

BENEDICTINE VOICE

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas

Summer 2024

OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS

REFLECTION FROM THE prioress



Honoring Our Immigrant Roots

How often have we heard the phrase, "We are all immigrants?" We may not have traveled here from another country, but our ancestors did. For this issue,

we decided to honor our Immigrant Roots. Below is my recollection of my parents and grandparents, with an emphasis on my dad.

Both my parents have gone before us, to God. My mother, Basilisa Garcia Reyes, was Mexican American, born in the U.S. My maternal grandparents, Severiano Garcia and Fidela M. Garcia, were also born in the U.S. and were of Mexican descent. My father, Jose Bernardo Reyes Molina, was born in Mexico in 1900. His parents, Baltazar de los Reyes and Espiridiona Molina, obtained his birth certificate three years later in Monterey, Mexico. This is all I know about my paternal grandparents. I have been told that they both died before my dad came to the U.S. According to my father's Petition for Naturalization, he entered the U.S. in September of 1916, and it seems he came alone. He was only 16 years old.

The father of my close friend, Mary Chapa (who has since passed away), told me that he knew my dad when he was young.

According to him, there had been a very heavy dust storm in South Texas which covered the railroad tracks, and this event brought many immigrants from Mexico to work to uncover the miles of tracks. According to him, this is what brought my father to South Texas. This experience may be why my father began working for the railroad, first for the Missouri Pacific, and later for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.



Sister Bernadine's dad

My dad died at the age of 63 from cancer. My regrets are that I did not talk to him about his journey to the U.S. nor his struggles as an immigrant. I never asked him about his parents, about his life in Mexico, about his decision to come to South Texas, or why there was such a disconnect with those left behind.

What I do know is that my dad loved my mother and his children. He was a hard worker, and we always had a roof over our heads and food on the table. We went to 7:00 a.m. Spanish Mass every Sunday, and weekends were for the family. We would also go to the Alameda Theater every Thursday evening to watch the new movie from Mexico.

Dad was strict. My brothers, my cousins, and I learned to respect and obey him. But we also knew the twinkle in his eyes. I think he was proud to finally have our own home in Falfurrias, TX, on a corner lot. After a hard day's work, dad could be found working on the lawn or the flower beds. On Saturday mornings, he did not sleep in. He was up early in the kitchen baking his own kind of breakfast bread. We all remember his cooking skills.

Dad came to the U.S. to find an opportunity for a better life for himself and his family, and I think he achieved his goal. Thank you, dad!

As we enter the summer months, I invite you, if you have not done so already, to reflect on your Immigrant Roots. There is a sense of gratitude in knowing one's heritage.

The Sisters and I wish you peace, rest, and renewal in the days ahead.

Sister Bernadine
Sister Bernadine Reyes, OSB
Prioress

MISSION STATEMENT

We 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.

"Every American who ever lived, with the exception of one group, was either an immigrant or a descendant of immigrants." *John F. Kennedy*



2024 Oblate Sunday



On Sunday, May 5th, Sisters, Oblates, Family, and Friends gathered at St. Scholastica Monastery in Boerne to pray, to witness the First Oblation of three new Oblates, and to Renew Commitment to our Benedictine Oblate Family. Special thanks to our Oblate Leadership Team, Sisters Bernadine Reyes, Susan Mika, and Antoinette Van Galen, and Oblates, Jan Davis, Michael Guerra, Bill Howden, Nan Neff, and Emilie Rogers, for another awesome year! Our Oblate Program is on hiatus for the summer, but will resume again in the fall.

For more info about our program visit www.boernebenedictines.org.

Photos provided: Top: Oblate Sunday group Left: Congratulations to our new Oblates! (L-R) Barbara Seraphin, Sam Laine, and Giacondo "Coco" Costello

Meet Our Oblate Team Leader



Inspired by the Benedictine Charism that embodies spirituality, peace, social justice, and openness to others, Emilie Rogers, ObOSB (pictured left) has been journeying with Benedictines since the early 1980s, when she pursued a youth ministry degree. She attended the Benedictine Monks' St. Gregory College in Shawnee, OK, and then transferred to Benedictine College in Atchison, KS, where she completed her degree. Emilie went on to earn her master's degree in school psychology, and was a school psychologist for 30 years, working in Colorado, Bandera, TX, and San Antonio, TX, where she recently retired from the school district. She now works for a private clinic in San Antonio.

Emilie has been an Oblate with the Benedictines of Boerne since 2005 and has been the Chair of the Leadership Team for the past five years. With a servant heart, she sees her

role as being a guide for the Oblate Team, keeping focus on how best to serve the Oblates on their Benedictine journeys. Moving forward, she sees her and the Oblate Team's role as supportive, creative - thinking out of the box, and open to ideas that align with the future plans of the Boerne Benedictine Sisters.

As a recent cancer survivor, Emilie says, "The Benedictine Sisters, their charism, and unconditional love saved my life. The Sisters and the Oblates were constantly there for me, praying for me, calling me, sending me cards and inspirational gifts. I even received a special blessing of healing during a Mass at the Monastery. I am a cancer survivor because of the grace of God and the many intercessions made on my behalf."

Emilie finds joy by spending time with the Lord, and with her family and friends, and realizing the presence of God in nature and in people. We thank God for Emilie's presence in our lives and in our Benedictine family.

OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS

Several weeks ago, every Sister was invited to share memories or details passed down from family about her immigrant roots. This resulted in the following compilation of stories told, data researched, snippets of information gathered, and photos collected. Our Sisters are descendants of European and Mexican ancestors. Their parents, grandparents, or ancestors came to the United States to build a better life for their families and future generations. They were hard working people who instilled values in their families and contributed to their communities. Many of our Sisters entered Religious Life in their early teens. Some grandparents and parents of our Sisters passed away at a young age, and our Sisters, devoted to their Religious vocation, did not pursue research on their family's heritage.



Sister Sylvia Ahr - Alsatian and German

Sister Sylvia's dad, Samuel Leo Ahr, was born in Castroville, TX and was of Alsatian descent. Her mom, Susanna Elise Tezel Ahr, was German. Her paternal and maternal grandparents were born in the United States, but Sister Sylvia has little recollection of their stories. We do know her maternal grandparents, Susanna Kathrina Braun Gass and Carl Gass, were laid to rest in Helotes, TX.

Records show her paternal great, great, great grandfather, Lawrence, was born in Alsace, France, and it is believed his son, Louis, Sister's great-great-grandfather, would have been the first generation American. Sister Sylvia, one of 9 children, entered the Benedictine Community at the young age of 14. *(Photo right - Sister Sylvia's parents)*



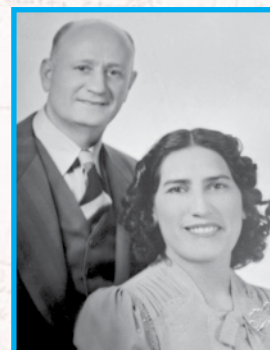
Sister Michael Brandt - German and Mexican

Sister Michael's paternal great grandparents, Gustav Brandt and Ida Bach Brandt, were born in Germany in the mid-1850s and 1860s respectively. Their son, Leander Justice (Von) Brandt (Sister's grandfather) was born in the United States. He fell in love and married Eloise Ruiz, who lived in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. She was of Mexican descent, and one of 12 children born to Inez Garcia Ruiz and Cipriano Ruiz. Leander and Eloise lived in San Antonio where Sister Michael's dad, Lee J. Brandt, Jr. was born and raised.

Edmund Forest Sommers and Selma Blumerich Sommers, both of German descent, were Sisters' maternal grandparents. They were born and raised in Schulenburg Texas. Their daughter, Margaret Marie, married Sister's dad, Lee.

Sister Michael is the oldest, with three younger brothers. She remembers visiting the family's flower shop and the family's ice-house in San Antonio when she was young. She always says, "I'm three-quarters German and one-quarter Mexican." And she is proud of that heritage!

(Photo right - Sister Michael's Paternal Grandparents)



Sister Frances Briseño - Mexican

When I was asked to write a short article reflecting my family's journey from Mexico to the United States, I realized that I really did not know the story. What I heard when I was little was that our great, great, great grandparents crossed the border into the United States for a better way of life. I contacted my aunt to see if perhaps she would have more information for me. Here is what she told me: We come from a small town on the Mexico side of which she could not remember the name. My great, great, great grandparents crossed the border near Eagle Pass or Del Rio, but settled in Eagle Pass, Texas. They lived there for many years until a business man from Comfort, TX, came to Eagle Pass looking for men who could work his land. My grandfather and his family volunteered, and they moved from Eagle Pass to Waring, TX, to work the land at Camp Capers. After many years of labor, my grandfather was given the opportunity to buy the land. However, not having enough money, he declined the offer, and moved to Comfort. As I grew up, we were told many stories about Camp Capers, so that place has always been very special to me.

Crossing over the border was commonplace in those days so no one feared for their lives or felt like they would be put in danger if they decided to cross. Hospitality was offered to everyone on both sides of the border.

OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS



Sister Ursula Herrera - Mexican

Both my father's and my mother's parents migrated from Mexico to the United States. We never got any specific details of what trials they may have gone through. My father's parents moved to Del Río, TX, around 1906. There was a lot of unrest in Mexico at that time. Eventually the family made their way to Melvin, TX, where they had a huge cotton farm. My mother's parents were migrant workers who went to Melvin each year to pick cotton. That is how my parents met.

My grandfather was very generous and had a house for each migrant family. He was called upon and always helped to bury those who had no money for burial. I was only a year old when my grandfather died. I never really knew him, but the memory of his generosity stays with me. *(Photo right - Sister Ursula's Paternal Grandparents)*



Sister Mary Louise Hernandez - Mexican *(Told by her son, Richard Hernandez)*

The Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) was well underway. My maternal grandmother, uncle, and aunt were living in Saltillo, located in the Mexican state of Coahuila. My uncle Luis, a barber, was cutting the hair of a General. An assistant to the General ran in and told the officer the city was being invaded.

They immediately ran out. Luis closed the shop, ran home, and told his sisters (my aunts), Maria de los Angeles and Amelia Rivas, to pack what they could and run for the train going north to San Antonio. With little time to spare, they gathered a few belongings, and left. As the crowded train rolled away, the siblings watched in horror as their city burned.

Upon arrival in San Antonio, the two sisters checked into a women's hotel and Luis checked into a men's hotel. The next day, Luis opened a barber shop about a block from the City Hall and Maria and Amelia found work at a women's sewing factory. There, they met the Flores family sisters and became friends. There were 17 siblings in the Flores family. The Flores sisters invited Maria and Amelia to visit the family homestead, south of the city. They traveled by train, and on one occasion, Maria met Juan Manuel Flores, one of the 17 siblings. Juan and Maria eventually fell in love and got married. They settled in San Antonio and had three children, Aurora, Mary Louise (my mother), and Manuel.

(Photo right - Sister Mary Louise's parents / Richard's grandparents)



Sister Kathleen Higgins - Irish

Sister Kathleen is from Irish Catholic descent. Her ancestors were from Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch on the River Barrow in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Both sets of her grandparents immigrated to the United States, and settled in New York. Sister remembers stories of her paternal and maternal grandfathers working on bridges in Brooklyn. Sister's parents, Joseph Michael Higgins and Miriam Agnes Walsh Higgins, were born in Brooklyn, NY. Her dad served in the Navy during WWII and married her mom upon his return.

Sister Kathleen, the oldest of 3 siblings, was also born in Brooklyn. She grew up in Mishawka, IN, before moving to San Antonio. Her parents relocated to San Antonio and eventually, to Boerne. They are buried at Holy Angels Cemetery on the Benedictine grounds.

(Photo right - Sister Kathleen's Paternal Grandmother holding Sister's dad)



OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS



Sister Bernice Lindsey - Yugoslavian, Polish, Irish, and Scottish

Sister Bernice recalls her maternal grandfather was brought from Yugoslavia to the United States by the Kelly Coal Mining Company to work the coal mines in Bitumen, PA. He met her maternal grandmother, who was from Krakow, Poland. She had immigrated to Renova, PA, a little town about 10 miles from Bitumen.

Sister's paternal grandfather was from Dublin, Ireland, and her paternal grandmother was born in Paisley, Scotland. Her uncle had passage on a ship to the United States. Her dad, who had come as a stowaway, jumped the ship as it came into the harbor.

Sister Bernice favors her Irish/Scottish ancestry. She says, "I find it a more loving, nurturing, peaceful, and joyful heritage."



Sister Susan Mika - Polish and German

My parents, Aloys and Gertrude Mika, showed how to blend various cultures - one from the Polish culture and the other from German ancestry. My dad's father, Felix, was born near Panna Maria, Texas, and lived there his whole life. Felix's dad was born in the Silesia area of Poland, and immigrated to the U.S. before 1890.

My mom's dad, Joseph, was born in Hallettsville, Texas, and moved with his family to Hobson, Texas. His dad was born in Petersdorf, Heilsberg, East Prussia, and immigrated to the U.S. with his brother in 1886.

My mom mentioned that Hobson, where she grew up, had many families of German ancestry. My dad grew up in Panna Maria, which had many families of Polish ancestry. On Friday and Saturday evenings, there were dances in many of the small towns around the 181 Highway corridor. That's how they met and crossed the ancestry boundaries. They married when my dad returned from serving in World War II.

(Photo right - Sister Susan's parents)



Sister Antoinette Van Galen - Dutch and Czechoslovakian

Sister Antoinette's paternal grandparents hailed from Amsterdam, North Holland, Netherlands. Her maternal grandparents were from Czechoslovakia. Her dad, Johannes (John) W. Van Galen, a first generation American, served in WWI. He married Sister's mom, Marie Jurchak, in Chicago in 1926.

Sister Antoinette was born in Summit, IL, the eldest of four children. The family moved to Texas in the early 1930s and settled near Port Arthur. Sister's mother, Marie, died in 1940, and three years later, in 1943, Sister entered the Benedictine Community.

(Photo right - Sister Antoinette's parents)



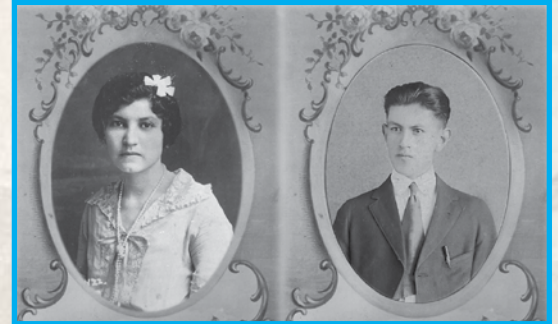
"Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history." *Historian Oscar Handlin*



Sister Victoria Anne Olivares - Mexican

(Told with the help of Socorro Olivares Nelson, Theresa Olivares, and Gloria Villanueva)

Sister Victoria Anne's maternal grandparents, José Aguiar and Leonides Eguia Aguiar, were born in Mexico, and lived in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. It was sometime during the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) that José was killed because he was a landowner. Leonides fled the country with her three children, daughter Victoriana (Sister Victoria Anne's mother), and sons, Braulio, and Euvister. They entered the United States via Laredo, Texas, and made their way to San Antonio.



Sister Victoria Anne's Parents

Sister's paternal grandparents, Damaso Reina Olivares and Maria Ines Lopez Olivares, were from Parras de la Fuentes, Parras Municipality, Coahuila de Zaragoza, Mexico. Sister recalls her father, Damaso Lopez Olivares, telling her he came to the United States with his parents and siblings when he was 16 or 17 years old. His father had been in a work-related accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down, and in a wheelchair. At that time, there was a requisite that one must be in good health to enter the U.S., so they hid Damaso Sr. in a wagon and brought him across the border. Maria Ines had a brother who lived in San Antonio, so the family relocated to this area.

Sister's parents, Damaso & Victoriana, were introduced by the Priest at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in San Antonio. They fell in love and married. Sister was born in San Antonio, one of 8 children. Her mother, Victoriana, passed away when Sister was young. She and her brothers and sisters were raised by her father, grandmother, and aunt, Concepcion, affectionately known as "Yaya".



Sister Mary Agnes Zinni - Italian

Sister Mary Agnes recalls her father, Frank, and his Italian roots. My father, a first generation American, came from a very well-to-do and well-respected vineyard owner family in Italy. When he grew to young adulthood, he made the decision to come to the United States. He went to Washington, DC, by way of the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island.

He worked for the railroad where he met and fell in love with my Italian mother, Grace Nucciolino. They married in 1916. Because of better employment opportunities in New York State, and also at my uncle's insistence, my parents moved to Batavia, NY. It was there where I was born and raised along with my brother and sister.

(Photo right - Sister Mary Agnes' parents)



The preceding collection of information has only scratched the surface of the Sisters' genealogy. We hope it will inspire the continuation of research on their behalf.

"We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of humanity, to make men and women see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite." President Woodrow Wilson

An Eye and Heart-Opening Experience at the Border By Christine Zinni, Ph.D

Upon the urgings of my 98 year old aunt, Sister Mary Agnes Zinni, I traveled with Sister Ursula Herrera to the border town of Eagle Pass, TX, for a third time. I knew Sister Mary Agnes had a heart connection to the place. She was aware of the need to establish a border ministry in Eagle Pass when she was Prioress from 1996-2001. In the late 1990s, the Sisters raised funds to purchase a Mission House. Sister Ursula began her important work as Director of the Caridad de Corazón Ministry in 2000.



Photo above provided (L-R) Christine, Belinda, and Sister Ursula

My recent trip to Eagle Pass was different from my previous visits. This time, I accompanied Sister Ursula and Belinda Howell, JD, RN/BSN, one of her dedicated volunteers, on their daily rounds. We visited Mission Border Hope Shelter, a collaborative ministry of Caridad, where migrants and asylum seekers are processed and received. We spent time organizing huge bags of clothing donations. I saw families with young children sitting down for a warm meal before they set out on buses to other parts of the country. The looks on their faces reflected the travails of their journeys, but their joy and relief was palpable - as was the compassion of relief workers that worked tirelessly to feed and clothe them. Calling to mind a favorite quote of Sister Mary Agnes from the Rule of Saint Benedict, "Never turn away from someone who needs your love." (RB 4:26), it was an eye and heart-opening experience for me, which I will share with my students back in western New York. *(Christine Zinni, Ph.D, is an author and Adjunct Lecturer at SUNY at Brockport in Brockport, NY.)*



Photo above provided - Casey and her grandfather, Mr. Jack Hugman.

D-Day Remembered - 80 Years Ago

It was a trip of a lifetime. Casey Hugman, Sister Bernice Lindsey's granddaughter, accompanied her grandfather, 98 year old Jack Hugman of San Marcos, to Normandy, France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Mr. Hugman served in the U.S. Navy. Casey sent the following excerpt of her travels to Sister Bernice. "We are having quite the trip. We joined 70 other veterans in Dallas, TX, on May 31st. From there we traveled to Paris by charter plane and then took a bus to Normandy. We attended ceremonies at Omaha Beach and Pointe Du Hoc. We also visited Utah Beach. At each location, we remembered June 6, 1944, and all that D-Day meant toward the advancement of freedom during WWII."

Health and Wholeness Center Members Welcome New Manager

A Meet and Greet reception was held on May 9th to welcome Lisa Reeh (pictured center), the new manager of the Health and Wholeness Center. Lisa is no stranger to the Benedictines. She has volunteered at our Sisters' Attic Thrift Store and most recently at our Spaghetti Dinner. She brings new talent and energy to the center which serves active adults ages fifty and older. Among those who attended the reception are members, seated L-R, Lorene Franke and Sue Haley.





“LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE”

By Andrew Anderson

It was a cold, drizzly December morning when I arrived at the Omega Retreat Center. When I entered my office I was greeted by one of our housekeepers. She said that when she went into our small chapel to clean, there was a young man sleeping there. He startled her so she left. I went and looked in the chapel, but he was gone.

About an hour later, our maintenance man came into my office, and told me there was a man sitting on the curb behind the Omega Chapel. Also, that the man had a knife.

I said a prayer and walked out to where the man was sitting. I stood behind him and could see a knife in his hand and a little blood on his wrist. I introduced myself and asked him if I could sit beside him. After a few minutes he agreed.

I asked him if he was okay. He began to tell me his story about his recent divorce and the difficulties he was having being alone. We talked for awhile, and then I asked if I could pray with him. He agreed. After praying, I asked if I could please have his knife. He said okay, and handed it to me. I asked how he ended up at the Omega Center. He said he was down by Interstate 10, saw the lighted cross on the Benedictine Tower, and followed it.

It reminded me of verses in Matthew 5: 14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before others in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”.

We talked a little longer, and I thought I had gained his trust. So I asked if I could get him some help. He asked me what kind of help. I told him I would like to call EMS so they could come and take care of his wound. He agreed.

I called EMS, told them what was going on, and asked them to come without their lights and sirens. They arrived quickly, and took care of his wound. EMS asked if they could take him to a hospital, where he could get further help. I was standing beside the stretcher when he replied okay, with tears in his eyes.

A couple of weeks later he called me and thanked me for helping him. He also told me he was doing much better, and was staying with his parents.

Note: Andrew Anderson, former Director of the Omega Retreat Center (1989-2012) and his wife, Mary, former Director of the Health and Wholeness Center (1999-2011) recently stopped by to visit the Sisters. Andrew recounted the above story which has held purpose and meaning for so many over the years. It is a reminder that not only Omega, but we, too, can be the light of Christ for others.

EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

2024

SUMMER DRAWING

PRIZES

Grand Prize - \$1,000 Value
Two (2) \$500 Visa Gift Cards

Other Prizes
\$500 Visa Gift Card
\$250 Visa Gift Card
\$100 Visa Gift Card
\$100 Amazon Gift Card
\$50 Amazon Gift Card

Drawing Held
Tuesday,
September 3rd

No need to be present to win!

All Proceeds
Benefit the Sisters!

Deadline to submit tickets
Friday, August 30th

Suggested donation \$5/Ticket
Donation not necessary to win.

None's Ball Update

A special "Thank You" to all who have donated to our 2024 None's Ball!

To date, over \$40,000 has been received for our Sisters' Retirement needs!

It's not too late to make a difference!

Gifts are still being accepted in person, by mail, or online at boernebenedictines.org



SAVE THE DATE

St. Benedict's Catholic Church 65th Anniversary

Saturday, July 27, 2024



Join us for our 65th Anniversary celebration!

4:00pm
Celebration - Mass at St. Benedict's Catholic Church with Bishop Gary Janak

6:30pm - 11:00pm
Reception/Dinner/Dance at St. Jerome's O'Brien Hall
Reception registration forms are available.

For more information, Call (210) 348-6704 and leave a message.

We are deeply grateful for the following support of our Immigration Work at the border:

- Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region 12 Border Projects awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,750
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) & the Asociación de Hermanas Latinas Misioneras en América awarded Caridad de Corazón Ministry \$3,350 towards the purchase of a new commercial dishwasher for Mission Border Hope Shelter.

Plan a Gift Today

That Will Make A Difference in the Future

Have the Benedictine Sisters and/or our ministries touched your life? If so, would you consider leaving a Legacy Gift that will make a difference in the future? Gifts of cash or from IRAs (Qualified Charitable Distribution), from Donor Advised Funds, and gifts of stock/securities are ways you can give. Our legal title is Benedictine Sisters (Congregation of Benedictine Sisters).

We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For more info, contact your estate planner, attorney, or Sister Sylvia Ahr, OSB, Treasurer, at 830.816.8504.

Benedictine Voice

is designed for our Benedictine Family, Friends, & Benefactors

Editor:
Mary Anne Oehler

Printing by:
Alamo Mailing, San Antonio, TX

Special thanks to Sister Sylvia Ahr and Sister Michael Brandt for their time, wisdom, and advice.

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The Bevy Hotel (cont. right column)

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction/Raffle A Successful "Friend-Raiser" for the Sisters

"Thank You" to the St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Community, the wonderful Sponsors, Underwriters, Friends of the Benedictines, Silent Auction and Raffle Donors, Volunteers, and guests, who helped make the March 7th Feast of St. Benedict Spaghetti Dinner Event a great success!

This year's dinner was well attended. Proceeds totaling more than \$18,000 benefited the Sisters!



A special note of gratitude to the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) for their instrumental roles in helping to organize and run the event.

Pictured above are (L-R) Grand Knight, David Detelich, Sister Bernadine Reyes, and CDA Regent, Dorothy Meuth.



More photos can be found on our website:
www.boernebenedictines.org

Boerne Family YMCA
Chili's Restaurants
The Creek Restaurant
CTWP
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El Rio Restaurant
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2024 Sisters' Retreat - A Time for Reflection, Renewal, and a Little Laughter



The Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, facilitated the Benedictine Sisters' Annual Retreat held June 10 - 16 at St. Scholastica Monastery. "Father delivered his daily conferences on *Liturgy and Life* with a delightful blend of song, inspiring messages, and of course a bit of humor," said Sister Bernadine Reyes, OSB, Prioress. The Sisters were able to have daily liturgy during the retreat, which was a special gift for them.

Fr. Godfrey is Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter in the Diocese of Belleville, IL.

Photo left: Fr. Godfrey, known for his good sense of humor, shares a moment of laughter with Sister Bernadine between retreat conferences.