

Holy Angels Echoes

Olivetan Benedictine Sisters

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72403-1209

Volume 28 No 4

Fall 2011

Perpetual Vows

On August 15, two Sisters made their Perpetual Vows as Olivetan Benedictines at Holy Angels Convent at a 2:00 p.m. Service. Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, officiated at the Mass and witnessed the profession of Vows. Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, of Subiaco and a number of priests concelebrated the Mass with the Bishop.

After a five-day retreat made at Subiaco, Sr. Mary Beth Hackley, OSB, of St. Mary Parish, Cranston, Rhode Island

and Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, OSB, of St. Peter Parish, Lindsey, Texas made a lifetime commitment of Vows of Obedience, Poverty, Chastity, Reformation of Life according to Monastic Principles and Stability in the Community.

A luncheon for immediate family members and invited guests preceded the 2:00 p.m. ceremony, in Holy Angels Convent Chapel, which was followed by a reception open to the public.



Sr. Mary Beth Hackley, Bishop Taylor, Sr. Mary Clare Bezner

Sr. Mary Beth Hackley, OSB

Sr. Mary Beth was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the third oldest of eight children born to Kathleen M. and the late Samuel E. Hackley. After completing a degree in Social Welfare, she worked in various positions in Human Resources for a number of manufacturing facilities in Rhode Island.

During a three-year Spirituality Christian Living course offered through the Diocese of Providence, Sr. Mary Beth felt called to religious life. She found the easiest way to begin her journey was through the internet.

She was looking for an order that had three

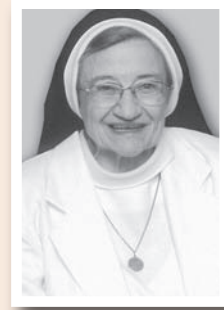
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Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, OSB

Sr. Mary Clare, the oldest of four children, born to Joseph (Skipper) and Barbara Bezner was born in Muenster, Texas, but grew up in neighboring town of Lindsay. After graduating from High School, she joined the Air Force and worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the Emergency Room and in ambulance transport.

After the Air Force, she went into nursing school at North Central Texas College and received her license as a Registered Nurse (RN). She stated, "in August 2000, my sister Jennifer and I left the U.S. to become missionaries for

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Sister Cabrini Arami, OSB

Sr. Cabrini Arami, age 81, died on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, in Holy Angels Convent Infirmary. She was born on May 22, 1930 to Amedeo and Angelina (Vacarie) Arami in Montague, Texas. She had an older sister, Velva, who preceded her in death, and a younger brother, Herman, plus nieces and nephews.

After completing high school, she entered Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, AR, and made Profession of First Vows in 1949. She attributed her vocation to the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters, teaching in Muenster, who, also taught religious education on weekends in her parish in Montague. After making profession, she earned a B.S. degree in elementary education and a M.E.D. in secondary education, with emphasis in math. Teaching assignments included schools and catechetical classes in a career that spanned over forty years. She was an outstanding math teacher and served as principal for a number of these years.

Sr. Cabrini's teaching career was interrupted when she was appointed Subprioress for the community from 1975 to 1981. She was also elected Prioress from 1987 to 1993. During Sr. Cabrini's tenure as Prioress, St. Bernards erected the Ben Owens Cancer Treatment Center, the multi-level parking deck was built, the AHEC Program was established and the Hospice program was begun. Due to health problems she retired in 2001 and had major heart surgery. After recuperating, she continued to live in the Infirmary for the remainder of her years. Visitation and Rosary were held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 3, with Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. in Holy Angels Convent Chapel on Tuesday, October 4. Father Vincent Udo was the principal celebrant and Father Kyle Walterscheid con-celebrated and gave the homily. Pallbearers were the Knights of Columbus, Council 1702, of Blessed Sacrament Parish, under the Direction of Emerson Funeral Home. Interment was in Our Lady of Mount Olivet Cemetery on the convent grounds.

Memorials may be made to the Retirement Fund of Holy Angels Convent, P.O. Box, 1209, Jonesboro, AR 72403-1209.



Message From The Prioress

Sister Lillian Marie Reiter, OSB

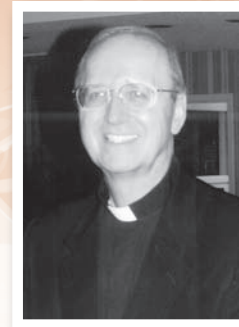
Greetings to all our friends during this beautiful season of Autumn. I hope you take time to appreciate the beauty of nature which God gives us during these months.

I have been reading the book, "As a Man Thinketh," by James Allen, and would like to share a few of his thought with you. He begins by saying that, "As a man thinks in his heart, so he will be." Our actions spring from our thoughts. If our

thoughts are pure, joy follows. Good thoughts result in good action, peace and joy. Bad thoughts can produce bad results. Hateful thoughts crystallize into hatefulness. Selfish thoughts lead to self-seeking."

Our attitude should be that of Jesus. Should we not go out of ourselves to serve others and bring Jesus' love to them? I pray that we will continue to grow in Christ's love and find more ways to bring His love to others. May God bless you all!

Revised Grail Psalms



Abbot Gregory
Pollen, OSB

On September 16, Abbot Gregory Pollen, OSB of Conception Abbey in north-west Missouri, presented a workshop to the Sisters at Holy Angels Convent on the new revised edition of the Grail Psalms. Abbot Gregory, a noted musician and

liturgist, used power point to show examples of the changes in this 3rd edition of the Grail translation of the Liturgical Psalter. He showed examples of the differences between the old and revised version.

Abbot Gregory and the Monks of Conception Abbey were asked to develop this new translation of the liturgical Psalter. The Sisters are looking forward to the implementation of this new translation and to using it in daily recitation of the Office.

Theology Degree



Sr. Deborah Coffey

After attending classes for the last three years, on the first weekend of each month at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Little Rock, Sr. Deborah Coffey received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology on Sept. 10, from St. Gregory's University, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

This degree was conferred by Abbot Lawrence Stasyszyn, OSB, Chancellor of the University. The ceremony took place at St. John's Pastoral Center in Little Rock, a branch site from the University, where classes were conducted. Sr. Georgia Felderhoff and Sr. Eileen Schneider also attended the ceremony.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
SR. DEBORAH.**

Sr. Mary Clare Bezner –

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the Catholic Church in Honduras, Central America. While in Honduras, she received what she considered her first call to religious life. She stated, "I had an improper idea of what a Sister is, and rejected the idea, begging God to please leave me alone." After a year, she and Jennifer returned and she began working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at the Gainesville Hospital. She also started attending a Rosary Prayer group and began asking the Blessed Mother to help her know God's will for her life. She states, "I also began attending daily Mass whenever possible, and started reading more Scripture to learn God's will."

In 2004, in a Bible study class on Abraham and the sacrifice of his son, Isaac, she said, "I felt once again that God was calling me, to lay down my personal desires for a family and to follow Him. "After going to church to pray, I told my mother for the first time, that I was going to be a sister, but secretly, hoped she would tell me, I was nuts." Her mother said, "If any of my children were called to religious life, I thought it would be you." She had even shared this with friends.

Sr. Mary Clare visited several different communities, but decided on the first one she visited - Holy Angels. "I really liked the family atmosphere and the prayer life." The Sisters in Muenster invited her to pray with them, and while praying the Psalms, felt that she was to join them. "I filled out an application and was accepted. The rest is history." Sr. Mary Clare is happy to be assigned as Vocation Directress, to minister to the Hispanic Community and to the youth program in Blessed Sacrament Parish.

FORMATION DIRECTRESS



Sr. Ann Marie
Ferricher

Sr. Ann Marie Ferricher was named the Formation Directress, at the beginning of this new term. After graduating from High School, this native of North Little Rock, attended St. Vincent Infirmary School of Nursing, and graduated as a Licensed Practical

Nurse. She entered Holy Angels in 1979, and made Profession of Vows in 1981, Sr. Ann Marie worked in St. Bernards Hospital for twenty-plus years and also, worked in the Convent Infirmary for five years.

Sr. Ann Marie stated, "God has fulfilled many of my dreams, and continues to be the Lord of my life and the source of all that I am; I am so grateful for all His blessings."

HOLY ANGELS CONVENT

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Remembering Our European Roots

By Sister Eileen Schneider

They were very special people! I'm referring to our early Sisters who came all the way from their beautiful home in Switzerland to found our community. I was blessed to know many of them who were still living when I entered the convent.

These Sisters are often part of our conversation when we reminisce about times past. Some of my fondest memories follow: Memories of their Alpine joy linger today as we recall: Jolly **Sr. Berchmans**, who worked in the hospital laundry, enduring the heat of Arkansas summers with no air conditioners, and still always had a beautiful smile on her face and a cheery hello. We didn't even mind helping fold sheets in the laundry. **Sr. Theresina**, who requested Ed Cox sing, "How Great Thou Art," at her diamond jubilee celebration and was granted her request. **Sr. Caroline**, who often skirted the issues with her favorite response, "I not know." My knowledge of the German language wouldn't have been that advanced.

Sr. Veronica was often seen packing her bag to go to Rome to see the Holy Father. **Sr. Bernadette** memorizing the names of the States and Capitals, as well as the State birds and delighted, in quizzing us to see if we knew them.

Sr. Bernardine left her legacy and a little bit of Switzerland in her beautiful paintings and stained glass windows which can be

seen throughout our convent home.

Sr. Canisia, who loved birds, but didn't like Sr. Monica's cat, would often tell of the importance of her favored winged creatures. **Sr. Angela**, who in her later years was always asking, "What time is it?" She didn't want to miss prayer. **Sr. Fridoline**, who was from Germany, confided to me that during World War II, the only person who could share her concern about family members was my father, Lawrence Schneider. He was from Germany and worked for the Sisters in the hospital and convent for over forty years. Incidentally, Sr. Fridoline was my first grade teacher.

My favorite memory is the Christmas parties at the home of Ed and Gaby Cox. Gaby was from Switzerland and she loved to entertain the four remaining Swiss Sisters: **Srs. Irmina, Caroline, Bernadette and Theresina**. I was able to go as their chauffeur. Gaby always cooked a delicious Swiss meal, served on Christmas china, and a good wine. After dinner, all moved to the living room where we sat around the Christmas tree to sing German Christmas carols, dance, and reminisce.

Once there was so much wine drinking, singing and dancing that when it was time to go home, we couldn't find Sr. Irmina's cane. I like to think they're singing Swiss songs and dancing in heaven.

Blessed Sacrament School



L to R: Father Jack Vu, Bishop Anthony Taylor & Deacon David England.

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, DD, was in Jonesboro on October 18 to dedicate and bless the newly completed Blessed Sacrament School located on Highland Drive. Robert Jones, Building Committee chair, said the idea to build the 28,700 square-foot Parish Education Center, started more than 10 years ago – way before the construction was completed in time for the pre-K-6 youngsters to begin the 2011-2012 school year there.

Jones credited a number of individuals and groups that made the first phase of the education center possible. He credited architect Albert Frankenberger and Ramson Construction Co. for their work on the facility, parishioners, parents and schoolchildren for seeing the first phase of a 3-phase project through, and recognized the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters who came to northeast Arkansas in 1887.

Fr. Jack Vu (pastor), was joined by Monsignor Harris, (former pastor) and officials from the diocesan office, who provided services and support to the parish during the construction phase. Bishop Taylor commended the parish for their faith in building during difficult financial times, and said, "You put your trust in God and walked by faith. This facility touches the hearts, minds and souls of the parish."

Sr. Mary Beth Hackley –

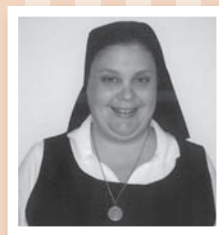
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elements: 1) *Habit* (recognizable religious garb); She said, "I feel, Sisters should be dressed so everyone will recognize them as such;" 2) *Contemplative Prayer*; She stated "I learned the joy of this form of prayer during the Spirituality classes;" and 3) *Community Service*. To be out in the community, appealed to her. "I entered my information on the website and before I knew it, the Vocation Directress of Holy Angels Convent contacted me."

After visiting Holy Angels and with the Sisters, Sr. Mary Beth felt confident this is where God wanted her to serve Him. By May 1, 2005, Sr. Mary Beth made her decision to enter, and after making all the necessary arrangements, she entered Holy Angels on August 1, 2005. She was invested on February 10, 2006, and made First Vows on August 6, 2008.

From her education and previous experience, Sr. Mary Beth is ably qualified for her assigned ministry as Assistant to the Treasurer in the Convent Business Office and is quite competent in current electronic skills. In addition to her convent office work, in 2009, Sr. Mary Beth started teaching Religious Education (PRE) on weekends in St. Anthony Parish, Weiner, a neighboring parish. She delights in preparing little children to receive their First Holy Communion.

Postulant Accepted



Postulant
Jeanine Nicholson

In early August, the Sisters of Holy Angels Convent welcomed Postulant Jeanine Nicholson to the community. Postulant Jeanine is a native of Magnolia, Arkansas and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Postulant Jeanine has spent the last several years working as an Office Assistant for *Americorps Vista (CareNet)*, and recently earned a certificate in Medical Coding.

During a simple ceremony at Vespers on August 7, Sr. Lillian Marie Reiter, Prioress, called Postulant Jeanine forward to receive the Benedictine Medal and commended her to the care of Sr. Ann Marie Ferricher, Formation Directress. Although one Sister is responsible for the Formation Program, all the Sisters are encouraged to participate by their good example and prayers. Please pray for Postulant Jeanine and all those discerning a call to Holy Angels.

OBLATE SPIRITUAL DAY

The Oblate group was small on Oct. 15, as only 8 could make the Spiritual Day. The focus of the day was on Mary - her role in her son's life and in our own. The day began with an informative DVD by Dr. Edward Sri, entitled "Knowing Mary through the Bible." Sr. Mary John directed a wonderful Marian pilgrimage through the convent. The group visited 15 images of Mary and said a prayer at each one, calling each of the 77 Oblates by name.

She also prepared a packet for each oblate that included prayers and many images of Mary. Each Oblate was presented a beautiful rosary given by Father Udo. Preliminary plans were discussed for a possible pilgrimage in the spring to Subiaco Abbey. The group expressed appreciation for the wonderful day.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Six Ways to Leave a Legacy to Holy Angels Convent:

- Remember Holy Angels Convent in your Will.
- Name Holy Angels Convent as a beneficiary of your IRA or Pension Plan.
- Purchase a Life Insurance Policy and name Holy Angels Convent as beneficiary.
- Remember deceased loved ones with memorial gifts to Holy Angels Convent.
- Remember Holy Angels Convent with planned gifts.
- Establish a Charitable Remainder Trust with Holy Angels Convent as the charity.

Contact your attorney for correct procedure.



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Vocation Activities



L to R: Sr. Therese Marie Kintzley, Hanah Hess, Sr. Ann Marie Ferricher, Sr. Mary Beth Hackley, Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, Catherine Fleitman, Sr. Lillian Marie Reiter, Katie Luttmer, Alana Endres, Katie Davidson, Postulant Jeanine Nicholson, Sr. Glorea Knaggs, Sr. De Porres Polk, Sr. Maria Christi Cavanaugh, & Sr. Lenore Dust.

August 5-7 – Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, Vocation Directress, and Sr. Maria Christi Cavanaugh attended the Midwest Catholic Family Conference in Kansas City, Kansas. The Sisters assisted in conducting Catechetical workshops and activities for children and teens.

September 30 – October 3 – A group of eighth grade girls from Sacred Heart School in Muenster, Texas visited Holy Angels Convent.

October 12-14 – Sr. Mary Clare Bezner and Sr. Glorea Knaggs hosted a booth at the Vocations Fair at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. The annual event featured representatives from over 60 different Religious communities, and is open to the local Catholic college students.

Please continue to pray for those in formation, and for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Health & Wellness

The grand opening of St. Bernards Health and Wellness Institute was held by an open House on three days, preceding the ribbon cutting and official opening for operation for members on October 26. Three specific groups were invited: Oct. 23rd for doctors and employees; Oct. 24th, for officials and special guests; and on the 25th, for the general public, at which time there was a ribbon cutting. Mr. Chris Barber, President and CEO of St. Bernards and Mr. Michael Givens, Administrator of the Medical Center officiated at the ceremony.

Prayers and Sympathy

We extend sincere sympathy and an assurance of our prayers to the following who lost a loved one.

☩ Sr. Maria Christi Cavanaugh, on the death of her Uncle Robert Delarber, who died on Aug. 25, 2011.

Activities Meetings

July 29 – Aug. 4 Sr. Mary Beth Hackley and Sr. Mary Clare Bezner made their Retreat at Subiaco in preparation for their Final Vows.

Aug. 4 – Sr. Maria Christi Cavanaugh and Sr. Glorea Knaggs renewed their Temporary Vows during evening Vespers.

Aug. 30 – The Constitution Committee met to discuss plans and a schedule for accepting suggestions from the community. Members of the committee: Sr. Mary John Seyler, Sr. Romana Rohmer, Sr. Eileen Schneider, Sr. Lisa O'Connell and Sr. Therese Johnson.

Sept. 7 – The fall Scripture Class began the newly published, Little Rock Scripture Study on Spirituality of the Gospels. The class meets weekly and Sr. Romana served as coordinator for the group.

Oct. 2 – The Community held a picnic at Lake Frierson State Park to celebrate the Feast of Holy Angels. Oblates were invited to join them for the occasion.

Oct. 15 – A delegation of Sisters from Holy Angels attended the diocesan Jubilee celebration held at the Cathedral in Little Rock. Sr. Hilary Decker, of St. Scholastica's, Fort Smith coordinated the event. A luncheon followed in Mc Donald Hall.