



# LEAVEN

Volume 40 Issue 3  
Winter 2023



*Mother Nature's Rest  
Sister Emmanuel, P.O. Box 85113*



# LEAVEN

WINTER 2022  
VOLUME 40  
ISSUE 3

## Leaven

*Published three times a year  
for the friends of St. Walburg  
Monastery.*

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**On the cover:** "Mother  
Nature's Rest." See p. 15 to  
order a print or notecards.

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deeply grateful for the support  
provided by our benefactors.  
You are remembered whenev-  
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Benedictine Sisters of  
Covington, Kentucky.**

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# From the Prioress

Waiting, hoping and yearning are familiar Advent themes. I remember as a child each day eagerly waiting to open a window of the Advent calendar, anticipating the final one; the holy family at the manger scene. Christmas had arrived! Performing this little act, and lighting the Advent wreath candles helped to keep the real focus for the season in the midst of commercialization. Henri Nouwen, in describing Advent as a period in which we learn to wait, writes, "The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting." Waiting is not passive. There is activity taking place in the soul. Listening attentively to the liturgical

readings school us with promises of the one for whom we await: divine healing, new life and light that brings clarity to our vision that we so desire. Thus, Christmas is more than a reminder of what happened so many years ago; it is also a time of growth in our relationship with Christ, with our true selves and one another.

As we approach the Christmas celebration it is impossible to ignore the amount of pain and suffering that continues daily around the globe for so many people. Richard Rohr reminds us "we need to look at Jesus until we can look out at the world with his kind of eyes." The eyes of Christ are to become our eyes, eyes that see the bonding of all humankind, eyes that don't discriminate. Christ's vision leads us to actions of healing the brokenhearted, binding up wounds, and caring for the least among us.

Yes, "the birth of the child into the darkness of the world made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it." *Frederick Buechner* May we welcome Christ and the many ways he shows up, in the poor, the sick, the stranger, the guest, those who are like us and those who are different.

May you know the true joy of the season and may the peace of Christ resonate in your heart.

Sr. Aileen Bankemper, OSB

*"Waiting is a period of learning."*

*Henri Nouwen*





# meeting of three councils at SWM



**By Sr. Aileen Bankemper**

On Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27, 2023, the prioresses and councils of the Benedictine sisters of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN and Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, IN met at St. Walburg Monastery for the opportunity to meet with one another and to discuss ideas for collaborative initiatives among the three communities. Several initiatives resulted from the meeting and all twenty-three members from the three councils volunteered to serve on task forces to address these initiatives:

- Host a “family reunion” for all three of our community members planned for sometime in the spring of 2024. (It is to be noted that the Covington community founded Ferdinand in 1867 and the Ferdinand community founded Beech Grove in 1953.)
- Establish some “small groups” to help form relationships among our community members. Ideas that may be considered under this initiative could include book discussions and shared Lectio.
- Explore creating a shared living resource file. In this resource, there could be lists of spiritual topics and presenters offered at the three monasteries, spiritual directors, retreats, and vacation options.
- The prioresses and subprioresses will meet regularly to discuss administration connections that can benefit the three communities.



Top: The three combined councils from Monastery Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, and St. Walburg Monastery. Above: Fun was had by all at games and a social.

The continued theme of collaboration, connection and communication is uppermost in our thoughts concerning future planning.





# activities every monday

By Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock



Beginning in June, the sisters have enjoyed activities directed by Sr. Grace Schmursal, CDP. Sr. Grace brings her years of experience working with the Sisters at Mount St. Joseph and the residents of Mother Margaret Hall.

Sr. Grace is so creative in bringing a variety of activities each month. These have included education segments, entertainment and crafts. Each activity relates to a particular observance or celebration. Some favorites have been sharing pictures and memories of grandparents near Grandparents Day, watching I Love Lucy episodes in honor of Lucille Ball's birthday and making birds, pumpkins and cards during crafts. We celebrated Oktoberfest with pretzels, beer cheese and apple cider and ended the month with Halloween bingo.

Earlier Sr. Grace shared a video of her trip to Selma, Alabama, and the Montgomery civil rights museum. The most moving display was steel boxes representing the lynching of victims in over 800 counties, including some in Kentucky. Names of the victims are printed on each box. It was truly an education for us who have not been to the museum.

We look forward to many more Mondays with Sr. Grace. We are grateful for this collaboration with the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Upper left: Sr. Emmanuel; Lower left: Sr. Mary Carol, Sr. Grace, and Sr. Joan; Below: Sr. Martha





# jubilee '23

By Sr. Mary Rabe

## sr. mary carol hellman

Sr. Mary Carol wanted to be a sister since fourth grade. After graduation from Villa Madonna Academy she entered St. Walburg Monastery. Her long career began as a teacher at Guardian Angels School in Sanfordtown, four grades to a classroom. She taught at St. John Orphanage, St. Pius, St. Anthony, St. Henry, St. Paul, VMA Elementary and then as music teacher in the high school. Having completed a music degree from Catholic U., she was well qualified to play the organ at several parishes throughout the diocese. Sr. Mary Carol led adult choirs at St. Paul and St. Benedict with a special fondness for the opportunity to work with adults. She especially misses the polyphonic music she and her parish choirs enjoyed.

Retirement from classroom work gave her the opportunity to share the Benedictine heritage she loves. She visited regularly with VMA elementary students sharing this legacy, even constructing a Benedictine Bingo. She continued to enjoy her piano students until her retirement from teaching in spring of this year.

Sister Mary Carol still practices on the piano in chapel providing entertainment for all nearby. She also enjoys word and jigsaw puzzles, embroidery, loves to read and is partial to biography. She enjoys conversation and is a good storyteller. I asked her for a favorite part of monastery life. She surprised me by answering “meals” explaining, “The food is very good and so is the opportunity for us to talk with each other.” Sr. Mary Carol’s everyday presence in chapel is a testament to the treasure she finds in prayer.



Srs. Sharon, Aileen, and Mary Carol

## sr. sharon portwood

When something tickles Sr. Sharon, she often laughs tears. Her giggle is infectious and we laugh with her. How often over the years we have heard her tell a story of her day in the classroom, be it joyous or sad, and then add “I just love the children” and even in retirement she tells stories and includes, “I loved those children,” with emphasis on the word love.

Sr. Sharon was baptized Elizabeth. She was taught by the Benedictines for all twelve years at St. Henry School, Erlanger, KY and really liked the sisters (well, most of them, she says). She worked hard at her studies. In high school she was active in bowling and served as editor of the year book. The Legion of Mary gave her many opportunities to be of service to others. Throughout high school Sharon was devoted to prayer and made retreats at the Passionist Monastery. After high school she taught one year at Blessed Sacrament during which time she discerned her future. She considered the Passionists but heard the call to an order which combined prayer and external service. She answered that call by choosing the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery.

Sr. Sharon entered the community and began college but was assigned to teach before completing her degree. After receiving her BA in 1970 she taught elementary school at St. Henry, St. Anthony in Forest Hills and Villa Madonna Academy. The work was very gratifying. She had an itch, however, to serve the less privileged and after prayer and discernment, Sharon joined the faculty at St. Francis Seraph in Over the Rhine. There she encouraged students to give their best as she tried to do the same in making each feel special. Sharon spent seventeen happy years in OTR until the time came to retire from active ministry.

Sr. Sharon took part in a Benedictine summer program in Rome, learning more of the monastic heritage and visiting with so many other seekers. She considers the time in Rome one of the highlights of her life.

Sr. Sharon is a worrier and a thinker who asks lots of questions. In her retirement she is presently in charge of keeping the dining room clean. Her work leaves us ant-free and the floor free of crumbs. We are grateful for her dedication to work, to prayer and to her time with us.





# Chronicles

## The

by Sr. Mary Tewes

July 30 – Aug. 4: The community retreat was led by Sr. Cecilia Dwyer, OSB, of Bristow, VA. Theme: “A Single Ray of Light: The Dimensions of an Extravagant Heart.” Sisters and oblates joined in the conferences and liturgies.

Aug. 5: Jubilee Day at the monastery on the Feast of the Transfiguration: **Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann** (70 years) & **Sr. Sharon Portwood** (60 years) renewed their monastic profession at Evening Prayer.

Aug. 7: **Sr. Cathy** led the second Seek Retreat for St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Ky. for the Confirmation class.

Aug. 8-12: **Sr. Aileen** attended the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) meeting in Dallas, Texas where the temperature continued to hover above the 100 degree mark.

Aug. 16: VMA opened for another year. **Sr. Eileen O’Connell** serves in her 29<sup>th</sup> year in the Religion Dept.



Aug. 24: A large group of our sisters attended the dedication of the Peace Park at Sanctuary Village built on the property sold to Ashley Builders Group.



*Srs. Ann John, Sharon, Dorothy, Mary Peter, and Rita at the Sanctuary Village.*

Aug. 25-27: Council members from the Ferdinand and Beech Grove IN Benedictine communities met with St. Walburg council members to continue the work of collaboration and cooperation.

Aug. 31: Sisters viewed a zoom presentation, organized by Sr. Ann Hoffman, OSB, president of AIM, in Erie, PA. Mother Blandyna Michniewicz, OSBap, Abbess, Monastery of Benedictine Nuns of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Warsaw, Poland presented a first-hand account of the tragedy of the war in Ukraine, one of the 20 Polish Benedictine Communities’ outreach to the refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Sept. 3-9: **Sr. Aileen** traveled to Cullman AL for the CIB conference (Communion of International Benedictines).

Sept. 7: **Sr. Cathy** hosted ten students from Latin School for a service day at the monastery.

Sept. 9: Bishop Iffert blessed the groundbreaking at VMA for major renovation of the 1907 red building used by the elementary school.

Sept. 26-29: **Sisters Aileen and Nancy** drove to St. Louis MO for the RCRI (Resource Center for Religious Institutes) conference.

Sept. 30: Fall Spirituality Day with Sr. Olga Wittekind, OSF, from Oldenburg, IN on “The Spirituality of Presence.” (See picture to the left.)





Oct. 6: Apple peeling party for the pies produced in St. Walburg's kitchen for the Villa Craft Fair. Peeling parties are a regular gathering in summer and fall.

Oct. 7: Bakery goods provided by the monastery were a hit at the renowned Villa Craft Fair.

Oct. 8: Campbell County Knights of Columbus sponsored a picnic on their grounds for the sisters of the diocese. Thanks to all the knights and their wives who set up and served.

Oct. 10: Six Thomas More U. students volunteered their services at the monastery, cleaning cars and doing yard work.

Oct.: **Sr. Eileen O'Connell** mentored the VMA High School retreats at Bergamo and at the monastery during the month of October.

Oct. 27-31: **Sr. Kimberly Porter** traveled to Elizabeth, NJ to serve as consultant for the Benedictine community. Afterwards she visited Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty. Her blog recounts the story of her experience.

Oct. 31: Halloween Party at the monastery on the theme "The Holy Rule." Imagine dressing up for that theme! It can be done; the costumes proved it.

November: A Book of Remembrance in chapel lists all the requests for prayers from Villa families and those of the community. The sisters offer prayer for families' loved ones throughout the month.

Nov. 1-5: Nine students from St. Bede Academy in Peru, IL visited in an exchange with students at Villa Madonna Academy, who will visit St. Bede's in the spring. Both schools, along with several others, share their commonalities as Benedictine schools.

Nov. 4: Diocesan Jubilee Celebration: **Sisters Mary Carol Hellmann** (70 yrs.) and **Sr. Sharon Portwood** (60 yrs.) joined with religious from the surrounding communities for a jubilee luncheon with Bishop Iffert.

Nov. 6-8: **Sisters Aileen Bankemper** and **Rita Brink** attended the Region 6 LCWR Meeting held at Mount St. Joseph motherhouse.

Nov. 7: **Sr. Cathy** led a Seek Retreat for the students of Mary Queen of Heaven School in Erlanger.

Nov. 8: **Sr. Mary Tewes** joined in the Tri-State Oblate & Associate Leadership meeting at Mount St. Joseph motherhouse to plan events for oblates & associates throughout the Greater Cincinnati area.

Nov. 8: The newly formed Advisory Group met with **Sr. Aileen** and the future planning committee at St. Walburg's in order to share viewpoints and wisdom from beyond the monastery.

Nov. 10-12: Oblate Renewal Retreat led by **Sr. Dorothy Schuette** and team. On Sunday, twenty oblates joined the community for Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharist, and the renewal of their oblation. The oblates welcomed two new members at this celebration.



*Sr. Cathy gives a tour to VMA students.*



*Covington Latin School student at the monastery for a day of service.*







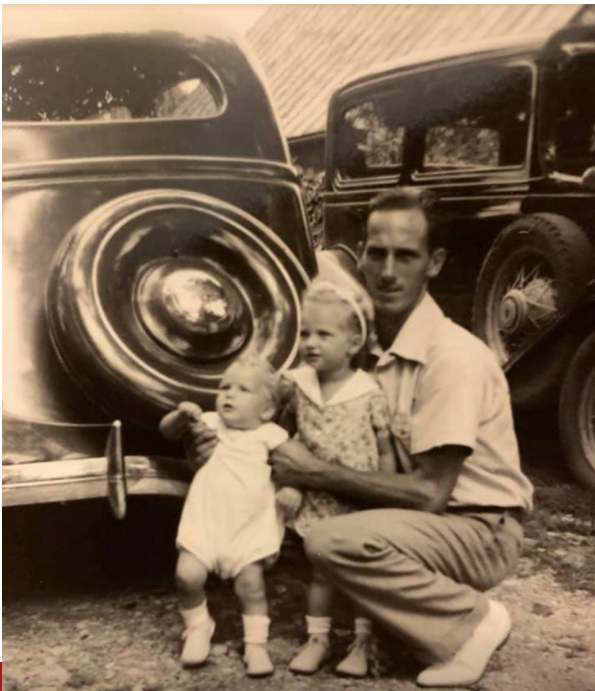
# meet the sisters

## SISTER MARY TEWES

by Sr. Colleen Winston

Sr. Mary Tewes, daughter of John and Mary Tewes, is the matriarch of the regionally famous Tewes poultry family, currently 425 members and still growing. The oldest of eighteen children, she, her parents and her siblings have been featured on tv and in local newspapers over many years, especially in seasons when turkey is a main feature of many dining room tables in Northern KY.

The Tewes farm began in 1911 when her grandfather began his



John and Mary Tewes with their father, 1939

“Safe & Sane Hatchery” in his basement on Amsterdam Rd. from which he sold baby chicks and eggs. Then in 1924 he bought a farm on Charter Oak Rd. in Edgewood moving his operation there. Mary’s father John built a home for his own family on that property, and young Mary loved it. In 1944, however, her dad had the opportunity to purchase his own larger farm at a very reasonable cost. The family had grown to five children, and he saw this as a good place to grow the poultry business, so the family moved to

Erlanger Road. Young Mary was sad. To her their new house was old, rundown, and nothing like the wonderful home she’d lived in her first 6 ½ years. She says it took much work and time before it finally became “home,” and as John had planned, the family business grew from eggs and chickens only, to today’s eggs, chickens, turkeys and vegetables.

When asked what was unique about growing up on a farm with such a large family, Mary responded they had no neighbors, but needed none. The Tewes’ had enough in the family to form their own sports teams, e.g., and the older siblings comprised a babysitting corps, each one having one younger sibling to take care of. Their mother took care of the babies as well as did the washing, cooking, and helping their father with the farm business.

To Mary and the other children, religious life was always visible. They attended schools where the Benedictine sisters taught (Blessed Sacrament and St. Henry), but there were cousins in other communities. More significantly, a much-loved sister of her mother Mary was Sr. Mary Anthony, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor, the community that started St. Elizabeth Hospital. In fact, Sr. Mary Anthony was the community’s member who directed the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Covington as well as nursing schools in other parts of the country.

Mary admired her aunt very much and while young, Mary’s vocation plan was to become a nurse under her aunt’s guidance. When she was only 8, her aunt took her on a business trip to Frankfort, KY, where Mary met the governor. This and Sr. Mary Anthony’s other kindnesses such as remembering family birthdays made the nun very special to the young girl. (The regular birthday cards were at least partly responsible for Sr. Mary’s current willingness to do family record keeping.) When Mary was seventeen years old, however, she was in a farm truck accident and her spine was damaged. Because of this, nursing was no longer an option as a career for her.

That’s when Mary began thinking of another profession; because of her family experience with children, she began to consider teaching. She talked to a priest during retreat and with Sr. Mildred Obermeier, librarian at St. Henry, they both encouraged her thinking along these lines. After her graduation in 1955, Sr. Clarita, another Benedictine from St. Henry’s, had Sr. Betty Cahill take Mary to St. Walburg’s to witness the reception of new novices into the community. All of this must have had a strong influence on



Mary since she entered St. Walburg in August of that year.

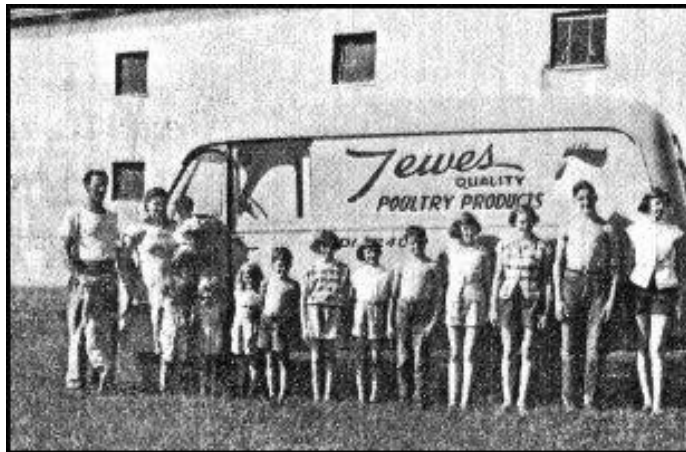
Soon after entering the monastery, Mary began the long formal education journey that would take her to several colleges and universities. She started college and teaching the same year, beginning with Villa Madonna (now Thomas More University). After 11 years of simultaneous teaching and studying, she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education. She then went on to do advanced studies at Xavier University, Catholic University of America, and Rensselaer College. Her fields included religious education and pastoral liturgy.

Her 1972 degree in religious education led to her being hired by the education office of the Diocese of Covington (KY) to be Director of Religious Education for its 57 schools across Eastern KY. Then in 1979 she was asked by Sr. Justina Franxman, prioress at that time, to serve the community as house coordinator. This big job consisted of wearing multiple hats such as arranging liturgies and communications, coordinating hospitality and scheduling while filling other daily needs around the monastery.

A big change occurred in 1987 when Bishop William Hughes asked her to become pastoral director of Holy Trinity Parish in Harlan, KY, part of Appalachia. She served 5 years in this position, after which she returned to the monastery, served on the Associates Coordinating Committee, and was hired as DRE for Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Cincinnati; this would extend for 20 years.

Almost all the ministerial roles Sr. Mary has fulfilled in her lifetime found her in a leadership position. She says she was prepared for this since childhood by being the oldest of 18. She was always expected to take on the task at hand. For example, from age 10 – 18 she was in charge of the egg room, delivering eggs and chickens to homes all over the Fort Mitchell region. In

fact, in 1957 when she started teaching at Blessed Sacrament, the children told their parents that the “egg girl” was teaching them.



After almost a year of recuperation following two broken femurs, she retired as DRE in 2012. But this did not reduce her ministry list, because one job outside the community was always replaced by at least one other one within the monastery. The community ministry with Associates that began in 1985 has now grown and she has been in the position of Oblate Director since 1993. Other regular jobs include front-desk portress, driving trips, and prayer leader.

With all this, family is still a big part of Sr. Mary's life. She started living within a large family, continues in an even larger one today (425 from siblings to great-great nieces and nephews as of this writing), and is enriched by countless friends and acquaintances from her numerous college and ministry contacts. Her life is a rich example of how one person can personify the breadth and depth of the family of God, true church!



Sr. Mary Tewes with all of her siblings on the occasion of her 60th jubilee





# BENEDICTINE OBLATES

By Sr. Dorothy Schuette



We welcomed two women as oblates of St. Walburg Monastery on Sunday, November 12. **Carol Leonhart** and **Karen Bowe** made their oblation on Sunday, November 12 at noonday prayer witnessed by the Benedictine sisters and other oblates, friends and family who were present. Thirty-five current oblates renewed their oblation at this time. Twenty of them were here in person.

**Carol Leonhart** is a member of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption parish in Covington. She has been employed for the last thirty-three years in the Covington office of Vocational Rehabilitation with Disabilities of all ages. She also has been serving our community by visiting the sisters in the infirmary on her free Saturdays.

**Karen Bowe** is a member of Saints John & Elizabeth parish in Grayson, KY. She is the mother of two daughters and serves her parish in music ministry along with her daughters, Sarah (19) and Savannah (16). She is a mental health therapist and case manager for aging and disabled free home delivered meals. Karen spends her weekends as a youth services worker for Mt. Haven Teen

Homeless Shelter in Morehead, KY. She regularly participates in the oblate gatherings via zoom.

The oblation ceremony was the culmination of a retreat weekend for St. Walburg oblates. Sr. Dorothy Schuette led the retreatants in reflecting on the life, deeds and message of Saints Benedict and Scholastica.

Sr. Mary Tewes manages to keep in touch with each oblate and is the hub for sharing information among them and the sisters who need prayer and who want to share their joys. Readers who would like information about a possible call to be a Benedictine oblate are invited to contact her through Sr. Mary at [marytewes@gmail.com](mailto:marytewes@gmail.com) or call the monastery at 859-331-6324.

Cheryl Weber, Sr. Dorothy, Jessie Lamantia, Tom Scally, Dick Michalack, Gayle Underdown, Mary Jo Rehtin, Beth Cefalu Joan McAlonan, Gail Michalack, Vickie Cimprich, Kathleen Rosing, Margie Hardebeck, Louise Jewett, Sr. Mary Tewes. Front: Carol Leonhart, Karen Bowe





*oblation:*  
the promise  
to serve according  
to the rule of  
st. benedict



Above: Prayer partners Gayle Underdown and Karen Bowe.

Left: Carol Leonhart and Sr. Barbara Woeste.

Bottom right: Sr. Aileen Bankemper with Karen and Carol.

Below: Gail Michalack, Joan Breetz, Sr. Ann John, and Sr. Sharon.





# care of the sick

Benedict writes in chapter 36 of the Rule that care of the sick must rank before all else so that the sick may truly be served as Christ. We are grateful for the excellent care our sisters receive in our infirmary through the healing actions of our nurses, aides and volunteers. Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock knows firsthand the healing environment of our infirmary. One year ago, Sr. Nancy became a resident in our infirmary as she recovered from a serious illness. Sr. Nancy experienced attentiveness, patience and encouragement from our nurses and aides as she



found her way to health and wholeness. Thanks to the good care she received and her own perseverance she will be enjoying the many blessings of this holiday season. Thank you to our nurses, aides and volunteers who embody St. Benedict's rule as they put the care of the sick before all else.

**By Sr. Kimberly Porter**



03.24.24  
*Save the Date*

The Center of Spirituality is pleased to announce our spring speaker. Mark your calendars for the morning of March 24, 2024 when Sr. Tonette Sperando, OSB will be here to speak on "Hospitality: A Gospel Way of Living." Sr. Tonette's enthusiasm and southern charm will be sure to inspire!

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Sr. Tonette brings with her over thirty years of being a Benedictine from Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama. She has ministered in various Catholic schools in the Diocese of Birmingham and the Archdiocese of Mobile as teacher, curriculum coordinator, principal, and president. In addition, she has served her community as treasurer, development director, capital campaign director, and as prioress for six years. Currently, Sr. Tonette is the president of St. John Paul II Catholic School in Madison, AL.

The youngest of four children, Sr. Tonette possesses much firsthand knowledge of hospitality from her Italian family, and her lived experience of the Rule of St. Benedict and the Gospel.

Please join us in welcoming her next March!

To register, email [kybenedictines@gmail.com](mailto:kybenedictines@gmail.com) or call 859-331-6324.

\$25 suggested donation by cash or check.





# vma groundbreaking

A beautiful September afternoon welcomed all to the much-anticipated groundbreaking for Villa. Many were there to welcome the crowd of students, parents, Benedictine Sisters, alums, and friends. In her address, Mrs. Pamela McQueen said, "We are here, in front of this majestic building, preparing a foundation for our children's children and their children, generations who will carry on the teachings of St. Benedict." Others who spoke included Bishop Iffert, Sr. Aileen Bankemper, Mrs. Soshana Bosley, Mrs. Mary Paula Schuh, Mr. Marshall Dosker, and students Adam Kolar and Mackenzie H.

McQueen continued, "Now, we commit more than



ever, to living the mission of educating students in a Christ-centered community rooted in those Benedictine traditions of scholarship, service, and hospitality.

Let us take up the pen, then, and write a new chapter in the history of our beloved Villa. And as we do, we do so with hearts full of love, unending anticipation, and the calling to see the beauty in the world and love life. Because that is Villa. And we are Villa."

## honors for vma elementary . . .

Villa Madonna Academy Elementary School received the 2023 National Blue Ribbon School Award. They celebrated this accomplishment with a fun filled day on October 6 for the students and faculty with blue ribbon t-shirts, Kona Ice, and special treats throughout the day such as extra recess and game time. Parents each received a blue ribbon cold pack in carpool line with a note thanking them for making our school so special. Mrs. Bosley and Mrs. McGhee traveled to Washington D.C. for the Blue Ribbon Celebration held on November 16 and 17.

The elementary school was also named a 2023 Cognia School of Distinction. Cognia, the global nonprofit school improvement organization,

recognized just thirty-three schools and school systems across the globe out of more than 1,100 eligible institutions as 2023 Cognia Schools or Systems of Distinction. Cognia completed our accreditation process in the spring of 2023 and was impressed by our excellence in education and commitment to our student learners. What a wonderful testament to our faculty's talent and dedication.



## . . . and high school

VMA is thrilled to be an AP School Honor Roll Platinum Member! Just 6% of eligible schools in Kentucky received this honor. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results and broadening access for students.

Villa had 86% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 77% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 28% of seniors who took five or more AP exams.

Villa Madonna Academy High School offers 22 AP courses!



The Benedictine Exchange program took place in early November with St. Bede Academy, Peru, Illinois. Students attended classes, went sightseeing, and attended Tweed Twirl. Our students will visit there in the spring.





# from the archives

by Sr. Deborah Harmeling and Sr. Dorothy Schuette

## Diocesan Catholic Children's Home

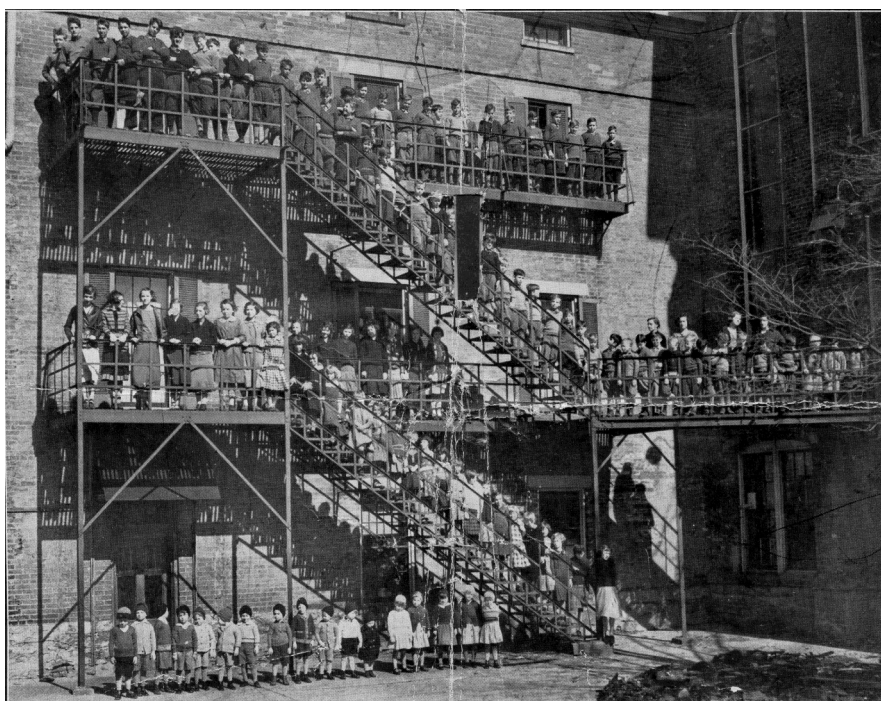
The Diocese of Covington is celebrating 175 years of serving children and families in need with a residential and educational program. Bishop John Iffert presided at the October 7th Anniversary Mass and participated in the reception that followed. Members of St. Walburg Monastery also in attendance were Sisters Aileen Bankemper, Rita Brink, Mary Rabe, Kathleen Ryan and Dorothy Schuette.

The ministry began in 1848 with the gathering of Catholic leaders under the banner of "St. John's Orphan Society". In 1868 property was acquired off Lexington Pike (now Dixie Highway) and buildings prepared to accept the first residents, nine girls who were entrusted to the Benedictine Sisters. In 1885 their charge was extended to boys as well as girls and the campus expanded to accommodate the increased enrollment. For almost ninety years the Benedictine Sisters provided care and education through this ministry. In 1957 the Orphanage name was changed to St. John's Children's Home and the Sisters of Notre Dame assumed charge of the residence and continue to administer its programs.

For more information about the DCCH, see the October 20, 2023 issue of the diocesan newspaper, The Messenger.



Above: Sr. Stella Kelz is seen with children on an outing to Coney Island in the 1930's.



To the left: This undated photograph shows about one hundred students from the orphanage arranged from youngest to oldest. By 1892, a three-story facility with classrooms, playroom, dormitories, and living quarters was completed.

St. John's celebrated its 100th anniversary in January, 1949. Records show 118 children lived there at the time.



# sr. emmanuel art

Sr. Emmanuel Pieper has been a Benedictine Sister for over 75 years. She graduated from Villa Madonna Academy in 1947 and received her Bachelor's Degree (Magna cum Laude) and her Masters from the University of Notre Dame. Sr. Emmanuel is grateful to the community for the opportunities to teach and create. Sr. Emmanuel taught elementary school at St. Therese in Southgate and St. Joseph in Crescent Springs. The majority of her teaching was at Villa Madonna Academy, where she taught for nearly 40 years.

For the first time, at 95 years old, Sr. Emmanuel's art is being offered. There are a *limited* number of signed prints as well as note cards and Christmas cards. The art being offered is below.

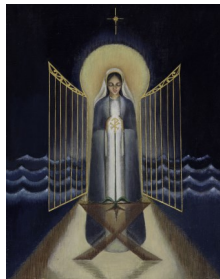
For the most up-to-date information, go to <https://www.stwalburg.org/art-gallery/>. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions at [swm.development@gmail.com](mailto:swm.development@gmail.com).



Mother Nature's Rest



Forest



Mary, Queen of Heaven



Duveneck



Light of the World



Hope for the World

MOTHER NATURE'S REST	11" X 14" PRINT SIGNED BY SR. EMMANUEL	\$50	
MOTHER NATURE'S REST	NOTE CARDS (SET 10) 4" X 6" BLANK INSIDE	\$10	
FOREST	11" X 14" PRINT SIGNED BY SR. EMMANUEL	\$50	
FOREST	NOTE CARDS (SET 10) 4" X 6" BLANK INSIDE	\$10	
MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN	11" X 14" PRINT SIGNED BY SR. EMMANUEL	\$50	
MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN	NOTE CARDS (SET 10) 4" X 6" BLANK INSIDE	\$10	
DUVENECK	NOTE CARDS (SET 6) 5" X 7.5" BLANK INSIDE	\$10	
LIGHT OF THE WORLD	CHRISTMAS CARD (SET 10) 5"X 7"	\$10	
HOPE FOR THE WORLD	CHRISTMAS CARD (SET 10) 5"X 7"	\$10	

☐ Yes, I will pick up at St. Walburg  
☐ No, I will not pick up and would like item  
 mailed to address below (shipping \$5 item).

ITEM MAY BE PICKED  
 UP AT ST. WALBURG  
 OR WE CAN SHIP FOR  
 \$5 EACH ITEM

TOTAL

CHECK ENCLOSED

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Mail this form and payment to: St. Walburg Monastery - Art | 2500 Amsterdam Road | Villa Hills, KY 41017







**St. Walburg Monastery**  
2500 Amsterdam Road  
Villa Hills, KY 41017-5316

**Return Service Requested**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI, OH  
PERMIT #6207

**THE CENTER OF SPIRITUALITY  
WELCOMES**

**Sr. Tonette Sperando, OSB**

**Saturday, March 24**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Lower Level of Monastery**

**Email [kybenedictines@gmail.com](mailto:kybenedictines@gmail.com)  
or call 859-331-6324**

**Hospitality**  
A GOSPEL WAY  
OF LIVING

**Details on p. 12**

