



Vol. 35, Issue 2
Winter 2017

Leaven

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky



*Remember, Lord of life
and grace,
How once, to save our
fallen race,
You put our human
vesture on
And came to us as
Mary's son.*

Vespers hymn, Sixth century,
Divine Office, Roman rite

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

The Prioress Writes . . .

Let peace be your quest and your aim.

Rule of St. Benedict, prologue, v.17; Psalm 333 (34), v. 14-15

Our Christmas and New Year greetings come to you this year in the words of **St. Isaac the Syrian**, a 7th century monk, ascetic and bishop. Couplet by couplet he offers titles of the Child born of Mary and simple and doable practices for a peaceful world.

Nativity Sermon

This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world;
So let no one threaten.

This is the night of the Most Gentle One
Let no one be cruel.

This is the night of the Humble One
Let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy
Let us not revenge.

Now is the day of Good Will
Let us not be mean.

In this Day of Peace
Let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;
So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;
So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;
Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Today the DIVINE BEING took upon Himself the seal of our humanity,
In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of DIVINITY.



Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, Prioress

LEAVEN
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Sisters Deborah Harmeling and Margaret Mary Gough, editors.

Cover:
Light of the Word, watercolor by Sister Emmanuel Pieper.
Photographs: Villa Madonna Academy, Sisters Emmanuel Pieper, Deborah Harmeling and Mary Tewes.



Congratulations to Our 2017 Jubilarians!



Celebrating 50 & 60 years of Monastic Profession
Back (l to r): Sr. Mary Tewes (60 years), Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, prioress. Front: Sr. Ann John Kotch (50 years).



Celebrating 70 Years of Monastic Profession
Back (l to r); Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup, prioress, and Sr. Emmanuel Pieper (70 years). Front: Sr. Estelle Schulte (70 years).

The Chronicles

by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB

July—The official notice of the purchase agreement on the sale of 85 acres of St. Walburg property to **Ashley Commercial Group, LLC** went out in the last week of June. The Benedictine Sisters are grateful to all who assisted and encouraged in the planning for the future and continued presence of the Benedictines in Villa Hills.

A beautiful framed post of the American Benedictine women's family tree now hangs in the infirmary lounge. It is the product of the Inter-federation Heritage Committee which **Sr. Rita Brink** has chaired since late 2015.

July 3-8—**Sr. Aileen Bankemper** conducted a workshop for the community of St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The workshop was entitled *Closer to Christ; Closer to Each Other* and included tools and tips to enhance community living.

July 2-10—**Sr. Mary Catherine** attended **Sr. Esther Fangman's** installation as prioress at Mt. St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. Sr. Esther previously served 12 years as President of the Federation of St. Scholastica.

July 9-14—Ten students and three moderators from **St. Bede Academy**, Peru, Illinois arrived this evening to serve in mission in the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati areas. After spending the night at the monastery's Guest House, the students spent their first service day at the monastery in service activities, prayer, an art class from **Sr. Emmanuel**, card games and visiting with sisters. They spent the next two nights at St. Agnes Parish where accommodation for such groups is available and convenient. During the days they worked at Parish Kitchen and similar places throughout the area. They spent their last night at the Guest House. **Sr. Cathy Bauer** has

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been responsible for organizing the group for the last four years. Students from St. Bede's are enthusiastic and energetic volunteers. They are welcome back at any time.

During most of this same period the Cincinnati Museum Center used St. Walburg's lower level for a summer camp for young children. The Museum Center came here because renovation was going on at Union Terminal where its activities were usually held. From 9 am to 4 pm each day children from grades K through 6 came for two summer camps:

Dinosaur Camp and **Harry Potter Camp**. The Museum Center contacted Villa Madonna Academy about space for the camps and VMA contacted us. **July 11--Oblate Inquirer Pamela Neal** was able to make her Oblation with St. Walburg Monastery at her home in Edgewood. (see p. 6) Pam is in hospice care and her hospice nurse and social workers agreed that this was the only way Pam could make her Oblation because of her weakened condition. **Srs. Mary Catherine, Mary Tewes, Dorothy Schuette**, many of Pam's oblate and inquirer friends, her three sisters and her husband **Rich** joined in the Noon Day Prayer and Oblation Ritual.

July 14-19—Sr. Mary Tewes and Oblate **Louise Jewett** attended the Biennial Meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblates, hosted by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, Minnesota. The meeting's theme was **Benedictine Values and Practices: Tools for Living, Tools for Life**. Three presenters spoke to this theme: **Sr. Rene McGraw, OSB** from St. John's Abbey, **Sr. Theresa Schumacher, OSB** and **Sr. Mary Rueter, OSB** from St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Dorms, meals and meetings were all held in the College buildings of this very large complex, and liturgies and Eucharists in the

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Sister Joann Dziolek, 1934-2017

Born July 11, 1934 in Free Soil, Michigan

Entered Our Lady of Sorrows Convent,

Tinley Park, Illinois, August 22, 1955

Received habit, February 10, 1956

First Profession, February 22, 1957

Transferred profession of stability
to St. Walburg Monastery September 29, 1977.

Died August 3, 2017

Sister Joann Dziolek, OSB was born on July 11, 1934 in Free Soil, Michigan to **Stanley and Aberdeen Roskoskey Dziolek**. Joann was one of five children: two boys, one of whom died shortly after birth, and three girls.

Joann played basketball in high school, and took her love of sports with her in 1955 when she entered Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Tinley Park, IL, a Benedictine community. The next year she received the name Sister Scholastica as a novice. First profession followed in 1957, perpetual in 1960. Sister Scholastica completed



her B.S. degree from DePaul University in Elementary Education in 1973 and taught primary grades in the Chicago area. For several years she served as novice director for the community while working as a teacher.

By 1975 Sister Joann returned to her baptismal name and began the transfer process to St. Walburg Monastery which was completed in 1977. She taught primary grades at St. Henry Elementary and Villa Madonna Academy, and later served as a substitute teacher. She celebrated her silver jubilee in 1982

and golden jubilee in 2007.

Sister Joann suffered a significant loss of hearing. For several years she was able to use a headset in chapel, until this proved too challenging. It never impaired her ability to smile, or to call sisters by name. She faithfully read the bulletins sent to her from her parish church in Michigan, and her eyes lit up whenever anyone talked of traveling there.

The Detroit Tigers had a loyal fan in Sister Joann. She enjoyed teasing the Kentuckians whose favorite teams hailed from points further south.

Sister Joann died in the late evening of August 3. She is survived by her sister Rosemary, several nieces and nephews, and the Benedictine community. Vigil was held the evening of August 6, 2017 with Mass of Christian Burial on August 7, 2017. She is interred in St. Walburg Monastery Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. Walburg Monastery,
2500 Amsterdam Rd, Villa Hills KY 21017

Remembering Fr. John W. Cahill

Editor's Note: Fr. John Cahill, priest of the Diocese of Covington, was our chaplain for 12 years. He died on November 15, 2017. In his funeral plans he asked Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup to give the eulogy. This is part of what she said at his funeral in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

The funeral liturgy offers the opportunity for some words of remembrance on Fr. Cahill. I offer both mine and those suggested by members of our community.

John became our chaplain on July 1, 2005 while remaining pastor of the Hispanic parish Cristo Rey. He would often join us for holiday or feast day celebrations and occasionally fill in as a needed fourth player for a euchre or pinochle game. We, however, really got to know him through his role as priest and celebrant.

John always came to Eucharist prepared. It was common for him to draw on his academic background in philosophy and theology. Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas and various scripture scholars were obvious sources. After a few years, he would include teaching from the Rule of Benedict. I've been told God's providence was often a theme when he was chaplain for the **Sisters of Divine Providence**. He celebrated Eucharist knowing his congregation.

From the beginning we learned and experienced his commitment to and passion for the Church's teaching on social justice. He used pen and spoken word to remind his audiences of the plight of the poor, immigrants and the powerless. Frequently John would close his homily by extending his hand toward the altar—a gesture reminding us of the connection between what we do outside the chapel and what we offer on the altar at Eucharist. His commitment and desire to celebrate Eucharist was last evidenced in his final days in ICU when he told Sr. Colleen that he missed celebrating Eucharist with us. He knew he was no longer able



to do so.

Floyd County left its mark on the person, John. Love of the land, coal mining and miners would occasionally be part of a homily. In his later years at Madonna Manor he could be seen porch sitting-- greeting neighbors and passersby. He worked on his flowers and tomatoes in a tiny garden in front of his cottage. Next spring that tiny yard will be filled with the hundred or so blooming crocus blubs he recently planted.

I surmise that John acquired his love of learning, nature, music, beauty, art and travel at an early age. These formed him into a person who respected and was comfortable with diverse cultures. That also may explain why he was a good chaplain. Monastic life and women religious definitely have a culture all their own. John had more than respect for us and our culture. **He got it.**

John asked that I tell you “about my profound respect and admiration for religious women . . . and the joy I experienced and the inspiration I received while serving (and being served by) them”. And we say, “The feeling is mutual.”

John's life and service were gifts to the diocese and its people. The hallmarks of his priestly vocation were visible in his devotion and commitment to the Eucharist and in his work as pastor, homilist, teacher, and advocate for those in need. He will be missed by all those who shared his culture, convictions, joys, sorrows, and his own very interesting journey through life.

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Monastery Chapel at the center of the grounds. Louise and her husband, **Bruce**, had planned a two week driving trip to and from Duluth and invited Sr. Mary to travel with them. They traveled 2900 miles through Ohio, Michigan, across the Upper Peninsula to Duluth, then to Northern Minnesota, down thru Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and HOME. On the evening of August 14, Sr. Mary gave a presentation on the conference and trip.

July 18—Two hundred members of the **Catholic Heart Work Camp**, a national organization, were residents at Bishop Brossart High School for the week. Six students, from Minnesota, Illinois and Texas, with their chaperones spent a day at St. Walburg's working, participating in activities and meeting the Sisters. Most of the students attend or will attend colleges throughout the United States. The national organization, founded by two lay youth ministers, originated in Orlando, Florida. The mission of the organization is two-fold: to share the love of Christ when they serve others and to foster the Catholic faith.

July 22--Sr. Rita Brink and many Benedictine sisters from monasteries founded from St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, Pennsylvania, attended the establishment and placement of a marker in the cemetery of St. Joseph Monastery. The marker was the gift of the people of Elk County, commemorating the service of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery from 1852 to 2014.

July 30-Aug. 3—The community retreat began on Sunday at 4:30 pm with the first talk by **Abbot Primate Gregory Polan**, formerly the 9th abbot of Conception Abbey. Three years ago we asked Abbot Polan to conduct our 2017 retreat. He was elected Abbot Primate September, 2016, with a new residence in Rome

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and responsibilities for Benedictine communities all over the world, but he still chose to honor his commitment and lead our retreat, entitled *Benedictines Living the Paschal Mystery*. It was an inspirational time for community members. Retreatants received the topics of each talk with a reading from Scripture or from the Rule to aid our understanding. St. Walburg Monastery is grateful to Fr. Gregory for his keen love of Scripture and the time he spent with us.

August 3-7—On the evening of August 3 after being anointed by Abbot Gregory, **Sr. Joann Dziolek** died. (See p. 4) The Vigil Service and Visitation were held on August 6, and Mass of Christian Burial and interment in the Monastery cemetery followed on August 7. Sr. Joann's sister and niece from Free Soil, Michigan were present for the services as were infirmery employees and local friends.

August 7—**Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup** left for Orlando, Florida, to attend the annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), scheduled for August 8-11. She attended the short meeting of Benedictine prioresses and then the LCWR meeting. A tight schedule of talks and activities filled the days. She found two talks to be outstanding: *Energizing Wisdom* and *Committing to be the Presence of Love Looking to the Future*. Another topic of interest was restructuring of the organization's board.

August 21—A large group of sisters and employees assembled outside the lower level at 2:15 today to view and celebrate the solar eclipse. (See p. 8) Equipped with protective solar eclipse glasses, we watched this phenomenon which had not occurred for many years. To add to the party Maureen Smain, our kitchen manager made solar punch and cookies. The report was that the eclipse in this area reached 92% totality.

August 24—**The Sisters of Notre**

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Our Benedictine Oblates

2017 Oblation

New Oblate Pamela Neal

Pam Neal, who has terminal cancer, celebrated her Oblation with St. Walburg Monastery on July 11, on the Feast of St. Benedict, at her home in Edgewood.



Sr. Mary Catherine, Prioress, **Sr. Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director, **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, many of her oblate and inquirer friends, her three sisters and her husband, **Rich**, (see left) joined in the Noon Day Prayer and Oblation Ritual. Pam was her warm welcoming self, though on oxygen, and very weak. Her hospice nurse and social workers agreed that this was the only way Pam could celebrate her Oblation because of her weakened condition.

October 22 Oblate Renewal Day



Pictured (left to right) are **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, Prioress; **Sr. Sharon Portwood**, prayer partner, with new Oblate **Vickie Cimprich**; new Oblate **Joan McAlonan** with her prayer partner, **Sr. Joan Fraenzle** and **Sr. Mary Tewes**, Oblate Director.



Thirty-one Oblates attended the Oblate Renewal Day.

Benedictine Oblates celebrate 30 years



On October 22 the oblate program celebrated its 30th anniversary. Eight oblates from the original group from 1987 are still in the program. Pictured above are those who were able to be present on October 22 with the three prioresses and three directors over that period of time. Each oblate celebrating 30 years received a candle marked with the dates as a remembrance. Pictured front (left to right) **John and Mary Alexander, Joanne Moeller** (oblates), **Sr. Justina Franxman**, past prioress. Pictured back (left to right): **Sr. Mary Tewes**, current oblate director, **Srs. Martha Walther and Cathy Bauer**, previous oblate directors, **Martha Arlinghaus and Jim Lockhart** (oblates), **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, current prioress and **Sr. Rita Brink**, past prioress.

October Center of Spirituality Day of Reflection on Dorothy Day

The Center of Spirituality held a Day of Reflection entitled *The Sacred and the Ordinary: An Encounter with Dorothy Day*. **Jeanne Hunt**, Pastoral Associate for Catechesis and Evangelization at Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio, presented.

Fifty-two participants attended and found Jeanne's presentation to be dynamic and entertaining. They appreciated how Jeanne interacted with the



group and how she connected her own life experiences with the teachings of Dorothy Day. Many participants left the day determined to clean out all the things they had acquired and to try to live more simply.

The Chronicles continued

Dame extended an invitation to our community to attend a presentation by **Iman Ismael Chartier** of the Clifton Mosque to share his experience in the Sanctuary Movement. This organization makes all kinds of effort to help immigrants in the US who are threatened with deportation. Many sisters from SWM attended.

August 25—**Sr. Molly Brockwell** of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, Kansas, and **Sr. Judy Zonsuis** of St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, Illinois, came to SWM to work with Sr. Mary Catherine. All are members of the Federation of St. Scholastica's Juridic Committee.

Also visiting the monastery were **Sr. Rustica**, a Benedictine sister from Tanzania, studying at Mount St. Joseph University, her brother **Fr. Nestor**, a diocesan priest from Tanzania and **Sr. Fausta**, a good friend of Sr. Rustica. Fr. Nestor and Sr. Fausta are students at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. Sr. Fausta stayed with us for several days.

September 2—Seven year old **Carmen Rosales**, a second grade student from St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs, gave a violin concert in the infirmary lounge this afternoon. Carmen has finished her first level of the Suzuki method and was able to play from memory. Her father accompanied her on the piano and the audience enjoyed the extraordinary musical talent of this youngster.

Late August and early September—The unusual, frequent and plentiful rainfall of these months encouraged beautiful lawns, flowers and trees here in northern Kentucky. But the historical and devastating hurricanes suffered in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico claimed our prayers and concerns. The hurricane touched the lives of many friends, relatives and associates. St. Walburg Monastery and Villa Madonna Academy joined with other organizations in sending food, medicine and clothing to

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the affected areas. At Evening Prayer and Eucharist we remembered those suffering from the destruction and devastation. We know that the stricken regions will need our help for a long time to come.

September 21—The Benedictine, Divine Providence and Notre Dame sisters sponsored a prayer service ***United in Prayer*** at the Main Strasse Bell Tower in Covington from 6:00 to 6:30 pm today. A large group shared the prayerful experience. There were no speakers, just a prayerful congregation of about 200 participants.

September 22-23—**Sr. Kimberly Porter** left for Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, where she and **Sr. Tonette Sperando**, prioress, made a presentation at a gathering of subprioresses and house coordinators. The talks focused on leadership and self care.

September 22-24—One of the very large classes of the 1970's, VMA class of '77, held its 40th reunion this weekend with great opportunities for celebration: Friday evening at Hotel Covington (the old Coppin's building), Saturday afternoon with lots of free time to do things together. Sunday Eucharist at the monastery chapel was followed by brunch in the lower level. A good number of former teachers and old friends enjoyed the opportunity to visit after so many years.

September 24—**The Knights of Columbus, Fr. DeJaco Council**, invited the religious of the area to their headquarters in Alexandria for an afternoon of games and socialization. Bingo was the big opportunity to win prizes. The Knights and their families served a delicious dinner. A good representation of the Benedictine Sisters participated in this annual gift to religious.

September 26—Students in the VMA physics class sponsored an unusual boat race on the lake this afternoon. (See p. 9) Four boats made of cardboard by the students—three highly decorated and

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Watching-the-Eclipse-Party August 21, 2017



Pictured clockwise from top left: In the front: **Becky Selm**, kitchen staff member, **Sr. David Ruschmann** and **Sr. Estelle Schulte**, seated in wheelchair behind Sr. David. Top right: **Sr. Andrea Collopy**. Below right: **Sr. Philomena Rarreick**. Below left: (1 to r) **Srs. Christa Kreinbrink, Charles Wolking, Cathy Bauer, Rita Bilz and Nancy Kordenbrock**. Left: **Srs. Margaret Mary Dressman and Mariana Kirk**.



Below: Members of the community lined up for solar punch, watching the elipse.



First Annual VMA Cardboard Regatta



On September 26 the VMA AP Physics II students/engineers, with their teacher **Mark Wolff**, held the first annual **VMA Cardboard Regatta** in the VMA lake. All boats were made of cardboard.

Some lasted longer than others. There were rescue boats for those who ended up in the lake.

WLW featured highlights on the evening



news. **Han Lei** (bottom picture) was the winner and his boat is pictured in the front hall of the Academy.

Part of learning is understanding why something did not work, and so the



AP Physics II engineers got busy right away collaborating and redesigning some of the boats.



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unusual and one simple square creation operated by hand paddles raced. One tipped and flooded at the start; two others tried hard but did not make it. The least spectacular-looking one with its two oarsmen was the winner and rewarded with great applause from the VMA students, parents and friends assembled on the shore of the lake.

September 30—**Srs. Ann John Kotch** and **Mary Tewes** celebrated fifty and sixty years of monastic profession at Evening Prayer. (See p. 3) On this joyful occasion they renewed their profession in the presence of the community and a large number of relatives and friends. Sr. Mary's family and friends enjoyed dinner together in the lower level while Sr. Ann John hosted her relatives and friends in the community dining room.

September-October—This fall was a busy time for **Sr. Cathy Bauer**. She led eighth grade students with teachers and chaperones from various parishes, St. Joseph Schools in Crescent Springs and Cold Spring, Sts. Peter & Paul, Mary, Queen of Heaven, St. Paul, St. Agnes, St. Pius X and St. Henry in SEEK retreats. Usually the students from each school were divided into two groups, each on a successive day. SEEK retreats offer students opportunities to visit social agencies which serve homeless individuals and families. In preparation for the visits students spent time in prayer, reflection, sharing images and discussing needs and causes of homelessness. They then visited three local agencies and discussed what they had seen and heard. They talked about differences between justice and charity and spent some time exploring how they can creatively work toward justice. The retreat gave them time to listen and wonder how God may be calling each of them to change and to serve others.

October 11--**Sr. Deborah Harmeling** gave a talk to the parishoners of St. Barbara Parish on *Types of Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Preferences*. On her way to the parish she realized

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that she had left her notes on her office desk but was not concerned because she had handouts and a Power Point presentation to accompany the talk. When she arrived at the parish center, her thumb drive would not communicate with the computer there. Sr. Deborah ended up giving the talk from memory with a pounding heart and reports she was strangely more energetic without her notes and slides!

October 13—Villa Madonna Academy sponsored a **Craft Show** in the gym today. There was a large number of booths with a variety of articles available. Most were handmade. St. Walburg Monastery sponsored a booth under the care of **Sr. Mariana Kirk**. Knitted and crocheted articles by **Srs. Mariana, Dorothy Schuette, and Kimberly Porter** were available. **Sr. Emmanuel Pieper's** note cards, **Sr. Joan Fraenzle's** wooden items and a pair of pillow cases embroidered by **Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann** were also offered.

October 22—Today was Oblate Renewal day at the monastery. (See p.6) Presently there are forty-six oblates; thirty-one attended the celebration which included Morning Prayer and Eucharist followed by a group reflection in the lower level. The group reflected on an article on monastic values from **Benedictines** by **Rachel Srubas**, an oblate and Presbyterian Reformed minister. The final question before adjournment was “how being an oblate has affected/impacted family life and other relationships.”

After the reflection time oblates attended Noonday Prayer with the community where **Vickie Cimprich** and **Joan McAlonan**, two candidates for oblation, made their oblation and the other oblates renewed theirs. This was followed by a Sunday dinner with the community. Six oblates celebrated 30 years as oblates, being members since the oblate program was founded in 1987. (See p. 7)

October 28—**The Center of Spiritual-**
Continued on next page

For 15 Years Sister Aileen Bankemper Has Volunteered at the Women's Federal Prison Camp in Lexington, Kentucky

Recently I was requested by **Sister Rosemary McCormack**, the community's “roving reporter” for our in-house **Word Within** newsletter, to write about my 15-year experience as a volunteer at the **Women's Federal Prison Camp** in Lexington, Kentucky. The following is a summary adaptation of what I wrote.

Over the years listening to the women's stories at the prison – some horrific, has made an indelible impression on me. No one chooses to be born into an addicted family; or in a family in which abuse – physical, sexual, emotional had become a pattern; or in situations in which abject

poverty was the norm. And yes, for some of the women their early lives were neither harsh nor dangerous. And yes, some women do have a real attitude! There is always a mixture of women in the groups that I conduct.

How to be of help can be a huge challenge. I envy Jesus who looked directly into the person's soul and knew what was needed! For me, it is listening, providing mental and emotional health education and most of all being attuned to the matters of their hearts – that seem to lead to a positive change.

Through the years I have met many remarkable women. Women who own up to the crime(s), take responsibility for their mistakes and use the opportunity in prison to reflect on their lives and begin making necessary changes. Many of them offer kindness and acceptance to the other inmates especially the newly arrived women in the Camp.

Often, when people come to see me on the Monastery grounds they remark how sacred and holy this space is. This does not surprise me. I am surprised, though, at how often I have felt a sense of sacredness when meeting with the women at the Prison Camp. So often there is vulnerability and openness that makes the space feel holy, and at times, the workings of the Spirit feel palpable.

I believed then as I do now that incarcerated women are underserved. Through the years I have experienced many challenges! Now seldom do I experience the feelings of dread and anxiety when I drive up the long driveway – but I continue to feel a sense of hope and gratitude when I leave the Camp.



Sister Andrea Vasquez Writes about Her Ministry in Pueblo, Colorado

Here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish an extended family from Mexico came every week to clean the church and the grounds. In January the family never showed up. I waited for a week to call them. There was no answer, so I tried again in another week and again no answer. We don't know if they went back to Mexico on their own, or if they were deported.

After Easter I scheduled Adult Confirmation Classes for six weeks and had 13 adults show up for instructions. They were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart by **Bishop Stephen Berg**. There were about 50 adults confirmed.



On April 28th to May 12th there were eight young ladies who came for preparation classes to celebrate their **Quinceanera** (15th birthday). The classes are a requirement for the celebration. The girls seem to enjoy the time together because they meet other young ladies preparing to celebrate. They have the opportunity to get to know one another and also exchange ideas to enhance their celebrations. We have three scheduled here at Mt. Carmel. That means arranging a practice and then attending the Mass to make sure all goes well.

In April the youth ministers came up with an idea of how to raise money so the youth could attend the NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) being held in Indianapolis. They picked 4 priests that are artists and the retired Bishop of Pueblo. They planned an art show and the priests were able to sell their art, but 20% of their sales went to the NCYC. It was a great gathering and gave exposure to our artists. I was on their planning team.

In July Our Lady of Mt. Carmel held its annual parish festival. (See picture right) We were lucky that we were not rained out as it usually happens during Monsoon season. The festival seems to have been a great success and a "thank you" dinner was planned for all the workers of the festival.



On September 23, our annual pilgrimage to the **Santuario of Chimayo** took place. We left Pueblo at 6:00 am and drove to San Luis (a 2-hour drive). There we had a break for some refreshments and some shopping in the Sangre de Cristo parish gift shop. Some of the pilgrims walked to the top of a hill where the parish has life size stations of the Cross by the same artist that did Our Lady of Guadalupe that is in the Cathedral in Covington. After an hour or so we got back on the bus and continued on to Chimayo. We arrived there at about noon. and celebrated Mass at 2:00 pm. There are musicians that I work with that make the trip every year. All in all it is a 12-hour round trip. Chimayo is often called the " Lourdes of the Southwest." Always people from all over the world come to pray or just look around. It is a very peaceful place.

The Chronicles continued

ity sponsored a Day of Reflection on Dorothy Day presented by **Jeanne Hunt**, Pastoral Associate of Catechesis and Evangelization at Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Cincinnati. (See p. 7) The program entitled ***The Sacred & the Ordinary: An Encounter with Dorothy Day*** attracted many sisters, oblates and other participants. Ms. Hunt offered a thorough treatment of the life and mission of the Servant of God, Dorothy Day. The topics included: the sacred in the ordinary, being grateful for suffering, simplicity, pilgrimage and hospitality. In their evaluations, participants raved about Ms. Hunt's presentation style and all found the day energizing and inspirational.

October 31—The community celebrated its annual Halloween party. This year's costume theme was ***The Proverbs and other images from the Gospels***. Among the costumed sisters were two Good Shepherds, one pearl of great price, three lights not under a bushel basket but displayed on a lamp stand, one wise virgin with her lighted lamp, one sower of seed, one woman who had found the coin she lost, one salt of the earth and one persevering widow asking for justice.

November 11—**Sr. Kathleen Ryan** shared with the community what she called an experience of a lifetime—a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. From **October 2-12**, she was part of a group of forty who journeyed to the Holy Land. Many pictures allowed the assembly to appreciate and share a bit of what the experience involved. Several in the audience who had visited the Holy Land could relate to Sr. Kathleen's enthusiasm.

November 15--**Fr. John Cahill**, a priest of the diocese of Covington, and our chaplain, died today at St. Elizabeth Hospital Ft. Thomas, after suffering a heart attack and spending three weeks in Cardiac ICU. (See p. 5 for Sr. Mary Catherine's eulogy.)



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

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SAVE THE DATE

The Center of Spirituality offers a day of discussion and reflection:

Exodus: Finding God
While Being Seduced By Other “gods”
presented by Deacon Royce Winters

Director: African American Catholic Ministries, Archdiocese of Cincinnati,
Pastoral Administrator, The Church of the Resurrection



Saturday, March 3, 2017
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Lower Level of the Monastery



Aaron and the Golden Calf
Marc Chagall

Call Sr. Deborah Harmeling at 859-331-6771
or email sdhosb@yahoo.com
for reservations.

\$30.00 fee includes snacks, lunch and materials

