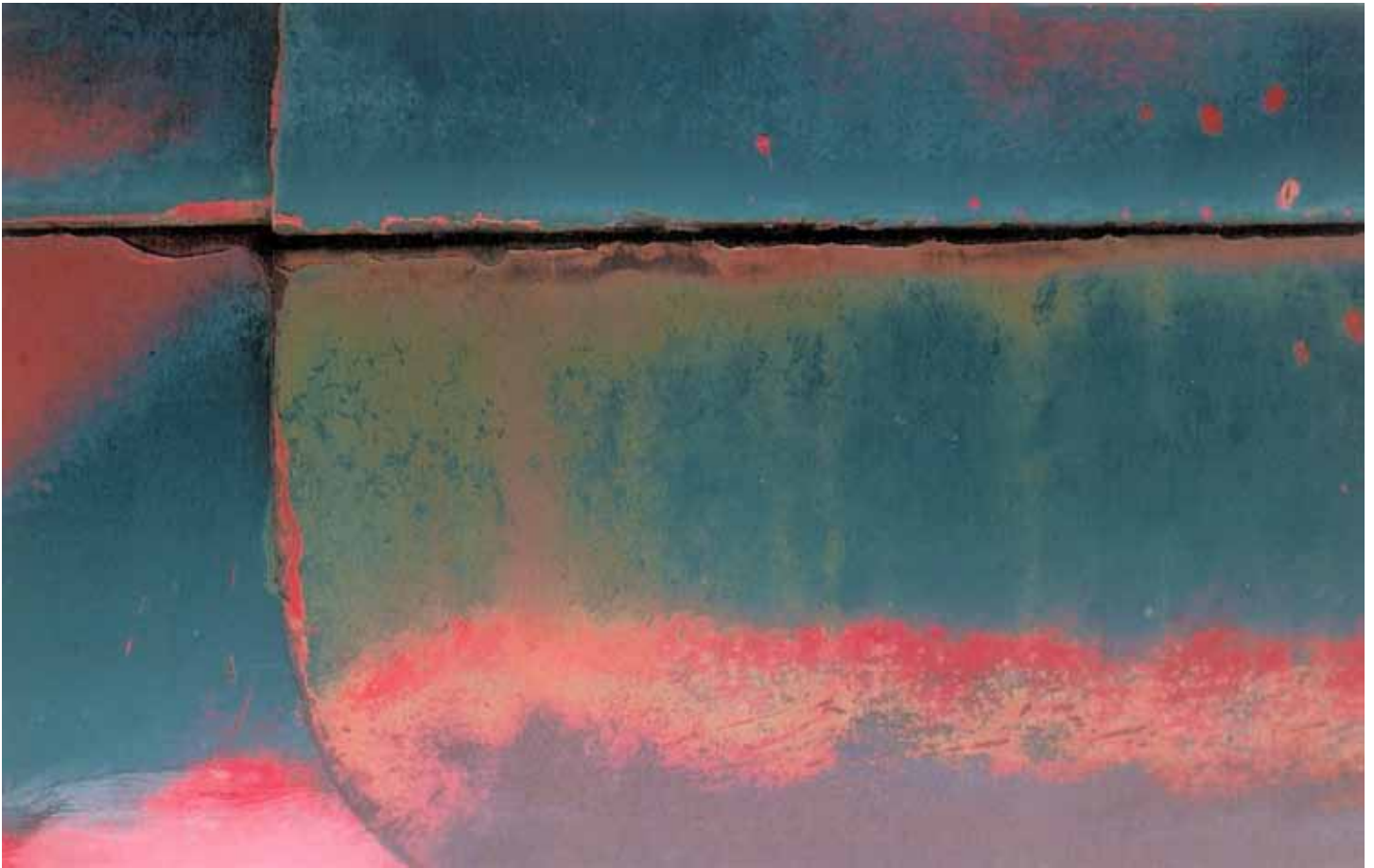


# The Review

*of Benet Hill Monastery*



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Winter 2011



*Transformation*

-Redpath

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes,  
but in having new eyes.*

-Marcel Proust

# Planning for the Future

A Message from Anne Stedman, OSB Prioress



Dear families and friends,

This message comes to you on the Feast of St. Paul's Conversion. ***"As he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 'Who are you sir?' 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.'"*** (Acts 9: 3 – 6) You and I know the rest of the story; Paul travels untiringly preaching the Christ to all who have ears to hear and hearts to listen. His previous life view as a zealous Pharisee becomes the Divine point-of-view -- putting on the mind and heart of Jesus, the Christ.

We, like Paul, experience those flashes of light that can blind us so that we need each other on the journey. And we, like Paul also experience those flashes of light that sear our bodies, minds, spirits and hearts giving us a new Christic vision and a new way of being in the world. We, as Community, have experienced both during the Christmas Season and the weeks that have followed. We have embraced serious illness and death, including Sister Sophie Glenski, within our extended Benedictine Community of employees and Sunday assembly. We have also embraced joyful experiences of: welcoming beloved Academy alumnae, inviting Arshad and Zeba Yousufi for Sung Vespers, their Muslim prayer at sunset with dinner and hosting Bishop Michael Sheridan with vowed religious women and men of our Diocese for a Eucharistic Liturgy and a meal.

More importantly we are preparing our hearts for our community direction-setting and discernment / election for leadership for the next six years.

***"Discernment is a process of deep listening: to God,  
to our own hearts, to the voice of our sisters,  
to our life experience and to this time in our history."***

This time is kairos time for a Benedictine Monastic Community, a time when God's 'Divine point-of-view' pervades the mind, body, spirit and heart of each sister in the silence and prayer. Each sister's wisdom is listened to and prayed with as we look to our future as Benet Hill Monastery in the Pines. Sisters Mary Catherine Wenstrup from Covington, Kentucky and Roberta Campbell from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania will facilitate our discernment process, assisted by our Discernment / Election Team made up of Sisters Francine Stallbaumer, Clare Carr, Susan Matarrese and Mary Jane Vigil.

Technology is also becoming an integral part of communication at the Monastery as we had our first on-line Advisory Board Meeting with Sister Naomi Rosenberger in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting focused on our January 8th Community meeting. The Community listened to and dialogued with Jim Browne and John Wolf (Advisory Board members) regarding their presentations on our **Seeking Consensus of Future Ministry** and our **Planning and Facilities Use Statement** (pg 4), the touchstone for future development of our sacred space here in the Pines. Both presentations were well received and will move us forward in creating a new future.



**Left to right:** Jim Browne, John Wolf present during January 8, 2011 community meeting.

Life continues to move rapidly yet there is time for the quiet; we all need to remember *"Who looks outside dreams; who looks inside awakes."* (Carl Jung) It is a tensile balance. We ask your prayer and please know that each day you have a special place in our prayer and hearts.

# Sister Sophie Glenski, OSB

February 21, 1923 - December 1, 2010

by Gina Berger

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and his justice and all else will be given to you...*

Matthew 6

Sister Sophie Glenski, a woman of deep prayer and generous spirit, died December 1, 2010. She was second of seven children, born February 21, 1923 to Francis Stephen Glenski and Anna Jane Wrinkle in St. Joseph, Missouri. Baptized Mary Ellen Glenski, Sister Sophie made her first monastic profession at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas January 1946. She is a Charter member of Benet Hill Monastery, Colorado.

Sister Anne recalls reading the prayer Sister Sophie wrote to her family on Gaudete Sunday, the day she received the habit in 1944 when she entered Mount St. Scholastic in Atchison.

*A love story*

*Our whole dear family has been blessed by the God of Love.*

*On the feast of the Sacred Heart in the summer of 1944,*

*The Sacred Heart of Jesus took one member away*

*To dwell in his home.*

*On Gaudete Sunday of the same year,  
the same Sacred Heart of Jesus adorned Mary Ellen (Sophie)  
with the garments of love and mercy.*

*Now in remembrance this Gaudete Sunday Sr. Sophie said:*

*A heart full of love for all,*

*A heart full of thanks to all,*

*A heartfelt blessing that God has*

*Always loved my family.*

*To each one... special "God love you"*

*With all my heart*

*Dec. 17, 1944*



*Sister Sophie Glenski, OSB*

Sister Sophie earned a BA from Mt. St. Scholastica College and a MA from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. She ministered in education for thirty-eight years in elementary schools in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Seeking a change, Sister Sophie took training in clinical pastoral education and served as Pastoral Minister for the elderly at St. Bernadette Parish in Lakewood, Colorado. This is what Sister Sophie wrote of her expectations in Clinical Pastoral Education:

*"I will be working with persons in crisis. By helping them I will become more sensitive and understanding of myself and others. With proper training and in a supervised setting I will feel more comfortable with myself, my gifts, and my responsibility to those who come in contact with me. While learning effective pastoral methods, the support and encouragement of the team will stimulate me to grow and mature. I expect to develop qualities that enable me to be present, to listen, to pray, to encourage, to understand, to appreciate and to nourish the lives of others in need. I believe my gifts of presence and concern will contribute to all those I will work with. I know that my friendly personality and listening skills will benefit me."*

Sister Sophie's love for her family and her community overflowed into everyone she met. Speaking about the future she said, *"I stand firmly with hope and joy looking to the future. I take on the rest of the journey the gifts given me by St. Benedict—peace, hospitality, conversion, stability and community living so that in all things and persons God may be glorified."* With love and gentleness, Sister Sophie faithfully passed these Benedictine gifts and blessings on to the members of her community saying, *"I will continue to remember you in my daily prayers."* We are all assured of her continued prayers as she rests in the arms of God.

## Planning and Facilities Use Statement

We, the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery, journeying together, are called to seek God in the daily celebration of life. Recognizing our giftedness, we listen and respond through creative prayer and life-giving service.

The creation of buildings and an environment that supports the Benet Hill Monastic Tradition is central to the life and growth of our Community and ministries.

The use of our physical space is determined by the needs of the Community. These include the formation of future vowed members and mentorship in monasticism. The focus is on promoting a vibrant and healthy monastic community, attending to those of the Community who are ill or retired and providing outreach ministries.

The design, construction, and utilization of Benet Hill Monastery will be guided by the needs of the Community. A contemplative environment must be insured for the privacy and solitude of Community members as well as providing adequate space for our outreach ministries of education, spirituality, and retreat ministries.

We reverence all of creation, by stewarding our land, buildings and resources to insure the conservation of the environment and sustain our forest for future generations of monastics and our ministries.

## Alumnae Profile

by Jules Irwin (Aguirre)

**1981 Graduate!** Wow! 30 years already... It's amazing how life just happens.

As a graduate of Benet Hill Academy, I've always felt a sense of accomplishment. The high standards set for us girls were intense, but enforced with much love and respect. I had the best of times with my friends and classmates. The sisters, Col. Seese and Mrs. "G" helped me succeed in so many ways.



Left to right: Sister Rose Ann Barmann, Jules Irwin, Susan Kros-Grace, Sister Naomi Rosenberger

I've had a full and blessed life.

God is good. My husband, Jeff, and I celebrate 25 years of marriage this August. I got to be a mom to two awesome children, Adria and Mitchell, who are no longer children. They're actual adults now! Although I enjoyed being a mom, I also enjoyed working outside of the home and being involved in the community. So, while raising the kiddos, I managed my own business, taught elementary school catechism at our parish, and managed our home. Later, I worked with the Boys and Girls Club of America, eventually becoming a Center Manager. After 8 years there, my life took a different direction. Now the Lord has me doing His will with the needs of my family and those He sends to me. I am blessed and am never bored.

Benet Hill Monastery, in collaboration with Colorado College, will be hosting an exhibition of the illuminations contained in the St. John's Bible. The illuminations will be on display:



Benet Hill Monastery from  
**September 21 through October 6, 2011**

Colorado College from  
**October 12 through November 8, 2011.**

This bible is a special project celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN. It is the first hand written and illumined bible to be produced since the fifteenth century. The scribing and illuminations were created using a unique combination of a centuries-old (monastic) tradition of craftsmanship with the latest capabilities of computer technology under the direction of Donald Jackson, one of the world's foremost calligraphers.



Scripture Instructors left to right: Cliff Eisenach, Mark Klinger, John and Sue Cox, attend an employee presentation on the background of the St. John's Bible.

For more information on the St. John's Bible please visit [www.saintjohnsbible.org](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org). Watch for dates and special events including guest lectures, special classes and tour times in upcoming publications. Submitted by Sister Ana Cloughly.

# Day in the Life...

by Gina Berger

**SISTER ROSE ANN BARMANN, OSB** attended the "All People's Breakfast" in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 17, 2011. The theme of the gathering focused on "Immigration Reform: Today's Civil Rights Struggle." Colorado State Senate Representative, Polly Baca-Barragan shared her perspective on the similarities between the African-American struggle for Civil Rights and the present struggle for Immigration Reform in the United States.

**SISTER ANNE STEDMAN, OSB** has worked with Sister Kathy McNanny, OSB facilitating the direction setting and discernment/election for the Benedictine Sisters at St. Benedict's Monastery in Minnesota. Sister says, "It has been a profound experience to watch three monastic communities become one as they work together to choose their future leadership which culminates at the end of February."

**DIOCESAN CONSECRATED LIFE CELEBRATION:** Benet Hill Monastery will host the annual celebration with Bishop Michael Sheridan on Saturday, Feb. 12. Religious women and men from all the orders represented in the diocese will gather for Mass in Our Lady of Peace Chapel at 10:30 followed by a luncheon.

# Getting Connected

by Sandy Kinchen



## Clergy Ecumenical Forum

Prior to our move to the new monastery, we held a clergy focus group. The group highlighted a unique need, a place for clergy to come together and talk about mutual concerns. In answer to this request, on March 23, 2011, retired Bishop Richard Hanifen of the Colorado Springs Diocese and Reverend Leanne Hadley from the First Methodist Church of Colorado Springs will lead a conversation to encourage ecumenical dialog among the clergy from parishes and churches in the Colorado Springs area.

We hope to create an open forum for fellowship and sharing in which the clergy of diverse denominations can discuss issues and common ground. This day is meant to be a foundation for future communication, as well as an opportunity for Benet Hill to serve the community. As part of Benet Hill hospitality, we will offer lunch with the sisters and an opportunity to experience the forest and facilities. This ecumenical day apart will provide mutual support and spiritual nourishment for those who give so much to their own communities.

# Book Review

by Eileen Beuler



## Spiritual Steps on the Road to Success by Linda Seger, Ph.D.

The Spiritual Steps on the Road to Success represents a comprehensive look at how we are challenged in our everyday work to be spiritually led people in a world so often focused otherwise. Through interviews and the insights of many different people, Linda Seger gives us clues as to how we deal with the interior struggle of our own integrity without compromising our faith using biblical teaching, quotes from great philosophers as well as everyday contemporary persons. At the end of each chapter she offers questions for discussion and reflection along with scriptural texts to contemplate.

I found her writing easy to follow and especially enjoyed how she discussed and illustrated the seven deadly sins in such a practical and down to earth way. This book's wisdom lies in outlining the spiritual steps everyone is invited to take in order to fulfill the calling God created in us. I look forward to her presentation being as practical as her book. This book may be purchased in our **Benet Gifts** shop.

.....  
Linda Seger will be conducting a four part workshop on Spiritual Steps on the Road to Success at Benet Hill Monastery March 1-22, 2011 on Tuesday nights, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. If you are interested in attending please see our website at [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org) or contact Eileen Beuler at [registrations@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:registrations@benethillmonastery.org) or call 719-633-0655 ext 132 to register.

# Tea Time

by Gina Berger



JoAnn Schuh and Barb Lynette

Tea time is a weekly event hosted with homemade goodies by Barb Lynette, JoAnn Schuh and Francie Pfalmer. Each week they bring a treat and a question to share with the sisters of Hildegard's and other sisters who frequently join in. Sometimes the question may be serious and other times just for fun.

This week the sisters were asked what food they would be and why.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Sister Ernestine Lopez:<br>"Pinto Beans because she ate so many"                   | Sister Benigna Haug: "Cabbage head just because..."                                  |
| Sister Diane Liston: "Green Beans because she loves them"                          | Sister Virginia Vey: "Butternut Squash because of the shape"                         |
| Sister Phyllis Echterling:<br>"Cauliflower because it is lumpy and bumpy all over" | Sister Jovita Quintana:<br>"Carrots because they are orange and she likes the color" |



Sister Diane Liston and Francie Pfalmer

We invite you to submit questions for the Sisters' Tea Time by emailing: [gberger@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:gberger@benethillmonastery.org) or clicking on **Ask a Sister** at [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org). We will pick one question for the next Review.

# World Day of Peace

by Sister Mary Jane Vigil, OSB



Sisters Ana Cloughly and Mary Jane Vigil joined the Catholic Peace Community, seven people from parishes around the diocese, to plan and organize the annual World Day of Peace prayer service which was held on January 1st at St. Patrick Church. The service centered around Pope Benedict's message entitled "Religious Freedom, The Path to Peace." The committee decided to implement the theme of celebration and conversation with the Pope's message.

Three speakers were invited to read and reflect on the pope's message and to share their reflections from the stand point of their own faith tradition. Following the shared reflections each speaker offered a prayer for peace from their faith tradition.



## The three speakers were:

Dr. Ellen Johnson-Fay, Minister Emerita of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Dr. Ellen bases her wisdom from earth centered spirituality and from Vietnamese Buddhist Master Thich Nhat Hanh.

Arshad Yousufi is a Muslim, past president and spokesman for the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs. Arshad delivers sermons at the mosque, makes presentations about Islam, and participates in interfaith dialog. Arshad bases his wisdom from the teachings of the Koran.

Monsignor Don Dunn is a priest of the diocese of Colorado Springs. He served with Denver Catholic Charities 1966-1980 and was part of the missionary team in Monteria, Colombia from 1984-1986. He transferred to the Diocese of Colorado Springs in 1987 where he served as a Pastor and as Vicar General until he retired in 2007. Monsignor bases his wisdom from the Christian Scriptures, namely the Gospel of Jesus.

The World Day of Peace Celebration was sponsored by Benet Hill Monastery, Catholic Charities, Just Faith, Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, and Mount St. Francis Community of Franciscan Sisters. Music for the Service was provided by Joe Uveges, a well known singer/songwriter in the city of Colorado Springs.

# Development Office

by Sister Rose Ann Barmann, OSB, Development Director



Our Development Mission: "To raise and provide funds to support and assist in the overall enhancement of the Vision, Mission and Ministries of the Monastery. Our purpose is only made possible through the kindness and generosity of our families, friends and benefactors who support us in our works through their prayers and donations."

*"We plant the seeds that one day will grow, we water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development..."*

Archbishop Oscar Romero

In the midst of winter, you may think it curious to speak of "seeds and planting". But your outpouring of generosity to our community as we closed 2010 was such a wonderful affirmation of all that you are helping us plant and nurture through our Benedictine Mission.

You have assisted us in reaching out to over 2000+ persons in 2010 who have benefitted from our Scripture, Contemplative Vision program, Spiritual Direction training, Sunday Worship, workshops and retreats. Your continued support allows us "to plant seeds" that bear spiritual fruits through all seasons of the New Year. You share intimately in our Mission and purpose. Thank you for helping us build on our Benedictine foundations that enhance and enrich the hearts and minds of so many.

*Happiness is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.*

-Helen Keller

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- 1) go to [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org)
  - 2) find **Get Connected** link on right hand side of page in green section
  - 3) click and fill in the form
- Sign up for e-newsletters including the Review.

Online donations are handled through our Paypal connection. Just click either the **Donate** or **Capital Campaign** button at [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org).

Online donors can designate a program or ministry if they desire in the "Please note" field on page two of the donation process. The monastery accepts Visa, MasterCard and electronic transfer.



## Oblate Retreat

On November 16, 2010, Mary Kay Schweitzer made her final profession as a Benet Hill Oblate at Vespers in the monastery chapel. Sister Katherine Wawersich mentored Mary Kay through the formation process which includes a year long study of the Rule of Benedict. Mary Kay wrote about her new understanding of the word *Rule*: "Now I think of the Rule as a handrail. A handrail is there to offer support and safety as we navigate the steps of learning a new skill, walking in the dark, entering a new phase of aging, or providing safety for us along a rocky or unsure path. The challenge for me is to grasp the handrail and not let pride, independence, shame or ignorance keep me from that which I call the grace of the Rule of Benedict."

Mary Ann Thomas of Canon City was also enrolled as a novice and began her year-long study with Barbara Neilon via email.

Anyone interested in more information about Benedictine oblates may contact Oblate Coordinators Barbara Neilon at [bneilon@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:bneilon@benethillmonastery.org) or Sister Joseph Marie at (719) 550-3716.



*Left to right: Sister Katherine Wawersich, Mary Kay Schweitzer, Mary Ann Thomas, Barbara Neilon*

## Oblate Profile

by Gina Berger

**Charlene Pardo**, an oblate with Benet Hill Monastery since 2001, offers the community and the Church a unique service with her participation in the Serra Club in the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Her journey began as a child, when she grew up and went to Catholic School in Carmel, California near where Fr. Junípero Serra is buried. Her parents were Serrans and the influence of their faith on her life made a deep impression.

When Charlene married her husband, Jesus (who was in special forces), she found herself traveling to many different places in the United States, Germany, France and Austria. Her travels always mysteriously led her near Benedictine Monasteries where she spent time visiting with priests, friars and sisters.

Charlene shared that with every move to a new place, she felt a sense of loss of community in parish life and ministry. When she began "hanging out with Benedictines" she found that the Rule of Benedict and the Divine Office (daily prayers) gave her a sense of universality, stability and portability she could carry with her wherever she went.

Charlene has been able to pray with Benedictines all over the world in prayer services, vespers and Mass which brought her great comfort, especially when her husband was deployed. These experiences with members of different monasteries provided her with spiritual direction, lectio, spiritual exercises and prayer.

When Charlene moved to Colorado Springs, she began her formal training to become an oblate at Benet Hill Monastery with Carmen Bruno, Sister Virginia Vey and some of the other Sisters. She loves the sense of community she experiences when praying with the Sisters at Benet Hill Monastery. She is drawn to the Sisters who she sees as "enfleshing the Rule of Benedict" as they are living examples of serving the community. She also states, "My four years of Scripture study with Sister Diane Liston added greatly to my Benedictine formation and my love of the Catholic Church."

After becoming an oblate with Benet Hill, Charlene began asking herself, "How can I help encourage vocations for men and women in religious life?" She saw the need for more vocations and answered that call. In February 2006, she became the first official president of the Serra Club in Colorado Springs. Charlene sees the Serra club as "supporting arms" for the Church.

The Serra organization is global and active in 36 countries. Charlene's journey began in the heart of where Fr. Junípero Serra built missions in California and has come full circle for her as she is faithful in her journey to serve the community and her universal Church.





## You Are Invited...

### Spiritual Steps on the Road to Success

Tuesdays, March 1-22, 2011  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Cost \$100 for the series  
RSVP: Please reserve by  
February 28, 2011

Nationally renowned author and speaker Linda Seger tackles issues facing every professional. Join us as we explore this timely topic.

Visit [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org)  
**click Registration** to sign up for this exciting series. Pay online with **Paypal** or  
Call 719-633-0655 ext 132 or  
by email [registrations@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:registrations@benethillmonastery.org)

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## Winter Workshops/Classes at Benet Hill Monastery/Ministry Center

### ***Forgiveness Prayer Workshop***

**February 26, 2011**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Cost is \$25

Benet Hill Monastery

Hosted by Sister Therese O'Grady and Sister Ana Cloughly

Join us to learn more about the Gospels in an interactive setting with discussion and sharing.

### ***Gospel of Mark and the Pastoral Letters***

**March 3 - April 28, 2011**

Thursdays, 9:15 - 11:15 am--Benet Hill Monastery

Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm--Ave Maria Parish, Parker, CO

Cost is \$160

### ***Gospel of John***

**March 28 - May 2, 2011**

Mondays, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Cost is \$140

Benet Hill Monastery

For more information, and to register online, visit:

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

### ***Amy Frykholm:Contemplative Autobiography of Julian of Norwich***

**April 8, 2011**

9:00 am - noon

Cost \$25

Benet Hill Monastery

Hosted by Sister Therese O'Grady, OSB

### ***Cover Photo:***

The painterly photograph on the front page is a close-up section of this abandoned tow truck in a Colorado mountain town. The transformation is beauty formed by the elements of the atmosphere over the years.



Benet Hill Monastery \* 3190 Benet Ln. \* Colorado Springs, CO 80921\* PH:719-633-0655, ext. 132  
*situated in the peaceful rural woodland setting of Black Forest*