

# PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

DULUTH MINNESOTA

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## *Soul Walk: Stepping Into Eternity*

By Sister Linda Wiggins

Lent leaps into our lives this year—an early arrived guest who catches us with dishes in the sink and dust on the coffee table. Christmas has barely departed. The celebration of Christ's birth into our human world still echoes softly as we return to our ordinary winter activities.

In the depths of this womb of winter, however, a new birth awaits us: the birth of our soul into time eternal—the realm of Christ. The difficult road to Golgotha initiates our labor pains. The thought of such a journey—this Lenten journey—does not cause most of us to leap for joy. But we should, for the fullness of true life awaits us. In claiming life, an infant must detach from the comfort of the womb. And we, too, must detach from the world with which we are familiar, to claim a far more rewarding life, to become truly spiritually whole.

A common practice during Lent—a practice of detaching from the world a bit—is the “giving up” of something for the 40-day duration. When I was ten years old, I thought I would give up peas for Lent. Since I hated peas, I found Lent to be quite pleasant that year, until my mother had a talk with me, and I switched to chocolate—then, of course, the days inched their way along. Many years would pass as I attempted to understand Lent's meaning.

A Lenten journey is, indeed, an internal journey, a soul walk with Christ throughout one's lifetime. Thus, when Marilyn Gustin observes in *Choosing Joy for Lent*, “Self-denial and taking up the cross are not for the sake of suffering. They are for the sake of joy,” we understand that Christ loves us so much; He wants to spend eternity with us.

A Lenten journey ultimately should be a *giving*—a total “surrender” of self to Christ rather than a limited sacrifice. For only through such giving comes the joy of whole spiritual life. When we actually detach from our super busy world and its accouterments, we can finally hear the voice of Christ. Life does exist beyond the radius of our cell phones. While we strive to be accessible to others every minute of the day through a myriad of technological devices, we lose our ability to be intimate, to be one, with Christ.

The choice is ours. Let us join the psalmist when he declares: “Already You knew my soul . . . when I was being fashioned in secret and molded in the depths of the earth. . . . O search me God and know my heart. . . and lead me in the path of life eternal.”





# A Letter from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

It is January 2005 as I write, and I find myself reflecting on *time*. I'm sure we all do this to a certain extent as we turn the calendar to a new year. What will this year hold for each of us? Do we welcome it with anticipation as another new beginning? Do we have confidence in God's blessings and move forward with enthusiasm and eagerness to meet the many opportunities we will have?

Passages in scripture are encouraging. From Isaiah we are heartened:

*"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers."*

*(Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*"Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind. Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness in what I create."*

*(Isaiah 65:17-18)*

As we move through the events of each of our days, we often complain that we do not have enough time. In our lives we rush around, trying not to waste time. There are things we want to do for others and for God, but we say we simply haven't the time. Perhaps, later on, we will have more time. But, despite all our efforts, time always seems to run short. It is easy to think that God must have made a serious mistake when calculating our time.

How can we make time to do what God wants us to do, be what God wants us to be? From the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "An old French sentence says: 'God works in moments.' We ask for a long life, but it is



deep life or grand moments that signify." Can we put ourselves completely into each moment that God offers us?

Edwina Gateley, in *A Mystical Heart*, writes "Each day is so full of action, noise and haste that I miss you, God. I allow you to get lost in my clutter. Oh, let me, in the midst of it all, discern a little spark of your presence. Let me, in the dizziness of my days, feel the brush of your grace as I rush by you. O God, let me understand and rejoice that you ever shadow me—longing to be known, longing to be loved, in a single grace-filled moment."

In Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, we read: "There is an appointed time for every thing, and a time for every affair under the heavens." The Chapter speaks of a time to be born, to die, to plant, to uproot, to weep, to laugh, to mourn, to dance, to seek, to lose, to love, to hate, a time of war and a time of peace. "God has made everything appropriate to its time."

As we continue our journey in 2005, may we come to acknowledge the gift of time that God gives each of us, time that is ours alone to use completely. May we remember there is an appointed time for everything—that God has made everything appropriate to its time.

Dear God, bless us with the grace to use our time for the things you want us to do, and to take the moments necessary to be aware of your constant presence with us.

*Sister Kathleen Hofer*

Sister Kathleen Hofer



Sister Michelle Dosch

# Shalom Program

## A Spiritual Direction Training Program

By Sister Michelle Dosch



Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

What are the joys and sorrows of creating a new program? What are the satisfactions, fulfillments and disappointments of implementing a new venture? Sister Jeanne Ann Weber and I, now serving in Missoula, Montana, have had all of these experiences and then some to share as we began a program to train spiritual directors.

Key to the whole endeavor was Sister Jeanne Ann Weber's preparation on many levels. She first dialogued with the prioress over the needs in Montana. She met with diocesan officials to seek approval and support. Then she engaged her own parish, Christ the King, and the pastor, Father Jim Hogan, to co-sponsor the Shalom Program. The biggest hurdle was getting the word out, and she did a tremendous job through the media. Most of the parishes in Western Montana received information, the diocesan paper carried an article, the local newspaper ran a short article, and the local main-line churches received information.

Since we wished the program to be ecumenical, we hoped that other faith communities would respond, and they did. A third of the participants are of other faith traditions. One of the joys we have had is that several Native American women became part of the program.

As part of the structure of our Shalom Program, we engaged the Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood, Idaho, to supervise us and the Program. They will be presenting at our February workshop and meeting with us on a quarterly basis. We wished that to be a team effort, so we have Sister Dot Feehan, BVM, as the third member of our team. She has had experience in a spiritual direction training program out of Denver, and we have been gifted by her wisdom and expertise.

The content of our Program was drawn from the training programs of which we were a part. We incorporated Benedictine Spirituality throughout the Program, and it is part of the required reading list. Everyone received a copy of the *Holy Rule*.

The main components of the Program include the following: the required reading list (there is a long list of books to read), verbatims (write-ups of the sessions with

directees), workshops throughout the year, individual sessions with the staff person assigned to each participant, and an evaluation of progress at the end of each of the three phases.

Our first contact with individuals was the interviewing process. Each person received a complete copy (20 pages) of the 2 1/2 year program. We were surprised to have over 40 people interview. Those interviewed included representatives of the diaconate, teachers, therapists, lawyers, social workers, nurses, ministers, housewives, liturgists, a research chemist, campus minister, and Native American ministry. Of the number interviewed, 29 decided to enter the program. We were very encouraged to have other faith traditions become participants.

At the first workshop last September on the "Art of Spiritual Direction" we experienced response to the program and bonding of the members. The feedback we received from this initial endeavor was "It was awesome" and "It was like being on a retreat." We were encouraged by their heart-felt response to the program and to each other, and we knew we were off to a good start.

Since then we have had a second workshop on "Prayer" and have met individually with the candidates. Sister Jeanne Ann and I travel to the Helena area once a quarter to meet with groups and individuals there. They have formed a weekly discussion group to review the books they have read and to participate in theological reflection. One of the women in the group is visually impaired. Other members have generously offered to put on tapes the books read so that she can be an active participant. In their generosity they also are going to donate the tapes to the Program. This speaks loudly to the level of commitment and interest they have for the Program.

We now ask ourselves – "was this endeavor to train people in spiritual direction really the 'call' God wanted of us?" Are we benefiting the churches in raising awareness of the desire and the need for spiritual direction? And are we as a team growing spiritually in our journeys with our participants as they seek God in their lives?

Well, as they say, "The jury is still out" on these questions.

Photos by Sister Joyce Fournier



*“A hundred years from now it will not matter much what sort of house I lived in or what kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I touched the life of a child.”*

*(Author unknown)*

## *... and so they teach*

*By Sister Almira Randall*

In former years when Catholic elementary schools were at their peak, a great number of our Sisters taught in them. We were known as “the grade school teachers.” But as enrollments declined and expenses increased, parishes were hard put to meet the demands, especially as lay teachers began to replace the Sisters. One by one the schools in which our Sisters taught began closing. Today we have fewer than half a dozen Sisters actually teaching in Catholic elementary schools.

Two of these Sisters are Sister Arlene Kleemann and

After five years she was moved to Chicago where our Community had a school—St. Timothy’s. When it closed, she transferred to St. Hilary’s, then to Pope John XXIII, and finally to St. Mary of the Lake. During some of her teaching years Sister also served as principal.

Sister Lois Ann, too, has been teaching God’s little ones for an impressive number of years. She began her teaching career at St. Leo’s School in Hibbing, then went to St. Francis School in Brainerd, and next to St. Mary’s in Pine City. After that she left Minnesota and was assigned to St. Timothy’s in Chicago. When it closed, she remained in Chicago, teaching at St. Mathias, St. Hillary’s, Pope John XXIII, and now at St. Mary of the Lake, where she teaches fourth grade.

As an inner city school, St. Mary of the Lake has all the problems that that implies—especially many children in great need of help. Teaching at any level is a tremendous experience. It takes an enormous amount of energy and dedication. Each year, each day brings its own hurdles, its own surprises, its own disappointments, and its own moments of satisfaction and joy.

What does Sister Arlene find special and meaningful about teaching? “Everything!” she exclaims. “No day is the same.” She recalls having children say things such as “Do we have to stop? Could we have class longer? Is it time to go already?” “Those are the comments that make the day worthwhile,” she says. “And it’s seeing a child succeed after you’ve tried this method and that. It’s having them sad to see the end of the year come.” Indeed, Sister Arlene cares about teaching, cares about children.



Sister Arlene Kleemann in her classroom at St. Mary of the Lake School

Sister Lois Ann Glaudel, both of whom teach at St. Mary of the Lake, an inner city school in Chicago. Both are experienced teachers.

Sister Arlene began her teaching career in 1966 when she was assigned to St. James School in West Duluth.

Sister Lois Ann finds meaning in working and sharing with other teachers. She loves the contact with the children and their families, even after they have left her classroom. She likes to keep in touch, watching them grow, watching them take their own paths in life. "I've seen one become a principal," she says, "one go into music and later enter the convent. I've seen another one become a pediatrician. And it's nice to know that maybe, somehow, I had a little part in it all."

Other perks for the teaching ministry are the smiles that lace the days. Sister Lois Ann recalled the following:

*We had changed from the long habit to the modified habit. One of my second graders came in and told me how nice I looked. As we were talking, I pushed back my chair and stood up. "You've got legs!" she screamed. I wonder what she thought I'd been walking on all those days.*

And another story:

*One time, when I was teaching in Brainerd, we had just dismissed for the day when one of my second graders came back in, just sobbing her heart out. I was finally able to understand her. It seems she had fallen outside and her tooth came out. She was heartbroken that her tooth was lost in the snow and how could the tooth fairy come when she had no tooth to put under the pillow. I asked her if it would help if I wrote a letter to the tooth fairy to explain what had happened. She eagerly agreed, and we wrote the note, which she proudly carried out the door. The next day I received an answer from the tooth fairy, thanking me for my help and explaining that with so many children it was hard to keep up with all those teeth.*

Sister Lois Ann smiles and says, "You know, after all these years, I still have my letter from the tooth fairy." Such stories are absolutely true and far from rare, as any primary teacher can tell you.

Perhaps Sister Arlene sums up the unique philosophy of good teachers everywhere when she says, "Teaching is special because every day is one of active learning. It keeps you young (at least at heart). Every day is one of optimism and hope, and that's so important in these troubled times. Teaching is a way to touch the future."



Sister Lois Ann Glauzel and student



# A Dream

By Sister Armella Oblak

It is hard to believe that 30 years have passed since the planning for the Benedictine Health Center began to evolve. I must admit that looking back, it sometimes seems the Center has been there forever. Then, again, it seems like yesterday that the community was faced with two issues: an urgent housing problem posed by the increasing number of aged Sisters who needed the level of care provided in a nursing home; and the fact that St. Mary's Convent, where many of the infirm Sisters were housed, was found to have eleven potentially disastrous conditions.

The Chapter, our official voice of the religious community as a whole, considered three options: replace St. Mary's Convent, convert space in the Monastery to house these Sisters, and/or permit a new facility to be constructed on the Monastery grounds. A committee was appointed to work with an architectural firm on these and other possible alternatives. Various options were reviewed, including the conversion of an area of St. Mary's Hospital as a nursing home for the Sisters. This option was strongly discouraged by the Minnesota Department of Health. Sister Grace Marie Braun received this news just one month after she took office as prioress.

Faced with a myriad of issues, Sister Grace Marie chose to include among her top priorities the building of the long-dreamed-of nursing home. The goal was to bring the Sisters home from the public nursing homes where many of them had been placed.

After much study, the Chapter reached the decision "to build a nursing home for our Sisters attached in some way to Stanbrook; and making provisions for priests and lay people in a separate wing or floor." It was also decided at that time to begin an orderly evacuation of St. Mary's Convent and to bring back to Stanbrook the Sisters in public nursing homes.

Things moved ahead quickly: a planning committee was established. I became a member in June of 1977, following my appointment as administrator of the facility being planned.

Sister Kathleen Hofer, treasurer of the community and chair of the Building Committee, led the team working to obtain the Certificate of Need, which was approved by the State Health Systems Agency on August 11, 1977.

It was heart-warming to see the people of the area, as well as the friends and relatives of our Sisters across the country, rally to help with fund-raising efforts led by Sister Kathleen Hofer and Prioress Grace Marie Braun with the assistance of literally every Sister in the community. A steering committee was established for the \$1.5 million campaign: The Benedictine Challenge: A Call to Share. There was a whirlwind of sales, teas, and other events to let Duluth and the surrounding area hear about the project and to increase support and assistance for the project. Sister Brendan Madden led the effort of grant-writing with the assistance of the College development staff and the newly forming Health Center staff. We laughed about having 48-hour days working to meet the Challenge.

Then there were the Building Committee meetings with Tom Vecchi, architect, Herb Klippen, general contractor, and many others who tried to keep everyone up on the timeline.



Benedictine Health Center ground-breaking ceremony April 30, 1978.

Left to right: Sister Grace Marie Braun (prioress), Sister Armella Oblak, Bishop Paul Anderson, Sister Kathleen Hofer, Fr. Emeric Lawrence, OSB, Fr. Angelo Zankl, OSB

# Come True



Herb Klippen, general contractor, Sister Grace Marie Braun, and Sister Kathleen Hofer

The Board of Directors of the Health Center was formed and we met many hours, many times to keep the ship on course and to bring together policies, procedures, and everything necessary to ensure smooth sailing as we established the mission and values that would be our guiding light as we fulfilled our goal: to add life to years of those we served.

Start-ups are exciting as well as exhausting. One of the most rewarding memories was having the professional people of Duluth come together in response to Health Center Board member Kathryn Noble's call to help us establish the Committee for Child Care and the Committee for Adult Day Services. The membership of these committees resembled a list of Who's Who of those serving the needs of both adults and children in Duluth.

Looking back, one realizes that these groups not only did the groundwork for setting up successful programs, but also energized the Sisters and staff to strive even harder to make the Benedictine Health Center become a facility of which Duluth could be proud.

An active volunteer program was a must to help us with start-up, open house activities and, of course, for the beginning of an Auxiliary. Kathy Croke rose to the challenge of leading the charge as Volunteer Coordinator throughout the summer and fall before we opened—even though we couldn't pay her until we started to generate money after the opening of the Center and the cash flow allowed it.

As the time drew closer to the dedication and opening of the Center, Sister Mary Paul Ludwig could be seen working along side the newly-hired housekeeping team and many, many Sisters to make the Center shine.

When the day of dedication, October 12, 1980, arrived, the entire Benedictine Community was pleased with the results! Sister Marguerite Baxter recalls: "It was my privilege to prepare the Liturgy of the Hours for our Dedication Day. Our Morning Praise was especially memorable as our community walked in procession with Bishop Paul Anderson as he blessed the areas: the dining rooms, bedrooms, solariums, offices, etc. The halls were filled with our songs of praise and thanksgiving for God's guidance throughout the construction period and for the many people who had become a part of the project with us."



First Board of Directors, Benedictine Health Center.  
*Left to Right:* George Cruikshank, Sister Grace Marie Braun (prioress), Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, Sister Marguerite Baxter, Sister Claudia Riehl, Sister Almira Randall, Stuart Seiler, Kathleen Noble, Earl Lockhart, Paul Schweiger, Sister Armella Oblak, and B.J. Brody.

# Highlights

## NEW BENEDICTINE ASSOCIATE

By Sister Mary Rochefort

Stefanie Falconi is our newest Benedictine Associate. Stefanie's homeland is Ecuador, where she lived until she was eleven years old, at which time her family moved to the United States. Stefanie graduated from The College of St. Scholastica in the spring of 2004 with a B.A. in chemistry. As a Benedictine Associate, Stefanie volunteers in several areas of the Monastery, including the information desk, Scholastica Framing and Photography, and the Spiritual Resource Center. In Stefanie's words, "It is in giving to our community that we grow rich in spirit. This is the life I have experienced living with the Benedictine Sisters and why I admire their work." Stefanie's future plans are to pursue graduate studies in England in the fall of 2005.



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier

Benedictine Associate Stefanie Falconi

## SISTER ALICIA VISITS FROM CHILE

By Sister Armella Oblak



Photo by Adriana Rivera

Sister Alicia Villar at St. Scholastica Monastery. She is holding a sample of her sewing.

It was wonderful to have Sister Alicia Villar spend a month with us at St. Scholastica Monastery. She is a member of our twinning community, Monasterio Santa Maria, in Rauten, Quillota, Chile.

Sister Alicia was eager to learn new ideas to bring back to her monastery in Chile. She spent time learning the art of card-making and scrapbooking as well as other creative sewing ideas from Sister Mary Paul Ludwig and Sister Sharon O'Neill. They spent time each day helping Sister master the English language.

Sister Agatha Riehl, Sister Alicia's pen pal for the past five years, helped Sister Alicia learn new patterns for children's crayon aprons and other items. Sister Alicia also visited Sister Mary Charles McGough's Subiaco studio to improve her artistic skills in the art of creating icons.

Sister Alicia's January in Duluth was not the best time to experience the beauties of Minnesota out of doors. She could be found looking with an expression of wonder out over the snow-covered hills and woods as the snow fell relentlessly. Sister did dare to step out with Sister Mary Paul one cold, snowy day but quickly retreated into the warmth of the Monastery.

Sister blended into the community with ease. She really liked our food and asked for a copy of our German potato salad recipe so that she could make it when she got back to Chile. Sister was most grateful for the friendliness, love, and patience shown her by all of the Sisters. We miss her friendly smile and hope she will come back to visit again soon.



## BLESSING OF OUR HOME

By Sister Martha Bechtold

Every year on the Feast of the Epiphany, the members of the Monastery gather together near the main entrance in the cloister walk to bless our house with prayer, incense and song. The service reminds us of the visit of the Magi, traditionally named Casper, Melchior and Balthazar, who came into the house of the Holy Family in far-off Bethlehem to honor the newborn Jesus. During the prayer, there is inscribed above the door in chalk 20 + C + M + B + 05 (20: century; C: Casper; M: Melchior; B: Balthazar; 05: year). We pray that just as the Magi entered the house and found the Savior in person, each of us and our visitors will find the life of Christ alive within our walls.

## VIDEO ON BENEDICTINE VALUES

By Sister Sarah Smedman

On Thursday afternoon, January 27, Chandra Mehrotra, Dean of Special Projects, and Robert Ashenmacher, Executive Director of Marketing, Communications and Media Relations, at The College of St. Scholastica, premiered a video, *Thoughts on Benedictine Values*, for the Sisters at the Monastery. The production is the culmination of a project initiated by Dr. Mehrotra, who, because of his desire to keep alive the Benedictine heritage at the College, interviewed Sisters Mary Richard Boo, Joan Braun, and Timothy Kirby. Participating as interviewers with Dr. Mehrotra were members of the faculty, staff, and student body. From the interviews, each of which lasted approximately 1½ hours, the 16-minute video was distilled. In the conversations the Sisters emphasized as values at the core of the College those emanating from the *Rule of Benedict*: having a sense of purpose, a central focus in one's life, caring for and sharing with one another; respectful acceptance of others for who they are; justice for all humans. Two ideals toward which all Benedictines strive are a balance of work, prayer, and leisure in their lives and the recognition that each of us, as receptors of many gifts, has an obligation to become gift to others. Those who strive to incorporate these values in their lives will be a peaceful people.

Working with Sister Mary Rochefort, Director of Mission Integration at the College, Mehrotra and Ashenmacher plan to share *Thoughts on Benedictine Values* with new faculty, staff, and students as well as trustees of the College to enhance their understanding of the tradition in which the College is rooted. To this end both a video and a CD will be made available. Those who wish to see the full-length interviews of any of the Sisters can contact College Communications at The College of St. Scholastica (218) 723-5935.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING DECEASED RELATIVES AND/OR BENEFACTORS:

Edward Hindle 11/5/04  
Sister Theresa Hindle's father  
Robert F. Poirier 11/17/04  
Rose Feuling 11/30/04  
Marcia E. LaGarde 12/04/04  
Janet P. Marchetti 12/22/04  
Mildred "Sally" Perry 01/12/05  
+Sister Margaret Mary Hellen's sister  
Rev. Father Rudolph Faith 01/25/05  
+Sister Amelia Faith's and +Sister Marian  
Faith's brother

Oblate Patricia Sheehan 01/26/05  
+Sister Loretta Sheehan's sister  
Andrew L. Waltz 01/26/05  
+Sister Mary Ann Waltz's Father  
Frank Ostrander, Sr. 02/01/05  
Oblate Kathleen Pritchard 02/04/05





# Sisters as Volunteers

What keeps us active, involved, and young in mind and heart here at St. Scholastica Monastery and elsewhere as well? A large part of the answer is, without doubt, the many opportunities given to us to offer our Benedictine work and prayer to meet the needs of others. Here are a few examples of the ways we attempt to fulfill the requests that come almost daily to our mailboxes, phones, and web site.

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Mary Paul Ludwig (left) and Sister Gloria Ess with some of the hats and mittens they made to donate to CHUM

Sister Maria Volk is an ardent participant in Pax Christi, as well as in CHUM (Churches United in Ministry), where she serves on several boards as our community representative. She and Sister Armella Oblak are particularly active in fund-raising. Sisters Linda Wiggins and Marilyn Micke are community delegates to, and Sister Teresa Spinler and Sister Lois Eckes are members of, the Housing Task Force, while both Sisters Mary Paul Ludwig and Gloria Ess contribute handmade caps, gloves and mittens, blankets, and other items to help the needy through cold Minnesota winters.

Sister Cabrini Beauvais, Sister Mary Paul Ludwig, and Sister Linda Wiggins contribute their services in the hospice unit at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Sisters also volunteer as tutors for both CSS students and pupils at Grant School.

Many Sisters volunteer to take part in various studies. One doctoral candidate from the University of Iowa recently asked Sisters to participate in his "Monastic Aging Study," and some fifteen Sisters responded and were actively involved in the project. College of St. Scholastica senior nursing students who are enrolled in a class in gerontology ask Sisters to act as objects of assessment, and the students have found the Sisters "to have a great sense of humor," "to have accomplished so much in their lifetimes," and "to be so happy."



Sister Almira Randall with Grant Elementary School reading partner

Sister Melanie Gagne conducts a weekly prayer service for the residents of Safe Harbor, the Alzheimer Unit of the Benedictine Health Center. Sister Mary Susan DeWitt, who helps coordinate a monthly "Dining with Dignity" event for the Union Gospel Mission, says of her work, "Going to Dining with Dignity makes me constantly aware that not everyone has the blessings we do. It's a time of awareness and insight—'There but for the grace of God go I.'"

Throughout all these volunteer endeavors we Sisters attempt to return to others the support that we ourselves have received through all the years of our communal living.

Photo by Mary Farrell



Sister Mary Susan DeWitt and Sister Nancy Flaig serve at Dining with Dignity night at the Union Gospel Mission.

# In Loving Memory



Sister Ann Edward Scanlon, OSB, 95, St. Scholastica Monastery, died Thursday, January 27, 2005, in Benet Hall at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictine Community in 1933 and professed monastic vows in 1934.

Sister Ann Edward was born in Proctor, Minnesota, on October 29, 1909, and attended public elementary school there. She graduated from Proctor High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from The College of St. Scholastica. She earned a masters and a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. She audited classes at Catholic University and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She attended professional seminars for college and university administrators at the University of Michigan and Harvard University. Eight months of European travel included a summer session at the University of Dublin.

Sister Ann Edward taught at Villa Sancta Scholastica High School and spent three years at Girls' Cathedral High School teaching social studies, speech, and journalism. In 1938 she began her long career at The College of St. Scholastica where she served as professor of history, department chair, floor prefect, member of the personnel office staff, dean of women, academic dean, alumni director, foreign student advisor, and president of The College St. Scholastica from 1960-1967. In 1975 Sister Ann Edward retired from classroom duties and devoted herself to working with alumni and foreign students until full retirement in 1994.

Sister Ann Edward held many positions in numerous organizations: St. Scholastica Monastery Council; College of St. Scholastica's Bicentennial Committee; Board of Trustees for Northwood Children's Home, including one term as president; Duluth YWCA Board; Benedictine Foundation Board; Duluth United Way; and Polinsky Rehabilitation Board. Governor Karl Rolvaag appointed Sister Ann Edward to the

Commission on the Status of Women, and U.S. Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz named her honorary recruitment chair of the Youth Opportunity Program. She held membership in the Organization of American Historians; Kappa Gamma Pi; Delta Kappa Gamma and served as first vice president; Mississippi Valley Historical Society; St. Louis County Historical Society; and the Association of Minnesota Colleges, in which she served a term as president.

In 1975 Sister Ann Edward was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the College of St. Scholastica and was granted *emerita* status. In that same year the College established the Sister Ann Edward Scanlon Award to be granted annually to an alumnus/alumna who manifested outstanding dedication to his/her civic community as well as to The College of St. Scholastica. In 1983 the University of Chicago cited her as one of its graduates who had made a significant contribution to higher education.

Sister Ann Edward's students lovingly called her "A.E." She kept contact with many of them long after they had left school; they reciprocated by coming back to visit her at St. Scholastica. She took special interest in foreign students whom she befriended. They, too, wrote letters to her and came back to visit her. Her community, co-workers, students, family, and friends experienced her great warmth and deep loyalty. No matter what the demands of her workload, she was faithful to community prayers. Friends knew that any request for prayers would be filled. A former student said, "Sister Ann Edward made our school years memorable. Her outgoing generosity, her wit, her unfailing response to all types of people—these are qualities which she carried through her years."

Sister Ann Edward was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Ann (Reidy) Scanlon, a brother, Edward, and two sisters, Kathryn Scanlon Leonard and Clarice Scanlon Marshall. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by one sister, Margaret Pavlatos, Duluth, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Vocation Ministry

By Sister Mary Rochefort

“Listen carefully to the master’s instructions and attend to them with the ear of your heart” (Prologue, *RB*)

Daily, Benedict urges us to be attentive to God’s voice and to take God’s words to heart. As Benedictine women we are called to seek God together in community and to continue the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer and service to the Church. Remaining faithful to our call, we continually seek to find new ways to address the needs of God’s people.

It is with trust in God’s faithfulness that we continue to strengthen our efforts to invite women to “come and see” and to consider whether they are being called to the Benedictine way of life. Recently, a vocation task force was established to determine effective ways of contacting women and inviting them to our Monastery. The group has begun its work by addressing the objectives set forth in the Vocation Ministry Strategic Plan that was developed in 2003.

In November 2004, we initiated a reconnection with the parishes of the Diocese of Duluth and other dioceses where we have served. Sisters have visited and spoken at Mass in seven parishes thus far. Following Mass, parishioners were given an opportunity to visit with the Sister(s) and browse through materials on display. The pastors and parishioners were asked to help us promote vocations to the religious life. These visits, which we hope are only the beginning of a new relationship, have been very positive experiences for both the parishes and the Sisters.

As always, we rely on you, our friends, to assist us in promoting vocations to our Monastery. We are grateful for the many ways in which you continue to support us.



#### Members of the Vocation Ministry Task Force.

*Front, left to right:* Sister Donna Schroeder, Sister Martha Bechtold, Rita Rosenberger, Sister Kathleen Hofer.

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## PATHWAYS



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