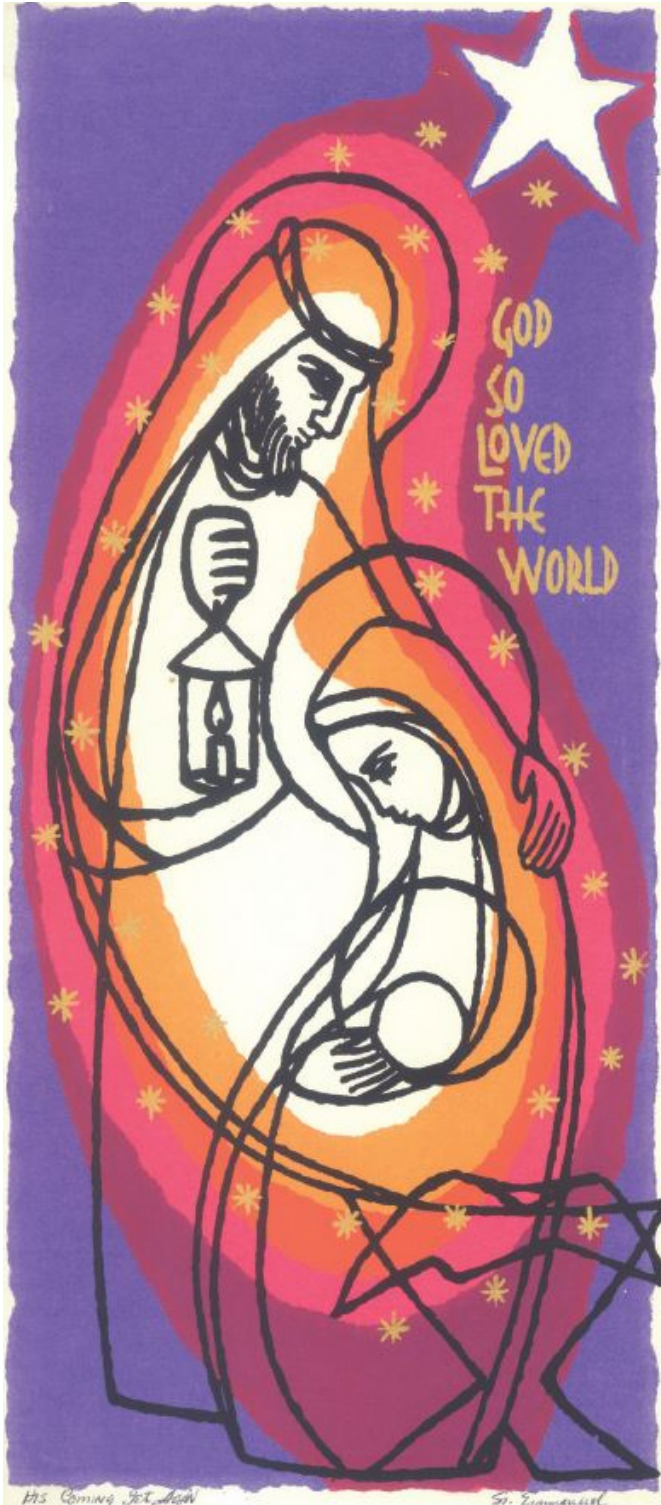




Leaven

Vol. 33 Issue 2
Winter 2015

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky



Jesus Christ,
the saving mercy of God,
our light in the midst of
darkness,
our hope in the face of fear,
our peace amid turmoil,
has come to set us free.

Peace to you and those you
love this Christmas season
and in the New Year to
come.

Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, OSB

&

*The Benedictine Sisters
St. Walburg Monastery*

The Prioress Writes . . .

The Unrelenting and Irresistible *Pull of the Future*

As I write, the liturgy is proclaiming the nearness of the end times. As you read this issue, the liturgy will be proclaiming the fullness of the coming of the new times. This is a very familiar cycle of endings and beginnings, or is it beginnings and endings. It all depends on your point of view. Where's my head? Looking ahead or over my shoulder? Over the past several months we have been doing a bit of both looking forward and over our shoulder as we continue to implement our plans for the future. Change is the word of the present moment.

During this past year **Sisters Teresa Wolking and Clarita Anneken** died within a week of each other. Each of them touched and influenced the lives of thousands of students. Between the two of them, Facebook recorded that 36,000 people were reached by their death notices. Who could have imagined that number? Neither of them.

Over the past year eight sisters moved into the monastery building from residences here on the property or from residences and work done in other parts of the state—often a bittersweet experience for them. With them we've all learned a bit more about the challenges, demands and rewards of making and welcoming a change.

As we await 2016 we do so knowing there will be anticipated and unanticipated changes waiting for us. As we have learned from those who have gone before us, we will act with faith and hope in the future relying on your support and prayers. And to all of you, our readers, we pray that 2016 will be a year when the words of the prophet Jeremiah support the changes you may be challenged to welcome.

***For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.
(Jeremiah: 29.11)***

Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup

Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Prioress



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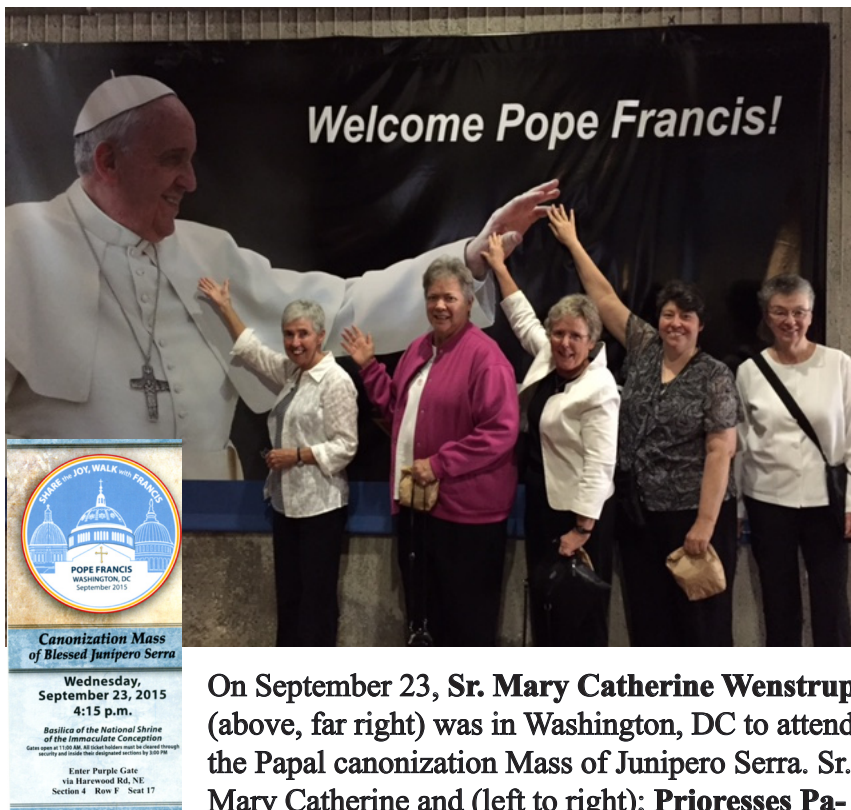
Sisters Deborah Harmeling and Margaret Mary Gough, editors.

Cover:
His Coming, Yet Again, silkscreen
by Sister Emmanuel Pieper.
Photographs:
Sisters Deborah Harmeling, Mary Tewes, Dorothy Schuette, Fr. Ronald Margherio, OSB and Amy Holtzman.

Congratulations to Our 2015 Jubilarian Celebrating 50 Years of Monastic Profession



Sr. Aileen Bankemper



On September 23, Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup (above, far right) was in Washington, DC to attend the Papal canonization Mass of Junipero Serra. Sr. Mary Catherine and (left to right); **Prioresses Patricia Kirk** (Lutherville, Maryland), **Karen Brink** (Bakerstown, Pennsylvania), **Anne Shepard** (Atchison, Kansas) and Novice **Jodi Hart** from Atchison left Immanuel Monastery in Baltimore around 9 am on the 23rd to attend the 4:15 pm Eucharist. They arrived back at Immanuel Monastery around 10 pm. They all agreed that the experience was worth the travel time and were glad to be able to participate in the first day of Pope Francis' American visit.

The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy

June 17—Sr. Aileen Bankemper left this morning for Berkeley, California where she will participate in a Spiritual Direction Practicum at the Jesuit School of Theology from June 20 until July 18. Her interest in spiritual direction has grown over the years as she served as a professional counselor. She especially appreciates meeting with women in prison and anticipates doing spiritual direction with them in a California prison during her stay in the West.

June 27—Our Benedictine Oblates held their annual Ice Cream Social. A large number of oblates and community members attended. The dulcimer group accompanied by a number of other “folk” instruments began the afternoon with many familiar melodies. The ice cream treats were delicious and all participants in the bingo games left with prizes.

July 4—The community celebrated the holiday with our traditional picnic dinner with contributions by sisters from houses and floors. It was good to have Sr. Rita Brink with us for a few days. She left early Sunday to get back to St. Marys, Pennsylvania for one more week of sales of items. Many other details must be cleared before Sr. Rita returns to St. Walburg with an important task completed.

July 5-10—Eight students and their moderator, Fr. Ronald Margherio, OSB from St. Bede Academy, Peru, Illinois, arrived in time to attend Sunday Eucharist at the Cathedral basilica of the Assumption, a first experience for them of its beauty and solemnity. Sr. Cathy Bauer hosted them during their stay in Covington. They were on the annual St. Bede Academy Christian service trip. Packing their belongings in small bags, not knowing where they would spend each night, they rendered extraordinary service to many—in day care, food service, homeless shelters

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

and here at the monastery where they spent several nights in the Guest House. They returned to Illinois on Friday, aware of a powerful physical and spiritual experience.

July & August—The United States Catholic Bishops and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious suggested several ways for communities to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life. Here at St. Walburg Monastery we celebrated with a number of activities in the area. Sisters accompanied the group from St. Bede's in their service mission; some sisters visited the Kenton County Detention Center on July 18. The Islamic prayer service drew others on July 24; a group visited the Newport Peace Bell to intercede for world peace on August 21. The last activity was a tour of churches and institutions to view **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper's** artwork, especially in stained glass and banners. (See pictures on this page and the next two.)

July 6-10—This was the year for biennial meetings of many Benedictine organizations. **Sr. Colleen Winston** attended the meeting of the Monastic Worship Forum at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana. The topic of the conference was *Praying with Hearts Expanded: Participation in the Liturgy of the Hours*. Twenty Benedictine communities were represented from across the United States. **Fr. Godfrey Muller** of St. Meinrad Archabbey and **Sr. Irene Nowell** of Atchison were the main speakers.

July 10-15—**Sr. Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director, and Oblate **Judy TenEcyk** attended the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors Conference at Subiaco Abbey, sixty miles from St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Approximately 70 oblates and directors participated in the presentations, meetings, liturgies, touring and special events. All presentations centered on the topic *Nurturing*

Continued on next page

Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life



One of the suggestions for celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life was to share each community's mission and service with others. Here at our monastery we shared in the mission and ministry of St. Bede Academy's Christian Service Trip. With

the help of **Sr. Cathy Bauer** and **Fr. Ronald Margherio, OSB**, eight students from St. Bede Academy served at soup kitchens, mentoring programs, homeless shelters, day cares and facilities for the elderly during their stay. They joined the St. Walburg community



for prayers and meals. Some sisters accompanied them to Redwood School, Mary Rose Mission and the Covington Emergency Shelter. Other students recruited by Sr. Cathy

joined them for some of their activities as well. Each evening they gathered to reflect and to pray for, by name, those they encountered during the day.



Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life



Children of St. John's Orphanage, Venerable Sisters and Rev. Father James O'Melia, Chaplain, 1920s.

Within the community a committee consisting of **Srs. Mariana Kirk, Cathy Bauer, and Dorothy Schuette** scheduled some events for sisters to celebrate past missions of the community and engage in new areas of ministry. One event was held on July 11 celebrating

our service to schools now involved in ACUE (the Alliance for Urban Catholic Schools) and our service to the The Diocesan Catholic Children's Home where we served when it was known as St. John's Orphanage (See top left picture).

We viewed pictures from the archives of our missions at St. Benedict, (above, second from the top, the Sisters' House and third from the top, Sr. Perpetua Toebbe, the first woman from the parish to enter the monastery) St. Anthony (picture to the left, the church at Old Decoursey) and Holy Cross Schools and shared memories of our presence at each of those places.



St. Benedict Convent



Sr. M. Perpetua Toebbe, O.S.B. (First one of parish to enter Convent)



SAINT ANTHONY SCHOOL AT DECOURSEY

Below: On July 24 **Srs. Emmanuel Pieper, Joan Fraenzle, Andrea Collopy and Victoria Eisenmann** attended the Friday prayer service at the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati.



The Chronicles continued

Benedictine Spirituality: from Theory to Practice. Sr. Mary reported a great trip to be remembered.

July 11—Another program celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life took place today in the monastery lower level. Oblates and community members remembered and reflected on past Benedictine services in inner city schools, now part of ACUE (Alliance for Catholic Urban Education.) Videos on ACUE and the Diocesan Children's Home (formerly St. John Orphanage) offered sisters an opportunity to share stories and memories of their ministries in these places. **Sr. Deborah Harmeling** presented pictures from the archives of places we served, and **Srs. Kimberly Porter and Cathy Bauer** helped to organize the program.

July 18-25—**Sr. Deborah Harmeling** left this morning to attend the Benedictine Development Symposium in Schuyler, Nebraska. Development directors from 30 monastic communities gathered to hear **Sr. Georgette Lehmuth, OSF**, President of the National Catholic Development Conference speak about emerging trends in development ministry. There were also sessions by **Lee Aase**, Director of the Mayo Clinic for Social Media, on understanding and applying social media in non-profit ministry. **Brian Doyle**, the noted writer and editor of Portland Magazine at Portland University, spoke about the importance of telling the stories of our monasteries. Sr. Deborah was a member of the planning committee for the 2015 Symposium.

July 22-25—**Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** with VMA teacher, **Sr. Mary Carol Henggeler, CDP** attended the 2015 National Benedictine Secondary School Colloquium held in Lisle, Illinois. Forty-five men and women representing seventeen Benedictine schools in twelve states and the District of Columbia participated. The various presentations focused on forming administrators and faculty members in

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

the Benedictine tradition.

August 2-8—Fr. Gregory Mohrman, OSB of St. Louis abbey, St. Louis, Missouri, conducted the annual community retreat. The theme of Fr. Gregory's presentations was *A Journey through Scripture from the Garden of Eden to the Garden of the Resurrection*. Sr. Emmanuel painted a series of pictures and one appeared before each talk and gave a clue to what to expect. It was a quiet, peaceful time for reflection. Fr. Gregory said we were the first women for whom he gave a retreat. We were indeed blessed.

August 8—At evening prayer Patty Bickett began her novitiate year. In a simple, moving ceremony she became Sister Patricia for formal occasions—Sr. Patty every day. Srs. Mary Tewes, Barbara Woeste and Deborah Harmeling will continue to work with her in formation. (Circumstances within her family required Patty to depart in September but we pray for her return at a future date.)

August 10-15—Sr. Mary Catherine attended the LCWR National Assembly in Houston, Texas for part of this time. Because of a sudden death in her family she returned early.

August 14—Haylee Mitchell, a sophomore and periodic volunteer in the infirmary, presented an educational and entertaining music recital with her brother, a seventh grader. Both musicians began lessons at the age of three. They play their violins completely by ear and are not "into" printed music. Their performance and explanations were amazing to the listeners.

August 22—Earlier in the year a fire emergency precipitated a close inspection of the house that is known as the "Gate House." The inspection determined that living there was no longer safe. The house at the entrance to St. Walburg Monastery property was purchased in the 1930's; its building date is uncertain. Today a widely

Continued on next page

Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

On August 22 another event celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life took place. Six sisters, accompanied by Sr. Emmanuel Pieper, went on a pilgrimage of sorts to view the various places where Sr. Emmanuel's artwork was installed. The places were Bridge Point Center in Florence, St. Barbara Church in Erlanger, Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Thomas More College, and St. Patrick Church in Taylor Mill. **Pictured counterclockwise from top left are:** the Good Shepherd banner and a stained glass window at Bridge Point Nursing Home (which are the oldest pieces of the group); the stained glass window of Thomas More at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel on the Thomas More College campus, the St. Patrick stained glass window at St. Patrick Church and the St. Barbara window at St. Barbara Church.



Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life Open House



We held an Open House on Sunday, September 13. We invited the public to come, visit and pray with us. The Open House was from 2-4 pm, followed by an information session on Liturgy of the Hours. At 4:30 many of our guests joined

us in praying Evening Prayer. Pictures (counterclockwise from upper right): Sr. Henrietta Seiler and Oblate Susan Page at the refreshments table; Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann and Oblate Inquirer Tom Scally talking about our Guest House ministry; an offering of items for sale made by sisters (left to right: Srs. Martha Feder, Denise Gough, Margaret Mary Gough, Cathy Bauer and Rosemary McCormack; Sr. Kimberly Porter at her station in the courtyard featuring her children and family counseling ministry; Sr. Andrea Collopy and Mary Catherine Wenstrup greeting guests in the Front Entrance; Sr. Rose Rauen and a young visitor.



The Chronicles continued

advertized yard sale, organized by Srs. Nancy Kordenbrock and Joan Fraenzle, offered a great variety of items to receptive visitors, looking for a bargain. A side offering was bakery goods made by the sisters. The sale began at 9 am; by 10:30 am all bakery items were gone! An empty house and a few items outside were all that was left at 2:30 pm, closing time.

August 31—Sr. Teresa Wolking died early this morning after several weeks of hospice care. Sr. Teresa was the second oldest of six daughters of Charles and Antoinette Wolking. All of the daughters became Benedictine Sisters at St. Walburg Monastery. Sr. Charles Wolking is the last Wolking sister.

September 3—The vigil for Sr. Teresa occurred this evening. A large group of friends and former students attended. Their comments attested to the esteem in which she is held.

September 8—On the feast of the Nativity of Mary Sr. Clarita Anneken died peacefully in the early evening. Earlier in the day, surrounded by the community and members of her family, she was comforted by prayers for the dying. Four Anneken sisters became Benedictines; Sr. Xavier is the lone survivor.

September 13—Today we held an Open House and invited the public to pray Evening Prayer with us as part of the celebration of The Year of Consecrated Life. Sisters staffed different areas in the monastery with pictures, posters, leaflets and articles of various kinds explaining our ministries, the service we render, our prayer life and all the parts of our Benedictine life together. We had a section of handmade and crafted articles for guests to see and buy. Refreshments were served in the dining room. An explanation in the chapel of community Evening Prayer prepared visitors to share the experience of praying Evening Prayer with us. It was a good end to the day.

September 14—We held the vigil for

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

Sr. Clarita this evening. A large contingent of former students, friends, and relatives attended to honor her memory and celebrate her life. Sr. Clarita died only four days after the burial of Sr. Teresa. The similarity in the lives and educational experiences of these two sisters and the high esteem in which they were held were striking to all present. They were two iconic teachers in the community's education tradition.

September 22-24—Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, accompanied by **Sr. Deborah Harmeling**, left for Immanuel Monastery in Baltimore, Maryland. As prioress, Sr. Mary Catherine was to attend the Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. All religious superiors received the invitation to attend this first canonization in the United States and Pope Francis' first Eucharist of his trip to the United States. Sr. Deborah assisted Sr. Mary Catherine in driving but her experience was limited to the Baltimore Museum of Art and viewing the canonization on the TV screen. Here at St. Walburg Pope Francis was a constant presence on televisions throughout the house.

September 26—The Corryville Suzuki Project with the Corryville Teen Strings presented an amazing program of memorized violin pieces for a rapt audience in the infirmary lounge. Composed of nine young people—ages 12-17—and two adult leaders, this ensemble gave a hard-to-believe performance. The group stayed at the Guest House for a musical retreat, and also played for the residents of Madonna Manor.

October 3—At Evening Prayer today **Sr. Aileen Bankemper** (see p. 2) with the community, her family and friends, celebrated fifty years of monastic profession. A festive dinner with beautiful cakes made by **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** offered an opportunity to visit with old and new friends. Sr. Aileen has been engaged in teaching, counseling and jail ministry in her service to God

Continued on next page

Sister Teresa Wolking, 1919-2015

Born October 11, 1919 in Covington, Kentucky
Entered St. Walburg Monastery August 15, 1937
Received habit, March 21, 1938
First Profession, June 28, 1939
Died August 31, 2015

Sister Teresa Wolking was born in Covington, Kentucky on October 11, 1919 to Charles F. and Antoinette Mueller Wolking and baptized Margaret Mary. Always known as Peggy, she was the second oldest



of six daughters, all of whom became Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. Mr. & Mrs. Wolking were longtime members of St. Benedict Parish until they moved to Madonna Manor in the 1960's, close to their daughters. Like her sisters, Peggy was a prep at Villa Madonna Academy during her high school years. Peggy entered St. Walburg as a postulant on August 15, 1937, and on March 21, 1938 became a novice, receiving the name Sr. Teresa after her patron St. Teresa of Avila. First profession followed in 1939, perpetual profes-

sion in 1942. She celebrated silver, golden and diamond jubilees in 1964, 1989 and 1999.

An excellent and beloved teacher, Sr. Teresa developed strong ties with her students which endured. She received a BA from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College) in 1943, a MA from the Catholic University of America in 1952 and a principal's certificate from Marquette University. These prepared her well for many years of teaching, especially in the field of literature and writing. She served at Holy Cross High School (1943-59, 68-69), St. Henry High School (1959-62) and a total of 31 years at Villa Madonna Academy (1962-68, 69-79, 80-96).

Sr. Teresa prepared for archival work at the University of Cincinnati and served as St. Walburg Monastery archivist from 1971 to 2006, and as VMA archivist 2000-2006. It would be difficult to enumerate the contributions Sr. Teresa made by writing for various publications (she was a faithful columnist for the Diocese of Covington's newsletter, *The Messenger* for many years) and assisting others with archival requests. One of her last publications was a 12 page article entitled "Hrsotsvit: a Medieval Playwright" in *Medieval Women Monastics*, Liturgical Press, 1996.

Physical needs required a move to the infirmary in 1996 but Sr. Teresa remained active. Gradually her health declined. Death came peacefully in the early morning of August 31, 2015. Sr. Teresa's four sisters, **Sisters Mary Anne, Amelia, Mercedes and Consolata** preceded her in death. She is survived by **Sister Charles**, the Benedictine community and many students and friends.

Sister Clarita Anneken, 1919-2015

Born January 18, 1919 in Latonia, Kentucky
 Entered St. Walburg Monastery August 15, 1935
 Received habit, February 25, 1936
 First Profession, June 28, 1937
 Died September 8, 2015

Sister Clarita Anneken, OSB was born to John H. Anneken and Clara Robish Anneken on January 18, 1919 and given the name Dorothy Esther at her baptism. Dorothy was the second oldest of eight children—three boys and five girls—three of whom also became Benedictines, **Sisters Gemma, Xavier and Juanita**. Dorothy attended Villa Madonna Academy as a prep, then entered St. Walburg Monastery as a postulant on August 15, 1935 and on February 25, 1936 became a novice, receiving the name Sister Clarita. First profession followed in 1937, perpetual profession in 1940. Sr. Clarita celebrated her silver jubilee in 1962, golden in 1987, diamond in 1997. She celebrated 75 years as a Benedictine Sister in 2012.



Sr. Clarita was well prepared for service in education which extended from 1941 until her retirement in 2005—sixty-four years. She received her BA from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College) and her MA from the Catholic University of America. Classes at Loyola University in Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, Marquette University, Montreal Language School and Laval University in Quebec prepared her for her service as principal and teacher at Holy Cross and St. Henry High Schools and Villa Madonna Academy.

Sr. Clarita's many years in education endeared her to many—parents, students and teachers. Those she influenced maintained their association with her and expressed their gratitude throughout her lifetime. Sr. Clarita's participation in community life continued into retirement and into her years in the infirmary. She had many friends who visited faithfully. Death came quietly before Evening Prayer on September 8, feast of the Nativity of Mary.

Sr. Clarita's family was close-knit. Her mother died shortly before Sr. Clarita made profession in 1937, leaving her husband and eight children. Her sisters **Rita, Sr. Gemma, Sr. Juanita** and brothers **Howard, Ed and Jack** preceded her in death. Her many nephews and nieces and their families have been strong supports. She is survived by **Sr. Xavier**, the Benedictine community and many friends.

and the Church.

October 4-8—Sr. Cathy Bauer left for Atchison, Kansas via Immaculate Conception Monastery, Fredinand, Indiana where she met **Sr. Teresa Gunter**, and together they attended the National Benedictine Vocation Directors' Conference. The theme was *Forward in Joy, Our Journey Together*. With twenty-two vocation directors in attendance, they heard **Sr. Raquel Ortiz, SSND** speak on immigration policy and **Brother John Mark Falkenhain, OSB** speak on the internal culture of vocations.

October 8—The city of Villa Hills invited senior citizens to a Bingo party at the Civic Club today. A good contingent from St. Walburg Monastery, Madonna Manor and local residents enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of conversation, bingo, snacks and many prizes. Even those who didn't win at bingo got a prize to take home.

October 9—Villa Madonna Academy sponsored its annual Craft Fair today. A beautiful fall day and an abundance of prolific hand crafters drew a large group of interested purchasers. The Benedictine Sisters staffed a booth offering knitted and crocheted items of many kinds, plus carved wood crosses and cribs and Christmas cards. The St. Walburg kitchen contributed baked items which vanished quickly as the crowds passed. It was a very successful day and also an opportunity to meet many friends and former students.

October 18—The Benedictine Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery celebrated with the community today. They joined the community for Morning Prayer and Eucharist and later they engaged in a group reflection on *The Call of the Oblate Vocation*. They then assembled in chapel for Noonday Prayer at which 27 oblates renewed their oblation. Four inquirers were also present; seventeen oblates were unable to attend. A festive Sunday dinner was enjoyed by all.

October 26-30—Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock attended a meeting of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes

Continued on next page

The Chronicles continued

(RCRI) in Orlando, Florida. About five hundred participants attended the conference. RCRI is a group that provides legal and financial research, information and assistance to religious institutes in the United States and some foreign countries.

October 29-30—Villa Madonna Montessori kindergarten students brought their lunches to dine with the Sisters today. Sixteen children accompanied by teachers introduced themselves and shared conversation. Two children and several sisters were at each table. The next day the total Montessori school arrived for a Halloween performance with teachers, many parents and sisters in the audience. Dressed in Halloween colors and symbolic headbands, the children gave an energetic performance with songs and movements to delight their audience.

October 31—The Center of Spirituality sponsored a presentation entitled *The Quality of Mercy* by Rev. Msgr. William Cleves in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy. Assembling in the chapel, the group of approximately eighty visitors in addition to the Benedictine sisters heard Fr. Cleves explore the many aspects of the word mercy and what the coming year might mean for us as church and individuals. The emphasis was on the mercy of God shown in so many surprising ways in the Old and New Testaments. The full day prepared us for the beginning of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy.

After a busy day the annual Halloween party was enjoyed in the evening. Many sisters assumed the identity of a well-known or favorite saint. Guessing who-was-who was easy for some, more difficult for others, but a joyful anticipation of the Feast of All Saints. A challenging game and delicious refreshments brought the busy day to an end.

November 4--Adriana Mendez, a temporary resident at the Guest House

Continued on next page

Mary Frisch Steidle – Faithful to Her Calls as Wife, Sister, Aunt and Oblate

Mary Steidle (75) died at Madonna Manor on Friday, October 16, of congestive heart failure, after suffering for many years with breathing problems. She lived at Madonna Manor for over 10 years in assisted living and was faithful to Mass and to all the other residents.

Mary was the youngest of the John Frisch Family from Pleasant Ridge Ave., Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Her two sisters, **Sr. Jeanette** and **Sr. Anne** entered St. Walburg Monastery, following their aunt, **Sr. Elizabeth Frisch**. Mary also entered and took the name **Sr. Maria Goretti**, but left after some years. She became an Oblate with the Cincinnati Chapter of St. Meinrad Monastery, and in 1996 become an Oblate with our community. She took her Oblate responsibilities seriously and attended the gatherings as long as she could. **Sr. Mary Rabe** was her prayer partner and constant friend and helper along her journey.

Mary and Bob Steidle married in 1973, and lived in Erlanger, Kentucky, and considered St. Henry their parish. She worked at many things: teacher, IRS, librarian, and playground supervisor at Villa Madonna Elementary School, and volunteering at other schools. She also helped out at Bob's family's business, until he retired. They loved traveling, especially to St. Meinrad Archabbey. Bob died in February, 1999.

Mary loved shopping, playing at her large organ in their living room, taking pictures of her siblings, nieces and nephews, and pencil drawing. She also loved to read. She borrowed many books from our Oblate Resource Room, almost every time she came to visit her sisters.

The Visitation and Funeral Mass were at Blessed Sacrament Church in Ft. Mitchell, across the street from the Frisch family home, on Tuesday, October 20. The Oblates will have a Mass offered at this Monastery for Mary, and Fr. Meinard will have a Mass at St. Meinrad's for her as well. Please keep Mary and the Steidle and Frisch families in your prayers.

Sr. Mary Tewes
Oblate Director



Fr. Bill Cleves on Mercy in Preparation for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

A group of approximately 80 guests joined us on October 31 for a Center of Spirituality Day of Reflection entitled *The Quality of Mercy*. Rev. Msgr. William Cleves presented the day in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy. Fr. Cleves offered reflections on the many English translations of the Hebrew words for mercy. He spoke of the continuing



mercy of God shown throughout salvation history in the Old and New Testaments and gave new and valuable insights on the parables of the Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son and

the Lost Coin through the lens of mercy. Many of the attendees noted that "it was an excellent beginning to the Year of Mercy."

2016 Center of Spirituality Retreat Offerings

Holy Week Directed Retreats for women and men at St. Walburg Monastery Guest House.

Contact Sr. Dorothy Schuette at dorothysosb@gmail.com or 859-739-7520

April 23-25, 2016 Celebrating Christ in the Psalms: a retreat weekend for women. Retreat Team: Srs. Dorothy Schuette and Rosemary McCormack.

Contact Sr. Dorothy Schuette at dorothysosb@gmail.com or 859-739-7520.

Brochures to follow in 2016

The Chronicles continued

and a native of Cuba, gave a well-attended presentation in the infirmary lounge this afternoon. Adriana was part of a tour group on a week long trip to Cuba during Pope Francis' recent visit. She shared her impressions with the sisters and spoke about present conditions in Cuba.

November 5--The religion department of St. Henry District High School invited women religious of the area to spend a day with the students. Four communities and two lay institutes participated at various times. The day included a prayer service in the morning and Eucharist in the afternoon. In the intervals between, the guests were invited to meet with the religion classes and respond to questions. Guest enjoyed lunch with the students. Seven Benedictines visited and were impressed by the responsive and hospitable student body.

November & December--The Community Life and Growth Committee, Sisters Kimberly Porter, Cathy Bauer and Deborah Harmeling scheduled four meetings of two groups to read and discuss *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. The encyclical is full of challenging information about care for the earth and the dangers facing us.

November 15--The Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Hazard, Kentucky, honored Sr. Joan Gripshover at Eucharist for her 30 years of service to the Church and the medical needs of the people in the area. Sr. Joan has most recently served as a nurse practitioner at the Appalachian Rural Health Clinic in Hyden, Kentucky. She also served at Beechfork Clinic, Wooten Clinic and Redbud Health Center. Fr. Michael, OSF, presided and spoke of the valued presence of Sr. Joan in the parish for all those years. A catered dinner was served in the parish hall and many spoke about Sr. Joan's service and their debt to her. Fr. Michael also spoke of the service of earlier Benedictine Sisters in the work of the Church in Hazard. Srs. Mary Rabe, Sharon Portwood and Andrea Collopy were present for this moving occasion.



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SAVE THE DATE

The St. Walburg Monastery Center of Spirituality is offering
a day of discussion and reflection entitled

Catholic Social Teaching through the Lens of MERCY

presented by

Rev. Kenneth Overberg, SJ
Professor Emeritus, Theology
Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

Saturday, April 9, 2016

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

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 and lunch

