

Tidings

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF

ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

FALL/WINTER 2017

www.annunciationmonastery.org



Sister Nicole Kunze, prioress, and Sister Maria Huber sign the profession document.

Q & A with "Sister" Maria Huber

On August 6, Maria Huber, became "Sister Maria" upon making her first monastic profession during Evening Prayer. Surrounded by her monastic community and her family, Sister Maria was welcomed into the next stage of her discernment. She shared the following about her novitiate year:

Q: What are the most rewarding things you learned during your novitiate year?

A: As a novice, I was able to experience everyday life in the monastic community, the daily routine of living in community. I think I will really miss the consistent schedule I had during the novitiate year, because it had a rhythm to it. I seem to function better with a schedule. The novitiate taught me how to balance my life better and how to cope with stress or events around me. I have found value in journaling and doing art to relax. I appreciate the support of the sisters during my year as a novice. Having been through the novitiate themselves, they understood the challenges and joys that come with it. The sisters prayed for me and encouraged me. They shared stories and occasionally brought me little gifts to brighten my day.

Story continues on page 3



MESSAGE FROM THE

Prioress

As the month of November begins, one can't help but think about the Thanksgiving holiday and the blessings received during the past year. In August, I was part of a University of Mary School of Health Sciences pilgrimage to Germany and France.

In Germany, we spent three days in the Bavarian region, visiting Munich, Dachau, Nuremberg, and Eichstatt. The city of Eichstatt is probably not on every tourist's itinerary, but it was a major highlight for me. Eichstatt is home to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg's Abbey. Annunciation Monastery is one of 36 monasteries in the United States that traces its founding back to this abbey. In 1852, the first of three groups of sisters from St. Walburg's Abbey departed for the United States to minister to the German immigrants in Pennsylvania. I had heard about this place in my Benedictine history classes, but never thought I would get to visit it.

First, I was struck by the history of the place. In 2035, St. Walburg's Abbey will celebrate its 1000th anniversary. Annunciation Monastery just celebrated its 70th anniversary earlier this year.

Of the three sisters in that initial group to come to the United States, the superior of the group, Sister Benedicta Riepp, is known to most of our sisters. Benedicta was in her late 20s when she left for America. She eventually moved to Minnesota and joined the community we know as St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph. Many of you know that Annunciation Monastery is considered a daughter house of St. Benedict's. Sister Benedicta died of tuberculosis at age 37 in 1862, just 10 years after coming to America, and is buried at St. Benedict's Monastery.

As I walked the halls and grounds that Sister Benedicta and her sisters walked, I wondered about their hopes and dreams in setting off on this journey. There is a story that during her time in America, Sister Benedicta had a dream of a tree which grew in size and was covered with white blossoms, an image of how the Benedictine order would flourish in the United States for years to come.

I often reflect on the anxiety and uncertainty our Benedictine foremothers faced starting with Sister Benedicta and her companions, the sisters from St. Benedict's who came to Dakota Territory in 1878 and 1885, and the 144 sisters who volunteered to found Annunciation Monastery. They didn't know what was going to happen. There were disappointments and obstacles but there were also blessings, miracles, and happy times. I think reflecting on what they faced and what they did can inspire our community as we grapple with the questions and concerns facing religious life today.

As we move forward, we are determined to faithfully live our monastic life and serve the needs of those around us, ever grateful for the courage and sacrifice of our Benedictine foremothers. Just as those sisters relied on collaboration and support from others, we rely on your prayers and support as we carry our mission into the future. Thank you and God bless you.

Sister Nicole Kunze



Sisters Agatha Muggli, Maria Huber, Nicole Kunze, and Susan Lardy stand by the Annunciation Icon, signifying Mary's "Yes" to God and Sister Maria's "Yes" to this next step in becoming a sister.

I really got to experience what it means to be "community." My novice director, Sister Agatha Muggli, was a wonderful resource for me, as were all of the sisters who taught me various aspects of Benedictine life and spirituality. I look forward to this next step with Sister Susan Lardy, who is director of sisters in first monastic profession.

Surprisingly, being without a phone during the novitiate was nice. I missed talking to my friends and family, but it was a good break from technology. Now that I have a cell phone, I'm going to try not to be so attached to the phone.

Q: How do you, and your family, feel now that you are called "Sister" Maria? (Sister Maria, 27, is the oldest of seven children. She has three brothers and three sisters. Her family lives in Strasburg, ND.)

A: I'm still getting used to the "Sister" part! At home everyone calls me Maria, except the locals in town who exclaim, "Hi Sister!" My sister, Mary, asked if she has to call me Sister Maria. Of course, they can call me Maria. My mom said she is proud to be the mother of a sister. That is really nice!

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Well, the first thing I did after making my first monastic profession was to visit my family. We picked and froze beets and carrots, visited my brother and sister-in-law at their new house, shopped, had water balloon fights and spent time in the pool. I did some baking and cooking and we even hosted a few of the sisters for a fun day at my parents' house.

I enjoy spending time with friends, going to events with the sisters, and doing art. I'm super excited to be back in my ministry as a full-time teacher's aide for pre-K students at St. Anne's Elementary School.

Q: What excites you about the future as a Benedictine Sister of Annunciation Monastery?

A: It's exciting to be surrounded by the love and support of the sisters. Our prayer life is rich and affirms this is where God has called me to be. We continue to have women discern their vocation with us, I pray we get more vocations. The Benedictine Volunteer Program offers an opportunity to experience our life and perhaps, lead women to a religious vocation. Speaking from experience, God still calls!



Sister Maria's family joined her on her special day. Front row: Grandma Catherine Huber, Miranda, Malachi, Sister Maria, Mary, Mom Leona, Mollie (sister-in-law). Back row: Luke, Laura, Dad Marvin, Leo.



Krista Ferrell knocks at the monastery entrance.



Sisters Nicole Kunze and JoAnn Krebsbach, affiliate director, and the monastic community, wait to welcome Krista.

Sisters Welcome Postulant Krista Ferrell

“What is it you seek?”

There was a familiar knock at the door of Annunciation Monastery on September 10. On the inside of the door were the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, on the other side, knocking, was Krista Ferrell.

As has happened since the time of Saint Benedict, this sacred tradition still occurs in Benedictine monasteries. Sister Nicole Kunze, prioress, opened the door and in welcoming Krista inside, asked, “What is it you seek?” In response, Krista explained her desire to become a postulant and seek God with the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery.

Krista was given a Benedictine medal and the prayer books of the sisters, resources she will study and live by as she further discerns her call. Please pray for Krista and all vocations.



Krista (center) receives instruction from the prioress, Sister Nicole Kunze (right). Sister Nancy Miller (left), postulant director, will lead Krista in this next step of initial formation.



Krista is surrounded by the prayerful support of the sisters.

Vocation Snapshot *Postulant Krista Ferrell*

Krista calls herself an “Army brat.” She was born in Salt Lake City, UT, lived in Europe for 5 ½ years and graduated from high school in Paso Robles, CA.

The daughter of Terence and Toni Ferrell (deceased), Krista has three younger sisters.

“I first heard God’s call while I was doing an internship in Yankton, SD, for my schooling. I was housed at a Benedictine Catholic college. I went to Mass at Sacred Heart Monastery and one of their sisters, Sister Rosaleen Dickes, approached me, helped me find my seat, and invited me to brunch after Mass. A friendship developed, leading me to share my story with her. She later admitted she felt moved by God the day we met, to help lead me to religious life.

‘By sheer circumstance, while I was still on my internship, I met Sisters Nicole Kunze, Nancy Miller and Hannah Vanorny of Annunciation Monastery. They were attending a conference for Benedictine Sisters who are age 55 and under. I felt a connection to them and, after several conversations with Sister Hannah via texts and emails, I made my first visit to Annunciation Monastery. I experienced and fell in love with the Benedictine rhythm of life as well as the monastic community. I knew I could no longer deny or put off my calling.

‘I am excited about my future here. We use our gifts to help each other grow closer to God. We share that with others, too. I feel at home here and want to share my natural gift of hospitality.

‘My hobbies are: photography, hiking, bicycling, watching movies and playing and competing in disc golf tournaments.’”





Organ Refurbishment at Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel

Sisters Agatha Muggli and Thomas Welder have enjoyed playing the organ over the years and welcomed the decision to restore it to its best condition. In fact, Sister Thomas was probably one of the first to play it.

*“Music is God’s gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth,
the only art of earth we take to Heaven.” J.S. Bach*

Heavenly music has filled Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel since the pipe organ was built for the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery in 1963.

The original design for the organ came from Walter Holtcamp of Holtcamp Organ Company. Sadly, the project could not be completed as Holtcamp passed away before it was built, said Sister Agatha Muggli. She explained how the sisters went about searching for another company to design an organ for the chapel.

As the story goes, Sister Moireen Kelly drove Sister Cecile Kucera, who was choir director for the sisters, to Minneapolis. The two musicians drove from church to church so Sister Cecile could play and compare the various organs. They listened intently to each one and finally, when Sister Cecile played a Reuter organ, she loved what she heard and exclaimed, “This is it!” Thus, the sisters commissioned Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, KS, to build the organ.



William Klimas demonstrated the new capabilities of the refurbished organ. Klimas and team member, John Bechen, spent a few weeks tuning and voicing the organ, carefully adjusting the tone and paying attention to hot spots throughout the chapel.

William Klimas, vice president and artistic director for Reuter Organ, explained that the organ is based loosely on Holtcamp's original console design. He added that it was also originally designed to accompany women's voices which resulted in a certain tonality.

50 Plus Years of Wear and Tear

While organs of this magnitude are built to last, Klimas explained that extremes in temperature, humidity and dryness can cause cracks in the flexible leather parts, both in the wind system, as well as the stopper of the wooden pipes. This caused discrepancies in the tuning and unwanted mechanical air noise in the organ.

It was recommended numerous times by the organ tuner, to refurbish the organ in order to achieve the desired sound. Sister Agatha Muggli coordinated an organ planning committee of distinguished musicians and people who could advise on the desired enhancements to the organ, as well as meet Breuer architectural standards for the chapel. The planning committee was comprised of Sister Agatha Muggli, Jeannine Saabye, Dr. Thomas Porter, Dr. Beverly Everett, Luke Seidling, and Sisters Thomas Welder, Nancy Miller and Nicole Kunze.



At first glance, the scene looked like an assembly plant for NASA, or a missile base. Strown across pew after pew was an impressive display of multitudes of organ pipes, resembling giant silver whistles or silver-colored crayons.



Taking the Show on the Road

A team from Reuter Organ Company traveled to Bismarck in May to dismantle the organ. With painstaking care, they wrapped and loaded the pipes and console onto the truck that would take the precious cargo to the Reuter factory in Lawrence, KS. Here the masters meticulously cleaned, fine-tuned and replaced worn out parts. As explained on the Reuter website, “The pipe shop builds the pipes, then the voicers teach the pipes to sing!” Professional musicians, who are experts on keyboard and wind instruments, worked together to “voice” the pipes, ensuring the color, warmth and wide range of expression was achieved. Every pipe is hand-soldered and adjusted to produce the best sound.

Back Home Again

In August, the parts were brought back to the chapel and reassembled into magnificent configurations of cascading pipes. Nearly every pipe from the original organ was kept and new pipes were added. Most of the original pipes are in their same positions. New pipes were added to expand the tone of the instrument. This complex process was completed after voicing and arranging the stops to create optimal sound within the unique acoustic setting of the chapel.

To simulate people in the pews, the team placed large sound-absorbing pads over the pews while making tonal adjustments. Klimas explained, “This chapel presents some challenges because of its shape. And the sound is very live. The acoustics are optimized for women’s voices. Originally, there was more emphasis on clarity and brilliance and perhaps less on warmth and bass. So, we added some midtones and bass to the clear sweet sounds to create more balance and depth of tone.” The refurbished organ has a total of 1,759 pipes, 512 of which are new.

An Investment for Future Generations of Worshippers

Sister Agatha and Sister Thomas appreciate the ‘new and improved’ organ and what it offers to students and guests of the University of Mary. Sister Agatha said her joy is to evoke full and active participation by the congregation when she is playing the organ. “If the music supports the liturgy, that’s the high point for me. I’m the servant, the organ is also the servant of the liturgy.”

Sister Thomas Welder has fond memories of playing the organ for community prayer and Eucharist. “When the Sisters’ singing and the organ music stopped, audible sound reverberated throughout the chapel, resonating in the arched ceiling of Breuer’s architectural wonder.” She continued, “The recent investment in the Reuter organ speaks to the enduring quality of an instrument that will be here for generations of worshippers. With the enhancements, the organ becomes a premier instrument in our community for congregational singing, solo and choral singing, added instruments, and musical events featuring the organ itself. Its resonant sound reveals a beauty that is of God—pure and true.”

"Its resonant sound reveals a beauty that is of God—pure and true."



Like silver soldiers standing at attention, these pipes of ascending and descending formations are an impressive sight in the loft above the chapel entrance.

The red felt on some of the pipes adds friction to the “hat” or “cap” on certain pipes to trap the air and send it back down into the pipe and out the mouth.

Beneath the pipes are wind chests which house valves and an intricate channel system. This provides the proper amount of air to each pipe, controlled by the organist at the console. Klimas compares this with blowing air into a whistle, which produces the sound. If the tone needs adjusting, the mouth of the pipe is tapped or bent until the right tone is achieved.



The largest pipes, called the principal pipes are 16' in length and are made of aluminum. These were carefully lifted and secured in their new location on the wall near the meditation chapel.



*A special re-dedication of the organ, blessing
and concert will be held at
Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel at the
Benedictine Center for Servant Leadership,
7500 University Dr., Bismarck, on Sunday,
November 5 at 1 p.m.
It is free and open to the public.*

The First Concert in Annunciation Chapel

By Sister Clement Funk

In 1962 construction of the large chapel had just begun. Frames were up on the north and west sides. The east side was all open. The rafters were up and, over the rafters, a cover for a roof.

It was Sunday morning. After breakfast, many Sisters went over to see what had been done so far. To our surprise, there were flocks and flocks of sparrows in the building space. Where did they all come from and so soon? They must have gathered from the surrounding fields and homes from all directions to this special place.



When the Sisters came, the sparrows did not fly away but up, and perched on the rafters, hopping from one to the next, all the while chirping and singing. They sang as never before. All joined the chorus. Their singing sounded so joyful as if to confer, "This was built for us."

The humble little sparrows gave the very first concert in Annunciation Priory Chapel. Never before nor after were there that many sparrows anywhere on the Priory grounds.



In Loving Memory



Sister Jeanette Hinds, OSB

Born: September 30, 1923

Professed: July 1, 1948

Died: September 5, 2017

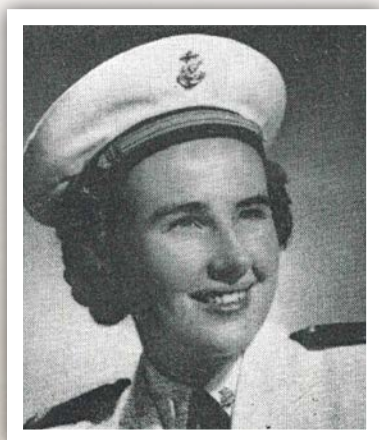
Sister Jeanette Hinds, OSB, a Benedictine sister for 69 years, was a delightful, happy person who loved music, people and monastic life. She was an elementary school music teacher in Mandan, Bismarck and Dickinson and gave private lessons on the piano and violin. She also was church organist for more than 50 years.

She will be remembered most for her presence and service at St. Mary's School and Parish in Bismarck. She taught music, helped plan funeral liturgies, was a parish visitor at Bismarck's two hospitals and enjoyed parish events and liturgies. She loved visiting with the people of the parish.

One of the great joys of her life was playing the violin with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. Sister Jeanette was thrilled to be a sister, had a deep faith and relished the beauty of the sisters' common prayer.

Honoring Our Veteran, Sister Terence Glum

Navy Nurse During World War II



Service means everything to Sister Terence Glum. Her helpful spirit and ability to “get the job done” has been evident throughout her ministries as nurse, teacher, anesthetist and even as a Navy nurse in World War II.

Sister Terence graduated from the St. Alexius Hospital School of Nursing in 1942, the year World War II began. When each of her four brothers were drafted into the service after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Sister Terence joined the Navy Nurse Corps. She saw this as an opportunity to use her nurses training to support the nation’s war effort.

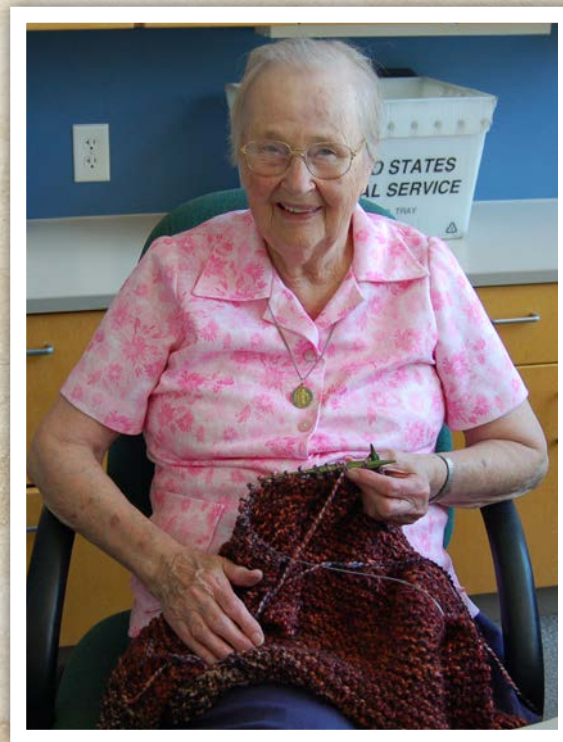
Her oldest brother was killed as his unit invaded the South Pacific Island of Leyte. Sister Terence says her family never learned how he died because, “They didn’t even bring the bodies back; there were too many. We lost so many boys over there.”

Sister Terence began her military nursing career at the Great Lakes Naval Base, outside of Chicago. From there she was stationed in Bethesda, Maryland. At Bethesda, Navy nurses were assigned 40-60 patients per nurse. During this time, there was a polio epidemic. Sister Terence also worked at the children’s hospital in Bethesda because there was such a need for nurses. “An entire ward of the children’s hospital was full of children who were stricken with polio. It was difficult to see these little ones so sick and in iron lungs,” she sadly recalls.

From Bethesda, she was transferred to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. She says the Navy was “training the boys to fight in swamps.” She also served at a naval base in Florida where she and other nurses were bused to the swampy training area during the day and were bused back to their quarters at night. Sister Terence never worried about contracting any diseases from exposure to sick patients, “I never even thought about it,” she says. “You just do your best and have faith that God will take care of you. It is so rewarding to see patients get well.”

After the war, Sister Terence became a Benedictine Sister of Annunciation Monastery. She served in nursing and anesthesia at St. Alexius Hospital and at Garrison Memorial Hospital. After earning a masters’ degree in science education, she taught anatomy at the University of Mary for 30 years.

Never one to shy away from hard work, Sister Terence has continually cared for other people. She has knitted and donated countless sweaters, baby blankets and other clothing items for people in need and currently does supportive jobs around the monastery. Sister Terence, thank you for your faithful service to others.



scenes from SUMMER

Our prioress, Sister Nicole Kunze, and Dale Lennon, University of Mary athletic director, threw the first pitch at a Bismarck Larks baseball game in August. We hope the Larks don't try to recruit Sister Nicole.



Photo credit: Kevin Becker



BSWR – A Summer Blessing!

One of our summer blessings was meeting these amazing, prayerful women from Benedictine monasteries across the United States as we hosted them for the Benedictine Spirituality Workshop and Retreat, June 30 to July 16. This retreat is for women preparing for perpetual monastic profession.

Our sisters offered talks on subjects such as: Benedictine charism, Benedictine values, discernment, ministry, peace and justice, and humility. Through prayer, group sharing, private reflection and recreation, bonds were created that will last a lifetime. Special thanks to conference director, Sister Agatha Muggli, and co-director, Sister Teresa Jackson of the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, who coordinated this special time together.

Our Joyful Spirit day for girls was a tremendous success!



Just look at those smiles! This free annual event offers a fun-filled day of meeting the sisters, learning about St. Benedict and monastic life, prayer with the sisters, faith-themed games, crafts and prizes.



Sisters Honored at Grand Opening of the Lumen Vitae University Center

The Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, sponsors of the University of Mary, were honored throughout the exciting grand opening of the Lumen Vitae University Center on Sept. 8. Sister Elizabeth Novy, 101, was called forward to be recognized as a founder of the University of Mary.

Pictured lt. to rt.: Heather Butler, Sister Nicole Kunze, Sister Elizabeth Novy, Monsignor James Shea, Dan Butler.



Sister Nancy's return from Uganda



Sister Nancy Gunderson teaches the children about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

These bright eyes, ready smile and joyful giggles won her heart. Sister Nancy Gunderson traveled with the Mary Mission team to Uganda for two weeks in July to teach the children at the newly constructed Saint Philomena Nursery and Primary School about the Blessed Virgin Mary. She came home with little Ryan, or as she playfully called him, "Mister Giggles." Ryan is not with Sister Nancy physically, but he touched her life in a significant way and has a special place in her heart. Sister Nancy now sponsors him with a monthly donation to ensure he receives the food, medical care and education he needs to break the chains of poverty.



The mission experience in Uganda was strenuous and emotional, admits Sister Nancy, but was truly blessed. She appreciated the opportunity and is especially grateful to Pam Kossan, coordinator of Mary Mission, the volunteers and the many individuals who donated shoes, clothing and money to help the children.



The children marched through the village in celebration of the new school and church.

Proudly carrying their crosses, these beautiful little girls received their first communion during the Mary Mission trip. They are wearing the headbands which were lovingly handmade by Sister Nancy Gunderson and monastery volunteer Diane Krupinsky.



Thank you for your donations of black laced shoes for the children.
Imagine walking many miles across rugged terrain in the shoes pictured above.

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Let all be received as Christ by Sister Kathleen Atkinson

It is one of the first things you see when you enter Ministry on the Margins. It was the first painting put on our walls when we moved into our new location at 201 N. 24th one year ago. This quote from the Rule of Benedict will continue to shape and guide us as we welcome people into this wonderful space.

Experiencing continued growth since our start in 2013, MOTM spent two weeks last October on the move. We accomplished it with volunteers, a strong cadre of the homeless we serve, donated furniture and donated cookies from the civic community.

We serve over 600 people with an average of 70 volunteers every week. Bingo, giant Jenga tournaments, and laughter overflow during our coffee house mornings. The space offers a



children's play area and library for children and adults. Our food pantry now includes bread, fresh produce and meat donated by local stores in affiliation with the Great Plains Food Bank. What once was stored in eight different locations is now

under one roof and we were able to distribute 10,000 pounds of food to people during the month of September. We have a chapel and offer Bread of Life ecumenical services Sundays at 5 p.m. Of course, our Stay Out of Jail Supper Club and prison re-entry bible studies continue, but we now have space for everyone to sit down on a chair!

The past year was one of bitter cold and extreme heat; but at MOTM we have been able to welcome men, women, and children into our expanded space. We have welcomed Christ. We have been blessed.

Are you interested in volunteering at MOTM? Go to www.ministryonthemargins.com and click 'volunteer'