

Tidings

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

SUMMER 2014

www.annunciationmonastery.org



(above) Fifty years ago, Sisters Patricia Schap, Gerard Wald and Mariah Dietz were among the sisters who made perpetual monastic profession. Today, they are just as eager to respond to God's call. Sisters Gerard, Patricia and Mariah hold their 50th Jubilee candles.

(left) Sister Nancy Miller and Sister Rose Schweitzer share a special moment before the 75th jubilee celebration for Sister Rose.

Sisters Celebrate 50 and 75 Years of Joyful Service

Sisters, family and friends gathered on June 14 in joyful witness to the 50th anniversary of monastic profession of Sisters Gerard Wald, Patricia Schap and Mariah Dietz. Sister Rose Schweitzer celebrated her 75th Jubilee on July 11.

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MESSAGE FROM THE

Prioress

In June and July our monastic community celebrated Jubilees for four of our sisters. We call this the anniversary of making perpetual monastic profession, or a life-long commitment to God, by living the monastic life in this monastery. Through our perpetual monastic profession each sister makes the promise to put Jesus Christ first in her life, while living in community with other women who seek God through prayer and service. Sisters Gerard Wald, Patricia Schap and Mariah Dietz celebrated their golden jubilee, 50 years of living the Benedictine monastic life. Sister Rose Schweitzer celebrated her 75th or “Diamond” Jubilee. We think Sister Rose, herself, is a gem. All of these sisters shine brilliantly in our community as they rededicate themselves to serving God and God’s people. We thank those of you who were able to join us for these celebrations, in person or in prayer!

As I reflect on my own monastic profession 23 years ago, I marvel at how fast the time has gone and how I have grown personally and with my sisters in faith. Is this life easy? Not always. Is it fulfilling? Always! In the Gospel reading for July 11, the Feast of St. Benedict, Peter asks Jesus what those who have given up everything to follow Him will receive in return. Jesus responds, “Anyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters, or a father or mother or children or lands, for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.” That is an awesome thought. Compared to Christ’s love, everything else is superfluous. It is only Christ’s love in our hearts that makes us happy

and selfless in giving to others. It is this love that carries us through the joys and sorrows of life.

Gratitude is another key to living a joy-filled life. We deeply appreciate the gift you, our friends, are to us sisters. You assist us in furthering the mission of Jesus through your love and dedication to the Benedictine values that are evident in our sponsored ministries: St. Alexius Medical Center, Garrison Memorial Hospital and the University of Mary. The values of hospitality, respect, community, moderation and stewardship are critical to these institutions, our city, our state, our world. Whether you share your financial resources, time and talent, or prayers with our sisters, please know of our unending gratitude. We pray in thanksgiving for you and those you love. Your gifts never go unnoticed!

And so we give thanks and celebrate the mystery of God’s love that shines through the beauty of the earth and through the Divine Gift of Jesus the Christ.

We wish you a summer and fall blessed with time to relax and reflect on God’s goodness and love.

Peace,

Sister Nancy Miller, OSB

Sister Gerard Wald, OSB – 50 Years

"I remember dreaming about being a sister."

Sister Gerard Wald fulfilled that dream 50 years ago when she became a Benedictine Sister. Born and raised on a farm south of Napoleon, N.D., Sister Gerard is the youngest of 10 siblings. She attended a country school and says the Eucharist was a central part of their lives.



Sister Gerard credits her home parish priest with encouraging her vocation. "He talked vocations all the time and interwove that into his homilies, stressing the importance for children and families to consider religious life and the priesthood." She says, "I remember dreaming about being a sister and a nurse. The tug in my heart would come and go, but it would never go away."

Sister Gerard felt an incredible sense of peace when she entered Annunciation Monastery. "I never questioned if this was the right vocation for me because, in a deep sense, it always felt right."

"Our life supports prayer and being continually challenged and enriched with opportunities to learn, grow and serve one another with love."

Sister Gerard started the printing department at St. Alexius Medical Center and worked as a nurse at St. Alexius, where she also directed staff and patient education. She was coordinator of adult education services at the University of Mary. She has been director of student volunteers at the university since 1997. Her office door is always open, a place of genuine hospitality for students

who need help or a listening ear. "I love the students," says Sister Gerard. "They have a passion for life and want to achieve their goals while being of service to others."

At Annunciation Monastery, Sister Gerard has served as vocation director and currently serves on the monastery sponsorship team and coordinates the health center. In her free time, Sister Gerard enjoys outdoor activities like gardening, exercising and reading books that support her profession.

Sister Gerard cherishes the Benedictine monastic life of prayer, community and service. She believes having prayer structured into every part of each day is meaningful. "I love how strong and active our community life is; I've always been in love with education and healthcare so our commitment to our sponsored ministries is very life-giving." She feels Benedictine hospitality is key to serving one another. "Our life supports prayer and being continually challenged and enriched with opportunities to learn, grow and serve one another with love."

Education Background:

*University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D. - Bachelor of Science in Nursing

*St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. - Master of Science in Nursing

*University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D. - Master in Management

*St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, Minn. - Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry

Sister Patricia Schap, OSB – 50th Jubilee

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,"
John 1:1*

This Scripture verse from John is a favorite of Sister



Patricia Schap. Her life has been full of new beginnings as she followed Jesus to her calling. Sister Patricia was born in Valley City, N.D. She has two siblings. Her father's government job with the Department of Agriculture required the family to move frequently throughout North Dakota. Sister Patricia learned early to be open to new beginnings and marvels that she attended four different high schools.

With a degree in education from Presentation College in Aberdeen, S.D., Sister Patricia's first teaching job was at Cathedral school in Bismarck, N.D. It was here that she met the Benedictine Sisters. Most notably, she found a mentor in the teacher across the hall, Sister Michael Kaliher, a member of Annunciation Monastery. "She taught me a lot and we had so much fun together," she recalls.

"To live with others who seek God together and support one another on the journey to God, is a blessing."

Sister Patricia always thought she'd marry and have children. She had been in a serious relationship with a young man but often wondered if God was calling her to a different vocation than marriage. One day Sister Patricia came across the diocesan paper, "The Dakota Catholic Action." It was an issue devoted to vocations. One story inspired her to keep reading it over and over. "It was about a woman who was searching for her place in life. It resonated with me so I asked Sister Michael what I should do next," says Sister Patricia. She inquired at Annunciation Monastery and was soon on her way to become a sister.

God and teaching are the great loves of Sister Patricia's life. She taught at St. Mary's grade school, Bismarck, Christ the King school, Mandan, and again at St. Mary's as director of religious education for 23 years. Sister Patricia feels children bring a wonderful dimension to her life. "I just love little kids; they are visionary, creative and eager to learn. I learn a lot from them."

Sister Patricia also served as subprioress of Annunciation Monastery for eight years. She directs the monastery's oblate program, conducts retreats, is a certified spiritual director and serves on the University of Mary Board of Trustees. She fulfills her love of teaching by volunteering at St. Mary's Grade School where she helps children with their reading. She says, "After I spend time with them, I have a whole different feeling inside. They fill me with joy."

Sister Patricia encounters God through the richness of communal and personal prayer. As she reflects on the past 50 years, she explains, "To live with others who seek God together and support one another on the journey to God, is a blessing. We love one another, we have fun, and we live the Gospel values. Each day is a new beginning to grow in God's love."

Education Background:

*Presentation Jr. College, Aberdeen, S.D. - degree in teaching

*University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D. - Master's degree in elementary education

*Avilla College, Kansas City, Mo. - Undergraduate work in religious education

*Fort Wright College, Spokane, Wash. - Master's degree in Religious Studies

Sister Mariah Dietz, OSB - 50th Jubilee

"I am grateful I was chosen for this life."

"I've been so blessed. I've done everything I've wanted to do in my 50 years of being a Benedictine Sister of Annunciation Monastery.

As a sister, teacher and nurse, I am grateful for the opportunities to care for others," says Sister Mariah Dietz.

Sister Mariah was raised in a family of nine children in Sentinel Butte, N.D. Her parents were



both teachers who instilled the love of learning and love of the Eucharist in their children.

Like many young women, Sister Mariah had dreams of getting married and having her own home full of children. She was a freshman at Mary College when her boyfriend asked for her hand in marriage. Conflicted, she called her mother for advice. She took this motherly wisdom to heart, "Pray. Don't tell the Lord what you want to hear. Be open." Sister Mariah recalls praying in the sisters' chapel and noticing the sun glinting off of the gold leaf wall of the chapel, when it struck her; she was supposed to become a sister. "From that day forward, I never doubted my decision," she says.

The most difficult thing for Sister Mariah to let go of was her desire to have children. A natural caregiver, the thought of not having children grieved her. She told the Lord, "I will continue to be a sister if you will give me opportunities to be with children." And God provided. "I babysat, I spoiled my nieces and nephews. I have taught so many students; they are all my kids."

"I have been mentored and encouraged by the best women ever."

It was this desire to care for others that lead her into the field of health care, primarily as a nurse and nurse educator. Sister Mariah helped start the intensive care unit at St. Alexius Medical Center, taught nursing for over 30 years at the University of Mary and was spiritual care director at St. Gabriel's Community, a Bismarck care center.

Sister Mariah currently serves as vice president of Mission Effectiveness at St. Alexius Medical Center. "This is the perfect job. Working with others to engage in the mission of Jesus is what we are all about. We are reminded of how we are all called to serve." She served on the St. Alexius Board of Directors, the Sponsorship Council for Annunciation Monastery and is a director of women in initial formation.

Sister Mariah says her greatest gift of the past 50 years is her sisters in monastic community. "I have been mentored and encouraged by the best women ever. They taught me to pray. I love the Divine Office and lectio divina (private reflection on the Scriptures)." She feels being a sister is a great option for women who are called by God. "This life hits at the very essence of who we are. We are created to know, love and serve God. I am grateful I was chosen for this life."

Education Background:

*University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D. - Bachelor of Nursing
Nursing Science

*University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. - Master of Nursing

*The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC -
Doctorate of Nursing Science

Sister Rose Schweitzer, OSB – 75th Jubilee

"I have always been happy in this life."



A positive attitude and joyful spirit keep Sister Rose Schweitzer young at heart. She celebrates 75 years of monastic profession with amazement at how God works in her life.

Whether her call from God began in the little sod house where Sister Rose was born, or later on the Schweitzer homestead near Dodge, N.D., she grew up in a loving family where faith was central. She, along with six brothers and four sisters, was born to German immigrants from Russia.

All of the Schweitzer daughters became sisters with the exception of Frances, who was called to married life. The first daughter to enter religious life at St. Benedict's, St. Joseph, Minn., was Sister Delora followed by Sister Rose and Sister Francis. Another sister, Sister Ella, also joined

St. Benedict's. When the Sisters of St. Benedict were called upon to establish a new independent community in Bismarck, N.D., the three sisters (Delora, Rose and Francis) were surprised to find that they had all volunteered to transfer their commitment to the new Bismarck community. They were among the 144 sisters who became Annunciation Monastery.

Sister Rose learned to cook and bake at an early age. Her mother passed along her talents in the kitchen. Sister Rose's first assignment was having kitchen charge in a convent in Albany, Minn. Food service became her lifelong ministry. She loved baking and did so in hospitals, care centers and convents in Red Lake and St. Cloud, Minn.;

and Dickinson, Flasher, Richardton and Bismarck, N.D. She thoroughly enjoyed baking at St. Alexius Medical Center for 20 years.

In 1990, she retired and lived at the convent in Garrison Memorial Hospital where she was well-known for her wonderful homemade breads, pies and knack for raising beautiful African Violets. She now lives at Annunciation Monastery and celebrated her 100th birthday. Sister Rose is devoted to personal prayer and says the rosary every day (sometimes two or three times!). She says, "I have always been happy in this life; community life and prayer brings peace. And, we have a lot of fun besides!"

The Mission Lives Through Us and Through You

If the Benedictine foremothers who first traveled to Dakota Territory in 1878 could see how the mission of Jesus thrives within the sisters' sponsored ministries: St. Alexius Medical Center, Garrison Memorial Hospital and the University of Mary, they would rejoice. These vital institutions serve thousands of people each year in the tradition of teaching and healing in a Christ-like manner, extending the Benedictine values that define them – respect, community, hospitality, healing presence and stewardship.



On May 15, the sisters hosted the 5th annual "Sponsorship Formation Day" event for leaders from these sponsored ministries. Abbot John Klassen of St. John's Abbey spoke on Benedictine Legacy. This day provides an opportunity for individuals to get to know one another, talk about how mission is lived in the workplace and how it can be deepened and carried into the future. "Our sisters offer numerous Benedictine awareness presentations at our sponsored ministries throughout the year. It is a joy to see so many people take a day out of their busy lives and demonstrate their commitment to the mission. They are passionate about serving others and want to see the mission flourish today, tomorrow, and always," explains Sister Nancy Miller, prioress.



Bell Banner Attracts Antiques Roadshow



Sister JoAnn Krebsbach and Luke Crafton, senior digital producer, Antiques Roadshow, enjoyed a beautiful North Dakota morning and discussed the bell banner, the landmark of the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery.



Producers from the “Antiques Roadshow” made a stop at Annunciation Monastery to get up close and personal with the towering 100 ft. bell banner and the eye-catching architecture of Marcel Breuer. Sister JoAnn Krebsbach shared insights about Breuer’s “jewel on the prairie,” and how the architecture was designed to reflect the Benedictine values of stability, simplicity and beauty, utilizing natural materials found in North Dakota. The Bismarck episodes of “Antiques Roadshow” will air in 2015.

The Gift of Presence



(above) Sisters Rosanne and Renee Zastoupil and Sister Nancy Miller, prioress, were joined by family, friends and associates as they celebrated Sister Renee's 48-year ministry at St. Alexius Medical Center

Sister Renee has served at St. Alexius Medical Center for the past 48 years. At a party in Sister Renee's honor, Sister Mariah Dietz, vice president of Mission Effectiveness shared, "Sister Renee has dedicated her life in service of the patients, families and associates of St. Alexius Medical Center. Having served tirelessly as director of the School of Radiology and in pastoral care, she gives each of us example of using our presence as a means of touching and caring for people in a Christ-like manner." Sister Renee continues to minister in various capacities at the Medical Center.

She is responsible for all duties as a Sacristan which includes finding coverage for priests when necessary, and makes herself available to help wherever she is needed. “One of the many gifts that I have been blessed with is my ability to be present. When someone needs me, I listen. I am present. Living the Benedictine way of life as a monastic gives me more reflective time for prayer and reading, and doing whatever needs to be attended to at a given time. It does not matter what I do but, at the end, how much did I love the Lord in doing it. I am enjoying life to the fullest,” says Sister Renee.

From History Nerd to Vacation Director

"I have a Master's degree in American History...and someday I will use it!"

I use this line a lot! Every time I meet a new person and he or she asks what I do, I begin with this statement. And it's true – I do have a degree in history and I do hope to someday work in the historical field again.

The journey of life is funny. Since I made my final vows eight months ago, I have been reflecting on just how I got to the place I am today. How did I go from a shy, history-loving, boyfriend-toting girl to a not-so-shy religious Sister working in vocation ministry?

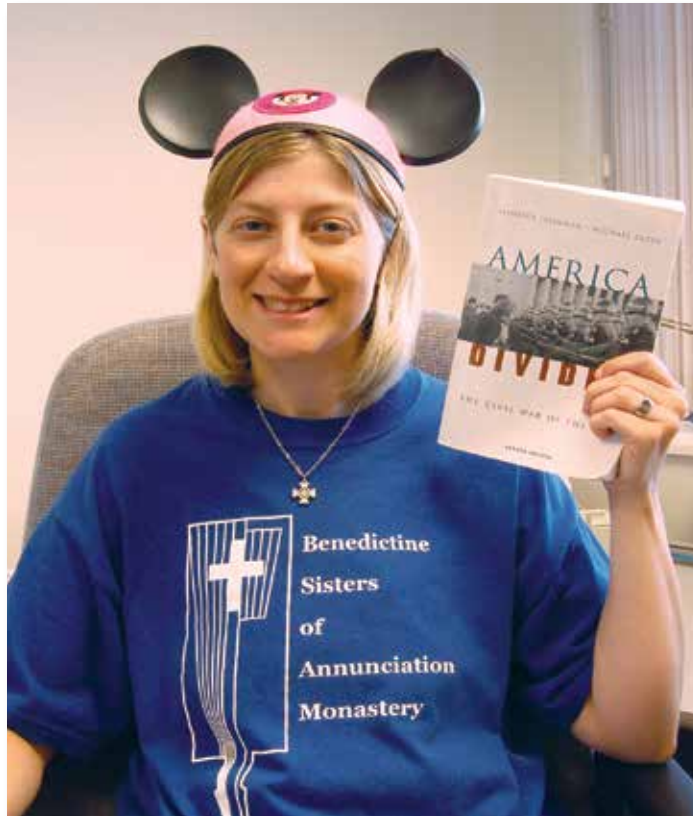
I think a person's life journey can often be compared to a trip gone horribly wrong. Imagine you are planning a vacation to Walt Disney World, the self-proclaimed *Happiest Place on Earth!* Let's say you're like me, and like to plan ahead and be ready for all scenarios. You order your plane tickets early, memorize your flight numbers, and study your layover times. You secure your Disney World tickets well ahead of time, plan the rides you want to go on, confirm your hotel reservations, etc.

Now imagine this happens: On the day of your departure, you oversleep and arrive at the airport late feeling agitated and crabby; your credit card does not work to pay for your luggage; your first flight is delayed and you miss your second one; no one meets you at the airport as planned; Disney World is closed because of an employee strike; the key to your hotel room does not work...and on and on!

Now that would be a nightmare trip! Everything that could go wrong did...and that is how life seems to go sometimes too. Regarding myself, I planned to get married (I did not!); I planned to get embark on a history career (I did not!); and I planned to live somewhere warm (I definitely do not!).

I can almost see God chuckling over our personal plans in life as He watches them change

and transform despite our best efforts to carry them out. The good news is that, unlike our fictional Disney World trip, a major change in one's life plan does not always mean a nightmare. In fact, people often find true happiness only after their lives change course. This may be hard to see when everything one has dreamed of is getting turned on its head, but if a person approaches life with an attitude of openness and prayerful discernment, he or she can expect to find authentic happiness. As I often tell discerners, God WANTS us to be happy. He did not create



Sister Hannah Vanorny – sister, historian, mouseketeer?

us in His very own beautiful image for us to go around moping because we wished our lives had turned out differently.

Although I really only use my history education in a direct way when the American History category comes up on Jeopardy (I rock at that category!), I am still happy with where I am in my life. I was struck at my final profession liturgy with a momentous feeling of peace and joy because I knew I was exactly in the right place. I was where God had ultimately been calling me all of my life. Of course one's life journey is never without

bumps and wrong turns – there were many times during my religious formation years when I thought for sure that God had completely messed up and I definitely did not belong in a monastery. However, the sign of a productive journey is that with every roadblock and every stumble, a person gets up and keeps walking forward. My life as a Benedictine Sister at Annunciation Monastery is not perfect by any means, but it is the right path for me. No doubt about it, life as a Sister has been an amazing and surprising trip so far. And next up in my life plans? A trip to Disney World of course! I better get planning!

Feeding the Hungry ~ Sister Kathleen Atkinson

From our start, we prayed that we be close to the poor, listen to their needs, and ask God to lead us in our response. Both the call and the response has been overwhelming!

We are thrilled with our new ministry space and are blessed with serving more than 125 people a week in our various services. Tuesday morning coffee house is filled with laughter, storytelling, and fresh caramel rolls with people who live on the margins of life. We offer a Wednesday evening support group for people in re-entry from prison. Officially called "Prison2society re-entry," we begin with a light meal and sharing of Scripture, then move into what the guys simply call "stay out of jail" support. On Thursday evenings, Ministry on the Margins offers a food pantry from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Six months ago we wondered if this was where God wanted us because we served only five families that first night.

Now we welcome 40-60 families each Thursday. Thanks to donors and volunteers, we are able to

share 1,000 pounds of food every week. Thanks to so many for their continuing prayers. This is an amazing journey."



Sister Kathleen Atkinson is joined by Ministry on the Margins volunteers and the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce ambassadors for a ribbon cutting at the new MOM location at 115 N. 2nd Street, Bismarck.

Sisters from India Welcomed to Fort Yates



Our sisters were among those who gathered in Fort Yates, N.D., to welcome four sisters from the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites (Kerala, India) to their ministry to the Standing Rock Indian reservation. (lt. to rt.: Sr. Rosemary DeGracia, Sr. Janet Zander, Sr. Amal Grace, Sr. Silvin, Sr. Nancy Miller, Sr. Sobitha, Sr. Navya and Sr. Kathleen Atkinson). We keep these sisters, and those they serve, in our prayers.



Sister Nancy Miller expresses gratitude and congratulations to Sister Ann Schoch, SSND, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for their 34 years of dedicated service to the people of Fort Yates.



Sister Nancy Gunderson invited Rebeca Rhoads, from the monastery business office, to talk to her class about growing up in Mexico and the culture and traditional celebrations and prayer surrounding Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Rebeca Rhoads



Sister Rosemary DeGracia

Sister Rosemary DeGracia has been in the position of Director of University Compliance for the University of Mary since June 2013. She recently attended the Higher Education Compliance Conference in Austin, Texas, on ethics and compliance issues facing higher education. She works with the sports compliance committee, authorization to provide education to distance students online or out-of-state, and federal legislation governing higher education and improving campus safety. This position is balanced with her appointment as assistant director of the Oblates of Annunciation Monastery. She serves with Oblate director Sister Patricia Schap to expand outreach and serve the laypersons committed to living the Benedictine charism in their daily lives.

Learning the Ropes



Idelle and Sister Rose in the kitchen, creating, chuckling and maybe a little clucking...

Since her first visits to Annunciation Monastery, Idelle Badt, has been “learning the ropes.” First and foremost, she is delving more deeply into the process of discerning her call from God. She will soon enter the novitiate, a step of initial formation where she will devote most of her time to learning about all aspects of Benedictine monastic life.

In addition to the rich prayer life and inspiring history of the sisters, Idelle is learning other skills from Sister Rose Schweitzer, a founder and eldest sister at Annunciation Monastery. The two can often be found elbow-deep in homemade dumpphoodle, green borscht and melt-in-your-mouth pie crusts. Together, they

learned to make hand-crafted rosaries made from rose petals. Since learning of Sister Rose’s fondness for chickens, Idelle surprises her regularly with drawings of chickens or “chicken mail,” that Idelle sneaks into Sister Rose’s mailbox. She also made a chicken quilt for Sister Rose’s 75th Jubilee.

“It is fascinating to see life through the eyes of a 100-year-old,” says Idelle. “Sister Rose is a true monastic who lives prayerfully, joyfully and simply. She is an example of how we don’t need a lot of material things to be happy!”

Idelle and Sister Rose have baking bread on their next to-do list.

Painting With Air

Someday fiber artist, Sister Nancy Gunderson hopes to create an art quilt on the life of St. Benedict based on the writings of St. Gregory the Great. "I want to airbrush the background and write the stories with an air pen. But, I had to learn to airbrush first! I took a few classes at United Tribes Technical College and didn't realize I would enjoy it so much or have the outcome I did. I find creating the icons a very prayerful experience for me, a continual dialogue with the subject until it's finished," explains Sister Nancy. There are 17 layers on each 16x20" icon, taking her approximately 11 hours to create. Breaking the mold of traditional icon writing with egg tempera, Sister Nancy uses the 21st century airbrushing technique as a form of art and a form of prayer.



This piece, titled, "Our Lady of Silence," depicts a contemplative, listening Mary. "She's listening which is the first word in the Rule of St. Benedict, she's attentive to God. Her stance is one of humility and listening for God to speak to her heart. It's the model of personal prayer for me."



One of Sister Patricia Schap's greatest joys is teaching children. She volunteers at St. Mary's Grade School where she helps second graders with their reading. Each spring, she invites the students to tour the sisters' home. In chapel, they learn about St. Benedict and are presented with a Benedictine medal.

In Loving Memory



Sister Michael Kaliher, OSB

Born: May 18, 1929
Professed: July 11, 1952
Died: November 14, 2013

Sister Michael Kaliher, OSB

Sister Michael's call from God came to her as a young child. With her sense of wonder and a deep appreciation for art and nature, she became a gifted artist and poet. She devoted her artistic gifts to glorify God. As a Benedictine Sister, she used her creativity to teach children art and other subjects. She taught in schools at St. Joseph's in Mandan and Cathedral in Bismarck. She also taught art at St. Mary's Central High School, Annunciation Priory High School and Mary College in Bismarck. When her health and vision declined, she cherished memories of the things she'd seen. She'd recall her travels in the country and abroad with vivid detail, marveling at the grandeur of cathedrals and works of art. She loved talking about art, listening to classical music and sharing insights about her books on tape. She enjoyed visiting with people and had a ready laugh and Irish humor.

Sister Michael loved God, who called her as a child. In one of her poems, she wrote, "I must leave this place of warm smiles and hearty laughs; He, the Lord waits for me." May she rejoice with God and enjoy the wonder of God's kingdom.



Sister Edith Selzler, OSB

Born: October 18, 1946
Professed: July 11, 1966
Died: May 23, 2014

Sister Edith Selzler, OSB

Sister Edith, a Benedictine sister for 46 years, was a gifted educator and an extremely creative person. She began her teaching career in Catholic grade schools in the Bismarck Diocese and taught theology for 25 years at the University of Mary.

Her keen memory and intellect were relied upon in the community when people needed information about such subjects as Breuer architecture, Benedictine history, Scripture, liturgy, and stories of the sisters. Blessed with artistic talent, she loved to create stunning hand-crafted items. She was an excellent graphic artist and writer and for many years prayerfully designed a beautiful Easter candle for the monastery.

Her greatest gift to us was her prayerfulness and ability to live with grace, dignity and humor. Even in illness, she inspired others. "I found peace in a surrender to whatever would come; what would please God would please me," she said.

The Upcoming Year of Consecrated Life is About Living Joyfully in Christ! We'd like to share some of our JOY in these photos!





Ever Wonder? Live-In Retreat for Women

October 11-12, 2014

Do you ever wonder if God's voice is tugging at your heart? Do you ever wonder if you are being called to a life of prayer, community and service?

We welcome you with listening hearts and hospitality.

Meet our sisters, join us in prayer, conversation and recreation. A private room and meals are provided. No charge. Preregistration is required.

Contact Sister Hannah at 701-425-9734

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“Why I volunteer” – by Sister Rita Miller

I enjoy being a volunteer at St. Alexius Medical Center as hospitality hostess. It gives me an opportunity to be with people, assist them, and receive them as Christ. I began volunteering in 1999 with the St. Alexius admitting department and am still on the job enjoying every day I can serve. Volunteering inspires me to be present those who may be feeling helpless, Being present for each individual is another Christ seeking assistance in so many ways. I feel I am most valuable in ways words cannot express. Hospitality is a fundamental Benedictine value.

It calls us to:

- ~Lend support with a heart-warming smile.
- ~Unselfishly go the extra mile.
- ~Be a person others can trust and rely on.
- ~Help patients and guests feel at home and assist them in their needs.
- ~Serve others in so many ways and become life-long friends.
- ~Extend our hands of service to the rich, poor, frail, young, old, disabled, etc.



Christ comes very alive in my life through my service to others. When the day is over, I feel so fulfilled!