



## Transitioning



*Photos include the construction progress of the Sisters' new Monastery over the past 12 months, and (l-r) Sr. Sylvia Abr, OSB, Rodney Bargfrede of Koehler Construction, Sr. Bernadine Reyes, OSB, Konrad Broer of Schemmer Architects, and Sr. Kathleen Higgins, OSB after a recent walk-through. An August completion date is expected, at which time the Sisters and staff will begin transitioning into the new buildings.*

## Letter from the Prioress



### Preparing for Transition

It seems that we have spent the better part of this year attending to our transition. We have gone through a process of looking within ourselves as we move from living in three different areas on the "hill" to living under one roof. We have had to ask ourselves what are the personal ways of being that will need to shift as we come together in our new monastery.

In our down-sizing, we are having to make decisions of what we will take with us, what will be stored for our "moving sale", what will be given away, and what will need to be recycled or permanently discarded. Together, we have walked through all of our living spaces, shared memories, blessed each area, and began saying "good bye."

We went into the new building before the sheetrock went up to bless this new space for us. In a sense we have been trying to be conscious of saying good bye to spaces where we have lived and prayed for a long time and to saying hello to the new spaces where we will live and for some of us, work.

This time of transition has been in the midst of everyday life, work, meetings, fundraisers, hospitality, and anniversaries. We look forward to the move and being settled again. We also look forward to hosting an open house for our family and friends to tour the new facilities before the end of the year.

As your plans unfold for summer fun, rest, and renewal, let us not forget the victims of recent terror attacks, natural disasters, war, violence, abuse, neglect, oppression, and injustice. Let us continue to unite in prayer for peace, both in this nation and throughout the world.

Blessings to all,

*Sr. Bernadine Reyes, O.S.B.*

### Mission Statement

*We, the Boerne Benedictines, are called to seek God in community and to respond in ministry through sharing our spirituality and addressing the needs of the people we serve, especially the poor.*

## Benedictine Volunteers Visit Monastery on the Way to Eagle Pass



(l-r) Sr. Hannah Vanorny, OSB, Sr. Idelle Badt, OSB, Natalie Brown, Sr. Susan Mika, OSB, and Patricia Nguyen

Recently, the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne welcomed overnight visitors to the Monastery. The special guests were part of Benedictine Volunteers, a collaborative volunteer program that extends the mission and ministries of three Benedictine women's communities in North and South Dakota. The volunteers were provided the opportunity to collaborate with the Benedictine

Sisters of Boerne on a 2-week Texas-Mexico Immersion Program at the Caridad de Corazón Mission House in Eagle Pass, Texas. While in Boerne during their preparation for their immersion into the Texas/Mexico border region, Sister Susan Mika, OSB, Director of the Benedictine Sisters' Corporate Responsibility Program, oriented the group on pertinent issues including immigration, peace and social justice, economics, and cultural awareness.

The volunteers departed Boerne fully prepared for Eagle Pass where they met Sisters Ursula Herrera, OSB (Director of the Caridad de Corazón Ministry), and Germaine Sutton, OSB. Sister Ursula facilitated service opportunities for the volunteers during their stay.

*"Volunteers experience in their service work at the border that through the language of universal love, compassion, laughter, and justice, there are no borders in God's family."*

*Patricia T. Nguyen, Director, Benedictine Volunteers*

## Mission Advancement

### 2016 Sisters' Summer Sweepstakes

**Grand Prize**  
**Americus Diamond Circle**  
**of Support Pendant**  
**Valued at \$2,500**

#### Other Great Prizes

\$500 Visa Gift Card  
\$250 Visa Gift Card  
\$100 Visa Gift Card (2)  
\$50 Visa Gift Card  
(6 prizes in all)



Tickets: \$5 each, \$25 for 6, \$50 for 12

Drawing will be held on  
Tuesday, September 6th

**Need not be present to win!**  
**Deadline to submit tickets:**  
**Friday, September 2, 2016**

If you would like to purchase more tickets, please  
contact the Office of Mission Advancement at  
**830.816.8504**

### Recent Grants Received

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the following Organizations and Foundations for their generous support to our needs:

**\$5,000** - Stuart-Griffin-Perlitz Foundation in support of new Monastery furnishings

**\$1,500** - Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region 12 Border Fund in support of our Caridad de Corazón Ministry

**\$1,000** - The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation in support of Benedictine Sisters' and Benedictine Ministries' 2016 events

**\$500** - Tapatio Ladies Club in support of new Monastery furnishings

*Thank you, Sacred Heart School Alumni! To date, \$6,700.00 in gifts and pledges has been received in support of chapel chairs for the new Monastery. God bless you!*

### Moving Sale!

The Sisters will be holding a Moving Sale in the fall. The sale will have many items that will not be going to the new Monastery, including miscellaneous furnishings.

Date of sale TBA. Check our Facebook and website for updates.



### 2016 None's Ball Update

A heartfelt thank you to those who contributed to the 2016 None's Ball. Your generosity has raised over \$30,000 for the Sisters' retirement needs. There's still time to give to this "no show" event! None's Ball gifts are being accepted in person, by mail, or online at [www.boernebenedictines.org](http://www.boernebenedictines.org).

## Special Events

## Benedictine Sisters' 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

On Wednesday, March 9th, the Benedictine Sisters celebrated their 11th Annual Feast of St. Benedict Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser at the Omega Retreat Center, located on their grounds in Boerne. Despite the threat of rain and construction detours, the dining room and drive-thru served nearly 500 meals! Special thanks to all who attended, to all our sponsors and donors, and to the more than 125 volunteers who helped make this year's event so memorable! Proceeds, exceeding \$13,000.00, will benefit the Sisters' new Monastery needs.

## Special thanks to the following event coordinators:

**Sr. Bernadine Reyes, OSB**  
**Sr. Kathleen Higgins, OSB**  
**Anne Brunet**  
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Sr. Bernadine Reyes, OSB accepts a donation from Grand Knight, Reynaldo Salinas, on behalf of the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus, Council #10940



Members of the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus also donated their time at the event (Above Knights helping in the kitchen)



Bexar Schenk (right) and his daughter, Hailey, with volunteer Anne Brunet



(l-r) Endeared friends, Mary Hancock, Sr. Mary Agnes Zinni, OSB, and Cleo Tamez enjoying the event



(l-r) Sr. Frances Briseño, OSB, and Mary Lopez having a great time

Volunteers, Marilyn Rodriguez (left) and Peggy Raley (right), serving wine



Fr. Norm Ermis from St. Peter's stopped by and visited with kitchen crew, Sr. Mary Rose Goertz, OSB and Crystal Villanueva



Visit the Sisters' website News and Events page for more photos.

## Special Events

Our deepest gratitude to the following Event Sponsors and Silent Auction donors who helped make the 2016 Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction a great success.



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## Milestones & Celebrations

### Congratulations to our Jubilarians! Celebrating a combined 170 Years of Consecrated Life!



Sr. Antoinette Van Galen, OSB, Sr. Michael Brandt, OSB, and Sr. Bernadine Reyes, OSB enjoying their Jubilee celebration



Sr. Bernadine Reyes' grand niece, Abigail Leal, is all smiles while enjoying the Mariachi music

On Saturday, June 4, 2016, family and friends gathered at the Omega Retreat Center in Boerne, Texas for the Benedictine Sisters' Jubilee Celebration.

The honorees - pictured above (l-r) - with a combined 170 years of Monastic life and service to God's people, were Sister Antoinette Van Galen, OSB (70 years), Sister Michael Brandt, OSB (50 years) and Sister Bernadine Reyes, OSB (50 years).

The afternoon began in true Benedictine tradition with a Vespers Service led by Sister Sylvia Ahr, OSB. Cantor, Carmen Villareal of St. Peter's Parish, was accompanied by Sister Joyce Detzel, CDP who played the keyboard. Sister Susan Mika, OSB gave a beautiful reflection that highlighted the Jubilarians and their many contributions to their community and to their ministries over the years. She emphasized the importance of the Sisters' vows of Obedience, Stability, and Conversion of Life and a spirit of "gratitude" to God, to the Sisters' Community, to their families, and to their friends.

Following the service, the festivities continued at the Center with a delicious buffet catered by Angel Food of Boerne and lively Mariachi music by Mariachi Reyes of San Antonio. Smiles were infectious throughout the event, and everyone shared the joy of this special occasion.



Msgr. Albert Hubertus and Angel Perez after Vespers, waiting to greet the three Jubilarians



Sr. Susan Mika, OSB, reflects on the Jubilarians during the Vespers Service



(l-r) Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP, Carmen Villareal, and Sr. Sylvia Ahr, OSB during the Service

Visit the Sisters' website [News and Events](#) page for more photos.

## CPPP Staff Journeys Back to their Roots

## Happenings on the Hill

The Benedictine Sisters and staff welcomed Ann Beason, Director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) of Austin, and the CPPP staff on April 26th. The following is from an article that first appeared on CPPP's blog \*:

"The CPPP staff carpoled down wildflower-studded back roads to spend the day with our founders, the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas. It was a journey back to our roots and core values.



CPPP staff with some of the Benedictine Sisters during their visit (photo courtesy of CPPP)

The Sisters founded CPPP in 1985 to advance public policy solutions for expanding access to health care. We became independent in 1999 and expanded our focus over time to include economic opportunity and fiscal policy.

The Sisters remain our Hill Country heroines. They opened our day with words from their founder, Mother Lidwina Weber: "How much and yet how little have we accomplished in this space of time...but after sowing the seed we must wait some time for it to germinate. So I console myself and await the future!" CPPP is one of the seeds the Sisters planted over 30 years ago.

The Sisters knew that for all Texans to live healthy, productive lives would require public policies to make health care affordable, and so they founded the Benedictine Health Resource Center, which later became CPPP.

CPPP works every day to move Texas closer to the Sisters' vision of affordable health care and quality education for everyone, regardless of background. The seeds we spread today through our policy work - though they can take a long time to sprout - continue to change Texas.

Hospitality is one of the core values of the Benedictines, and the Sisters are exceptionally gracious hosts. They fed us a nourishing lunch, shared a modern translation of the Rule of Benedict, and gave us mugs full of jelly beans for the ride home. But the most symbolic gift they gave us was a pot of green ivy, clipped from one of their "mother" plants at the monastery. We are honored and blessed to be one of their seedlings."

\* <http://bettertexasblog.org/2016/05/back-to-our-roots-the-benedictine-sisters-of-boerne/>

### The Health and Wholeness Center's Annual Springtime Tea



Sr. Michael Brandt, OSB (Director of Benedictine Ministries) and Christy Hanich (Manager of The Health and Wholeness Center)

The 2016 Health and Wholeness Center's Springtime Tea took place on Wednesday, May 11th, at the Omega Retreat Center. The afternoon included a raffle, silent auction, door prizes, and a delicious lunch. Thank you to all who attended and to all the volunteers who helped make this important fundraiser possible.

### WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS?

Picture yourself living next door! 14 premier acres, including our former Monastery and office complex, are for sale.

For more information contact our realty broker, Russell Noll, at 210.253.2945 or [russellnoll@transwestern.com](mailto:russellnoll@transwestern.com)

## Honor Roll of Donors - 2015

Our sincerest appreciation to the following donors who gave a gift in support of the Benedictine Sisters through our Mission Advancement Office in 2015. Every effort has been made to keep our list accurate. If your name was overlooked or misprinted, please accept our apology and contact us at 830.816.8504

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### *In memory*



*of our beloved family and  
friends who have gone  
before us. Eternal rest  
grant unto them, O Lord.  
And let perpetual light  
shine upon them.  
And may the souls of all  
the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.*

## Stewardship

## Serving God with Joy and Compassion

By Mary Anne Oehler



Sister Bernice Lindsey, OSB is often called the “Bionic Nun” by those who know her well. She has 11 artificial joints (due to complications from chemo treatment) ultimately resulting in physical challenges every day. Most days, the aches and pains associated with her past surgeries fail to stop her from serving in her ministries, something that she does with great joy and compassion.

With her Bible in hand, Sister Bernice spends time at both the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio, Texas and the Kendall County Jail in Boerne, Texas. She visits with men and women inmates who, for various reasons, have

ended up behind bars. Equipped with vast experience in adult and youth counseling, spiritual direction, and bereavement counseling, Sister Bernice sees a total of 60-80 women and men each week. She is ever-present for the inmates, always listening with the ear of her heart. With some she prays, with others she laughs and cries, with some she is silent - but she is always a witness for Christ.

This is not the first time Sister Bernice has served in jail ministry. In the early 90’s she also visited the incarcerated at the Bexar County jail, but when she became ill with cancer, she needed time away for her recovery.

In addition to her work at the county jails, Sister Bernice also devotes her time to the Burmese community of St. Matthew Catholic Church in San Antonio. “There are approximately 220 Burmese families in the parish,” said Sister Bernice. “The Burmese people remind me of the scripture, ‘Let the children come to me...’ (Matthew 19:14), or in this case, let the stranger come to me. They are so loving, so trusting, without fear or prejudices. It is a joy working with them.”

As a member of the Parish ministry team, and with the help of interpreters, she and others help bring the message of God to the Burmese families. Sister prepares and gives talks that align with monthly RCIA teachings at the church. Other team members are helping the Burmese to learn English and prepare for their citizenship.

Recently, Sister Bernice accompanied the Burmese community, as Spiritual Director, on a weekend retreat in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. “Love is patient, love is kind; Faith is power, faith is love” was the title of the retreat.

Using the Rule of Benedict as her guide and again, with the help of an interpreter, Sister Bernice spoke to the retreatants about *listening with the ear of your heart*. “Despite the language differences, we were able to share God’s love through fellowship, worship, music, and great meals,” remarked Sister Bernice. “The entire weekend was a remarkable experience!”

### Images from the Burmese Community Retreat

1. Pasquale interprets Sister Bernice’s message
2. Sister Bernice enjoying time with one of the retreatants
3. Two youth members present Sister Bernice with a gift of gratitude



## Stewardship

## A Fiesta in God’s Honor

By Randi Gilmore

When Gloria Villanueva, ObOSB was invited to help lead a women’s ACTS (Adoration. Community. Theology. Service.) Retreat in Mexico City, she didn’t realize that she would have the chance to not only find personal and spiritual growth, but also the opportunity to express her servant nature.

Fr. Enrique Peña, Pastor of La Guadalupe Church, invited ACTS Missions of San Antonio to form a team of 36 women to spend four days in Mexico City, celebrating a “fiesta,” with God being the guest of honor!

The team began their preparations in December, 2015 under the guidance of Spiritual Directors, Norma Garza and Lupita Retteghieri.

During their three month preparation period, the leadership team, consisting of five women from Mexico City, five from St. Peter the Apostle Church of Boerne, and 26 from the San Antonio area, held meetings between the United States and Mexico groups so

the teams could build relationships and bond with each other. “We united as one to serve our God and support each other,” says Gloria.

The retreat was held at La Casa del Obrero Retreat Center, where Gloria served on a ministry team as a servant leader for the Reconciliation Service. This team was responsible for providing the details of the environment and for the preparation of those participants who chose to cleanse themselves through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

She also served on one service team as a table facilitator for the women to share their journey if they were moved to do so after each of the talks that were presented. The volunteers channeled inspiration from Mother Theresa’s well-known phrase, “True leaders are servants of God.”

Gloria and her fellow team members had amazing experiences during their time in Mexico City. They were shown true hospitality by a Dominican Sister

from the San Pedro de Verona community, who prepared their meals and gave them an abundance of love during their stay.

The participants came to the retreat with open hearts and minds, and Gloria recalls they, “were hungry for spiritual growth.” From the moment they arrived, the women attending the retreat were ready to be moved by the Holy Spirit, and they were ready to share their experiences with



Gloria Villanueva (center right) and members of her team in the sanctuary of La Guadalupe

each other.

Not only did Gloria and her team members have the opportunity to share their love of Christ with others, but they were also able to receive spiritual growth of their own. “I fell deeper in love with my God and I am able to serve Him more deeply by living my faith with guidance from the Rule of Benedict,” Gloria recalls.

Gloria Villanueva is a Benedictine Oblate and Volunteer



Gloria Villanueva (far right) and members of her team at the Plaza de Coyoacán

### Farewell, Mary Greenslade!

Longtime friend of the Benedictine Sisters, Oblate, and volunteer, Mary Greenslade, bids us farewell in August when she moves to the Pacific Northwest. Mary has served as a Benedictine Oblate and a dedicated volunteer in our offices for 10 years.

Best wishes until we meet again, Mary.  
Our thoughts and prayers remain with you!



(l-r) Sr. Antoinette Van Galen, OSB, (Oblate Program Director) and Mary Greenslade, ObOSB

## New Monastery

### A Time of Transition

Prayerfully giving thanks for many blessings, the Benedictine Sisters and their co-ministers prepare to transition to the new Monastery and offices later this summer. Recently, they took time to “let go” of current residences and work spaces, and then they “embraced” new ones. With markers in hand and favorite scripture or inspirational words in mind, the Sisters and co-ministers visited the new Monastery (on separate occasions) and claimed their respective spaces by penning their messages on walls, floors, and in door frames. An excitement for change is in the air!



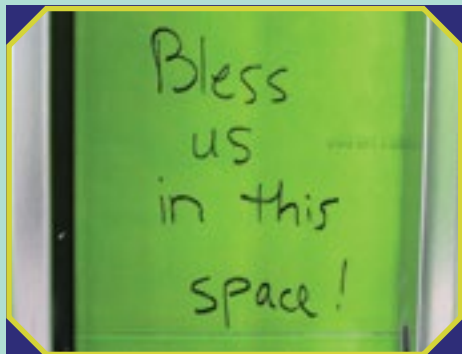
Srs. Mechtilde Goertz, OSB, Kathleen Higgins, OSB and Bernadine Reyes, OSB offer thanks for the current Monastery residence



The new Monastery is built around the renowned Kronkosky Tower



The Sisters gather in community at the Omega residence to share memories



One of the messages inscripted on the walls



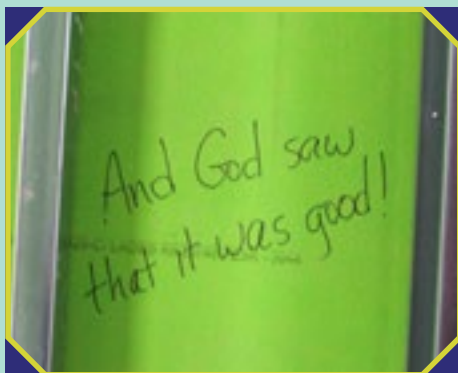
Sr. Mary Lou Hernandez, OSB writes on the door frame of her new room



The Sisters, prepare to embrace the new Monastery



Co-minister, Nora Schmidt, fills her office space with words of inspiration



Amen!



Co-minister, Marcia Mendoza, joyfully pens her message on one of the kitchen walls

## Retreats

### 2016 Oblate Retreat and Oblation



Retreat Presenter, Sr. Karen Joseph, OSB (front center), is joined by Sisters, Oblates, and Rev. Anthony Cummins for a group photo after the Oblation ceremony at St. Scholastica Monastery Chapel in Boerne.

“Cultivating a Monastic Instinct” was the theme for the May 27 - 29 Oblate Retreat that was held at the Omega Retreat Center in Boerne. Presenter, Sr. Karen Joseph, OSB of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana, focused on seven monastic instincts that included listening, humility, holding one’s tongue, helpfulness, bearing, reverence, and consistency.

Twenty five retreatants, including four new Oblates, and several Sisters enjoyed fellowship and time for reflection during the weekend. Reverend Anthony Cummins was the Celebrant of the closing Oblation liturgy that was held on Sunday at St. Scholastica Monastery Chapel.

### Oblate Program Update

The Oblate Team will meet this summer to plan for the coming year.

Due to the transition into the new Monastery, no classes will be held this fall.

Oblates will receive further updates by mail. Updates will also be posted on our Oblate website page later this summer.

### Congratulations New Oblates!



Dan Buie  
Laura Madsen  
Mitos Sonti  
Pat Sonti



Our four new Oblates: (l-r) Laura, Pat, Dan, and Mitos

### A Time For Renewal

**Sabbath Rest and Delight** - an appropriate title for the Benedictine Sisters’ annual week-long retreat that was held June 13 - 19 at St. Scholastica Monastery in Boerne. Retreat leader, Sister Mary McGehee, OSB from Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL provided the Sisters much needed opportunities for spiritual renewal, rest, and relaxation, including massage therapy (Sister Mary is also a licensed massage therapist)! Special thanks to Sister Mary, co-ministers, and all the volunteers who helped make the retreat experience a truly blessed one for the Sisters!

(l-r) Sisters Germaine Marie Sutton, OSB, Victoria Anne Olivares, OSB, Mary McGehee, OSB - Retreat leader, and Ursula Herrera, OSB gather after a relaxing morning session



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We would like to hear from you! We are  
continually updating our database. Please send us  
your updated information if it is incorrect on the  
mailing label.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
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*Songwriters*  
*at the Ranch*

**Saturday  
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