



# LEAVEN

VOLUME 44  
ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2026



**SEEKING GOD IN ALL THINGS:**  
**Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNE CHARLES PIEPER

# LEAVEN

SPRING 2026

VOLUME 44

ISSUE 1

**Editor:** Becky Motley

**Contributors:**

Srs. Aileen Bankemper,  
Rita Brink,  
Nancy Kordenbrock  
Ann John Kotch  
Christa Kreinbrink,  
Dorothy Schuette,  
Mary Tewes, and  
Colleen Winston

**Photos:**

Becky Motley,  
Srs. Mary Tewes,  
Cathy Bauer and  
Aileen Bankemper.

The Benedictine Sisters are deeply grateful for the support provided by our benefactors. You are remembered whenever the community gathers for prayer. For purposes of donations, bequests, and annuities, our legal title is:

**St. Walburg Monastery  
of Benedictine Sisters  
of Covington, Kentucky**

[www.stwalburg.org](http://www.stwalburg.org)

859-331-6324

Follow us on Facebook  
Benedictine Sisters of St.  
Walburg Monastery



## from the PRIORRESS

The resurrection story begins early in the morning with Mary Magdalen going to the tomb where Jesus was buried. Upon arrival she sees the empty tomb. This reality swells the sorrow of her grieving heart thinking that someone has stolen Jesus' body. In the midst of her weeping, through the recognition of his voice, she knows it is Jesus. Told not to cling, she obeys Jesus and becomes the first disciple to spread the good news. One can only imagine the joy she felt yet how much she desired to hold on to Jesus.

It is a real challenge not to cling or hold onto the past. An example close to home is the decline of women's religious vocations in the United States. In the 1960's there were 180,000; today there are fewer than 40,000. With a median age of 80, most religious communities are going through processes or have been through similar ones that we are currently engaged in. We have benefitted from the learning of other communities who have made necessary changes. It also helps knowing that we are not alone. The sharing of experiences within our community and with sisters in other communities has resulted in becoming closer.

We continue our planning with our KEB consultants. They have helped and guided us in moving forward in our quest to make informed and good decisions. We have been meeting and planning and meeting and planning! There are many considerations that we have to ponder, especially in the areas of future housing and healthcare. When decisions are made we will keep you informed. In the meantime, we count on your prayers and support.

As stated by Pope Francis, "the significance of the empty tomb is a continual reminder that only God could accomplish this feat." Mary Magdalen is a model for us that despite her human desire to hold onto what previously had provided security and comfort, she moved forward in telling the good news. We need to do likewise, for God is with us now and has promised to remain with us.

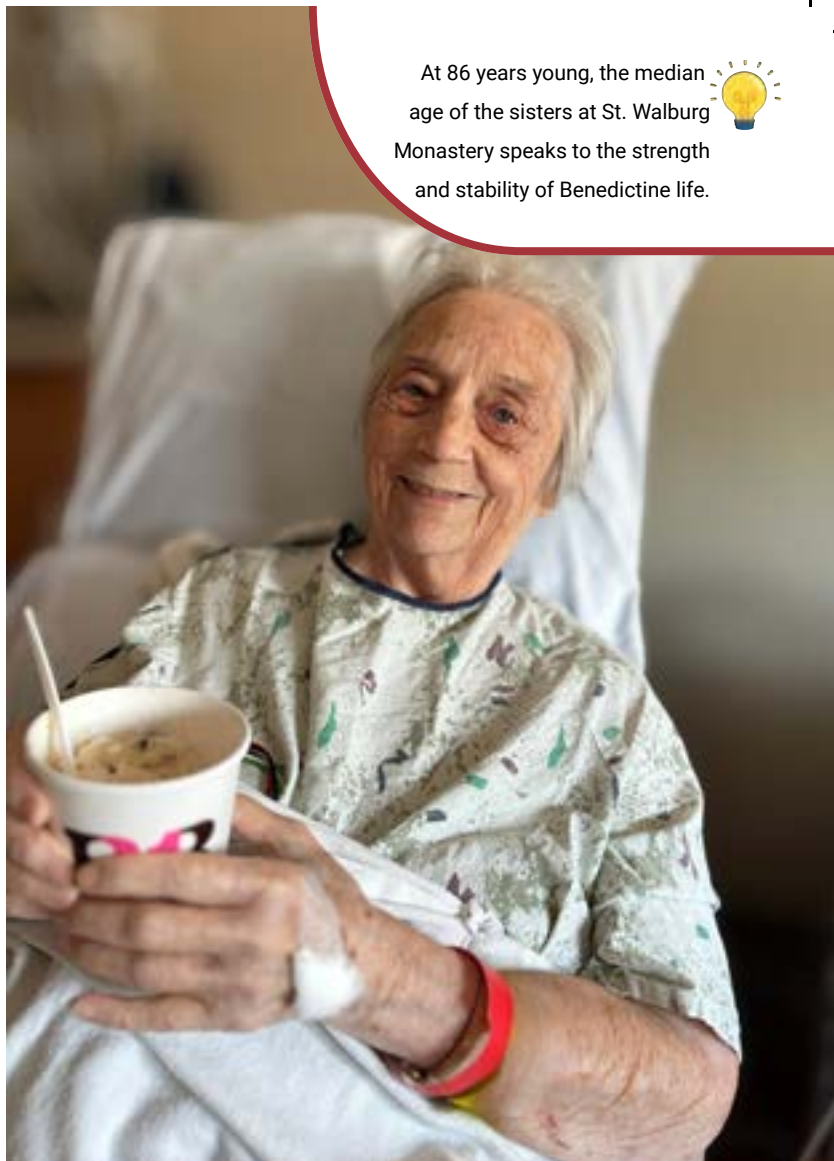



## IN QUIET STRENGTH AND STEADY HOPE

The monastery continues its steady rhythm of prayer, work, and community life, even as several sisters have experienced health challenges in recent months.

Some have undergone surgeries, others have spent time in the hospital or infirmary, and a few continue to face ongoing concerns. We are grateful to share that recoveries are underway, and there are encouraging signs of healing among those who have been most affected.


We give thanks for the compassionate and skilled care the sisters have received, and for the strength and support found within the community. As the Rule of St. Benedict reminds us, “Never lose hope in God’s mercy.” Sustained by that hope, we move forward together in faith, gratitude, and quiet resilience.



At 86 years young, the median age of the sisters at St. Walburg Monastery speaks to the strength and stability of Benedictine life. 

## CONFERENCE OF BENEDICTINE PRIORESSES

by: Sr. Aileen Bankemper

CBP connects leaders of Benedictine women’s monasteries across the U.S., representing over 1,000 sisters who live in communities dedicated to prayer and stability. The conference helps monasteries support one another. 

*New Paths Forward* was the theme of this year’s Conference of Benedictine Prioresses held at Maritime Conference Center, in Baltimore from January 30 – February 2. Sister Cecilia Dwyer from Bristow, VA spoke on Monastic Leadership: Relying on the Grace of Office in Times of Transition. It was certainly quite an appropriate and helpful topic for what communities are all experiencing. During the meeting we also had opportunities to collaborate, encourage and have a good time together. There was also unanimous agreement that the food at the conference center was delicious.



The prioresses and administrators from the Monastic Congregation of St. Scholastica; not all are pictured.





Every oblate has a prayer partner—a spiritual companion lifting them in prayer, even from afar.

# BENEDICTINE OBLATES: *Living the Rule*

by: Sr. Dorothy Schuette



Study the Rule of St. Benedict



Make room for prayer and service



Bring Benedictine values to daily life



Unite with the sisters in prayer and support



In January, our oblates gathered for their monthly meeting and potluck, sharing good food and conversation. Even those who couldn't attend in person joined us via Zoom, a reminder that our community stays connected near and far. We're grateful for the fellowship, hospitality, and time spent together. Pictured above are: Tim and Cheryl Weber, Gayle Underdown, Sr. Mary Tewes, Dick and Gail Michalack, Louise Jewett, Judy TenEyck, Kathleen Rosing, Sr. Dorothy Schuette, and Mary Clark.





## In Loving Memory



### Joan Erb Breetz



Our oblate, Joan Erb Breetz, age 87, passed away peacefully on December 21, 2025.

Joan was preceded in death by her husbands, Daniel Joseph Erb, and Charles “Bud” Breetz. She is survived by her beloved daughters Diane, Karen, Michele, Susan, and Barbara, and her 12 cherished grandchildren.

A devoted Catholic, Joan was a member of St. Joseph Parish for over 65 years. She was the first female lector, served on parish committees, and sewed prayer blankets for St. Elizabeth Hospital. As an oblate of St. Walburg Monastery, she lived the Benedictine values of hospitality, balance, and seeking God in daily life. She had a special devotion to Saint Padre Pio and offered her daily suffering for the souls in purgatory. Joan’s life was marked by love, service, faith, humor, and a deep commitment to family and community, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew her.

Sr. Ann John shared: “Memories can make life special. Joan, my friend, has been part of my life for many years. When she became a Benedictine Oblate, Joan became my prayer partner, and we developed an even closer bond. Teaching four of her five daughters at VMA was a treat. After teaching and becoming a nurse I was asked if I would like to start a clinic for the homeless. A few years later, I participated in a panel at Christ Hospital. I was surprised when one of the student nurses told me that one day she was going to volunteer at the clinic - Joan was that volunteer for many years. Joan was special, and I miss her. She and her family remain in my prayers. I won’t forget her.”

by: Sr. Ann John Kotch

### Mary Jo Rehtin



Our oblate, Mary Jo Rehtin, age 77, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Saturday, January 17, 2026, following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Mary Jo is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Rick, her beloved daughters, Beth and Shawna and their husbands; her eight cherished grandchildren; and her five treasured great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her three brothers, as well as her dear aunt, Claudia Newman.

Mary Jo will be remembered as a woman of deep and unwavering faith. Besides being a Benedictine Oblate, she served as a Lay Pastoral Minister for the Diocese of Covington, and was a devoted member of St. Timothy Parish. There she was actively involved in numerous parish projects, served as a lector and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and was a member of the outreach committee.

A dedicated educator, Mary Jo spent 38 years teaching at Boone County High School, Villa Madonna Academy, Ludlow High School, and Ryle High School. Beyond the classroom, she taught all who knew her how to live with grace, dignity, and steadfast faith—even in life’s most difficult moments.

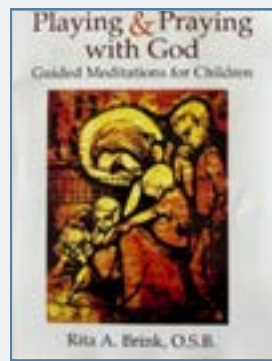
The Gospel reading at her funeral was from Matthew 5:14-16, “you are the light of the world; you are the salt of the earth.” This personified Mary Jo perfectly. She was truly a light to everyone she met. Her kindness was a blessing to so many. We cherish her memory as a woman of deep and active faith.

by: Nancy Kordenbrock





Sr. Rita loves solving Sudoku puzzles and enjoys the challenge of working through the numbers in her free time.



## MEET SR. *A life dedicated*

Rita Anne Brink began her life at St. Walburg Monastery in 1958 after graduation from St. Henry High School. Rita speaks of her home life as one of good order, to which her mother and father contributed in partnership. With eight siblings, Rita learned how to share, bringing to community an appreciation of good relationships.

College life as a sister spanned fourteen years of summer school. Each year in the fall Rita headed back to the classroom as teacher in the dioceses of Covington and Pueblo, Colorado. She began in first grade and advanced over the years to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math. After completing her BA at Thomas More College (now University) in 1972, she served as both teacher and principal for several years.

Rita's move across the river began years of service in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Her first position was a delight—as a nonteaching principal in a school of 100 students. These few years, she says, were the “most fun”. Our Lady of Victory provided a bigger challenge at a much larger school. Rita remembers the traditional science and religion fairs that were in place when she began at OLV. Knowing that parents usually participated in the work for the student's entry, she began to call them family fairs to acknowledge the fact. Speech tournaments allowed students to compete in a number of genres, from poetry to politics.

Rita's work at Our Lady of Victory led to her becoming a published author. At times during the school year Rita met the student body of around 600, grades 1-8, in the church for guided meditation as part of a prayer service. Instead of restless children, she sensed an atmosphere “so quiet it was spooky.” Later in the year teachers planned retreat days with their classes. The kids asked for more guided meditations. After her years at OLV and the positive response from the children, Rita collected twenty-four of her guided meditations and looked for a publisher. *Playing and Praying with God: Guided Meditations for Children* was published by Paulist Press in 1996.

That same year the Diocese of Lexington searched for a new superintendent and chose Sr. Rita Brink to fulfill that role. Two years later in 1998 the sisters elected Rita as prioress of the St. Walburg community. Her administrative background “helped with the manager parts, but it's quite another thing to encourage sisters to develop their personal and spiritual lives as well,” Rita commented at the time. After eight years as prioress Rita returned to a familiar field as Executive Director of the Alliance for Urban Education (ACUE), a position she held from 2006-2011. Serving the inner city, she became an advocate for Catholic schools lacking the financial and material resources of their suburban counterparts.





Sr. Rita is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan, so much so that when her nephews were younger, she would take them to the team's training camp in Latrobe to watch the players practice and soak up the pre-season excitement.

## RITA BRINK: *to faith and education*

by: Sr. Christa Kreinbrink

L-R: Graduation from St. Henry High School; Principal at Our Lady of Victory babysitting Cabbage Patch Kids; 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee with Srs. Andrea Vasquez and Mary Rabe; Speaking at local LCWR meeting; Prioress/Former Prioresses Sr. Mary Catherine Wenstrup and Aileen Bankemper; Pittsburgh Steelers training camp with her nephew Chad and Head Coach Bill Cowher.

Sisters in religious communities throughout the country are planning their futures with fewer numbers. The first Benedictine community in North America, in St. Marys PA, was founded by the Abbey of St. Walburg in Eichstätt, Bavaria in 1852. It was to this community, St. Joseph Monastery, that Sr. Rita was appointed in 2012 as administrator for the purpose of assisting them in making what would be hard decisions. By 2014 the sisters had voted to dissolve the monastery. The sisters appreciated the skill with which Rita worked with them in meetings, facilitated their travel to explore other monasteries, and their eventual relocation to several of them. Rita had never expected she would serve there for seven years; she remained an active member of St. Walburg's by driving home for frequent weekends.

When Sr. Aileen Bankemper began her second term as prioress, she asked Sr. Rita to serve as subprioress. Because of her administrative skills and the wealth of experience Rita had accumulated, Aileen appointed Rita chair of the Visioning our Future committee, a role she fills at present for St. Walburg Monastery. Sr. Aileen adds: "Much of what the community faces is serious, involving many discussions. Rita is dependable, thoughtful and willing to take the time to talk through issues. What helps in tense situations is that we 'get' each other's sense of humor and don't take ourselves too seriously."

For Rita Brink, life is not all work. Surprisingly, Rita does not enjoy travel for its own sake, although she remembers with joy the mountains of Colorado. We who visited her in St. Marys, PA were treated to a visit to the resident elk herd. Rita likes art of all types. The drawings, paintings, statues, ceramics, bowls she has gathered over the years represent objects that caught her eye; she wasn't seeking them out. They may just have shown up on the internet and she put in an order. Art calms her and leads to reflection. Rita likes poetry, plays cards, enjoys internet games, and eats lunch with old classmates. She laughs easily and has always enjoyed being with family members. What she'd really like to do? Take a whole day to just sit down and read a book! And then do it again some time.





In Benedictine tradition, meals often include two simple options—reflecting care for individual needs while honoring moderation and community.

## A RHYTHM OF LIFE

A Rhythm of Life captures the daily harmony of prayer, work, and community at the monastery. Over the last few months, these photos show how the sisters gather in worship, welcome guests, serve through their work, and enjoy the simple joys of life together.

### CHRONICLES

#### *A Glimpse into our daily lives*

by: Sr. Mary Tewes

Nov. 20: Daisy Scouts (K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade) from VMA brought bouquets of daisies, carnations & roses to the community for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 20-25: Sr. Aileen to Newark, DE for Visitation Process with the community.

Nov. 21: VMA high school students traveled to the National Catholic Youth Conference equipped with a batch of Sr. Cathy Bauer's homemade cookies.

Nov. 24-26: Many sisters and oblates peeled apples, crimped crusts and encouraged the crew working for the Thanksgiving Pie Sale for the benefit of "Fiesta" of Northern Ky. Apple, pecan and pumpkin pies totaled 125. Sold out!

Nov. 29: Sisters participated in the LCWR Emerging Futures Gathering at St. Ann's Convent, Melbourne, KY.

Dec. 2, 9, 16: Lectio of the Sunday Gospel offered at 7:30 pm in chapel.



#### *Praise and Prayer*

From the chapel to the gardens, prayer and praise permeate daily life. Chanting, lectio divina, music, and tending flowers all reflect the sisters' dedication to cultivating both faith and beauty in their surroundings.





### **Work of Our Hands**

Work is a form of prayer for the sisters, whether in the kitchen or around the monastery. Each task, no matter how ordinary, contributes to the shared life and mission, embodying the Benedictine balance of ora et labora - prayer and work.



Why don't we wear habits? For us, living Benedict's vision means choosing simplicity and practicality. After the Second Vatican Council, our community prayerfully discerned a way of dressing that supports both our work and our shared life.



## **CHRONICLES**

*continued*

Dec. 5-10: Sr. Dorothy Schuette served as spiritual director at the Jesuit Renewal Center in Milford, OH.

Dec. 12: We joined with VMA students to raise money for sweatpants & sweatshirts for the Cold Shelter.

Jan. 9-12: Sr. Kimberly Porter assisted the sisters of Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck, ND in preparing for election of prioress.

Jan. 10: Benedictine Oblates enjoyed their New Year's gathering of lectio, discussion and pot luck lunch.

Jan. 14: Intercommunity Peace & Justice Committee hosts session at Bishop Howard Hall in Covington: "Immigration Neighbors Network."

Jan. 15: On Poetry Night sisters share favorites from centuries past to the present.

Jan. 20: Sisters from the Covington area joined in prayer for peace at the Bell Tower on Mainstrasse, Covington.

Jan. 29 - Feb. 7: Sr. Aileen participated in the annual Conference of Benedictine Prioresses in Baltimore, MD.





Come as you are—all are welcome at 9:30 AM Eucharist on Sundays

## CHRONICLES

continued

Jan. 29 Sr. Cathy visited St. Agnes School and spoke with the student body about religious life during Catholic Schools Week.



Jan. 30: Sr. Cathy and other women religious were guests for mass and social at St. Henry District High School celebrating World Day for Consecrated Life.



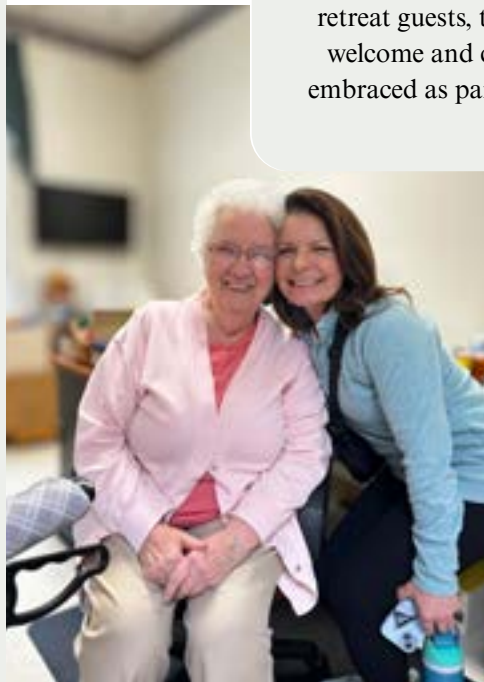
Feb. 1 & 7: Srs. Dorothy and Cathy participated in the World Day for Consecrated Life at St. Thomas Church. Several other sisters attended the diocesan celebration at the cathedral.



Feb. 14: Oblate gathering and book discussion of *The Good Life*, by Irene Nowell, OSB.

Feb. 14: Sr. Kimberly led the sisters of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN in reflection on their direction statements.

Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday. Sr. Aileen opened Lent with the reading of St. Benedict's Rule on the Keeping of Lent, calling the community to enter the season and name their intentions.



### **Welcoming the Guest**

Hospitality is at the heart of Benedictine life. Whether greeting friends, family, or retreat guests, the sisters create a space of welcome and care, where each person is embraced as part of the rhythm of life here.



Care never clocks out -  
St. Walburg has a nurse  
available 24 hours a day for  
our aging sisters.



## CHRONICLES

*continued*

Feb. 21-28: Sr. Rita Brink together with three other Benedictine sisters conducted the Canonical Visitation Process for the Monastery Immaculate Conception community in Ferdinand, IN.

Feb. 24 and Tuesdays of Lent: Sr. Mary Tewes guides Lenten lectio sessions for sisters and guests.

March 2: A group of sisters attended the Peace & Justice gathering at Howard Hall in Covington, where Hanna Keegan, theologian from Thomas More University spoke on Pope Leo's apostolic exhortation "Dilexi Te". Pope Leo completed the work begun by Pope Francis on Christ's love for the poor and the call for the Church to renew its commitment to those most in need.

March 11: Sr. Cathy Bauer and Sr. Marla Monohan, SND visited Prince of Peace School to talk with students about religious life.



### **Moments of Joy**

Even in stillness or simple leisure, the sisters live out Benedictine values. From playing cards to personal hobbies, these moments reflect the happiness, friendship, and individuality that thrive within the shared rhythm of their life together.





Sr. Adelaide Feldbauer served Holy Cross from the early 1920s to 1987— opening the church each morning, locking it each night, training hundreds of servers, and caring for the parish.

## FROM THE *Benedictines and Latonia's Long, Significant*



125 years – That’s how long the St. Walburg Benedictine community lived and ministered to the people of Holy Cross Parish. From the era of horse-drawn carts and river boats to the age of the internet, the sisters were present as teachers, cooks, sacristans and administrators. When they came in 1891, the town was called Milldale and the school was in the basement of the church building. Though the last Benedictines in residence, blood sisters Carmella and Samuel, left in 2006, Benedictine influence did not leave with them. Still a major influence in the school are the values of hospitality, community, and love of neighbor. Today other things are in major contrast to the 1891 school. Now the parish is a large, multi-building complex covering 3 acres, on the National Register of Historic Places, and is part of a US Historic District. Holy Cross educates children from pre-school through high school and is recognized state-wide for both its sports and academic programs. In 2024 it was named as a national Blue Ribbon school.

How the St. Walburg Benedictines became so tied to this parish, school, and local community is a story of an era and the Church’s call to mission. Between 1830-1848 there was an upheaval in Europe that impelled a huge number of people to migrate. Large numbers came from Germany and Ireland. Many were Catholic but there were only a few Catholic churches scattered over a large region.

This influx created problems for Bishop Carroll and his successor Bishop Camillus Maes: many Catholics, a very large territory and few priests all complicated by language demands. In 1854 ground was broken for St. Joseph church in the northern part of Covington to help serve some of the German population. For the next four years, however, the bishop did not have enough priests to supply a pastor for this new parish. In Jan. 1858 he asked for help from Pennsylvania Abbot Boniface Wimmer, OSB, and was granted Benedictine priests to staff the parish. The very next year German Benedictine sisters arrived from Erie PA to assist by teaching. This is how the St. Walburg community became part of the Covington diocese, beginning to live community on 12th St. near the church, school, and Benedictine priests. An 1865 diocesan report listed among its institutions a Benedictine Fathers’ church and priory and a Benedictine nunnery with a boarding and day school.

For Catholics in the southern part of Covington in towns like Milldale (later renamed Latonia) there were difficult, sometimes dangerous trips over unpaved roads in mule or horse drawn vehicles to get to mass. Some even went to Cincinnati via riverboat. Because so many travelled the miles north from home to St. Augustine parish, the pastor there came to realize that the southern part of the region needed a parish. As he discussed this with others, a plan was developed, and a



Benedictine Sisters who taught at Holy Cross were inducted into their Hall of Fame in April 2006. Seated: Srs. Carmella and Samuel Azzolina, Standing: Srs. Margaret Mary Dressman, Teresa Wolking and Martina Arnold.



# ARCHIVES

## Holy Cross Parish, a Relationship

by: Sr. Colleen Winston

proposal was submitted to Rome. In 1890 Pope Leo XIII formally approved the new parish.

The Holy Cross cornerstone was laid in 1890; three sisters arrived in 1891 to open the school. By then the pastor was living in the church building, so he moved temporarily to a rented home, giving the sisters his residence. These first three sisters were Sr. Magdalena Gerhard, who with Sr. Lucia Lutz comprised the faculty, and Sr. Philomena Huggenberger, the cook. The high school was started in 1917 with one teacher, Sr. Lioba Holz and two levels; a new teacher was added each year. Because of a population boom in Latonia, in 1930 a new high school building was needed.

Over the years the sisters became an integral part of the parish and well respected in the broader local community. More than 80 sisters guided the students through the first 115 years they lived and ministered in the parish.

It is commonly said in N. KY that many families and individuals are interconnected. Especially true of Latonia, it's not unusual to be talking with someone and discover you have a mutual acquaintance or even relative. This creates a special bond among longtime residents. Many old-time families still have members living on or around the old homestead and many of the old buildings have not been torn down, just repurposed.

Memories tend to linger in Latonia. One example of this is that the first graduate of Holy Cross high school, Helen Pernice, lived on the same road as my dad's great grandfather where my sisters and I also grew up.

A different example is that classmates often look for ways to keep in touch. Such is the Holy Cross class of 1955. For many years a group of them has been meeting regularly for lunch, and last year they celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation. Memories shared often revolve around their days at Holy Cross and some of the sisters who taught them.

One final example of close ties is that four currently living sisters of St. Walburg are graduates of Holy Cross High; They are Srs. Rosemary McCormack, Dorothy (formerly Christian) Schuette, Colleen Winston and Mary Catherine (formerly Mary Jane) Wenstrup. The final two later taught there.



Class of 1955 then...



Seated are Srs. Clarita Anneken and Immaculata Campbell. Standing are Srs Mariana Kirk, Colleen Winston and Mary Catherine Wenstrup.



and now

Graduates and spouses gather —the bond is so strong everyone feels like part of the class.

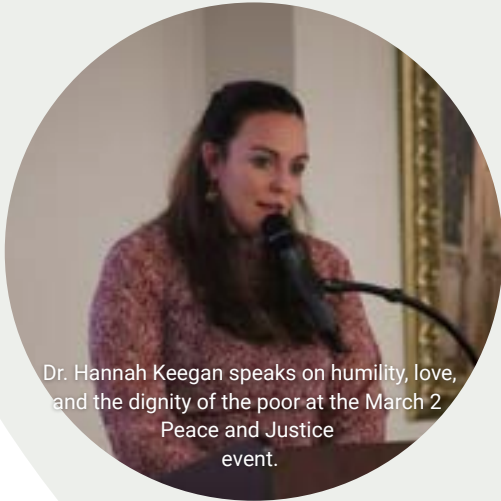




Immigrant presence: The Catholic Church in the U.S. serves over 44 million immigrants, providing food, shelter, and advocacy.

## SERVING WITH HEART: *Peace and Justice in Action*

by: Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock



Dr. Hannah Keegan speaks on humility, love, and the dignity of the poor at the March 2 Peace and Justice event.

The intercommunity committee on peace and justice continues its work, bringing aid to immigrants in our area.

Several actions have been taken with the help of volunteers eager to improve the lives of the immigrants. Among them the distribution of new hooded sweatshirts, winter coats and socks at Christmas. Volunteers have also helped to organize and distribute donated clothing.

Some of the sisters and other volunteers have provided food for various immigrant groups. These activities are a beginning. As the committee and its extended volunteers learn more about what other needs are, work will begin to meet some of those needs.

In addition, the committee has also sponsored a lecture by Dr. Hannah Keegan from Thomas More University. Her topic was the encyclical by Pope Francis, *Dilexit Nos*, and Pope Leo's recent papal exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, both of which address love for the poor. Both of these documents address the love of Jesus as it is to be expressed in active love of the poor. While we serve the poor, they are actually serving us, bringing us closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Dr. Keegan suggested reading *Dilexi Te* since it is shorter and further develops Pope Francis' thoughts. Both can be found online and as paperbacks.



The Benedictine Sisters' annual Pie Sale is more than just a treat, it's a celebration of community. Bringing neighbors together, it builds connections while raising funds to support those in need, embodying hospitality, service, and care at the heart of Benedictine life.

Mark your calendars for the Benedictine Sisters annual Pies for a Purpose Fourth of July sale.

Front Cover: "Four Seasons," located in the monastery, was created in memory of Sr. Emmanuel's parents, Anne and Charles Pieper. The piece measures approximately 6 ft by 4 ft and depicts the four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Back Cover: "This Is My Body Given for You" was originally created as a woodblock print - an art form in which an image is carved into wood, inked, and pressed to create bold lines and rich texture. The original hangs in the dining room. Both works were created by Sr. Emmanuel Pieper.



# Thank You

*We are deeply grateful to our friends, relatives, and benefactors. Your faithful generosity in 2025 sustains the life and mission of our monastery - caring for our sisters, supporting our ministries, and maintaining our sacred spaces. Through your partnership, we continue our shared work of prayer and service.*

\$138,000 each year - The cost of basic utilities needed to sustain daily life in our community, including gas, electricity, water, and sanitation.



Friends of St. Walburg  
James and Judith Adams  
Annette Ahlers  
Jim and Toni Akers  
Ron and Sally Albrinck  
John and Donna Alig  
Rose Marie Allen  
Amy and Roger Adams  
Howard and Patricia Anneken  
Leo Arlinghaus  
Paul and Pattie Arlinghaus  
Dennis and Donna Arnold  
Gayla Aspromonte  
Don and Colleen Bahr  
Gerald and Beverly Bailey  
Kathleen and Edward Baker  
Elisabeth Balonis  
Joe and Carol Bauer  
Mary Ellen Bauer  
Mary Baumann  
Norb and Pauline Baumann  
Ginger Dailey Beasley  
Craig Beaty

Kevin Borowski and  
Michele Redden-Borowski  
James and Nancy Bradley  
Earnest Brady, Sr.  
Rita and Bill Brake  
Norma and Doug Branch  
Joan Breetz †  
Marlene Brink  
John Brinkley  
Donald and Norma Brockmeier  
Richard and Mary Broeg  
Mary and John Bruggen  
Butler Foundation  
Mary Byron  
Ann Cahill  
Marianne Roeding Carr  
James Carter  
Regina Casey  
Peggy Chandler  
John and Vickie Cimprich  
Joyce Cissell  
Joelita Cleveland  
James and Mary Cole

Tom and Patti Dietz  
Sarah and Dennis Dirr  
Therese Haines Djahanshahi  
Charlene Doll  
Laurie Downing  
Mary Sue Dressman  
David Due  
Pamela Dumaine  
Larry and Mary Dunn  
Susan Dunn  
Gerry and Marilyn Dusing  
Patricia Dwight  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan D. Eastlund  
Patricia Eilers  
George Eten  
Daniel Fagel  
Gail Farrell  
William and Carol Fausz  
Donna Feder  
Tracy and Louise Federico  
Joseph Fessler  
Tony Fischer  
Sue Flach  
Michael and Lori Flaherty  
Mike and Barb Foster  
Emily Franxman  
Marie and Jeff Franxman  
Paul Franxman  
Walter Franxman  
Andy and Wendy Furman  
Rick and Anne Gaunder  
Andrew and Kathryn Gaydos  
Colleen and Bill German  
Martin and Lynda Gerrety  
Fred and Susan Gilliam  
Maureen Gilmore  
Dorothy Goettsch  
Terri Goheen-Srinivasan  
Michael Greene  
Joyce Griffin  
Carl and Jean Gripshover  
Ron and Sharon Gripshover  
Paul and Vicki Gruszniewski  
Dolores Gutierrez-Huntoon  
Gerald Haemmerle  
Joy Hahn  
Cleo Hall  
Mary Pat Halpin  
Margie Hardebeck  
Nathan Harig  
Timothy and Laurie Hauger  
Miriam Miller Hays  
Robert and Julia Heditsian

Dennis Heeb  
Maris Helfrich  
Donald and Mary Hellmann  
Rev. Robert Henderson  
Juanita Hergott  
Mary Heyl  
Karen Hinson  
Carol Hodge  
Skip Holmes  
Lynne Horning  
Janet Houthoofd  
Mary Huhn  
Rev. Paul Hurst  
James and Robin Hurtt  
Lora Jacob  
Louise and Bruce Jewett  
Patty and Charlie Jung  
Eileen Junker  
Jeanine Kalker  
Mary and Frank Kammer  
KEB  
Jerome and Julia Keller  
Rev. Jeffrey Kemper  
Carol and JohnKerr  
Susan and Donald Kidwell  
Judy Kinman  
Ann and Bob Klenda  
Kimberly Klosterman  
Ed and Lois Knochelmann  
TracyKoenig  
Mark Kohlhas  
Mark and Nancy Koors  
Robert and Mary Anne Kordenbrock  
C.M. Kostrzewa  
Rev. William Kraynak  
Gwendolyn and Al Krebs  
Lou and Margie Kreuzer  
Theresa Kroussakis  
Donna Krumpelman  
Linda and Stan Krumpelman  
Jim and Cecilia Kumpf  
Kevin and Susie Kushman  
Sandra Lageman  
Jessie and Stephen Lamantia  
Mary Lamperski  
Mary Carol and Philip Landwehr  
Mary Pat Latham  
Marla and John Layne  
Sue Ann Lazar  
Patricia Lee  
Cindy Lewis  
Karl Lietzenmayer  
William Lloyd



Phyllis Beck  
Thomas Beck  
Mark and Diane Becker  
Clay and Kathy Beekley  
Benedictine Convent of  
St. Martin  
Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer  
James and Rebecca Bilbo  
Mary and Charles Birkenhauer  
Barbara Blank  
Gerry Blenke  
Regina Boehmer  
Debbie Bogenschutz  
Kerry and Leah Booker  
Donna Bornhorst

Holly Combs  
Elinor Robke-Comer and  
John Comer  
Kathleen Conway  
Jerry and Sandy Cook  
Dennis and Patricia Coyne  
Mary and Carl Creech, Jr.  
Judy Crist  
Marion and David Crowe  
Richard and Nancy Cummins  
Mary Jo Cushing  
Vicki Dansberry  
Hope and Patrick Davenport  
Michael and Terry Deavy  
Anthony and Alga Depenbrock





\$45,000 per sister, per year.  
The average cost to provide housing, care, and daily living needs for each member of our community.

Gerry and Jim Lockhart, Jr.  
Beverly Lonneman  
George Ann Lovinggood  
Alice and Ronald Lubbe  
Jeannine Ludwig  
Tom and Pamela Lux  
Mark MacDonald  
Kathleen Magnier  
Mary Alice Mairose  
Shirley Martin  
Dan and Rachel Martis & Family  
James and Geraldine Martis  
Diane and John Scott Marx  
Maureen Maxfield and Michael Flowers  
Joan McAlonan  
Nancy McCullough  
Susan McDowell and Kelly Gammon  
Rev. James Meade  
Steve and Jane Meier  
Joe Merkle  
Janice Metz  
Joyce Ann Metz†  
Richard and Gail Michalack  
Connie and Bruce Milam  
Alice Moeller  
John and Karen Moreland  
Tony and Becky Motley  
Mount St. Benedict Monastery  
Susan and Brian Mueller  
Martin Myers  
Mary Ann Nestheide  
Kathy Noonan  
James O'Connell  
Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery  
Heather Sheehan O'Brien  
David Oldendick  
Byron Ory  
Margaret Owens  
Carl and Joann Paulsen  
James and Monica Phillips  
Brenda Pirozzolo  
Kathy Anthe Porter  
Martha and Mike Queenan  
Ann Rabe  
Eduardo and Sheila Rabel  
Mary Kay Rainey  
Rev. Ronald and Mary Anne Rall  
Tom and Carol Rasp  
Anna Reber  
Charles Rehtin  
Rick and Mary Jo † Rehtin  
John and Shelley Recker  
Mary Louise Reed  
Sherrill Remke  
William and Julea Remke  
Diane and Jerry Renfroe

Daniel and Jean Reynolds  
William and Susan Rice  
Mary Riesenbeck  
Paul Ritter  
Dolores Robinson  
Sara Robinson  
James and Ginny Robke  
Steve and Kathy Roeding  
Patricia Roenker  
William and Ann Ross  
Carol Ruberg  
The Ruschman Family  
Marian Rust  
Sharon Rust  
Diana Ryan  
Luann Ryan  
Sacred Heart Monastery  
Ronald Sagan  
Delma Lucas-Santos  
Carol Schaefer  
Judy Schewe Schletker  
Stephanie Schmidt  
Henrietta Schneider  
Jace and Judi Schneider  
Edward Schroeder  
George and Mary Jean Schuette  
William and Julie Schuler  
James Schumacher  
Ty Scott  
Jo Ann Seltman  
Richard and Regina Siegrist  
Elaine Burke Smith  
Paula and Larry Smith  
Susan Marie Smith  
Joe and Regina Stambush  
Sandra Stanton  
Nancy Staurovsky  
Lawrence and Marilyn Stegman  
Clare Stein  
Cathy and Robert Stevens  
Jim and Dixie Stiegler  
Virginia Strunk  
Carl and Diane Suhler  
Kathleen Summe  
Dewi Suriana FNU Jonky  
Pat Swanke  
Coby Sweeney  
Phil and Linda Swett  
Sue Tarrant

Judy TenEyck  
Judy Tensing  
Stephanie Tewes  
Elaine Thebus  
Stephen and Stacey Theissen  
Jeffrey and Jennifer Thiemann  
Theresa Tran  
Ruth Traut Estate  
Diane Banasiak Vego  
Villa Madonna Academy  
Denise Vocke  
James and Paula Volz  
Joe and Holly VonLehman  
Andrew and Barbara VonLehman  
Rev. Mark Vyverman  
Teresita and Walker Wallace  
Rev. Steven Walter  
Maureen Warman  
Barbara and Michael Weber  
Cheryl and Tim Weber  
Kathleen Webster  
Beverly A. Wellbrock  
David Wenstrup  
Jeff and Suzy Wera  
Donna Wesseler  
Tom and Catherine Wesseling  
Greg and Karen West  
Mike and Mary Jo Whelan  
Sandra Whisner  
Mary and Daniel Whittle  
Bob and Mary Jane Wiethe  
James Wilder  
Janet Willenborg  
Nick and Glorie Winnike  
Rachael Winters  
Rick and Carolyn Witte  
Gene and Sue Woolridge  
James Arthur Wordeman Estate  
David Yost  
Katherine Young  
Debbie Youtsey  
John Zalla  
Mary Ann and Mark Zalla  
Barbara Zimmer  
The Zimmer Family  
Bob and Linda Zimmer  
Louella Zimmer  
Jo Ann Zoller  
William Zumbiel

**Wishlist Donors:**

Marlene Brink  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan D. Eastlund  
James and Robin Hurtt  
Margie Hardebeck  
Lora Jacob  
Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery  
Carol Schaefer  
Donna Wesseler

**In Honor of...**

**Sr. Aileen Bankemper**  
Susan McDowell and Kelly Gammon

**Sr. Cathy Bauer**  
Mary Ellen Bauer

**Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery**  
Rev. James Meade

**Benedictine Sisters who taught at Villa Madonna Academy**  
Nancy Staurovsky

**Benedictine Sisters who taught at Mary, Queen of Heaven, Blessed Sacrament and Villa Madonna Academy**  
Tom and Carol Rasp

**Carol, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Joanne and Brother Dominic**  
John Brinkley

**Daniel Erb Family**  
Joan Breetz †

**For all the staff who care for Sr. Ann Middendorf on a daily basis**  
Miriam Miller Hays

**Barbara Dietrich Fox**  
Carl and Diane Suhler

**Sr. Stella Marie Gough**  
Greg and Karen West



**Margie Hardebeck**  
Vicki Dansberry

**Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann**  
James and Ginny Robke

**Tony Jarman**  
Joyce Griffin

**Sr. Ann John Kotch**  
Elisabeth Balonis  
Mary Baumann  
Daniel Fagel  
Gail Farrell  
Kevin and Susie Kushman  
Patricia Lee

**Sr. Rosemary McCormack**  
Andrew and Barbara VonLehman

**Doug and Nancy Mercer's  
50th Wedding Anniversary**  
Tony and Becky Motley

**Ann Middendorf's 99th Birthday**  
Miriam Miller Hays

**Sr. Kathleen Ryan**  
Jerry and Sandy Cook  
Sue Flach

**Thomas and Margaret Scally**  
Carl and Joann Paulsen

**Tom Scally**  
Mary and John Bruggen  
Rick and Mary Jot Rechten

**Feast of St. Benedict**  
Clay and Kathy Beekley

**VMA Class of 1974**  
Cheryl and Tim Weber

**Sr. Barbara Woeste**  
Mary and Carl Creech, Jr.  
Gene and Sue Woolridge

## In Memory of...

**All Souls' Mass Intentions**

**Sr. Gwendolyn Ankesheil**  
Brenda Pirozzolo

**Sr. Clarita Anneken**  
Howard and Patricia Anneken  
Jim and Dixie Stiegler  
Elaine Thebus

**Sr. Gemma Anneken**  
Howard and Patricia Anneken  
Jim and Dixie Stiegler

**Sr. Juanita Anneken**  
Howard and Patricia Anneken  
Jim and Dixie Stiegler

**Sr. M. Xavier Anneken**  
Howard and Patricia Anneken  
Jim and Dixie Stiegler

**Sr. Consuela Arens**  
Ron and Sally Albrinck

**Martha Arlinghaus**  
Leo Arlinghaus  
Ty Scott

**Dot and Lee Arlinghaus, Sr.**  
Leo Arlinghaus

**Sr. Martina Arnold**  
Gerald and Beverly Bailey

**Ron Becker**  
Mark and Diane Becker

**Betty Bradbury**  
Pamela Dumaine  
Marian Rust  
Sharon Rust  
Cheryl and Tim Weber

**JoAnn Kuhlman Bradford**  
Julia Kuhlman Heditsian

**Brake Family**  
Rita and Bill Brake

**Joan Erb Breetz**  
Dennis and Donna Arnold  
Carla and Andrew Bartels  
Lauren Boxell  
Ann Cahill  
Michael and Terry Deavy  
Larry and Mary Dunn  
Jeanine Kalker  
Jerome and Julia Keller  
Diane and John Scott Marx  
Joseph and Amy O'Neill  
Chris and Lisa Pieper  
Mary Ellen Rinklin  
Carol Ruberg  
Nancy Staurovsky  
Cheryl and Tim Weber  
Quin and Lisa Wichmann  
Barbara Zimmer

**Clare Burke**  
Donald and Mary Hellmann

**Cahill Family**  
Rita and Bill Brake

**John W. Cahill**  
Gene and Sue Woolridge

**Sr. Betty Cahill**  
Rita and Bill Brake  
Regina Casey

**Joyce Brink Callery**  
Beverly Wellbrock

**Sr. Mary Lawrence Cannon, OSB**  
Cleo Hall

**Carol, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Joanne  
and Brother Dominic**  
John Brinkley

**Susan Knight Carter**  
James Carter

**Sr. Andrea Collopy**  
Mary Alice Mairose  
Rick and Mary Jot Rechten  
Theresa Tran

**Sr. Carla Cook**  
William Lloyd

**Sr. Cecilia Daigle**  
George Ann Lovinggood  
Byron Ory

**James Doll**  
Charlene Doll

**Sr. Margaret Mary Dressman**  
Mary Sue Dressman

**Sr. Victoria Eisenman**  
Mary Baumann

**Judie Eten**  
George Eten

**Sr. Martha Feder**  
Donna Feder  
Teresita and Walker Wallace  
Rev. Steven Walter

**Sr. Juanita Federico**  
Tracy & Louise Federico

**Sr. Monica Fessler**  
Joseph Fessler  
James and Monica Phillips

**Sr. Raymond Fessler**  
Joseph Fessler  
James and Monica Phillips

**Sr. Flavia (Gertrude Gadker)**  
William and Julie Schuler

**Norb Gauck**  
Tony and Becky Motley

**John H. Franxman**  
Kerry and Leah Booker  
Emily Franxman

\$95,000 annually- Insurance expenses to protect our property and provide liability and fraud coverage, ensuring the safety and security of our home and mission.



Paul Franxman  
Dan and Rachel Martis & Family  
Jace and Judi Schneider

**Marilyn Franxman**  
Kerry and Leah Booker  
Emily Franxman  
Paul Franxman  
Dan and Rachel Martis & Family  
Jace and Judi Schneider

**Sr. Justina Franxman**  
Emily Franxman  
Marie and Jeff Franxman  
Paul Franxman  
Mary Alice Mairose  
Dan and Rachel Martis & Family  
Jace and Judi Schneider

**Alma Fricke**  
Peggy Chandler

**Sr. Geraldine Gajniak**  
Ronald Sagan

**Sr. M. Germaine Gehrig**  
Donald and Mary Hellmann

**George Gibson**  
Judy TenEyck

**Audrey Gilmore**  
Maureen Gilmore

**Denise Gilmore**  
Maureen Gilmore

**Gough Family**  
Gwendolyn and Al Krebs

**Mary Eileen Gough**  
Michael and Lori Flaherty

**Sr. Denise Gough**  
Michael and Lori Flaherty  
Greg and Karen West





\$.1,275 per month – The average income a sister receives from Social Security and pensions, contributing toward her care and living expenses.

**Sr. Margaret Mary Gough**

Richard Klus  
Greg and Karen West

**Sr. Joan Gripshover**

Sue Ann Lazar  
Terri Goheen-Srinivasan

**Sr. Deborah Harmeling**

Mary and Charles Birkenhauer  
Debbie Bogenschutz  
Holly Combs  
Laurie Downing  
Fred and Susan Gilliam  
Rev. Paul Hurst  
Rev. Jeffrey Kemper  
Rev. William B. Kraynak  
Rev. James Meade  
Richard and Gail Michalack  
Tony and Becky Motley  
Anonymous  
Denise Vocke  
Mark Vyverman  
Rev. Steven Walter  
Cheryl and Tim Weber  
Donna Wesseler

**Fred and Irene Hellmann**

Donald and Mary Hellmann

**Sr. Helen Hergott**

Juanita Hergott

**Charles and Bernice Hughes**

Bob and Linda Zimmer

**Paul Jewett**

Louise and Bruce Jewett

**Sr. Adele Keller**

Ty Scott

**Sr. Louis Keller**

Ty Scott

**Fr. Louis Keller**

Ty Scott

**John Kotch**

Elisabeth Balonis

**Krebs Family**

Gwendolyn and Al Krebs

**Lamantia Family**

Jessie and Stephen Lamantia

**Sean Lockhart**

Richard and Nancy Cummins

**Mary and Ferd Kreutzkamp**

William and Ann Ross  
Joyce Metz  
Janice Metz

**Pamela J. Neal**

Joan McAlonan

**Pauline Brandner Nitschke**

Patty and Charlie Jung

**Robert B. Noll, Jr.**

Paul and Pattie Arlinghaus  
Donna Bornhorst  
Joan Breetz†  
Marianne Roeding Carr  
Sarah and Dennis Dirr  
Susan Dunn  
Tony Fischer  
Sue Flach  
Mike and Barb Foster  
Andy and Wendy Furman  
Martin and Lynda Gerrety  
Jeanine Kalker  
Ed and Lois Knochelmann  
Linda and Stan Krumpelman  
Connie and Bruce Milam  
Tony and Becky Motley  
Kathy Anthe Porter  
Steve and Kathy Roeding  
The Sweeney Family  
Maureen Warman  
Rick and Carolyn Witte  
Mary Ann and Mark Zalla  
Mark and Mary Ann Zalla  
The Zimmer Family

**Sr. Esther O'Hara**

Richard and Regina Siegrist

**Sr. Marian Oldendick**

David Oldendick

**James Plaskiewicz**

James and Geraldine Martis

**Alora Nagle Raible**

Sandra Lageman

**Carole Sue Bonfield Rehtin**

Charles Rehtin

**Judy Rehtin**

Richard and Gail Michalack

**Tom Robinson**

Sara Robinson

**Dick Roenker**

Patricia Roenker

**Marie Ruhland**

- Heavenly 100th Birthday  
Luann Ryan

**Marie Ruhland**

Luann Ryan

**Sr. Agnes Ruschmann**

James and Monica Phillips  
Paula and Larry Smith

**Sr. David Ruschmann**

James and Monica Phillips  
The Ruschman Family  
Paula and Larry Smith

**Sr. Joseph Ruschmann**

James and Monica Phillips  
Paula and Larry Smith

**John and Carol Ryan**

Mr. and Mrs. Alan D. Eastlund  
Colleen & Bill German

**Ethel, Paul, Tom, and Peg Schumacher**

James E. Schumacher

**Harry and Kathleen Schumer**

Donald and Mary Hellmann

**Patricia A. Scott**

Ty Scott

**Sr. Jean Scott**

Ty Scott

**Sr. Henrietta Seiler**

Mary Ann Nestheide  
Anna C. Seltman  
Jo Ann Seltman

**Anna C. Seltman**

Jo Ann Seltman

**Paul R. Seltman**

Jo Ann Seltman

**Dee Sheriff-MacDonald**

Mark MacDonald

**Sisters That Taught at**

**St. Joseph, Covington:**  
**Srs. Thecla, Jean, Leocadia,**  
**Kathleen, and Alberta--**  
**and the Class of 1957**  
Gerry Blenke

**Anna Marie Smith**

Joe & Regina Stambush

**Damian Stanton**

Sandra Stanton

**Ronald Staurovsky**

Nancy D. Staurovsky

**Patty Suedkamp**

Bob & Mary Jane Wiethe

**LEGACY DONORS**

**Legacy donors have named St. Walburg Monastery in their estate plan.**

- Martha Arlinghaus †*
- Mr. and Mrs. David Bender*
- Betty Bradbury †*
- Joan Erb Breetz †*
- Susan Carter†*
- Michele Crowley*
- Margaret "Peg" Dillon †*
- Kathy Dye †*
- Margaret Hay Edwards †*
- Emily Franxman*
- Eileen Gough †*
- Carl Gripshover*
- Linda Hammond*
- Miriam Miiller Hays*
- Harry Humpert †*
- Jennifer and Robert Murray*
- Mark and Kate Nienaber*
- Elinor Robke-Comer*
- Albert Schack*
- Carol Schaefer*
- Mr. and Mrs. George Scheper †*
- Sally Ann Schneider †*
- Patricia Scott †*
- Ruth Traut †*
- Arthur Wordeman †*

If you have included St. Walburg Monastery in your estate plans, we would be honored to know of your intention so that we may recognize you as a Legacy Donor.

Please contact Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock at 859-331-6324.

**Sr. Marilyn Thiel**

Sandra Whisner  
Thelma Vacca  
Joe and Regina Stambush

**Janice Terry Wenstrup**

David Wenstrup

**Mike Willenborg**

Janet Willenborg

**Ybarra Family**

Jessie and Stephen Lamantia

**Sr. Ruth Yost**

David Yost

**Golda and Bert Zimmer**

Bob and Linda Zimmer

**Thomas Zimmer**

Louella Zimmer





# VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY

## *Benedictine Scholarship in Action*

by: Sr. Nancy Kordenbrock

Scholarship is defined as academic study or achievement. Villa Madonna offers so many ways for students to study and achieve. From Montessori pre-school through high school graduation students are offered opportunities in all subject areas to learn and achieve.

Some would think that the students spend their time reading and listening to lectures to achieve this. Nothing could be further from the truth. The interaction of experiences and receptive learning is key to achievement. From the youngest students forward they are encouraged to be independent thinkers through activities of every kind.

Outstanding and creative teachers at each level provide the support that the students enjoy as they learn in religion, math, science, world languages, social studies, PE and health, reading and writing.

Of course, scholarship leads to academic awards. Students often win contests in writing, art, music and leadership. All graduates go on to college, many with substantial scholarships.

The school website ([www.villamadonna.org](http://www.villamadonna.org)) gives more details and also some amazing pictures of the students actively learning.





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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Org  
US Postage  
Paid  
Cincinnati, OH  
Permit #6207



Need to update address  
or contact information?  
Call 859-331-6324.

