

The Review

of Benet Hill Monastery



VOLUME 58, NUMBER 3 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Fall/Winter 2020



Message from the Prioress

By *Sister Clare Carr, OSB, Prioress*



*"Behold, I am going to do something new,
now it will spring up; Will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."*

-Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends and Families,

*"...that is just the time that God will be born in a place we can't
imagine and won't believe." -Ann Weems*

When I read this poem, I thought, "Yes!" There are so many ways we miss seeing how God comes to us in our daily lives-in all our daily tasks and encounters with others. It may be in the laughter of a good joke, in the pain of a companion, in the beauty of the moonlit night, in the tears of a child or friend, in the many daily choices we make moment by moment. God is born in the immigrant child on the border, in the faces of color, in the refugee seeking asylum, in the confusion of our election, in those seeking justice for the broken, in the unemployed and in those who are losing their homes due to this pandemic. We are in such need for the hope of a Christ born in the midst of loss, pain, uncertainty and death. I wrote to a friend today and said all that has happened brings me to the altar of prayer daily.

There is so much that most of us have- may we forgo buying more "stuff" this Christmas and give to those who do not know where their next meal will come from by supporting local organizations. We can consider giving to shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, or national organizations, such as Food for the Poor or Casa de Paz in Denver, who cares for immigrants waiting to resettle in the United States.

May you have a blessed Christmas and New Year. Let us continue to pray for each other, for our medical providers, for a vaccine, for peace, for hope and a new tomorrow.

Blessings,

Sister Clare Carr OSB

"What we do now, echoes in eternity."

-Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

Makers of Eternity

*Isn't it strange, that princes and kings
and clowns that frolic in circus rings,
And ordinary folk like you and me
are makers of eternity.*

*For each is given a bag of tools,
an hourglass, and a book of rules;
And each shall have built when his hour has flown,
a stumbling block or a stepping stone.*

*One step upon another and the longest walk is ended,
one stitch upon another and the longest rend is mended,
So never be discouraged by the things you have to do,
and think that such a mighty task you never shall get through;*

*Just endeavor day by day,
another point to gain,
And soon the mountain that you feared
will have become a plain.*

-R. L. Sharpe

Cover

The cover image art was created by Marica Heftiand is entitled **"Alma Mater Redemptrix"** Terracotta Relief Sculpture

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

Sisters [Kathleen](#) and [Elizabeth](#) Cogan, OSB for the loss of their brother, Joe Cogan.

Much gratitude to all the sisters and staff who contribute photos, articles and proofreading/editing for each edition of [The Review](#).

We Remember...

By [Sister Ana Cloughly, OSB](#)

Sister Josie Sanchez, OSB



*"I will sing forever
of your love."*

-Psalm 89:1

[Sister Josie Sanchez](#) died peacefully on October 28, 2020. There is so much to share about Sister Josie: her joy for life, her lifelong love for music, her playfulness, her creativity expressed in fun skits which she composed and directed, her life as a teacher and her

life ministering to people in poverty. Sister Josie lived her life to the fullest.

Born on March 1, 1935 in Monte Vista, Colorado to Jose Pulidor Sanchez and Senida Sandoval Sanchez, Sister Josie was baptized Maria Richardita Fedelina. As the oldest, Josie took on many responsibilities caring for her siblings. She would say, *"We didn't have much, but we always had each other."* Josie's call from God to become a sister was influenced by one of her teachers. In high school, Josie came to know the Benedictine sisters of Mt. St. Scholastica and entered in 1953 making her final monastic profession in 1958.

Sister Josie earned her BA in Elementary Education from Regis College, Denver, she completed a MA in Learning Disabilities from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. She taught as a special needs teacher for eight years in Walsenburg, Colorado. She also taught kindergarten through middle school and served as a school principal for over forty years throughout Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Colorado.

The center of Sister Josie's life was her love for God and her commitment to the Benedictine way of life. She was one of the charter members of Benet Hill Monastery, served as assistant prioress from 1991-1995 and then moved to Alamosa, Colorado to serve as Coordinator for Christian Community Services.

This ministry involved bringing church service groups from all over the country to do repairs and painting on the homes of the poor. She recalled a Buddhist saying, *"A generous heart, gentle speech and a life of service and compassion renews humanity."*

In her later years, Sister Josie was the director of [Benet Pines Retreat Center](#) and then taught in Grand Junction as a religion teacher for migrant families.

Music was a gift and passion of Sister Josie. She cantored at Liturgy of the Hours, Sunday Eucharistic celebrations, sang in choirs and other community celebrations. One of her favorite songs was *Eres Tu*, which she sang at a community celebration only a few months ago.

Sister Josie was a woman steeped in life and love. Her deep love for God carried her through life's difficulties and filled her with joyful song. Sharing her joy through music was her gift to all who knew her. If there are any words that can capture Sister Josie's life, they would be, *"Still singing a joyful song, now in the choirs of heaven."* She will be greatly missed by her community and her family that she loved deeply.

Sister Diane Liston, OSB



*"As a deer longs
for streams of
water, so I long
for you, my God"*

-Psalm 42:1

[Sister Diane Liston](#), born to Harry and Anna Liston, October 13, 1932, died peacefully on November 21, 2020. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa and was baptized, Patricia Ann. She was known to many as Patsy

and attended elementary school at Holy Family and St. Peter's in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She chose to attend high school at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. Two weeks after graduation she entered the monastery of Mt. St. Scholastica and made her final monastic profession in 1955.

When Sister Diane first entered monastic life, she wasn't particularly interested in teaching, but it soon became clear that teaching would become one of her greatest passions and she earned a BA in music education from Mt. St. Scholastica College in Atchison, KS. Music was one of Sister Diane's greatest gifts and she used that gift to teach music in grade schools throughout Kansas, Missouri and Colorado.

Sister Diane was a charter member of Benet Hill Monastery and once she moved to Colorado Springs, she taught at Sacred Heart Parish and she helped begin the elementary school for Holy Trinity Parish. She taught religion and music and directed the chorus at [Benet Hill Academy](#) as well as found time to earn her MA in Theology from St. John Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota. Soon after her graduation, Sister Diane became the Novice Director for Benet Hill Monastery.

During the 1970s and 80s many things changed for Benet Hill. Benet Hill Academy closed and there were new ministries on the horizon. Sister Diane developed a new ministry of Scripture Studies in the form of a four-year program designed to bring the Word of God alive for her students. She dedicated the next 29 years to this ministry. Hundreds of students graduated in Colorado Springs, Parker, Castle Rock and Elizabeth, Colorado. Sister Diane also spent twelve years ministering to people in prisons and local jails teaching Scripture and Centering Prayer.

As a Benedictine, Sister Diane's life was steeped in prayer. She reminded her students that God could be found everywhere and she practiced what she preached. God was her greatest love and she sought to be with her God in many ways: through liturgical prayer, praying with the Word of God, biking, cross country skiing, and hiking to the summit of numerous '14ers' in beautiful Colorado. She also enjoyed reading, creative knitting and crocheting, and attended countless conferences on music. Music touched Sister Diane's heart in ways little else could.

She will be missed by her brother, Jim and her sister-in-law, Betty and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be remembered fondly by her sisters of Benet Hill and her many friends and students, whom she deeply loved and who loved her.

Final Monastic Profession of Sister Deborah Kuhl, OSB

By [Sister Deborah Kuhl, OSB](#)

"Set me as a seal on your heart, a seal on your arm...how good it is to love you."

-Song of Solomon 8:6



L to R: [Sister Clare Carr, Prioress](#),
[Sister Deborah Kuhl](#) and
[Sister Mary Glenn, Mentor](#)

On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020, the Benet Hill Community gave thanks and much gratitude for celebrating the final monastic profession of [Sister Deborah Kuhl, OSB](#). Fr. John Costanzo participated and witnessed via Zoom.

More than anything, I see my final profession as a sign of God's deep love for me and my response of 'Yes' to this gift of love. How good it is to have God love me; how good it is to love God in return. God's sign, God's seal is placed indelibly on my heart for the rest of my days and into eternity; *"for love is stronger than death."*

With final profession, I choose to live a life of stability, fidelity to the monastic way of life and obedience as presented in the [Rule of Benedict](#), and the [Federation of St. Scholastica](#). These promises are the way I choose to live as a monastic here in this monastery. A call I received many years ago has finally come to pass. I pray to be faithful to this call in the days ahead.

Sister Josie wrote, *"Please hurry and become a permanent Benedictine."* I know she was with me as I made my final profession on Thanksgiving Day.

Vocations: "Mary, did you know?"

By [Sister Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB](#)

With elegant simplicity, the Apostle John writes, *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."* (John 1:14). The idea that God became man, is almost unbelievably strange, not as a mere theological concept, but as a concrete event in the history of the world. This mystery of the incarnation is at the heart of the Christian faith.

To say that God became man is one thing, but it is another to imagine a young mother lulling a fussy baby to sleep, hot tears streaming from his pink, sleepy eyes, and to say that this tiny being is God incarnate, the Savior of all, the King of the Universe.

In 1991, Mark Lowry wrote the song, *"Mary Did You Know?"* and in 2014, the group Pentatonix released its striking a cappella version of the song. <https://youtu.be/IfCWN5pJGIE>

Literally, the song rests upon the question, *"Mary, did you know?"* and reflects on Christ's earthly ministry and cosmic reign. Musically, it is simply a lullaby. The sweet sadness of the melody has squeezed tears from the eyes of many a listener—including my own.

Yes, it is a song that is likely to make your mother cry, but in a world grown hard and cold with cynicism, soft-heartedness is greatly needed. Surely, as followers of a God who elevates the meek and childlike, we can allow a song to break the spell of our hopelessness and touch our hearts.

The song invites us to peer over Mary's shoulder as she rocks the Christ child to sleep, to witness the vulnerability of God, to meditate on the vastness of heaven contained in tiny fingers grasping for the comfort of his mother's hand. It opens space for contemplation, curiosity, and wonder.

I invite you to imagine holding the infant Jesus in your arms while playing the song *"Mary, did you know?"* Let the words drench your heart with hope and joy. Are you like Mary who spent her life pondering the word of God? What is your response to living as a *"carrier of Christ"*?



"Let us prefer nothing to the love of Christ, and may Christ bring us all to everlasting life." -RB. 72:11

Prioress Election

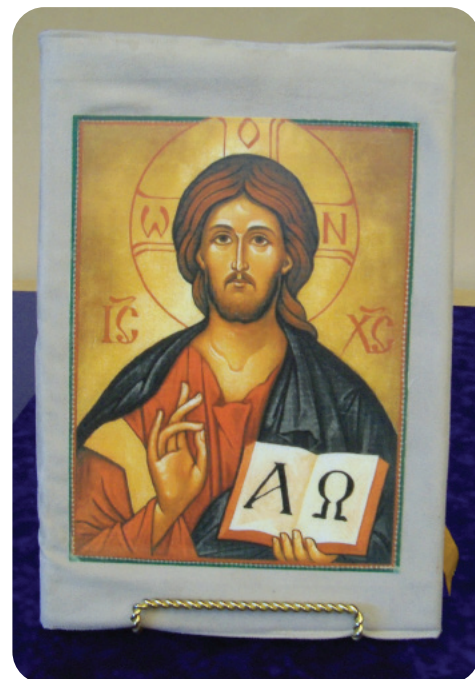
By [Sister Clare Carr, OSB](#)



Nine years ago, in March of 2011, I knew God was planning something new for me when I was elected prioress of our Benet Hill community. I was absolutely shocked. Who me? No!! And yet, the grace of the office has been transformative. Over these years I have been shaken and shaped by the magnitude of this office. I have fallen more in love with each of my sisters, an experience shared by previous prioresses.

In June of 2021, we will again be electing a new prioress. The criteria for choosing a prioress is that she be a wise teacher, a compassionate listener, and a servant to her sisters. She is to be temperate and merciful, always letting *"mercy triumph over judgement... so that she too may win mercy"*; RB 64. She is to be discerning and moderate, always aware of her own frailties and capacity to sin- *"to miss the mark."* She is to allow her sisters to speak their wisdom and she is urged to listen. She is one among her sisters, knowing that she wants to hear from the old as well as the young. She is to inspire the strong and encourage the weak.

Just writing these words challenges me as we look toward 2021. I know that the Lord will lead us and I ask you to pray with us as we discern our future leadership.



*"Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the future." -Proverbs 31:25*

By [Dana Cossey, osb Oblate](#)

Oblates



As I reflect on the future of oblates, it is important to consider where we were a year ago. In the fall of 2019, oblates and friends of Benet Hill were invited to observe and learn at the sisters' community meeting.

Much of that day was dedicated to imagining the future of Benet Hill Monastery. The question was, *"What would it take for Benet Hill Monastery to serve as a beacon of Benedictine values in the future?"*

I cannot put into words the excitement and energy captivated by our resounding *"Whatever it takes"*. Everyone gathered, committed to the future and now we have one of the largest classes of future oblates ever. They responded to our energy.

Not even a pandemic of global impact has derailed our desire to serve or wavered our compassion for Benet Hill Monastery and the community. Together we can impact the future of Benet Hill Monastery. 😊

Community Days

By [Sister Jan Ginzkey, OSB, Assistant Prioress](#)

We had very fruitful and enlightening community meetings on October 9th & 10th. The first exciting event was approving [Sister Deborah Kuhl](#) for final vows! We are truly thankful for the gift of Sister Deborah. She made her solemn vows during our Thanksgiving celebration.

On Oct. 10, Regina Allor, IT Coordinator, and Gina Berger, Communications Director, presented our Cybersecurity Policy and Procedures. The PowerPoint and glossary handouts will continue to help all of the sisters and staff learn and utilize the best practices to keep our network safe from hackers, malware, and ransomware.

A new prioress will be elected in June 2021 for Benet Hill Monastery and delegates will accompany her to the Pre-chapter June 15 – 19, 2021. The community elected [Sister Margaret Meaney](#) as first delegate, [Sister Jan Ginzkey](#) as second delegate, and [Sister Susan Matarrese](#) as alternate delegate. Together they will work on preparations for the St. Scholastica Federation Chapter to be held in June 2022. The Federation Council and delegates from 20 Benedictine monasteries will monitor the COVID pandemic to determine if the meeting will be virtual or held in St. Leo, FL.

"In eternity there is indeed something true and sublime. But all these times and places and occasions are now and here. God himself culminates in the present moment and will never be more divine in the lapse of the ages."

-Henry David Thoreau

Baking Sisterhood

Compiled By Gina Berger, Communications Director



L to R: Sisters [Anne Madeleine Brost](#), [Clare Carr](#), [Rose Ann Barmann](#), [Lucile Hartmann](#), [Mary Glenn](#) and [Evangeline Salazar](#) (not shown).

"I like to bake bread because I am doing what women have been doing for thousands of years: feeding the people that they love."
-Sister Mary Glenn, OSB



"I love the process. The mixing, kneading and baking. There is nothing so tantalizing as fresh baked bread."

-Sister Clare Carr, OSB

"It makes me happy to bake and I love that it makes others happy too!" - Sister Lucile Hartmann, OSB

"I enjoy a special litany of memories when I bake, beginning with a sister at St. Walberga's who taught me how to bake, to the friends who enjoy my bread, and ending with the image of a woman who helped me put the bread dough on the counter for kneading."

-Sister Anne Madeleine Brost, OSB

"I like to make bread because it gives me an opportunity to use a variety of elements like flour, yeast, water, oil and salt to create something fresh and delicious for my community. The sisters love fresh warm bread, Yummy, yummy for the tummy !!!"

-Sister Rose Ann Barmann, OSB

Baking

By [Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB](#)

The aroma of anise and cinnamon drift silently in and around through every corner of the house.



Eagerly one by one sisters and friends appear smacking lips And ask

"Is there a mistake?"

"Free sample?"

"Is a tester needed Here?"

Joy radiates I love to see the smiles my cookies birth upon the first taste of a freshly baked cookie

And that is reason enough for baking.

"Drive-Thru" at the Monastery

September 6, 2020

The sisters distributed bread and a blessing to many Sunday Assembly participants who miss seeing the sisters every week. A happy time!



Book Signing



By [Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB](#)



As a child, the family dining table was a special place where we received support and admiration for everything we accomplished in school. My mother would ask my siblings and me what each of us accomplished on any given day. It was here that we shared our creative drawings, poems, and stories. Mother always enjoyed my writings and she encouraged me to continue writing.

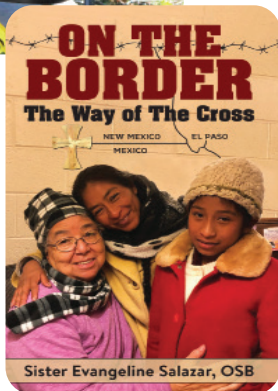
This memory came back to me on September 6, 2020, when the community encouraged our friends and neighbors to purchase my book: [On The Border: The Way of the Cross](#). It was difficult to be humble as I enjoyed listening to the uplifting words from the many who read the book and asked me to sign it. I am sorry my mother could not participate in my joy and the realization that, *"Oh my gosh, my thoughts have been published!"*

Things you can do to help:

*[Purchase the book](#) on Amazon (Benet Hill Monastery also has an Amazon Smile account)

*Read the Book

*[Write a review](#) on Amazon to push up the ranking



Anthony R Romero

July 11 at 9:54 PM

SISTER VANGIE (Evangeline); I had the chance to start reading your book before we opened the restaurant this morning. It was pretty therapeutic . . . LOL (I added some pics to show you that your words triggered a lot of thoughts from me!) I didn't expect you to make me read and then commit to writing a personal reflection after each station of the cross. I got through four today. How did I not know or remember your wood carving talent?!? Looking forward to reading your words and writing some of my own. ¡MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS! 🙏❤️

By [Sister MT Summers, OSB](#)

Columbarium

By [Sister Anne Stedman, OSB](#)



Beginnings

In 2019, our community decided to expand St. [Benedict Cemetery](#) with a Columbarium Garden. We met with Gerardo Garcia, owner of Columbarium by Design, and expressed our desire for the Columbarium Garden to blend with our forest without sacrificing a single tree. Mr. Garcia was able to accomplish our request with great integrity and beauty and the first phase of the multi-phase project is complete. We now have two attractive walls with a capacity of 68 niches. We are taking formal requests for anyone wanting to be buried on these holy grounds within our sacred forest. If interested, please send a written request to our prioress, [Sister Clare Clarr](#) asking for council approval. For more information, call Sister MT Summers at 719-355-1616. Please note that we have more details available upon inquiry.

Reflection

The experience was a first for me! The fall day was warm; the forest trees were a brilliant green and the sun was shining as I slowly walked down the worn path to our beloved cemetery. Coming closer I spied the newly constructed columbarium around the marble cross welcoming us to Saint Benedict Cemetery with the words: *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus said, 'Indeed I promise you today, you will be with me in paradise.'"*-Luke 23:42-43

As I stood by the side of the columbarium, I was surprised by the color of the walls. They beautifully reflect the multiple colors and hues of the sand and are similar to the stones used to create the walls of our monastery. I also realized that the feminine curvature of the structure, once completed, will create a sacred and gentle space of prayer and a peaceful final resting place.

Standing in quiet awe, I realized that the columbarium serves as a gateway to our community cemetery and give humble thanks for *"our sacred place;"* the eternal resting place of our sisters.

A Day in the Life



Compiled By Gina Berger, Communications Director

Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB shared a presentation with the English Learner Teachers at Lewis Palmer School District on October 7, 2020. She spent time talking about her experiences with the refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers in the Welcoming Centers in El Paso, Texas. Sister Evangeline recently published a book, *On The Border: The Way of the Cross* and several teachers purchased the book. She also invited the teachers to visit Benet Hill Monastery and pray the Stations of the Cross in their original form.

Sister Clare Carr, OSB took five days off to relax, sleep, eat, pray and just “be.” She said, *“I spent time walking to Washington Park, an absolutely beautiful park, visiting some friends (at a distance) and sleeping in. I can’t think of a better time. Except to be in Ireland or some other exotic spot on our planet. Thank you, sisters and my administration.”*



Try and guess who these sisters are. some of them might surprise you.



By *Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB*



Aspen Leaves

Aspen Leaves & Cripple Creek

Rest your eyes upon the changing colors of the the Aspen leaf
And bless the creative God
Who gifts us
Every Autumn
Year by year.



Photos taken by *Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB*

Global Online Benedictine Spiritual Direction Program

By Sister Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB; Global Online Coordinator

In January 2021, the [Global Online Benedictine Spiritual Direction program](#) will begin a new first year cohort, along with second year students for a combined total of 48 students. Students participate from all over the United States and across the world. The United States includes Wisconsin, Kansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Virginia, California, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, New York, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan. Countries include Thailand, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela and Ireland.

Our Benedictine spirituality and values of hospitality, community, humility, reverence, stewardship, discernment, and integration are the transformational pillars that help cultivate a contemplative way of living for the students. We aspire to open their hearts to the receptivity of God's love.

This transformative path requires each student to know their own "heart", to know what creates compassion within them, and to know the areas of their lives which block this pathway to God. The process of self-discovery is used to uncover the students' spiritual story. They are guided to listen to their inner voice of wisdom. The gifts of this journey are cultivating a more compassionate heart, learning to see God in everything, and listening to self and others with their spiritual heart; where internal wisdom makes its home and illuminates life's graced moments, thus, freeing them to love more fully.

The global team eagerly anticipates companioning the students to a new way of being in the world. We invite you, our readers, to hold us and the students in prayer as we walk together on this transformational path. Thank you.



(Global Team: Dana Cossey, Jesse Brown, Ellen Haroutunian, Sister Teresa Hougnon (Maryknoll Sister), [Sister Deborah Kuhl](#), and [Sister Marilyn Carpenter](#))

Contact: [Sister Mary Colleen Schwarz, OSB](#); Global Online Coordinator; smarycolleen@benethillmonastery.org; (719) 633-0655 Ext. 134



Spiritual Direction Ministry

[Spiritual Direction](#) is an opportunity to grow in your spiritual life.

***Are you seeking a closer relationship with God?**

***Are you interested in deepening your spiritual journey?**

The Sisters of Benet Hill invite you to explore your relationship with God through spiritual direction. Please make your initial contact with [Sister Therese O'Grady](#), Coordinator for Spiritual Direction, and she will help you find a Spiritual Director.

Contact: [Sister Therese O'Grady, OSB](#)
stherese@benethillmonastery.org or Phone: (719) 473-8764



- ♥ [Spiritual Direction](#) is a ministry of Benet Hill Monastery.
- ♥ Spiritual Directors are available to journey with you.
- ♥ [We do this on site, online, and by phone.](#)

"Spiritual Direction is taking a journey with God. It is an intimate look at one's life and their walk with God. The intent of the meeting is to keep God as the focus. It is an encounter with grace.

I have been privileged to walk alongside many people over the past 30 years. Often there is struggle to recognize the presence of God for those on the journey, but the 'meat and potatoes' of the journey is discovering grace in the struggle." -Sister Clare Carr, OSB



Mission Advancement

By [Ruth Roland, Director of Mission Advancement](#)

Many friends have made one final, generous gift of assets to the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery through their wills. We celebrate and honor each [legacy gift](#) as an ultimate expression of love for the sisters and their work to bring hope and hospitality to the world, now and in the future.

We asked friends who are making a [legacy gift](#) to share the message they would like to bestow on future generations.

"To the best you can, give of your time, talents, and gifts to the many who you may meet in your life; especially to those who open their hearts to the world with compassion, hope and the love of God. Be always thankful for the life you have been given by our Creator."

-Alan & Eileen Johnson

"The legacy of the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery is one of humility, hospitality, grace, peace and abundant love. I have learned at their feet...but their welcoming me as an equally beloved sister in Christ has changed my life. May this beautiful legacy of theirs continue on as others cross the threshold into Benet Hill's embrace."

-Nancy Severin

To learn more about making a legacy gift, contact Ruth Roland at (719) 355-1633 or email rroland@benethillmonastery.org or go to the website.

<https://benethillmonastery.org/donate/planned-gifts/>



Bandwidth

By [Ruth Roland, Director of Mission Advancement](#)



Progress...

By [Regina Allor, IT Coordinator](#)



These photos depict the progress of getting the line dug and put in for the fiber optic cable. We can hardly wait!

Praise be to God. We asked and you responded! In the [Summer Review](#), we shared that our limited internet service results in our sisters struggling to offer spiritual direction, counseling, contemplative prayer, and other online ministries. We laid out a plan to bring fiber optic cable to the monastery (Phase I) and then to upgrade existing hardware and software networks (Phase II). Thankfully, the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, Inc. lead with a gift of \$16,000 for Phase I allowed us to start digging.

With the support of longtime friends, we next created a matching gift grant and invited 300 other friends to make a gift by September 30th, to be matched dollar for dollar. Our goal was to raise \$25,000 for Phase II and we gratefully surpassed it. Because of all who responded to the matching gift grant request, letters, and the [Summer Review](#) article, the monastery has received \$42,380 designated for technology upgrades! Be assured that we will steward these additional gifts carefully so the sisters may soon create a place of hope and hospitality for the world online. Thank you!

The dream of bringing high speed internet to the monastery is getting closer to becoming a reality.

There were problems initially in setting the fiber path on the monastery grounds that required input and approval from the county and we waited for over a month for a permit from CDOT to bore under Highway 83. The good news is that the conduit has finally been laid.

Inside the building, changes were also required to accommodate the faster internet speed. Our firewall was replaced last week along with five of the wireless access points throughout the campus.

Now we are waiting to hear when the final step of pulling the fiber and splicing it into the building will be scheduled. We are desperately hoping that will happen in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you again, for all your support!



Benet Hill Academy Alumnae

By Mary Delaney, Class of '67

Kathleen Ann Delaney passed away early Sunday morning, August 23, after a short illness. Kathy was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 9, 1950 and she always reminded me that she was born on a decade year. Her parents were Robert and Mary Delaney and she was the second of seven children. She attended Divine Redeemer grade school, East Junior High and [Benet Hill Academy](#), Class of '69.



Kathy lived in Denver and worked for the Veterans Hospital for over 20 years in a variety of positions including nursing staff and claims clerk.

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

Robin Jenkins Brennan, Class of '78 on the loss of her sister, Theresa Jenkins Meyen, Class of '76.

Eloise Haynes McDaniel, Class of '80 on the loss of her mother, Lillian Haynes.

Mary Delaney, Class of '67, Eileen Delaney Seiter, Class of '71 and Chris Delaney, Class of '74 on the loss of their sister, Kathy Delaney, Class of '69.

Melody Landon, Class of '79 on the loss of her mother, Rosemary Landon.

Janice Cipoletti, Class of '80 for the loss of her father, Art Cipoletti.

Kitti Faricy Eide, Class of '69 for the loss of her husband James Eide.

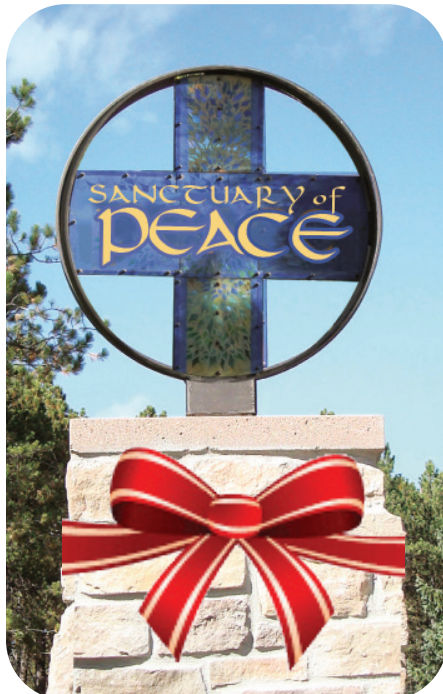
Kathy had two children, her son, Robert Dural and her daughter and best friend, Rita Dural. She loved her kids, but she was over the moon for her three grandchildren, Aiden Vandenberg, 11, Blake Dural, 13 and Ayla Dural, one year old. Every time she received or took a new picture or video, she would share it with everyone. They truly were her pride and joy. Kathy loved the zoo and her idea of a perfect day was to go there with her kids and grandkids- the more the merrier.

Kathy had a very dry sense of humor and if you weren't paying attention you might miss it. I came to visit her in the ICU and the OT specialist asked her if she knew who I was and she very seriously said no, she didn't know who I was. She quickly read the dismay on my face and said, "*Of course, I know who that is, it's my sister Mary, we've been sisters for almost 70 years!*" Even though she was gravely ill at the end, she was able to joke with her care givers. We will all miss her very much!

NOTE: Because of COVID-19, the annual [Benet Hill Academy reunion](#) is rescheduled for July 2021. On that occasion, we will celebrate the remarkable achievements of these women and the anniversaries of four classes. Looking forward to an enjoyable and fun-filled event!

An Early Christmas Gift?

By Vincent Crowder, Property & Building Manager



The sisters and I are excited to update you on the Sanctuary of Peace project. By the time you read this we are hopeful that we'll have received an early Christmas gift from the Board of County Commissioners.

On November 19th, Dave Gorman, our civil engineer for the project, and I presented the Sanctuary of Peace Residential Community to the Regional Planning Commission. After a somewhat lengthy conversation, the board voted to approve the project and to move it forward to the Board of County Commissioners for their final approval at their December 8th meeting.

Assuming we get their blessing, I will be busy with the next steps that will hopefully see groundbreaking in early spring- Mother Nature permitting.

For those of you who have previously expressed interest in the Sanctuary of Peace, I will be in contact with each of you in early January with news of what you can expect next.

If you are not already on the list and are interested, please don't hesitate to phone or email me at your earliest convenience. I look forward very much to speaking to all who are interested in joining me in making our homes near the sisters in the Black Forest.

Please join us in celebrating the Sanctuary of Peace that has been hoped and planned for the past four years.

Contact: Vincent Crowder; Property & Building Manager; vcrowder@benethillmonastery.org; (719) 355-1639; Cell (720) 839-0752

Join Us...

The sisters and [oblates](#) are steeped in prayer and are committed to spending an hour each day devoted to *"Prayer for the World"* during the duration of this crisis. They are inviting all who wish to join them in their own hour of prayer within their homes to experience the power of *"where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them."* -Matthew 18:20

"Prayer for the World" Schedule:

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 AM | Sisters Deb and Rose Ann | 1 PM | Sisters Marilyn and Lucy |
| 7 AM | Sister Mary John | 2 PM | Sisters Mary and Ana |
| 8 AM | Sisters Therese and Jan | 3 PM | Sisters Naomi and Evangeline |
| 9 AM | Sister Anne Madeleine | 4 PM | Sister Mary Jane |
| 10 AM | Sister Susan | 5 PM | Sister Helen |
| 11 AM | Sister Anne | 6 PM | Sisters Evangeline and Mary Colleen |
| Noon | Sister Clare | 7 PM | Sister Margaret |

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

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The Review is published three times per year by Benet Hill Monastery of Colorado Springs, Inc., 3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

PHONE: 719/633-0655 **FAX:** 719/471-0403 **EMAIL:** info@benethillmonastery.org **WEBSITE:** www.benethillmonastery.org

EDITOR/LAYOUT/DESIGN - Gina Berger, Communications Director; Assisted by Barbara Lynette, Online Communications Assistant

CONTRIBUTORS - Sisters and staff of Benet Hill Monastery, students, alumnae and friends.

By Judy Haefner, Senior Manager

Sisters' Thrift & Boutique



Volunteer models for our social media campaign!

Moving into the future always involves change, *"goodbyes,"* and *"hellos."* In October 2020, our longtime, dedicated friend and hard-working senior manager, Verna Narwold, decided to retire from the boutique. Soon, Verna and her husband, Tom, will move from Colorado Springs to enjoy family and life in a warmer climate. From everyone, at the boutique, *"Thank you and blessings!"*



**We look forward to seeing
all of our customers.
We miss everyone!**

Store Hours:

Mon. - Fri.: 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Saturdays: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Judy Haefner was invited to *"Come along beside us, in saying yes"* to fill the vacancy left by Verna. Judy served as boutique volunteer and assistant manager since 2015. She will work alongside Shari Silva, senior manager, to maintain the high standards at the boutique and meet the challenges of business in 2021.

We invite our customers to join us *"in saying yes"* as we continue to adapt and work together. The year 2020 and COVID-19 virus brought about changes in our store and business routines. In the future, we will continue to keep our boutique clean, safe and a welcoming place to shop. From the back door receiving area, to our front door entryway, we will do what it takes to keep our store a healthy and unique place to shop, while creating a friendly environment for all our volunteers, donors and staff. Be assured that at *Sisters' Thrift & Boutique*, we will continue to greet you with a smile *(even if it is behind a mask)!*

We are grateful for all our customers and we look to the future with hope and God's blessings.

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