



Vol. 36, Issue 1  
Spring, 2018

# Leaven

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky

*“Listen...  
with the ear of your heart.”*

Members of St. Walburg Monastery,  
April 2018



See next page for names.



# With a Grateful Heart . . .

*The Church is the house of God, built up of living stones.  
It is God's delight to dwell there.*

6th century African author



The quote above was on the cover of the community's Evening Prayer booklet for my installation as prioress in 2006. It describes my experience these past twelve years. Forever I will be grateful to the community, the living stones of St. Walburg Monastery.

I extend my gratitude, and that of the community, to you our readers who support us and participate in our call to be faithful to our Benedictine charism and mission. Such fidelity, as Benedict says in his Rule, leads to "hearts overflowing with the delight of love." Prologue: 49.

Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Prioress

LEAVEN  
Vol. 36,  
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Sisters Deborah Harmeling and Margaret Mary Gough, editors.

Pictures: Srs. Mary Tewes, Deborah Harmeling, and Emmanuel Pieper; VMA Elementary School. High School/ Junior High Facebook pages



## Pictures on Cover

### Upper Picture

**Left to right (seated):** Srs. Mary Peter Youtsey, Rose Rauen, Ann Middendorf, Margaret Mary Dressman, Justina Franxman, Denise Gough.

**Left to right (standing):** Srs. Colleen Winston, Kathleen Ryan, Margaret Mary Gough, Christa Kreinbrink, Rosemary McCormack, Rita Brink, Mary Carol Hellmann, Barbara Woeste, Joan Gripshover, Kimberly Porter, Ann John Kotch, Nancy Kordenbrock, Cathy Bauer, Charles Wolking, Emmanuel Pieper. Not available for picture: Sr. Rita Bilz.

### Lower Picture

**Left to right (seated):** Srs. Henrietta Seiler, Estelle Schulte, Cecilia Daigle, David Ruschmann, Martha Feder.

**Left to right (standing):** Srs. Stella Marie Gough, Sharon Portwood, Mariana Kirk, Joan Fraenzle, Aileen Bankemper, Andrea Collopy, Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Helen Hergott, Martha Walther, Victoria Eisenmann, Dorothy Schuette, Mary Rabe, Mary Tewes, Deborah Harmeling, Andrea Vasquez. Not available for picture: Sr. Jeanette Frisch.



## St. Walburg Monastery Members Elect Sr. Aileen Bankemper to the Office of Prioress

In speaking with Sr. Aileen Bankemper about her election as prioress, she related that the most common remark from everyone has been, "Should I offer you congratulations or condolences"? Her response: "Both comments seem fitting. It is indeed a sacred privilege to be chosen as prioress by the community and the support and affirmation I have received is a blessing." To the condolence part of the question, perhaps instead the question is "are you ready for the many changes that will take place in your life?"

Most of Sister Aileen's ministry involved direct service. Earlier she served as both teacher and nurse. For the past 40 years she ministered as a therapist, many of those years at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington. Since 2000 she has worked as a licensed psychologist in private practice on the monastery grounds. In addition for the past fifteen years she has worked as a group facilitator at Cancer Support Community for persons dealing with a cancer diagnosis and as a volunteer psychologist at the women's prison in Lexington, KY. It is difficult to leave work that she has loved and has ministered in for so many years. And she says, "I am very familiar with my past work and I am not as sure about the future, the challenges, and the many unknowns."

Listening is at the core of Benedictine life. Listening as a prioress will be more all-encompassing than as a therapist; it involves all aspects of monastic life. Chapter 2 of the Rule of St. Benedict is one of the longest chapters, describing in great detail the role of the abbot/prioress. Benedict's expectations are challenging, not allowing for slackers! Some examples: "she must lead . . . more by example than by words;" "show equal love to everyone;" "know what a difficult burden she has undertaken" (these are some of the easier admonitions!). It's a good thing that Sr. Aileen has received the promise of prayers from her sisters and many others.

As she looks forward to assuming this new role of service to the community, Sr. Aileen says that through every part of her life she has known the loving presence of God. She is counting on nothing changing that; God's love is a sure source of hope and peace.

God's blessings on Sr. Aileen, our new prioress.

**Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock, OSB**



## The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

**December 2 -- Sister Mary Catherine** and many other sisters worked hard to prepare for the sale held today at the Knoll house and nearby garage. The contents of the Knoll House -- in addition to many articles acquired from other areas -- were available to purchasers -- mostly employees, teachers, parents, oblates and friends. Bargains were plentiful.

**Early December--Ryan Ecken**, a young man from Louisville, had inquired about the possibility of residing on the monastery grounds while attending Xavier University for a degree in nursing. Since Cottage 7 has been vacant, he was invited to take up residence there in early January. Ryan is married and his wife, **Erica**, who works in Louisville, is able to spend some weekends at the Cottage. Ryan joins the community frequently for Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. (See p. 7 for later developments.)

**December 3-- Sr. Rita Brink** has been mentioned in these Chronicles for many years -- most recently as administrator at St. Joseph Monastery, St. Mary's, PA. She returns to St. Walburg Monastery periodically for much appreciated visits, as she continues her service to communities of the Federation of St. Scholastica. In early December she traveled to St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, to facilitate community meetings as they work toward mapping out their future. She will return monthly until May to assist them.

**December 13--Villa Madonna Academy** seniors and their teacher, **Eileen O'Connell**, recently made a trip to the monastery cemetery, visiting graves of the Sisters. Each of the seniors chose the name from one of the markers and wanted to know something about that Sister. Eileen gave **Sr. Mary Rabe** a list of the names and they were distributed to Sisters who gathered information. Today the seniors came to the lower level of the monastery to hear about those deceased Sisters. It was a mutual learning experience for everyone who participated.

**December 3 – 24--** Advent was the shortest possible this year of 2017! Beginning

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*The Chronicles continued*

with the first Sunday of Advent on Dec. 3, the 4th Sunday of Advent was Christmas Eve. These three weeks were full of activity, including parties for the employees, the Monastery and VMA Boards of Directors, faculty of VMA and other smaller groups. Much of the activity took place in the monastery lower level and kitchen. On Dec. 21 the community decorated the large trees in the refectory and infirmary lounge and celebrated later with the Christmas Party.

**December 24 – January 1**—On the last Sunday of Advent, the community celebrated with a feastday supper since many sisters would be with family on Christmas Day. After supper, the community adjourned to the Lower Level where a dessert party followed and the exchange of gifts. At the Christmas Day brunch the culinary creations of the Sisters were featured. The octave of Christmas saw many visitors at St. Walburg Monastery. On Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, the community enjoyed a dessert party at which names for prayer partners for 2018 were drawn. Shortly after the octave of Christmas, Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus ended the Christmas season and Ordinary Time resumed, a change from the festivity of Christmas.

**January 16 – Sr. Philomena Rarreick** died peacefully this morning in the infirmary. She had been anointed by **Rev. Robert Henderson** shortly before she died. Sr. Philomena had been a Benedictine Sister for 66 years! The vigil service and visitation took place the evening of Jan. 21 with remembrances of her by relatives, friends and community. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by **Rev. William Neuhaus** on Jan. 22. **Rev. Robert Reinke**, a faithful friend for many years, was able to be present for the vigil and Mass. (*See this page for obituary.*)

**January 30** --Today the mayors of Kenton County met at 8:30 am for breakfast and a meeting in the lower level of the monastery. Host **Butch Callery**, mayor of Villa Hills, had requested the use of our facility. The mayors schedule a meeting for the third Saturday of each month. In attendance were most of the nineteen

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## Sister Philomena Rarreick, 1930-2018

**Sister Philomena Rarreick** was born on June 6, 1930 to **Sidney and Laura McElfresh Rarreick** near Falmouth, KY. Named Sarretta, she was the youngest of four children. Lavonne and Eupha, her sisters, and Vincent, her brother, are deceased.

Sarretta's mother Laura died in 1935, and all four children lived and were educated at St. John's Orphanage. Sarretta was baptized there in 1937.

She entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1949 and received the name Sister Philomena when she became a novice in 1950. First profession followed in 1951, and perpetual profession in 1954. Sr. Philomena celebrated her silver jubilee in 1976, her golden in 2001, and diamond in 2011.



Sr. Philomena taught primary grades in La Junta, CO; Danville, Manchester and Georgetown, Kentucky, and at St. Paul's and St. Henry's in Northern Kentucky. From 1981 to 1991 she worked at the Cathedral Child Development Center, now Children, Inc.

Sr. Philomena was no stranger to a sewing machine. As a seamstress she made and repaired quite a number of daily use items for sisters. She enjoyed working with her hands, making and fixing rosaries. She did needlework and knitted hats for a hospital's newborn babies and for agencies who distributed them to those in need of a warm hat.

Sr. Philomena died peacefully on January 16, 2018. Her parents, sisters, brother, and one nephew have gone before her in death; she is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Vigil service was held the evening of Sunday, January 21 with the Mass of Christian Burial at 5:00 pm, Monday, January 22 at St. Walburg Monastery. Sr. Philomena was interred in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery on Tuesday morning, January 23.



## Sister Esther O'Hara, 1929-2018

**Sister Esther O'Hara** was born on December 14, 1929 to **William and Marie Wischer O'Hara** and named Laverne. She was one of seven children, having two sisters and four brothers. One sister died as an infant.

After graduation from St. Henry High School Laverne entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1947. She became a novice in 1948 and received the name Sister Esther. First profession followed in 1949 and perpetual profession in 1952. Sister Esther celebrated her silver jubilee in 1974, her golden in 1999, and her diamond in 2009.

Sister Esther graduated from Villa Madonna College in 1957 with a BA in Elementary Education. In 1965 she earned a certificate in Library Science, also from VMC.

Over many years of service Sister Esther worked in a variety of fields. She taught children with cerebral palsy and served in a number of diocesan elementary schools. One year she was organist at Mary Queen of Heaven, although she said later, "All I knew how to play was *O Salutaris*." Following her teaching years came nearly a decade as a school librarian on both sides of the Ohio River. Next Sr. Esther spent several years transporting sisters to doctors, and even doing routine car maintenance. The children at Villa Hills Day Care got to know her during the three years she spent there. Other children knew her as a Zoo volunteer.

What may have been Sr. Esther's favorite pursuit was the field of storytelling and ventriloquism. A member of the Greater Cincinnati Storytelling Guild for 12 years, she was sought after for events for children. She had quite a family of puppets, and would show off photos of them the way others share pictures of grandchildren. A skilled balloon sculptor, there seemed to be no animal she couldn't fashion.

Sr. Esther died peacefully on January 31, 2018. She is survived by two brothers and many nieces and nephews. Vigil service was held the evening of Tuesday, February 6 and the Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, February 7 at 5:00 pm. She was interred in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery.



### *The Chronicles continued*

mayors of the county and over forty other interested persons. The agenda included issues facing the county and sharing information. **Maureen Smain**, our monastery chef, arranged and served the breakfast through the Smain Family Catering Service.

That afternoon the community met to discuss "Direction Statements for 2018-22". After much discussion and many suggestions, a writing committee took the community input and prepared the final statements for approval by the community. The discernment process and election of prioress is scheduled for the weekend of April 5 – 8.

**January 25** - A service, *United in Prayer* was held at the Main Strasse Bell Tower in Covington at 6:00 p.m. It was hosted by **the Benedictine Sisters, the Sisters of Divine Providence and the Sisters of Notre Dame**. Representatives of these communities and many lay people participated in this prayer for World Peace.

**January 26-28-- Sr. Aileen Bankemper** traveled to St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, N.J. to facilitate a workshop and discernment process for the election of their next prioress.

**January 27 – Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**, our community treasurer, served as Chief Official at the Governor's Cup District competition held at Beechwood High School today. Sr. Nancy is currently teaching three biology classes daily at VMA for six weeks, substituting for **Mrs. Molly Miller** who was on maternity leave. At the Beechwood competition five teams participated: Dixie Heights, Beechwood, Ludlow, Lloyd and Villa Madonna Academy with about 15 members on each team. In the final result, VMA achieved over-all first place in the competition which included written exams, quick recall, composition and future problem solving. It was a long and challenging day – and an honor for VMA.

**January 28-29-- Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** left for St. Scholastica Monastery, Boerne, TX to assist the community in preparing for the election of their prioress. She will return to Boerne at the end of February to assist in the election.

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*The Chronicles continued*

**January 29-February 2**--Catholic Schools Week was observed at **Villa Madonna Academy** with students from kindergarten through 6th grade visiting our monastery on various days. Community members greeted them in the main dining room and participated in games, presentations by students and interesting conversations about themselves and their school. Students from the high school attended Mass at the monastery on Tuesday and brought their lunches to dine with the Sisters. On Thursday the high school attended Mass in the VMA theater to which the community was invited.

On the morning of February 5 students of grades 3 and 4 from **Holy Family School**, Covington, visited the Monastery with their teachers. They enjoyed games and conversations with the Sisters.

**January 31**-- After a number of years in the infirmary with declining health, **Sr. Esther O'Hara** died peacefully today. Sr. Esther served God and this community in a variety of fields—mostly with young children as teacher, librarian, story teller and ventriloquist. She was always greatly in demand by children's groups with her photographs, puppets and balloons. A display of a great number of photographs, her puppets and printed articles of all kinds attested to her talents and hobbies. (*See p. 5 for obituary.*)

**February 1-7**--The Conference of Prioresses of the Congregation of St. Scholastica was held at Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Al. **Sisters Mary Catherine Wenstrup** and **Rita Brink** were present for the first part of the meeting; however, they left early to return home for the funeral services of Sr. Esther.

**February 10** --Villa Madonna Academy held its annual fundraiser *VillaRama* at the Mariotte Airport Inn this evening. The large gathering of supporters included former students, teachers, parents and friends. A most attractive and popular display of items was available for competitive silent bidding early in the evening. A delicious dinner was served and the evening concluded with a very

*Continued on next page*

## Sister Margaret Mary Dressman 1923-2018

**Sister Margaret Mary Dressman** was born on December 29, 1923 to **James and Mary Teresa Hoover Dressman**. She was one of nine children, having five sisters and three brothers.

After graduation from Holy Cross High School, Margaret Mary entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1941. She became a novice in 1942 and received the name Sister Boniface. First profession followed in 1943 and perpetual profession in 1946. Sister Margaret Mary celebrated her silver jubilee in 1968, her golden in 1993, and her diamond in 2003.



Sister Margaret Mary graduated from Villa Madonna College in 1964 with a BA in Elementary Education. In 1971-72 she received certification as school librarian 1-12 from Northern Kentucky State and UK's extension program.

Sister Margaret Mary contracted TB in her early years in the community and spent four years recovering in the infirmary. Those long years were significant in her life story. She served for a few years as dietician in two hospitals in Colorado, one year teaching in Colorado, and twenty years as teacher in elementary schools of the Diocese of Covington. After she was certified as a school librarian, Sr. Margaret Mary served in that capacity for another twenty-four years at St. Henry Elementary and Holy Cross High School.

Sr. Margaret Mary resided at the monastery from 1972 on. Until she fell this year she walked without any mobility aids. She prayed enthusiastically and faithfully at the Liturgy of the Hours and at Eucharist. When any recreational activity took place in the infirmary lounge, Margaret Mary was an avid player, whether at cards, Scrabble or any other type of competition. She will be remembered for her wit.

Sr. Margaret Mary broke her hip this year, rehabbed at Madonna Manor, and returned home recently. She died suddenly on April 8, 2018. She is survived by two brothers and five sisters. Vigil service was held the evening of Tuesday, April 10 and the Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. She was interred in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery.



## At the Feet of Montserrat – A Reflection on My Stay at St. Walburg Monastery

by Ryan Ecken

**Saint Ignatius of Loyola** leaves us with a beautiful image in his autobiography--that of his conversion experience at the Benedictine monastery in Montserrat, Spain. He kept vigil for a whole night in front of the statue of Our Lady of Monserrat and “resolved to lay aside his garments and don the armor of Christ.” What enralls me the most about this scene is that which is imagined and not told. What is it about this moment in the young Ignatius’s life that had such a profound effect on him?

What my mind sees in that moment is a remorseful young man – haunted by a past of vanity but at the same time utterly overwhelmed by the true, irrational love of Christ – kneeling at the feet of the Black Madonna and Son bedecked in gold. As Ignatius suffers this healing agony of surrender, a son of Benedict, in route to his prayer stall for the liturgical prayer of Vespers, gently wraps his hospitable arm around the vulnerable, crooked-leg soldier.

I cannot help but to wonder if it was this imagined experience of the guest Ignatius being received like Christ that would influence this great Saint’s teaching of finding God in all things?

While my mind’s construct may be one that is far-fetched, it is one that is rooted in my experience at St. Walburg Monastery. I am the young Ignatius who has been embraced by this community’s hospitable arms. With my wife **Erica** still in Louisville (*pictured above with Ryan*) and house payments there, I could not afford to rent or buy another abode as I embarked on my journey as a nursing student at Xavier University. The prospect of not having a place to rest my head brought me to my knees at the feet of Montserrat, and in my moment of confusion the gentle hand of this community touched my shoulder and brought



me to my feet, gracing me with the humble Cottage 7 (*See picture left*).

At this place, finding God in all things is as natural as breathing. The welcoming nature of Christ that the sisters personify draws all sorts of creation. I cannot count the number of times I stood in the kitchen of Cottage 7 – cleaning

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competitive oral auction. It was a profitable and enjoyable evening for everyone.

**February 14** – Lent began this year on Valentine Day. **Rev. William Neuhaus** celebrated Eucharist as we continue to be blessed with many generous priests who serve us in the absence of a regular chaplain. Periodically priests from Cincinnati also celebrate Eucharist with us – some are new to us. We have been blessed and are grateful.

**February 16** -- **Maddie McGraw**, a student at Xavier University who works in our infirmary, talked to some of her fellow students about her experience here in relation to their course of studies. Today she brought nine students from Xavier to our Monastery for a visit. None had been here before. They joined the community for supper and, according to Maddie, they enjoyed themselves and would like a return visit.

**February 23**-- **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** went to St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, IL to offer a workshop entitled *Enhancement of Monastic Life*.

**February 24-25**-- **Our Lady of Visitation Parish, Cincinnati**, held its Women’s Winter Retreat – *Get Away with God* – at St. Walburg’s Monastery. Eleven women attended the retreat sponsored and conducted by **Sr. Mary Tewes** and **Jeanne Hunt**. Sr. Mary was Director of Religious Education at the parish for 20 years. It was a leisurely, prayerful two days around the theme *PUSH*, ways of stimulating oneself through winter and Lent. **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper** and **Laura Tewes** assisted during the Saturday afternoon personal time. Those attending enjoyed living at the Guest House and time spent at the monastery.

**March 3**--The Center of Spirituality sponsored a day of reflection with presenter **Rev. Mr. Royce Winters**, Director of African American Catholic Ministries in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Pastoral Administrator of the Church of the Resurrection. With the title, *Exodus: Finding God While Being Seduced by Other gods*, it was very well attended with forty-three guests as well as community members. Each received a beautiful symbol of brokenness and material

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### *The Chronicles continued*

for reflection on drawing closer to God using the biblical text from Exodus. All left the day with much to ponder!

**March 12--** The Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery began a daily prayer today for those participating in the election of prioress in early April. A paper was distributed with a schedule of two Sisters each day to receive special blessing and intercession from the community. Also included were the Sisters from other Benedictine houses who will preside and facilitate the election process.

**March 23-25 --Sr. Aileen Bankemper** made a return trip to St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, New Jersey, to continue the process begun in January for the election of their prioress. Sr. Aileen will facilitate another discernment process in May for the Sisters at St. Martin Monastery, Nassau, Bahamas.

**March 28--** Our chaplain, **Fr. John Cahill**, who served St. Walburg Monastery for 12 years, died on November 15, 2017. Since then we have had many visiting celebrants on scheduled days. **Sr. Colleen Winston** has been most faithful and diligent as a contact person for priests during these months since Fr. Cahill's death. Sr. Mary Catherine is working with several priests to set up a more regular weekly schedule. Our deepest gratitude goes to those many priests who have served us since mid-November: **Fathers Robert Urlage, Jim Ryan, Andrew Young, Jack Kroger, Michael Herringer, Gerry Reinersman, Robert Henderson, William Neuhaus, David Ludwig and David Gamm** from the Diocese of Covington; **Fathers James Meade, Frank Voellmoecke, Ken Overburg, Steve Walter, Mike Savino, and John Kroger** from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

**March 28 – April 8--**Holy Week 2018 was a reverent and sacred time. Holy Thursday Eucharist was celebrated by **Fr. James Meade**, Good Friday by **Fr. James Ryan**, Holy Saturday by **Fr. Francis Voellmoecke**, and Easter Sunday by **Fr. Steve Walter**. The entire week was a wonderful preparation for the community's Chapter of Election.

**April 5 – 8--**On the evening of April 5 the community began the discernment pro-

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## Reflections on Exodus and Other 'gods'



**Rev. Mr. Royce Winters** ( left) led St. Walburg Monastery community members and guests in a Day of Reflection on selections from the Book of Exodus about the people of Israel creating idols when Moses left them to their own devices while he spoke to God on the mountain in the Exodus journey. Sixty-one participants attended and were grateful for Deacon Winters' presentation and style of leading a day of reflection. Many people commented that they appreciated experiencing the Exodus journey as a model for their own

spiritual journeys.

Right (from left to right) Oblate **Cheryl Weber, Sr. Emmanuel Pieper, OSB, Franciscan Sr. Nancy Surma, Srs. Kimberly Porter, Christa Kreinbrink and Dorothy Schuette, OSB** reflect on passages from the Book of Exodus.



## Discernment for the Election of Prioress

Below: (From left to right) **Sr. Mariana Kirk** speaks with **Srs. Elaine Fischer** from Atchison, Kansas and **Sr. Susan Quaintance** from Chicago, Illinois. Srs. Elaine and Susan were facilitators for the process of discernment for the election of prioress which took place April 5-8.





## Villa Madonna Academy Students and St. Walburg Monastery Sisters



Above: On April 12 Sr. Dorothy Schuette spoke to the VMA junior high school religion class about the Church's teaching on social justice issues.



On April 24 VMA Kindergarten students (above) brought flowers to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery and spent time reading with them (below).



Sr. Christa Kreinbrink reads with a kindergarten student



Sr. David Ruschmann and a kindergarten student enjoy their conversation

### *The Chronicles continued*

cess for the election of a prioress who will serve for the next four years. Sr. Susan Quaintance of Chicago and Sr. Elaine Fischer of Atchison, Kansas facilitated the discernment process. Sr. Lynn McKenzie, president of the Federation of St. Scholastica, presided at the Chapter of Election held on the afternoon of April 7. Sr. Aileen Bankemper was chosen as the thirteenth prioress of the community. (See article about Sr. Aileen on p. 3.)

**April 8--Sr. Margaret Mary Dressman**, a long-time resident of the infirmary, died suddenly. She had her picture taken with the rest of the community, looking well and smiling in her wheelchair, but an hour or so later her heart stopped. (See p. 6 for obituary)

**April 11-13--Sr. Kimberly Porter** was at St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas to facilitate a workshop on the *Art of Simplicity* as part of their Spring Community days. Because of heavy storms and tornado warnings, Sr. Kimberly could not leave on the day she planned. She attended a St. Walburg Monastery Council meeting by telephone.

**April 17--Sr. Mary Tewes** received a call from Karen McKim, the leader of the *Benedictine Spirituality Book Study Group* from Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington, KY. The group of 12 have been meeting monthly for 15 years, reading many books on Benedictine spirituality. Sr. Mary offered to guide them in *lectio divina*, the Benedictine prayer form with which they were not familiar. On Tuesday, April 17, she joined the group for a potluck supper and introduced them to *lectio divina* using the Gospel for the following Sunday. The group was delighted with this prayerful experience. Sr. Mary has an open invitation to join them, and they hope to visit the Monastery in the near future.

**April 21--Srs. Dorothy Schuette and Kimberly Porter**, together with Lynn Moliter, conducted a day on *Meditation, Mindfulness and Movement*. It began at Madonna Manor because the water at the Monastery was cut off due to a major water main repair. Sixteen participants enjoyed the active morning and their lunch at the monastery. As the water was restored, they moved to the Lower Level for the afternoon session.

# Thank You to Our 2017 Community Donors

This list represents those who made donations to the community from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2017



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## A Reflection on My Stay at St. Walburg Monastery by Ryan Ecken (continued from p. 7)

dirty dishes or eating breakfast – and be captivated by Christ’s beckoning call in the herd of deer or flock of wild turkeys that grazed the ground outside the kitchen window.

My time at St. Walburg Monastery has come to an unexpected close, as the goal in which I thought I was being led toward by the “Bond of Love,” was simply just another stepping stone on the journey. **Father James Martin, S.J.**, writes, “Reaching your goal...sometimes means changing paths. Sometimes it even means turning around.” Through the hospitality and love shared with me by the sisters of St. Walburg I leave here with my garments aside and the armor of Christ donned. It may sound cliché, but never will I forget my time spent here: from the simple greetings and smiles bestowed upon me by the sisters, to being given a seat for prayer and Mass with the community. By the embrace of this place I have been touched by Christ and overwhelmed by his true, irrational love.



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Center of Spirituality Day entitled  
***Holiness in the Ordinary: Reflections on Pope Francis' Exhortation,  
Gaudete et Exsultate***

presented by Rev. Msgr. William F. Cleves,  
Pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Newport, Kentucky



**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

9:30 am - 2:45 pm  
in the Lower Level  
of the Monastery

*Call Sr. Deborah Harmeling at 859-331-6771  
or email [sdhosb@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhosb@yahoo.com)  
for reservations.  
No walk-ins please*



Psalm 85 © 2012 John  
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\$30.00 fee includes snacks, lunch and materials.

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