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Summer, 2018

Leaven

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky

Celebrating 240 Years of Professed Monastic Life



From left to right: **Sister Victoria Eisenman**, celebrating 70 years; **Sister Stella Marie Gough**, celebrating 60 years; **Sister Kathleen Ryan**, celebrating 60 years; **Sister Nancy Kordenbrock**, celebrating 50 years; **Sister Aileen Bankemper**, Prioress

Note from the Prioress

A Challenging Time

I must say, it has been an interesting and challenging first two and a half months following my installation as Prioress on June 9th! The community has experienced three deaths: **Sisters Jeanette Frisch, Martha Feder, and Cecilia Daigle**. All lived holy, long and gracious lives. We rejoice because we now have more saints in heaven interceding for us. However, their physical loss here at the Monastery continues to be felt. They were giving and loving women, and enhanced the life of the community.



Then there was the burglary and theft of money and our deceased sisters' rings that had us in the news. How many times has each of us said to ourselves or to others "you don't realize fully what you have until it is gone." And we indeed miss the rings and what they represent. Up until the rings were taken - if a sister's ring became too tight, too loose, was somehow broken or got lost - going to the subprioress and requesting a ring from the box was the norm. Every sister who needed a replacement ring knew about, or personally knew the sister who had worn that ring. There was a real connection. We have a community practice that at Evening Prayer on the anniversary of a sister's death we remember and pray for her - perhaps now this ongoing practice will take on a deeper significance.



The response from our friends, family and the public has been comforting and wonderful. We continue to be grateful for the support and love offered by so many!

We also had the joyful occasions of celebrating four Jubilees this summer. **Sister Victoria Eisenman**, 70 years; **Sisters Kathleen Ryan and Stella Marie Gough**, 60 years; and **Sister Nancy Kordenbrock** 50 years - the combined number of years of commitment to monastic life and ministry has been and continues to be a genuine contribution to the Church.

In early September I had the honor of attending the **Eighth International CIB (Communio Internationalis Benedictarum) Symposium of Benedictine Women** held in Rome. There were representatives from around the globe. The symposium topic was hospitality. September 8th was a day that I will never forget as we had the privilege of having an audience with Pope Francis (*See p. 8*) I now have a fuller understanding when people say they have difficulty describing a life changing experience. His love, concern, and commitment for all people is truly inspiring and motivating.

Wishing everyone a colorful autumn, and may the peace of Christ be with you.

Sister Aileen Bankemper, OSB

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Sisters Deborah
Harmeling and
Margaret Mary
Gough, editors.

Pictures: Srs.
Mary Tewes,
Aileen Bankemper,
and Emmanuel Pieper;
Fr. Ronald
Margherio, OSB,
and Network

SR. CATHY BAUER BECOMES A "NUN ON THE BUS!"



Who'd ever think that some nuns getting on a bus would make news in regions across the country? Well, it's true, and our own **Sr. Cathy Bauer** has accepted an invitation to be one of these nuns.

"Nuns on the Bus" is a project of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby based in Washington, DC. The purpose is to send out volunteers ("nuns") who will listen to the concerns, desires and fears of ordinary citizens about the country and how their lives are being affected by government policies. Network people then reflect on this feedback in the light of the gospel and incorporate it into the group's social justice agenda and plan of action. This is then shared with advocates around the country. The bus will leave from the barrios of Los Angeles Oct. 8 and over 27 days will visit 21 states and host 54 events. It will end Nov. 2 at the elegant Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.

Cathy, like most participants, will be on the bus for just one leg of the journey. She will meet the bus in Washington, DC on October 27 and ride with the group through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and some Florida cities before ending near President Trump's resort. Listening sessions along the route will revolve around tax reform, income equality, and related issues.

Since Sr. Cathy entered St. Walburg she has, through a variety of ministries, done quite a bit of listening, especially to people in need, working to provide aid and help them obtain justice. She has served many people and heard many stories. "We live by stories," she commented. "I want to hear them." On the bus tour she expects that the stories she hears about people's lives will change even more the way she listens and responds to individuals and situations. Cathy thinks the bus riders' actions of listening are very Benedictine. "We are all called forth," she says. "It is through listening to others and hearing their stories I have found God's voice."

Besides this major listening ministry, the bus riders are performing many of the things Benedict calls "tools for good works." (*Rule*, chap. 4) Participants will automatically be doing things like honoring everyone, disciplining themselves (like



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by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

May 1—At the beginning of May, **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** announced that **Father Robert Henderson** will celebrate Eucharist regularly on Mondays at 5:20 pm, and **Father James Ryan** on Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 am. Sundays will have various celebrants.

May 5—Early in the afternoon the community assembled for the annual Corporation Meeting. **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** opened the meeting with prayer and **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**, treasurer, gave the financial reports of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Madonna Academy and Villa Montessori. **Sr. Christa Kreinbrink**, subprioress, reported on the progress of the **Sanctuary** development project. The Election Committee began the process of electing three members to the community council. **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** had appointed three members earlier—**Srs. Kimberly Porter, Christa Kreinbrink** and **Cathy Bauer**. Three community members—**Srs. Barbara Woeste, Denise Gough** and **Mary Rabe**—were elected to the council.

May 6—**Sr. Kimberly Porter** participated in the **Flying Pig Marathon** as part of a four-person relay team from **Beech Acres Parenting Center** where she works. The team of co-workers was called **Mindful Movers**. Kim's portion of the race began in Eden Park and ended in Hyde Park. Her team did not finish first but received a medal for their efforts.

May 12—The **Benedictine Oblates** held a meeting in the monastery lower level to discuss **Sr. Joan Chittister's** presentation at the **World Congress of Oblates** held in Rome in November. They also prepared a response to the World Congress committee's request concerning future planning.

May 16-21—**Sr. Aileen Bankemper** spent May 16-21 at **St. Martin Monastery** in Nassau, a city on the island

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of New Providence in the Bahamas. St. Martin Monastery became a Benedictine monastery in September, 1963, becoming affiliated with St. Benedict Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Sr. Aileen was the facilitator in the election of **Sr. Marva Cookley** as prioress of the St. Martin community.

May 25—At Mother of God Church in Covington, thirty-five seniors from Villa Madonna Academy received their high school diplomas. **Brian Davis** and **Erica Hassoun** were valedictorians; **Maddie Malone** was salutatorian. Good weather, happy teachers, parents and friends made a pleasant day for all.

May 28—This Memorial Day was indeed one to be remembered! The celebration at St. Walburg Monastery began with prayer and continued through the evening. The community honored the service of **Sr. Mary Catherine** to the community for so many years. A wonderful supper of varied and delicious food was followed by Night Prayer and then a return to the dining room where dessert was served as well as games and prizes. The celebration concluded with an extensive visual presentation of the events occurring during Sr. Mary Catherine's twelve years as prioress.

June 8—The annual picnic for religious women at the **Ryland Lakes Country Club** was held today. **Bishop Roger Foys**, who sponsors the event with the **Serra Club**, was unable to attend but a large group of religious women from communities in the Covington Diocese attended. Rides in horse-drawn carriages, bikes, golf carts and pontoon boats were the entertainment before lunch which was a delicious meal served by red-shirted volunteers from the Serra Club and staff of the Diocesan Offices. The afternoon was filled with bingo and other games enjoyed by the sisters. Special prizes and door prizes abounded. A big thanks to Bishop Foys, the Serra Club

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Sr. Cathy Bauer Becomes a “Nun on the Bus” cont’)

riding a bus for hours? —ed. note), relieving the poor, helping the troubled, speaking the truth.....

Genuine listening experiences change people, in this case, both the travelers and the people visited. "It's so glorious to meet all these people across the country. ...I find it just sacred." says **Sr. Simone Campbell**, executive director of Network. The bus tour provides a process for strengthening the understanding and social connections between people of many cultures and viewpoints. Network's hope is that it can help government policies become more sensitive to the needs of the entire country, not just the powerful who shape them. And Sr. Cathy is in total agreement!

For more information about Network or the "Nuns on the Bus" project, you can go to Network's website: <https://networklobby.org/bus2018/events/>. If you are active on social media, you can share Network's postings: NETWORK's Facebook Post or NETWORK's Twitter Post.

Sr. Colleen Winston, OSB

St. Walburg Monastery and St. Bede Academy Come Together For Prayer and Service

For the past 3 years students from St. Bede Academy in Peru, Illinois, under the direction of Chaplain **Father Ronald Margherio, O.S.B.**, have travelled to St. Walburg Monastery on a mission trip to serve others in Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. Eleven students spent a week this summer on the mission trip. St. Walburg Monastery's **Sr. Cathy Bauer**, with her background in social work, and **Tina Klare** from St. Joseph Parish, welcomed the helping hands these students would provide, as they guided them through a week of prayer, reflection and service opportunities with a program called **Living Out Loud**. The St. Bede Academy students worked hand in hand with the community to help provide assistance in soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, respite care facilities, adult day care centers, and in the homes of low income families. One of Fr. Ronald's main objectives for this mission was to motivate the students to get to know the less fortunate as individuals and not just group them together as poor people. "This trip provided us with the opportunity to put names and faces to the community we were helping, while granting us the ability to realize we are all the same." stated Fr. Ronald. "One of my goals as chaplain is to teach our stu-



St. Walburg Monastery and St. Bede Academy Come Together For Prayer and Service (cont')

dents to make lifelong contributions to local, national, and international charitable causes. It is very important for these young students to see that not only certain individuals, but people throughout the entire world as themselves, not them and us, but as one and the same."

The students from St. Bede are pictured on the previous page in front of the monastery's Guest House where they stayed two nights. Below are some of the *Live Out Loud* and St. Bede students working at Hosea House in Newport.

Some of the St. Bede students commented on their experience at St. Walburg Monastery.

Gianna Elias "The sisters taught me to always put God first in no matter what you do and treat others as if they are Christ."

Alyssa Heitz "How to put myself aside and work for others with humility."

Maria Orozco "I learned from Sr.

Cathy that it's okay to feel sad even if there are others with worse problems."

Lucy Kleczewski "God will always love and guide you even if you have done something wrong. From Sr. **Martha** I learned that God specifically made all of his people in his world unique and wonderful."

Izzy Monroe "Sister Cathy taught me that we should make time to help the homeless out. She guided us and provided a lot for us just because she wanted to help the homeless."

Fr. Ron says that the visit to St. Walburg's is an added benefit. "The principal purpose of the trip is to open the eyes of my students and allow them to get to know the less fortunate as individuals. We have added a day each year to spend time at St. Walburg's to do a bit of service and to pray, play and dine with the sisters. Most of my students have little contact with women religious. The stay at St. Walburg's gives them the opportunity to meet with sisters and converse with them one on one and also to work with them in cleaning projects and in the garden, etc. Sr. **Emmanuel Pieper**, for the past 3 years, has done an art project with the students which they very much enjoy."



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president, **Gary Badarak**, **Mike Murray** from the Stewardship Office and **Bill Zeck**, Picnic Committee Chairman.

June 9—At Evening Prayer Sr. **Aileen Bankemper** was installed as prioress of St. Walburg Monastery. **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, retiring prioress, presided at the installation service. **Sr. Lynn McKenzie**, President of the **Federation of St. Scholastica** from Cullman, Alabama, gave a reflection on this important event in the history of St. Walburg Monastery. A number of Benedictine Sisters from other monasteries were present, including **Srs. Kathy Huber** and **Joella Kidwell** from Ferdinand, Indiana, as well as a large group of Sr. Aileen's family, friends and the monastery's oblates. It was a reverent and inspiring event in every way. May Sr. Aileen be blessed in her new position as prioress.

June 12—**Srs. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, **Rita Brink** and **Kimberly Porter**, members of federation committees, left early this morning for **Sacred Heart Monastery**, Cullman, Alabama, where the Federation of St. Scholastica will meet from June 14-19. Prioress **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** and **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, delegate, will leave tomorrow. When the Federation meets, thirteen monasteries with sixty-five delegates will be present.

June 16—St. Walburg Monastery received word today of the death of **Sr. Juliann Babcock**, a member of **Our Lady of Grace Monastery**, Beech Grove, Indiana, and good friend of this community, especially of Sr. Aileen Bankemper. A group of Sisters from this community attended the funeral services in Beech Grove. Sr. Juliann lived in our Cottage 7 during part of her sabbatical.

June 21—**Sr. Jeanette Frisch**, a long-time resident of the infirmary died sud-

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denly today. Although Sr. Jeanette had been suffering and bed-ridden for years, her sudden death was a shock and surprise. Sr. Jeanette left her body to science. Her memorial vigil was on June 24 in the monastery chapel and her memorial Mass on Monday evening, May 25th. (See *obituary on p. 9.*)

June 23—The **Benedictine Oblates** sponsored their annual Ice Cream Social this afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30. A lively Dulcimer band entertained during the first part of the afternoon. Ice cream treats assembled and distributed by the many Olatés present were enjoyed by all. This was followed by bingo games for which carts were loaded with prizes for everyone. A big THANK YOU to our Oblates! (See **pictures p. 8.**)

July 1-13—**Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** spent this time in South Africa working with **Sr. Lynn McKenzie**, President of the Federation of St. Scholastica, in assisting superiors of Benedictine women who are interested in forming a Federation or Congregation for Benedictine communities in Africa. On July 7 we received a message from Sr. Mary Catherine telling us that messages had been difficult to send, the weather was freezing, customs were quite different and colorful birds and gray monkeys were plentiful in the trees.

July 5-8—**Sr. Aileen Bankemper** spent this time with the Benedictine Sisters of **St. Walburga Monastery**, Elizabeth, New Jersey, leading and facilitating a process on ways to enhance community living.

July 8—Eleven students from **St. Bede Academy**, Peru, Illinois arrived with their chaplain **Ronald Margherio**, OSB and their driver, **David Reid**. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** hosted the group. The next day they attended community Morning Prayer and spent the day working around the monastery, meeting the sisters, enjoying card games

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The 2018 Jubilarians Give Thanks and Praise

In her reflection at her 50th Jubilee celebration, **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** (right) reminded the community that one of her favorite quotes was from e.e. cummings, *I thank you God for most this amazing day*. She said that on this jubilee day she changed the quote to read *I thank you God for most my amazing parents, my amazing family, my amazing community and my amazing friends*.



She noted that her family's deep faith and involvement in the church grounded her and that her family's support and caring was with her as she moved through the different ministries to which the community called her. She gave thanks for her friends who gave her so much joy in ordinary social events and introduced her to many wonderful things including travel to Europe. Finally she thanked the Benedictine community of St. Walburg Monastery who "pushed me beyond my limits to do and be more than I could have imagined."

Sr. Nancy's ministries have included being a dorm mother to teenagers at Villa Madonna Academy, high school teaching, becoming a high school principal at age 30 and after 40 years in high school education becoming the Treasurer of St. Walburg Monastery and more recently, Subprioress. Her gratitude for all that has gone before gives her a joy that doesn't last for one day but for a whole year and beyond.

Both **Sr. Stella Marie Gough** (below) and **Sr. Kathleen Ryan** found the hymn that opened Evening Prayer on Wednesday, July 25, when they celebrated their 60th Jubilee, inspiring and meaningful. The hymn *O God, Beyond All Praising* has become a favorite to many sisters at St. Walburg Monastery. The opening verse seems to be appropriate no matter what the celebration is.

**O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**

Sr. Stella Marie said that the words were simple yet meaningful and that she found herself singing the hymn and glowing with the memory of the celebration. She remarked that "as I sat in my room and reread the notes and cards I received for my Jubilee, I could only think of how blessed I am to be part of this Benedictine Community." Sr. Stella Marie served as an elementary school teacher for 18 years, was a principal and religious education coordinator, Executive Director at Villa Madonna Academy and the Associate Director of Catechetical Services for the Department of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Covington. She was also house coordinator for the monastery for



The 2018 Jubilarians (cont')



eight years and infirmary director for nine years.

Sr. Kathleen (left) realized how grateful she was for “the wonderful sisters-women who have shared their happiness, sadness and humanness throughout the 60 years. I have had many opportunities to grow spiritually, educationally and physically. I have ministered as a teacher for most of my adult life in the classroom or as DRE in a parish.” Her wish for the future repeats the blessing found in the jubilee ritual.

**May God sustain us in hope and perseverance,
that our life may continue to be fruitful
and a blessing to the Church.
May we always live in faith so as to
'run on the path of God's Commandments,'
our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.**

Sr. Victoria Eisenman (below right) writes about her 70th Jubilee:

“On August 25, I celebrated the 70th anniversary of my call from God to make vows to spend my life as a Benedictine sister. I found the celebration both delightful and shocking. It was delightful because of a delicious meal, and many little gifts, congratulations and greetings. The shocking part was the realization of my age (90), the wondering whether I would make it to a 75th anniversary, and the realization that I had not been blown away over God's love, grace, kindness, and patience with me all those years. I also made a resolution to consciously thank God every day for God's calling, fidelity, and generous gifts.

“Just this day at Morning Prayer, I was reminded of my resolution as we prayed Psalm 56. “This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid. My Vows to you I must perform, O God; For you have delivered my soul from death, And my feet from falling, So that I may walk before God in the light of life.

“What a gift! What a grace! Now I will be conscious of how many times the psalms call me to awareness of God's opportunity to give thanks for my call and of God's fidelity. The statement, ***This I know, that God is for me***, will continue to strike me with a new boldness and consolation.”

Sr. Victoria received her Ph.D. from St. Louis University in Elementary Education. She was an elementary school teacher for many years, Diocesan Office Supervisor for five years, Principal at St. Paul Parish School and Principal and Executive Director at Villa Madonna Academy. After her retirement from Villa Madonna Academy, she volunteered there to keep the Benedictine Identity of the school uppermost in the minds of the faculty and students.



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and an art class with **Sr. Emmanuel**. That evening Sr. Cathy and the group moved to St. Agnes Parish where they met local high school students to attend the ***Live Out Loud*** program. This is the 12th year that Sr. Cathy and Tina Klare (VMA'77) have organized this living experience. Volunteers **Guy Linnemann, Jerry and Beth Lea, Linda Wihl and Julie Rehkamp** also were involved with the program. Through the week the students visited and served at local agencies in Cincinnati, Covington, Florence and Newport. *(See story on pgs. 4-5.)*

July 14—Sr. Martha Feder died peacefully this night. A Benedictine Sister for 74 years she served long and faithfully in elementary schools as well as in important community positions. *(See obituary on p. 10.)*

July 24—Sr. Cathy Bauer began the 2018-19 ***SEEK*** retreats with 8th grade students in preparation for confirmation. During the one day experience, the students reflect on scripture and see how it calls all of us to serve others and to work for justice. They learned about the faces of poverty, especially the homeless. By visiting local service agencies, they are able to see firsthand where the individuals and families stay. Local parishes and schools are scheduling dates with Sr. Cathy for their 8th grade students and others for a ***SEEK*** retreat. July 26 and August 6 are dates set for **St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs, Villa Madonna Academy, and Turkeyfoot School** students. July 24 and August 9 will be for the students of **St. Paul Parish**.

July 25—Srs. Kathleen Ryan and Stella Marie Gough celebrated sixty years of monastic profession at Evening Prayer in thanksgiving and gratitude in the presence of the community. Sr. Kathleen entered St. Walburg Monastery on August 15, 1956, and Sr. Stella on December 28, 1956.

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Their monastic profession was made August 15, 1958. Sixty years of blessing and gratitude! The community enjoyed a special dinner to honor the occasion. (See pictures on front page and pgs. 6-7)

July 26—Sr. Mary Catherine shared her experiences of her recent July 1-13 trip to South Africa by showing pictures of the trip and talking about the experience. She and Sr. Lynn McKenzie had been in Africa to assist the leaders of African Benedictine communities to organize and form federations or congregations comparable to those in the United States. Sisters heard about the efforts and struggles of the African sisters as well as about the geography, weather and needs. Souvenirs and some unsalted African cashews were there for the sisters to enjoy. Evidently life differs in Africa but not the desire to serve God.

July 29-August 3—This year's retreat was given by **Abbot Paul Mark Schwan, OCSO** from the Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux in Vina, California, a foundation from the Trappist Abbey in Gethsemani, Kentucky. In his introductory conference Abbot Paul posed the question "For what have you come?" On Sunday at the opening of the retreat the topic was "The art of the question." Each of the two conferences on the days of the retreat posed a question from the Rule of St. Benedict and a Gospel story. If these were read before the conference and reflected on, an amazing relationship could be seen in the Abbot's presentation. It was an inspiring retreat.

August 3-9—**Father David Young**, a priest from Seattle, Washington, enjoyed a stay at **Cottage 7**. He was in the area to preside at the wedding of **Sara**, daughter of **Michelle Charmante** who is on the staff with Father in Seattle. The wedding was held in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Michelle and her family had been at St. Walburg Monastery a

2018 Oblates' Ice Cream Social



Above: Oblate Jessie Lamantia playing the dulcimer; **Right: Oblate Judy Ten Eyck** with the loaded gift cart
Below: (Left to right) Srs. Kimberly Porter, Barbara Woeste, Emmanuel Pieper and Margaret Mary Gough enjoyed one another and the bingo game.



Sister Aileen Bankemper Meeting Pope Francis September 8, 2018



Sister Jeanette Frisch, 1929-2018

Sister Jeanette Frisch died June 21, 2018. She was born on March 24, 1929 to **John and Selma Cahill Frisch** and named Ursula. She was the third of seven children, having four brothers and two sisters, all of whom are deceased. Her sister, **Sr. Anne**, was a



member of the Benedictine community as well as her aunt, **Sr. Elizabeth Frisch**.

After graduation from Villa Madonna Academy, Ursula entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1946. She became a novice in 1947 and received the name Sister Jeanette. First profession followed in 1948 and perpetual profession in 1951. Sister Jeanette celebrated her silver jubilee in 1973, her golden in 1998, and her diamond in 2008.

Sister Jeanette spent her early years as house mother for boys at St. John's Orphanage (DCCH Center for Children and Families). She taught at diocesan elementary schools for several years while earning credits from Villa Madonna College. In 1963 she began LPN training at St. Francis School of Practical Nursing. Sr. Jeanette worked at St. Walburg Infirmary, Madonna Manor, and St. Joseph Hospital in Colorado. In 1991 she completed work on her B.A. in Gerontology at Mt. St. Joseph College.

Sr. Jeanette worked in a number of "extracurricular" programs: the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at St. E.'s, the Hospice of St. E. Bereavement Committee, Catholic Charities and the Intercommunity Ministry to Aging Religious. At home she baked birthday cakes and hosted monthly birthday/feast day parties for community members. A favorite slogan of hers was *Use It or Lose It*.

Sr. Jeanette suffered from declining health for several years until her peaceful death at the infirmary on June 21, 2018. She is survived by nieces and nephews, friends and the Benedictine community. Sr. Jeanette donated her body to the UC College of Medicine. Vigil service was held the evening of Sunday, June 24, and a Memorial Mass was celebrated on Monday, June 25.

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number of years ago and Fr. Young's family had been friends of **Srs. Raymond and Monica Fessler**.

August 6--Sr. Aileen Bankemper left for **St. Mary Monastery**, Rock Island, Illinois, to present a workshop on *The Development of Tools that Enhance the Growth of Community Living*. The following Monday she left with **Sr. Sandra**, St. Mary's prioress, for St. Louis where they attended the **LCWR Assembly** from August 7-11. This is the largest group of leaders of women's religious congregations in the US. The theme was *Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion*. Sr. Aileen requested community prayers for all these efforts.

August 8—Having spent four years as a resident of the infirmary, **Sr. Cecilia Daigle** died at St. Elizabeth Hospice Care. Because of the distance for her family from Louisiana, the visitation occurred on August 13 and the funeral on August 14. (*See obituary on p.11.*) So far this year of 2018, six St. Walburg Benedictines have gone home to the Lord!

August 16—**Sr. Aileen Bankemper** was interviewed about the burglary at St. Walburg Monastery which occurred sometime during preparations for **Sr. Cecilia Daigle's** funeral. A large sum of money was taken, but what hurt most deeply was the theft of over 125 gold rings which belonged to and were worn by deceased Sisters, covering a history of 150 plus years. A picture of a ring was put on Facebook, our website and shown on TV news coverage. An anonymous donor has offered \$5,000 for the return of the items. Prayers are requested for additional information and a solution to this burglary.

August 18—This Saturday 8 year-old **Carmen DeAtley-Rosalis**, accompanied by **Dason Kwan** on the piano, gave a violin concert in the

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infirmary lounge with an appreciative audience of community and friends. She played ten lovely pieces without sheet music assistance. Carmen is a student of **Vincent Phelan** who manages the **Corryville Suzuki Project**.

August 25--Sr. **Nancy Kordenbrock**, subprioress, celebrated her Golden Jubilee at Evening Prayer. A large group of relatives and friends were present with the community. A jubilee dinner was served in the lower level for guests. Also privately celebrating her 70th jubilee was Sr. **Victoria Eisenman**.

September 3---Sr. **Aileen Bankemper** left for Rome today to attend the 8th International CIB (**Communio Internationalis Benedictarum**). The theme is to be hospitality. **Abbot Martin Werlen**, former abbot of **Einsiedeln Abby** in Switzerland, will be the keynote speaker. On September 8 they will have an audience with **Pope Francis** and on September 12 they will go to **Subiaco** for Eucharist and renewal of vows. Sr. Aileen left a day early so she could visit **Monte Casino**. She will return to the US on September 14.

September 6--Sr. Aileen visited Monte Cassino where they had a full tour in perfect weather, visiting the tomb of **Benedict** and **Scholastica**. The meeting began September 6 with many of the world's women Benedictines represented from China, India, Japan, Korea, Australia, the United States and Canada, as well as nations in Africa, South America, and Europe. In attendance were 115 representatives. **Abbot Primate Gregory Polan** gave the opening address on hospitality. In the opening liturgy representatives from Africa danced, sang and

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Sister Martha Feder, 1924-2018

Sr. Martha Feder was born on February 4, 1924 and named Loretta Margaret. She was the third of five children born to **Alphonsus Franklin** and **Margaret C. Jennings Feder**. Her four siblings, two boys and two girls, have predeceased her.

Sr. Martha grew up in Latonia, KY and attended Holy Cross for all twelve grades. Following high school graduation, she entered St. Walburg Monastery on August 15, 1942. She professed perpetual vows on July 1, 1947 and was sent out to teach at St. James in Brooksville, KY about six weeks later. Throughout her active life Sr. Martha spent twenty-five years as an elementary school teacher and as principal of Villa Madonna Academy Elementary. She served the community as Director of postulants, novices and scholastics for six years.

For seventeen years Martha served as the Associate Director of the Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Her work in the Worship Office took her to many, if not all, parishes in the Archdiocese, working with catechists and liturgy directors. She also worked on or wrote several publications that were used in the Archdiocese and sold both nationally and internationally.

Sr. Martha completed her A.B. from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College), her M. Ed. from Xavier University and a further M.A. in theology and liturgy from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. To further her education, Martha earned additional graduate credits from eight different colleges and universities. Martha was an avid life-long learner, attending workshops and conferences to keep herself current in her fields of work and interest. Following her retirement she kept herself busy managing our monastic library. From 2013 until 2018 Sr. Martha served on the monastery council. In her spare time she loved to play cards and crochet.

In 2016 Sr. Martha moved to the Infirmary. Although mentally alert, her body was slowing down. Over the past couple months Sr. Martha was keenly aware that death was not too far off. She died peacefully very early on the morning of July 14. Sr. Martha is survived by nieces and the Benedictine community.

The vigil service was on the evening of Sunday, July 22, 2018. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, July 23, 2018, followed by interment in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery.



Sister Cecilia Daigle, 1931-2018

Sister Cecilia Daigle was born in New Orleans, LA on December 17, 1931 to **Richard** and **Mary Lamy Daigle** and named Claire Ann. She was the fifth of five children, having one brother and three sisters. One sister is still living. Claire attended high school at St. Mary's Dominican and St. Scholastica Academy, each for two years. After graduation in 1948 she entered **St. Scholastica Priory** in Covington, LA. Claire became a novice in 1949 and received the name Cecilia. First profession followed in 1951 and perpetual profession in 1954. Sister Cecilia celebrated her silver jubilee in 1976, her golden in 2001, and her diamond in 2011.

Sister Cecilia taught kindergarten, first, third and fourth grades for thirty-eight years. Twenty-one years were spent at Mater Dolorosa, her own parish school. She was one of the last members of St. Scholastica Priory to teach there before the school had to close. She taught at other schools within the Archdiocese of New Orleans as well.

The sisters of St. Scholastica Priory in Covington, LA engaged in a three-year study of the future of the community, and in 1987 decided on dissolution. The dissolution of the priory was very painful for her; she recalled it with grief. Each sister began to visit other communities to find one that felt like home. Celie was the last of eleven sisters to transfer to St. Walburg Monastery. Her transfer became final in August, 1992.

After her transfer, Sr. Cecilia cooked for the sisters at Villa Madonna Academy for a few years, then did clerical work at Madonna Manor and Thomas More College before her retirement in 1996.

At St. Walburg's, Celie could be found at card games and at the video recorder, recording shows and movies for the sisters. She was one of the few who could manage the technology.

Weeks ago Celie contracted an infection that she could not shake. Antibiotics seemed to make her weaker and more susceptible. She died peacefully in hospice care on August 8, 2018. She is survived by her sister Georgine in New York, a nephew and nieces, friends and the Benedictine community. Vigil service was held the evening of Monday, August 13, and the Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, August 14, followed by interment in St. Walburg Cemetery.



The Chronicles continued

played drums during the offertory procession.

September 8--Sr. Aileen met **Pope Francis** face-to-face for 10-15 seconds and assured him of our prayers. *(See picture p. 8.)*

September 8--The Corryville Suzuki Project violinists entertained in the infirmary lounge. Composed of eight teenaged players, boys and girls as well as their well-known director, **Vincent Phelan** and his wife **Elizabeth**, they exhibited their expertise for the enjoyment of all. Mr. Phelan introduced the players and the sisters had the opportunity to meet them.

September 9--More information from Sr. Aileen. Her visit with **Pope Francis** was one of the most significant moments of her life! After the audience with the Pope, there was free time so the sisters were able to visit the mountain city of Orvieto. There Sr. Aileen saw the most beautiful exterior of any church she had ever seen. Also the lectures on hospitality had been thorough and conducive to discussion.

September 14-15--Srs. Mary Carol Hellmann and **Dorothy Schuette** visited prisoners on death row at Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, Kentucky with **Srs. Dolores Giblin, SND, Alice Gerdaman, CDP**, and several Ursuline sisters and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth as well as **Rev. John Rausch**, a Kentucky mountain pastor. It was a memorable visit with prisoners at an institution where the death penalty is inflicted.

September 14--Sr. Aileen returned from her memorable trip to Rome.



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SAVE THE DATES

Morning of Mindfulness, Meditation and Movement

**Saturday, October 27, 2018
9 am - Noon**

presented by **Sr. Kimberly Porter, OSB**
and **Lynn Molitor**

The Benedictine Sisters
of St. Walburg Monastery invite you to a half-day
of peace and rest for body, mind and spirit.
No prior experience is required.

Fee: \$20

Register with **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** at
dorothisosb@gmail.com or
859-739-7520

Silent Directed Retreat at St. Walburg Monastery

November 9-11, 2018

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery
invite you to participate in an
Individually Directed Retreat
at the Guest House.

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

Fee: \$175

Register with **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** at
dorothisosb@gmail.com or **859-739-7520**
