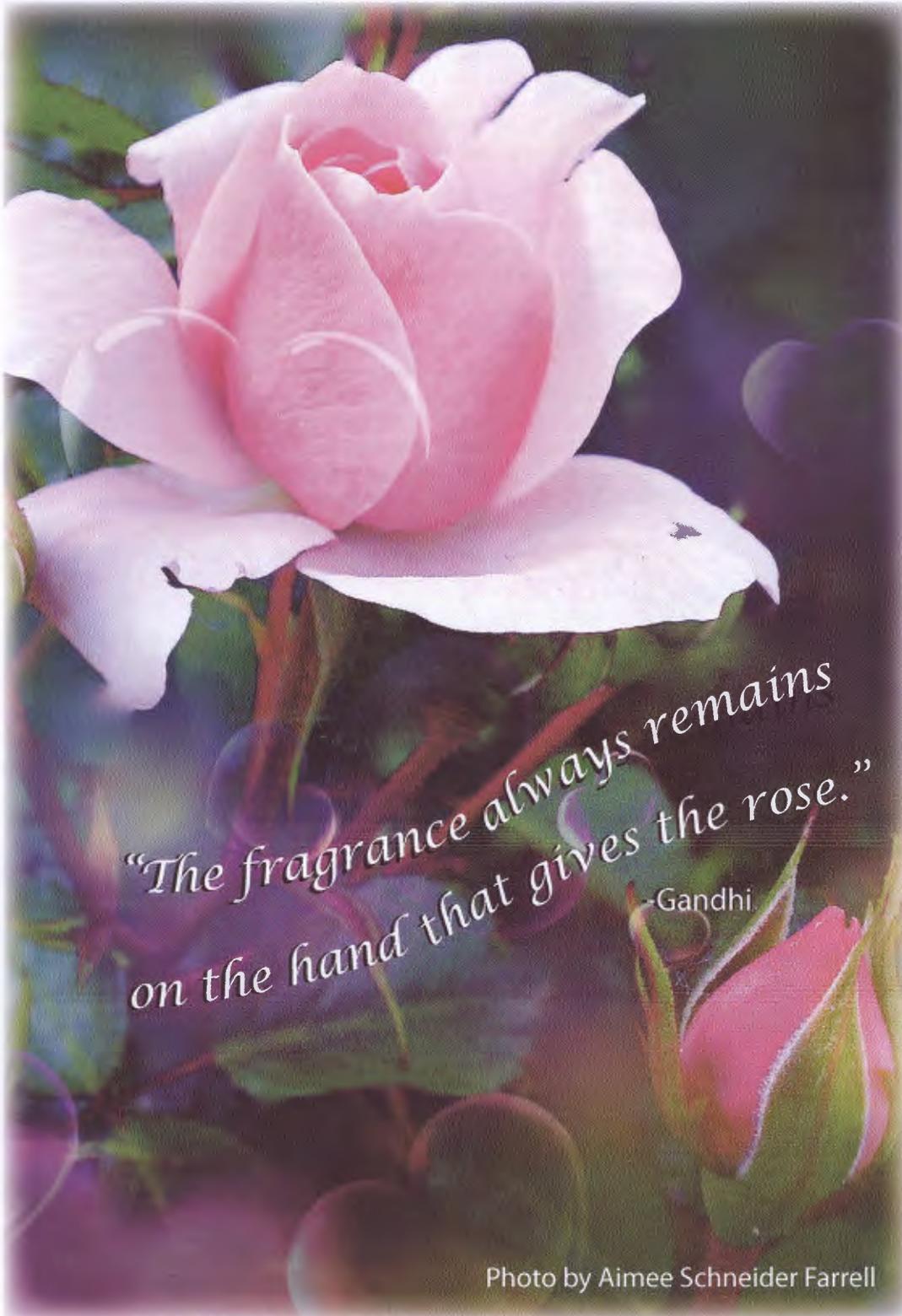


# *The Review*

*of Benet Hill Monastery*



VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1/ 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Winter 2014



*"The fragrance always remains  
on the hand that gives the rose."*

*-Gandhi*

Photo by Aimee Schneider Farrell



"The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose."  
- Gandhi



Dear Friends and Family,

In the words of Thomas Merton, *"The grace of God utterly and wholly permeates our lives"*. We are so blessed with the number of students, alumni, oblates and friends who make our mission possible. Over these forty-nine years of service, hundreds, if not thousands; of people have touched us with love. I believe we have had an impact on their lives as well. The Sunday Assembly and Schola are great examples of how we bless each other in this mutual giving through sharing Liturgy. Together we have left a legacy of grace in our world. Recently I thanked a volunteer for her service at the monastery and her reply to me was, *"Oh, Sister, don't thank me, I receive so much more from this community than you will ever know."* Yes, we have shared our legacy and we have received the legacy of so many of you. Thank you!

In the narratives on the following pages, you will encounter some of our *'lasting connections'* and legacy moments, with our outreach to the people of Afghanistan, to prisoners, to migrants of Colorado Springs and through our program offerings. We have profoundly known the grace of God, and as Benedictine women, *"impelled by the Word of God"* we will continue this legacy.

On a more serious and grave note, you may not know that only 6% of the religious orders in the United States are funded through their retirement years. That means 94% are not funded. We, as Benedictines, are part of the 94% who receive no retirement funding. Frequently, people say to me, *"Doesn't the church take care of you? Doesn't the Vatican send you a monthly check?"* The answer to that question is, *"No"*. Religious women and men have supported themselves through the work of their own hands and the generosity of their benefactors. People like you, have supported us over the many years. At the present time, we are meeting our current needs. We try to live simply; however, like many of you, we face the difficult and unknown future of caring for our aging sisters. We humbly invite you to consider remembering us in your will or estate planning. This is a way of participating to ensure our future and the future of our Benedictine presence. *(If you want to read more about the status of religious women you may want to reference the Colorado Catholic Herald, Jan. 3, 2014, pg 19.)*

Thank you for your continued love and support,

*Sister Clare Carr OSB* 



**The Sunday Assembly**

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy."  
-Rabindranath Tagore



**Schola-L to R; Janet Houthoofd, Mike Fitzsimmons, Terry Hicks and Heilke Pratt enjoy an appreciation brunch with the sisters.**

In our fall issue of the Review, we sincerely apologize for omitting the iconographer credit for the image of the Icon of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica written by +Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB © St. Scholastica Monastery Duluth, Minnesota

# Called to Journey

by Kathy Morgan, Oblate

*"Are you hastening toward your heavenly home? Then with Christ's help, keep this little rule that we have written for beginners." -RB 73:8-9*

An oblate is called to journey into a deeper relationship with God through the way of St. Benedict. Indeed, anyone considering such a call should seek the answers to the questions, "Is it God's will?" and "Will becoming an oblate draw me closer to Christ and the Church, given my state in life and other responsibilities?" A genuine desire to grow in holiness, and a sense of gratitude for the gift of *The Rule* and a Benedictine community, can generally be interpreted as a sign of God's call to begin such a journey.



L to R: Jim Farrell, Clare Carr, OSB and Aimee Farrell



L to R: Katherine Claytor, MT Summers, OSB, Laura Knelange, Carol Peterson and Sabrina Brehmer.

On November 30, 2013 in Our Lady of Peace Chapel, twelve people began or continued their Benedictine journey. Sabrina Brehmer (Castle Rock), Katherine Claytor (Highlands Ranch), and Laura Knelange (Salida) were mentored by Carol Peterson, Sharon Schuh, and Marie Therese Summers, OSB (Director of Oblates) and received as oblate candidates.

Denise Carter and JoAnn Evans (Denver), Aimee and Jim Farrell (Fort Collins), Katherine Flahive and Ellen Haroutunian (Littleton), Eric Peter (Lakewood), Nancy Severin (Fort Morgan), and Sandra Torres (Greeley) were received as oblate novices. This group was mentored by Marilyn Carpenter, OSB (Oblate Facilitator). As is the practice, the novices received a copy of the *Holy Rule* and a Benedictine Medal. Each candidate and novice was introduced to the monastic community and, afterwards, all celebrated with a dinner in the dining room.



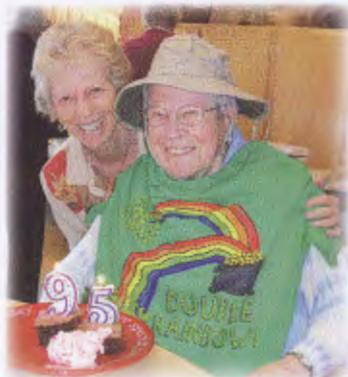
Standing L to R: Nancy Severin, Ellen Haroutunian, MT Summers, OSB, Sandy Torres, Marilyn Carpenter, OSB, Katherine Flahive, JoAnn Evans, Denise Carter; Seated-Eric Peter

**For more information on becoming an oblate of St. Benedict, please contact Marie Therese (MT) Summers, OSB at [mtsummers@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:mtsummers@benethillmonastery.org).**



## Sister Leann Celebrates her 95th Birthday!

by Rose Ann Barmann, OSB



Clare Carr, OSB with Sister Leann.

During our noon meal on Wednesday, February 12, we were honored to celebrate and enjoy a very special 95th birthday for Leann Cogan, OSB. Our community and her friends know some of Sister Leann's secrets for a long life. She loves CHOCOLATE !!!!!, swimming, fishing, hunting and horseback riding. Her longevity secrets also include her love of family, her monastic community, countless friends and her deep faith in God and people. She also has a strong affection for the family ranch and her roots in Buena Vista, CO.

Sister Leann has a wonderful and lasting reputation as a teacher, administrator and chaplain for over 70 years. As a faithful monastic, Sister Leann is a model for her community, oblates and friends of the "good zeal" (Ch 72 RB) that monastics ought to have... "Let them prefer nothing whatever to the love of Christ."

*"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." -chardin*



## Lasting Connections & Friendship

by Naomi Rosenberger, OSB

If you would like to experience a most delightful evening, gather together three generations of the Stapleton Family and listen as they share their connection with Benet Hill Academy and monastery! Flo, the charming and insightful matriarch of the group, Terry Stapleton Graves '74, and Erinn Graves, Terry's daughter, energized our non-stop conversation with cherished memories.



L to R: Terry Stapleton Graves '74, Flo Stapleton, Erinn Graves and Gail Stapleton Hoskins '77 (inset)

Stationed at Ft. Carson, the Stapletons had numerous friends who knew of Benet Hill Academy. Terry, too, had the profound influence of Mrs. Sullivan, her teacher at Pauline Memorial and the mother of Deirdre Sullivan '69. With this encouragement, Flo and Jack made the decision to enroll Terry and a friendship of more than 44 years began!

When Terry enrolled in Benet Hill, her dad experienced his first Dad and Daughter Show. Terry stated, "The shows strengthened my

relationship with Dad because I had 'my' time with him, very special times!"

By the time Jack retired from the Army in 1975, he had formed many friendships with the other dads in the show; they recognized him as a dedicated and talented individual. Jack left the army, but he never left Benet Hill! Flo and he were present for the Dad and Daughter Shows, the auctions, and Friends of Benet Hill. Gail's enrollment at BHA simply extended her parent's commitment. Flo shared her nursing expertise by visiting our older sisters of the community in the skilled care area of Benet Hill Monastery on Chelton Road.

Accompanying her on these trips of mercy were Terry and her young daughter, Erinn. Erinn remembered singing in German to Sister Bertrand Niederbauer and watching her face light up with a smile, because Sister was unable to speak. These visits, and hearing her mom describe the wonderful "sticky buns" that Sisters Lucile and Mary John made for the students, brought Erinn into a close relationship with the community. Erinn comes to Benet Hill on the 4th Sunday of each month and helps Sister Lucile bake rolls for the Sunday worshipping community. She describes rising in the middle of the night and meeting "Lucy" in the kitchen at 4 a.m. as a real blast! Sister Lucile recognizes her help as the perfect gift of connection!

We returned home from our evening giving thanks for the years of loyal and loving service we have received and continue to receive from the Stapleton family. We praise God for the blessings of friendship!

## St. Benedict Goes to Prison



by Rev. Joanne Buchanan-Brown, Chaplain, DWCF, Oblate

The stark room with the cement floor and dull paint has been prepared by the wisdom of St. Benedict: *Use what you have and be glad for it. Treat each object, however common and plain, as sacred. Expect Christ to show up.* Twenty plastic chairs are placed in a circle and a plain classroom table is transformed into an altar. A soft "chant for peace" plays on the "boombox" in the corner.

All is ready as the women begin to come. Weary, worn, beautiful. Some excited, some quiet and sad, some familiar, some new to this midday communion service fashioned after the monastic tradition of the "hours" of daily prayer. This gathering, called "Live in the Light", happens in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, in the middle of the prison. You can find us here every Wednesday afternoon at 2 pm—at Denver Women's Correctional Facility, the only maximum security women's prison in the state of Colorado, where nearly 1,000 women are incarcerated as convicted felons.

The women come to settle into silence and "listen with the ear of their hearts". They come to practice group lectio divina, to hear the wisdom of Joan Chittister, to pray the prayers of St. Hildegard von Bingen, to sing songs and blessings of peace and hope, to learn to live, day by day, the *Rule of Benedict* in this harsh and foreign land of prison. As an oblate with the Benet Hill community, this is what I learn from the God-filled sisters, this is what I try to live myself, and this is what I bring to my other sisters in this alternative community where God also lives. I cannot imagine a better life than this. Thanks be to God!



Rev. Joanne Buchanan-Brown

"The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind.  
But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions." -Chanakya

# Benefit Concert for Robin Kissinger

by Katherine Wawersich, OSB

Shortly after the first concert of *Trio Paradis* on October 20, 2013 at Benet Hill Monastery, Robin Kissinger, pianist, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Robin was also the accompanist for our Sunday Liturgies. Wanting to support Robin, the Benet Hill community and her many friends around the world, rallied to assist her by hosting a benefit concert on December 15th in Our Lady of Peace Chapel. Through the financial support of a silent auction, donations and a free will offering, we sent Robin a check for \$9,000.00 to help with her medical bills.

Sadly, Robin died peacefully on Christmas Eve afternoon surrounded by her family and listening to the concert that she played on October 20th. Hearing of Robin's death, her very good friend and cellist, Pam Chaddon, of *Trio Paradis* said, "Robin's deep understanding of beauty in the human spirit, in art, in music and in the natural world will be remembered always." Robin's gift of music will be cherished as we continue to pray for her and her family and friends suffering this deep loss.

*Trio Paradis* was a dream for Robin and this dream will continue at Benet Hill Monastery on March 30, 2014 at 2:30 pm with a concert by *Trio Paradis*, featuring the "Unsung Voices: Women in Music." We invite you to save the date and plan to attend. Please register online for tickets.



Robin Kissinger  
April 17, 1952 - December 24, 2013

## Monastery Moments...

by Therese O'Grady, OSB

On a Sunday morning in November 2013, after the Eucharistic celebration, the sisters and the assembly experienced a special presentation by Kathy Kelly from *VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE*.



Kathy Kelly



For over 20 years Kathy has visited Iraq and Afghanistan as an ambassador for the women and children in these war torn regions. Kathy told us of the women in refugee camps who were feeling useless and depressed because they had nothing to do. So they made the decision to make duvets and blankets for the people in remote areas to warm them during the cold winters. When the duvets are completed, young boys carry them to the outer areas where they are needed. Kathy's stories of her work with the people, especially with children, was compelling, and we wanted to take part in the latest project. The gathered assembly and the Benet Hill community donated over \$600 to help with this effort. To donate to this project send to *VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE*, 1249 West Argyle St., Chicago, IL 60640.

**Francine Stallbaumer, OSB** attended the Workshop and Retreat for Assistant Prioresses and Monastery Coordinators at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana from Sept. 26 - Oct. 1, 2013. Sister Francine enjoyed getting together with other monastery coordinators as they discussed the topic of the conference: *Balancing of prayer, work and leisure in the midst of our daily lives*.

**On December 21, 2013** Clare Carr, OSB and Jan Ginzkey, OSB had the delightful opportunity to participate in the *Bob Telmosse's Christmas Give Away*. One of Benet Hill's volunteers, Patty O'Halloran, is on the committee which organizes and coordinates the *Give Away*. Her enthusiasm is contagious. Sister Clare wrapped presents the children picked out for their parents. Sister Jan accompanied families as they selected toys, gifts for parents, a turkey, bread and dessert. Two children received a bicycle for a gift. We were thrilled to participate in such a marvelous community service project!



by Ana Cloughly, OSB

In December 2013, six sisters from Benet Hill participated in Las Posadas in Colorado Springs. Las Posadas is a traditional celebration in certain countries symbolizing the search of Mary and Joseph for a place for Jesus' birth. Las Posadas is of special significance when seen in the light of immigration, as we recognize the story of the Holy Family is also the story of a migrant family.

Today in our city, migrants encounter similar difficulties and rejection. After the prayerful procession, we gathered at Marian House for a meal, traditional dancing and a video presentation about Family Immigration Services offered in the local area. Together with Catholic Charities and the people of Colorado Springs we are affirming our intention to be a welcoming presence to the "stranger" in our midst.





*"It is in giving that we receive." - St. Francis*

Dear Family and Friends,

The words of St. Francis of Assisi, *"It is in giving that we receive"* resonates in my spirit as I look back over 2013 and realize how much we, as a community, have received from you, our families and friends. We have experienced your generosity in friendships, prayerful presence and financial support. Our Benedictine Vision and Mission impels us to reach out in *"Life-Giving Service"* to the many who come to our monastery as well as to our mission homes.

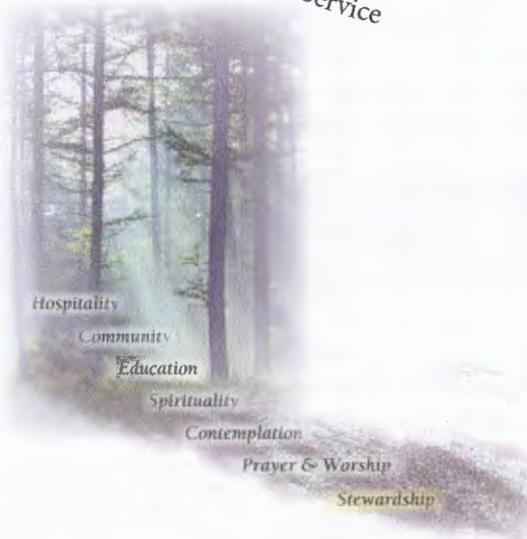
Your goodness has spread in all directions of our lives. We express our sincere gratitude for the many who contributed to our Annual Appeal and to Colorado Gives. Our goal for this year's appeal was \$60,000.00. Through your generosity, we exceeded that goal and realized \$63,620.00. God bless your kindness to us!



In Gratitude,  
Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

## MISSION OUTREACH FUND

*Pathways to Transforming Lives...  
...Through Benedictine Service*



In October, 2012, we launched the *"Pathways to Transforming Lives... through Benedictine Service"* campaign with the initial "seed money" of \$325,000.00 that the Benet Hill sisters invested and saved toward this fund. The goal of this campaign is to raise \$1,000,000.00 as an Investment Fund for our Mission Outreach. Over the past thirteen months \$754,628.00 was raised through pledges, donations and investments. Thanks to our families and friends we have reached 76% of our goal toward one million. We invite you to prayerfully consider contributing to this investment that supports the Mission of the Benet Hill community. You can help us reach the finish line!

## PLANNED GIVING:

Become a part of the enduring Benedictine Legacy. To remember the Benet Hill community in your ESTATE planning, our legal title is: Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs, Inc. Please contact Naomi Rosenberger, OSB, Donor Relations at 633-0655 ext. 109 or [snaomi@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:snaomi@benethillmonastery.org).

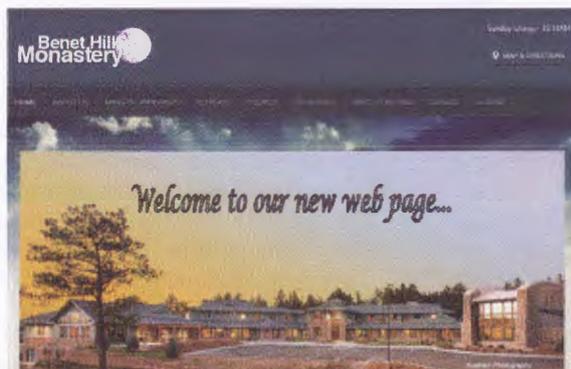


Naomi Rosenberger, OSB  
Donor Relations

*"We support this community of sisters who have given, and continue to give their all to make a better world. They provide a Christian welcome to all!" -Cliff & Jane Eisenach*

**"Getting to know you... Twilight Retreat"** was held on Wednesday evening, February 26th for the Benet Hill Advisory Board and the Development Advisory Team. We engaged in a process of information gathering and education for the purpose of a better understanding and insight into Benet Hill's Charism, Vision and Mission as a Benedictine community.

## New Web Site to Launch



Please look for our new web site to be launched by the end of March. The new site will be accessible to mobile applications and will have a streamlined look and feel as we continue reaching out to individuals interested in Benedictine life and values.

Our web address will remain the same: [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org).



# The Spirituality of Healing



by Anne Stedman, OSB; Colorado Springs Coordinator of BSFP



Graduates and students of the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program of Benet Hill Monastery.

Past and present Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program students and instructors joined four hundred plus participants in the *Spirituality of Healing Retreat* given by James Finley, PhD on January 10-11 in Arvada, Colorado. During this two day contemplative experience, hosted by Spiritual Direction Colorado, James Finley focused on the exploration of the seven steps of spiritual healing. Drawing on his experience as a clinical psychologist and his knowledge of the contemplative traditions, James Finley guided us experientially through the process of becoming a healing presence in the midst of a suffering world.

A novice under Thomas Merton, Finley has been profoundly touched by Merton's primary teaching: *"The grace of God utterly and wholly permeates our lives, just as they are*

*in the present moment. All of our failures and weaknesses are absolutely irrelevant in the face of such all-pervading grace."* James shared his personal story, guided us in the meditative practice of sitting in the presence of our loving God, and encouraged us to tend to our personal healing with concrete ways to journey with the losses and suffering in our lives. He cautioned us to:

- \*be careful of compromised presence and the punitive voice within ourselves;
- \*be in relationship with someone who sees us more clearly than we see ourselves;
- \*look at the edges of our hurts and deal with them a little at a time;
- \*explore the edges of our growth and be awake to the peak moments in our spiritual journey;
- \*and believe in and trust the oceanic love that God has for us and all humanity.

Together, we all were reminded: *"Only in our own transformation can we get in touch with our own preciousness; and then we can see, experience and share the preciousness of others on their journey."*

## This is of God

by Ana Cloughly, OSB; Director of Contemplative Vision

Advent naturally turns our focus toward Mary awaiting the birth of her son and God's promise. Mary is the exemplar for followers of Christ. Her unreserved "Yes", her patience, pondering and especially her deep trust in and love of God inspires us. We know the stories well, but there is still much to learn. For our Advent Retreat, we invited Arshad Yousufi, an Islamic leader in Colorado Springs to share with us the stories of Mary, the Mother of Jesus found in the Quran. These stories engaged our spiritual imagination and gave us insights to the virtues of faith that Christians and Muslims share, admiration for Mary's life of prayer, her "Yes", her obedience and her trust in God. Over sixty people listened as Arshad told the stories and then participated in a lively discussion with mutual respect. All agree that Mary, a woman of great faith, shows us all the way.

*Please join us for our Lenten Retreat on March 15: Praying with Art~Visio Divina -details on page 8.*



Arshad Yousufi

Below L to R: Debbie Robertson, Milt Spiker, Mary Garvin, Mary Ann Spiker, Cindy Mizes, Pat Johnson and guest.



## Sympathies

**We offer our deepest sympathies to:**

Olive Geiger, OSB on the death of her brother, Bill Geiger.

Rose Ann Barmann, OSB on the death of her Aunt, Margaret (Lawrence) Barmann.

Sisters Leann, Kathleen and Elizabeth Cogan, OSB on the death of their cousins, Joan Mason and James Tomlin.

Joseph Marie Jacobsen, OSB on the loss of her nephew, David Benavides, and her niece, Susan Jacobsen.



## Benedictine Spirituality Center in the Pines Calendar of Events:

**March 8, Saturday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - Welcoming Prayer Workshop** sponsored by Contemplative Vision. The purpose of the Welcoming Prayer is to deepen our relationship with God through consenting in the ordinary activities of our day. \$35

**March 15, Saturday, 9:00am to 1:00 pm - Lenten Retreat: "Ways of Seeing: Exploring and Praying with Images for Yesterday and Today"** presented by Ana Cloughly, OSB. Join us for our Lenten retreat as Sister Ana helps us explore how we "see" images and guides us through the practice of *Visio Divina* (praying with a variety of images from the past and present). \$40

**March 30, Sunday, 2:30 pm - Trio Paradis: *Unsung Voices - Women in Music*** celebrates Women's History Month with Composers Clare Schumann, Germaine Tailleferre, Elisabeth de La Guerre and Jennifer Higdon. General Admission \$20; Students \$10.

**First Saturday of each month, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm -Centering Prayer:** The Contemplative Vision Program takes you on a journey of inner transformation, a spiritual quest that goes beyond the head and directly to the heart. Donations appreciated.

**May 17, Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - C.S. Lewis~*The Man and his Pen*** sponsored by Contemplative Vision. You are invited to join Dr. Randy Jessen for a day of immersion with C.S. Lewis. \$65

Please Register for all classes online or call 633-0655 ext. 132.

*Benet Hill Monastery*  
3190 Benet Lane  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1509  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Colorado Springs  
CO  
Permit No. 576

The *Review* is published quarterly by Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs, Inc., 3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1509  
PHONE: 719/633-0655 FAX: 719/471-0403 EMAIL: info@benethillmonastery.org WEBSITE: www.benethillmonastery.org  
STAFF: EDITOR - Rose Ann Barmann, OSB; DESIGN/LAYOUT - Gina Berger; COVER PHOTOGRAPHER - Aimee Schneider Farrell  
CONTRIBUTORS - Sisters and staff of Benet Hill Monastery, students, alumni and friends.

## Through Him, With Him & In Him



by Mary Jane Vigil, OSB ~ Liturgy Director



Katherine Wawersich, OSB

Sisters Katherine and Mary Jane were among more than 700 who gathered for the 52nd Annual Study Week of the Southwest Liturgical Conference in Beaumont, Texas, January 22-25.

The focus of this conference, "*Through Him, with Him and in Him*," helped us foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of liturgy and the vision of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (Document on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council).

Opening the conference, keynote speaker, Bishop Flores, from the Diocese of Brownsville, spoke of a call to action, evangelization and the challenges of reaching the secular world in light of "*Evangelii Gaudium*." (Document on Evangelization from Pope Francis).

On Thursday, Rev. Msgr. Kevin Irwin spoke on: "*Liturgy is Who We Are; Liturgy from the Inside*." He discussed, where churches have been faithful in carrying out the renewal of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and where we have fallen short. He presented the challenges of people living out their Christian commitment in a high tech, post-modern world. There is a fine line between believers and belongers. The church needs believers who "belong," who are committed to the church and to each other. In the afternoon, Rev. Jan Michael Joncas addressed "*The Challenge of Worship 50 years after*

*Sacrosanctum Concilium*." This included the question: *In the process of liturgical reform, what has been received and implemented and what yet needs to be implemented by a church on pilgrimage?*

Dr. C. Vanessa White gave a very spirited talk on "*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*". She believes that how we journey through the week opens or blocks the movement of the Holy Spirit for Sunday worship. Friday evening everyone attended the *Faithful Servant Award Banquet* followed by a rousing concert with Jaime Cortez, Bob Hurd and other OCP Musicians.

Mr. Pedro Rubalcava's topic "*The People as a Sacrament of Unity*", discussed diversity in the church and the importance of welcoming and engaging all who come. He emphasized the need for sensitivity in the areas of Liturgical enculturation through language, music, art etc. The entire conference was very enriching, educational and affirming of the Second Vatican Council.



Mary Jane Vigil, OSB

Benet Hill Monastery \* 3190 Benet Lane \* Colorado Springs, CO 80921 \* PH:719-633-0655  
The Monastery is situated in a rural woodland setting of Black Forest  
located in northeast Colorado Springs, off Highway 83.