



Leaven

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Winter, 2019

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky



*O my child,
child of sweetness,
How is it that I hold thee,
Almighty!
And how I feed thee,
Who givest bread to all?
How is it that I swaddle
thee,
Who with the clouds
encompass the whole
earth?*

Orthodox liturgy

May you and those you love be filled with hope and joy this Christmas season.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery

From Our Prioress . . .

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Orthodox liturgy



When Sister Deborah showed me the quote from the Orthodox liturgy to be used with the community Christmas card I teared up. This verse is poignant, lovely and hauntingly beautiful.

It is indeed a mystery why God would choose to come among us as a vulnerable infant, needing to be held, fed and swaddled. God did not need this. We, humanity, did.

In our very busy lives it happens we get lost, caught up in *not* living the one thing necessary, that is, growing in a loving relationship with God and God's people.

Another mystery contained in this verse is God's personal invitation to each one of us to put on Christ and extend love through sharing our bread with those in need, clothing ourselves in Christ's mercy and kindness. Thus we can join with the creator, encompass the clouds, the earth, its people with care, compassion, affection and joy.

May we all grow in the wonders, beauty and mystery of this holy season.

Sr. Aileen Bankemper, Prioress

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Srs. Deborah Harmeling
and Margaret Mary
Gough, editors.

Pictures:

Holly Springer, Srs. Cathy
Bauer, Mary Tewes, Dor-
othy Schuette and Em-
manuel Pieper.

Congratulations to Our 2019 Jubilarians



Our 2019 Jubilarians, (left to right) **Srs. Joan Fraenzle** (60 years), **Charles Wolking** (75 years) and **Mary Catherine Wenstrup** (60 years) celebrated on Friday, August 2 at Evening Prayer. **Sr. Aileen Bankemper**, current prioress, is pictured on the far right.

Sr. Mary Catherine served as prioress from 1986-1998 and from 2006-2018. She currently directs the monastery infirmary, is an adjunct member of the **Diocese of Covington's Tribunal Staff** and is director of formation for **Eileen O'Connell**.

Sr. Joan Fraenzle was a medical technologist at the community's hospitals, **Mt. Mary Hospital** in Hazard, Kentucky, **Estill County Hospital** in Irvine, Kentucky, and **St. Joseph Hospital** in Florence, Colorado. She also worked as an activity director at **Madonna Manor Nursing Home**, **Deer Park Nursing Home** and **Atria**. She now does internal ministry for the monastery, including baking, care of the dining room and shopping for community supplies.

Sr. Charles Wolking was a primary school teacher for seven years in schools in the **Diocese of Covington**, was a teacher and therapist at **Redwood School** for eleven years and served thirty-two years as the administrator of **Madonna Manor**. She now resides in the monastery infirmary.

These sisters' 195 years of monastic profession and service to the Church and community are a great gift to celebrate.

The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

June 30 - July 6 **Sr. Colleen Winston**, community organist, attended a liturgy conference at Beech Grove, IN. **Srs. Mary Carol and Christa** led the music for Mass and Divine Office in her absence.

July 3 - The Catholic Heart Workcamp is a national organization, providing youth groups, teens and adult leaders with service opportunities. **Bishop Brossart High School** hosted a group of 130 youth and their leaders. A group of seven young women came to the monastery on July 3 and worked with the Sisters in garden work and cleaning. After lunch they enjoyed card games and scrabble with the sisters.

July 5 – At 10:00 this morning the community processed to the cemetery with the cremains of **Sr. Jeanette Frisch** who had died on June 21, 2018. She had donated her body to science and her cremains were returned for burial in the monastery cemetery.

July 8 – Students from **St. Bede Academy** in Peru, Illinois, with **Rev. Ronald Margherio** spent this day serving and enjoying a stay at St. Walburg Monastery. They also joined the sisters for prayers and meals and spent the night at the Guest House. The morning was spent working indoors and outside with various sisters in all kinds of tasks. The early afternoon was a mixture of work and playing games with the

sisters. From 3 – 5 p.m. **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper** led them in a creative endeavor in her Art studio. Later, their accomplishments were put on display for the sisters to admire. After supper the group left for **St. Agnes** parish facility where they spent the next several nights after more service projects and sight-seeing daytime tours.

July 8-9 – On these days Sisters met in small groups to continue discussing the best and most practical use of our buildings. The goal of the meetings was to keep the community informed and to gather additional helpful ideas about the future.

July 11 – On this day when we usually celebrate the **Feast of St. Benedict**, scheduling changes needed to be made because of unexpected circumstances. The annual Jubilee celebration scheduled for today, was transferred to Aug. 2. The funeral Mass for **Joyce Brink Callery, Sr. Rita Brink's** sister, was celebrated at Holy Cross Church in Latonia. Joyce's death was sudden and unexpected, and a shock to all. With appropriate adjustments in the feast day schedule, St. Benedict was duly honored at Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours.

July 18 – **Dr. Rebecca Bilbo**, chair of the Art Department at **Thomas More University**, organized an exhibit entitled "*The Artist at Home*" at the Eva Farris Art Gallery. **Madonna and Child**, an 1867 piece by **Frank Duveneck** painted expressly for

From News to Personal Experience: Sr. Dorothy at the US/Mexico Border

When any story behind a national headline becomes part of a reader's personal experience, it puts flesh and blood details into the narrative. **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** recently had that experience when, from Aug. 13 – Sept. 11, she helped at a hospitality sanctuary on the border in **Eagle Pass, TX**.

The adventure began when **Sr. Aileen Bankemper**, St. Walburg Monastery prioress, attended LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious). The organization alerted religious communities about serious ministry needs along the Mexican/US border. Sr. Aileen was one who took the challenge to heart. Once back in KY, she asked Sr. Dorothy if she'd be interested in going;



Dorothy said "yes." Dorothy has been involved in social justice issues for a long time and also has some ability with Spanish. She soon travelled to *Caridad de Corazon* ["Charity of the Heart"], a home in Eagle Pass owned by the **Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, TX**; it hosts both legal migrants who need short term hospitality and volunteers who come from around the country to assist at the border. It also serves as a donation center for provisions that come in from many sources.

The Boerne Benedictine community has been serving in Eagle Pass since 1996, and has helped thousands of people;



Sr. Ursula Herrera, an RN, is at the heart of their ministry. She was Sr. Dorothy's contact and mentor while in *Caridad de Corazon*. Some of Dorothy's work with her involved cooking, making beds, and in other ways offering hospitality to live-in migrants. "I

From News to Personal Experience (cont')

visited as well as I could," she said, clarifying that while she *spoke* Spanish relatively well, at times *understanding* the migrants' conversation was a challenge.

Despite the language differences, one thing clear was the horrors many of the guests at *Caridad de Corazon* had experienced. One family actually had a video of the father's dead co-workers who had been lined up and shot; the father was lucky to have been away from that job site when the killing occurred. With this same family, border authorities separated the father from his wife and children because officials didn't acknowledge any legality in the couples' union back in their country. In addition, US government agents sent the father to an undisclosed detention facility; this created many problems for the family. Besides the pain of separation at such a difficult time, another was that he was the only one who had contact information for where the family had been accepted for legal residence in the US. This left the family in limbo and presented a mystery for "detective Sr.

Ursula" to try to unravel. (Eventually they found the father and the family's destination in the US.)

Besides working in the sisters' mission house, Sr. Dorothy accompanied Sr. Ursula on visits to various needy people and places in

Mexico. Sometimes they delivered school uniforms to children as well as food that was served before and after school in a soup kitchen run by a messianic Jewish community. (See picture above.) There are no school meals in Mexico. Dorothy and Ursula took clothes and other necessities to orphanages, families, and individuals with a variety of needs. Because Sr. Ursula is an RN, it's not surprising that some of what they delivered included medical supplies like syringes, bed pads, adult diapers, wheel chairs, even water filtration systems. At times, because of donor generosity, *Caridad* is able to provide financial aid for emergencies like rent, utility, and motel bill payment. It can even sometimes fund immigrants who need help to get started in the U.S. Still another benefit made possible by the Boerne community and donors is educational scholarships for youth and young adults in **Piedras**



the Benedictine Sisters, was the center of interest for the exhibit which began on July 18 and continued for three weeks.

July 19 – This Friday afternoon the **Pioneers of the Spirit** movie series presented "*Julian of Norwich*". Recognized as one of England's most compelling mystics of the 14th century. A contemporary of Chaucer, Julian received 16 startling images of the crucified Christ. Her descriptions of her visions have continued to inspire others to this day. A good number of community members viewed the short movie.

July 20 – This afternoon quite a few members of the **Collopy Family** and friends gathered for a celebration at Madonna Manor. The "get-together" was in memory of **Tom Collopy** who died early this year in Montana. It was an opportunity for the family and friends of Tom to visit and exchange memories about Tom and life on his ranch in Montana. Some members of the family had never met before and this was a wonderful occasion for introductions. It was certainly an occasion to be remembered with much gratitude.

July 23 - Fr. James Ryan, with a number of other generous priests, has celebrated Mass for us after the death of our chaplain, **Fr. John Cahill**. Recently Fr. Ryan was diagnosed with cancer and has been unable to be with us for Mass. As time passed his condition became more serious. **St. Henry Parish** in Erlanger, where Fr. Ryan served for many years,

held a Holy Hour of prayer for him on July 23 which was attended by many parishioners, friends, and Sisters from our monastery.

July 23 – These past months **Eileen O’Connell** has been spending time here with the community, visiting, joining the sisters for prayer and sometimes for meals. At the end of Evening Prayer **Sr. Aileen Bankemper**, our prioress, welcomed Eileen back to the community, asking her to discern her call to life in this Benedictine community. Sisters joined Eileen in prayer for her future here at St. Walburg Monastery. Celebration, gratitude and words of welcome flowed throughout the evening meal.

July 28-Aug. 2 – The annual community retreat was presented by **Benedictine Sister Kathleen Huber, O.S.B.**, a former prioress at **Immaculate Conception Monastery** in Ferdinand, IN. The theme of the retreat was “*Expanding Our Hearts in Christ: Being the Presence of Christ Today*”.

Father Ken Overburg, S.J., from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was the presider at Eucharist each day for the community. Fr. Ken resided in Cottage 7 during our retreat and used the time for a personal retreat. His daily homilies complimented the conferences by Sr. Kathy.

Aug. 2 – Today, at the closing of retreat, **Sisters Mary Catherine Wenstrup and Joan Fraenzle** celebrated the 60th anniversary of their monastic profession. (*See p.*

From News to Personal Experience (cont’)

Negras, Mexico. To date over 200 students have been able to continue education beyond grade school toward fuller lives, even eventually fulfilling their dreams of becoming a teacher, nurse, engineer or other profession.

In commenting on some of the significant things that impacted her during her border experience, the first thing Dorothy mentioned was how touched she was by the courage of the people who made this terrible journey. She spoke of the sadness in the *Caridad* guests that so few reached this point of relative safety as they themselves had. She added that their insecurity is increased by the often-changing policies of the United States. Dorothy commented that when the migrants prayed, as at meals, it was with profuse gratitude to God not just for themselves but all the people who helped them get to this point.

Other significant aspects of her experience included the broad consortium of groups and churches that help migrants. Many different organizations, religions, and religious communities collaborate across the border to serve the needs of the poor in that area. All this is done against a backdrop of extensive support from the region’s Catholic bishops who are very vocal in their advocacy for asylum as a pro-life issue.

The Boerne Benedictines’ *Caridad* home in Eagle Pass has served the poor and disenfranchised living on both sides of the US/Mexican border for many years. After Sr. Dorothy’s weeks there steeped in another culture, language, and in many ways, another world, her experiences will put a very real face on future news stories about immigration. The transients she met, the horrors they went through, and their sense of gratitude to all who assisted them will accompany her as she processes tv and newspaper headlines about this ever-changing crisis. The faces and stories are now part of her own life story.

Sr. Colleen Winston, OSB



Sr. Ursula Herrera delivers two wheelchairs to Casa Bethesda for disabled adults

Local Religious Communities Respond to Immigration Crisis Locally

For the past several months superiors from the religious communities of northern Kentucky met to discuss ways how we might respond to the immigration crisis in the country, and especially to the persons experiencing major challenges living in this area. One issue in particular that precipitated our coming together is the separation of children from their parents. After consulting sisters in our communities and others working with some of these matters, we were told of the major difficulties in obtaining bail monies.



After discussion among ourselves we contacted **Jeff Richardson** from northern Kentucky who has established the **3 R Fund for Immigrant Family Legal Defense, Inc.** This fund is established to provide reunification - bail money for those incarcerated due to legal status, representation, defense lawyers and other relief in the Northern Kentucky area. This money has the potential to be perpetuated

as once the case is addressed the money is returned. All of the communities sent monies to help with this urgent need. The local major superiors plan to continue meeting to help out where we are able.

Sr. Aileen Bankemper, OSB, Prioress



3 for pictures and story.) The entire community joined in the renewal of our profession, a traditional practice at the closing of the annual retreat.

Aug. 4 - Patricia Scott (formerly Sr. Herbert of our community) died in our monastery infirmary today. The community gathered and said our traditional prayers for the dying. Her funeral was held at **Blessed Sacrament Church** where she was a long-time parishioner.

Update – Mary Rose Mission, an organization located in Florence, Kentucky, providing meals to the needy, has received service from the Benedictine Sisters for several years. Presently, **Sr. Rita Brink** supervises the food operation at supper on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. **Sr. Joan Fraenzle** helps prepare supper on most Fridays while **Sisters Cathy Bauer, Rosemary McCormack and Andrea Collopy** help there each first Tuesday of the month. It has been a good experience for all.

Aug. 12-17 – Sr. Aileen Bankemper, prioress, attended the national **LCWR** meeting in Scottsdale Arizona. Before she left for the meeting, she shared a lengthy note received from LCWR concerning gun violence in America. LCWR pledged to work effectively for ending gun violence and scourge of rage and hatred that has gripped our country.

Upon returning from the LCWR meeting Sr. Aileen gave a detailed written report to the community. The theme of the meeting was

“Imaging Leadership in a Global Community.” Among the 700+ Sisters attending, there were about 30 Benedictines. They used the opportunity to get together several times during the conference.

Aug. 12 – Sumer vacation ended for the students at **Villa Madonna Academy** today. Classes began on Tuesday with an enrollment of 450 students in K through 12. **Villa Madonna Montessori** classes reached capacity at 50.

Aug. 13 – Yesterday at Evening Prayer **Sr. Aileen** offered a prayer of blessing for **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** as she prepared for departure to Eagle Pass, Texas. For the next four weeks Sr. Dorothy will be working with the **Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, TX** in assisting and responding to the needs of the poor and disenfranchised on the Texas/Mexico border. The house where Sr. Dorothy will be staying is called *“Caridad de Co-razon”*. (See p. 4-6 for pictures and story.) The work is intense and offers valuable experience for the Sister volunteers joining Sr. Dorothy.

Aug. 14 – Today a landmark disappeared! **St. Mary’s House** located on the property presently being prepared for development was demolished. It has served as a residence for farm and maintenance employees of the monastery and, later, became a residence for the sisters. It was on the property when the Benedictine Sisters purchased it in 1928.

Aug. 22 – Funeral services for **Tom Egbers**, who died after a

“Transform our Future; Treasure our Tradition”

This motto summarizes the capital campaign being undertaken by **Villa Madonna Academy**. The goal of the campaign is to renovate the Center building to accommodate the Villa Montessori program and grades K-6 of the elementary school. All floors of the building will be transformed and an elevator will be added to permit better access for the handicapped. The first floor of the yellow building will be converted into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) wing. Other funds

will be added to endowments for operations, faculty and athletics.

The monetary goal of the campaign is **\$5.6 to \$6 million**. The campaign will open officially on November 21 with a reception for campaign leaders, faculty, staff and

friends of the school.

The community of St. Walburg is excited about this outstanding project and will be supporting it with a lead donation of \$500,000. It is the community’s hope that this will inspire donors to generously support this project. The donation is our way of acknowledging our pride in all that the faculty and students have done to carry forward the vision of our founding Benedictine Sisters when they began the school 115 years ago.

While Villa Madonna enjoys an outstanding academic reputation, it is the underlying Benedictine values that are most important to the life of the school: respect, stewardship, hospitality, service and peace. These intangibles become very tangible in the way members of the school community treat others. It is an honor to be part of such a wonderful school.

Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock, OSB

VMA Alumni Moderator



Oblate Retreat, Renewal of Oblation & New Oblates

On the weekend of Oct. 18-20 **Srs. Mary Tewes** and **Dorothy Schuette** conducted a retreat for our Oblates in preparation for their Renewal of Oblation and welcoming two new oblates. The retreat was a new endeavor for the Oblate program.

On Sunday October 20 at Noonday Prayer **Margie Hardebeck** and **Miriam Perkins** became new Oblates. Other Oblates made their Renewal of Oblation.

Margie Hardebeck (pictured below second from left with her prayer partner, **Sr. Colleen Winston**, far left) is from Covington, KY, a parishioner at St. Benedict's. She has been a physician, then an illustrator of medical resources, and now a chaplain at Mercy West Hospital in Cincinnati. She has been participating in oblate gatherings since March of 2017.

Miriam Perkins (pictured below second from right with her prayer partner, **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, far right) is from Johnson City, TN, a theology professor at the Emmanuel Baptist Seminary in east Tennessee. When she visits with her mother in Lexington, she periodically would come and spend some quiet time at the Guest House over the last 8 years, and gradually got acquainted with the community and the oblates. In June she married **Michael Woods**, also a theology professor from Pennsylvania.



When asked what it means to me to be a Benedictine Oblate with the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Margie responded:

There is a wonderful sense of welcoming and peacefulness at St. Walburg which drew me in first. I am also aware of a sense of identity and purpose (Benedictine Spirituality) present within this community which I want to be a part of and continue to learn more about. Finally, as a Catholic woman I find the role models of the women religious an invaluable touchstone on my faith journey.

Miriam responded: The St. Walburg Monastery community has surrounded me with love, hospitality, and prayer for more than 8 years. The Benedictine way has deepened my faith, love for God and patterns of prayer. I also rely on the "sisterhood" power of Spirit embodied in this community to live an ongoing life of faith, justice and courage.

Sr. Mary Tewes, OSB

long illness, was held at Blessed Sacrament Church. Tom's spouse, Ann, is Sr. Andrea Collopy's sister. Two of his grandchildren work part-time at the monastery.

Sept. 2 – In the afternoon the community gathered in the dining room for Labor Day corn hole games and special refreshments. (See p. 12 for picture.) Everyone enjoyed the games, especially when one mis-guided bean bag dislocated a ceiling tile in the dining room!

Sept. 6 – **Heather Sheehan O'Brien**, a resident of Ontario, Canada, and a 1956 graduate of Villa Madonna Academy, arrived today for a short visit and stayed in the monastery guest room. It was a delight to see her again and friendships were renewed. Heather has fond memories of those early Villa days and an abiding affection for our community and the Benedictine values that permeated her many years with us. She had been a member of this community for fifteen years and was then known as Sr. Augustine.

Sept. 7 – **Fr. James Ryan**, chaplain to our community for several years, died at Madonna Manor this evening. Funeral services were held at the **Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption** on Sept. 16/17. A detailed booklet of his life was distributed and contained interesting information of his life, much of which was new to many. When they were very young children, Father Ryan and his siblings lost their parents to an accidental electrocution at their home. May he

rest in peace.

Sept. 14 - Sr. Cathy Bauer was one of three speakers at the **Catechist Day of Reflection**: *“Called To Teach.”* Fifty parish catechists and school teachers attended the day.

Mid-September saw signs around the monastery advertising for *“Gently Worn, Used and New Shoes”*. This project was sponsored by the students at **St. Joseph Parish**, Cold Spring, to help raise funding to attend the **National Catholic Youth Conference**. (See p. 12 for picture.)

Sept. 20 – Today **Villa Madonna Academy** held its annual cardboard regatta on the lake. A very large crowd watched as the “boats” attempted to circle the lake. Participants seemed to enjoy the adventure, even as some of them were drenched. There were too many contestants to be remembered or known by name. Congratulations to the winners!

Also on this day **Mr. Alfred J. Mollozzi**, administrator at Madonna Manor, and **Brian Moore**, director of Mission Integration, were luncheon guests at the monastery. They wanted to meet and spend some time with the Benedictine Sisters who founded **Madonna Manor** and bring us up to date on new building projects and street names.

Sept. 21 – At the community meeting held today an overview of the process involved in the sale of the land at the west end of our property was presented as part of a closure “ceremony” to this di-

New Trees and New Look for the Front of the Monastery

In our last issue of *LEAVEN* we reported on the removal of trees from the front entry of the monastery. In this issue we are happy to report that new trees will be planted in a **grove-like setting** to replace them. (A grove is a small group of trees with minimal or no undergrowth.)

The new trees were selected because of their hardiness, resistance to pests and disease, beautiful fall foliage and being native to the eastern United States. We are very grateful to **John Martini**, a friend of the community and Villa Madonna Academy, for his expertise and advice as a landscape architect.

We would like to offer our reader-friends the chance to support the planting of the new trees by sponsoring one or more as a family gift, or to honor or memorialize a family member, friend or sister here at St. Walburg’s. A plaque recognizing all donors will be placed inside the front entry.



The trees range in price from \$225 to \$325. We will be planting six of each type: **Red Pointe Maple** (above right), **Firestarter Black Gum** (below right with its autumn colors) and **Heritage Oak** (left).

If you would like to sponsor a tree, please send your request in the usual envelope provided with *LEAVEN*. We are very grateful for your support always. If this type of support appeals to you, please let us know.



We look forward to a beautiful grove of trees for many years to come.

Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock, OSB

Sub-Prioress and Treasurer

Americorps NCCC Delta 3 Team to Come to St. Walburg Monastery

At the end of November the Americorps NCCC Delta 3 Team will come to St. Walburg Monastery. The **National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)**, or **AmeriCorps NCCC** is an [AmeriCorps](#) program that engages 18- to 24-year-olds in team-based national and community service in the United States. The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. National Civilian Community Corps teams complete about four different six- to eight-week-long projects during their 10-month term of service. Each team is made up of eight to twelve Corps Members and one Team Leader. Corps Members and Team Leaders are representative of all races, creeds, states, and economic status.

The Delta 3 Team will live at St. Joseph's House next to the monastery and their primary work site will be **Brighton Center** in Newport. On Wednesdays they will help out in various areas of the monastery. Some of their tasks will include: cleaning ceiling lights and fans, dining room windows, lights and curtains, floor grout in bathrooms throughout the monastery, painting wall in front entrance and if time permits, the 3 floor porches, plastering the walls on the third floor at St. Joseph's House, cleaning out storm water catch basins, cleaning cupboards and basement at the Guest House, helping with snow removal when necessary and working in the archives. They will join us for meals once a week.

The Delta 3 Team is pictured above. The team members are: Team Leader **Yulig Log** from Baltimore, Maryland (Center in black top); left to right: **Lindsey Hubbell** from Pocohantas, Iowa, **David Kim** from Centerville, Maryland, **Ethan Gross** from Davis, California, **Zac Hernandez** from Eugene, Oregon, **Elise McAuliffe** from Lafayette, Indiana, and **Sabrina Johnkins** from Green Bay, Wisconsin. We look forward to getting to know all of them.



vesting of land. This section of land has been part of St. Walburg Monastery since 1928. With the use of slides, quizzes, questionnaires and discussion of what the whole endeavor meant to us individually and as a community, the presenters succeeded in making this a meaningful experience. A special prayer element, *A Contemporary Psalm on Selling Land*, by **Sr. Deborah Harmeling**, helped to transition from the past to the present.

Sept. 21 – A communication was received from **Madonna Manor** today expressing appreciation to the **Benedictine Sisters** and announcing some external changes that will be appearing soon. Streets will be laid out and named: **Benedict Drive, Scholastica Drive, Monte Casino Drive and Subiaco Drive**. Four brownstone units will be named **Francis Residence, Clare Residence, Assisi residence and Ursuline Residence**. This is one of the ways **Catholic Health Initiatives**, as current sponsor of Madonna Manor, is recognizing the founders and contributors of this unique senior citizens residence

Sept. 24 – On this Tuesday after Night Prayer, **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** shared her experience of living and working at the **Texas/Mexico border** from Aug. 13 to Sept. 11. The Sisters, Oblates and a few friends gathered to hear her experience and insights about the plight of immigrants at the border.

Sept. 28 – The community was entertained with an excellent concert this afternoon in the infirmary

lounge. **The Suzuki Ten Strings**, a group of young musicians, treated the sisters and guests to a beautiful concert. The group has performed here several times in the past and we are always delighted with their performance.

Oct. 1-4 – Sr. Aileen Bankemper, prioress, and **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**, Treasurer and Sub-prioress, attended the **RCRI (Resource Center for Religious Institutes) National Conference** in Dallas, TX. The conference included presentations on legal issues, crisis management, environmental concerns, use of space and planning, and financial issues. The speakers had much to offer on practical topics for community treasurers and major superiors. Sr. Nancy was also able to spend some time before the conference with friends from graduate school.

Oct. 6 – The Fr. DeJaco Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsored a wonderful day of fun, food and friendship at their place in Alexandria, Ky. This picnic was originally scheduled for Sept. 22, but circumstances made it necessary to move the date. A delicious dinner was served around 5 p.m. The event is an annual expression of appreciation for religious of the diocese.

Sept. 30- Oct. 4 - Sr Cathy Bauer attended the Benedictine Vocation Directors conference: *“Keeping the Joy”* at **Our Lady of Grace Monastery** in Beech Grove, IN. This past year, she and **Sr. Julie Sewell** of Beech Grove

Happenings Around The Monastery



From October 10-13, the Federation of St. Scholastica Council met at St. Walburg Monastery. Council members (left to right) **Sr. Frances Briseno**, Boerne, TX; **Sr. Judith Ann Heble**, Lisle, IL; **Sr. Elaine Fischer**, Atchison, KS; **Sr. Christine Erieser**, Tulsa, OK; **Sr. Lynn McKenzie**, Federation President, Cullman, AL; **Sr. Kimberly Porter**, Covington, KY; **Sr. Maricarmen Bracamontes**, Torreón, Mexico; **Sr. Ann Wambach**, Erie, PA and **Sr. Judith Zonsius**, Chicago, IL enjoyed their stay at St. Walburg's.



On Labor Day we played corn hole games in the Dining Room. **Sr. David Ruschmann** is pictured left trying to score. She was not the person who took out a ceiling tile.

Sr. Cathy Bauer and **Fr. Gerry Reinerman**, pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, move the boxes of gently worn, used and new shoes collected at the monastery to raise funding for the students at St. Joseph, Cold Spring, to attend the **National Catholic Youth Conference**.



Happenings (cont')



Sr. Barbara Woeste (left) as the Wise Virgin, **Sr. David Ruschmann** (center) as the Persistent Woman pushed by **Sr. Henrietta Seiler** and **Eileen O'Connell** as the Lost Sheep/Tourist won the annual Halloween costume awards. The theme was *Parables*.



Sr. Deborah Harmeling (above) presented a morning reflection on St. Teresa of Avila on October 26. The morning's evaluations indicated that the attendees (some on the right) appreciated learning about Teresa and her energetic and attractive humanity.



Above **Sr. Laura Vallimont** playing cards with **Srs Cathy, Barbara and Henrietta**, requested the transfer of her monastic profession of stability to St. Walburg Monastery. The Chapter approved the transfer on November 16. Sr. Laura was a member of **St. Joseph Monastery** in St. Marys, PA. She will reside in Erie, PA.



worked together in preparing the three-day conference. There were 18 vocation directors who participated.

Aug. thru Nov. - As 8th grade students in local diocesan schools prepare for confirmation service activities, **Sr. Cathy Bauer** provided *SEEK Retreats*. During the day, the students have periods of prayer with scripture, visit local social service agencies in Kenton and Campbell counties, discuss the needs of individuals and families who are homeless and share ideas of how they can be of service.

Oct. 4-11 - **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** was a member of the team of spiritual directors for the October personally directed retreats at the Jesuit Retreat Center, Milford, Ohio

Oct. 6 - 7 - **Sisters Aileen Bankemper** and **Nancy Kordenbrock** participated in a Regional LCWR workshop at the Sisters of Charity, Mt. St. Joseph in Cincinnati.

Oct. 10-13 -- **Sr. Kimberly Porter**, a member of the **Council of the Federation of St. Scholastica**, hosted a meeting of the Council here at St. Walburg Monastery. (See p. 12 for picture.) The eight visiting members stayed at the Guest House and joined the community for prayers and some meals. Most of the council members were well-known to our community and it was a pleasure to have them with us.

Oct. 11 -14 - **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** conducted a work-

shop for the **Tutzing Benedictine Sisters** in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Oct. 12 - Villa Madonna Academy Arts and Craft Show was held today from 9 – 3. A wonderful display of handmade items was available to the large number of eager and interested buyers. The overflowing parking areas gave evidence of the huge success of this annual event.

Oct. 18-20 - A retreat for our Benedictine Oblates was conducted by **Sr. Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director, and **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**. Retreat sessions were held in the Lower Level meeting room and participants joined the sisters for prayers and meals. The retreat was a preparation for renewal of oblations and welcoming of two new members, **Margie Hardebeck** and **Miriam Perkins**. (See p. 9 for picture.) The ceremony took place at noonday prayer on Sunday, followed by a festive dinner. Presently there are 42 Benedictine Oblates, and 28 deceased members.

Oct. 22 - The Tri-State Associate Leadership Conference was held at St. Walburg Monastery today. Nineteen representatives from various religious communities were in attendance. **Sisters Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director, and **Sharon Portwood** represented St. Walburg's Oblate program.

Oct. 23 – “*An Evening with Poets*” was held in the monastery

About the Cover Picture

The cover picture is an oil painting, *Madonna and Child* done by **Frank Duveneck**, noted 19th century local and international artist, who painted it expressly for the Benedictine Sisters in 1867 when he was 19 years old. Duveneck was born in 1848 and lived around the corner from the Benedictine motherhouse on 12th St. in Covington. He apprenticed with the **Altar Building Stock Company** established by Benedictine **Brother Cosmos Wolf** near St. Joseph Church on Greenup St. and was trained in creating ecclesiastical art for German Churches. Later he studied in Munich, Germany, and returned to the Greater Cincinnati area on the death of his wife and taught at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

2019 was the 100th anniversary of Frank Duveneck's death and was a year of celebration for his artistic talents in Covington. Many events were held in his honor, including an exhibition by **Dr. Rebecca Bilbo**, chair of the Art Department at Thomas More University. The exhibit was called *the Author At Home: Northern Kentucky Collects Duveneck* and included our *Madonna and Child*.

In 2020 the **Cincinnati Art Museum** will sponsor the first major exhibition in thirty-three years of Duveneck's works. It will run from November 20, 2020 to March 14, 2021. The Art Museum requested that St. Walburg Monastery loan *Madonna and Child* which will provide a striking comparison with the style and subjects of his mature work. We hope you will be able to attend the 2020-21 exhibition entitled *Frank Duveneck: American Master*.

Silent Directed Retreat for Men and Women

At St. Walburg Monastery Guest House

March 27-29, 2020

Retreatants will have private rooms at the Guest House and enjoy spiritual direction each of the three days in an environment of silence and beauty. This opportunity offers the retreatant the experience of praying the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) with the monastic choir at the monastery.

Fee: \$175

Register with Sr. Dorothy Schuette at

dorothysosb@gmail.com or call 859-443-8515.

Thank you, Sr. Andrea for 27 Years of Chronicles!

A previous prioress used to pray for “good and useful members.” We never knew who was the model for this paragon, but it could have been **Sr. Andrea Collopy**. Sr. Andrea has been an excellent and dependable member in many activities, but I wish to praise her for her 27 years of writing *Chronicles* for **LEAVEN**. She began the column in 1992, and many readers have told me it is the first thing they read when they get a new issue. Written in Sr. Andrea’s inimitable style, *Chronicles* speak of the ordinary and extraordinary events in the life of St. Walburg Monastery.



For the past few years, whenever Sr. Andrea gave me her *Chronicles* copy, she always said, “You will tell me when you don’t want me to do this, won’t you?” And I thought why should I ever do that! I also knew that one day she would tell me when she didn’t want to do it any more. That day came this fall when she told me this would be the last issue of her *Chronicles* because “the old grey mare isn’t what she used to be.”

Thank you, Sr. Andrea, for your dependable accounting of our life for our readers and for history. Seeing our life through your lens has been a great gift.



Welcome to Our New Chronicler

The new *Chronicles* writer is **Sr. Mary Tewes**. Sr. Mary is the Oblate Director, serves as a volunteer greeter at the Cathedral, takes pictures for the community and offers group lectio during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Since she comes from a very large family of 16 siblings and is the chronicler and keeper of the history for the Tewes family, keeping track of St. Walburg community members should be easy for her! Welcome aboard, Sr. Mary.

Sr. Deborah Harmeling, **LEAVEN** editor

Other Personnel Changes

Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann, who has been the Guest House Coordinator since 2006, retired from that ministry of hospitality. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** is the new Guest House Coordinator. **Sr. Deborah Harmeling** has been the first community Development Director with communications as part of her ministry since 2003. **Sr. Rita Brink** is the new Development Director, and Sr. Deborah is now Communications Director.

lower level this evening. It was led by **Sisters Rita Brink** and **Kimberly Porter**. Participants shared a favorite poem and a bit about its author

Oct. 26 - **The Center for Spirituality** offered a morning of reflection on “*Meeting Teresa of Avila*” Mystic and Doctor of the Church. **Sister Deborah Harmeling** offered an enlightening and reflective presentation to a total of 58 participants, including guests, Oblates and Sisters. (See p. 13.)

Oct. 31 – **Halloween** was observed in *style* at the Monastery this evening. The theme for costumes this year was *Parables*. The top three winners were **Sisters David Ruschman**, as the broom-toting persistent woman, **Eileen O’Connell**, arrayed in cotton, map in hand, as the lost sheep/tourist, and **Barbara Woeste** as one of the wise virgins in Middle-East garb with flashlight and extra batteries. (See p. 13) **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** and her committee provided the games and wonderful refreshments for the evening. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain, the planned morning visit by the Montessori children had to be cancelled

Nov. 1 – 2 – Two beautiful feast days - All Saints and All Souls. Many guests joined the community for Mass on both days. A special remembrance of the deceased family members and friends of **Villa Madonna Alumni** was observed on Nov. 2. A large number of guests were present for the Eucharistic Liturgy of commemoration.



St. Walburg Monastery
2500 Amsterdam Rd.
Villa Hills, KY 41017-5316

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Return Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a **Lenten Morning of Reflection** entitled
Telling on Ourselves: Stories about wells, pools, tombs
The Gospels of the last three Sundays in Lent

Presented by **Rev. P. Del Staigers**, pastor of St. Veronica Parish
and St. John Fisher Parish, Cincinnati



Saturday, March 14, 2020

9:30 am—Noon

Lower Level of Monastery

Call Sr. Deborah Harmeling at 859-331-6771

\$20 fee includes snacks and materials.

If you wish to stay for lunch, please add \$6.

