

The Review

of Benet Hill Monastery



VOLUME 45, NUMBER 3 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Summer 2014



There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart.

-Celia Thaxter

Message from Prioress

by Clare Carr, OSB; Prioress



Dear Friends and Families,

"There is an appointed time for everything"; a time to play, a time to celebrate, a time for reflection, a time to grieve, a time for gratitude and a time for change." In these pages you will find a mixture of all of these experiences. We are so grateful for the many who joined us for **Picnic in the Pines** and making it such a success. There were over 400 participants who joined us for fun activities: visiting with Randy Gradisher- a former NFL football star, Jon Karroll - Channel 13 KRDO, and the honoring of nine active military families. We raised \$30,000 to further the mission of Benet Hill Monastery. Thank you!

Our Jubilee celebrations honored three of our sisters who served in the states of Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming. These wonderful women have given a combined total of one hundred and seventy years living the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. They have lovingly served men, women and children who thirsted for the joy of Christ. We are so grateful!

Oblates and the Benet Hill community were immersed in studying the **Rule of Benedict** during our retreat with Sister Karen Joseph. She invited all of us to embrace more fully the timeless teachings of our founder, St. Benedict, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

Retirement and changes in ministry are a mix of opportunity and loss. It is with great sadness that I share with you the resignation of Sister Rose Ann from the development office. Sister Rose Ann has given six years of her life to build a development program that makes us all proud. She has carried the bulk of the responsibility to raise the needed funds for our new building and she graced our community with her many talents of writing, reaching out to our constituents, and bringing joy to our many planning meetings for the **Picnic in the Pines** fundraiser and to the development team.

In her August resignation letter- Sister Rose Ann uses a Scripture passage that is so fitting: **"There is an appointed time for everything"**. This was a difficult decision for everyone to hear, but change is painful and often filled with uncertainty. Sister Rose Ann will be taking a few months off to relax, pray and renew herself as she discerns her next move in ministry. We, as a community, are so grateful for her years of service.

In Sister Rose Ann's letter she quotes a famous Irish prayer. In turn, I would say the same to her:

Peace and love,

May the Lord bless you and keep you!
May the Lord let his face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you!
May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!



Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

***Our cover of this Review features the many activities we shared at the Picnic in the Pines!**

In Gratitude for all the Volunteers who advance the Mission of Benet Hill

by Francine Stallbaumer, OSB; Volunteer Coordinator

Benet Hill Monastery is so blessed with numerous volunteers who are extremely generous with their time and talent. Some of the ways which volunteers assist us: serving at *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique*, as receptionists, serving on our boards & committees, as teachers and teacher assistants, choir members/music ministers for liturgies, Picnic in the Pines, medical assistance, carpentry, cooking, entertainment, grounds maintenance, forest clean-up, office assistants/mailings, recycling, retreat ministry, driving to appointments, library assistants, hospitality, repairs, making crafts for our gift shop, as consultants, cleaning/washing windows, seasonal decorating, baking, sewing, and more. Since we moved to our new monastery at 3190 Benet Lane we have never lacked assistance when we were in need. **SPECIAL THANKS** to all who share in our monastic life.

Please visit our website (under the 'Ways to Belong' - 'Volunteers' tab) to view a current listing all the volunteers who have given their time to advance the mission of the Benedictine Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery this past year. We apologize in advance for any omissions or misspellings. Please notify us of any changes. Thank you!



Volunteers setting up for the Picnic in the Pines.

Jubilee Celebrations

compiled by Gina Berger, Communications Director



Therese O'Grady, OSB 60th Jubilee

Since celebrating her Golden Jubilee ten years ago, Sister Therese O'Grady continues to have a grateful heart toward her Benedictine community and her family for supporting her in this vocation of sixty years, as well as the many people she encounters in her ministries of contemplative prayer and spiritual direction.

Renewal of 60 years of the monastic vows of Obedience, Conversion of Life and Stability carries with it abundant daily blessings of grace and love and commitment bestowed by the God of mercies and mystery.

"If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciple; you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free."

-John 8:31-32

Helen Zecha's journey began on February 2, 1953, during the Feast of Purification, in the quiet chapel at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. A young girl stood near the door praying the Stations of the Cross. During the eighth station- '*Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem*', Jesus also met Helen Jane Zecha.

Helen Zecha, OSB 60th Jubilee

Sister Helen's monastic life has been filled with abundant blessings of grace and love. From 1954 until the present, she has served in many different ways. She has been a teacher and monastery administrator. She continues to daily serve the Benet Hill community in the ministry of transportation and supply purchasing.

Sister Helen is most grateful to her community, family, friends and the many people she meets daily who have supported her in her vocation during these last sixty years. She says, "*Life is great and full of many surprises. GOD IS ALIVE!*"



"To grow spiritually in the image of our mother God is to be open to newness, to expect surprise, to understand pain, to soothe hurt, to nurture difference rather than to deny it."

-Joan Chittister



Olive Therese Geiger, OSB 50th Jubilee

Sister Olive Therese was born in McCook, Nebraska and is one of eight children. Her father was a traveling salesman and later owned a grocery store. Her mother labored in love at home raising the children. All of her six brothers and her sister have been quite successful in their lives. Her sister, Sister Eucharua, O.P. was a Dominican and one of her older brothers is a Franciscan Priest, Bernard Geiger, O.F.M.Conv.

Sister Olive loves creating simple, beautiful candles for community celebrations and prayer services. She has a passion for God's creation. And she has a special love of Liturgy, because she sees it "*as such a basic part of our lives.*" Serving on the Worship Team, she plays the organ and sings in the Schola. When one encounters Sister Olive Therese, one comes closer to knowing patience, gentleness, and a compassionate servant.

Sister Olive Therese was inspired on her spiritual journey and deeply influenced by her patron saint, Therese of Lisieux. After reading an autobiography of Saint Therese's life, she decided at the young age of 13 that she, too, could live in a contemplative way. Her journey to the Benedictine way of life began in Atchison, Kansas in January 1951. Sister Olive Therese's ministry was education and music to small communities in Kansas and Colorado. She has known the pain of illness in her own life and was dispensed from her monastic vows for ten years while living in Lafayette, Colorado. In 1980 she remembers one special moment while sweeping her kitchen floor. She heard the gentle, still voice calling from within, "*It is time for you to go back.*" Sister Olive Therese then entered Benet Hill Monastery, a daughter house of Atchison.

"O God, you search me and you know me; you know my resting and my rising; you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you."

-Psalm 139: 1-2

Community Retreat

by Ana Cloughly, OSB

Each year, our Benedictine community, sisters and oblates gather for a week of retreat. Our gathering this June was especially precious because Sister Karen Joseph of Immaculate Conception Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana joined us as our retreat director.

Benedictine spirituality derives its focus primarily from Scripture which permeates *The Rule*. Wrapped in ancient tradition we live a life unfamiliar to most people. However, for many sisters who have lived monastic life for forty, fifty and sixty years, everything becomes routine and familiar. Reviewing the ways we are called to be "different" has been a time of heart-felt renewal. Sister Karen guided us to consider in-depth central values in the *Rule of Benedict* and our monastic promises. Truly living our vows and values has a lifelong effect. This retreat was a marvelous opportunity for each of us to review the ways we have promised to live and how keeping our promises has helped to shape our relationship with God and the larger community.

To conclude the retreat, Sister Karen gave us a quote from *Lost Horizons* adapted to fit our monastic experience and hope: "For here, we shall be with our books and our music, and a way of life based on one simple rule: Be Kind! When that day comes, it is our hope that the [sisterly] love of [the monastery] will spread throughout the world... When the strong have devoured each other, the Christian ethic may at last be fulfilled and the meek shall inherit the earth."



Sister Karen Joseph



Sisters and oblates join in prayer during the retreat.

During the final Eucharistic celebration of the week we reaffirmed our commitment, oblates and sisters. One sister spoke for all who attended this retreat when she said, "My heart is singing with a joy I thought I had forgotten. I'm just grateful it is a tune God never stops singing in me."

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart."
-Jean Baptiste Massieu

A Simple, Profound, and Life Altering Way

by Kathy Morgan, osb Oblate

The evening Vesper service of June 7th saw the oblate novice enrollment of three women and a welcome into oblate candidacy of another. Katherine Claytor, Yvonne Rex, and Laura Knelange (in absentia) were enrolled as oblate novices of Benet Hill. Glorianne Mercado entered the candidate phase. After the professed oblates renewed their oblation promises and the completion of Vespers, all adjourned to the dining room for a delicious meal.

A holy card of St. Scholastica, with St. Benedict's quote "Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ" first attracted oblate novice Katherine Claytor to the Benedictines. Then, while reading *The Rule* on a plane trip, a Benedictine priest asked her why she wasn't an oblate. The path to the oblates, after that, seemed clear.

Yvonne Rex's journey lasted a bit longer, 33 years to be exact. On the way, this former Lutheran minister met Joan Chittister, OSB, began reading everything she had written, and gradually recognized that the Benedictine oblates were something she needed to explore further. Eventually, Yvonne's journey led her not only to Benet Hill and the oblate novitiate, but also to Roman Catholicism.

Laura Knelange had a longing for a Benedictine connection; her words read in her absence were profound: "I feel excited for a more intimate relationship with God and the community through my personal growth."

"Are you hastening toward your heavenly home?
Then, with Christ's help, Keep this little rule
that was written for beginners."

- *Rule of Benedict Ch. 73:8*

Glorianne Mercado once contemplated religious life, but that dream was cut short after a debilitating car accident. Still about three years ago, it became apparent that God had other, equally special, plans for her. First, her uncle, a Knight of Columbus, presented her with a St. Benedict's medal. Around that same time, she met oblate Charlene Pardo at a conference and learned about the oblates. Glorianne now pursues her oblate candidacy instructions, driving two hours one-way from her home in Hugo, to join the mentoring group.



L to R: Marie Therese (MT) Summers, OSB; Oblate Novices: Katherine Claytor, Yvonne Rex; Glorianne Mercado, Candidate and Carol Peterson, osb Oblate

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.

Sister Evangeline Retires from Holy Rosary in Albuquerque

by Rev. Robert Campbell, Pastor~ Most Holy Rosary Parish

The following article was in the *Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community Bulletin*.
Sister Evangeline has moved back to Benet Hill Monastery. Welcome Home!

Most of you know Sister Vangie Salazar. She is our Director of Religious Education and Family Faith Formation. She has been particularly present this month at the First Communion Masses shepherding the children through the liturgies. She has a fondness for the microphone at the end of Mass and I love when she goes "off script!" She is not afraid to speak her mind and apply her cheeky humor in all situations.

She also loves teaching kids. She is an educator par excellence! She has been shepherding generations of Holy Rosary children through religious education, inspiring them and cajoling them into learning about and loving Christ. Sister Vangie has been a faithful minister at Holy Rosary for over 18 years. It was Sister Vangie who designed and implemented one of the most successful and innovative programs in the archdiocese: Family Faith Formation. In this program, entire families learn the faith together in a family friendly atmosphere that is both instructional and prayerful. She has been an important bridge between Spanish speaking and English speaking families in the parish. She is also a good and faithful religious Benedictine Sister and that vocation inspires and fills her ministry with grace. Many of you do not know that she keeps food in her car at all times to give to people she comes across who might be hungry. She has a deep passion for social justice and helping the poor.

I am most grateful to Sister Vangie for everything she has done for our community, especially for her love of the kids and for being a pillar of support here at Holy Rosary. Thank you, Sister! May your retirement be peaceful and grace-filled, and I hope you might now enjoy some time to get to see your beloved Denver Broncos...after your prayer is done, of course! - Fr. Robert Campbell



Evangeline (Vangie) Salazar, OSB



Picnic in the Pines

by Carin Willis, Development Assistant



Federation Chapter

by Jan Ginzkey, OSB

On Saturday July 19th, we were blessed with blue skies and a light breeze that gently blew through the forest of the monastery grounds as we hosted our Fifth Annual **Picnic in the Pines** event. We were excited to once again open up the beautiful grounds of the monastery to the community. Everyone who attended experienced the excitement of both young and old as they revelled in listening to live music, enjoying an incredible all-you-can eat barbecue lunch, and exploring all of the fun activities. This included live animals from a petting zoo and raptors from the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo. This year we recognized the families of the deployed military and we were able to host eight military families from all across our community at the picnic. ***Our cover of this Review features the many activities we shared at the Picnic in the Pines event this year!**



Raffle Ticket Winners from the Picnic in the Pines and Donors!

Lil McNeill: 7-Day Oceanfront Condo Stay at Daytona Beach Condo
Donated by Fred and Bonnie Collazo

Rich Caldwell: 7-Day Stay at Peaceful Valley Lodge in Alma, CO
Donated by Gavin and Marshea Vitt

Dee Klein: 90" Brown Shining Star Quilt; Donated by Carolyn Postlethwaite

Michele Engle: 7-Day Stay – Rocky Mountain Getaway in Grand Lake, CO
Donated by John and Mary Ann Glenski

Mary Reich: Broncos Package 4 Tickets and an Overnight Stay at the Renaissance Denver Hotel including Breakfast-for-Two ; at Vivace Restaurant;
Donated by Gavin Vitt

Janet Hothoofd: Sky Sox game for 12 (twelve) in Sky Box - includes Catered Meal; Donated by Security Service Federal Credit Union-Bill Becker



One of the petting zoo animals.

Sisters Clare, Mary Jane and Jan joined delegates from twenty-one monasteries for the Federation of St. Scholastica's Chapter Meeting held in Atchison, KS June 19 – 26, 2014. The theme "**Faithful Evolution Embraced by Hope**" was brought to life by the insightful and challenging presentations of Carol Zinn, SSJ.

Kathryn Huber, OSB was the facilitator for the discernment and the creation of the directional statements and election of the new Federation President, Lynn Marie McKenzie, OSB and her council. The Federation will continue to promote and share inter-community and inter-federation formation programs. We will assist and encourage collaborative, re-visioning, reconfiguring and restructuring for the vitality and viability of Benedictine life in our communities, including oblates and others. The need to increase our skill and use of technology to improve communications, networking and outreach was emphasized. It was a privilege to work with such talented and spiritual women dedicated to sharing our monastic identity.

"To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven."

-Johannes A. Gaertner

Development Office

"Gratitude is a flower that blooms in noble souls."

-Pope Francis

Development: Picnic in the Pines 2014 Report

Through the hard work of our volunteers, picnic committee, sisters and employees and the generosity of our many sponsors and donors, we were able to raise \$30,000.00 for the works and ministries at our Benedictine Spirituality Center. Thanks to everyone for making our annual fundraiser event a special day of gathering together as a community in support of the mission and works of the Benet Hill Sisters.

Picnic Committee:

Cindy Costanza, Chairperson
Rose Ann Barmann, OSB
Carin Willis
Julie Armstrong
Mary Burns
Diane Fredell
Carmella Hornstein
Joan Klein
Kaylene Kohl
Patty O'Halloran
Ernie Romero
Jim Rocklin
Jeff Rugis
Mary Ann Stadjuhar
Gene Tourville

We are so grateful for all of our generous sponsors of our Picnic in the Pines 2014 event!

Art C. Klein Construction
The Blind Connection
C & C Sand and Stone
Colorado Springs Dermatology Clinic
Craig Automotive Repair
D3/A-OK Appliances
Diocese of Colorado Springs
ENT Federal Credit Union
James Dawley Asphalt Paving Services
Diocese of Colorado Springs
DMC Sewer
DSI Professional Restoration
Faricy Boys Chrysler Jeep
Foster Electric

Sponsors Continued...

Freedom Financial Services
Marica Hefti
Houlton Audio
HVAC Incorporated
Little Chalet Dressing
Monarch Investment & Management Group
Mountain States Pathology
O'Briens Carpet One Floor & Home
Olson Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Our Lady of the Pines Parish
Panino's Downtown
Pueblo Bank & Trust
RMC Distributor
Security Service
Credit Union-Bill Becker
St. Paul's Catholic Church
St. Peter's Parish
TAEUS International
Tom Tomaskovic
Trafton Roofing
Keller Williams-Pat Johnson
Wilhelm Monument Company

Sponsors Continued...

Richard & Paula Valorose
Gary & Mary Ann Vitt
Dr. Charlie & Helen Zinn

In-Kind Sponsors:

Channel 13/Jon Karroll-Emcee
The Duncan family-
Event Parking
Holy Apostles Parish-
Tables & Chairs & Tents
Keller Williams/Pat Johnson-
Water Bottles
Rich & Kaylene Kohl-
Homemade Cookies &
Military Jewelry
New Horizons COS Ensemble-
Music
Rocky Mountain Health Services-
Shuttle/Cooks/Drivers
Ernie Romero-Ice
RMC Distributing-
Banners & Beer
Serranos Coffee Company-
Coffee & Tea
Two Men & A Truck-
Transportation



L to R: Clare Carr, OSB-Prioress with Tri-Lakes Chamber Members



Monument Academy Cheerleaders



Wonderful Food!

Benet Hill Monastery Hosts Business After Hours

by Carin Willis, Development Assistant

On June 17th, the monastery dining room, outside patio and parking lots were filled to the brim with over 100 business professionals, as Benet Hill sisters and employees hosted a Tri-Lakes Chamber Business After Hours event. This fun-filled evening included an incredible dinner of pulled pork sandwiches and side dishes prepared by Richey Osborne and her team of volunteers. Other highlights included a live DJ who played music and acted as emcee of the event, cheerleaders from Monument Academy who provided energy and fun as guests entered the monastery building, a ministry program display table, and a booth filled with lovely gifts for sale hosted by manager Sandy Bauers and volunteer Carmella Hornstein of *Sisters' Thrift and Boutique*.

The business professionals in attendance were also able to take a tour of the monastery led by Jan Ginzkey, OSB. All enjoyed the business mingling and wonderful food as well as the stunning pine tree-filled views of the monastery grounds. The evening culminated with a welcoming speech from Prioress Clare Carr, OSB who gave an overview of programs offered at the monastery. Rose Ann Barmann, OSB gave highlights from the development office and Cindy Costanza, Picnic Chairperson, extended an invitation for professionals to attend the monastery's July fundraiser event **Picnic in the Pines**.

The energy and excitement of the business professionals attending this event at the monastery was palpable and Tri-Lakes Chamber Director Terri Hayes said that Benet Hill Monastery became everyone's favorite Business After Hours location. Many attendees to the event wanted to book a spiritual retreat or use the monastery space for an event for their business or non-profit. They also enjoyed meeting some of the sisters of Benet Hill and learning more about their mission and programs. This event showcased the beautiful physical space of the monastery and the surrounding property as well as demonstrating the hospitality of the *Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery*.

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!



Ministry News * Register Now

Please go online at www.benethillmonastery.org for more information and to register or call 633-0655 ext. 132

All Classes, Events and Workshops are held at Benet Hill Monastery unless indicated otherwise.

September

Walking with Benedict Through Scripture: Biblical Hospitality

Location: Online Small Group
Begins Online Sept. 3-Nov. 19

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program: Colorado Springs

Year 1: Thursdays: Sept. 4-April 23 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Year 2: Wednesdays: Sept. 3-April 29 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program: Denver

Denver: Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church
3885 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113
Year 1: Mondays: Sept. 8-April 27 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Year 2: Tuesdays: Sept. 2-April 21 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program: Global Online

Location: Online
Begins August 2014

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program: Grand Junction

Location: Grand Junction, Colorado

Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 13 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Contemplative Journey I

Tuesday Mornings, Sept. 16-Dec. 9 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Tuesday Evenings, Sept. 16-Dec. 9 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Retreats for Class: Sat., Sept. 13 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Sat., Nov. 8 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

September cont.

Concert Series: Chamber Music in the Pines

Sundays: Sept. 14, Nov. 2 2:30 pm
Other Concert Dates in 2015- March 15, April 12, May 31

Exploring Spiritual Leadership: Finding Clarity in a Confusing World with Rev. Randy Jessen, DMin

Saturday, Sept. 27 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

October

Book of Revelation: Fr. John Costanza

Thursday Mornings: Oct. 16- Nov. 6 9:30 am to 11:30 am

November

Concert Series: Chamber Music in the Pines

Sunday, Nov. 2 2:30 pm

Introduction to Lectio Divina Workshop

Saturday, November 8 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rev. Jane Vennard: Fully Awake & Truly Alive

Saturday, November 15 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

December

Advent Retreat: Miracles

Saturday, December 13 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



New Website!

by Gina Berger, Communications Director



We are so proud at Benet Hill Monastery to have launched our new website! Please visit our website often for updates on events and happenings at the monastery. You can also register for a variety of classes, workshops, concerts and special events. The monastery offers a place of serenity and peace for prayer and retreats as well.

Don't forget to shop at *Sisters' Thift & Boutique* as we partner with many charities around town. Visit our Benedictine library, Benet Gifts (gift shop), or come and pray with the sisters. All of this information is contained on our website. Thank you for all your support!

BSFP Reunion

Please join us for the first BSFP GRADUATE RETREAT & REUNION
September 5-6, 2014

Enjoy a time of reconnecting with other graduates, soul care, BSFP Evolution, personal and group reflection, sharing stories and a look at vulnerability.

September 5, Friday - 6:00PM to 8:30PM

September 6, Saturday - 9:00AM to 1:00PM

Cost for both days	\$55.00
Friday only	\$20.00 (includes light supper)
Saturday only	\$40.00

Please tell other BSFP graduates about this reunion/retreat.

Register online www.benethillmonastery.org

Overnight accommodations are available.

Interfaith Dialogue



On August 2 Benet Hill hosted an Interfaith Dialogue with (L to R) Bishop Hanifen, Rabbi Sarah Schechter and Arshad Yousufi (*spokesperson for the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs*) on religious views of current world issues. We are so grateful for this opportunity. Over sixty participants came to ask questions and to listen and learn.

Benet Hill Monastery
3190 Benet Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1509

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The *Review* is published quarterly by Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs, Inc., 3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1509

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Communication Summit: Myers Briggs

by Carin Willis, Development Assistant



Marilyn Carpenter, OSB

Staff Inservice on Myers Briggs

Do you leave an event feeling energized or depleted from interacting with numerous people? Would a project deadline allow you time to schedule and plan or does the word 'deadline' itself make you feel stifled? These are a sampling of questions that were discussed in the second session of a Myers-Briggs Personality Class lead by Marilyn Carpenter, OSB and Clare Carr, OSB.

Although the theories of the Myers-Briggs personality profile test are not new, Sister Marilyn and Sister Clare were able to provide the sisters and employees in attendance, with a modern-day framework for both understanding how our individual personalities affect our daily decisions, as well as learning how to best live and work with other personality types.

All of the sisters and employees gained new perspectives from the teachings and concepts of our different personality types. During the break-out sessions we worked in groups to share our personality traits. Laughter filled the spaces of the chapel as we learned to embrace both our differences and our similarities. As we are taught in Romans: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them" we are called by God to embrace and hone our gifts to His glory.



Whitewater News

by Anne Madeleine Brost, OSB



Kannah Creek

The Whitewater Mission near Grand Junction is surrounded by dry mountain desert and blessed with an abundance of cottonwood trees along Kannah Creek which flows through the property.

Every spring the residents of Kannah Creek Valley wonder "what will the creek do this year?" And "how fast and high will the snow melt be from the Grand Mesa?" The spring of 2014 was more uncertain than other years because there was a lot of snow on

the Mesa and the cold weather lasted into May. The sisters expected some overflow on their driveway but that didn't happen because the runoff was very gradual. The water table was high enough for the sump pump in the basement to be on for a week. The creek returned to its clear and cool liveliness after a few weeks.

Kannah Creek is a vibrant symbol of the Divine Mystery: constant movement that brings Life in many ways; sometimes noisy yet almost silent in the winter; a small stream that empties into the Gunnison River, then joins the Colorado River on its way to the Pacific Ocean, part of life on this earth.

Benet Hill Monastery * 3190 Benet Ln. * Colorado Springs, CO 80921* PH:719-633-0655, ext.116

*The Monastery is situated in the woodland setting of the Black Forest
located in northeast Colorado Springs, off Highway 83.*