

The Review

of Benet Hill Monastery



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The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, will bless us.
Psalm 67: 6-7



Message from Prioress

by Clare Carr, OSB; Prioress



"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, will bless us." -Psalm 67: 6-7

Dear Friends and Families,

The Colorado harvest has been breath taking this year with reds, yellows, and fiery oranges, not to mention the pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and corn all of us have eaten at the monastery this summer. Every season is a reminder of change. It is an opportunity to evaluate our lives again.

***What are we doing to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
How do we love ourselves and our neighbors?
Are we spending time in quiet, reflecting on the importance of each passing day
with a gratitude for God's increase?
When was the last time you took a day to just be?***

Or are you just caught up in the frenzy the world offers? I was reminded the other day of the wisdom of one of my clients. Instead of listening to the radio during his commute every day after work, he turns off the radio and allows the stillness to settle him. The seasons of change are our teachers. Perhaps we can look at the spring as the time of the newness and achievement in our youth, summer as a time for laid back perspective of our middle years and fall as the season of wisdom experienced in remembering our past. As we move into winter, it is a time of quiet regeneration, hidden in the dark unknown. The harvest of life is rich, ***"the earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us."***

As you read through the following pages, you will note the new faces we have invited into our lives here at the monastery. We have a number of new oblates and a growing staff. We celebrate the second anniversary of opening *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique*. Thanks to many of you, our store is growing. Please keep us in mind if you are moving or redecorating. I am also very proud of Sister Jan Ginzkey, who was elected to represent our region with the Leadership Conference for Women Religious. She is among twenty women who are setting the course for the future of religious life, not only here in the United States, but also for women missioned from the states worldwide.

We are grateful to all of you and for the ways your journeys and changing seasons touch our lives. Blessings to all during this abundant season and as always, we invite and welcome you to our monastery.

Blessings,



Sister Clare Carr OSB

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Deepest Sympathy for the Loss of Sisters' Family Members

In deepest sympathy we remember our dear sisters and their families who have lost loved ones.

Jan Ginzkey, OSB for the loss of her father, Bob Ginzkey.

Lucile Hartmann, OSB for the loss of her sister, Cecilia Thyer.

Mary Jane Vigil, OSB for the loss of her great nephew, Jay Vigil.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." -Psalm 147: 3-5





Benet Hill Hosts Region 13 Vocation Meeting

by Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB; Vocation Director

The National Religious Vocation Conference began in 1988 as a combination of the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors (NCRVD) and the National Sisters Vocation Conference (NSVC). Today the NRVC has an annual membership of almost 1,000 women and men, most of whom are vocation ministers for religious congregations. The organization is divided into 14 regions which includes international members. The National Board consists of eight to twelve representatives as well as the NRVC Executive Director.



L to R: Father Tat Hoand, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Vocation Director, Father Stephan Bauer, OSC, Crosier Fathers and Brothers, Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB, Vocation Director at Benet Hill, Brother Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Vocation Director

The National Religious Vocation Conference is a professional organization of vocation ministers that present religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. NRVC promotes vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother, or priest. NRVC reflects all forms of religious life and provides educational opportunities, resources, and other supportive services for spiritual, professional, and personal growth.

On September 20th and 21st, Benet Hill Monastery hosted the Region 13 vocation meeting. This region includes five states: Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming and Utah. The weekend unfolded with prayer and discussion on how to utilize technology to connect with our members in the other states, a business meeting and time for a discernment retreat which allowed each vocation director to share their ministry stories.

Laborers for the Harvest



by Kathy Morgan, osb oblate



L to R: Ellen L. Haroutunian, Denise Carter, Sandra Torres, Eric Peter, Clare Carr, OSB, Katherine Flahive, Nancy Severin, JoAnn Evans and Marilyn Carpenter, OSB

Autumn is fast becoming a fruitful season for oblations. On October 11th during evening vespers service, seven men and women made their final oblations and one woman became an oblate novice. Two weeks later, on October 25th, yet another woman made her final oblation.

Denise Carter and JoAnn Evans of Denver, Katherine Flahive of Littleton, Ellen L. Haroutunian and Eric Peter of Lakewood, Nancy Severin of Fort Morgan, and Sandra Torres of Greeley shared their profound journey of conversion and professed their oblation before the entire assembly. Sabrina Brehmer of Castle Rock became an oblate novice after sharing her thoughtful and deep reflections. Aimee Farrell of Fort Collins soon followed on October 25th, making her final oblation. As is the custom, each professed oblate and novice, along with their family, friends, the Sisters, and the oblates of the monastic community, celebrated with a dinner following the ceremony.

All oblates, novices, and candidates are welcome to join the "Gathering" on Oblate Sunday (third Sunday) of each month. Currently, they are journeying with Gail Murphy on the "Benedictine Value: Hospitality". For further information on the oblates of St. Benedict, please contact Marie Therese (MT) Summers, OSB at mtsummers@benethillmonastery.org.



Aimee Farrell



L to R: Sharon Schuh, Clare Carr, OSB and Sabrina Brehmer

What is more delightful than the voice of the Lord calling to us?
-Rule of Benedict, Prologue, v. 19

Year of Consecrated Life 2015: Wake Up the World

by Naomi Rosenberger, OSB



Pope Francis is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope! Catholics and peoples of all faiths are invited to join with the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery as they celebrate this special year along with the opening of their 50th Jubilee Year, marking the establishment of their monastery as an independent Benedictine Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The community Jubilee Year commences on June 14, 2015 and culminates on June 12, 2016. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, the decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the Church. Major events are planned to celebrate each of these occasions and provide opportunities as stated by the Vatican to "make grateful remembrance of the past" while embracing the "future with hope."

How blessed we are to celebrate and remember these special occasions. A calendar of events will be forthcoming in the spring issue of the *Review*, and special mailings will be sent as *Save the Dates* as we invite you to join with us in remembering, celebrating, and giving thanks!

The *Year of Consecrated Life* as proclaimed by Pope Francis will be celebrated throughout the world in 2015. It will begin on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014 and close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016. In calling for this special year long focus on consecrated life,

A Day in the Life

compiled by Gina Berger, Communications Director



Photo from: <http://www.coloradohomesmag.com>

Sisters Mary John Thomas, Lucile Hartmann, Mary Jane Vigil and Helen Zecha visited Chihuly Nights at the Botanic Gardens in Denver. It was a magical experience!

Sisters Jan Ginzkey and Clare Carr attended the Leadership Conference for Women Religious-Region 13 meeting from September 28 through October 1 at Loretto Center in Denver. They shared with 20 sisters from nine congregations. It was an enriching and informative experience.

Jan Ginzkey, OSB has begun her three year term as representative of Region 13 on the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Board. She coordinates the biannual regional meetings with leadership teams from western MO, KS, CO and OK. She will attend the biannual national board meetings and the annual National Assembly. This organization represents about 85% of women religious in the United States.

Marilyn Carpenter, OSB was gifted with the opportunity to accompany friends on a 10 day tour through southern Ireland in September. Now she is on a pilgrimage with our Sister Diane in her journey with Alzheimer's disease.

In June, Anne Stedman, OSB travelled to Clyde, Missouri to facilitate the election of the Prioress General and Council for the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She then journeyed to Cottonwood, Idaho to facilitate the future goals of St. Gertrude's Federation and election of the Federation President and Council. It was a graced experience for her.



Assistant Prioress and Monastery Coordinators gathering in Yankton, SD. Francine Stallbaumer, OSB is in back row fourth from the right.

Francine Stallbaumer, OSB attended the annual gathering for Assistant Prioresses and Monastery Coordinators at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD from Sept. 26 – 29. Sister Francine always enjoys sharing with other Benedictine sisters as they face common challenges and joys.

Mission Advancement Office

by Jennifer Malenky, Director of Mission Advancement



Greetings Friends and Supporters of Benet Hill Monastery!

I am delighted to be here at Benet Hill as the Director of Mission Advancement as of September 15th, 2014. Formerly, my role was called Development Director and I am stepping into the role so ably held by Sister Rose Ann Barmann until her retirement this summer. We are deeply grateful for all the excellent work she did to raise funds and awareness for our mission and programs!

What is "mission advancement"; you may wonder? As the words imply, my job here is to carry our mission into the future through philanthropy. More commonly known as "development", fundraising has evolved into a bona fide profession complete with credentials, such as the CFRE or Certified Fundraising Executive (a designation I hope to attain in the coming years), and a large community of professionals who all work in service of just one thing: changing and saving lives. Philanthropy is the love of humanity, and development and fundraising are the "hows" of channeling that donor's love as an investment in our work. I am honored to be here at Benet Hill as we re-imagine our Benedictine future and invite greater involvement from the community to help us as we grow and change.

With our upcoming 50th Jubilee, there will be many opportunities to get involved, engaged, and refreshed as we join together in celebration of all that we have achieved in the last half century. I am looking forward to getting to know many of you to thank you for your generosity and to learn your thoughts on how we can work together to continue the work of the sisters in our community. Please feel free to contact me anytime at 719-355-1633 or jmalenky@benethillmonastery.org.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Malenky
Director of Mission Advancement



"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." -Mother Teresa

by Carin Willis, Mission Advancement Assistant

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, I have seen Pikes Peak as a guide post for me, a majestic back drop for both work and life. My working career began in city government and I have spent the past fifteen years working within the technology industry. Some of my interests include hiking, gardening, reading and I recently formed a non-profit to help men and women with chronic pain conditions.

I found my way to Benet Hill Monastery after some soul-searching about where my working life should be spent and felt a call to work within the non-profit realm where the focus is about mission and donor relationships. I have been working in the Mission Advancement Office for five months and I enjoy working with the sisters and staff of Benet Hill and look forward to celebrating their history and on-going mission through their 50th anniversary next year.



Carin Willis,
Mission Advancement
Assistant

New Marketing Director

by Cindy Costanza, Marketing Director



Benet Hill Monastery and the sisters became my spiritual home over three years ago when I began attending Mass here. *Contemplative Journey I & II* and *Befriending the Mystics* classes led me to a much deeper commitment to my faith. Volunteering at *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique* as well as being on the Picnic in the Pines committee led me to a deeper commitment to the sisters.

Following my family tradition, I have been settled into the same home in Colorado Springs for 32 years. I think my commitment to the monastery will follow the family tradition of settling. I am excited to have an opportunity to serve the Benedictine Sisters of Benet Hill as the new Marketing Director. The rich history of the Benedictines in our Colorado Springs community as well as in the entire state is impressive. Educating the community about the monastery and its programs will be a large part of my work here. I also look forward to providing opportunities for people from various walks of life and faith traditions to experience the peaceful presence in this site that the sisters have so beautifully created.

It is an absolute joy to work with such faith-filled and talented people.



First Annual Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program Reunion

by Anne Stedman, OSB; Interim Executive Director

Thirty-eight former students of the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program gathered at the monastery for an experience of renewal and retreat on September 5th and 6th. One of the highlights of our time together was reconnecting students (kindred spirits) from 2002 to 2014.

When asked, "What appealed to you about the BSFP Reunion-Retreat?", one response captured the feeling of the group. "We enjoyed the social time with other BSFP-ers. Thank you for the hospitality of meals. The retreat portion was wonderful; it was a reminder of the spiritual joy of spending time with the people who are open and vulnerable."



Participants listen and share their experiences in ministry.

The visual presentations of the meditation 'You are Mine' and Brene Brown's 'Shame' followed by reflection, prayer and small group sharing were profound. When asked about these experiences of individual and group sharing, the participants responded with phrases like "Very enlivening and grounding" and



Anne Stedman, OSB (center) spends time with former students.

"Very rich – I felt was back in the program with immediate deep, talk, authentic sharing."

Former students were grateful for the use of multiple forms of prayer and felt it opened the door to deep sharing. They asked that the staff "revisit different aspects of our training and allow God to take us deeper still." One participant summed up the total experience simply: "social connections, God connections and group spiritual connection and direction."

Benet Hill Academy Alumnae Reflect on their Reunions

"My Benet Hill classmates are good people who come from Christian homes. Being part of the Benet Hill family was the best place for me to be. I enjoy the reunions each year because it takes me back into time -- a time when the world was wholesome and pure, at least from my perspective. The people from my generation share the same memories and experiences. I enjoy visiting with them and catching up on their life stories. Plus, it is fun to reconnect with people I haven't seen in a while. My Benet Hill friends were my first friends. I also remember fondly the teachers and staff members who made me feel comfortable and safe. Thanks for hosting the reunions. I look forward to them every year." -Debbie Peake Humphrey '75



"The alumnae of Benet Hill were such an integral part to the overwhelming success of the school and provided a remarkable gift to all of us. The gift of friendship—deep and true. The gift of compassion and understanding. The gift of love—unwavering and steadfast. Forgiving us our failings and celebrating our successes. Bringing us together as we truly share a special bond. This is what I reflect on when asked about what it means to be an alumna. It is this uniqueness that I treasure and will for the rest of my days." -Tricia Boatner '75



"I have been coming regularly to Benet Hill Academy reunions for some years and it's always nice to visit with alumnae and sisters who share our bond. These days we don't need to relive high school, who wants to do that?! What I enjoy now is connecting and making new friends with interesting women; we have a lot to offer each other. I'm thankful to be part of the Benet Hill community and the many ways it continues to enrich my life. Much has changed since our time as young women just starting out, but through our reunions the Benet Hill legacy lives on." -Shari Middlemist Silva '78



L to R (front row-seated): Dorothea Alfonsin Watkins '66, Bonnie Browne Collazo '66, Virginia Vey, OSB and Evangeline Salazar, OSB

L to R (middle row): Naomi Rosenberger, OSB, Janice Taucer-Smith '73, Leatha Robison Knox '73, Mary Beth Lahey Netherton '73, Mary Stapelton Graves '74, Peggy Carey '74 and Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

L to R (back row): Bridget Shea '74, Ann Lohmna Rosenow '74, Lucile Hartmann, OSB, Claudia Klein '74, Connie Nachtrab Williamson '67 and Terry Taucer Samson '72

Sisters' Thrift & Boutique Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

by Sandy Bauers, Store Manager and Cindy Costanza, Marketing Director



Loyal customer shopping at Sisters' Thrift & Boutique

There is nothing like an anniversary to have a celebration, and that's exactly what took place during the week of September 2nd through 6th at *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique*. The boutique celebrated its 2nd year anniversary by treating customers and staff to fresh, home-baked goodies and daily specials.

Many comments like those below are from customers who affirm we are accomplishing our goals by furthering the mission of Benet Hill Monastery and providing a pleasant place to shop for nice, gently used items:

"The quality of clothing is excellent here!"

"It's so clean and well organized!"

"It really feels like a boutique!"

"I can't go to Albertson's unless I come in here, too!"

"I come in here to get away from the chaos of life and just relax and browse."

The store has 27 volunteers who offer another perspective.

"This is the first time I have volunteered anywhere. I was welcomed with open arms."

"It makes my week to come here. I love the store and the people."

"Of course, the bargains are a plus. It's wonderful to get 20% off of everything I buy."

"I do this because the camaraderie is amazing. The management is excellent and we are all here to work and get a lot of things out in a short amount of time to maximize our profits for the Sisters at Benet Hill."

Sandy Bauers, the manager of the store since its inception, loves that *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique* is in an ideal location at the Union Town Center on the corner of Research Parkway and Union Blvd. *"We do have the challenge of making sure we continue to get donations and keep spreading the word about our store. We rely heavily on our customers for marketing by spreading the word to friends and family."* Her advice to loyal customers is to go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sisters-Thrift-Boutique> and "like" the store and spread the word to friends. We want to celebrate many more anniversaries! Thank you for your loyal support of this ministry!

Benet Hill Hosts Fashion Show

by Cindy Costanza, Marketing Director

One doesn't normally think of fashion models in a monastery, but that's exactly what we had on the fall morning of October 18th. Benet Hill Monastery Sisters, staff, and *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique* staff as well as volunteers, teamed up for the second time to host a Fashion Show.



Mary Lou Sherwood models a beautiful outfit. GG Speer and Susan Bollwerk (right) also modeled.

At 9:00 am many delighted participants were engaged in conversation while enjoying a continental breakfast of delicious homemade muffins baked by Sister Lucile Hartmann and Richey Osbourne at the monastery, along with fresh fruit and drinks.

The program began with prayer and welcome by Jan Ginzkey, OSB followed by a brief introduction of monastery programs and ministries by Clare Carr, Prioress.



Clare Carr, OSB gives a brief description of ministries offered at Benet Hill.

At 9:45, the "runway" for the models was surrounded by participants ready to enjoy the fashions. Over fifty complete outfits were modeled including accessories of jewelry, purses, scarves, and shoes. Men's fashions were also modeled by four area parishioners, and children's fashions were modeled by two delightful young ladies, ages 6 and 11. The rest of our models were either volunteers and assistant managers from *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique* or parishioners from around the diocese. All enjoyed a great time!



Many customers purchased items for sale after the fashion show.

Ministry Calendar

Rev. Jane Vennard: Fully Awake & Truly Alive
Saturday, November 15
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Fee: \$50 (BSFP Students \$40)

Workshop Description: *In a culture enthralled with technology, striving, and speed, people of many faith traditions long to slow down, pay attention and wake up to the present moment. Sharing from her new book, **Fully Awake and Truly Alive: Spiritual Practices to Nurture Your Soul**, Jane will discuss and guide you in some practices that can be incorporated immediately into your daily lives.*

REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit our website at www.benethillmonastery.org

Benet Hill Monastery
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Chamber Music in the Pines

by Pam Chaddon



TEMPORAL & ETERNAL

Sunday, November 2 2:30 pm

On Sunday November 2, 2014 at 2:30, Benet Hill presented the second concert in the Chamber Music in the Pines series. The program, entitled "*Temporal and Eternal*" featured local mezzo-soprano, Valerie Nicolosi performing three songs by American female composer, Amy Beach (1867-1944) - *Mirage*, *Stella Viatoris* and *Chanson D'Amour*. Also on the program was Beethoven's famous Piano Trio Op. 70 No. 1, the '*Ghost*', with Jeri Jorgensen, violin; Pam Chaddon, cello and pianist, and Dr. Zahari Metchov, professor of piano at Colorado State University Pueblo. Rounding out the program was Ravel's famous A Minor Piano. KCME General Manager, George Preston, presented a pre-concert talk at 1:45. Light fare and wine were served at intermission.

Next Concert is :

MOZART & BEETHOVEN

Sunday, March 15 2:30 pm

Purchase Tickets online:
benethillmonastery.org

Adult: \$20

Seniors/Military: \$17

Student: \$10



Chamber Music in the Pines is under the fiscal sponsorship of Pikes Peak Arts Council, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations to Chamber Music in the Pines should be made payable to Pikes Peak Arts Council FBO Chamber Music in the Pines (also memo CMP) and mailed to: Benet Hill, Attn: Chamber Music in the Pines, 3190 Benet Lane, Colo. Springs, CO 80921

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