



Leaven

Vol. 32, Issue 1
Summer 2014

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky

Celebrating Madonna Manor's 50 Years of Service



The Prioress Writes

It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants.

The question is: What are we busy about?

Henry David Thoreau

This issue of *Leaven* will give you a good idea of what we've been about since our last issue. The chronicles and photos throughout this issue will fill in my few remarks.



As of June 7 we have a new treasurer of the community, **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**. Nancy served as assistant treasurer for the past eight years. **Sr. Rose Rauen** who served as treasurer for thirty+ years is now learning how to be semi-retired. Learning something new is nothing new to Sr. Rose; she's been at it all her life.

The most exciting, and exhausting, event of the early summer was a flea market on June 14 in honor of the 50th anniversary of our foundation of Madonna Manor Nursing Home, now under the Sylvania Franciscans. For many years Madonna Manor held a flea market to raise money for their benevolent care fund, set up to care for residents whose money runs out. This year the Manor, the monastery, Villa Madonna Academy and Villa Madonna Montessori joined together to provide four flea market venues. This was the first time all four institutions worked on a joint event for several good causes. We were amazed at what we and our friends, family members and oblates no longer needed or used. Most of all, the event was a wonderful opportunity to invite people to see the new Madonna Manor and experience the peaceful environment of Villa Madonna Academy as well as to meet new friends and neighbors. See the cover for pictures from the event and p. 3 for an article about the event.

Quite a few of us have also been out and about attending vocation and federation meetings and doing all kinds of ministry. (See Chronicles.) I was honored to be the guest of a community of religious women in China during the last two weeks of May. We all learn so much from one another. As a parting remembrance, I received a copy of Our Lady of Deliverance (right) that now has a special place in my office.

At the June 2014 Federation of St. Scholastica General Chapter **Sr. Rita Brink** was elected a Member of the Federation Council for a term of four years. Congratulations to Sr. Rita.

This issue also lists our many benefactors from 2013. (*See pgs. 12-17.*) We are so appreciative of their friendship and support. We pray for our friends and benefactors each day at Evening Prayer.

We ask that you join us in praying for peace in the world, especially in the Ukraine, the Middle East, the African continent and Asia, and for the welfare of all children who are caught up in destructive forces. May God bless the peacemakers and those who offer solace to refugees.

Sr. Mary Catherine D'Amico, OSB

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Sisters Deborah
Harmeling and
Margaret Mary
Gough, editors.

Pictures:
Sisters
Emmanuel
Pieper, Mary
Tewes and
Deborah
Harmeling.



Nifty Fifty Festival and Flea Market Celebrating Madonna Manor's 50th Anniversary June 14, 2014

The cover of this issue of LEAVEN features pictures from June 14, the day of the Nifty Fifty Festival and Flea Market celebrating Madonna Manor's 50th anniversary. Early in the year **Nancy Phillips**, the Director of Marketing for Madonna Manor, approached **Sr. Mary Catherine** asking what she would like to do to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Madonna Manor's ministry. Remembering Madonna Manor's yearly flea market raising funds for its benevolent care fund, Sr. Mary Catherine suggested a flea market. It would provide an occasion for cleaning out monastery rooms, closets, storage areas of unneeded items and a way to interest people in the work of the monastery, Madonna Manor, Villa Madonna Academy and Villa Madonna Montessori. It also gave the four organizations at 2344 and 2500 Amsterdam Rd. an opportunity to work together and raise funds for their individual needs.

The overall steering committee consisted of **Sr. Deborah Harmeling**, St. Walburg Monastery; **Janet Baugh**, Villa Madonna Academy and **Nancy Phillips**, Madonna Manor. This group named and planned the day, decided where each flea market would take place and how to share costs, expertise and publicity. Villa Madonna Academy and Villa Madonna Montessori held their flea markets in the Academy gym while St. Walburg Monastery and Madonna Manor shared a tent (*see above*) on Madonna Manor property.



June 14 was preceded by about four months of gathering items, pricing and storing them. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** set up flea market rooms on floors 1-3 in the monastery and moved items around so that **Sr. Mary Tewes** and **Peggy Kinsella**, an experienced volunteer from the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home flea market, could put prices on items. **Sr. Mariana Kirk** (*see cover top, middle*) priced religious items and organized enough rosaries, statues and medals to stock a religious goods store. **Maureen Smain** and **Sr. Joan Fraenzle** (*see cover, middle left*) spent weeks making bake sale items. Maureen held evening volunteer baking events for friends, previous Manor and Monastery employees and sisters making dozens of cookies and other items. **Gene Weber** and **Lois Moore** (*see cover bottom, right*), previous Madonna Manor flea market volunteers and **Marge Kruse**, who ran Madonna Manor's earlier flea markets, donated time and expertise pricing jewelry, high value and vintage items. It was good to work with them again.

The day before the flea market many volunteers helped us move items to the 40' x 100' brilliant white tent (*see cover middle*). A box truck (*see picture top of next page*), donated by **Bob and Bonnie Kirkwood**, was particularly useful that day. Our volunteers who lifted, carried, and arranged were: **Srs. Christa Kreinbrink, Aileen Bankemper, Colleen Winston, Cathy, Mariana, Mary Tewes, Deborah, Mary Catherine** and **Denise Vocke**,

Continued on next page

The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

Dec. 8, 2013—On this feast of the Immaculate Conception **Sr. Mary Catherine** announced that **Sr. Carmella Azzolina** had died while the community was at Eucharist. (*See p. 18*) She died as **Father Cahill** was delivering his homily on hope and repentance.

Dec. 18—Fifth grade VMA students and their teachers made a Christmas visit this morning. They sang carols with amazing on-key voices, served homemade cookies and gave a wash cloth and personal cards to each sister.

Dec. 20--The annual St. Walburg Monastery Employee Christmas party was held today. The highlights of the party were the food, presents and playing with hula hoops. Not only did the young women working in the kitchen and infirmary lead partygoers in hula hooping, but they devised a game of throwing hula hoops over one another and their supervisors.

Dec. 24—In the chapel a natural fir tree glowed with a stable, figures and empty crib at its base. At Evening Prayer there was a blessing of the crib. The traditional Christmas party with its songs and gifts concluded this Christmas Eve.

Dec. 25—A light snow greeted the morning sun as our Christmas Day began. After Eucharist the community and guests enjoyed the traditional brunch.

Dec. 31—After a long struggle, **Sr. Immaculata Haar** died this morning, the last day of the old year. (*See page 18.*)

Jan. 6-7—The whole country suffered heavy snow and zero weather or other inclemencies. We experienced temperatures as low as 9 below zero. It was the coldest spell in years, but two days later temps were in the 30's and 40's. Results: much sneezing and coughing.

Jan. 10-13—**Sr. Mary Catherine**, accompanied by **Sr. Andrea Collopy**, left early this morning for a meeting at St. Marys, Pennsylvania. After a busy Saturday, they left Sunday morning for Fairfax, Virginia for the funeral service of **Louise Porter, Sr. Kimberly**

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

Porter's mother, who died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Also at the service were **Srs. Aileen Bankemper, Cathy Bauer, Christa Kreinbrink and Betty Cahill** who drove from Kentucky on Saturday.

Jan. 18—At Evening Prayer the community welcomed **Patty Bickett** (*See p. 6*) as a resident discerning membership in the community. Patty is from northern Indiana and had visited several times over the past months.

Jan. 24—**Mary McFarland**, an employee with the Benedictine Sisters at VMA and the monastery infirmary since 1976, retired at the end of January. A farewell luncheon with sisters and employees was followed in the afternoon with a social featuring a presentation of "memories during the years." (*See p. 5.*)

Jan. 30—**Sr. Mary Catherine** and **Sr. Rita Brink**, who is serving as administrator at St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, Pennsylvania, left for Atchison, Kansas to attend the Conference of Prioresses. The meeting will conclude on Feb. 5. The meeting included a retreat presented by **Sr. Irene Nowell**, a Benedictine Scripture scholar from the Atchison community.

January was a month of unusually severe weather with spurts of snow and zero temps. Weather forecasters were notably accurate and this was a benefit in preparing the next day's car trips. The last two weeks of January saw freezing weather, and the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, giving shelter to a record-breaking number of people, needed volunteers to staff additional shelters. **Srs. Cathy Bauer, Joan Fraenzle, Mariana Kirk** and our kitchen manager **Maureen Smain** served at Mother of God Church, an additional emergency space. On Jan. 29th a total of 84 persons found food and shelter there on one of the coldest nights in recent history. **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** assisted in organization.

February has continued with frigid temperatures. A whole week of ice made driving and walking hazardous.

Continued on next page



Martha Arlinghaus, Mary Lou Aldridge, Louise & Bruce Jewett and Gail Michalack.

June 14, 2014 dawned cool and humidity free for which we gave fervent thanks. That day involved "a cast of thousands." Tent cashiers were **Susan Leidecker, Dick Michalack, Srs. Dorothy Schuette, Margaret Mary Gough, Christa and Colleen. Sr. Mary Rabe** was the cashier in Cottage 202 which featured jewelry, vintage items and artwork; **Sr. Mariana** was the cashier in the religious goods area. Tent workers were: **Srs. Kimberly Porter, Kathleen Ryan, Barbara Woeste, Rosemary McCormack, Sharon Porter, Aileen, Dorothy, and Colleen.** Oblates **Mary Easterling, Peggy McKnight, Gail Michalack and George Hageman** also worked the tent with **Laura Tewes.** **Srs. Mariana, Mary Carol Hellmann, and Emmanuel Pieper** were on the porch of Cottage 202 selling religious items while **Srs. Deborah and Mary Catherine, Joe Shadle, Mary Lou Aldridge** staffed Cottage 202. **Mike Page** (see right), **Denise Vocke** (see cover, bottom left), **Mary Easterling and Sr. Kimberly** were shuttle drivers. **Sr. Mary Peter Youtsey** also drove sisters to the Manor and picked up others when the traffic got busy. **Srs.**



Joan Fraenzle and Henrietta Seiler helped in the bake sale along with **Marilyn Smain, Becky Selm, Connie Sipple, Kristen Koeninger and Emma Melcher.** Maureen and her crew also fed the volunteers lunch. **Srs. Martha Feder, Andrea Collopy, David Ruschmann, Ann John Kotch, Victoria Einsenman, Stella Gough, Martha Walther, Justina Franxman and Mary Catherine** greeted people and represented the community while **Sr. Cathy** took care of anything untoward during the whole day. Monastery maintenance employees **Paul Rodgers** and **Roberto Ferdandez** staffed the parking and the Villa Hills Police Department were on duty to provide direction and security. Villa Hills Mayor **Mike Martin** proclaimed the day Madonna Manor Day.

Joyce Cooney and Ed Smain from Rylands Country Club lent us the shuttles. **Chris Karlosky** dry mounted the signs which **Sr. Emmanuel** printed. **Ed Smain** also made the sugar print for the Manor birthday cake (see cover middle). **Mary Riesenbeck**, a long-time friend and benefactor of the Benedictine Sisters, donated half of the cost of the tent. At the end of the day **United Ministries** picked up left over items.

There were a few glitches but the day went better than the planning committee could have imagined. Thank you to all who helped in any way. Whew!

2013 Employee Christmas Party



Each year the employees of one department at the monastery provide entertainment for the annual employee Christmas party. In 2013 the infirmary staff brought hula hoops! The entertain-



ment was employees hula hooping (*see right*) and pitching the hoops at each



other and their supervisors. Above left, Sr. Mary Catherine is the center of flying hula hoops. Some partygoers (Dottie Due, Mary Hacker and Jo Franklin, left) took a more sedentary approach to the party. The entertainment was colorful and energetic.

Mary McFarland, Long-Time Monastery Employee and Friend Retires



Mary McFarland doesn't look as if she has worked with the Benedictine Sisters since 1976, but her children and grandchildren (left) joined her at her retirement party on January 24. Here



she is pictured with Sr. Mary Peter Youtsey in the infirmary hall. Below she poses with other members of the infirmary staff at a special luncheon in her honor. Mary has assured us that she has plenty of projects to work on during her well-deserved retirement.



The Chronicles continued

Feb. 14—VMA fifth graders and the children from Villa Madonna Montessori School came for a visit and brought homemade valentines for each sister.

Feb. 19-21—Much warmer temperatures with a quick melt down of ice and snow. We pray for no flooding.

Feb. 21—Srs. Mary Catherine, Mary Rabe and Mary Tewes left this morning for St. Marys, Pennsylvania, where they will attend a ceremony honoring the Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery by the local religious and civic community. The founders of St. Joseph Monastery were the first Benedictine Sisters to come to the U.S. The community served that area of Pennsylvania for 162 years with service and sacrifice. St. Walburg Monastery is descended from St. Joseph Monastery through Mt. St. Benedict, Erie, Pennsylvania. Sisters from monasteries in Bristow, Virginia, Ridgely, Maryland, Erie and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Colorado Springs, Colorado, were present as were monks from Latrobe, Pennsylvania. St. Joseph Monastery is closing; its members are transferring elsewhere.

Mar. 1—VillaRama, the annual VMA fundraiser was held in the Academy multi-purpose building with a number of sisters serving in various capacities.

Mar. 6-12—The first days of Lent found community members involved in all kinds of activities. March 7-9 Sr. Cathy Bauer attended the inauguration of the First National Catholic Sisters' Week held at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minnesota. College students and vocation directors participated in conversation and discussion about religious life and the use of social media in promoting vocations. During the same period Sr. Aileen Bankemper was in Cullman, Alabama, presenting a workshop entitled *Consideration and Development of a Monastic Attitude*. From March 8-12 Sr. Kimberly Porter was in Baltimore, Maryland, as a part of the program committee preparing for the meeting of the Federation of St.

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

Scholastica to be held in June. **On March 8** here at SWM the Center of Spirituality sponsored a Day of Reflection entitled *Do This and You Will Live: a Culture of Encounter* by Rev. P. Del Staigers, pastor of St. Veronica Parish in Cincinnati. The participants reflected on the parable of the Good Samaritan during the day—much Lenten food for thought. (See this page.)

Mar. 12—The VMA 5th grade students and teachers invited the community to a presentation and explanation of Irish music and dance. Two fifth graders—a dancer and Irish fiddler—amazed us with talent as they performed with an adult group of talented and knowledgeable musicians. Good preparation for St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 15—**Sr. Mary Tewes** and SWM oblates greeted a group of oblates from Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, Ind. bound for Immaculate Conception Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. **Sr. Deborah Harmeling** gave a brief history of SWM, followed by a tour, Noonday Prayer and lunch.

Mar. 27-29—The community assembled on Thursday evening to begin discernment for the election of prioress with **Sr. Susan Quaintance**, OSB of St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, Illinois, as facilitator. **Sr. Glenna Smith**, President of the Federation of St. Scholastica presided at the election on Saturday afternoon. **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** was re-elected to serve as prioress for the next four years. (See p. 7.)

Apr. 4-6—Four young women from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky came to SWM for a weekend retreat, *Listen with the ear of the heart*. They shared, learned and prayed with the community. (See picture p. 8).

Apr. 11—St. Timothy Parish invited the religious of the area to a Friday night fish fry. The Benedictine Sisters were grateful for the invitation and experienced a new *Stations of the Cross* introduced by Pope John Paul II.

Apr. 13—Palm Sunday ushered in

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Welcome to Patty Bickett



At Evening Prayer on January 18 we welcomed **Patty Bickett** as a resident living at St. Joseph House to get to know the community and discern her vocation to St. Walburg Monastery. **Patty**, who has been married and has a daughter and four-year old

granddaughter, began working full time at Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK).

Patty has completed the Diocese of Covington's training as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She has begun studying the Liturgy of the Hours and some Benedictine history with **Sr. Christa**, met with **Sr. Justina** to learn and practice lectio divina and worked with **Sr. Emmanuel** on various art techniques. She will become a postulant in the fall. Pictured above left to right are: **Srs. Mary Tewes, Barbara Woeste and Deborah Harmeling** (members of the monastery Formation Team), **Patty Bickett** and **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**.

“Do This and You Will Live” Day of Reflection

Right: A painting entitled *The Good Samaritan*© by He Qi, a noted Chinese artist. Used with permission of the artist at www.heqiart.com.



Bottom left: Participants listen to **Rev. Del Staigers** speak about the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Bottom right: **Sr. Victoria** talks with **Michael and Pat Neverman**.



Discernment and Election of Prioress



On March 27 the community began the discernment process for the election of prioress. **Sr. Susan Quaintance** (left) from St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago, Illinois was the facilitator for the discernment process. **Sr. Glenna Smith** (also left)

the President of the Federation of St. Scholastica presided over the Chapter of Election held on March 29.



During the discernment process community members met with one another to talk together, pray and discern about the



direction of the community and the person best to lead the community in that direction. **Srs. Andrea Vasquez and Charles Wolking** (above right) catch up with one another. **Srs. Nancy Kordenbrock, David Ruschmann and Mariana Kirk** (above left) share ideas and information. Right: **Sr. Betty Cahill** (center) talks with **Sr. Margaret Mary Gough** (right) while Sr.



Henrietta Seiler tries to get the photographer to go away.

At the Chapter of Election (left) the official tellers were (right to left) **Srs. Mary Carol Hellmann, Dorothy Schuette and Henrietta Seiler**. **Sr. Glenna Smith** presided and **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** was elected for another term.

The Chronicles continued

Holy Week. During the day busy fingers shaped new palm into intricate designs; last year's palm and palm creations were collected for burning into ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday. During the afternoon Villa Madonna Montessori students performed Indian dances in the lower level for an appreciative audience.

Apr. 14—The VMA fifth graders returned to the monastery for an iPad demonstration and a pre-Easter visit. Their bright green shirts signaled spring but the next day we awakened to a bright blanket of winter snow, a beautiful but rude awakening after days of 70-degree temperatures.

Apr. 17-20—Lent ended with the solemn celebration of the Triduum. **Fr. John Cahill** was presider at the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter liturgies. **Fr. Frank Voellmecke** was the presider for the Easter Vigil. Both priests are great blessings to us. Oblates, relatives and friends joined the community for Eucharist on Easter Sunday and the traditional Easter brunch.

Apr. 23—Members of the community attended the funeral services for **Sophia Cahill**, 98 year old mother of our chaplain, **Fr. John Cahill**. Mrs. Cahill was a very active Catholic in Eastern Kentucky where there were few Catholics. In her later years she came to the Northern Kentucky area to be nearer to her children.

Apr. 25—**Sr. Mary Catherine** left for St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to facilitate their preparation for the May election of prioress.

May 2—**Most Rev. Roger Foys** visited Villa Madonna Academy and blessed the Our Lady of the Rosary quilt, a creation of the total K-6 student body. The quilt will hang permanently in the second floor hall.

May 3—The day was a busy day of meetings and ended with what is always a celebration in Kentucky—the Kentucky Derby. We joined the TV crowd in singing *My Old Kentucky Home* before we watched the 140th run for the roses.

May 5, 12, 19—**Sr. Deborah Harmeling** gave a series of presentations entitled

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

Exploring the Illuminations of St. Hildegard of Bingen at St. Monica-St. George Newman Center in Cincinnati. She will reprise the presentation at the September 13 Center of Spirituality Day of Reflection.

May 15-16—On the 15th **Srs. Dorothy Schuette, Mary Rabe and Joan Fraenzle** attended the 19th performance of *Shakespeare Behind Bars* at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex in LaGrange, Kentucky. On the 16th **Srs. Mary Tewes, Mary Carol Hellmann and Andrea Collopy** made the trip for another performance. The cast of male prisoners assumed all the roles in *Much Ado About Nothing*. It was a wonderful performance by a group of impressive men. At the intermission and conclusion the men responded to questions and remarks by the audience.

May 21-22—**Srs. Dorothy Schuette, Mary Carol Hellmann and Mary Rabe**, accompanied by **Lorita Wadsworth**, a nurse in our infirmary, and several others, made a two day trip to Eddyville, Kentucky, to celebrate Eucharist and visit with prisoners on death row. Last year the yearly visit was cancelled by traffic problems. This year the visitors made a two day trip—one day for travel and one day for visiting and travel.

May 21—**Sr. Mary Catherine** left this morning for China. She will spend two weeks in Beijing working with a community of religious women.

May 22—**Sr. Immaculata Campbell** died early this morning. (See pgs. 18-19.) A serious stroke eight years ago ended an active ministry but not community participation.

June 2—The Pike Street Clinic for the Homeless celebrated its 25th year of service to the poor of the Covington area. **Sr. Ann John Kotch** received an achievement award for her constant and loving service during those 25 years. The celebration occurred on the corner of 343 Pike Street with music, refreshments and good conversation.

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A Gift of “The Penitent”



In March **George Hageman**, (below right) Professor of Art at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio gave the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery his sculpture (left) entitled “The Penitent.”

George is an inquirer in the monastery’s Oblate Program. He has studied sculpture, ceramics and drawing in New York City, London and China. He is also accomplished in oil painting and drawing, as well as a collector of historic stonewares. His ceramics have been displayed



in invitational shows at the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Butler Institute of American Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Crafts among others. George will make his Oblation with St. Walburg Monastery in the fall.

We are pleased to have this fine example of George’s skills and talents here at St. Walburg Monastery. We thank him for his interest, support and generosity.

Sr. Cathy Bauer (below, left) offered the April 4-6 *Listen* retreat for **Francesca Mureverwi, Bridget Miller, Brenda Wright and Gretchen Akers**, left to right. **Sr. Colleen Winston** provided a talk on listening; **Sr. Mary Tewes** led the group in lectio divina and **Sr. Kimberly Porter**

shared her discernment journey. The participants especially liked hearing the stories of each sister’s individual journey.



Serra Club 2014 Picnic for Religious



At the June 6 Diocese of Covington picnic for religious sponsored by **Bishop Roger Foys** and the **Serra Club**, **Sr. Cathy**

Bauer (top left) drives a shuttle with **Sr. Martha Feder** in the front seat and **Sr. Henrietta Seiler** (in sunglasses) and an unidentified sister in the back. Top right: **Bishop Foys** greets **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** and **Sr. Philomena Rarreck**. Below is the Ryland Lakes Country Clubhouse where the picnic luncheon and indoor activities were held.

Maureen Smain (far right) and her talented kitchen crew provided a meal featuring samplings of different cuisines after the installation of prioress on June 7.



Clockwise from lower left corner: Oblates **Mike & Sue Page**, **Sr. Colleen Winston**, Oblates **Dick & Gail Michalack** and **Louise Jewett** enjoy conversation and good food at the dinner

celebrating the installation of Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup as prioress.

The Chronicles continued

June 3—Today we celebrated Founders' Day. On June 3, 1859 three Benedictine sisters from Erie, Pennsylvania, arrived in Covington, Kentucky, at the invitation of **Bishop George Carrell**. Each year at Morning Prayer we read a translation from the German annals about the early days.

With thankful prayer we also welcomed **Sr. Mary Catherine** back from her trip to China.

June 6—The 3rd annual picnic for women religious sponsored by **Bishop Roger Foys** and the **Serra Club** was held at the Ryland Lakes Country Club. (*See this page.*) It was a beautiful and relaxing day, with great food, outdoor and indoor activities, games, visits with good friends and the gracious services of so many "red shirted" Serrans, volunteers, diocesan staff and clergy.

June 7—At Evening Prayer I of Pentecost, **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** was installed as prioress to continue her service to God and community.

Fr. John Cahill gave the homily and oblates and other friends were present. **Maureen Smain** and her kitchen crew re-arranged the dining room and prepared creative Italian, Mexican, Chinese and American food stations. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to sample bits of each cuisine. (*See this page.*)

June 14—St. Walburg Monastery, Madonna Manor, Villa Madonna Academy and Villa Madonna Montessori collaborated on the **Nifty Fifty Festival and Flea Market** celebrating the 50th anniversary of Madonna Manor.

(*See pgs. 3-4.*) A beautiful cool day with abundant bargains and delicious bakery items drew a large crowd to the tent at Madonna Manor and the Villa Madonna gym.

June 19-25—Delegates from member monasteries of the Federation of St. Scholastica met at Atchison, Kansas. St. Walburg Monastery's representatives were **Srs. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, **Aileen Bankemper** and **Kimberly Porter**. Sr. Kimberly, as member

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The Chronicles continued

of the program committee, left on the 19th; Srs. Mary Catherine and Aileen the next day. At the Federation Chapter meeting **Sr. Rita Brink** was elected a Federation Council member.

June 26-29—We were happy to offer hospitality to a sizable group of **Notre Dame Sisters** from various areas who were attending a meeting at the Notre Dame Provincial House on Dixie Highway. Although a full agenda kept the sisters busy during the day, it was an honor to share our home with them at night.

June 28—Our **Benedictine Oblates** hosted the annual Ice Cream Social this afternoon. (*See this page.*) The ice cream offerings were Graeter's flavors of raspberry chocolate chip, peach, and vanilla. Everyone won multiple prizes at the one round of bingo where participants never uncovered their numbers. Thank you to our oblates. After the social **Sr. Mary Catherine** shared information and pictures from her trip to China.

Upcoming Events

This year, Villa Madonna Academy celebrates its 110th Anniversary of educational excellence in Northern Kentucky. Classes first began on September 8, 1904 with eighteen female resident students and one day scholar. Seven Benedictine Sisters staffed the school.



Anniversary events will take place throughout the school year and will culminate with VillaRama on March 7, 2015. Call **Maureen Regan** at 859-331-6333 ext 133 for details.

Encountering Christ in the Psalms: a Retreat for Women

November 14-16, 2014

at the monastery Guest House

Retreat Team: **Sisters Dorothy Schuette & Mary Tewes.**

Contact **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** at dorothy@mother-of-god.org or (859) 291-2288 for details.



Advent Lectio

You are invited to join **Sr. Mary Tewes** for group Advent lectio on Tuesdays beginning November 25 at 7:30 pm in the monastery chapel. Please contact Sr. Mary at marytewes@yahoo.com or (859)-331-6324, if you wish to attend.

Oblate Ice Cream Social



Left: Oblates Mike Page, Sue Page, Martha Arlinghuas and Dottie Due scoop ice cream.



Right: Oblates Peggy McKnight and Martha Arlinghaus give Sr. Philomena (center) a special bowl of ice cream.

Running the Race with St. Benedict

The first Saturday of May is always a community day for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. Not only is it our annual corporation meeting, but it is also the running of the Kentucky Derby. This year **Sr. Betty Cahill**, the community archivist, presented a reflection comparing the running of the derby with some admonitions from St. Benedict in his rule.

Today is the 140th running of the Kentucky Derby. Nowhere does St. Benedict mention the Derby in the Benedictine Rule.

Of course not! He wrote his Rule many centuries before the first running of the Kentucky Derby.

But on second thought, he did have some sense of an important race taking place. He may not have had the "The Run for the Roses" in mind, but he surely wrote plenty about running a race and crossing the finish line.

Right in the very beginning of the Rule, in the Prologue, he has his monks at the starting gate biting at the bit.

He instructs them:

run -- while you have the light of life;

run -- by doing good deeds;

run -- and do now what will profit you forever;

run -- with your hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.

Then he enlightens them on some of the tricks of the trade:

how to be aware of others in the race

how to set the pace

how to avoid trouble spots

how to stay focused

how to stay in the race

Benedict doesn't seem to care about who crosses the finish line first. He just wants everyone to give his/her very best.

The only competition he really supports is found in Chapter 72 of the Rule:

Earnestly competing in obedience to one another

they should each try to be the first to show respect to the other.

Benedict awards no blanket of roses or claim to fame at the end of the race. But he does promise that those who cross the finish line will know the inexpressible delight of love and will receive everlasting life.



Sr. Betty Cahill, OSB

2014 Derby Day Pictures

Below left: **Srs. Kimberly Porter, Jeannette Frisch and Betty Cahill** show off their derby hats at the Derby Day Party. Every year **Sr. Cathy Bauer** creates a derby cheese

ball (below center). This year in addition to the cheese ball she used our Easter lamb cake mold and created a little saddled derby horse (right).



Thank You to Our 2013 Community Donors

This list represents those who made donations to the community from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2013



Jim & Toni Akers	Marianne Roeding Carr	J. Robert Geisen
Jacqueline Eibel Alexander	Helen Carroll	Marie Gemmell
Rhonda C. Allen	Michael & Sandra Carter	Maureen G. Gerrein
John & Shannon Anneken	Mr. & Mrs. Winn Chadwick	Ms. Maureen Gilmore
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Anonymous	Mary & Jack Chawla	Dr. Wanda Girard
Evelyn Arber	John & Vickie Cimprich	Joyce and Dennis Giuffre
Jo Ann Arlinghaus	Mrs. Joyce A. Cissell	Mary Joan Goessling
Ms. Martha Arlinghaus	Mr. & Mrs. R. Clinton	Brenda & John Goode
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Sister Carmella Azzolina

was born to **Salvadore** and **Carmella (Leone) Azzolina** in Welch, WV on May 13, 1909 and given the name Mary Virginia. Immigrants from Sicily, her parents had five daughters of whom Mary was oldest. In 1923 their mother died at the age of 36. A desperate father received help from a priest friend who directed him to Villa Madonna Academy, a Kentucky boarding school. The academy could provide care only for the four older children so the youngest was placed in the care of an aunt. Eventually Mr. Azzolina moved to Florida. Mary graduated in 1926, and the girls moved to Florida to be with their father.

Mary Virginia came back to Kentucky in 1934 and became a postulant at St. Walburg Monastery. Mary began her novice year in 1935 as **Sr. Carmella**, honoring her mother. She made first and perpetual professions in 1936 and 1939. Her sister Joey also entered the community and was given the name **Sr. Samuel**.

Sr. Carmella received a BA from Villa Madonna College, majoring in French and Spanish. She earned her MA from Catholic University, and continued her education with summer classes at Kalamazoo College, Laval University, Quebec, and Xavier University. As a foreign language teacher, she was dearly loved at both Villa Madonna Academy where she taught for 22 years and at Holy Cross High for 27 years. Before retiring she served in Holy Cross High School library and study halls. Srs. Carmella and Samuel were a strong presence in the school and parish community until their retirement to the monastery in 2006.

The ties that existed in the Azzolina family drew relatives from far and wide to St. Walburg Monastery regularly, and the two sisters to Florida and Washington. Sr. Samuel's death in January, 2013 was difficult for Sr. Carmella.

Shortly before Thanksgiving Sr. Carmella fell and was admitted to the hospital. She returned to the infirmary under hospice care. She died peacefully on December 8, 2013 at the age of 104. She was the longest lived member of St. Walburg Monastery.



Sister Immaculata Haar

was born to **Joseph W.** and **Catherine (Miller) Haar** on October 24, 1924 in New Orleans, LA and was given the name Rose Elizabeth at her baptism. Rose was the second youngest of nine siblings, all of whom are deceased. The oldest girl, Bernadette, had become **Sister Bernardine** at St. Scholastica Priory in Covington, LA. Rose entered St. Scholastica's on August 26, 1939. The following year she became a novice with a new name, **Sr. Immaculata**. She made first and perpetual professions in 1942 and 1945. Both Sr. Immaculata and Sr. Bernardine transferred to St. Walburg Monastery upon the dissolution of St. Scholastica Priory in 1988.



Sr. Immaculata's education extended over a number of years. She attended Loyola University in New Orleans and Dominican College and Holy Cross in Algiers, LA and earned her degree in music and certification in elementary education. Sr. Immaculata served in many capacities in the New Orleans area—as elementary teacher and principal, librarian, music teacher and organist for 40 years despite a growing hearing loss. From 1978-1988 Sr. Immaculata worked as a bookkeeper in a Covington, LA law firm. When she transferred to St. Walburg Monastery in 1988, she used these skills in the business office at Madonna Manor where she aided the business manager until her retirement in 2008.

When Sr. Immaculata moved to Kentucky she brought with her the devotion of many friends, evidenced by the letters and mementos in her mail bin. Nieces, nephews and friends were welcome visitors. Sr. Immaculata was delighted when shrimp, praelines or a Mardi Gras king cake appeared at the table.

Sr. Immaculata moved to the infirmary because of weakness and a blood condition. Her blood condition required more frequent medical attention but visitors were always greeted with a welcoming smile. She died peacefully on December 31, 2013.

Sister Immaculata Campbell

was born in Ft. Mitchell, KY on January 30, 1923 to **James Henry** and **Eleanor Griffith Campbell** and given the name Eleanor at her baptism. She and her twin Patricia were the middle children with an older sister Mary and a younger brother Jim. These siblings preceded her in death. Educated by Benedictine Sisters at Blessed Sacrament and Holy Cross Schools, Eleanor entered St. Walburg Monastery on August 15, 1941 and became a novice as **Sister Immaculata** on June 29, 1942. She made her first monastic profession on June 30, 1943 and perpetual profession three years later.

With her B.A. degree from Villa Madonna College, Sr. Immaculata was prepared for classroom teaching and she exercised her skills in many diocesan schools and in Colorado. She earned an M.A. degree at Xavier University after several summers. Sr. Immaculata taught in both elementary and secondary schools 1946 to 1970. She was a Diocesan Supervisor from 1958 to 1961. Summers from 1958 to 1962 took her to Catholic University where she earned an M.S. in Library Science. She served as librarian at Thomas More College, at a library in Bradenton, FL and at Bethesda Hospital, cataloging special collections. She completed training in clinical pastoral ministry in 1977.

From 1977 until 2006 Sr. Immaculata worked as a pastoral minister, particularly at St. Paul Parish in Florence. This work took her into Woodspoint and Florence Park Care Centers where she ministered to the elderly and formed strong bonds of friendship.

On September 19, 2006 Sr. Immaculata suffered a severe stroke which left her unable to continue active ministry. She participated as best she could in common prayer, activities and recreation. She enjoyed cards and other games with the sisters. Her physical condition continued to decline and she died in the early hours of May 23, 2014.



Helen Kiffmeyer, Charming Woman, Gifted Educator & Benedictine Oblate

Helen Kiffmeyer who died at Carmel Manor on April 1, 2014, had just begun her 91st year. She was loved dearly by her three children, **Carolyn, Joseph, and Donald**, many co-workers, friends and Oblates.

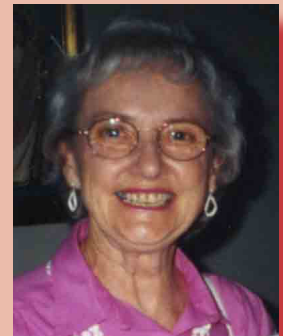
Helen had a long association with the Benedictine Sisters. They taught her children at St. Henry and St. Paul Schools. Sr. Edward, then principal at St. Paul School, asked if she would teach the fifth grade “only until the sisters came back.” Helen taught there for 14 years.

For more than 30 years, Helen taught in many schools throughout the Diocese of Covington, and was a supervisor and consultant for the Diocesan Office of Education. In retirement she travelled the world, was a steadfast volunteer for Be Concerned and the Parish Kitchen, was a member of the Covington Art Club, several book clubs and the “Derby Girls.”

When the Benedictine Associate Program accepted members in 1987, Helen became one of the first members. She was present at the 20th anniversary celebration of the group where the title was changed to Oblates, still full of life and laughter.

After Helen moved to Carmel Manor, she was unable to attend the Oblate gatherings and was greatly missed by the group. Her loving daughter, Carolyn, kept her many friends advised of her health, and was there by her side.

Helen will be remembered fondly, and our prayers go out to her family and friends.



Pat Heidrich, Faithful Wife, Mother, Friend and Benedictine Oblate

Pat Heidrich, who celebrated her 81st birthday in January, was not able to do many of the things she loved to do because of knee pain for much too long. She finally found a doctor she trusted and prepared for her knee replacement surgery on April 8th, eager to go to Madonna Manor for rehab. Confident and peaceful, she had the surgery and got to Madonna Manor for rehab on April 12th. Complications from reactions to some meds set her on her final journey, when she was taken back to the hospital on Holy Thursday – entering the Paschal Mystery with Jesus, and dying on April 30th.

Pat was one of the original group of Associates in 1987. We all knew of her devotion to her husband, **Art**, her 4 children, **Donna, Denise, Kris** and **Tim**, and her “greatest joy- my 5 grandkids.” She was a member of St. Henry Parish, involved in several ministries, following a Cursillo life-changing experience in 1982. She participated in the Lay Ministry Development Program in the Diocese of Covington, where she learned how to prepare others to assume leadership roles in her parish.

Pat participated in the Associate (now Oblate) gatherings regularly, until her other commitments and pain kept her away. But she was there for the Oblation Renewal Days and the Ice-Cream Socials for sure. For the last 15 years Pat has served as Treasurer for the Benedictine Oblates. She also served on the Oblate Coordinating Team.

Together with her husband she volunteered weekly at the Parish Kitchen. She was outgoing, with a good sense of Irish humor. She enjoyed needlework, crafts, playing cards and having lunch with her friends.

Pat’s unexpected death was a shock to her family, friends and the Benedictine Sisters. We miss her deeply and pray for her, her family and friends.



Sr. Mary Tewes, Director of Benedictine Oblates



St. Walburg Monastery
2500 Amsterdam Road
Covington, KY 41017-5316

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SAVE THE DATE

The St. Walburg Monastery Center of Spirituality will present a day of reflection entitled ***Exploring the Illuminations of Hildegard of Bingen*** presented by Sr. Deborah Harmeling, OSB of St. Walburg Monastery. Sr. Deborah will explore Hildegard of Bingen's first book of visions, ***Scivias (Know the Ways)*** through the manuscript illuminations.



Saturday, September 13,
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
for reservations.



\$30.00 fee includes snacks, lunch and materials.
