



# Tidings

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

WINTER 2022

www.annunciationmonastery.org



Several sisters made the trip to Garrison to show appreciation for Sr. Agnes Reinert and the people of Garrison.

## Ministries and Memories of Garrison

*The Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery have served the spiritual and health care needs of the people of Garrison, ND, since 1952.*



Garrison Hospital, 1953

Story continues on pages 3-10



MESSAGE FROM THE

# Prioress

**A**s we approach the end of 2022, we Sisters of Annunciation Monastery wish to express our thanks and gratitude to all of you, our family and friends, as we wrap up the celebration of our 75th anniversary. Looking back, so many wonderful memories were made during the various events. Throughout our history, the focus has never been on us sisters but on the people we serve. I feel the celebration of our anniversary year was the same. We wanted to gather with the people who have assisted us in all sorts of ways as we've responded to our call to prayer, community, and service. Whether you nurtured our vocation as a family member, worked side by side with us as our colleagues, or shared your gifts of time and treasure, each of you has assisted us in living our monastic way of life.

We kicked off the year in March with a beautiful Vespers service and evening social with our oblates, donors, fellow Benedictines, priests, and representatives from our sponsored institutions. It was a fitting way to celebrate our sisters' stability and faithfulness in answering God's call to serve the people of this diocese and beyond.

In July, the turnout for our family and friends picnic was tremendous! It was wonderful to welcome you to our home and reconnect with you. Gatherings like this one were missed during the pandemic.

Throughout the year, we participated in a variety of events at our sponsored institutions – CHI St. Alexius Health, University of Mary, and Ministry on the Margins. Each event provided us with an opportunity to thank all of you who partner with us and continue our mission of service.

In Chapter 57 of the Rule of Benedict, the Artisans of the Monastery, Benedict asks the artisans to practice their craft with all humility. One may say that we have mastered that trait over the years with all of the gifted sisters and their paintings, pottery, and other artistic creations. We look forward to closing this jubilee year in January 2023 with a special art exhibit highlighting our sister artists at the Bismarck Arts and Galleries Association. We do hope you will come and enjoy the work of our sisters. Please see the details for this event on page 13.

We thank you for the love and kindness you have shown us this year and always. We depend on your support as we continue to faithfully live our call as Benedictine Sisters.

*Sister Nicole Kunze*



*Sr. Agnes and fishing friend, Steve Hasenwinkle.*



*Srs. Agnes Reinert, Eleanor Stockert, and Gerard Wald, all served in health care in Garrison.*

**I**n September, Sister Agnes Reinert, the last sister in ministry at CHI St. Alexius Garrison, retired and moved back to Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck.

Sister Agnes served first as a nurse at Garrison Hospital 50 years ago. As a nursing student with the University of Mary, she spent the summers of 1962 and 1963 at Garrison Hospital to get her clinical experience. After graduating with her nursing degree, she served at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, and later as a chaplain with the Bismarck Police Department. She also taught at the University of Mary. “I learned so much from each of my ministries. They prepared me to serve others. As a nurse, I learned to do everything. In a small-town hospital, that was the expectation. I gained self-confidence with God’s help and through hands-on learning,” explains Sister Agnes. “Whether it was doing office work, teaching in the classroom, helping out in the kitchen or the garden, or meeting with people in need of prayerful support, I tried my best to do what God wanted me to do.” Sister Agnes served faithfully for 15 years in parish outreach at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, with Fr. Tom Kramer.



*Nicole Steele & Melissa Reardon of CHI St. Alexius Garrison hosted a retirement party for Sr. Agnes Reinert.*

In 2013, Sister Agnes was needed, once again, to minister in Garrison—this time as a hospital chaplain. She held this position until retiring in September 2022.

*“Rural healthcare is vital to the life of a small town. Our sisters’ presence and service in Garrison over the past 70 years has had a tremendous impact on this community. Our daily presence in the hospital and community may have ended, but the Garrison community can always depend on our prayers.”* Sister Nicole Kunze, prioress



---

The following excerpts are from a story written by James C. Falcon, editor of the McLean County Independent. (\*Used with permission, edited for length. Entire story can be found in the McLean County Independent, Sept. 15, 2022.)

---

***'It's time to go to my other community'***

Her most recent chapter – “this time” at the Garrison hospital – started nine years ago in July 2013 in pastoral care.

“As a chaplain, I’m available to all people, regardless of denomination,” she explained. “I am called when there is a critical situation, like in the emergency room; or a death to be with family for support. That’s been a big part of my chaplain work.”

In Garrison, Sr. Agnes worked part time and was on call.

“I think that presence, that support is really important for families when they are in a critical situation, not knowing what’s going to happen,” she said, adding that she tries to be with them to help “keep things hopeful.”

The day after Labor Day, Sr. Agnes tendered her two-week notice. She admitted that age played a factor in her decision. “At my age, I need to leave before I’m going to need help myself.” “A few little health things,” such as macular degeneration in one eye, also helped push Sr. Agnes in her decision to retire.

She has lived alone in the convent, located above the clinic at Garrison Hospital for about eight years.

“I’m quite an independent person, but it’s time to go to my other community – my home community,” she said, speaking about Annunciation Monastery. Here, she explained, Sr. Agnes will “get reintegrated and reinvested in my religious community.”

As a Benedictine sister, “we don’t retire as such,” she said. That devotion will always be there; it will just be exercised in different ways, such as assisting other sisters in daily tasks or helping around the monastery.

## *Last of the Sisters*

Sr. Agnes is the last Benedictine sister to work at the hospital. After she leaves, there won't be another. "We have no one else to come in and follow, either as a nurse or chaplain or any other position," she said.

When Sr. Agnes first started at the Garrison hospital, 50 years ago, there were a number of Benedictine sisters in the ranks.

"We were at least eight, if not 10," she said. "We had a fairly nice sized community here." Those sisters were older she said and many took the path that Sr. Agnes will soon take: retiring to the monastery.

When the hospital opened 70 years ago this past February, the hospital was staffed mainly by the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery (then known as the Convent of the Annunciation) in Bismarck.

According to a story that ran in the McLean County Independent on Feb. 7, 1952, those among the staff included: Sister Andriette as administrator, Sister Angele in charge of nursing services, Sister Eleanor in charge of the X-ray department, Sister Mary Hyacinth in charge of anesthesia and Sister Lucilda in charge of the dietary department.

In addition to the shift in the Benedictine Sisters' overall presence at the hospital, Sr. Agnes said that "most everything has changed" since she first started at the hospital 60 years ago. Before, there would be a "very active hospital and staff and things happening. Now things have all changed."

She noted that the recent downsizing in staff – the number of hospital employees who left the hospital because of the COVID-19 vaccination mandate – was a disaster for many small hospitals and larger hospitals, too.

Despite the geographic distance, with Sr. Agnes in Bismarck, she said that she will continue to worry about the hospital situation. "We've struggled so long and hard to get staff – and staff that will stay. In my resignation notice, I did put down my thoughts and prayers are going to continue that the hospital will be sustained in future times."



*Sr. Agnes Reinert, the last of the sisters at Garrison Memorial Hospital, stands in the hospital chapel. (\*Photo credit: James C. Falcon, McLean County Independent)*





*Sr. Angele Tufts, administrator of Garrison Hospital and president of the N.D. Hospital Association, 1960s.*



*Sisters at Garrison Hospital, 1961. Lt. to rt.: Srs. Rita Miller, Renee Zastoupil, Romona Gefre, Rose Schweitzer, Cecilia Kraft, Mary Martha Dickson.*



*Sr. Joanne Graham, prioress of Annunciation Monastery, presents an appreciation plaque to Sr. Angele Tufts for her retirement from serving as administrator of Garrison Hospital, 1974.*



*Garrison Hospital Mission Sisters, 1992. Standing: Srs. Moira Paulus and Madonna Wagendorf. Seated: Srs. Bernice Fibiger, Rose Schweitzer, and Francis Schweitzer*

## Fishing! Hiking! Observing wildlife and wildflowers!

By Sr. Rosanne Zastoupil

In 1970 I was missioned to Garrison Memorial Hospital after my failed attempt at teaching sixth grade in Dickinson, ND. My time at Garrison Memorial Hospital/convent is very memorable. It was memorable for many reasons. I was assigned to work in the business office where I needed to know medical jargon and abbreviations. I had to learn a “foreign” language—medical terminology. I did learn, thanks to Sisters Madonna Wagendorf, nurse anesthetist, and Angele Tufts, administrator.

The sisters missioned to the Garrison convent were a very close-knit group. At the end of our workday, we would take time to try our skill at fishing or spend evenings at the barge located on the shores of Lake Sakakawea.

We often spent Saturday afternoons picking chokecherries, berries, and plums, and enjoying a scenic drive around Lake Audubon (looking for eagles, pelicans, deer, etc). On occasion, we would drive to Indian Hills Resort, a camping area west of Garrison. God’s beauty is found everywhere. I would highly recommend a trip to this resort for experiencing God’s creation.

My time at Garrison Memorial Hospital was short, but the friendships lasted a lifetime.

**Sister Renee Zastoupil** was a student in the midst of her radiology internship when she was sent to Garrison to cover for an X-ray technician who was on vacation. She credits this experience as the best teacher in her career.

“I had very little experience before jumping in and taking and developing X-rays. There was no room for error. It was, and still is, critical to meet the standards of the position required to view the area of concern. At that time, we had to hang wet films on hangers, take them off the racks and manually add the patient’s name and diagnosis to each film, and deliver them to the radiologist’s office to be read. Going through the trials and steps in each challenge is what helps you gain confidence and knowledge.” She admits that one has to develop a thick skin when in health



*Sr. Rosanne Zastoupil with her catch.*



*Srs. Rosanne and Renee Zastoupil cherish their memories of Garrison.*



*Sr. Renee Zastoupil spent time fishing on Lake Sakakawea.*



care because the patient and the physician are relying on you to be accurate. “The knocks are sometimes the greatest gift,” she says. “You just have to accept it, learn from it, and go through it.”

With fondness, Sister Renee recalls the people in Garrison being friendly and hospitable. “The entire community was supportive and appreciative, and the sisters who lived and worked there were a daily gift to me.” Those sisters included Sisters Terence Glum, Madonna Wagendorf, and Francis and Rose Schweitzer. Sister Renee and the sisters also formed close bonds with local people who frequently took them out fishing.

Sister Renee’s openness to learn and grow led her to gain further education and training. She eventually became the director of radiology at St. Alexius Hospital, a position she held for 26 years. As she reflects on her ministries in radiology, she says, “We all have to go through stages in life. You can’t skip a stage; you have to go through each one and learn before going on to the next. Live your age and experience what that offers. We all have our time, and we all have things to offer others—at every stage.”



*Sr. Ruth Margaret Karabensh,  
1954 and in 2019*



**Sister Ruth Margaret Karabensh’s** ministry in Garrison began when she was asked to help Sister Moira Paulus in the lab. Since she had no previous laboratory experience, the laboratory technicians from St. Alexius Hospital taught her how to do charting and reporting, and how to cross match blood work.

During her time in Garrison, Sister Ruth Margaret became very sick with pneumonia, and it was uncertain if she would recover. She was sent home to the monastery to be with her monastic community. She was weak and tired, so the sisters tried to help her regain some strength. She shares a humorous story about Sister Kathryn Zimmer, prioress at that time, asking her what the sisters could do to help her get healthy. Straight-faced, Sister Ruth Margaret said, “I think I’d like a jug of Mogen David.” When a bottle appeared in her room, Sister Ruth Margaret recalls, “I drank just a little each day and I started to get better.” She told Sister Kathryn, “I’m not going to die if I can help it!” Sister Ruth Margaret says the prayers and rest likely aided in her recovery, but she enjoys the story about her wine elixir.

After recovering and feeling much stronger, Sister Ruth Margaret returned to Garrison to help in a new care center. They requested that she receive training in Minot to learn how to do physical therapy. This led her in a new ministerial direction. She enjoyed getting to know the people in the care center and was amazed to see the progress they made with dedication to walking, whirlpool treatments, massage, and muscle strengthening. She said this helped her realize how critical exercise is to overall health. Even now, she marvels, “It made such an impression on me. I wish people would realize what exercise can do for you. I never dreamed I would live to be 93.” Sister Ruth Margaret



walks indoors at the monastery “at least a mile and a half every day.” She also extols the importance of using good posture when sitting, standing, and walking. At 93, she has excellent posture.

**Sister Eleanor Stockert’s** memories of Garrison Hospital begin in 1980 when she became a nurse’s aide. “I didn’t have any background in nursing, but I learned in a hurry through admitting patients to the hospital and doing daily activities like giving patients baths,” she recalls. She cared for about five patients a day. With a heart of compassion and a love for people, Sister Eleanor found that this ministry touched her deeply. “I really loved working with people. I always tried to take care of patients like I would want someone to take care of my own parents or family members. I especially liked working with children.”



*Sr. Eleanor Stockert*

Sister Eleanor remembers praying through her shifts as she tended to patients. “Sister Madonna Wagendorf was a nurse and she had much more experience than I did. When she called me in to help her with patients in the intensive care unit, I always prayed that God would help me find whatever she or the patient or nurse needed at the right time, and I did! I felt God always heard my prayers.”

In 1985, Sister Eleanor was asked to come back to the monastery to assist Sister Joseph who was doing health care for the sisters. She also responded to other needs like doing errands, driving sisters to appointments, and cutting sisters’ hair. She admits, “I didn’t go to school to be a nurse aide or get trained to cut hair, but I learned to do these things with God’s help. I learned to be very thorough and it helped me care for my own parents when they aged, and in the care I provided to our sisters. I tried to be kind, patient, and compassionate. I hope I am still those things today.”

**As a young sister, Sister Mariah Dietz** took off six months out of her school year to do mission in Garrison. A mission experience was a requirement for sisters to fulfill between the first and last year of vows. She says this was “the best experience, because Garrison was a smaller hospital. We got to do a little bit of everything from taking care of a newborn, to helping with children having tonsilleotomies, to working with the dying.”



*Sister Mariah Dietz has a zest for nursing and for life.*

Nursing was serious and hard work, but it was not without some lighthearted fun. Sister Mariah was working in obstetrics with Dr. Boyle who was tending to a woman in labor. He instructed her on how to open sterile packs and how to get the woman prepared for delivery. At one point, Dr. Boyle told Sister Mariah to go and stand by the window by the incubator, which she did. He then instructed her to pull up the shade and watch for the stork. She was already pulling up the shade when she realized the joke was on her. “It was that kind of camaraderie that helped during challenging times,” says Sister Mariah. “Everyone teased me about waiting for the stork.”

Other days were not so happy, but they were always rewarding. Sister Mariah shares, “I witnessed some of my most traumatic accidents in that small hospital. I learned so many lessons about how to deal with people in critical situations. Dealing with people through traumatic experiences taught me to love nursing. I learned to pay attention to what was at hand, to be patient, and to allow myself to grieve later.” She doesn’t recall when or why she decided to become a nurse, but she knew she was never afraid to be one.



*Dr. John T. Boyle was a well-respected physician at Garrison Memorial Hospital. Dr. Boyle at nurse's station, 1962, and in a patient room, 1970s.*



After Garrison, Sister Mariah and her stepmother started the first intensive care unit at St. Alexius Hospital. She loved the pace of the ICU; it was demanding but, once again, so fulfilling to care for patients and their families.

Today, Sister Mariah still cares for others at the monastery. “Caring for our sisters is truly the delight of my life,” she says with conviction. “I like to see how I can improve their lives as they age. I primarily care for Sister Gemma Peters now. We like to watch the sun come up in the morning and do puzzles. Everyone should be as sweet as Gemma.”

**Sister Madonna Wagendorf**, now deceased, worked as a nurse anesthetist at St. Alexius, Riverdale, Garrison and Richardton hospitals. Her longest term of service was at Garrison Memorial Hospital, which she was instrumental in starting. She was one of only two nurses. As a healthcare pioneer, she became a mainstay at Garrison in roles that included: director of nurses, nurse anesthetist, administrator, spiritual caregiver, and medical records keeper. As administrator for 21 of her 35 years there, Sister Madonna oversaw major renovations at the hospital. Sister Madonna served as president of the North Dakota Hospital Association in 1983 and was named Garrison’s Citizen of the Year in 1993.



*Srs. Madonna Wagendorf and Helen Kyllingstad (both deceased), were both excellent nurses, serving the healthcare needs in Garrison, Riverdale, and Beulah.*

In her retirement, she served as administrative assistant at the monastery and in the monastery health center. She often spoke about the people of Garrison, the events occurring around the time of the building of the Garrison Dam, and fishing on Lake Sakakawea with friends.





Sister Melissa Cote, a mentor with the BIO Girls program, ran with the group at the Bismarck Marathon Scheels 5k race on a rainy September day. Spirits were not dampened by the weather and the participants had a wonderful time encouraging one another and learning how hard work pays off.

## Update on Window Replacement Project

Heartfelt thanks to all of our generous friends and family members for your incredible support of our window replacement project. To date \$119,587 has been raised to go toward the \$187,000 project. The windows have been keeping our sisters' bedrooms warm and dry. You are in our prayers of gratitude!



*Sr. Janet Zander's room is warm and cozy during these cold winter days.*



*Thank you!*



# Sisters and Friends Gather to Celebrate at Ministry on the Margins

The Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery and friends of Ministry on the Margins enjoyed an open house at the ministry on November 9 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of becoming an independent monastic community. The sisters are sponsors of Ministry on the Margins.

We are so grateful to those who joined us for fellowship, tours, and refreshments, as a good old-fashioned North Dakota blizzard started to set in. The significant snowstorm emphasized the need for Ministry on the Margins to get people off the street and into a warm, safe place of welcome and hospitality. Thank you to all who worked long days and nights to keep the ministry open throughout the storm days.



*Sisters and guests enjoy hospitality at Ministry on the Margins.*



*Sisters and staff learn about the sleeping mats, that were made out of plastic bags, and were donated to the ministry.*



*Sr. Kathleen with Pastor Hal.*



*Sr. Renee with new friends at the ministry.*





Please Join Us:  
**Bismarck Arts & Galleries Association (BAGA)**  
422 E. Front Ave., Bismarck, ND  
January 6, 2023 | 5-7 p.m.

For an art exhibition celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery becoming an independent monastic community!

The exhibit, titled: “The Artisans of Annunciation Monastery” will feature the artistic work of the sisters, both living and deceased, and will include a variety of media: pottery, oil paintings, fiber art, mixed media; also sculpture in metal, wood, and leather. Music will be provided by Sisters and Oblates of Annunciation Monastery.

## Is God’s Voice Tugging at Your Heart?

Learn more about religious life with the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery!

Come & See Vocation Retreat Weekend  
for women ages 18-24

Friday, January 27 (5 p.m.) to Sunday, January 29 (1 p.m.)

Annunciation Monastery  
7520 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504-9619

There is no charge to attend. Please preregister.  
Contact Sister Idelle Badt, vocation director,  
at 701-255-1520, to preregister.





# God Bless Our Jubilarians!

## 60-70 Years of Faithful Service!

**Sister Janet Zander** was born in Mandan, ND. She made her monastic profession on July 11, 1962. Sister Janet began her ministry in elementary education, teaching at Cathedral Grade School in Bismarck, St. Patrick's School in Dickinson, and Christ the King in Mandan. She then assisted in the monastery business office and served as secretary to the prioress for 11 years. When Sister Joanne Graham was prioress, she recognized Sister Janet's gifts for liturgy and asked her to pursue a degree in liturgy at Notre Dame.

After earning her liturgy degree, Sister Janet served as pastoral minister at Queen of Peace parish in Dickinson for seven years. In 1989, Sister Thomas Welder, then president of the University of Mary, invited Sister Janet to be her administrative assistant. Sister Janet continued in this role for Monsignor James Shea, current president, until her retirement in 2020.

Sister Janet is community secretary to Sister Nicole Kunze, prioress of Annunciation Monastery. She serves on the monastery liturgy committee. Her love of God and appreciation for nature come through in her daily life as she attends to the environment of the chapel for the liturgical seasons and celebrations. Sister Janet has a gift of writing with reverence and love. She says, "As the years have gone by, it's interesting how my conviction has deepened in the realization that this is an extremely fulfilling way of life. Being supported in monastic community through inspiring role models, in seeking God together, and getting to know oneself through community, brings such a richness to life."



**Sister Barbara Weber** grew up on a farm northeast of Hague, ND. She graduated from St. Mary's High School, Bismarck, in 1961 and made her monastic profession on July 11, 1962. In 1977, with a degree in social work from Mary College, she began work as a social worker at St. Alexis Hospital. Other ministries include serving as assistant supervisor for Priory High work-study students, in the altar bread department, as operator of the multilith printing machine at the Priory Print Shop, dietary service at the priory and at mission houses, at a boys' summer camp, and at Mary College. As a social worker, she was a patient discharge planner at St. Alexis for approximately 30 years.



In 2005, with a change in ministries, she continued her work at St. Alexius as a pastoral assistant on the telemetry and intensive care unit where she offered a comforting presence to patients and staff.

Currently, she generously volunteers her time in the business office and in mission advancement at the monastery. She serves her sisters by driving them to appointments. She has an impressive history of donating blood and plasma for those in need since 1968. In her spare time, Sister Barbara enjoys reading and writing letters to family and friends.

**Sister Andre Hushka** grew up on a farm near Dickinson, ND. She made her monastic profession on July 11, 1952.

Her first ministry was at the laundry at St. Alexius Hospital, Bismarck. She performed her tasks with reverence and with good zeal. She also enjoyed working at the Bishop's residence for 20 years, doing laundry, housekeeping, and gardening.

Sister Andre enjoyed rich opportunities to attend Marian conferences over the years and made several trips abroad to the Holy Land. She received a 1983 Holy Year Pilgrimage gift from Bishops Hacker and Kinney, which included visits to Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France. In 1987 her travels took her to Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City, to Fatima in 1992, and to Spain and Lourdes in 1995.

Her ministry of laundry continued at Annunciation Monastery. Her desire to serve carried into duties of lovingly preparing the sacristy for Eucharistic liturgies at the University of Mary. She enthusiastically ran errands for many years at the monastery. She currently resides at a care center.



**Sister Joseph Dukart** was born in Dickinson, ND. She made her monastic profession on July 11, 1952.

Sister Joseph Dukart's love of caring for others led her to serve as a licensed practical nurse for many years at St. Alexius and Garrison Hospitals. She also provided health care to the sisters in the health center at Annunciation Priory/now Monastery, where she tended to infirmed or elderly sisters. She also served as an administrative assistant at the priory, provided help at the switchboard and coordinated housekeeping, errands, driving, and foot care.

With an infectious joyful spirit, Sister Joseph helps in the monastery kitchen and brightens days with her prayerful example and mischievous sense of humor. She generously shares with others, whether it is a gift of her time, or anything she owns. She exemplifies that we own nothing; all good things belong to God. God is a steady refuge for Sister Joseph. As she explains, "He's there all the time, whenever you need Him!"



# Remembering Our Deceased Sisters

A sunny day and warm autumn colors in the valley offered a beautiful backdrop for the memorial service honoring deceased sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk coordinated the service which included singing, prayerful readings, and sharing of happy memories.

The following prayer was recited with reverence and gratitude. It may be helpful for our families and friends who are grieving, especially over the holiday season.



*Sister Nicole Kunze, prioress, blesses the headstones with Holy Water.*



*These sisters gathered for the prayer service at the sisters' cemetery*





**O God**, this hour revives in us memories of loved ones

Who are here no more.

What happiness we shared when they walked with us!

What joy, when, loving and loved,  
we lived our lives together!

This memory is a blessing forever.

Months or years may have passed.

Yet we feel near to them.

Our hearts yearn for them.

Though the bitter grief has softened,  
a duller pain abides,

for the place where once they stood is empty now.

The links of life are broken,

but the links of love and longing cannot break.

Their souls are bound up with ours forever.

O Lord, we thank you

for allowing us to have these special people in our lives.

We have been blessed by their presence,  
their words and actions and their love.

We grieve not for them, but for ourselves, as we truly miss them.

We shared so much,  
and yet we feel our times together were fleeting.

Help us, O God,

to realize that the distance between us now  
is not so great, and that one day  
we will be reunited with them in paradise.

Together, we will glorify You,

Almighty Father, Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

And Your Holy Spirit, for all eternity.

**Amen.**



*The sisters welcomed new oblates of Annunciation Monastery on Oct. 9, 2022. Lt. to rt.: Sr. Nicole Kunze, prioress, stands with new oblates, Jeannine Saabye, Tillie Fischer, David Gray, Sr. Rosemary DeGracia, oblate director, and Father Anthony Baker.*

# Welcome

## New Oblates of Annunciation Monastery!

**T**he Oblates of Annunciation Monastery are Christian individuals who have associated themselves with a Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life.

They shape their lives by living the wisdom of Christ as interpreted by St. Benedict. They seek God by striving to become holy in their chosen way of living. By integrating their prayer and work, they demonstrate Christ's presence in society.

Oblates of Annunciation Monastery concern themselves with striving to be who they are—people of God. Their prayer life flows from this awareness, as does their willingness to offer themselves for the service of God and neighbor to the best of their ability.

These men and women promise to lead an enriched Christian life according to the Gospel as reflected in the Rule of St. Benedict. In this way they are in the spiritual benefits of the women and men of Benedict who are dedicated to monastic life by vows.





The new oblates were welcomed with a blessing by the sisters.

Allison Fitzgerald made her oblation on September 11. She is pictured with Srs. Nicole Kunze and Rosemary DeGracia.



**We are grateful to have such a dedicated Oblate Advisory Group.  
They give generously of their time and talent.**



*Lt. to rt.: Sr. Patricia Schap, Colleen Ressler, Sr. Rosemary DeGracia, Zanne Ness, Claudia Dietrich, Daniel Barr.*

**Annunciation Monastery**  
7520 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504-9619

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, or if you have a change in address, please notify: Communications Director at the above address. Thank you.

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
UNITED PRINTING



Like us on Facebook:  
Annunciation Monastery



Follow us on Twitter:  
@Annunciationmon



Follow us on Instagram:  
Annunciation Monastery

If you are interested in making a donation in support of our ministries, please use the enclosed envelope. Thank you. Please remember us when making or revising your will. Our legal name is: Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation, B.M.V. For more information, contact Jill Ackerman, director of mission advancement, (701) 355-8907 or: [jill@annunciationmonastery.org](mailto:jill@annunciationmonastery.org)



If you have named the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery in your will, please let us know so we can thank you! We are deeply grateful for your support for our mission and ministries!

We are a 501(C)3 nonprofit.  
Our legal name is: Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation, B.M.V.