



Leaven

Vol. 38 Issue 1
Spring 2020

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky

This View is Brought to You by ...



(See article on p. 4)

From Our Prioress . . .

Dear Friends,

It goes without saying there has never been a Lent quite like this one. As we approach the Triduum and the Easter celebration, they, too, will be unique. At this writing it is true that life as we know it will never be quite the same. There doesn't seem to be a clear end in sight. The COVID-19 virus continues to remind me of the interconnected-



ness of all humanity on our globe. Never were St. Paul's words more true: "We are all one in Christ." I look forward to the future in hope when we realize our interrelatedness and will continue to grow into a gentler and kinder world. "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so God surrounds the people from this time on and forevermore." (*Psalms 125*) This psalm reminds us that God's all-abiding presence is with us during these perplexing times as a source of hope and solace.

The community continues our fidelity to praying the Liturgy of the Hours. On Sundays we celebrate a Liturgy of the Word service. These have been sacred experiences. I believe many of us know now more than ever what it means to hunger for the Eucharistic celebration. We daily remember to pray for all those suffering from the many consequences of COVID-19.

All of us remain positive in responding to the isolating restrictions. We have been "good sports" and "pitch in" helping where needed. Speaking of being good sports, on the scheduled opening day for the Reds, Maureen Smain fixed a ballpark meal complete with hot dogs, baked beans, apple pie and beer! Through YouTube Sr. Eileen O'Connell showed the 1975 championship Reds' game. The event was enjoyed by all. Oh, what happy baseball memories!

Before the virus there were lots of wonderful events occurring at the monastery which are reflected in this edition of Leaven. Some of our newly planted trees are beginning to show signs of spring growth.

May all experience the surrounding and healing power of God's love. Wishing all a joyous Easter. . . surely it will be one that we won't forget.

Sister Aileen Bankemper, Prioress

LEAVEN

Vol. 38, Issue I

Spring, 2020

Srs. Deborah Harmeling and Margaret Mary Gough, editors.

Pictures:

Holly Springer, Srs. Eileen O'Connell, Christa Kreinbriink, Mary Tewes, Tonette Sperando, and Cathy Bauer. Villa Madonna Academy Elementary School FB page

Thank You to Our 2019-20 Tree Donors

In the previous issue of *Leaven* we announced that a grove of trees was being planted to replace the oaks that needed to be removed. We offered our readers the opportunity to contribute to the purchase and planting of the trees. The response was outstanding. Many offered to purchase a tree to honor loved ones, both living and deceased. Others offered to purchase a tree as a family or to honor the Benedictine sisters who had been influential in their lives. A plaque will be made to list those who contributed to the project and the honorees.

We are so grateful to the donors and look forward to the new trees budding soon at our front doors. **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**

Benedictine Sisters of St.

Walburg Monastery

In Honor of Greg Fischer &
Family

Mr. Robert Blackwell

In Memory of Barbara
Kordenbrock Blackwell

Joan Breetz

In Honor of the Daniel Erb
Family

Elizabeth Brothers

In Honor of Sr. David
Ruschmann, OSB

Donna Feder

In Honor of the Feder Family

Cleo B. Hall

In Memory of Sr. Mary
Lawrence Cannon, OSB

Fran Hoffman-Ross

In Honor of the Children of
Ed and Helen Hoffman

Matthew Hogan

In Honor of the Matthew
Hogan Family

Rev. William B. Kraynak

In Honor of Sr. Deborah
Harmelng, OSB

Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Lockhart, Jr.

Seiler Family Nieces and Nephews

In Memory of the Deceased
Members of the Seiler Family

Madonna Manor, Inc.

M. Jennifer & Robert A.

Murray

In Honor of Mary Anne and
Butch Wainscott

Martha & Mike Queenan

In Memory of Michael
Queenan, Jr.

Sherrill Remke

In Memory of Matthew Remke

Greg & Debbie Small

In Honor of All the Sisters

Sandra Stanton

In Memory of Damian
K. Stanton

Mike & Mary Jo Whelan

Chronicles

By Sr. Mary Tewes, OSB

Thank you for the “Welcomes” I have received on being the new chronicler for this awesome community and newsletter. There is no way I can match the great work of Sr. Andrea over so many years, but I will listen and do my best.

November — **Sr. Emmanuel** created a new set of *O Antiphons* and had them printed in two sizes; one set for individuals, and a larger set for churches or monastery settings. She also prepared our annual Christmas card in her art studio. It was the painting of Madonna and Child by **Frank Duveneck** that hangs in our front hall. He painted it when he was only 19 especially for the sisters. It hung in the monastery on 12th Street for a hundred years. This card was chosen to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Duveneck’s death in 1919.

Nov. 3-9 — National Vocation Week, **Sr. Cathy Bauer** spent a day at Seton High School, in Cincinnati, speaking with their senior class, attended the Vocation Fair at Marian University, Indianapolis, IN and spoke with 7th and 8th graders at St John XXIII School in Middletown, OH. On November 8th, a service day at VMA, she welcomed 14 eighth graders to the monastery for two hours cleaning chairs, cabinets and talking with the sisters. Three Oblates assisted them as well.

Nov. 8-10 — **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** led a Silent Directed Retreat Weekend at the Monastery. Two women participated and stayed at the Guest House.

Nov. 9 — The Diocese celebrated the jubilees of Religious Women at the 10 am Mass at the Cathedral with **Bishop Foys** presiding. **Srs. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** and **Joan Fraenzle** celebrated their 60th Jubilee. It was followed by a luncheon for all the jubilarians with the Bishop.

Nov. 9-11 —**Sr. Aileen** travelled to Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck, ND to facilitate their writing of direction statements.

Nov. 10-15— **Sr. Rita Brink**, along with **Srs. Lynn McKenzie** and **Michaela Hedican** served as Visitors with the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Lisle, IL.

Nov. 16—The community approved the transfer of **Sr. Laura Vallimont's** monastic profession of stability to St. Walburg Monastery from St. Joseph Monastery in St. Mary, PA. She will reside in Erie, PA.

Nov. 20—We welcomed the AmeriCorps NCCC Delta 3 Team to live at St. Joseph House while they worked at **Brighton Center** in Newport, as well as at the Monastery on Wednesdays. They joined us for Thanksgiving dinner on Wed. Nov. 27 and had a chance to meet all the sisters. Their Wednesdays were very busy here, doing all kinds of tasks. On completion of their month in Kentucky, they joined us for dinner on Sunday, Dec. 15, where they were thanked with prayer by **Sr. Aileen**, given candy made by **Sr. Cathy** and received Benedictine key-chains as a remembrance of us. On Monday morning they drove back to their headquarters in Mississippi to prepare for their next assignment. It was a joy to have these seven young people here for this short while.

Nov. 21—The Capital Campaign Committee of Villa Madonna Academy lead by **Mr. Kyle Isaack** opened the Capital Campaign with an evening at Receptions Banquet Center in Erlanger, KY, to announce pledges of major donors. **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** is a member of that committee, and announced our community's contribution as well. A number of the sisters participated in the event.

Nov. 23— **Sr. Aileen** and community welcomed sixteen of the major

2020 View of the River

The Benedictine Sisters have lived on a bluff above the Ohio River since 1903. Way back then the hill was clear of trees and foliage. Sheep grazed there on the slope. As time passed and property below us changed hands, seedlings took root. Trees grew; the view was diminished. Instead of a view of Greater Cincinnati to the east and Indiana to the west, we had an up-close-and-personal view of trees, brush and invasive honeysuckle. The slope was steep in spots. We seldom did any clearing.

We recently sold a large portion of undeveloped land west of the monastery to **Ashley Builders Group**. **Greg Fischer of Fischer Homes** is one of the builders involved in the project. This past winter he told us of his intention to clear part of the hill below the future Sanctuary Village, and offered to do some clearing for us. The clearing would be his gift.

You should see it now. Standing in front of our Guest House one can see the sweep of the Ohio River to the east. Turn to the west and one can see the Anderson Ferry in action, the bend in the river, and neighboring Indiana.

The Benedictine Sisters are grateful to **Greg Fischer** and to **Jason Mullins of Pro Innovations** whose crew cleared a portion of the hillside. Jason cleared only what we requested, careful to go down the slope "only so far" and to leave all trees standing of a certain dimension. We and our neighbors, their children and dogs are enjoying the fruit of their work.

Sr. Christa Kreinbrink



Ohio River from Villa Madonna Academy

River view from 1920 postcard.

Sister Aileen Elected Chair of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses

Sister Aileen Bankemper, prioress of St. Walburg Monastery, was recently elected chair of the *Conference of Benedictine Prioresses* (CBP) at their annual meeting held in Yankton, South Dakota. There were forty-four participants in attendance from the United States, the Bahamas, Canada and Mexico.

As chair of the CBP Sr. Aileen will provide support and communication for the members in order to further the vision and values of Benedictine life in the Church and contemporary society. For over the past 20 years Sr. Aileen has been involved with over 75% of the Benedictine women's communities in the United States through her work with them, giving workshops on enhancing monastic community life, retreats, as well as facilitating elections of prioress. Her work has also extended to Ireland, Belize and the Philippines.



Sr. Aileen will be a delegate to the *Communio Internationalis Benedictarum*, (CIB) an international gathering of Benedictine women from 19 regions worldwide, which will be held in Assisi and Rome in September 2020.

The responsibilities of the chair include preparing the agenda for and chairing the annual meeting, conducting meetings with the coordinating committee and publishing regular communications for the entire membership.

Sr. Aileen praises the adaptability of the Rule of Benedict to give guidance to women and men who seek God throughout the ages and in spite of cultural differences throughout the world. She commented that, while the numbers of religious women in some parts of the world seem to be diminishing, in other areas of the world communities are growing and flourishing and she is happy to celebrate our sisterhood with the total Benedictine community.

Glad to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit to unite us, she is honored to be chosen for this position and is hopeful that the vision and values of St. Benedict will continue to serve the Church and the world far into the future.

Sr. Dorothy Schuette

persons who assisted us in sale of the property to an Appreciation Evening. The celebration began with Evening Prayer followed by a festive dinner. The sale will assist us in funding our retirement and supporting our mission. Those who attended included Butch Callery, former Mayor of Villa Hills and **Craig Bohman**, City Manager, with his wife **Jody**; the Ashley Builders Group; staff from Area Planning and Development Services; and our attorney, **Gerry Dusing** and his wife, **Marilyn**. The Sancturay Village Project is on its way.

Nov. 24 & 25— Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann hosted two *Meet the Composer* events in the Lower Level. The composer was a former student, **Carol Jo Nutini (Mrs. Bob Colacurcio)**, who now teaches piano, does music therapy and composes. She stayed in the Guest House with her husband for the weekend and then visited with relatives in the area for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Nov. 29-Dec. 8— Sr. Dorothy Schuette was a member of the team of spiritual directors for the Advent directed retreats at the Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford, Ohio.

Dec. 2-3— Sr. Aileen welcomed the prioresses of our daughter and granddaughter monasteries: **Sr. Anita Louise** of Ferdinand, IN, **Sr. Tonette** of Cullman, AL and **Sr. Jennifer Mechtild** of Beech Grove, IN. They had good sharing sessions, as well as meals, prayer and fun time together.

Dec. 3—The Advent Lectio sessions began. There were 8 who gathered in chapel with **Sr. Mary Tewes** leading. This is also offered each Lenten Season on Tuesday evenings, reflecting on the Sunday Gospels.

Dec. 7—The Benedictine Oblates gathered for their annual Advent Day. It included Lectio, discussion on the presentation, *Continuing the Tradition of Peace* by **Sr. Rosann**

Ocken OSB, Prioress, of Norfolk, NE, Noonday Prayer with the community, and concluded with a great pot-luck luncheon.

Also, on Dec. 7, the 18 young trees were planted in front of the Monastery in a grove-like setting by **John Martini**, the landscape architect, and his crew. The tree types include Firestarter Black Gum, Red Pointe Maple and Heritage Oaks. Such a welcome sight. An early Christmas present!

December 7 & 8—Several sisters gave presentations in parishes for the Retirement Fund for Religious: **Sr. Deborah** to St. Benedict's in Covington; **Sr. Nancy** to Holy Cross in Latonia; **Sr. Kathleen** to Mary Queen of Heaven in Erlanger; and **Sr. Dorothy** to St. Joseph in Cold Springs. We are grateful for their sharing our story with the parishioners.

This weekend's issue of the Diocesan **Messenger** included interviews with two of our retired sisters **Joan Fraenzle** and **Kathleen Ryan**. In the same issue **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** shared about her vocation and **Sr. Cathy Bauer** was in the group photo of the Serra Club meeting.

Dec. 10—**Sr. Estelle Schulte** (93) died peacefully while the community was gathered in prayer for her, around 7:30 p.m. The Vigil Service was held on Monday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m., and the Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5:20 p.m. Interment in the monastery cemetery on Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

Dec.—**Sr. Joan Fraenzle** has been active in her wood working shop, creating items for Christmas sales. Oblate **Joan McAlonan** has become her efficient assistant.

Dec. 12—The Academy's Jr High classes came to the monastery along with their partners from the kindergarten and first grade, to sing some Christmas carols and bearing gifts for each sister.

Our New Development Director

In the last issue of *LEAVEN* we announced the appointment of **Sister Rita Brink** as the new Development Director for St. Walburg Monastery. Many of our readers already know Sister Rita, but for those who don't we want to give a brief introduction and overview of her years of service to the community and other institutions.

She served as Prioress of St. Walburg Monastery from 1998 to 2006 and has been an active member of local and national committees on education and religious life. Sr. Rita has taught in many schools in the Diocese of Covington, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, La Junta, Colorado, and served as Director of the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education for the Diocese of Covington. For the past six and a half years she has served as Administrator of St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA



When asked about her new role as Development Director, she views her work primarily as raising friends for the community with secondary emphasis on raising funds for community needs and projects.

In the turmoil of the Corona Virus Pandemic, Sister Rita is reluctant to put forth ideas and community projects at this time. Hopefully, as life returns to normalcy, she will be raising awareness for projects that need attention. At that time she hopes for the continued support of our many friends and benefactors.

We wish Sr. Rita success in her new role as Development Director.

Sr. Margaret Mary Gough

St. Walburg Monastery Welcomes Two New Members



On March 7, 2020, **Sr. Eileen O'Connell** made First Monastic Profession at Evening Prayer. She professed stability, obedience and fidelity to the monastic way of life with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. Her family, friends

and the community of St. Walburg witnessed her profession and **Sr. Aileen Bankemper**, prioress, witnessed her signature to her profession document.

Sr. Eileen has returned to St. Walburg Monastery after being dispensed from her profession in the '90's. Sr. Eileen has a MA in Theology from St. John's University and has taught religion in the high school at Villa Madonna Academy for 25 years. The St. Walburg community welcomes Sr. Eileen's return and is pleased to have her as a sister companion in seeking God together.



Sr. Laura Vallimont became a member of St. Walburg Monastery on December 13, 2019. A former member of St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA, the first Benedictine Monastery in North America, Sr. Laura transferred to St. Walburg Monastery upon the closure of St. Joseph Monastery. Sr. Laura resides in Erie, PA, where she ministers to the elderly.

Dec. 12-15—**Srs. Aileen and Rita Brink** made a trip to Erie, PA to finalize the process for the transfer of the monastic profession of stability of **Sr. Laura Vallimont** to St. Walburg Monastery, from St. Joseph Monastery in St. Mary's PA. On their return they shared with the community what a delightful experience this was for Sr. Laura, the community where she is residing and for the two of them.

Dec. 17-24—The Advent banner in chapel receives the O Antiphon symbols, one each day, in preparation for Christmas, when Emmanuel is with us. Throughout these days, the incoming Christmas cards are hung in the hallway for all to read and enjoy, by **Sr. Mary Rabe**, monastery coordinator.

Dec. 18—The Christmas trees were set-up around the Monastery, and **Sr. Cathy** was busy stringing the lights. The next day there were tree trimming parties in the infirmary lounge after lunch and in the refectory after dinner in readiness for the big day.

Dec. 18—A call came from **Jean**, the niece of **Fr. Robert Reinke**, who brings him monthly as confessor for sisters in the Infirmary. He has not been well lately and has moved to a different retirement home. He had made a statement that he thought it's time for a younger man to take over this ministry. We are grateful for his ministry to the community over these many years. A Thanksgiving gift was delivered to him in his new residence at Christmas time.

Dec. 19—The new equipment garage near the boiler house is nearing completion.

Dec. 20—The annual employees Christmas party was held in the lower level for the employees and volunteers. They all had a delicious luncheon, gifts and a good time together. This space became the gathering place for many celebrations over these days before and

after Christmas.

Dec. 21—**Sr. Dorothy** with her guitar lead a Christmas sing-a-long in the infirmary lounge for all who could join in.

Dec. 24—The community celebrated First Vespers of Christmas and the blessing of the crib in chapel, then had Christmas dinner in the refectory, followed by a special dessert and party time around the big tree. On Christmas morning we celebrated Morning Prayer, Mass and a festive brunch for community and guests. In the afternoon many sisters went to join their families for Christmas festivities.

Throughout the Advent-Christmas Season, several sisters gave reflections on the Sunday gospel read at the Saturday Evening Prayer. We were blessed with their inspiring presentations.

Jan. 10-12—**Sr. Aileen** facilitated the direction statement process for the Sisters of St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island IL.

Jan. 27-31— Each day during Catholic Schools Week we were entertained by the students from VMA K thru 12. On Monday the kindergartners came with a Shapes & Colors Bingo game, and some high schoolers ate lunch with us. On Tuesday grade 3 came with games to share while grade 4 came with water colors to paint book-marks, and left most of them for the sisters in the Infirmary. On Wednesday the first graders played cards with us. On Thursday the second grade played cards with us, and the fifth grade played Benedictine Bingo. The 6th grade did not get to come, so sent Valentines for the Sisters. The Jr. High & High School celebrated Mass on Tuesday, and did many other activities celebrating the hallmarks of a Benedictine School. On Thursday five sisters went to St. Henry High School for a Mass with the students to celebrate the week.

Jan. 30-Feb. 4— **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** traveled to Sacred heart

Happenings at the Monastery



On November 23, the community gave a Thank You dinner to those who helped with the sale of our property to the west. Above (left to right)) are Srs. Christa Kreinbrink, Aileen Bankemper, Martha Walther, and Marilyn and Gerry Dusing. Mr. Dusing served as our respected and skilled lawyer. Sr. Martha Walther is his aunt.



Catholic Schools Week at the Monastery 2020

Left: **Sr. Christa Kreinbrink** with VMA elementary school student working with newspapers.

Below: **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** playing shapes and color Bingo with VMA elementary student.



Sister Estelle Schulte, 1926-2019

Born September 30, 1926

Received habit, 1946

First Profession, 1947

Sister Estelle Schulte was born on September 30, 1926 to **Norbert** and **Irene Faust Schulte** and named Mary Catherine. She was the third of five children, three brothers and one sister, all of whom are deceased.

Mary Catherine was a graduate of Holy Cross High School and entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1945.

She became a novice in 1946 and received the name Estelle. First profession followed in 1947 and perpetual profession in 1950. Sister Estelle celebrated her silver jubilee in 1972, her golden in 1997, and her diamond in 2007.

Sr. Estelle received her B.A. from Villa Madonna College in 1954 and became certified as an elementary librarian in 1965. She taught in diocesan elementary schools for twenty-seven years and then served for twenty-five years as elementary librarian at Villa Madonna Academy. During the years at VMA the elementary library moved from one location to the other within the school. Through about five different moves she kept her sense of humor and took it all in stride.

Sr. Estelle retired from Villa Madonna in 1999 and two years later became monastery sacristan, a position which made use of her skills in attending to detail. She served for twelve years as sacristan.

A willing and active support staff member, Sr. Estelle was often called upon to assist when something needed to be assembled. Neat and meticulous, she renewed Liturgy of the Hours binders for nearly thirty years. Any major revision required work in removing and adding pages of text, music, and in renewing outworn ribbons. Sr. Estelle served on every crew with aplomb.

Sr. Estelle grew weaker in the past few months, and died as her sisters in community prayed the prayers for the dying with her on December 10, 2019. Vigil service was held the evening of Monday, December 16 with the Mass of Christian Burial at 5:20 pm, Tuesday, December 17 at St. Walburg Monastery. Sr. Estelle was interred in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery on Wednesday morning. Memorials may be made to St. Walburg Monastery, 2500 Amsterdam Rd., Villa Hills, KY 41017.



Monastery in Yankton, SD, for the meeting of prioresses. While there she was elected as chair of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses for a three-year term.

Feb. 9—Sunday afternoon, **Mr. Don Barth** and family came with a freezer on his truck filled with ice cream, to entertain us with an Ice Cream Social. This was a fun start to our Feast Day celebration of St. Scholastica. This was followed by First Vespers for the Feast. On Monday we had Mass, Liturgy of the Hours and a festive meal to conclude the celebration. **The Serra Club** provided lovely flowers for all our tables, and **Mr. & Mrs. Clay Beekley** sent a large arrangement for the altar.

Feb. 10-13—**Sr. Rustica Kayombo, OSB** from Tanzania, in East Africa, returned for a visit on the Feast of St. Scholastica. While she was completing her degree in Business Administration at Mt. St. Joseph College (2018), she would join us on Benedictine feast days. This month she returned to the States to visit friends and do some fund raising for the surgery center her community is building. We were able to provide her with a donation toward this project. It was so good to hear about her work and the responsibilities she has been given.

Feb. 14 thru April 3—**A Matter of Balance Program** is being offered at the monastery. This is a lay-led program offered by **Brighton Center** to senior citizens. 14 sisters are participating in the eight 2-hour sessions, with three volunteers leading the group.

Feb. 20—**Srs. Kimberly Porter** and **Rita Brink** organized the 2nd Poetry Night which was held in the Lower Level. All the sisters were invited to bring a poem to read at the gathering, and be able to tell something about the poet. Fourteen sisters shared poems and listened intently to the others. All enjoyed punch and some Smores to close

the evening.

Feb. 25—The community celebrated the feast of St. Walburg with Mass, Liturgy of the Hours and a festive dinner.

Feb. 26—On Ash Wednesday, the Prioress gave a reflection on Chapter 49 of the Rule of St. Benedict on *The Keeping of Lent*. We were given a form to name the works we plan to do by way of prayer, fasting and works of love, as well. They were blessed at Saturday Evening Prayer.

Feb. 27—**The Catholic Conference of Kentucky** called all members of the Diocese of Covington to a Day at The Capitol, encouraging Catholics to engage with legislators on important issues being considered during the current 2020 Legislative Session. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** joined in one of the busses going from our area to Frankfort. She appreciated getting to witness some key bills and issues the CCK discussed.

Feb. 29 —VillaRama, the major fund raiser for VMA, took place at Receptions in Erlanger. The Benedictine Sisters table was full. The theme this year: *It Takes a Villa-ge*. Ten of the Sisters joined in the enjoyable evening, along with the 300 participants.

March—The Community Volunteer Committee has developed a Service Live-In Program, open to young women. A flyer was distributed by the Committee: **Sr. Cathy Bauer, Chair, Sr. Dorothy Schuette, Sr. Barbara Woeste, Oblates Gayle Underdown, Jessie Lamantia, Jody Bowman, and Matty McGraw.**

Mar. 7— **Eileen O'Connell** made her First Profession during Evening Prayer. Many of her family and friends joined in the celebration. We are all very happy that Sr. Eileen is among us again.

Mar. 12-15—**Sr. Aileen** traveled to Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, ND to facilitate the discernment process for the election of prioress.

Sr. Joan Gripshover, 1942-2020

Born June 9, 1942
Received habit in 1962
First Profession 1963



Sister Joan Gripshover was born on June 9, 1942 to **Aloysius and Anna Gripshover** and named Patricia Gertrude. She was the second of eight children, two sisters and five brothers.

Patricia was a graduate of St. Henry High School and a twelve-year student there. She entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1961. She became a novice in 1962 and received the name Joan. First profession followed in 1963 and perpetual profession in 1968. Sr. Joan celebrated her silver jubilee in 1988 and her golden in 2013.

Sr. Joan completed her studies for her RN from Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing in 1969 and her BES in Nursing Education from Thomas More College in 1976. She advanced through the Frontier School of Family Nursing and Midwifery in 1983 to become a family nurse practitioner. Sr. Joan continued her education through courses and workshops for the rest of her life. She was a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and of the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives.

Sr. Joan served as a nurse at Estill County Hospital, Madonna Manor and St. Walburg Infirmary. After certification as a nurse practitioner she devoted herself to meeting the healthcare needs of the people of Leslie County in eastern Kentucky, who were very fond of her. At the same time she served on boards of directors, as a parish planner, and on several citizen groups.

Sr. Joan served as a nurse at Estill County Hospital, Madonna Manor and St. Walburg Infirmary. After certification as a nurse practitioner she devoted herself to meeting the healthcare needs of the people of Leslie County in eastern Kentucky, who were very fond of her. At the same time she served on boards of directors, as a parish planner, and on several citizen groups.

Joan welcomed her Benedictine sisters to her home in eastern Kentucky, taking them on tours of her workplaces in Leslie County. She was a fan of the Kentucky parks and loved to visit Breaks Interstate Park. She enjoyed bluegrass music and the Kentucky Wildcats.

St. Walburg Monastery was Joan's home after her retirement in 2015; she assisted however she was able until her health declined and she moved to the infirmary in November, 2019. Joan died peacefully

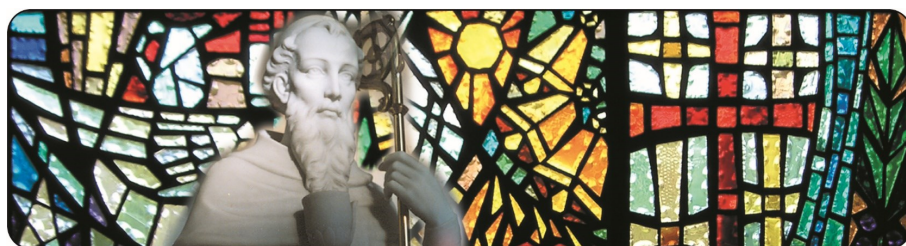
(continued on next page)

Sr. Joan Gripshover, 1942-2020 (con't)

the evening of March 30, 2020.

Sr. Joan is survived by her brothers Al (Carol), Ron (Sharon) and Carl (Jean), her sister Mary Lou Hannick (Wayne), her sister-in-law Roxanne Gripshover, many nieces, nephews and friends, and her Benedictine community. A private service was celebrated on April 3 at St. Walburg Monastery. A Vigil Service and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at a later date. Memorials may be made to St. Walburg Monastery, 2500 Amsterdam Rd, Villa Hills, KY 41017.

Benedictine Sisters Initiate Volunteer Service Live-In Program



"Prefer nothing to the love of Christ." –St. Benedict

VOLUNTEER SERVICE LIVE-IN PROGRAM



Single Catholic women are invited to volunteer to serve and experience the Benedictine tradition by living within our community and joining us in prayer, work and leisure.

- ✚ Live together with the sisters and participate in the monastic daily life.
- ✚ Share your gifts and talents and discover new ones by serving in healthcare, education, retreat planning, music ministry, culinary arts, website/computer assistance, horticulture and more.
- ✚ Individualized schedule arranged with the volunteer for her live-in experience.



Contact: Sr. Cathy Bauer, OSB
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859-331-6324

St. Walburg Monastery 2500 Amsterdam Rd.
Villa Hills, KY 41017
www.stwalburg.org



Mar. 12-15— Sr. Kimberly Porter traveled to Emmanuel Monastery, Lutherville, MD and facilitated the direction setting process in preparation for their election of prioress later this year.

Mar. 13—Many schools and institutions of learning were closed for a month to keep from spreading the Coronavirus, which is now named as a pandemic. Our Lenten Spirituality Day was cancelled for March 14, as well as the Lectio Sessions on Tuesdays, and our Penance Service on the 18th. Other precautions have been announced limiting visitors and suspended Masses and other public events until further notice.

March 14—Sr. Dorothy Schuette participated in the Lenten day of Reflection at St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, KY, where she gave one of the presentations..

March 15— Sr. Aileen put out a memo announcing that we would not be accepting any visitors or oblates for any gatherings or liturgies for at least 3 weeks. So all our planned events; Lenten Spirituality Day, Oblate Gatherings, Directed Retreat Weekend, Masses, Penance Service were all cancelled.

March 17— A letter came from **Bishop Roger Foys**, calling for the suspension of all Masses.

March 30— **Sr. Joan Gripshover** (77) died this evening around 8:00 p.m. in the Infirmary, after months of extreme discomfort from pulmonary fibrosis. She had been in the care of Hospice for a short time. The community gathered for Prayers on the Death of a Sister in and around her room. We had a private service at Evening Prayer on Friday, April 3 with the community only. There will be a Mass of Christian Burial with her remains when her family can gather. Many of them live at a distance from the monastery.

Thank You to Our 2019 Community Donors

This list represents those who made donations to the community
from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2019



Maura Adams	Karen & Harold Blocher	Connors & Co., Inc.
Jim & Toni Akers	Ms. Phyllis C. Boyce	Bob & Carol Connors
Jacqueline Eibel Alexander	Shirley Bradford	Kathleen Conway
Rose Marie Allen	Earnest A. Brady, Sr.	Mrs. Margaret Coomer
Ana & John McCarty	Norma & Doug Branch	Gary & Robin Crone
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Encouraging Signs

The City of Villa Hills asked citizens to make signs of encouragement and hope during the COVID-19 crisis so that walkers and people driving by would see them. There is a contest for the best signs nominated by viewers.

We decided that our front gates would be the best place for the signs to be seen. We asked the Benedictine community to come up with text for the signs. **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper**, our artist, (pictured here) worked on them and added graphics and the Emmanuel touch.





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forth from the tomb of COVID-19.*

*In your mercy, break the chains of
death and give healing to
humanity and the world.
Fill us with new life and
pour out your grace upon
us.*

