Activities

Lobbying – Education – Responsible Investing - Vigiling

Our **Peace and Justice Committee** continues to be very active. We keep a running contact with our legislators and lobby regarding issues such as war, immigration, health insurance and budget cuts that affect the hungry, the homeless and the unemployed. In keeping with our Corporate Commitment we educate ourselves and work to involve others in the community in action (and prayer) for the relief of all forms of hunger.

Opportunities for which you may wish to be engaged include watching movies of particular relevance. Recently we viewed “**Invictus**,” profiling Nelson Mandela’s inspiring story. The movie was a powerful reminder to us about what one leader can do. President Mandela reached out to people non-violently and brought about an end to apartheid in South Africa in an extraordinary way.

From the Prioress’ Journal

Continued from page 2

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus was officially granted to the Franciscans in the 16th century. By the 17th century, the Carthusian order of monks and nuns [founded by the Benedictine St. Bruno] obtained permission to celebrate this feast on the second Sunday after Epiphany. Early in the 18th Century, the feast was extended to the universal church to be celebrated on the second Sunday after the Epiphany. Shortly after Vatican II, the Catholic Church implemented a change in the liturgical calendar that placed the Feast of the Holy Name between the feasts of Mary, the Mother of God on New Year’s Day and the Baptism of Jesus a week later. In 1995, Pope John Paul II restored the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus to January 3rd. [A little piece of Catholic trivia you might need to know someday: the name “Jesus” appears 977 times in the New Testament.]

In closing, I wish each of you, and your families, special blessings during Advent, throughout the Christmas season and on into the new year. The many Christmas cards you send are collected in a special basket in the community room. They are read and re-read by the Sisters and memories are recalled from all the places we have ministered in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. We take special enjoyment in your annual letters that bring us up to date on your news. Be assured of our prayerful remembrance of all of our families, friends, benefactors and oblates at Mass and in our daily prayers throughout the Christmas season. Until next time

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

The Monastery has joined the **Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investments** which is an organization that coordinates members’ influence with companies in which we hold stock. It is the “baby” of the Boerne Texas Benedictine women’s community.

The Solemnity of the Transfiguration, August 6 is the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. For the reading at our Peace Compline that night, Sister Mary David read part of a poem she wrote paralleling the Transfiguration and the bombing. The prayer asked for mercy and that we see only Jesus.

September 11 - a **vigiling** was held on Hwy 52 with “Pray for Peace” signs. There were lots of honks and waves from a group different from those who usually see us on Mondays at 5 pm.

The 9/11 tragedy was also marked by both Sister Roberta and Father Stephan who preached about **Forgiveness, Healing and Peace**.

Our Peace and Justice Committee endorsed the **Hunger-Free Kids Act** at the urging of The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).

Several of our members were present on Veteran’s Day, November 11th for the dedication of the **For Those Who Serve** sculpture at Saint Leo University. Attendees at the event included service men and women, political figures, university staff and trustees, donors, students, alumni and guests. The evening program was highlighted by President Kirk’s presentation about the university’s dedication to the education of service men and women around the globe. The sculpture was blessed by Rev. Robert Morris (SLU graduate), Vicar General for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and Father Stephan Brown, university chaplain. Special recognition was given to donors whose generous gifts made the magnificent bronze sculpture possible. It stands in commemoration of their loved ones and all those who have bravely served and currently serve our country. An especially touching moment came when individuals in the audience stood to share the names of loved ones who gave their lives for freedom. The ceremony culminated with a festive fireworks display!

News from the Vocation Office

Reach us on the web at www.floridabenedictines.com.
Become a social networking friend on Facebook!
The link is on our web page.

Vocation promotion is everyone's responsibility! Many who visit us are asked to pray for vocations and let people know we are here. Communicating our mission is enormously important for our growth and development. The TIDE, our community newsletter, as well as the website help us to expand our reach. Sister Mary David and our techy-affiliate, Ryann, keep the webpage up-to-date so **What's New** really is! In addition, oblates often take vocation promotion material to their parishes.

In a continual effort to answer inquiries and "get the word out" regarding vocations, several special events have taken place:

June 4-6 + Come and See vocation discernment retreat was attended by "20-somethings" Ellen and Lisa as well as Affiliate Ryann.

Each woman had a Sister prayer partner with whom she sat at supper and heard the Sister's vocation story. The retreat was a mix of guided alone time and sharing with others. The favorite part of the retreat for



everyone was the Open Forum with the Sisters where questions were asked about the Benedictine Community and prayer. There was also an excellent conversation focused on celibacy. Since the retreat ended on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, a bonus was having adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until after Vespers (Evening Prayer). Our retreatants and the Sisters prayed in adoration with a special intention for vocations.

June 9 + Special day was planned for the **6th grade girls from Saint Anthony School**. This year the Benedictine Sisters were not at the FOCUS 11 Day sponsored by the Diocese when the local school attended. A special event was planned for them at the Monastery. They had a tour and heard some history of our early days beginning in 1889 and how we had come to teach at Saint Anthony School. The ten girls were given "gifts" and told why they each are a special Gift. They prayed Noon Prayer, ate lunch with the Sisters and everyone thoroughly enjoyed a surprise of homemade cookies!

July 14 + Sister Mary David began a teen retreat by giving a vocation talk. There were 65 teen **Peer Ministers on retreat** for the week at Saint Leo Abbey. Brother Jacob had invited Sister to co-host the session with him. She told them about the Benedictine values and how we live them. Affiliate Ryann Underwood talked to the teens about volunteering at the monastery and what being an affiliate encompasses.

October 3 + As a culmination of the semi-annual camping trip, five of our Sisters visited **Blessed Trinity Parish in Ocala**. Their purpose was an outreach for vocations and other opportunities the monastery offers. The Benedictine Sisters served in that parish for over 40 years. In greeting people after Mass, former students and old friends, the Sisters felt good to see that everyone was delighted to have them there again.

November 13-14 + a special vocation awareness retreat was offered through **Saint Leo University Ministry**. Sister Mary David was part of the team of two religious women and two religious men representing their congregations. It was an unusually busy weekend at the university so attendance was low but the Spirit was very much alive in the group.

If any of these special events are of interest for your involvement, just contact us at holyname@saintleo.edu.

Special News! After more than a year of waiting, a time of intense prayer, much patience and many fees, our volunteer-affiliate, Elizabeth, finally received her green card. The card gives her a status of permanent residency which made possible her being able to visit her family in India and re-enter the U.S.

After her home visit to India, Elizabeth became a postulant on May 22nd, a step on the way to becoming a vowed religious. Besides regular classes with her director, Sister Dianne, she has had the opportunity for formation experiences in two other Benedictine houses, Cullman, AL and Bristow, VA. These experiences have not only helped Elizabeth see that being Benedictine is being part of a large family but also deepened her appreciation for being part of this Community.



Postulant Elizabeth Mat-thai reads her vows during the May ceremony.

From the Office of Advancement

Benedictine Sisters Welcome Director of Mission Advancement



The Benedictine Sisters of Florida were pleased to welcome on November 8th, Faith Pridmore in the newly established position of Director of Mission Advancement. Faith has over twelve years of experience in the non-profit sector. She has led fund development efforts for organizations in Sarasota County including Cardinal Mooney High School, Ballet Eddy Toussaint, the Venetian Waterway Park in Venice and The Players Community Theatre.

Faith's business experience includes teaming with her husband, Marshall, representing the Principal Financial Group. Her background and skill sets developed in helping people realize their philanthropic dreams led to her co-founding **Giving Matters**, an initiative for women to realize the power of their unique abilities and leadership through philanthropy. Assisting women is a particular passion for Faith given her own financial journey. "Witnessing the joy and transformation that giving back makes

possible in women's lives was our impetus for creating the *Giving Matters* program," says Faith. "The Benedictine Sisters' history of service throughout Florida is a profound example of the impact of giving. They have influenced thousands of lives and I am proud to help ensure that their mission continues well into the future."

"It was a delight to learn that Faith attended Holy Family School in North Miami where several of our current Sisters and I once taught," said Prioress Roberta Bailey. "We are currently working on our Strategic Plan and look forward to working with Faith in its implementation."

Faith is a graduate of Barry University; a member and past board officer of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals; a past board member of the Southwest Florida Planned Giving Council; an alum of Leadership Sarasota; and has served on several non-profit boards in Sarasota. She and her husband Marshall have four grown children and are grandparents of two granddaughters.

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida gratefully acknowledge those whose generous support and active involvement in the life of Holy Name Monastery help us live out our mission. You inspire us by your time-tested values of faith, loving concern for others, and sense of responsibility to the world.

The following represent gifts to our mission from **November 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010.**

Anonymous
Charles Agius
Samuel and Denise Agnew
Barbara W. Alexander
Michael and Joan Arno
Jacqueline Arrowsmith
Kathryn H. Baker
Stella Barthle
Raymond and Patricia Becker
Mary Belbour
Martha N. Bennett
Ann Marie Benzinger
Richard and Donna Blommel
Judy Bollinger
Rev. Clyde A. Bonar
Kevin and Cynthia Borland
Karen Bray
Lucille Brennan
Fay Brown
William and Jayetta Brown
Estate of Timothy Brown
Warren and Bernadette Broz
Mary Anne Bullock
Carolyn S. Bundy
Betty Burke

Pamela Butler
Sebastian Cabrera
Jean M. Callahan
Dr. William and Mary Kay Calvert
Marie Camiri
R. J. Carr
Juanita M. Casarez
Donald Cashdollar and Patricia Steed
Connie Caudill
Sister Connie Charia
Margie Chipman/Virgil Inc.
E. P. E. W. Clark
Class of Holy Name Academy 1960
Louise Clift
Mrs. Grafton G. Cochrane
Warner and Ella Conarton
John and Amy Cordray
Jean S. Cosgrove
Mimi Cotter
Nancy B. Counihan
Dennis and Janet Crisfield
Diana Crowder
Msgr. George W. Cunnings
Ida Curtis
Stephanie M. Davis

Marie A. Delalla
Robert and Margaret Dimuzio
Kathleen DiSanto
Angel M. Donatelli
Benjamin and Vivian Donatelli
John P. Doscher
Sister Patricia Anne Driscoll, O.S.B.
E. Ruth Dubuisson
Gloria J. Duggan
Raymond and Stephanie Duke
John Dunbar
Gerri C. Elliott
Marilyn Elsen
Joseph K. Etteldorf
Eleanor F. Faciance
Kelly E. Fagan
William and Helen Fehn
Felicitia Finney
Lucille Franke
Beatriz F. Galvis
Joyce Gau
Suzanne R. Gellens
Joseph Giarratana/Papa Joe's
Mary G. P. Giella
John J. Gillis

Continued

Tom and Sandra Goldsworthy
Gladys Gray
William and Lois Gregg
Louis and Ann Grieshop
Patricia and John Grubbs
Flrian and Sylvia Gude
Bernard and Kay Halfmann
Alix M. Hall
Anne M. Harman
Diane Mayeux Hasell
Anne McDonald Heath
Joseph J. Herrmann and Rose A.
Herrmann Charitable Trust
Rev. James Heslin
Kym Hoerr
Alois and Imogene Holub
Geetha Jacob
Mary Ann Jaworske
Julie Jenkins
Mary E. Jensen
H. Jhang
Jackson and Mary Johnson
Mark and Julianne Johnson
Norbert and Carol Immel
Claudia Galvis Isaacs
Marjorie Karan
John E. Kauffman
Charles and Maureen Kaupke
Martha Kaurent
Mary D. Kean
Jeff Kehoe
Larry and Monica Keyes
Frank and Monica Kiley
Dr. Arthur and Beverly Kirk
Emilia E. Kiss
Harvey and Kathleen Kissel
Francis Kock
Marjorie E. Koran
Drs. Victor and Dewey Kramer
Raymond LaDue and Myrtle Dunn
John and Pam LaGasse
Barbara Lambert
Arnold and Ernestine Lange
Cheryl Lange
Dennis and Joan Lange
Felda Lange
Lyndon and Jeanne Lange
Elizabeth J. Larson
Sister Claire Leboeuf, C.S.C.
Jemison and Maris Leitz
Muriel Leslie-Lisama
Gwen Leyton
Lee Love
Kenneth and Karen Lund
Sister Kathleen Lyons, S.N.D.
Cecilia Marko
Frances E. Martin
Jane E. Martinson
Sister Mary Loyola Mathia, SC
Leroy T. Matthiesen
Johana Maytin
Jean Pina McGreevy
Laurence and Joan McGreevy
Sister Mary Miday, O.P.
Lourdes Milan

Leanne Milian
Yolanda Milkum
Christopher and Karen Miller
Robert and Joan Miller
Rocky Milliman
Barbara Molloy
Patricia and James Mulieri
Don and Mary Munday
Luke and Lorraine Murphy
Dr. Yvonne Nelson
Chris and Gina Neuhofer
Frank Neuhofer
Paul J. Neuhofer
Robin and Pamela Neuhofer
Wanda and Jon Northam
Robert and Ursula Page
Martha Parisian
Jean P. Peterson
Nancy Pond
Patricia Ann Powers
Lynn and Allan Powers
G.M. and Arlene Pringle
Richard W. Radke
Margaret (Ricou) Randall
John and Phillis Rearden
Patrick and Jeanette Reilly
Diane L. Riehle
Peter Ritcher
Karen Robertson
Mark and Catherine Rosendale
Elizabeth Rosser
Rotary Club San Antonio
John and Lynn Roth
Donald and Beverly Roy
Saint Ignatius Youth Group
Iris Salcedo
Margaret and Jules Salomon
Stephen and Joan Schmidt
Philip and Marisa Secord
John and Juanita Sherry
Jeanne Petrie Shewalter
Josephine M. Shine
Phillip and Cynthia Signore
Anne Louise Smith
Theresa E. Smith
Bruce and Lorraine Snyder
Theresa Jane Soberano
James and Jeanine Soma
Anne C. Stone
Gilda P. Storelli
M.C. Sullivan
Barbara U. Sutton
Peter and Gabriela Suyono
Michael and Catherine Taggart
Richmond and Carol Taylor
Rick and CJ Taylor
Thans Family
Susan S. Thompson
Sara Arline Thrash
Lillian I. Ullrich
Beth Marie Underwood
Joe and Patricia Vancil
Helena Verano
Cornelia Vercheski
Robert and Jeanette Vigeant

Joseph Vogel
Carl and Mary Jane Waldron
David and Deborah Walker
Mary Alice Wheeler
Michael and Susan Wheeler
Richard W. Wilson
Virginia M. Yorio
Candace Zann

Memorials and Tributes

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Maria A.

Talleres De Oracion of Orlando

Sister Germaine Bevans, O.S.B.

Robert and Mary Cabot
Nancy Counihan
Barbara A. Ervin
Betty R. Gruetzmacher
Joyce Gau Harig
Jimmy and Glordine Johnson
Charles and Maureen Kaupke
Frank Mouch
Marilyn F. Powers
Anne Silvers
Anne Louise Smith
Candace E. Zann

Lily Cabrera

Sebastian Cabrera

Effie Mary McCabe Finora

Timothy Baldwin
Nancy Counihan
Jan B. Dillard
Catherine Hutchings
The Joan G. McDonough Trust
Ed and Lynn Plazewski
San Antonio Citizens FCU

Rosalie Carollo Fontana

Children of Antoinina Fontana
Leonard Fontana
Luke Fontana

Sister Cecilia Heinz

Anne-Louise Smith

Ed LaChance and Bill Madigan

Mary LaChance

Sister Caroline and Sister Anna Marie Maertens

Gabriella Maertens

Powers and Ryan Families

Patricia Ann Powers

Stanley Sajnacki

Joan Miller

Marguerite V. Squadrito

James F. Squadrito

Excerpts from The Benedictine Sisters of Florida: Memories of the First Hundred Years

Russell Summer

Mary D. Kean

John, Lena, Tom and Tony Visconti

Sara Visconti Doyle

IN HONOR OF

Sister Roberta Bailey, O.B.S.

Joann L. Bollinger

John and Betty Burger

Raymond and Leona Erazmus

Yvonne F. Galatas

Suzanne R. Gellens

Annie Lee Gomez

Michael and Jamie Imes

R.A. Milliman

Monsignor Fran Mouch

Chris and Gina Neuhofer

Julie Ann Perrin

Walter and Mary Plazewski

Allan and Marilyn Powers

Karen Robertson

Saint Anthony Women's Club

Nancy Anne Sweeney

Sister Germaine Bevans

Gwen Leyton

Muriel Leslie-Lizama

Sister Miriam Cosgrove

Siamack and Sabrena Bondari

Rudolph Franke Family

Paul and Shana Speciale

Sister Helen Lange

George M. Douglas

Arnold Lange

Guy Moore

Sister Irma Multer

George M. Douglas

Guy Moore

Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer

Elaine Parrino MaCaluso

Sister Mary Dorothy Neuhofer

Elaine Parrino MaCaluso

Dr. A. J. Visconti

Sara Visconti Doyle

The Development office publishes *The Tide* to inform our friends and supporters about Benedictine values and the work the Sisters do in fulfilling those values. We strive to recognize all who help in our commitment to help others. We apologize if anyone has inadvertently been omitted and ask that you notify us by mail, email us at hmndevlopment@saintleo.edu; or call 352-588-8443.

CHAPTER TWO: TALES FROM THE NOVITIATE (or this may be the start of something big!)

As the first written record indicated, "ere long, God sent help" and He has continued to do so for a hundred years. Each of us has novitiate memories, for novitiate is the one thing we have all "been through" even though our individual experiences are unique. Novitiate memories often revolve around peals of laughter; buckets of tears; sink full of dirty dishes; dreams realized; uninvited and inappropriate giggling; serious even solemn efforts at prayer; and as a background for it all, the tensions of beginning a search for God with all the professed, or as they once were called, the "big sisters," observing carefully from heights of proper religious decorum and holiness.

One memory of Sister Annunciata's which related to the house moving days involves a novice, Sister Therese. Sister was then, as throughout her life, an indomitable spirit who could find joy and fun in almost any situation. One of her novitiate recreations during the moving was to run the length of the central hall, quite a considerable distance, and jump out the front door and off the edge of the building as an expression of youthful good spirits and health. This activity entertained her seniors, earned her a reputation and, no doubt, gave her novice mistress, Sister Annunciata, some material for conferences as well as memories.

Sister Therese was blessed with a beautiful singing voice, which she also used to entertain in a more orthodox manner. Her rendition of "I'm a Lonely Little Petunia in an Onion Patch" outlasted her novitiate days and was still a required part of community parties and talent shows in the 1960's. Sister's performances included, even in the days of "full habit," exotic hats. They would be large-brimmed, covered with flow-



New building: In 1960 we could practically reach out our bedroom window and touch the current monastery building being constructed across the driveway.

ers, feathers, and other decoration and tied on by huge bows. Sister delighted in her performances almost as much as her audiences. This however, was strictly a family affair; those outside the community circle knew Sister Therese as principal of St. Anthony School, registrar of the Academy, secretary to the Mother Superior, shrewd business women, manager of the student canteen, and portress at the Convent. Sister also took a turn at being infirmarian and as novice mistress. There were even years when she held all of these responsibilities at once. The indomitable, joyful spirit had many opportunities to grow strong and be refined in the fire services.

Sister Caroline's recollections of her novice experience may seem a bit sedate in comparison, but there are stories of a least one bicycle ride she took as a novice that has entered the common memory. But first Sister's remembrance of her first days "in the Convent":

"On June 6, 1920 I graduated from high school in a class of six. On June 20, the eve of the Feast of St. Aloysius, the Benedictine Community of twelve sisters received as in a class of five. We

Continued on page 9

On Becoming Benedictine

Oblates are lay persons who wish to share in the prayer and good works of a Benedictine community. Oblates strive to spread the spirit of Saint Benedict to all those with whom they come into contact. The Rule, with its moderate approach to full Christian living, continues to enrich our Oblates today just as it has through the centuries.

In addition to our usual five Oblate meetings a year some recent special events included:

+ **Oblate Retreat, May 21-23**, focused on “Good Zeal” and also the Gifts of the Spirit since it was Pentecost. There were eight in attendance. On May 23 we welcomed James Won and Veronica Jhang as they made Oblation and Diane Cheshier was received as an oblate candidate.

+ **Summer Day of Reflection**, “Grateful Simplicity,” was enjoyed by 19 oblates, candidates and friends on August 10th.

A new series of study, “**Becoming Benedictine**” began with the September 26th meeting. The Sisters and 28 oblates witnessed Karen Robertson’s Oblation after Mass that morning. After dinner and the meeting, the oblates were invited to participate in a wonderful Open House/Reception. Over 50 people came to greet our new prioress, Sister Roberta, and to celebrate with us as a Community. Help from the oblates was priceless as they tended refreshments and the guest book and told others about the oblate program. They were living witnesses to Benedictine Hospitality.

Thanksgiving weekend, November 28, the oblates joined us for Mass, dinner and a session on Fidelity to Monastic Spirituality. Cecilia Marko made her oblation and Martha Palmer transferred her oblation to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.

Congratulations to Oblate Iris Salcedo who recently graduated from high school. Her achievement and retirement

Meeting Dates/Topics for OBLATES 2010-2011 “Becoming Benedictine” are:

- **January 23** Obedience to the Word of God Part 1
- **March 27** Obedience to the Word of God Part 2
- **May 22** The Process of Holiness
- **May 20 – 22** An Oblate Retreat is planned for oblates and oblate-candidates
- **Date TBA** - A Summer Day is planned for Oblates, oblate-candidates and friends.

Please note these dates on your calendar now. Feel free to join us. Program begins with Eucharist at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and a meeting 1-3 p.m. Please RSVP by the Wednesday before each scheduled meeting.



Sisters and Oblates raise a hand in blessing during Karen Robertson’s induction ceremony.

were celebrated at a lunch at the Monastery on June 15.

Sister Mary David preached a night of the Novena to the Holy Spirit at Our Lady of Grace parish in Beverly Hills, FL. She was invited and hosted by Oblate LeAnne Milian.

Perhaps you are wonder what value an oblate finds in the program. Here is their testimony:

“Every meeting is a time of reflection and growth...personally and in community.” – Barbara Boucher

“I especially like the handouts and the questions for homework. They challenge me. I read the Rule each evening and feel it has become a real strength in my life.” – Kathy diSanto

“I’ve become more aware of people and things around me and try to think, What would Christ do?” – Bev Roy

“I listen to a CD of the Rule each day. I couldn’t come to the last meeting, but I did the “homework” and got together with two friends to share.” – Lisa Rosser

“I’m making copies of the Sisters’ Noon Prayer booklet and have invited several others to join me in this prayer.” – Iris Salcedo

Adopt-a-Room

Our oblates have enthusiastically embraced the idea of choosing a guest room and giving it a “make over.” Our guest rooms are former college dorm rooms with 50-year-old furnishings! Oblate and Alumnae “Decorators” have already called dibs on three of the rooms. We hope some other interested parties might like to redecorate a room. New drapes, desk, chair, bed, bedspread and paint are needed for each room to make them comfortable and inviting. This promises to be a fun project! We will put a donor plate on the door to thank the contributor(s) to the beautification project. If you like, you can reserve that room for your over-night visits. This project is not limited to Oblates – anyone who would like to participate is cordially invited to contact Sister Mary David.

ate our first meal with the Sisters with Sister Annunciata at our table as novice mistress. Our initiation into community living was gentle, thoughtful, progressing week by week with the addition of more duties and supported by gradual instruction. The *Vercruysse* series of meditations was our source, the *Tyrocinium Religiosum* served as our text for Mother Rose Marie's Sunday meeting with the class. Between work and leisure periods, I worked at the assignments of a correspondence course in geometry.



Since I had already supervised as a high school senior, the penmanship class for the primary students, I was at ease with the Latin class that I taught as a Candidate, the term used for earliest stage of our new life. Since the Academy boarded the young of all ages the year round, there were always summer classes in whatever basics were lacking for me to teach."

Sisters Mary Grace Riddles and Patricia Alvarez were also members of that novitiate class who shared the memory of instruction and prayer, work and leisure. The novitiate has never been a place for the faint-hearted or lazy. The texts changed over the years but not the concept that novitiate meant making a beginning, putting down roots and laying foundations in prayer, religious life, domestic responsibility and professional training.

Sister Rosaria Matthiesen, who entered in 1930 as part of



A great time was had at "Trixie's Dixie Cooking" when Gail Greenfelder (standing center with Sister Roberta) hosted the Sisters and Father Stephan Brown, chaplain, at her new restaurant in Dade City. Earlier in the evening the Sisters had celebrated their annual November visit to the cemetery in St. Leo where they had a prayer service and placed flowers on the graves of their deceased members. So, we just happened to have the holy water sprinkler in the car when Father Stephan spontaneous offered to bless the new establishment.

the group we have come to call "The Texans," recalled her first days at Holy Name in an interview with Dewey Kramer in 1984.

"When I came in July 1930 Mother Rose Marie was the prioress. I recall arriving here by car about ten in the morning and all the sisters of the community coming out on the porch to meet us. I recall Sister Caroline, because of her height, and Mother Rose Marie.

During the novitiate Mother Rose Marie took us for class in the *Tyrocinium* every Sunday morning in the front parlor faithfully. Mother Rose was also very conscientious that we get some of the fine arts...mainly music. And every one of us had to take piano. So we were constantly practicing all over the place on the pianos that they had in various areas."

Sister Immaculate Walters was novice mistress at this time and as Sister Rosaria recalls, "Sister Immaculate was a stern woman and I was a bit afraid of her. As luck would have it, after the novitiate, I spent a whole year on a mission with her; it was the mission in Slidell. Sister came home at the end of that year. I worried about it a bit because reports came back, I am sure. Mother Rose met me one day on the second floor. I can remember that so well. I came up the stairs and she said 'I want to tell you something.' Sister Immaculate tells me that you were really very good on the mission. She was very pleased with the work that you did, and the way that you conducted yourself.' Well, I tell you I nearly fell over because I didn't think that I had done, you know, a good job at all."

Look for the continuation of our tale in the first 2011 Tide! To read Chapter 1, refer to the Fall 2010 issue on-line at www.floridabenedictines.com.



Visitors enjoy finding a bargain in the Benedictine Sisters Gift Shop. Here Jo Shine (seated) and Karen Robertson mind the shop during Open House.

Retreats: a Gift from God to You and You to God

In May, Nancy Counihan, Holy Name Academy '45, cashed in a gift certificate given by her daughter to "have a peaceful, relaxing weekend at the Monastery." Nancy reports having a great time of renewal and joyful visit with the Sisters.

Besides a constant flow of individuals coming to the Monastery for retreat and/or spiritual direction, there have been other special programs:

April 16 + **University Leadership** group was here for the day. Specially chosen employees (14) had a class on Benedictine Values, and prayer and lunch with the Sisters.

April 17 + **A Singles Group** from Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Land O' Lakes came for a Tour, lemonade and a Question and Answer session with Sister Mary David. This was a "driving pilgrimage" suggested by the diocese and well received by the group.

April 24 + **Women's Day of Reflection**, for 15 "gals" from Sacred Heart parish in St. Joe. The focus was on "Listening with the Book" or applying Gospel parables to life. In addition to prayer and lunch with the Sisters, the day included sharing and even some Tai Chi.

May 20 + **Saint Anthony School 8th Grade Retreat** The young retreatants reported that "it was the best field trip we ever had." The "field trip" included a tour of the monastery, Noon Prayer and lunch with the Sisters.

June 18-20 + **Saint Ignatius Men's Group** from Tarpon Springs retreated together and we all were delighted to hear their harmonious voices singing in chapel and in the stairwell (with its wonderful acoustics!).

June 23-25 + **Teen Youth Choir** from Saint Ignatius (the singing parish) was "glorious" for the Sisters. On the teens' last night, they sang a Taizé prayer service for us based on the *Song of Songs*. The chapel was dimly lit with an abundance of candles as we were invited into the sanctuary for prayer. You won't want to miss a Taizé prayer being planned by the teens for the evening of December 28th. The public is invited for this special evening.



September 10-12 + **Talleres de Oracion y Vida**, affectionately known as the Spanish Retreat. This group visits often for weekend retreats and desert days as part of their formation process.

Need a Unique Christmas Gift?

- **Retreat, taking time for God, can be a special gift. Give yourself the gift or give it to another.**
 - **Gift Certificates for a retreat or r 'n' r time at the monastery are available by calling or emailing us at holyname@saintleo.edu.**
- A perfect gift for that special person!*

November 5-7 + **Recovery Retreat**. A group of AAs that has been hosted here at the Monastery for 40 years. To learn about these retreats visit www.TheRetreat.net. If you know someone who might be interested, please give them the contact information. This group has retreats scheduled for April 8-10 and October 7-9, 2011.

In addition to Retreats with Tours, our Hospitality offerings include a tour (without a retreat) and recently included:

July 28 + Our **Friends from Riverview** visited on a driving Pilgrimage.

September 14, 28, 29, 30 and October 26 + **Saint Leo University freshman classes** took tours.

September 26, during "**Meet and Greet the New Prioress**" Open House tours were conducted by Sister Mary David and Dianne. The tours concluded with social time and refreshments in the community dining room.



Above: Friends from "everywhere" came to greet Sister Roberta at the Open House on September 26. Pictured here are John and Grethen D'Ovidio and two of their granddaughters.



Above right: Trudie Stokes, former monastery health care worker, celebrated her 90th birthday. She retired six months prior to her birthday.

Left: Candles and Taizé chants were an integral part of the prayer service when the youth of St. Ignatius Parish (in Tarpon Springs) gathered in the monastery chapel.

WE CONTINUALLY GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

15th Annual Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** is our most well-known Corporate Commitment activity. The Corporate Commitment of the Benedictine Sisters at Holy Name Monastery, **“To respond with the compassion of Christ to physical, spiritual, emotional, and social hungers of the people of God,”** prompted the first Thanksgiving meal 15 years ago. This year’s event was the 12th dinner that the Benedictine Sisters co-hosted with Saint Anthony Parish.

“People want to be together to celebrate God’s gifts of family and food. Some don’t have the chance because they are elderly, alone or their family is having a hard time and just can’t afford a big meal. That’s why we give not only a meal but a chance to be together, and share with others,” explained Sister Mary David. The planning committee includes Sisters Mary David and Donna, Faith Pridmore (our new Director of Mission Advancement), Father Palka, and representatives from Saint Anthony Parish.

We have seen interest and need grow over the years. Typically we provide meals for upwards of 300 people including those sent to disabled adults at Cypress Greens, Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter, a juvenile detention center, and other home deliveries - mostly to homebound elders with health problems. Our guests who join us at the parish center dine at tables adorned with linen tablecloths and decorations provided by the parish youth group and children at the local Catholic school.

The dinner is always a good experience and a wonderful community builder for all, especially those who volunteer. There is plenty to do - everyone wants to help! Children act as welcoming hosts and serve beverages to the waiting diners. The ladies of the parish provide a generous array of desserts. Adult volunteers, including the Benedictine Sisters, attend to the many details like purchasing the food, soliciting donations of money or supplies, preparing the traditional Thanksgiving turkey meal with 100 lbs of potatoes to peel. That’s right **100 pounds** of potatoes – we have never served instant potatoes! Volunteers also help setting the tables, in the serving line, by transporting people to the center and taking meals to some 80 homebound individuals. And don’t overlook the invaluable assistance of the clean-up crew!

This event is a lot of work, but the experience of the “Kingdom” makes a meaningful celebration of Thanksgiving. We are grateful to all of our volunteers and donors who help make this day of community outreach possible. We are grateful also to all the people who come to the dinner. Imagine if we did all this work and nobody came! *God grant us all the grace of a grateful heart!*





Holy Name Monastery

PO Box 2450

St. Leo, FL 33574-2450

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit 1



Editorial Team

Co-editors: Sister Roberta Bailey, *Prioress*
and Faith Pridmore, CFRE, *Director of Mission Advancement*

Writers: Benedictine Sisters

Cover Art: Sister Irma Multer

Photographer: Sister Mildred Gelis

Design and Layout: Susan Garrison

We, the Benedictine Sisters of FL, commit ourselves and our resources to respond with the compassion of Christ to the physical, spiritual, emotional and social hungers of the people of God.

(Benedictine Sisters of FL Corporate Commitment Statement)



April 17 + **Relay For Life** - Cancer fund-raiser in San Antonio, FL. A few of us walked several miles for exercise and witness. Luminaries were lit in memory of

Sister Germaine Bevans who died in February 2010. Luminaries were also lit for members of our community who are cancer survivors. Survivors pictured are Sisters Jean, Mildred and Roberta.

September 23 + Jane Maitzki and two students from Saint Anthony School joined the Sisters for Noon Prayer and Lunch. They came to receive a **Corporate Commitment donation** from the Benedictine Sisters for school support. Saint Anthony School is a partner in our commit-

ment of feeding spiritual, emotional, social and physical hunger.

We look forward to hearing from you if you would like to support these or our other Corporate Commitment Actions with a donation and/or your service.

Upcoming Events

- November 30 – December 1** STRATEGIC PLANNING
- December 8** FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- December 9** PEACE and JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
- December 12** SISTERS' RECORDER ENSEMBLE
Prelude to 10:30 a.m. Mass
CHOIRS ADVENT SERVICE, St. Rita Church 5:45 p.m.
- December 22** Sister Mary Dorothy's 60th Anniversary
- December 23** MONASTERY EMPLOYEES' LUNCHEON
- December 31** NEW YEARS' EVE PRAYER SERVICES
and PARTY
- January 1** FEAST of the MOTHER of GOD
- January 2** FEAST of the EPIPHANY
- January 3** FEAST of the HOLY NAME of JESUS
- January 18** ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE (monastery)
- February 10** FEAST of ST. SCHOLASTICA
- February 10** FOUNDERS' DAY

Visit us on-line at
www.floridabenedictines.com