



Vol. 36, Issue 3  
Winter 2018

# Leaven

St. Walburg Monastery • Covington, Kentucky



*A child is born to us.*

*By the tender mercy of  
our God  
the dawn from on high  
will break upon us...*

*to guide our feet  
into the path of peace.*

May you and those  
you love  
be filled with hope  
and joy  
this Christmas season  
and in the New Year  
to come.

*The Benedictine Sisters of  
St. Walburg Monastery*

# The Prioress Writes . . .

## *Born From the Gaze of God*

The phrase “Born from the gaze of God” invites a warm reflective Christmas meditation on God’s unconditional love for each person. So many works of beauty depict Mary gazing in wonder at her newborn son. The act of gazing is in itself a contemplative practice. What is more intimate and beautiful as a parent gazing on their infant? It creates the relationship and forms the person.

*Born From the Gaze of God* is the title of a journal by **Christopher Lebereton, OCSO** written between 1993 - 1996. It depicts his love relationship with God, with Mary the Mother of God, his bond with his fellow monks and the community’s love and commitment to remain with their Muslim neighbors in Tibhirine, Algeria despite ongoing fear of being murdered by extremist groups. This ultimately happened; he along with six other monks suffered martyrdom in March 1996.

The miracle of Christmas invites us to recognize and appreciate that each and every person is born from the gaze of God. The collect from Christmas Mass at dawn reads “as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may {it} also shine through in our deeds.” God’s gaze transforms us. A transformation in society needed today is reverence, respect and acceptance in God’s sight of all persons, especially the immigrant, the unborn, the other, the sick, the poor, the young and the old.

May this season of light shining in a darkened earth bring forth peace and joy in each of us. May we take an opportunity to contemplate on the many ways we are born from the gaze of God. May our love relationship with God flourish in our relationships with all of God’s people.



**Sr. Aileen Bankemper, Prioress**

LEAVEN  
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Sisters Deborah Harmeling and Margaret Mary Gough, editors.

Cover:  
**Hope for the World**, watercolor by Sister Emmanuel Pieper.  
Photographs:  
Sr. Mary Tewes, Network, Pamela McQueen, Villa Madonna Academy Junior High/High School FB, Faith Community Pharmacy and the Sisters of Divine Providence



## Sr. Cathy's Experience as a "Nun on the Bus"

As I was heading to the airport early Sunday morning, Oct. 28, to begin a week on the Network bus or *Nuns on the Bus*, I was reminded of the massacre the day before of the 11 who were killed at the **Tree of Life Synagogue**. I realized that in the Our Father, Jesus promised the kingdom of God in the words *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. thy kingdom come, ...* This is a journey to the Kingdom of God which is not yet at hand.

I was excited to be on this journey and have the opportunity to meet with women religious who are traveling across country to participate for the common good, the work of justice. I thought of **Pope Francis'** words: *A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of him/herself, so that those who govern can govern.* (Sept. 16, 2013 at St. Martha's House)



I arrived at Washington Reagan National airport and traveled together with **Srs. Donna Korba and Beth LeValley** to Arlington, VA where we had lunch with all the other sisters and staff. When the bus arrived, I was amazed by all the signatures that were on it. It

was not only us traveling to Mar-a-lago but many people who have come to speak up for justice. At three o'clock we were at our first Rally in Richmond, VA at **Maggie Lena Walker Memorial Plaza**. A crowd of 75 people listened to speakers about good leadership that is built on love and humility produces policies based on values.

Monday morning we arrived at **Women's Center of Wake County**, Raleigh, NC and were greeted by executive director, **Brace Boone**. As we toured this day-shelter for homeless women, we found that this was not just a space for women to come each day, but was a community creatively and powerfully taking care of each other. Following our tour was a rally where individuals talked about the need to expand programs to care for the individuals and families who are homeless.



In the afternoon we walked in community gardens at **Farmers Foodshare** in Durham, NC. (See picture above.) Three women shared

*Continued on next page*

## The Chronicles

*by Sr. Andrea Collopy, OSB*

**September 20-26--Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock**, subprioress, attended a meeting at **Our Lady of Grace Monastery** in Beech Grove, Indiana. Present for the meeting were 20 sisters, including 13 subprioresses and 7 house coordinators from 15 communities. The guest speakers were **Srs. Olga Wittenkine, OSF** and **Heather Foltz, OSB**. They spoke on *Coping with the Challenges of Community Living* and *Relational Issues, Moving through the Early Stages of Dementia* and *A Millennial's Perspective on Inter-generation Living*. The last day was spent in group sharing on issues of importance to the participants. This was Sr. Nancy's first meeting, so much of her time was spent in learning from the experienced participants.

**September 22—Msgr. William F. Cleves**, pastor of **Holy Spirit Parish** in Newport, presented a Center of Spirituality day for the community and about 70 other participants on *Holiness in the Ordinary, reflections on Pope Francis' exhortation Gaudete Et Exsultate*. The opening words were from Matthew's Gospel chapter 5, verse 12. A handout summarizing Chapters 5-7 was distributed and was an excellent preparation for Fr. Cleves' presentation. It was interesting to note the chapters began and ended with a trip up a mountain. The day was a spiritually challenging experience.

**September 23**—The community was invited to attend an end of summer piano recital offered by

*Continued on next page*

*The Chronicles continued*

**Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann's** piano students. There were 10 pianists ranging in age from seven to fifteen who have been studying from two months to eight years.

**October 3**—Twenty-five senior girls from **St. Ursula Academy** in Cincinnati attended Noonday Prayer, accompanied by two teachers and our friend **Linda Thomas** who teaches a religion class there. **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** hosted a tour of the monastery. On October 9 another group of seniors was here for Eucharist. Linda also accompanied them while they enjoyed a short tour.

**October 4-7**—During this period six members of **The Company of St. Ursula** were guests at the Guest House. **Fr. Ken Overberg, SJ** presided at Eucharist in our chapel on Saturday, October 6, during which a new member was received into the group. The members of the Company of St. Ursula are: **Mary Cabrini Durkin, Liliana Dozoris, Marie Chantel Mukuluku, Elena Taylor-Garcia, Cherylann McFetridge** and **Heather Nacome**.

**October 5**—**Sr. Dorothy Schuette** was a member of the Retreat Team at the **Jesuit Renewal Center in Milford, Ohio** October 5-12. She was the director for four retreatants during their personally directed eight-day retreat.

**October 10**—**Sr. Cathy Bauer** participated in the **Theology on Tap** program in Clifton. Sr. Cathy's presentation was *Praying the Scriptures: a reflection on God's Word*. This was part of a discussion series for young adults and open to any young adult on the Wednesdays of October.

Sr. Cathy also continued with the **SEEK** retreats for 8th grade

*Continued on next page*

**Sr. Cathy's Experience (cont')**

with us their views on cooperative economics that result in reliable, consistent access to fresh, diverse food provided and enjoyed by the community through their own ingenuity, efforts and resources. People gathered for a rally where individuals shared the need for reasonable taxes to develop responsible programs for "we, the people".

We began our Tuesday with a drive to the **Carolina State House** in Columbia, SC, for a roundtable discussion with local organizations working together to advance the health, economic wellbeing, and rights for individuals and families. With the energy the discussion brought forth, people gathered outside for a rally where they shared how important it is to vote and "who we elect matters."

Our afternoon was spent on the bus planning for and traveling to the Town Hall Meeting for Justice at **ConneXion Church**, Savannah. This was my first town hall meeting and I was touched by the openness of individuals sharing the needs of their community. The first story brought tears as we heard that a local resident, **Ms. Ross**, just died because she was unable to afford her asthma medication. Others told us that the population of Savannah is 169,000 with 4,500 working individuals who are homeless. Tourism has taken the affordable housing and added many low paying jobs. The concern around education was that the increase of private schools for those who can afford them has run down the quality of public schools. Affordable



healthcare at the general hospital and the need for Medicaid expansion in Georgia were also mentioned. After the meeting, people walked to the bus to add their signatures.

On Wednesday we had an early rise for our journey to **Hope Community Center**, Apopka, FL. As soon as we stepped off the bus, the children greeted us. They were holding justice-advocacy signs in the shape of mariposas (butterflies) (*See picture above*) and one of the high school students took my hand and led me to the **Campesino Gardens**. While we walked she talked about her studies and how she loves coming and working there. We learned that they have access to fresh food by working with local farmers. Inside the main building we listened to young adults who came to the USA as children (DACA: deferred action for childhood arrivals). The local teens performed a visual rendition of the plight of DACA. As they illustrated the pain of rejection and parental abandonment through deportation in creative moves, they also demonstrated joy and honest hope. The Center provides so many social services for aspiring immigrants, students and unaccompanied minors.

On Thursday morning we visited another place that shows what can be done by those who believe in working for the common

*Continued on next page*



## Sr. Cathy's Experience (cont')

good, **The Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation** in Miami Beach, FL. With their mission driven by passionate people providing *Housing with a Heart*, they not only provide affordable housing to the elderly but also a community. We learned that the waiting list for affordable subsidized housing for seniors is currently 4-8 years. As I sat at one table, I realized my conversation was limited because I could not speak another language. People at the table could speak Spanish and Russian.

After lunch we headed to U.S. Representative **Carlos Curbelo's** office for a lobby visit. Local residents went with us and talked with his DC aide. They shared that Representative Curbelo's rhetoric did not match his voting record. Outside of his office, an enthusiastic group gathered so our visit ended with a rally that urged people to hold their elected officials accountable and to take their values to the ballot box.



**The United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches** held an evening Town Hall Meeting for Justice. The concerns we discussed there (see **Sr. Cathy** in discussion with a group above) included the long waiting list for affordable housing, the 62% of children who are hungry and the concerns of immigrants.

The closing event occurred at the **Meyer Amphitheatre**, West Palm Beach, FL. Many cars met us there to take part in the parade to Mar-a-Lago. As we traveled from across the bay, we walked a few blocks in front of the bus. This was a time to reflect upon all the signatures on the bus, the presence of all of them walking with us and



lifting up all the concerns shared from affordable housing and health care to care for our immigrants; from providing better public education to college debt. This journey doesn't end here at the closing event (See left.) but continues on by sharing the hope and joy that were shared at the site visits. Yes, we are called

to meddle into politics and urge our representatives to see that each policy that is passed takes into consideration how the most vulnerable individuals and families are being affected.

**Sr. Cathy Bauer, OSB**

## *The Chronicles continued*

students. Having begun in late July, the following schools participated through 2018—**Sts. Peter and Paul**, September 21; **St. Pius**, October 8,9,11; **St. Joseph, Cold Spring** October 15 & 18; **Mary, Queen of Heaven**, October 25; **St. Henry Elementary** November 12 & 13. These have been wonderful learning experiences for eager students and a valued experience for Sr. Cathy.

**October 13**—Villa Madonna Academy sponsored its annual **Arts and Crafts Fair** from 9 to 3 today in the academy gym. Numerous tables/booths held objects of all kinds created by the persons operating the booths. The parking lots were filled and crowds purchasing items were present throughout the day. St. Walburg Monastery had a spot with articles crafted by Benedictine Sisters. **Srs. Joan Fraenzle** and **Dorothy Schuette** were kept busy as the items they were selling attracted many friends and other buyers.

**October 14**—A **Rosary Rally** at the outside Blessed Virgin statue was scheduled for 1 pm this afternoon but a rainy day caused a transfer to the monastery chapel. **Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock** had invited the Rosary Club to share its prayer with the Benedictine Sisters on that day. A good attendance of VMA students, parents and families as well as the Sisters honored Mary with the recitation of the rosary and other prayers. The **VMA Rosary Club** meets after school on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. After the prayer session, refreshments were enjoyed in the infirmary lounge.

**October 19**—This afternoon the girls' **Challenge Group** from **Blessed Sacrament Parish** entertained the Sisters in the monastery

*Continued on next page*

*The Chronicles continued*

dining room. Seventh grade students as well as others from various schools and adults were present to introduce themselves, play cards and other games and to serve refreshments. It was an enjoyable time to meet new people.

**October 21—Oblate Renewal Day** was celebrated this Sunday. Many oblates were present in the chapel for Morning Prayer and Eucharist. Afterwards the oblates moved to the Lower Level where **Sr. Aileen Bankemper**, prioress, spoke to them on the topic of hospitality. A small group discussion on the various kinds of hospitality followed. The Oblates then moved to the chapel for Noonday Prayer which included the Renewal of Oblation for those present. A delicious dinner concluded the celebration.

**October 25-26—Srs. Dorothy Schuette** and **Deborah Harmeling** moved into the monastery building. They have lived at St. Mary's House at the west end of our property since January 2009. The house is part of the **Sanctuary Development** sale.

**October 27—Srs. Kimberly Porter** and **Dorothy Schuette**, along with yoga instructor **Lynn Moller**, hosted a morning of *Mindfulness, Meditation and Movement* in the Lower Level meeting room. Twenty-two participants enjoyed the day.

**October 28-November 2—Sr. Cathy Bauer** with nine other sisters from various orders, participated in **Network's Nuns on a Bus Tax Justice Truth Tour** into the following southern states where they met with people and held rallies:

Richmond, Virginia

*Continued on next page*

## Benedictine Leadership Institute Inspires Leaders of Benedictine Schools

Named in honor of **Brother Edward Englund**, the first **Benedictine Leadership Institute** (BLI) took place in Lisle, Illinois, June 25-29. **Pamela McQueen**, Villa Madonna Academy's Executive Director and High School/Junior High Principal (*See picture left*) - and the only lay person invited to speak on Benedictine leadership (*Your Way of Acting Should Be Different from the World's Way: We Are Benedictine*) - joined speakers **Abbot President Elias R. Lorenzo, OSB** (*A School for the Lord's Service: The Divine Presence is Everywhere*), **Sr. Judith Ann Heble, OSB**, Board of Directors of Villa St. Benedict in Lisle (*Does Our School Have the Benedictine Charism?*), and **Fr. Joel Rippinger, OSB**, Faculty/Staff Chaplain for Marmion Academy in Aurora, Illinois (*A Historical Window for Assessing the Educational Work of American Benedictines*.)



Sponsored by Benedictine Educators Network North America (BENETNA), **Tim Molak**, Head of School at **Woodside Priory** in Portola Valley, California, welcomed teachers, administrators, and staff from Benedictine schools across the country - from **Benedictine College Prep** in Virginia, to **Delbarton** and **St. Benedict's Prep** in New Jersey, from **St. Anselm's Abbey School** in Washington, DC, to **Woodside Priory** in California. All joined for this Benedictine High School Leadership Formation Program whose purpose was to learn, engage, deepen, and strengthen our connection. Keynote speakers, breakout discussion sessions, daily opportunities for Eucharist and prayer, and wonderful community meals solidified the connections between the 24 Benedictine high schools in the United States.

As part of this important connection, religion teacher **Eileen O'Connell** and Pam McQueen traveled to Woodside Priory (*See below*) to develop the Benedictine Exchange Program. Villa is the first school to do an exchange as students and teachers from St. Bernard's Prep in Cullman, Alabama, travel to Villa in November. Eileen and Pam visited the school in September as a new partnership was formed. Everyone is excited to welcome our Benedictine brothers and sisters.

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**Pamela McQueen**

VMA Executive Director and High School/Junior High Principal



## Villa Madonna Academy Hosts First National Benedictine Exchange Program

From November 14-18, **Villa Madonna Academy** hosted 10 students (See picture below) and two teachers from **St. Bernard Prep School** in Cullman, Alabama. Villa and St. Bernard are the first two schools to participate in the Benedictine Exchange Program, a national program developed by **Pamela McQueen**, Villa's Executive Director and Junior High/High School Principal, and **Eileen O'Connell**, a theology faculty member at Villa. In the Spring, Villa students will visit St. Bernard.

The Cullman students liked visiting Villa. Pam McQueen hopes



that connecting teenagers from across the nation who have a shared philosophy and a shared sense of spirituality could make the world a better place.

The students stayed at St. Walburg

Monastery Guest House (See picture below of St. Bernard and Villa students with **Fr. Bede Marcy** in the Guest House) and participated in Villa's class schedule, besides seeing the sights of Cincinnati. They got to experience the ice storm November 15. They also joined the VMA students on Saturday at the annual **Tweed Twirl** where the Villa DJ played **Sweet Home Alabama**. They met the Benedictine Sisters at the Monastery, learned about the monastery's history and participated in Sunday Eucharist there.

The Cullman students found having access to iPads and computers all the time very different from their own school where they are not allowed to have computers, iPads, smart watches at school. They write everything in script and all assignments are handwritten.

The VMA students who were **Benedictine Ambassadors** said that they enjoyed talking about the differences between the schools while knowing that they have the same Benedictine values and major similarities. They hope the Cullman students enjoyed being at Villa as much as the Villa students enjoyed having them there. The VMA students look forward to visiting St. Bernard in the spring.



### *The Chronicles continued*

Raleigh and Durham,  
North Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina and  
Savannah, Georgia

Appka, Florida

Miami and West Palm Beach,  
Florida

West Palm Beach/Palm Beach,  
Florida

Sr. Cathy reported a fascinating and exhausting experience for all participating. The experience included rallies, site visits, roundtable discussions and the closing trip's event—**Fiesta for the Common Good** and a final visit to Mar-a-Lago. (See pages 3-5 for Sr. Cathy's story.)

**October 28**—The community had a real treat this afternoon. **Dan Barth** and his family, children and grandchildren, honored us with an Ice Cream Social—flavors and amounts of all kinds were offered. (See p. 11 for pictures.) Dan had been a primary grade student at **St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs** when **Sr. Mary Tewes** taught there many years ago. It was a pleasure to have his family here with that delicious ice cream served by the Barth family.

**November 7**—Thirty-four VMA seniors visited the monastery cemetery and later came to the monastery to meet with community members who were familiar with sisters chosen from the students' visit to the cemetery. There were seven groups of students and sisters who talked about the deceased sisters whose names the students had chosen. The current sisters had known the deceased in various capacities. It was an interesting, informative and memorable visit for all.

**November 9-11**—During the Directed Retreat sponsored by the Center of Spirituality, five

**The Chronicles continued**

retreatants were welcomed. They stayed at the Guest House but shared community prayers and meals (at a silent table) with the sisters. **Srs. Dorothy Schuette** and **Cathy Bauer** directed the retreat. **November 14-18**—Ten students from **St. Bernard Prep School**, Cullman, Alabama, accompanied by **Sr. Veronica Ryan, OSB** and **Father Bede Marcy, OSB**, enjoyed the hospitality of the students and faculty at Villa Madonna Academy and the Benedictine Sisters at St. Walburg Monastery. (*See p. 7 for story.*) As residents of the Guest House and participating with students in many activities, these visitors became familiar with VMA and its environment. During the school day mornings, the students attended classes and in the afternoons enjoyed other activities planned by VMA Executive Director **Pam McQueen** and High School faculty member **Eileen O'Connell**. On Saturday a streetcar ride enabled them to visit the area of "Over the Rhine" and Findley Market, seeing highlights of Cincinnati—Carew Tower and National Underground Freedom Center. In the evening they went to the Tweed Twirl at the Ft. Mitchell Country Club. After that weary day and a restful night, they attended Sunday Eucharist at St. Walburg Monastery Chapel with the Benedictine community. Students from Villa hope to visit Cullman in the spring.

## Sr. Ann John Hangs Up Her Covington Stethoscope

After 43 years as a nurse in Irvine (KY) and Northern KY, **Sr. Ann John Kotch** is retiring from the ministry. The last 28 of those years were spent as a local pioneer in caring for homeless people around Covington.

In Sept. '88 after 15 years at **Marcum and Wallace Memorial Hospital** in Irvine, Sr. Ann John joined **Northern KY Family Health** (later known as **HealthPoint**). Not long after, her boss, recognizing a need to serve the local homeless, asked her if she'd be interested in organizing a clinic for them. Sr. Ann John's "Yes" was in May, 1989, and a clinic grew, a kind of "mini emergency room" for the homeless of Covington.

In the beginning the homeless people were not interested in seeing a nurse; their priorities were food, clothing, and a place to stay. When Sr. Ann John realized their need for socks, **Sr. Mary Peter Youtsey's Villa Madonna Montessori** community collected 175 pairs, and Ann John began offering a new pair of socks to anyone who would come in for a TB test or a blood pressure check. This became a template for future service.



After two earlier locations, the clinic moved to Pike Street in Covington. It soon became evident that the homeless needed someone to talk to. "It meant a lot when they returned



after their first visit," Sr. Ann John mused. "When they shared their stories, it took a piece of your heart. Once you knew them, they became a part of you." The clients deeply appreciated the workers there. As one client told a researcher, "They made the poor feel rich." (*Sister Ann John supervises a toe-nail-clipping session in the picture above right.*)

Bus passes and birthday gifts also became part of life at the clinic, thanks to contributors like **Mother of God Parish**. Through coordination of **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, the clinic's cab bills were paid.

Another working relationship was with **St. Vincent de Paul**

*Continued on next page*



## Sr. Ann John (cont')

**Free Pharmacy** (later **Faith Community Pharmacy**). Sr. Ann John was on their first board, and from the beginning she and founder **Roseanna Aydt** developed a free medicine support system. If one had excess free unexpired meds the other needed, they'd work out an exchange. Nov. 16 this year the organization showed its support, recognizing Sr. Ann John's many years of "dedication, compassion, and service" with their *Msgr. Bill Cleves Award*. (See picture of **Msgr. Bill Cleves** and Sr. Ann John left.)



An unwelcome surprise came the day of Sr. Ann John's 28th anniversary with the clinic. Its lease had expired and the clinic would be consolidated with other HealthPoint services at 1401 Madison Ave. This news was difficult, as she had been integral to the mission of the clinic since its inception. Now she would move with it to the new location, but it would mean major differences.

The Pike Street location was close to shelters, a pharmacy, and the **Parish Kitchen**. The new location would not only be farther away, but would have less space for unique aspects of this ministry

like clothing storage. Sr. Ann John's own role would change to that of "outreach nurse", exercising hospitality to all comers in the general waiting room.

When some of her Pike Street clients do get up to the new location, she and they are pleased to see each other. Recently in the new waiting room a blind client called her by name. She was surprised and asked how he knew her. He said he remembered her voice from Pike Street. Other special gifts over her years include small art pieces from a homeless sketch artist. (See roses above right.) She also remembers a homeless woman who created hats, scarves and gloves for other homeless people. On occasion she got thank you notes from "her guys," as she affectionately calls them.

After 1½ years at the new location, Sr. Ann John has decided to retire. Besides missing "her guys," Sr. Ann John says she will miss the very act of nursing, its challenges and rewards. This has been her passion, and numberless patients have benefitted. Who knows, she may find ways to keep reaching out to the poor and underprivileged with her well-honed skills.

**Sr. Colleen Winston, OSB**



## Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities at St. Walburg Monastery

**A Morning of Mindfulness, Meditation and Movement** will be offered at St. Walburg Monastery **Saturday, January 26, 2019**  
**9 AM - Noon.**

**A Silent Directed Retreat** will be offered at St. Walburg Monastery Guest House **the weekend of March 1-3, 2019.**

Both events are open to women and men. Contact **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, [dorothysosb@gmail.com](mailto:dorothysosb@gmail.com) for details and registration.

## Oblate Pamela Neal: A Long Journey Back to God

On All Saints Day, November 1, 2018, Oblate **Pamela Jo (Fleckenstein) Neal** (58) died at the **St. Elizabeth Hospice Center** in Edgewood, KY, near her home, where she served as a nurse for many years. She anticipated this moment since she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer 27 months ago.

Pam became interested in becoming an Oblate of St. Benedict through meeting many of our sisters and oblates through her parish, **Mother of God** in Covington. Oblate **Tom Scally** was so proud to bring her to her first oblate gathering some 3 or 4 years ago. It was not long afterwards that the cancer was discovered and then diagnosed as inoperable. In June of 2017 her group of 3 candidates for Oblation were preparing for their Oblation on Oblate Renewal Day in October. Pam had become so sick that some of her oblate friends brought this to my attention, asking if we couldn't arrange for her to make her oblation sooner, as she may not live that long. So on July 11, the Feast of St. Benedict, Prioress **Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup**, myself, other sisters, and many oblate and inquirer friends, her three sisters and her husband, **Rich**, met at her home and participated in the Noon Day Prayer/Oblation Ritual. Pam could not have been happier, even though she was on oxygen and very weak.

Soon after this, receiving different medications, she was able to get out for short trips, to Mass, to lunch etc, and even to some Oblate gatherings, but always had to be accompanied by someone. Because the Hospice Center was not usually full, she inquired about renting one of the rooms there, as she would be alone at home when Rich was at work. Since spring, Pam has lived there, and many of the oblates visited her regularly. She even got to the **Ice Cream Social** in June to the surprise of many sisters and oblates.

On July 11 of this year, another hospice nurse, Oblate **Cheryl Weber** planned a Mass for Pam at the Hospice Center to celebrate her first anniversary as an Oblate. Many of us gathered for her once again.

When **Sr. Cathy Bauer** and I visited her on Memorial Day, Pam was in her chair and very attentive, though tiring easily. She shared that she kept up with all the emails and messages I send out. She asked about everyone, and talked about how happy she was to be an Oblate.

Pam's daughter **Bethany**, who lives in California, was now coming periodically and then returning to her husband and work. Her son, **Joseph**, lives closer and was also visiting more often as she got weaker. Pam even put on a baby shower for her son's expected child.

Pam's four sisters visited as they could, but **Robin** was her daily companion in the last weeks. Her sister, **Susan** also died of cancer some years ago.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Saturday, November 17 at 12:05 p.m. at Mother of God Church, Covington, KY. Pam helped plan that Mass over a year ago with **Sr. Dorothy Schuette**, who was the Parish Associate at that time.

Richard Neal and the family are so grateful for the prayers and support of so many, especially the Oblates and Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. They requested that memorial donations be made in Pam's memory to St. Walburg Monastery or to the St. Elizabeth Hospice Center.



**Sr. Mary Tewes, OSB, Oblate Director**



## Happenings at the Monastery



(Left) September 22 Center of Spirituality Day with **Msgr. Bill Cleves** on *Holiness in the Ordinary*.

Below: Fr. Cleves talking with **Sr. Kay Kramer, CDP**.



### The Gift of the Barth Family Ice Cream Social



**Left:** Members of the family serving ice cream.

**Below left:** The whole family (sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters) who came to give the community a wonderful treat.

**Below right:** **Don Barth** and first grade teacher, **Sr. Mary Tewes**.

**THANK YOU to the Barth Family!**





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## SAVE THE DATE

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The Center of Spirituality Offers a Morning of Reflection and Discussion

***Lent: A Justice and Peace Journey Toward New Life***

**presented by Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP**

**Provincial Superior, Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, Kentucky**



*The Great Commission*  
By He Qi  
Used with permission

Saturday, March 23, 2019  
9:30 am - Noon  
Lower Level of the Monastery

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

\$20.00 fee includes snacks and materials.  
If you wish to stay for lunch, please add \$6.

