

Review

The *of Benet Hill Monastery*



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / FALL 2009



write the vision down
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read
since the vision is for its own time only;

habakkuk 2:2-3

-Redpath



Wisdom has Built a House

A Message from Anne Stedman, OSB Prioress

“Wisdom has built herself a house; she has prepared her table, has brought forth her wine; and she calls to her children. Come and eat of my bread, and drink of my wine; come to the feast I prepared for you.” Proverbs 9: 1 - 5

A week ago Sunday we dedicated this Sacred Space complete with: blessing the contents of our cornerstone for those who will follow us, on Saturday afternoon, the Eucharist of thanksgiving Sunday morning and the Dedication itself with Bishop Michael Sheridan in the afternoon. You can read all about the Dedication within these pages; however, what I want to focus on is the importance of wisdom building a house for us and in our midst.

For me, it is important to be like the scribe we hear about in the Scriptures... taking the best and most meaningful from the old and new. During the Sunday Eucharist two of our sisters dressed the altar, complete with altar cloth, bread and wine as the schola sang the communion processional hymn ‘Wisdom Has Built Herself a House’ written by Lucien Deiss in the 1970’s. I can still hear Lucien saying “listen to the gathered assembly and you will know if your music has fulfilled its purpose.” Sisters Mary Jane Vigil, Clare Carr and soloist Sister Josie Sanchez gathered the hearts of our assembly in prayer with simple gesture and pure music with the help of our schola.

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Habakkuk 2:2-3

Allow me to quote the commentary on this profound piece of church music: *“Wisdom has built herself a house -- the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. She has prepared the table of the Eucharist; she has mixed the wine of the divinity of Christ with the water of human frailty, and she calls to us all, come and eat of my bread, and drink of my wine; come to the feast I prepared for you.”*

Our Monastic lives call us to be women of the Word, emptying ourselves to allow Christ to transform us into women of Wisdom. Time for silence and solitude makes it possible for us to become bearers of Christ in our human fragility and in the ministry of hospitality. Our participation in the daily Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist summons us to be bread broken and grape crushed wine through, with, and in Christ in whom we find our being.

Verse six of this hymn echoes Luke 14:23 *“The Master of the house says ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, the crippled, and the blind, and the lame, so that my house may be filled.’ Verse six is “To your table the poor and the humble come, Bearing their pain and sorrow, And in mercy you dry their tears.”* This verse speaks of our Community vision ... to be radical signs of God’s love and compassion and to share our resources with all God’s people, especially the poor and oppressed..

We offer you humble thanks and prayers of gratitude for making our dream a reality. If it is at all possible, we ask that you consider a gift that would help us reach the goal of our capital campaign (see page 5). For our part, we share a promise and invitation: we will open our minds, bodies, spirits and hearts to you and say “Come away and rest awhile.” †

Dedication of Benet Hill Monastery and Ministry Center

October 11, 2009

by Jan Ginzkey, OSB



*Dedication Mass, front to back
Sisters Lucille Hartmann and Rose
Ann Barmann, Fr. John Slattery*

The long anticipated Day of Dedication arrived with God's creation of a winter wonderland with all of nature bedecked in its glittering sugaring of frost to greet the hearty souls who came to celebrate with us.

Fr. John Slattery presided at the 10:15 a.m. Mass. The golden silk vestments, with our stained-glass Saints Scholastica and Benedict windows imprinted on the stole, were made especially for the occasion by Br. Felix Shinsky, OFM. CAP. The snow-capped Pikes Peak, elegant vestments, wonderful musicians, schola, and the warm hospitality of the Benet Hill Community made this a prayerful and festive celebration filled with Glory and Praise to our God.

In his homily, Fr. John spoke of Benet Hill as the rich young man in the gospel who wanted to know what more was needed. The Benet Hill community began to ask this question in the 1990's. The answer evolved in:

Creating a Benedictine Future.

Creating this future together called the community to spend countless days in communal discerning prayer, conducting a space utilization study, and selecting a site. The most difficult decision of all was to list the property on Chelton Road for sale in 2001. Selecting the professional team and beginning to plan this structure was a walk in faith as the Chelton property had not yet been sold in 2004.



*L to R: Sisters Mary Jane Vigil and Clare
Carr carrying the cloth for the altar*

The Sisters risked change by listening to God's call for what more was needed. Though the building is complete the sisters have a debt to repay. God will continue to bless the community as they continue to do more, through their hospitality and ministries.

In the afternoon, the community gathered in Our Lady of Peace Chapel along with many friends, families, and donors for the formal Dedication and Blessing of our Monastery and Ministry Center. Bishop Michael Sheridan and Sister Anne Stedman, Prioress, led a procession of Sisters to various areas of the Monastery. Sister Anne quoted from the Rule of Benedict explaining the use of each area, which the Bishop prayed over and blessed with Holy water. The final area to be blessed was the chapel, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the Spirit of Wisdom Oratory and the congregation.



*L to R: Bishop Michael Sheridan,
Fr. Michael Butler, Prioress Anne Stedman*

After Sr. Anne read Ephesians 2:19-22; Bishop Sheridan gave a thoughtful reflection stating "that the sisters hoped the building was complete. However, we, the living temple with Christ as our corner stone, are still being built up and will continue to grow and share Christ's love."

The entire congregation joined in singing Monastic Vespers. Sisters Mary Jane Vigil and Marilyn Carpenter were the cantors leading the assembly in our Evening Prayer of Praise. During the Magnificat, Bishop Sheridan blessed the altar, ambo, and congregation with incense.



Friends and Donors at Dedication Liturgy

Dedication Day

At the end of the morning Mass and evening Vespers, Bill Beard, Architect, gave a brief talk about our building process. He stated that this is a special site located on the Palmer Divide within the Ponderosa Pine forest. The building was created to reflect the Benedictine Sister's communal life, especially their common prayer, common meals and commitment to hospitality and education. The three themes were to create buildings: that fit into this special site, reflect the sisters simplicity and frugality, be environmentally benign by selecting the materials and systems that are energy efficient, conserve water, electricity and natural gas.

The building expresses the significance of community life nourished by communal prayer and common meals. The chapel and dining room are the focal points with spectacular views of Pikes Peak and the forest. The living areas, library, ministry center and administrative offices join the chapel and dining area in the flow of our Benedictine motto "Ora et labora," Prayer and work.



Community witness the blessing of the Library



Art and Joan Klein, General Contractor

Guests were given the opportunity to tour our Monastery after both celebrations. Sisters Therese O'Grady, Jan Ginzkey, Leann Cogan, Kathleen Cogan, Ana Cloughly and Francine Stallbaumer were gracious tour guides.

With the support of Sr. Mary John Thomas, Richey Osborne and her magnificent crew of cooks and servers prepared a delicious continental breakfast and dinner for all. Because of the large number of guests the library and common area of St. Hildegard's were converted into lovely dining areas for this occasion.

Sr. Anne welcomed and thanked our donors who made this day a reality and Fr. Mike Butler led the meal blessing. Concluding the meal, Sr. Anne recognized and thanked the professional team which was made up of Art and Joan Klein, General Contractors; Bill Beard, Architect; Tom Clemans, Project Manager; Mark Mullet, Project Supervisor; and Deborah Griffin, Interior Designer along with Sr. Jan Ginzkey and the building committee for their labor of love and perseverance on this project. Sr. Jan presented each team member with an acrylic paperweight embedded with our community pin and a message of our deep gratitude.



L to R: Harry and Susan Grace enjoying continental breakfast with Sr. Anne Stedman



Southern Colorado Guests with Sisters

Joe Reich, one of the honorary chairs of the capital campaign, spoke of the Benedictine communities history in Colorado. Joe said we all have the opportunity to give of our time, talent and treasure to help the community to finish this project. Chris Cipoletti, the Capital Campaign Co-chair, thanked everyone who has contributed. Chris noted the capital campaign has raised close to two million dollars. We still have over 1.5 million to go to achieve our goal. He encouraged everyone to consider what more they can do to give of their time talent and treasure, to network with others who would like to help the sisters.

Sr. Rose Ann Barmann, Development Director, thanked all present for their belief in our community and their support for the capital campaign. Sr. Rose Ann remarked, "that by contributing to the building of our Monastery and Ministry Center, They have become a part of our Benedictine Legacy that spans over 1500 years. As we enjoy the accomplishment of this part of our project, we need to set our sites on completing the final phase of our campaign: The funding of our retreat facilities. We count on your continued support."



Sr. Helen Zecha admiring cornerstone



The overall architecture of the Monastery and Ministry Center embodies a sense of peacefulness, quiet beauty and connectedness to the land. The healthy positive spaces emphasize sunlight and wind protection in the winter, while providing shade and cooling breezes in the summer.

Create a Benedictine Future With Us Capital Campaign Update

by Rose Ann Barmann, OSB, Development Director

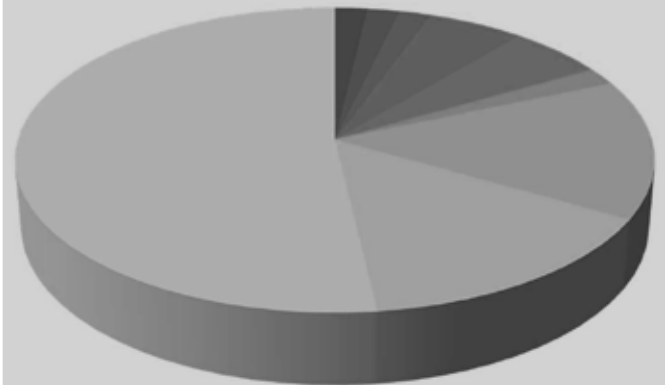


As we celebrate the Dedication of our Monastery and Ministry Center, I am so grateful to the hundreds of people, our families, friends, businesses and foundations that have been a part of our *Capital Campaign: To Create a Benedictine Future With Us*. As the poet states: “**The great use of one’s life is to spend it on something that outlasts it**”. By contributing to our Campaign, you have and are supporting the lasting values of our Benedictine Legacy. Our world and her people will always need the Benedictine Charism of Loving Hospitality, Life-Giving Service and a Spiritual Community. People will always be seeking a Sacred Place to grow their faith and nurture their souls. Thank you, thank you for helping us create that Sacred Place.

Through Your Generosity. We Have Reached \$1.925 Million of Our \$3.5 Million Goal



Capital Campaign Gifts Received



\$250,000	1 gift
\$200,000	1 gift
\$125,000	1 gift
\$100,000	2 gifts
\$50,000	4 gifts
\$40,000	1 gift
\$25,000	8 gifts
\$10,000	10 gifts
\$5,000	28 gifts

End of Year Giving

End of the year giving is important for the donor as well as for Benet Hill. Your gifts assist us in continuing the wonderful Benedictine Tradition in Colorado and to wherever God calls us to be a monastic presence. In making contributions for tax purposes, our legal corporation name is:

Benet Hill Monastery Inc. of Colorado Springs, Co.

Please note: there is no donation envelope in this Review, watch for our **Annual Appeal** letter in a few weeks.

The Call to Benedictine Life

by Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB

The Monastic Weekend

Our annual Monastic weekend was held on September 18-20. We had three women join us for this monastic experience, Ann Michaud of Salem, Massachusetts, Roberta Nickel of Calgary, Canada, and Margaret Meaney of Virginia Beach, Virginia. There is nothing glamorous about being steadfast. But in a world where identities shift shapes quicker than we can change clothes and the need for the exotic and novel is nearly insatiable, the best thing any person of faith can do is stand



Dance Aerobics during Monastic Weekend



Vocation Team with Monastic Weekend Participants

fast. These three women held steadfast as each one observed and prayed with our progress in moving to our new monastery on our web site. They represent a first for us in that the main source of communication was cyberspace. Underneath all the running around of their lives was a longing for that which will last. In a sign of trust the women's stories began to unfold as Community listened and revered each one's heart of courage. These steadfast women, by their nature, are a reminder of what really matters, a sign of the ever-abiding presence of God. As Anne Stedman, Prioress, stated, "This is a time of new beginnings, listening to the Spirit and embracing God's dream for us as we move into our future."

A Day in the Life...

Compiled by Gina Berger from the Sisters

Oblate News

by Katherine Wawersich, OSB



Suzanne Rose makes Final Oblation

In early August the Benet Hill Community and oblates witnessed the Final Oblation of Suzanne Rose during Solemn Vespers on Sunday August 9.

Suzanne lives in Kentucky and became acquainted with Benet Hill Monastery through our Sister Naomi. Suzanne is very active in social justice and education ministry in her home area. Suzanne is truly a model lay Benedictine in the world. She was mentored by Barbara Neilon via the internet. Suzanne's husband, who is an oblate of St. Meinrad's Abbey in Indiana, and her daughter accompanied her to Colorado for the ceremony. The Benet Hill Community welcomes Suzanne as an oblate of Benet Hill Monastery.



Sr. Anne places the Benet Hill pin on Suzanne Rose

SR. ROSE ANN BARMANN, OSB attended the Theresian International Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Sept. 18-20,2009. The conference focus: "Called to Community...Connecting Women Everywhere" brought together Theresians from around the world for a weekend of challenging presentations, community building and opportunities to learn about the plight of many women in various parts of our world.

SR. MARILYN CARPENTER, OSB attended a presentation with Dr. Ira Byock speaking on two topics: 'Voices of Palliative Care' and 'Dying Well: The Nature of Suffering and the Nature of Opportunity'. Dr. Byock is the author of "Dying Well" and "The Four Things That Matter Most." The four things we need to remember to say often (because we never know when our last day might be) are: "Please forgive me," "I forgive you." "Thank You," and "I Love you."

SR. JAN GINZKEY, OSB attended a 'Healing Touch International' Conference on September 3-6 in Tucson, AZ. "The conference was a wonderful experience to meet so many others who do this type of work. The speakers were professional and challenging. We were able to participate in two quantum physics experiments on the last day of the conference."



Mississippi Kite from Wikipedia

SR. MARIE THERESE SUMMERS, OSB It was time to release ten Mississippi Kites back into the wild on September 4th—these magnificent birds had completed

their rehabilitation at the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, where Sr. Marie Therese is the manager. "For a few moments as I held the Kite in my hands, I experienced complete, absolute oneness with this feathered friend."

SISTER FRANCINE STALLBAUMER, OSB recently returned from a Retreat for Benedictine Assistant Prioresses in Atchison, Kansas. The retreat focused on "Day by Day: Listening with the ear of your heart."

News from the Academy Alumnae



Dear Alumnae,

I hope all are ready for the winter months. I wish to thank all of you that have visited us at 3190 Benet Lane and those who were able to celebrate the dedication of the New Monastery with us. For those who were not able to share this with us, know that we will welcome you when you can come for a visit. I hope to see all of you soon. May God bless you with a holy Advent.

Lucile Hartmann, OSB



L to R: Maureen Sheehan Jackson '80, Mimi Titus Brown '80, Sr. Rose Ann, Phoenix, AZ



L to R: Sr. Rose Ann, Joann Frasca Kurtz '79, Sr. Lucille, visiting at Benet Hill

New Addresses:

- Mary Thomas Greimann '69
9460 Vance Ct
Broomfield, CO 80021-4840
- Cathie Lawless Bowen '69
1655 Moveen Hts
Monument, CO 80132-8967
- Patty Carter Wagener '71
PO Box 66738
Saint Louis, MO 63165-6730
- Kelly Rorick Brown '80
310 N Limit St Apt 133
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-4507
- Maureen Sheehan Jackson '80
15210 S 14th Pl
Phoenix, AZ 85048-5255
- Melinda Arnold '80
1895 Presidential Hts Apt 1222
Colorado Springs, CO 80905-8326
- Monica Hobbs Huesgen '80
720 N Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Lynn Szczutkowski Neiss '81
4178 Douglas Way
USAFA, CO 80840
- Monique Sharpe Weber '82
4230 Brushridge Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-6105
- Michele Libbey '85
534 Loomis Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80905-4735



L to R sitting: Marie Carew, Marie Carew Evans '79, standing: Sr. Lucille, Sr. Anne

Sympathy & Prayers to:

MARIE CAREW EVANS '79 on the death of her father Donald Carew, August 10, 2009.

BETH CARTWRIGHT FLIERL '75 on the death of her mother Jean Cartwright August 19, 2009

Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendar!

If you are coming to the November and December program plus lunch, please call in your reservation at 633-0655.

Senior Days \$25 per session includes program, snacks, and meal

Nov. 13, 2009	9:30-10:15	"More than Conquerors, Past, Present, and Future," Romans 8; Rev. James Moore
	10:15-11:45	"Preventing Falls; Don't Let a Fall Get You Down," Al Clowser Register by Nov 10.
Dec. 11, 2009	9:30-11:45	"Understanding Islam," Kurt Lobeck, member of Holy Trinity Parish

Renewal Days \$10 donation held twice per year for students and other interested parties

Nov. 14, 2009	9-12	"The Heritage of Celtic Christianity," Rev David Clark, Retired Presbyterian Minister
Feb. 27, 2010	9-12	"The Fifth Gospel, The Holy Land," Rev Michael Butler, Priest at Our Lady of the Pines

Benet Hill Activities

Nov. 7, 2009	9-4	Benet Hill Christmas Bake and Craft Sale, includes christmas crafts, cookies, breads, jellies, etc
Nov. 7, 2009	9-12	Contemplative Prayer morning, Spirit of Wisdom Oratory at Benet Hill
Nov. 5 & 13, 2009	by appointment (719) 429-7500	Grief Counseling and Bereavement Companionship, Sr. Marilyn Carpenter, OSB, MRE; MA Psych. On-going 2 days a month. Excellent grief resource library available to the public.

Benet Hill Monastery
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Seekers enjoy our new Ministry Center...



Opening workshop Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program



Introductory workshop, Centering Prayer



Retreatants L to R: Margaret Meaney, Colleen Milligan, Sr. Josie Sanchez



Cliff Eisenach, Scripture presenter



A guest browses in Benet Gift shop