



Leaven

Vol. 33, Issue 1
Summer 2015

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

The Prioress Writes . . .

Now the Green Blade Rises!

Summer is upon us, in temperature, if not by the calendar! Weather above the Ohio River is as usual for this time of the year: humid, pollen-laden and hot. The good news, however, is that the lawn is still very green and our life in community is green and flourishing.



Over the past several months the community has continued to discern, discuss and come to consensus on future planning with the assistance of a planning grant from NRRO (the National Religious Retirement Office). At our annual Corporation meeting (which always falls on Derby Day) we identified preliminary, but concrete, steps for moving forward. With joy we also accepted **Patty Bickett's** request to enter the novitiate this coming August.

During the summer months many different activities have been planned to help us celebrate the Year for Consecrated Life. Sisters will be joining those who gather for an ecumenical prayer service at the Peace Bell in Newport, Kentucky, participating in the Friday prayer at the Islamic Center in Cincinnati, Ohio providing local service with visiting students from St. Bede Academy, Peru, Illinois and visiting our **Sr. Joan Gripslover**, a nurse practitioner in Hyden, Kentucky. On September 13 we will have an Open House and welcome guests to Evening Prayer with us. (See notice on last page and look for more information on our website and in other media in July.)

Pope Francis continues to challenge us and give us much food for thought. In October we will be hosting a day of input and reflection on *The Quality of Mercy*. **Fr. Bill Cleves** will be our speaker and we expect that he will help us to prepare for the Jubilee year, the Year of Mercy. And one way or another we will have to digest *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, the Pope's most recent encyclical on the environment.

The community is deeply grateful for your continued support. You are part of the rich soil that nourishes and waters our green blades. You are in our daily prayer.



Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, OSB

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Sisters Deborah
Harmeling and
Margaret Mary
Gough, editors.

Pictures:
Page 5 Courtesy
of Thomas More
College.

Sisters
Emmanuel
Pieper, Mary
Tewes and
Deborah
Harmeling.

Celebrating St. Henry Parish's 125 Anniversary

St. Henry Parish in Erlanger, Kentucky is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2015 and invited the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery to a luncheon on Wednesday May 13. The Benedictine Sisters were traditionally teachers and principals at St. Henry Elementary and High Schools. Thirteen sisters responded to the invitation and were treated to lunch and tours of the school. All were pleased to see the halls and classrooms where they taught or were taught. For those who had not taught in the “new” school, the tour was eye-opening; for those who had taught there it was familiar. All who looked at the old sister’s house agreed that it was probably time for it to come down, but sisters who had lived there shared stories of its peculiarities, crowdedness and feeling of close community.

The picture below is featured in the May 24 St. Henry Parish bulletin (Go to <http://bulletindirectory.com/?siteid=57711&DisplayPDF=May-24-2015.pdf> to see it) with the following information supplied by Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann about the sisters who were there:

Front row: **Sr. Rose Rauen:** student, grades 1-12; high school teacher for four years; **Sr. Philomena Rarreick:** elementary school teacher during the 1980’s; far right, **Deacon Jack Alexander**, who is also a Benedictine oblate.

2nd Row:

Sr. Colleen Winston: high school teacher (1961-62); **Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann** (William): student, grades 1-8; 7th grade teacher, organist and



children’s choir director (1961-62); **Sr. Mary Rabe** (Jerome): high school teacher; **Sr. Margaret Mary Gough** (Batholomew): elementary school teacher (1952-53, 1956-60); **Sr. Victoria Eisenman:** taught grades 7th & 8th while serving as principal (1948-1958); **Sr. Deborah Harmeling:** student, grades 5-10; **Sr. Cathy Bauer:** current OSB Vocation Director; **Sr. Kathleen Ryan:** student, grades 1-12 (1941-54); **Sr. Christa Kreinbrink:** student, kindergarten-9th grade; **Sr. Mary Tewes:** student, high school (1951-55); **Sr. Stella Marie Gough:** Director of Religious Education until the early 1980’s.

Back row: **Fr. Gregory Bach**, Parochial Vicar; **Sue Greis**, St. Henry Elementary School Principal; and on the far right is **Jeff Grayson**, 125th Anniversary Committee Chairperson.

We thank **Fr. Jim Ryan**, **Fr. Gregory Bach**, **Deacon Jack Alexander**, **Jeff Grayson** and the parish staff for the wonderful event.

The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

December 1— **Srs. Christa Kreinbrink** and **Deborah Harmeling** hosted an Ecclesiastical Literature class from Calvary Christian School in Taylor Mill. The teacher and seven students came for Noon Day prayer, lunch and a “learning session” on the Rule of St. Benedict. They had read the Rule and were interested in visiting a monastery. A discussion on silence and styles of learning plus a visit to the monastery infirmary were highlights of the event.

December 7— **Joe Shadle** of Xavier University led the Oblates and community in a day of reflections on the readings of the Second Sunday of Advent. New ideas, vigorous exchange and a lunch provided by the oblates made for a valued Advent celebration.

December 10— St. Henry District High School invited the religious communities of the area to a special Eucharist celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life. Representatives from each community were present. **Mr. David Ott**, principal, mentioned the Benedictine Sisters as they had staffed the school for many years beginning in 1933. **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper** was given special mention as the creator of the large painting in the school lobby.

December 20— **Sr. Annita Schirmer** died just as Evening Prayer ended this evening. Although sister had been a resident in the Infirmary for a number of years, the suddenness of her death was a shock.

December 24-25— Decorations everywhere, the community began its celebration of Christ’s birth with Evening Prayer, preceded by the blessing of the crib in the chapel. Christmas dinner followed, then Night Prayer and a party in the lower level with gift exchanges, games and a wonderful spread of refreshments. Our celebration included Morning Prayer, Eucharist attended by oblates and guests followed by the traditional brunch. A spirit of gratitude, blessing and good feeling filled the dining room. We prayed Evening Prayer a bit earlier than usual to enable sisters to

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

participate in family celebrations.

December 28-30—Funeral services for **Sr. Annita** included visitation Sunday evening, Eucharist on Monday and interment in the monastery cemetery on Tuesday. Because of the Christmas season there was an unusual delay but all was a loving tribute to Sr. Annita.

December 31—We celebrated the end of 2014 with our usual festivities—drawing names of prayer partners, casual refreshments and the dropping of the ball from the front hall balcony—not at midnight but when most were weary and ready for bed. We greeted the New Year with Morning Prayer and Eucharist celebrating Mary, Mother of God—a peaceful and prayerful beginning of 2015.

January 11 & 12—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, end of the Christmas season and beginning of Ordinary Time. The next day the Christmas trees, poinsettias and decorations vanished from sight.

January 26-30—Villa Madonna Academy Elementary School observed Catholic Schools Week by visiting the monastery. On Monday the third grade exhibited their reading skills. On Tuesday the fifth grade interviewed the sisters with the intention of writing biographies, and the second grade invited us to join in games on i-Pads. On Thursday the fourth grade celebrated Eucharist with the community; the sixth grade engaged in biographical information; the kindergarten in a word and number search. It was good to meet all the VMA elementary students.

February 1-8—**Sisters Mary Catherine** and **Rita Brink** left this morning for Cullman, Alabama to attend a week-long meeting of prioresses, administrators, priors and abbots. They attended two days of joint information and reflection. In attendance were the Abbot Primate, 20 abbots, 7 priors, several monks and 42 prioresses or administrators.

March 2-7—A busy week for travel in unusually cold and snowy weather for **Srs. Mary Catherine, Aileen**

Continued on next page

Keeping Active and Involved in Retirement

St. Walburg Monastery Infirmary is blessed with many volunteers who visit the sisters, keep them involved in various activities and generally make their lives more interesting. One of the most important volunteers in our infirmary is **Sr. David Ruschmann**, the infirmary “Afternoon Activity Director.” Recently Sr. David shared how she became involved in providing daily recreational activities for the infirmary sisters and any sister who cares to join the fun.

Each afternoon from 1:30-3:00 pm in the infirmary lounge a variety of games/activities take place. (Example above right: a Scrabble game in process.) On Tuesdays and Thursdays **Sr. Andrea Collopy** takes over in the morning from 10-11 am for a very involved exercise program—there is usually a full house.



Sr. David started her involvement in infirmary activities eight years ago when she returned from Irvine, Kentucky and hospital ministry to take up residency at the monastery. One of her memorable moments when she arrived was **Sr. Joseph Ruschmann** (her blood sister) coming out

to the nurse’s desk and asking Sr. David if she would like to play cards for a while. It was 2:30 am! Naturally Sr. David couldn’t say no!

Caroline Wagner, who graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Master’s Degree in Fine Arts, also volunteers and recently re-introduced the “old” card game, UNO to the Friday afternoon group of card players—Srs. David, Estelle Schulte and Margaret Mary Dressman. The main attraction for the group is the “automatic” UNO card dispenser. Everyone enjoys “pushing the button” and getting a card. Caroline also visits with **Srs. Clarita Anneken** and **Teresa Wolking**.

Oblate **Dottie Due** (above left) comes on Thursday afternoons and visits with sisters and sometimes participates in the monthly infirmary bingo.

Sr. David and all our infirmary volunteers provide recreational activities for the sisters as well as mental and physical health opportunities. We are very grateful. **Sr. Rosemary McCormack**

Thomas More College Library to be Named Benedictine Library

On Thursday March 26, **Srs. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Christa Kreinbrink and Deborah Harmeling** went to Thomas More College to meet with **Dr. David A. Armstrong**, President, and **Cathy Silvers**, Vice-president for Institutional Advancement. (See picture



left.) In 2014 an anonymous donor made a \$4 million dollar gift which the College was challenged to match within four years. In the agreement the donor requested that after one million dollars was raised, a building on campus should “be

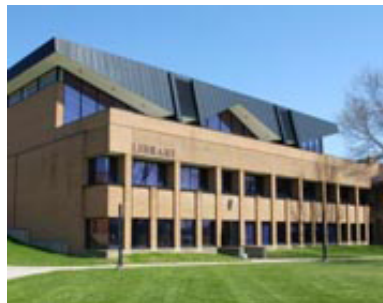
named in honor of the founding Order of St. Benedict at St. Walburg Convent.” The name would be subject to approval by the Benedictine Sisters.

The library building (right) will be named Benedictine Library.

The \$4 million gift is principally focused on the creation of the Benedictine Endowment for Thomas More College Success Center. The Center will be located in the library and have three components:

1. The Dr. Anthony R. and Geraldine Zembrodt Institute for Academic Support (IAS) including tutoring, academic counseling and persistence counseling for at-risk students.
2. The Institute for Learning Differences (ILD), a Federal Level II academic support program for students with documented learning differences. It will include professional tutoring individual mentoring/coaching, study skills support and adaptive equipment.
3. The Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning (ICG), consisting of career and graduate school advising and experiential learning component which will become a requirement.

In addition to meeting with Ms. Silvers and Dr. Armstrong, Srs. Mary Catherine, Christa and Deborah were interviewed by **Judy Decker Crist** who asked them about their memories of education at Villa Madonna/Thomas More College. The interview is published in the spring 2015 issue of *Moreover*, TMC’s alum magazine available at http://issuu.com/thomasmorecollege/docs/tmc_moreover-spring2015v14 online. A video of the interview is also available on YouTube, entitled “The Remarkable Sisters of St. Benedict.” See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqWlJWc-Qcl>. Both interviews end with the sisters’ experiences in biology labs.



The Chronicles continued

Bankemper and Deborah Harmeling as they went to other communities to assist election processes. Sr. Mary Catherine facilitated the election of prioress at St. Gertrude Monastery, Cottonwood, Idaho; Sr. Aileen facilitated at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana, and at the Convent of the Poor Clares in Cincinnati; Sr. Deborah spoke on discernment at Sacred Heart Monastery, in Cullman, Alabama in preparation for their upcoming election of prioress.

March 7—On this day when the clock sprang forward to begin daylight saving time, the 40th occasion of *Villa-Rama* was held in the VMA gym. A large group of enthusiastic participants took part in the oral and silent auctions.

Bishop Roger Foys was among the patrons. Many Benedictine Sisters served as volunteers in various capacities. Good weather helped contribute to the large attendance.

March 12-15—St Walburg Monastery experienced its ordinary canonical visitation which occurs every six years for members of the Federation of St. Scholastica. **Srs. Lynn McKenzie** of Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, president of the Federation, and **Susan Quaintance**, St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, Illinois conducted the process. It was the culmination of much community work and an encouraging and reflective weekend.

An article on St. Walburg Monastery entitled *Benedictine Sisters Have Educated Kenton County* appeared in the March/April issue of *Fort Mitchell Living*. **Srs. Deborah Harmeling and Ann Middendorf** were interviewed for the extensive article.

April 2-26—A reverent and quiet celebration of the Triduum prepared the community and its guests for a joyous participation in the Easter liturgy. **Fr. Frank Voellmecke** presided at the Easter Vigil. The traditional Easter brunch with its anticipated culinary specialties was enjoyed by community and guests. **Fr. John Cahill**, our chaplain, celebrated Easter Sunday with us and then left for vacation. **Fr. Robert Henderson** presided at weekday Eucharist and

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

Frs. Giles Pater and **Frank Voellmecke** presided on Sundays during Fr. Cahill's absence.

April 13—**Sr. Aileen Bankemper** left early this morning for Nanimo, British Columbia, to assist in the ordinary canonical visitation of House of Bread, a monastery of the Federation of St. Gertrude.

April 16—**Sr. Mary Tewes** and Oblate **Mary Jo Rehtin** attended a meeting of the Tri-State Associate Leadership group at Oldenburg, Indiana. Canon lawyer **Sr. Kate Kuentler, PHJC**, spoke on *Interdependence: a Shared Charism, the Future Face of Associate and Religious Life*.

April 18—The Center of Spirituality sponsored a presentation by **Mrs. Shakila Ahmad**, president and chair of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. Mrs. Ahmad spoke about *Encountering Islam and Your Muslim American Neighbors*. The 75 participants learned about Islam's view on violence and the role of women.

Week of April 19—Villa Madonna Montessori children (3-5 years old) presented a dance/rhythm recital for relatives and friends in the lower level on Sunday afternoon. Amanda Rood's VMA 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grade music classes gave a choral and instrumental recital on Tuesday. **Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann's** piano students performed Wednesday afternoon. On the same afternoon a VMA religion class visited the sisters in the infirmary. Friday afternoon was Grandparents' Day at Villa and a group of sisters volunteered to serve as grandmothers for students whose grandparents could not attend. Late that afternoon Blessed Sacrament Challenge Girl's Club (15 5th grade girls and high school mentors and adult leaders) toured the monastery, met with VMA senior **Maddie McGraw** and shared stories with individual sisters. A really busy week!

April 23-26—**Sr. Mary Catherine** left this morning to facilitate the election of prioress at Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, accompanied by **Sr. Christa Kreinbrink**. Sr. Christa, a Civil War buff, spent a day at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Park.

Continued on next page

A Day of Dialogue and Encounter

On November 28, 2013 when **Pope Francis** addressed the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, he stated that "an attitude of openness in truth and in love must characterize the dialogue with the followers of non-Christian religions, in spite of various obstacles and difficulties, especially forms of fundamentalism on both sides."

He added that "dialogue does not mean renouncing one's own identity when it goes against another's, nor does it mean compromising Christian faith and morals. To the contrary, 'true openness involves remaining steadfast in one's deepest convictions, clear and joyful in one's own identity' and therefore open to understanding the religion of another, capable of respectful human relationships, convinced that the encounter with someone different than ourselves can be an occasion of growth in a spirit of fraternity, of enrichment and of witness."

On April 18 St. Walburg Monastery's Center for Spirituality hosted a day entitled *Encountering Islam and Your Muslim American Neighbors* in the spirit of Pope Francis. We invited **Shakila Ahmad**, (pictured below) President of the Board of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati to speak to us about Islam. The focus of the day was to understand the tenets of Islam better and to know more about Muslim faith, practices and life in America.

Approximately 75 people attended and from the evaluations we received the day was a success. The following are some comments about the day and the speaker:

It provided much needed insight into Islam as a religion and the need for continued dialogue

I learned several very key definitions that helped me to understand some Islamic traditions.

Muslim Americans want the same things as I—to love each other and live in peace.

There are so many parallels between Islam and Christianity. Shakila was eloquent, kind and sensitive. She handled negativity well and remained calm and informative through it all.

I don't remember having a day when the group expressed both positive and negative statements about the topic so openly.

Shakila's example made me want to be a better person and a better Christian.

How unaware I have been of the privilege I have had growing up in a culture/country where my religion and beliefs are the societal "norm." Being a minority in a sense is a daily struggle especially a minority that is routinely demonized by the mass media.

We are so grateful to Shakila for her courage and information and we thank all those who participated in the day.



Sisters Attend Interfaith “Peace Ring” at the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

On Sunday, May 3, **Srs. Mariana Kirk, Dorothy Schuette, Cathy Bauer and Kimberly Porter** (pictured below with other participants) joined over 100 Muslims, Christians, Jews and Sikhs to form



a symbolic “peace ring” around the entrance of the Mosque at the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. The event was organized by **Ericka King-Betts** who said she was inspired by a similar peace ring that was formed around a synagogue in Oslo, Norway in February in response to an attack against a Jewish community in Denmark earlier

that month.

Ericka King-Betts is the executive director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and said she wanted to show support for all faiths, especially the Muslim community in Cincinnati. She said, “There are numerous stereotypes out there about Muslims. ... We will not allow stereotypes to be present in our community and we just wanted to come together in a show of support.”



Three interfaith community leaders spoke at the event, offering prayers for peace. Then the participants joined hands, stood in a line because lack of space made an actual ring impractical and held a moment of silence for unity and peace.

Srs. Mariana, Dorothy, Cathy and Kimberly also had the opportunity to re-connect with **Shakila Ahmad**, (above left with Cathy) our April 18 Center of Spirituality speaker on Islam.

The event planners hope to make the peace ring a yearly event.

The Chronicles continued

April 27-May 1—**Sr. Mary Tewes** left today for Schuyler, Nebraska, to attend the American Benedictine Formation Conference. **Sr. Aileen Bankemper, Brother John Mark Fakenhein**, of St. Meinrad Archabbey and **Sr. Juliann Babcock** of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, Indiana, were presenters. Srs. Aileen and Juliann presented the topic of transition for both those in initial formation and their formation directors. Forty-one sisters from twenty-one monasteries participated.

April 30—A group of 32 7th grade girls from Our Lady of Victory School in Cincinnati visited St. Walburg Monastery today. VMA eighth grade students met with them in small groups explaining Benedictinism as they experience it and answering questions. **Srs. Mary Rabe and Cathy Bauer** served as tour guides. The visitors celebrated Eucharist with the community and remained for lunch and to meet the sisters.

May 2--Today postulant **Patty Bickett** asked the community to become a novice. The community responded with a grateful and loving “Yes!” Patty will become a novice at Evening Prayer on August. 8.

May 6-8—**Sr. Cathy Bauer**, a volunteer with the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team, attended a three-day Pastoral Crisis Intervention training at the Hebron Lutheran Church. The training prepared the volunteers to integrate psychological crisis intervention with pastoral care and support.

May 7—**Sr. Mary Catherine** left for China today. She was to meet **Sr. Patricia Henry** from Pan de Vida Monastery in Mexico at O’Hare airport in Chicago. After a delayed flight from Chicago and a train trip to north of Beijing, they arrived safely at their destination early Sunday morning.

May 12-14—Luther Luckett Prison in LaGrange, Kentucky offered its 20th annual presentation of *Shakespeare Behind Bars* with the drama *Pericles*, one of the bard’s less known works. Four Benedictines were part of a most appreciative capacity audience. The prisoner-actors were inspiring in their dramatiza-

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

tion and their deep absorption in this less known play, making it one of the best productions in the SBB's history.

May 13—St. Henry Parish invited former Benedictine parishioners, school attendees and teachers to celebrate its 125th anniversary. Thirteen sisters and parish staff enjoyed a leisurely luncheon, followed by a tour of the parish grounds. Classrooms, the former sisters' residence and other areas prompted many memories. Even the "root" of the merry-go-round on the parking lot/former playground was identified by some of the sisters.

May 24—**Sr. Mary Catherine** returned on Pentecost from her trip to China, in time to preside at evening Prayer and give thanks for a blessed visit and safe return. A table of mementos and printed material—in Chinese but with many pictures—told the story of the communities she assisted.

May 29-31—Two women enjoyed a retreat entitled *Encountering Christ in the Psalms* presented by **Srs. Dorothy Schuette** and **Rosemary McCormack**. They stayed in the Guest House and had meals at the monastery.

May 31-June 6--**Sr. Kimberly Porter** served as part of the Visitation Team at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. She worked with **Srs. Kathy McNany** of Lutherville, Maryland, **Sr. Lynn McKenzie**, President of the Federation of St. Scholastica and **Robert Campbell** of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

June 5-6--Eight girl scouts, with two adult leaders, from Maria Stein, Ohio, spent two days here on a Marian Service Retreat. The girls had just graduated from 8th grade at Marian Local School and will be attending high school there in the fall. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** was hostess; **Sr. Mary Tewes** gave a presentation and a tour of VMA where the group was impressed by the quilt featuring Our Lady of the Rosary made by elementary students last year. They also toured Mother of God Church in Covington and attended Eucharist at the Cathedral. They were impressed by all the images of Mary they saw.

Sisters Enjoy 2015 Picnic for Religious

On June 12 The Serra Club of Northern Kentucky, at the request of Most Rev. Bishop Roger Foys, hosted the fourth annual picnic for women religious. The picnic, organized by the Serra Club with the help of the Curia offices, was held at the Summit Hills Country Club on a fine, sunny June day. Over 120 sisters from the diocese attended.

Below (left to right): **Srs Martha Feder, Henrietta Seiler, Nancy Kordenbrock, Mary Carol Henggeler, CDP, Sharon Portwood, Christa Krienbrink, Joan Fraenzle and Colleen Winston.**



Below (left to right): **Srs. Barbara Woeste, Sharon Portwood, Christa Kreinbrink.**

Below (at table left to right): **Srs. Emmanuel Pieper, David Ruschmann, Rita Bilz and Andrea Collopy.**



Below (left to right): **Srs. Estelle Schulte, Rose Rauen, Ann Middendorf.**



Thank you to all who worked to make this event a day to remember.

Sister Annita Schirmer

Sister Annita Schirmer was born to Samuel and Anna Klaren Schirmer on October 12, 1926 and named Mary Ellen when she was baptized at St. Joseph Church in Warsaw, KY. Both parents were natives of Warsaw. In her early years Anna attended Villa Madonna Academy from 1911 to 1918 as a boarding student.



Mary Ellen was the oldest of five children—two girls and three boys. Mary Ellen became a prep at Villa Madonna under the direction of Sr. Vincentia Dolan and graduated in 1944. That same year she entered St. Walburg Monastery as a postulant. The following year Mary Ellen became a novice, receiving the name Sister Annita. First and perpetual profession followed in 1946 and 1949. She celebrated silver, golden and diamond jubilees in 1971, 1996 and 2006.

Sr. Annita studied for one year at Villa Madonna College. She attended St. Mary's School of Nursing in Duluth, MN from 1947 to 1950, completing her training as a registered nurse. From 1950 to 1965, Sr. Annita served at Santa Fe Hospital in Colorado, Estill County Hospital in Irvine, KY and in the monastery infirmary. In 1965 Sr. Annita and three other sisters traveled to Pomata, Peru to serve the Aymara Indians. Sr. Annita returned to the United States in 1968 and served the elderly at St. Joseph Manor in Florence, CO. From 1972 to 1983 she worked again at Estill County Hospital, and then returned to work in the monastery infirmary. Lesser responsibilities marked her semi-retirement in 2005. She moved to the infirmary as a resident in 2009.

During her active years Sr. Annita attended numerous workshops and courses in health care and spirituality to help in her work and Benedictine life. Sr. Annita's physical condition deteriorated over these last years. She traveled in her wheelchair, read profusely, participated in the exercise group and community activities. Death came suddenly on Saturday, December 20.

Surviving Sr. Annita are her sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Ed Coomer, her brother Bob, nieces and nephews, friends, and the Benedictine community. Her brothers Sam and Billy preceded her in death.

Oblate Stefanie Lyn Parker - Devoted Educator

Oblate Stefanie Lyn Parker (64) died at her Ft. Mitchell, KY home on June 1, 2015. Stefanie suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis for the past few years. In September 2014, Stefanie had called to ask for prayers and help with her new service dog, Sammie. Sr. Joan Fraenzle helped her out in this way. Sr. Andrea, became her new prayer partner, and wrote to her assuring her of our prayers. Through this time, she was also in the hospital getting help for the pain.



Stefanie was born December 25, 1950 to George and Olga Boehm. She had few relatives. In the fifth grade she was enrolled at Villa Madonna Academy. There she had Srs. Justina and Bartholomew (Margaret Mary Gough) as teachers and Sr. Emmanuel as art teacher. She said she "learned far more than academics." From 1963-1975, she lived in Florida where she got her degree from Jacksonville University in 1972.

In 1990, Stefanie, as an education specialist, started her own private tutoring business called SMARTER Learning Systems and continued this ministry until very recently.

In 2000, she had her 50th birthday party to which the Sisters, especially Sr. Agnes Ruschmann, her devoted prayer partner, were invited, along with her many friends, students, and acquaintances from her participation in dancing, ice skating, symphony, and volunteering at the art museum and the Cincinnati Zoo.

She was one of the first to participate in the Associate Program offered by St. Walburg Monastery from 1985 on. Because of all her activities, she found it hard to participate regularly in the monthly Oblate Gatherings, but she kept up with all of the communications sent out to the Oblates. She participated in the annual Oblate Renewal Days.

She said that being a Benedictine Oblate "is a treasure, a privilege, and most special blessing to share in a relationship with the community. It gives me strength, happiness and peace. I feel at home when I am with the Sisters of St. Walburg".

She asked that no public or private service be held. Instead, she suggested that friends have a Mass offered, do volunteer services, or make donations in her memory. The Mass on Tuesday, June 9th was offered in memory of Stefanie at St. Walburg Monastery. May she rest in peace! **Sr. Mary Tewes, OSB, Oblate Director**

Thank You to Our 2014 Community Donors

This list represents those who made donations to the community from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2014



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2013 Jubilarians

Crestville Drugs, Inc.

2014 Jubilarians

Crestville Drugs, Inc.

Gretchen Akers

Doris Akers

All members living and deceased

of St. Walburg Monastery

Mrs. Alma Fricke

**All the Benedictine Sisters who taught us
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 Hellmann's 60th Jubilee**

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**Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann's 80th
 birthday**

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Fr. Bob Henderson's birthday

Joe & Ginny Schmidt

**In honor of and in memory of all
 my Benedictine friends**

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We make every effort to keep our listings of donors error free. If you find any mistakes, please accept our apologies and contact Sr. Deborah Harmeling, OSB (859-331-6771 or sdhosb@yahoo.com) about corrections.

Two New Memorial Trees at St. Walburg Monastery

SMAIN MEMORIAL TREE



In honor of **Ed Smain, Sr.**, who died on September 1, 2014, the Smain family has donated a Tulip Poplar tree to St. Walburg Monastery. The tree is located back from the Villa electronic sign on Amsterdam Road. When full grown many years hence, the tree will look like the picture on the right in the fall. The picture on the left is the flower of the tulip poplar.



SULLIVAN MEMORIAL TREE



When **Sr. Dominic Sullivan** died November 11, 2014, the Denver Sullivan family donated a tree of our choice to be planted near the gate. We had recently lost two trees in that location. The tree is a London plane tree, which is hard to tell apart from the American Sycamore, of which it is a hybrid. Many years hence it will look like the picture on the left.

To donate a memorial tree to St. Walburg Monastery, please contact Sr. Christa Kreinbrink at 859-331-6771 or email christa.kreinbrink@stwalburg.org.



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

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SAVE THE DATES

September 13, 2015

**Open House
2-4 pm**

Come visit with us
Meet the Sisters,
Enjoy refreshments.
Learn about us and our ministries.

**Come pray with us
4 pm - 5 pm**

Learn about Liturgy of the Hours
Pray Evening Prayer with us.

To RSVP, contact Sr. Deborah
Harmeling at 859-331-6771 or
sdhosb@yahoo.com.

October 23-25, 2015

**Encountering Christ in
the Psalms:
A Retreat for women**

Sr. Dorothy Schuette, OSB
St. Walburg Monastery Guest
House

Brochures available in August

For more information,
Contact Sr. Dorothy Schuette
at 859-291-2288 or Dorothy@
mother-of-god.org

October 31, 2015

**The Quality of Mercy
A presentation by Rev.
Msgr. Bill Cleves**

9:30 am – 2:45 pm

St. Walburg Monastery
\$30.00 fee includes lunch and
materials
Brochures available in August.

To make a reservation or for
more information,
contact Sr. Deborah Harmeling
at 859-331-6771 or sdhosb@
yahoo.com

WAKE UP THE WORLD!

2015 Year of Consecrated Life
