



Vol. 34, Issue 2  
Winter 2016

# Leaven

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky

*... And a little child shall lead them*



*The Prince of  
Peace is born to us,*

*Our light in the  
midst of darkness,*

*Our hope in the  
face of violence,*

*Our peace amid  
turmoil.*

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

# The Prioress Writes . . .

*“Blessed are those who are prepared.”*

We opened the season of Advent with this line from the responsory at Evening Prayer. Prepared for what? Clearly the line was a call to prepare for the coming of the promised one, Christ, the Lord. That touched me, but quickly my more practical mind began to make a list of the real things that are already on my 2017 calendar. It is easier to prepare when you know what to expect or have known expectations to meet. I have a friend who thinks we ought to be born with an expiration date. That way anxiety and fear are lessened and we would know what we need to do before we meet the Lord.

Knowing what to expect is real for some areas of our lives, but that is not the way life always presents itself for us. In this issue of LEAVEN we highlight many events that have happened in the past months for which we were not prepared! In August we did not expect to process 300 jars of pickles! The cucumbers just kept coming. There were three other surprises in August. (*See p. 3-4.*) We did not expect to be remembered by **Theresa Vu**, owner of Theresa’s Alterations in Erlanger, in a story in the *Northern Kentucky Tribune* about her Vietnamese family coming here and being helped by us through the efforts of **Srs. Thomas Noll** and **Sylvester Shea**. We were also surprised to be invited to Thomas More College’s dedication of its library as the **Benedictine Library**. We were delighted to hear that the family chosen by HONK in 2009 to move into the House of Blessing became home owners of the house we helped to build.

And we certainly were not prepared for a reporter and producer from SKY TV in the United Kingdom to call us on November 11 and ask to interview us about reconciliation in the US after the election! We kept trying to send them somewhere else, but when we discovered they were at our front door, we agreed. Perhaps the quotation above should be, “Blessed are those who are not prepared, but who deal graciously with whatever comes.”

In the coming year there will be events, challenges, opportunities or losses that will change our life in ways we did not expect. How do we prepare for those? That’s my Advent call this year! It’s my hope to be better prepared for whatever comes next in 2017. May your Advent preparations conclude with a joyous Christmas and blessings in the New Year!

*Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, OP*

Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Prioress

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Sisters Deborah  
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**And A Little  
Child Shall Lead  
Them**, silkscreen  
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Emmanuel Pieper.  
Photographs:  
Thomas More  
College, Sisters  
Emmanuel Pieper  
and Mary Tewes.



## Congratulations to Our 2016 Jubilarians!



### Celebrating 50 Years of Monastic Profession

Left and right: Srs. Christa Kreinbrink and Deborah Harmeling.  
Prioress Sr. Mary Catherine center



### Celebrating 60 Years of Monastic Profession

Left and right: Srs. Helen Hergott and Mariana Kirk.  
Prioress Sr. Mary Catherine center



### Celebrating 70 Years of Monastic Profession

Left and right: Srs. David Ruschmann and Andrea Collopy.  
Prioress Sr. Mary Catherine center

## The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

**Summer 2016**—Lots of rain and warm weather made Srs. **Cathy Bauer's** and **Mary Catherine Wenstrup's** labors in the garden in back of the monastery fruitful. The garden yielded an amazing amount of produce, especially cucumbers, and the monastery kitchen was the center for processing 300 jars of bread and butter and dill pickles. The chief picklers were Srs. Mary Catherine, Cathy Bauer, **Mary Tewes** and our chef, **Maureen Smain**. Other sisters helped as they passed by. Also the good weather enabled our gardeners to exercise their skills, and flowers around the monastery were most lovely. **Sr. Mariana Kirk** took loving care of the patio and rock garden and **Srs. Joan Fraenzle, Emmanuel Pieper** and **Kathleen Ryan** tended areas around the building.

**July 29**—Oblate **Christine Ann Hoskey** died of an apparent heart attack today. (See obituary on p. 9.) Chris became acquainted with the Benedictines through her association with Welcome House and Sr. Cathy Bauer. An active and faithful Benedictine oblate, she was a familiar presence here since 2002. A memorial Mass was celebrated on August 10 with family, friends and the Benedictine Sisters. Chris will be missed here at SWM.

**July 31-August 5**—The annual retreat began this evening with **Rev. Timothy Schehr**, a Scripture scholar from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as director. The focus of the retreat was *Spiritual Lessons from the Psalms*. Each conference emphasized one particular psalm. Fr. Schehr's thorough treatment of the Book of Psalms broadened our appreciation and understanding of our daily recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. **August 9-12**—**Srs. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** and **Rita Brink** attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in Atlanta, Georgia where approximately 800 members

*Continued on next page*

### *The Chronicles continued*

were in attendance. The theme of the conference was *Embracing the Mystery: Living Transformation*. All the speakers pointed to the need for contemplative engagement with the struggles and sufferings of the world. Participants engaged in small group discussions and communal contemplation which placed them in deeper communion with places of great pain and suffering.

**August 10**—Thomas More College officially named its library the *Benedictine Library* today. (See picture on this page.) A good representation of sisters from St. Walburg Monastery was present for the occasion. An anonymous donor contributed 4 million dollars, the largest donation in the college's history, with the stipulation that the Benedictine Sisters be honored for their foundation of Villa Madonna College, now Thomas More College.

**August 17-21**—Early this morning Sr. **Mary Catherine Wenstrup** left for St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where she and two other Benedictines—**Sr. Joella Kidwell** from Ferdinand and **Sr. Cecilia Dwyer** from Bristow—prepared mentoring/training sessions for new facilitators for the process of discernment in the election of a prioress in Benedictine communities. **Srs. Deborah Harmeling** and **Kimberly Porter** left the next day to attend the training sessions. Twenty Benedictines from various communities participated.

**August 20**—Today the Benedictine Sisters of Immaculate Conception Monastery, Ferdinand, Indiana, began the celebration of the 150th anniversary of their founding. On August 20, 1867 four sisters from St. Walburg Monastery, Covington, Kentucky arrived in Ferdinand to teach children in the areas. One of them, **Sr. Benedicta Berns**, became their first prioress but later circumstances brought Sr. Benedicta back to St. Walburg Monastery where she is now buried. Attending

*Continued on next page*

## Three Unexpected Harvests

August is the month when we expect and usually get a large harvest of cucumbers, basil and tomatoes here at St. Walburg Monastery. This August we received three unexpected harvests from seeds we had sown years ago.

On August 9 in an article in the *Northern Kentucky Tribune*, an online publication of the Kentucky Center for Public Service Journalism,

**Theresa Vu**, owner of Theresa's Alterations in Erlanger, told the story of her family fleeing Vietnam in 1981. Her family left on a makeshift 30-foot boat and spent three years in different camps in Thailand and



the Philippines. In late 1984 the Diocese of Covington arranged for them to come to Covington. Theresa says, "We came here with \$20 in our pocket and the clothes on our back. We were helped by the Benedictine Sisters at Villa Madonna." Because Theresa was highly skilled in sewing, she got a job at an alterations shop in Covington and now owns her own business. We were pleased to see Theresa's story and to recall the ministry **Srs. Thomas Noll and Sylvester Shea** (pictured above with Theresa and her daughter) undertook to help Vietnamese refugees.

On August 10 Thomas More College officially named its library the **Benedictine Library** to honor the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. The sign with the name of the library was unveiled at a ceremony on the campus and is the result of an anonymous \$4 million matching gift to the college. The donation, the largest in the history of Thomas More, came with the stipulation that the Benedictine Sisters be honored "in a significant manner."



*Continued on p. 5*

## Three Unexpected Harvests (cont')

In 1921 the Benedictine Sisters began Villa Madonna College in the 1907 Villa Madonna Academy building to prepare Benedictine sisters and laywomen to teach in Catholic schools. In 1928 the college became a diocesan college under the auspices of the bishop and in 1968 it was renamed Thomas More College. At the unveiling ceremony, **Dr. David Armstrong**, President of the College said, "We educate students of all faiths, to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world and their responsibility to others. The Benedictine Sisters have been living that mission from day one and certainly did it in the founding of Villa Madonna College/Thomas More College."

We are proud of the flourishing educational institution Thomas More College has become and are grateful to the anonymous donor for the honor of having the library named the Benedictine Library.

On August 31 we received a letter from **David Hastings**, Executive Director of Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) recalling the project we undertook with HONK in 2009 as part of celebrating our 150th anniversary. We partnered with HONK to raise \$100,000 to build a new house not far from our original

monastery in Covington's Eastside. The house was named the House of Blessing and in the summer of 2009 a young self-employed family se-

lected by HONK moved into it with the dream of making the house their own. HONK sponsored programs which taught them how to manage finances while living in the home they were working to buy. They also learned how to care for the home and what it meant to be a homeowner. From 2009 to 2016 they experienced significant setbacks which could have discouraged them from continuing. They became homeowners this summer and HONK created a book of photographs chronicling the story of the House of Blessing.

These three stories of seeds we planted becoming "good fruit" leave us full of gratitude. We are honored to be part of these three harvests and we praise God who continues to bless the work of our hands.



### *The Chronicles continued*

the Mass celebrated by the **Most Rev. Charles Thompson**, Bishop of Evansville, was a group from St. Walburg—**Srs. Aileen Bankemper, Christa Kreinbrink, Colleen Winston, Emmanuel Pieper, Joan Fraenzle, Mary Carol Hellmann, Mary Tewes and Rosemary McCormack.**

**September 1**—**Sr. Deborah Harmeling** gave a presentation on *Christian Spiritual Traditions* to a group of Cincinnati area spiritual directors today.

**September 5**—Labor day was a peaceful celebration with the community highlighted by the usual picnic supper prepared by **Srs. Kathleen Ryan, Barbara Woeste and Mariana Kirk.** In the evening many enjoyed the spectacular fireworks over the Ohio River via television. In years past this holiday was the signal for the beginning of a new school year. Not so any longer. Morning and afternoon school traffic has been a "regular" for nearly two weeks.

**September 7**—Fourteen high school seniors--11 girls and 3 boys from Madrid, Spain, visited St. Walburg Monastery as part of a service mission. (See p. 8 for pictures.) Residing with families in the local area, they were in the United States for about three weeks, speaking English and familiarizing themselves with this country. While here at the monastery, they served by cleaning tables and chairs in the dining room, working outside in the yard and visiting with sisters in the infirmary. For part of their visit they were accompanied by two teachers.

**September 24**—At Evening Prayer, **Srs. Christa Kreinbrink and Deborah Harmeling** celebrated their Golden Jubilee, fifty years of monastic profession. In the presence of the community, immediate family and close friends they renewed their monastic profession first made on June 20, 1966. Sr. Deborah presented a reflection on jubilees—biblical and historical. A leisurely and delicious "brunch

*Continued on next page*

### *The Chronicles continued*

for supper” followed.

**September 25**—The Father DeJaco Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsored a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon for religious in the Diocese of Covington at their headquarters in Alexandria, Kentucky. Srs **Joan Fraenzle, Rosemary McCormack and Mary Carol Hellmann** attended and took part in games, socialization, refreshments, a delicious meal and surprising gifts.

**October 2-4**—Benedictine Oblates from St. Walburg Monastery, including Sr. **Mary Tewes**. Oblate director, **Gail Mickalack, Sue and Mike Page, Judy TenEyck, Louise Jewett** and her husband, **Bruce**, attended the Regional Conference for Oblate Directors and Future Oblate Leaders of the area at St. Meinrad Archabbey. They left Sunday morning to set up the environment before other participants arrived. The topic for this year’s meeting was the *Gift of Shared Leadership*. The schedule ranged from Vespers on Sunday evening until departure on Tuesday afternoon with prayers, presentations, panels, small groups and socialization. Approximately fifty participants profited from this important meeting and will carry the fruits of this conference to their home monasteries.

**October 4**—Bishop **Roger Foys**, with many priests of diocese of Covington, celebrated the annual Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral. In the entrance procession representatives from parishes, schools, and pro-life organizations carried roses to be placed in vases at the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Pro-Life. Rev. **John Sterling**, pastor of St. Barbara Parish gave the homily. Srs. **Mariana Kirk, Sharon Portwood, Dorothy Schuette** and **Andrea Collopy** represented St. Walburg Monastery.

**October 8**—St. Walburg Monastery’s Center of Spirituality offered a day of reflection entitled *Laudato Si: A Blueprint for the 21st Century* presented by Sr.

*Continued on next page*

## Our Benedictine Oblates

### 2016 Oblation



Above: Group reflection with oblates and sisters before the Rite of Oblation.



Pictured (left to right) are Sr. **Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, Prioress; Sr. **Mary Rabe** with new Oblate **Cheryl Weber**; Oblate **Mary Jo Rechtin** with new Oblate **Tom Scally**; Sr. **Kimberly Porter** with new Oblate **Jamie Leslie**; and Sr. **Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director.



Group picture of Oblates at 2016 Oblation

## October 8 Center of Spirituality Day with Sr. Caroljean Willie, SC

Right: **Sr. Caroljean Willie, SC** explaining Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. Many participants appreciated Sr. Caroljean's stories of people throughout the world overcoming poverty and hardship through various programs. One participant said Sr. Caroljean "made *Laudato Si* come alive for me; in reading it was very dry."



Left: Oblates **George Hageman** and **Jerry Edwards** engaging in artistic expressions of *Laudato Si*.



Below: A group of sisters reflecting on the day by drawing and coloring.



### *The Chronicles continued*

**Caroljean Willie, Ph.D.** of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. (See pictures on this page.) Sr. Caroljean shared her many years of experience in nations throughout the world where effects of climate change and global warming are having ever-growing effects. Her handouts with quotations from Pope Francis' encyclical, group discussions, and her seemingly unlimited expertise made this day an "eye opener" for many. Involvement at tables and Sr. Caroljean's presentations focused on the "big question"—*what can we do to protect God's earth and the universe?* A large number of Benedictines and religious from other communities, oblates and friends ended the day with much to ponder.

**September-November—Sr. Cathy Bauer** has been active with *Seek Retreats*, a service-learning retreat for 8th graders. She conducts retreat days consisting of students visiting local social service agencies such as Parish Kitchen, Welcome House, Pike Street Clinic and Emergency Shelter. These organizations provide food, shelter and support of individuals or families who are homeless or at risk. Before and after the agency visits is a time for prayer, reflection and sharing for those participating. They look at the charity and consider how they, as individuals or as a group, are called to work for social justice. Sr. Cathy reported this comment from one student: "The day provided me with a new vision of homeless people." A chaperone's comment: "Really happy I came! Learning about all the different ways we can give back."

The eighth graders participating from September to November were from the following parishes: St. Joseph, Cold Spring; St. Agnes; Sts. Peter and Paul; St. Pius; St. Henry and Mary, Queen of Heaven.

**October 15**—The Villa Madonna Craft Show drew many skillful artists and interested purchasers today. From 9 am until 3 pm a steady flow of new and

*Continued on next page*

***The Chronicles continued***

familiar faces passed through the VMA gym. **Srs. Mariana Kirk and Joan Fraenzle** staffed the monastery booth with its many handcrafted items; monastery bakers also filled the booth with homemade baked goods. The Benedictine Oblates sponsored a booth with miscellaneous items made by the oblates. The skills of those marketing their wares were magnificent. A beautiful day in addition to awesome crafts available made the occasion successful. Each year it seems the show attracts more artists and patrons.

**October 23**—Today was an important date for the Benedictine Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery. Three new oblates —**Jamie Leslie, Tom Scally and Cheryl Weber** made oblation bringing the total number of oblates to forty-seven. (See pictures on p. 6.) Since the beginning of the Oblate Program in 1987, twenty-six oblates have gone to their eternal reward! Preceding the oblation ceremony the oblates celebrated Mass with the Benedictine community, followed by a group reflection in the monastery lower level. The oblation ceremony took place with the community at Noonday Prayer. It was a moving and joyous occasion. The oblates then joined the sisters for a festive dinner. **Sr. Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director, reported that six persons have indicated interest in making oblation in 2017.

**October 26-31**—**Sr. Cathy Bauer**, Vocation Director, left early this morning for Beech Grove, Indiana, where she met **Sr. Julie Sewell** of Our Lady of Grace Monastery and **Sr. Teresa Gunter** of Immaculate Conception Monastery. They traveled to Overland, Kansas to attend the Convocation of the National Religious Vocation Conference. Approximately 300 participants representing 30 states and the District of Columbia as well as 15 international guests profited from the opportunity to share vocation efforts. The convocation theme was ***Awakened by the Spirit: Called to Discipleship***. **Sr. Cathy** reported a challenging and beneficial opportunity to share

*Continued on next page*

## Students from Madrid Visit St. Walburg Monastery



**Above and left:**  
The students helped with cleaning the dining room and getting the morning glory trellis ready for winter.

**Right and below:**  
Students also visited with sisters in the infirmary. Students with **Srs. Mary Peter Youtsey and Colleen Winston**.





## Christine Ann Hoskey—Daughter, Sister, Mother, Oblate, Friend

Oblate Christine Ann Hoskey (51), born November 8, 1964, was found dead of an apparent heart attack in her apartment on Friday, July 29, 2016. A memorial Mass was celebrated in the monastery chapel on Wednesday, August 10 where her family, relatives, friends, Benedictine sisters and oblates gathered in prayer. Sr. Cathy Bauer, Christine's prayer partner, and Janet Henderson, Christine's sister, planned this event.

Christine grew up in Mt. Washington, Ohio and later moved to Covington, Kentucky. She was the youngest of three children of Alex & Charlotte Hoskey. After Christine bore her son, Timothy, she gave him up for adoption to provide a better life for him. He (now named Daniel) and his adoptive parents live in Boone County.



Through her acquaintance with Sr. Cathy at Welcome House, Chris started coming to the monastery where she found much peace, quiet and beautiful liturgies. She said, "In being at the monastery, I notice the kindness, the way they [the sisters] do things. It is such an honor to be a part of the group, to be around the sisters once in a while, to learn from the experience and to attend Catholic Mass with the sisters who sing so well."

In 2002 Chris became a Benedictine Oblate and joined in oblate gatherings and prayer events. Later she purchased her first motor scooter, which gave her more flexibility to travel to see her parents, get to the library and come to the monastery for Sunday morning Eucharist. She loved her pets, especially her cats. She was also creative in designing special cards for people, including large poster-size ones for the sisters on special occasions. She had great devotion to Mary and her last Facebook profile picture was taken on her scooter in front of the Mary statue at the monastery.

Christine will be missed by the Oblates and the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. May her good works follow her and may she rest in the Peace of Christ!

**Sr. Mary Tewes, Oblate Director**

### *The Chronicles continued*

vocation experiences.

**October 31**—The last day of October saw lots of activity here at the monastery. In the morning the Montessori and kindergarten children, their teachers and many parents assembled in the infirmary lounge and monastery dining room to celebrate Halloween. The children, in various costumes and symbols of the day, sang and acted out Halloween songs, presenting a good demonstration of what these youngsters can do! After the performance all left except the kindergarten group; they remained for community Noonday Prayer and lunch. The evening found the community enjoying the annual Halloween party with its traditional "theme" costumes and masterful refreshments. The theme this year was *Presidents and First Ladies*—which produced some unique, imaginative and unusual costumes. A trivia game—matching first ladies with challenging clues kept groups at tables involved.

**November 1**—Usually Eucharist on Tuesday is at 11:30 am. Today's Feast of All Saints was celebrated with Eucharist at 5:20 pm. It was also a time to honor the jubilarians who made their first monastic profession sixty or seventy years ago—**Srs. Mariana Kirk** and **Helen Hergott** in 1956 and **Srs. David Ruschmann** and **Andrea Collopy** in 1946. **Father John Cahill**, our chaplain, presided. Pictures taken at earlier times were on display in the dining room—an artistic arrangement made by **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper**.

**November 5**—At the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption **Bishop Roger Foys** presided at Eucharist for the sisters in the diocese celebrating their 50th and 60th jubilees. In addition to those celebrating, superiors and many community members were present for the celebration. **Sr. Deborah Harmeling** was the lector and wrote the general intercessions that another sister read. After an informal reception at the Latin School, the jubilarians and their

*Continued on next page*

***The Chronicles continued***

religious superiors attended a luncheon with Bishop Foys.

Also today the formation group from Immaculate Conception Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana arrived to visit their mother monastery. They were present for Noonday Prayer, lunch, a tour of the monastery, a presentation on the history of St. Walburg Monastery and a visit to the cemetery to see the grave of **Sr. Benedicta Berns**, the first prioress of their monastery. The visiting group consisted of 1 postulant, 2 novices, 2 sisters in first profession as well as two directors and another professed sister. **Srs. Mary Tewes** and **Barbara Woeste** hosted the group.

**November 10 and 11**—There was intense interest in the election and its aftermath here at St. Walburg Monastery as well as elsewhere in the United States. Concern about divisiveness and the willingness to work together and compromise was the focus of much conversation. **Sr. Colleen Winston** wrote a blog post entitled ***From Hearing to Listening to Healing*** which garnered a lot of attention and much good advice. (see *this page*.) She had originally written one on early predictions which she scrapped and rewrote the morning after the election.

Veterans Day brought some unexpected visitors. **Sr. Rosemary McCormack's** visitor from Florida, **Jack Hanson**, was staying at a hotel in Cincinnati when he introduced himself to a group from the United Kingdom representing SKY NEWS-UK. **Lisa Holland** a reporter from London, **Yulia Bragina** a producer from Moscow, and a photographer were in the swing state of Ohio to do a feature on reconciliation after the election. Jack told the group that he was driving to St. Walburg Monastery and gave them his phone number suggesting that they might want to interview the sisters there. Yulia then called Sr. Mary Catherine and requested an interview. Sr. Mary Catherine referred her to Sr. Colleen's blog post as well as a statement from the Benedictine

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## From Hearing to Listening to Healing

Wed., 11/9 Overnight the primal scream that has been crying throughout the world found its voice in the United States. A significant part of the US population that has felt unheard and ignored for a long time forced the rest of the country to feel its pain. With seismic force, chasms that many did not know existed, were unearthed in the cities and countryside of America.

After an election colored by name-calling, harsh judgments, and false assumptions across the political spectrum, our country is left to deal with a pain, fear, and frustration similar to that which has raised its head in many countries around the globe. From African countries with no stable government to England, from Arab Spring to Brexit, groups of people have been forcing those who hold the reins of power to pay attention to them.



The causes underlying this cacophony are probably multiple, but I'd guess a major one stems from the almost cataclysmic changes that have come to us in just one lifetime - communication, immigration, manufacturing, transportation..... As one commentator put it, it's as powerful a change in society as the 19th century industrial revolution. And who's been hurt the most? The millions of people who have the fewest resources to cope.

What now? During the election campaign, lines weren't just drawn in the sand; ditches were dug. Bridges weren't just dismantled; they were bombed. How does one move on from here? How does healing and reconstruction begin? Who can lead?

This is where we come in, we, people of faith and good will. Our call is as seismic as the one that shook our country last night. We who believe in a power greater than a single individual - humanist, Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim, Native American... - all of us are being challenged to reach out across all divides, old or new, to learn another's reality. Painful as it is, we need to listen to another person's truth, and try to understand why theirs is different from our own. All of us are wounded in some way. We are frail and imperfect, but each of us has the power to heal another because we have the power to love. Listening is a form of loving.

As a Catholic Christian, I know that the God who lives within me lives within each person around me. I know that Jesus reached out

*Continued on p. 11*

## From Hearing to Listening to Healing (cont')

across society's dividing lines and touched the good within others who had been judged sinful or religiously unclean. I am called to imitate Him, and, because at one time or another I have experienced it, I know a word or a touch can heal.

On this 11/9 I am reminded of another 9/11 when our country was called to come together. Today and the days to come, we are called to put on a new mind, a mind that realizes our individual perspective is not always shared by others, but if we work at it, we can probably find common ground. Our forebearers who wrote the constitution had a similar challenge. They succeeded. Can we? Then what?

Blessings on us all for the difficult journey ahead.  
Sr. Colleen Winston, OSB



Above left to right: SKY news correspondent **Lisa Holland**, **Srs. Andrea Collopy** and **Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, SKY producer **Yulia Bragina**, **Sr. Deborah Harmeling**



Above: **Lisa Holland** (middle) interviewing **Sr. Andrea Collopy** (left) outside the chapel.

### *The Chronicles continued*

Sisters of Atchison, Kansas. Yulia and Lisa were persistent, called back and requested an interview since they were at our front door! They talked with **Srs. Mary Catherine** and **Deborah**, interviewed **Sr. Andrea Collopy**, took many pictures and returned to film the community at Evening Prayer for the feast of St. Martin of Tours. (See pictures on this page.) The program, which also included an interview with **Mike and Helen Pope**, a husband who is a Republican and a wife who is a Democrat. appeared on Sunday, November 13 and was broadcast to the international community. To view the film go to: <http://news.sky.com/story/can-there-be-reconciliation-after-the-us-election-10655780>. Click on the arrow in the lower left corner of the first picture (the picture of Mike and Helen Pope).

**Thanksgiving**--On the days preceding Thanksgiving, making pies was the big task in the monastery kitchen. **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** and **Maureen Smain** supervised pie making for the community's use and to sell at the annual Thanksgiving pie sale. We sold 65 pies--apple crisp, pumpkin and pecan. On Wednesday evening the total St. Walburg community had its Thanksgiving supper together. On Thanksgiving Day a sizeable group of oblates, friends and relatives joined the community at Eucharist, followed by what has become the traditional brunch with its familiar menu of fruit, egg casseroles and home-made cinnamon rolls. We prayed Evening Prayer earlier than usual so that many sisters could celebrate at homes of families and friends. These days remind us of the multitude of blessings for which to be thankful.



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## SAVE THE DATE

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

### ***The Mystery of God and Suffering***

presented by

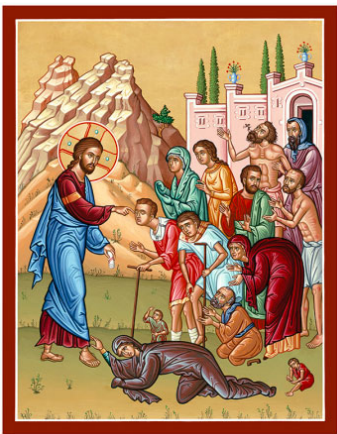
**Rev. Kenneth Overberg, SJ**

Professor Emeritus, Theology  
Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

Saturday, February 25, 2017

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Lower Level of the Monastery



*Christ Healing the Sick (c)*

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***Call Sr. Deborah Harmeling at 859-331-6771  
or email [sdhosb@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhosb@yahoo.com) for reservations.***

\$30.00 fee includes snacks and lunch

