

Review

The *of Benet Hill Monastery*



VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Spring 2014



*Just like the butterfly, I too will awaken
in my own time.*

~ Deborah Chaskin

Message from Prioress

by Clare Carr, OSB; Prioress



"Nature's Message was always there and for us to see.
It was written on the wings of butterflies."

-Kjell B. Sandved



Dear Friends and Families,

The butterfly is an apt symbol for the Easter season and the new life we are experiencing at the monastery. We are thrilled with our Monastic final profession of Ana Cloughly, OSB. She is such a gift to us with her many talents of teaching, liturgical service and prayerful presence. She demonstrates the promises she will make in May and is a blessing to our community.

The "*Alleluias*" ring out in all our prayers this season. We are so grateful for all the donors who have blessed our lives throughout the year and for the many contributions you give us. I cannot begin to tell each of you how important your support is to us and our mission. You enable us to be a "*sacred space of hospitality*" through our many ministries. You also join us in being *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis' exhortation, as enthusiastic followers of Jesus in the third Millennium.

I am sure you are involved in many graduations this May. We, too, find ourselves proud of the many students who are graduating from our Contemplative Journey and Benedictine Spiritual Formation Programs. Be sure to take a look; you may know someone.

May this Easter season bring us closer to the Risen Lord and the beauty of our created world!

Clare Carr OSB

Revision from the Winter Review 2014

I expressed in my "Prioress Reflection" that the "church" does not support us (meaning that we do not receive a monthly check from the Vatican). I stated that we are among the 94% of religious women who are underfunded in our retirement fund. That statement is correct; however, I failed to say that we receive assistance each year from the National Religious Retirement Office for our retirement fund of \$25,000-30,000. This assistance is given after the national collection is taken up for Religious each year in the parishes. The reason we are underfunded in our retirement fund is because of low stipend salaries since 1914.

And gratefully, the three Dioceses in Colorado (Archdiocese of Denver, Diocese of Colorado Springs and Diocese of Pueblo) have each pledged toward our mission outreach fund over the next five years, so we can continue to minister throughout Colorado.

Monastic Final Profession

by Ana Cloughly, OSB



Saint Benedict incorporated in his **Rule** (written in sixth century) rituals that have marked every Benedictine profession to this day. He prescribed that the monastic: write by hand the promises of **Stability**, **Fidelity** to the monastic life and **Obedience** and publically profess these promises "**forever**". Placing the document on the altar, the monastic prays, "**Receive me O Lord, as you have promised that I may live. Disappoint me not in my hope.**" Finally, she lies prostrate before the community seeking their prayer. I am grateful to join the company of Benedictine monastics in these ancient rituals by making my final monastic profession.

Most of my life, I have known that I am called apart by God. These rituals are very special because they offer a public witness to what is already true. Over these seven years of formation, I have come to know the profound truth of God's love lived out in our Benedictine tradition and at Benet Hill Monastery. I have also come to know that the monastic life is God's desire for me. Monastic profession isn't an entrance into a static state of perfection though; the ceremony is a succession of rituals offering indelible reminders that I am committing myself entirely to the promise to choose life again and again as we live together our baptismal immersion into the paschal mystery. There are no words to express my gratitude to God for the gift of being a part of this community. I am truly blessed.



Ana Cloughly, OSB

Hosanna to Alleluia

by Barb Neilon, Oblate, Katherine Wawersich, OSB, Anne Stedman, OSB



Artist: Amy Cornish

"We are as the wings of a butterfly, bound together with the love of God.."
-Unknown

Holy Week is a treasure of inspiring texts, powerful imagery, and transforming music, all creating a week-long journey that takes us from the depths of despair to ultimate joy — The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our eighteen member schola, under the talented direction of Heilke Franzen-Pratt, led the assembly in celebrating the Paschal mystery. The musical selections from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday were drawn from a wide range of liturgical sources with the primary goal of **"full, conscious, and active participation"** throughout the week.



Children from the Palm Sunday assembly process with palms.

Our musical selections spoke to the essence of each day of this week we call Holy. On Palm Sunday we joined the Schola in singing **'Alpha and Omega'** which encapsulated the **Biblical Message** of the feast.

On Holy Thursday the tender Ghanaian song, **'Jesu, Jesu'** focused on Jesus washing the feet of his apostles and our imperative to do the same.

During the procession of the Cross on Good Friday, we listened to an excerpt from Henryk Gorecki's **'Sorrowful Symphony Songs,'** a powerful and intensely dark composition reminiscent of the Holocaust. On Easter Sunday we listened to and joined in singing **'See What You Are'** based on Saint Augustine's **"Behold what you are, become what you receive."**

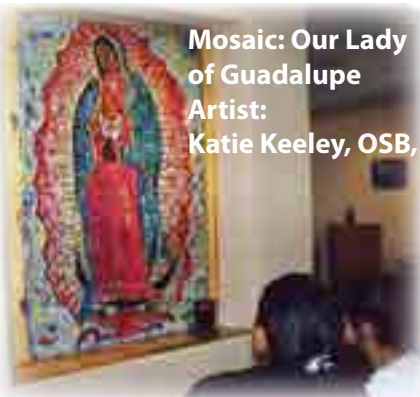
From the Hosannas of Palm Sunday to the Alleluias of Easter, the music colored and deepened our Holy Week Journey.



Easter Schola

Lenten Retreat at Benet Hill

by Ana Cloughly, OSB



Mosaic: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Artist:
Katie Keeley, OSB,

Participants are praying with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the retreat.

Ann Christensen facilitated a process of **"Seeing the Word"** using illuminations from the St. John's Bible. We also reflected on a photographic image of **Homeless Jesus**, a sculpture created by Timothy Schmalz, asking the question, **"Who do you say that I am"?** As we became more acquainted to praying with art, we spent time with paintings and sculptures and shared our insights. We were happy to welcome the RCIA group from St. Joseph Parish in Pueblo, CO who joined us as part of their journey toward full initiation into the church this Easter. May all of us begin to see with the eyes of God.



Retreatants listen intently as Sister Ana presents the definition of Visio Divina.

Our Lenten retreat focused on the contemplative practice of Visio Divina. The morning began with silent prayer. In an initial presentation, Sister Ana shared advances in brain science and how humans process what we see.

The Joy of the Gospel

by Naomi Rosenberger, OSB



L to R: Mary Jane Vigil, OSB, Olive Geiger, OSB, Naomi Rosenberger, OSB, Katherine Wawersich, OSB, Chris Wambach and Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

Pope Francis' first Apostolic Exhortation, entitled *The Joy of the Gospel*, was presented to the faithful at the concluding Mass of the Year of Faith, 2012-2013, at St. Peter's Square on November 24, 2013.

In what has become atypical behavior, Pope Francis gave copies to a bishop, a priest, a deacon, to members of men's and women's religious orders, and to other groups of the faithful. **This symbolic gesture spoke loud and clear, "Here are your marching orders for a new missionary age of the Church in the Third Millennium. Go Forth!"**

On November 26, 2013, two days later, the Vatican published the official document, *Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel*.

Pope Francis makes a passionate call for every Christian to be proclaimers of the love of Jesus to others. He envisions a Church of spirit-filled evangelizers who joyfully care for God's people, especially the poor and marginalized. His overwhelming message is one of Joy and Mercy! He calls us to live for others and tells us that living for others is the path to deep and lasting joy!

During this past year, we have warmed to the expressions and comments of this beloved shepherd. In this exhortation, he tells us "not to be like Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter." He asks, "How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?"

From a discussion of economic justice to a call for new decision-making roles for women in the Church, *The Joy of the Gospel* is thought-provoking and challenging. Those who carefully read, study, and pray with it, will be ready to take up the challenge with the whole Church, "Go Forth!" Let us rejoice and engage in this new phase of evangelization, one identified by enthusiasm, vitality, and most especially, Joy!

"If nothing in the world never changed, there wouldn't be butterflies."

-Anonymous



Oblate Lenten Retreat

by Kathleen Morgan, Oblate



"The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. Since few, however, have the strength for this, we urge the entire community during these days of Lent to keep its manner of life most pure and to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times."

- Rule of Benedict Ch. 49: 1-3

On March 16, 2014, eight oblates and Sister Marie Therese, oblate director, embarked on a three hour guided Lenten retreat in Benet Hill's chapel. Before beginning the reflections, Sister Marie Therese clarified that the Teutonic word Lent initially simply meant Spring. She explained that a monastic Lent is a process of trimming the soul, scraping the sludge off a life turned slipshod. It is a time for looking back and taking stock and is essential to going forward.

During Lent, we should exercise control in what we choose to give up, enabling us to say "no" to ourselves so that when life turns hard of its own accord, we will have the spiritual stamina to say "yes" to God's grace with faith and hope. St. Benedict's chapter on Lent reminds us that the purpose of personal restraint is to develop us, not to ravage our energies or confuse our perspective on life. Lent is a time to make new efforts to be what we say we want to be.

Before adjourning to Vespers and supper with the community, the oblates reflected on what resolutions they wished to make to enable them to go forward and become more authentically who they desire to be. They reflected on "personal restraints" they chose for the purpose of strengthening their spiritual stamina. These were written down and included with the Lenten resolutions of the Benet Hill sisters.

For more information on becoming an oblate of St. Benedict, contact Marie Therese (MT) Summers, OSB at mtsummers@benethillmonastery.org or call 719-633-0655 ext. 120.



2014 Graduates . . . Congratulations!

by Anne Stedman, OSB

Visio Divina Class



Back Row L to R: Yvonne Rex, Ana Cloughly, OSB (Facilitator), Kathleen Wishart and Cynthia Costanza.
Front L to R: Sarah Washburn and Ann Christensen (Facilitator); Vicky Campbell (not pictured)

Contemplative Journey Class



Back Row L to R: Patty Walker, Jan Anderson, Karen Ruyle, Mark Klinger, Therese O'Grady, OSB, Wendy Alvarado, Stephanie Witman, Vicky Campbell, Debbie Witherspoon and Leslee Terpay (Facilitator)
Front Row L to R: Jane Scanlon, Barbara Cuccaro and Julia Hultgren

"...from transformed hearts come a transformed world.."

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program

Denver



Back Row L to R: Jeri Gramly, Tony Hill, Robin Durgin, Bill Seyfarth and Jerry Kennell. Center L to R: Marilyn Carpenter, OSB, Marcia Meier, Jean Heverly, Rev. Joann Buchannan-Brown, Chris Sullivan and Eunice Collette. Bottom Row L to R: Debbie Bailey, Nancy McCluug, Elaine Oxenbury and Tyler Ray

Colorado Springs



Back Row L to R: Anne Stedman, OSB, Debbie Robertson, Kathy Rains, Robin Crocker, Nicole Parsons, Vicky Campbell, Casey Weeks and Mary Ann Spiker. Center L to R: Elizabeth Dally and Cindy Mizis. Bottom Row L to R: Jeanne Maloney, Shelley McBride, Jay Craig, Carolyn Moulton and Kim Dealy. Inset: Linda McCray

Applications for the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program available now:

Colorado Springs
Denver
Grand Junction
Global Online

Upcoming Workshops:

C.S. Lewis *The Man and His Pen*
Saturday, May 17, 2014 9 am- 3pm
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Randy Jessen
Fee: \$65

Register for all classes online: www.benethillmonastery.org or Call 633-0655 ext. 132

PILLAR Partnership:

Saints, Angels, Miracles and You
Thursday, June 19, 2014
9 am-12:30 pm Fee: \$25
Presented by Dr. David Weddle & Barbara Royal

Leadership & Development Attend Workshop

by Marie Therese (MT) Summers, OSB

Sisters Clare Carr, Marie Therese Summers, Mary Colleen Schwarz, Rose Ann Barmann and Naomi Rosenberger attended a Workshop on the "Fundamentals of Development and More" in Immaculata, PA outside of Philadelphia on April 8-10. This program was sponsored by the NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office) and NCDC (National Catholic Development Conference) and was hosted by the Spirituality Center of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary across from Immaculata University. The subtitle of the workshop summarized it perfectly: "Doing Development in a Small Religious Institute."

For the Leadership Team (Sisters Clare, MT and Mary Colleen), this time proved very informative on all the definitions, giving models, roles, infrastructure, volunteers, accountability, and the differences between development and fundraising. Along with our sisters who serve the community in Development (Sisters Rose Ann and Naomi), we collectively wrote goals, objectives and action steps for our Development Three Year Plan.

We repetitively heard: Development is a ministry. Development is a program. Development is about the mission. Development is about donors who wish to support that mission. It is not about raising money; it is about our mission and our relationship with our donors.

As we navigated through the intense schedule of the workshop, we recognized the foundation that exists in our Development Ministry. The presentations enlightened leadership in all the components of development and provided insights for further improvements.



L to R: Sisters Naomi Rosenberger, Rose Ann Barmann, Mary Colleen Schwarz, Marie Therese (MT) Summers and Clare Carr

Trio Paradis Concert

Benet Hill hosted a classical Concert by *Trio Paradis* in memory of Robin Kissinger. Concert II featured the works of Clara Schumann, Germaine Tailleferre, Elisabeth de La Guerre and Nadia Boulanger. Proceeds from this concert are designated for new signage at the entrance of Benet Hill Monastery.



Angelina Gadeliya,
piano

Pam Chaddon, cello

Jeri Jorgensen, violin

A Day in the Life

Jan Ginzkey, OSB attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious for Region 13 in Wichita, KS on April 7-9. She was elected as the Region 13 representative on the National LCWR Board. Sister Jan will be attending the biannual board meetings and conducting the biannual regional meetings for the next three years.

Sister Jan also attended the New Ways Ministry Conference, "Courage, Commitment and Change" April 11 - 13 held in Philadelphia, PA where fourteen different communities were represented. She brought home materials, prayer services and information to share with the leadership and community.



Diane Liston, OSB enjoyed many visitors during April including Sisters Marilyn, Mary John, Phyllis, Ana and Jan. Her brother, Jim, and sister-in-law, Betty, come to visit every month. Francie and Dick Pfalmer also spent some time with their dear friend. Sister Diane is living at the Dooley Center in Atchison, KS.



Many people filled the chapel and enjoyed this concert.

Development Office

by Rose Ann Barmann, OSB, Development Director

"I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the Gospel from the first day until now."

-Philippians 1:3



Dear Families and Friends,

With St. Paul, we keep daily remembrance of you in prayers of gratitude for your presence and friendship in our lives. We are grateful for your partnership with us in carrying out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our Benedictine Mission and Vision.

In this issue of our Review, please be aware of how many of you are assisting us in carrying out our MISSION:

We are a contemporary Benedictine Monastic presence. We provide the sacred space of hospitality and the use of our human, and material resources in education, spirituality, and other viable ministries.

We do this with all God's people and with a special emphasis on women.

Your partnering with us makes it possible for us to welcome the hundreds of persons who come to our Monastery to find spiritual nourishment and "sacred space" to encounter the "Divine Presence" in themselves, in community and in the beauty of the forest.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity,

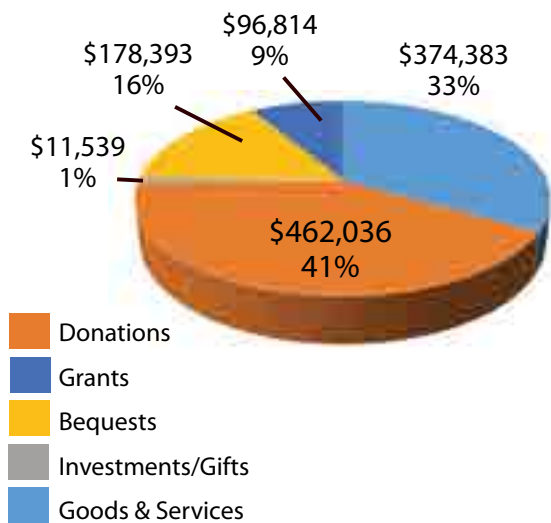
Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

Development Office Financial Report 2013

The pie charts (income & expenses) distributions listing depict your financial gifts for 2013 and their distribution. Your gifts assist us fulfilling our monastic call of the Gospel to our community and to the world. We could not serve as many as we do without your continued support. Our sisters are most grateful.

Sources of Gifts

\$1,123,165.00



Gift Distribution

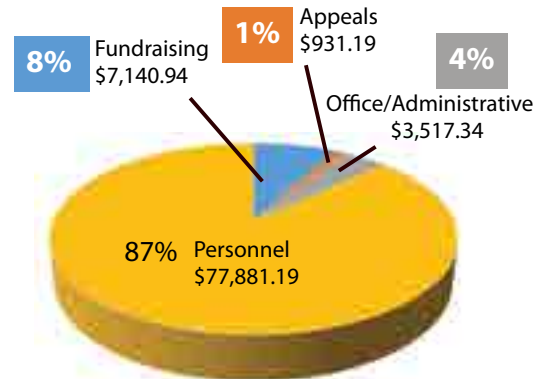
\$1,123,165.00

- Sisters' Retirement \$197,259 - 18%
- Future Fund \$22,822 - 2%
- Mission Outreach Campaign \$90,492 - 8%
- Plant assets \$4,482 - 1%
- Education and Other Needs \$119,090 - 11%
- Current Operating Expenses \$689,020 - 61%

Development Expenses

\$89,470.66

Percentage of Expenses to Donation is 8%



We have enclosed a "Benet Hill Review Donation" envelope. It costs approximately, 85 cents per issue to create and bring this newsletter to you. We would be most grateful for your contribution toward our publication costs. Thank you!



In Appreciation of our Benefactors and Friends

In this Spring Issue of our **Review**, it is our privilege to recognize our friends, families, alumnae, benefactors, businesses, foundations, organizations and churches that have contributed to our community and our Capital Campaign from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. In spite of these uncertain and challenging economic times, we are greatly blessed by your generosity. You have shared in the mission and ministries of Benet Hill Monastery by financial gifts that come in many forms: donations, memorials, bequests, trusts, appreciated stocks, trust income, in-kind services and goods. Every gift, regardless of size, is appreciated and treasured and we humbly accept them as expressions of your love, friendship and desire to partner with us in continuing our Benedictine Legacy. May God bless you and protect you every day.

Rose Ann Barmann, OSB; Development Director

Every effort has been made to list all donors accurately; however, if your name has been omitted or misspelled, please contact the Benet Hill Development Office (719) 633-0655 x116. Corrections will appear in the next issue of the Review.

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"We make a
living by
what we get,
we make a
life by what
we give."

-Winston Churchill

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Sympathy

Helen Zecha, OSB upon the death of her brother Bob.
Clare Carr, OSB upon the death of her neice, Melinda Baird.
Josie Sanchez, OSB upon the death of her grandmother,
Marie Esther Quintana and her uncle, Firmine Joseph Santestivan.

Alumnea Reunion

All Alumnea are welcome!

Saturday, July 26, 2014
Picnic at 2:00 pm

Sunday July 27, 2014
Mass 10:15 am followed by Cinnamon Rolls

Please contact Sister Lucile at 633-0655 ext. 118
benethill@juno.com

Benet Hill Monastery
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**NEWS 13
JON KARROLL
will emcee this event!**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

5th Annual Picnic in the Pines July 19th, 2014 10:30am - 2:30pm

*Come one, come all! Families, friends and neighbors
are invited to celebrate with us at Benet Pines
this summer for a day of music, food, and fun.*

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**TICKETS: \$100 Families (same household) / \$25 Individual / Children under 5 FREE
Active Military 20% Discount**

**Football Toss with Randy Gradishar,
Former NFL Bronco Player**

All-You-Can-Eat BBQ

Beer/Beverages

Raptors/Owls/Eagles

Petting Zoo ~ Pony Rides

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
THE WORKS AND MINISTRIES
OF THE SISTERS OF BENET HILL**

Recognizing Deployed Military Families

Parking/Free Shuttle

Olympic Wrestlers

Alpacas and llamas

Wishing Well/Face Painting

Bounce House/Wacky Trikes

Ministry Booth



Planned Giving:

To remember the Benet Hill Community in your
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Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs, Inc.

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*The Monastery is situated in the woodland setting of the Black Forest
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