



Fall 2023
Vol. 41 V.2

Holy Angels Echoes

The Olivetan Benedictine Sisters
www.olivben.org

Prioress Re-elected



Mother Mary Clare Bezner
& Monsignor Scott Friend

On June 12, the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters re-elected Mother Mary Clare Bezner as Prioress of the community. Monsignor Scott Friend, delegate of Bishop Anthony Taylor, presided at the election. Mother Mary Clare will serve for the next three years. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues to lead the community at Holy Angels Convent.



Fr Christian Raab, OSB

Annual Retreat

This year's retreat was led by Fr Christian Raab of St Meinrad's Archabbey. Fr Christian, a theology professor at St Meinrad's Seminary, spoke to us about the beauty and the value of the Liturgy. With particular emphasis on the Eucharistic revival, he broke down each section of the Mass in detail. He also gave us an interesting assignment: to pray the Our Father, line by line, in reverse. Many Sisters found this to be a fruitful meditation for private prayer. Retreat is always a blessing and a chance to spend extra time with our Lord. At the conclusion of retreat, we renew our Religious Vows.

Seminarians Visit

During the summer, most of our diocesan Seminarians participate in pastoral assignments – times spent at parishes throughout the diocese. We were blessed this summer to have several Seminarians in Northeast Arkansas who were able to join us for Evening Prayer and supper.



Sr Thérèse and Seminarian
Elijah Bailey



Sisters Helen, Christopher and
Elaine (L-R) visit with
Seminarian Sam Stengel.

Message from the Prioress

Mother Mary Clare Bezner, OSB



Dear friends,

As summer draws to a close, our minds take us to thoughts of fall: cooling down, harvest, Thanksgiving. In this issue of our newsletter we take time to express our deepest gratitude to our benefactors for remembering us, whether it be financially or in prayers. We pray for each one of you at the end of our daily Morning Prayer in community.

I want you to know that your donations make a difference in our day-to-day operations. Like many communities, we have fewer members who are generating income at this time in our history, and yet we trust fully in God's providence. What do your donations go to? We are living in a very large building that is over 40 years old. As you can imagine, this presents many challenges. We have been forced to repair our plumbing system in the last year, which is a multi-faceted issue that we are still addressing, at the cost of over \$30,000. We have been working on ways to conserve and improve our energy efficiency, which has been difficult in a building not originally designed for that purpose. Additionally, many of our large appliances (dishwashers, heating and cooling systems, and refrigeration, for example) are getting older, and we are praying about prudent ways to move forward in replacing these expensive items.

God is providing for us. He is caring for us, and one of the ways that He does that is through your financial generosity. If you are able, would you consider making a one-time or monthly donation to our community? You can use the letter in this publication or you can click "Donate" on the homepage of our website to make a contribution through Paypal (www.Olivben.org).

Finally, I ask you to continue your support in prayers. Pray that we will be wise and prudent stewards with all that God has entrusted to us. You remain in our prayers today and always.

In Christ,
Mother Mary Clare Bezner, OSB



(L-R) Sr Johanna Marie, Don Martin,
and Sr Therese Marie at Sister's
retirement party

Sr Therese Marie Retires

After 15 years of service in our Pastoral Care Department at St Bernards, Sr Therese Marie Kintzley retired in May. We celebrated her retirement with a special reception in St. Bernards community room, where many Sisters and employees came to thank her for her years of service. God bless you, Sr Therese Marie.

Holy Angels Echoes

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SISTER M. ANGELINE MASSERY

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Angeline Massery, a member of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of Holy Angels Convent for 77 years, died February 26, 2023. She was 94 years old. Margaret Carolyn was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on February 28, 1928 to the late Jim and Mary Fitzgerald Massery. After eighth grade, she attended Holy Angels Academy in Jonesboro, and entered the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters in 1946. She made First Vows in 1947 and Final Vows in 1951. Sister Angeline spent her early years as a Sister cooking for Holy Angels Convent, St. Bernards Hospital, St John's Seminary in Little Rock, and St Andrew's Cathedral School. After earning her BS in Education from Arkansas State University, she began a teaching career that spanned over thirty years; she taught at Catholic schools all over central and northeast Arkansas. She spent many years serving her Sisters at Holy Angels through her work in the kitchen and front desk - greeting visitors with her smile, humor and charity. In July 2022, she celebrated 75 years of religious life. She was preceded in death by her parents; and siblings: Rose Scott, John Massery, Jeanne Miller, Dottie Chrestman, Bill Massery, Norma Oury, Gerry Prudot, and James Massery. She is survived by her Sisters in community; brothers, Richard and Bob Massery; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Sister Marilyn Doss, a member of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of Holy Angels Convent for 36 years, died July 4, 2023. She was 74 years old. Letha Marilyn was born in Whitefield, Oklahoma, on June 16, 1949 to the late Marjorie Plep and Floyd Hollis. The family moved to Arkansas and she attended Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic School, where she first encountered the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters. After raising her son, Paul, she entered Holy Angels Convent in 1988. She made First Vows in 1989 and Final Vows in 1993. Sister Marilyn spent her early years as a Sister taking care of Convent guests and serving at Benedictine Manor in Hot Springs. In 1990, she began working in the Pastoral Care Department at St. Bernards, where she visited patients for 30 years. In 2014, she celebrated 25 years of religious life. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Virginia Winters; and niece, Sheilah K. Winters. She is survived by her Sisters in community; her loving son, Paul (Bonnie) Doss, twin sister Louise (Wayne) Geer; brother Jim Hollis; grandsons Mitchell (Dihanna), Dylan (Kaitlyn) and Trey Doss; great-granddaughters Ella and Lila Doss; nephews David (Kira) Geer and Neal (Sindy) Hollis, and niece Tammy (Jeremy) Lyon.

SISTER MARILYN DOSS



SISTER M. DOMINICA WISE



Sister Mary Dominica Wise, a member of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of Holy Angels Convent for 75 years, died July 22, 2023. She was 92 years old. Marion Louise was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 8, 1931 to Robert and Christine Wise. With her mother, sister and brother, she entered the Catholic Church at the age of 11 and began attending St Andrew's Cathedral School, where she first met the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters. When the family moved to California, she attended a Dominican boarding school near San Francisco. After graduating from 8th grade, she returned to Arkansas to enter Holy Angels Academy. A year later, in 1948, she entered the convent. She made First Vows in 1950 and Perpetual Vows in 1954. Sister Dominica spent her first years as a Sister cooking for the convent, St. Bernards Hospital, different mission houses, and for 9 years at the diocesan seminary in Little Rock. After this, she served at St Andrew's Daycare in Little Rock (later Little Angels Day Care) as cook, teacher and director for 40 years. During this time she also earned her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In 2020, she celebrated 70 years of religious life. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Odis Self, Jr.; sister, Thelma Jean Poirier; and niece, Ellen Marie Poirier. She is survived by her Sisters in community; her brother, Robert Wise; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Special Thanks

The Olivetan Benedictine Sisters wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all our benefactors who made contributions in 2022. Whenever attempting to create such a list as this, we run the risk of accidentally omitting a name. If we have done so, please accept our apologies and know that we are very grateful!

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Cindy Zimmer
James & Dolores Zimmerer
Bob Zimmerman

I thank my God
in all my
remembrance
of you.
-Philippians 1:3

St Walburga

A Saint from Our Tradition

St Walburga was born into a noble family in 8th century England. According to the custom of the time, she was sent to a monastery of nuns to be educated, and entered the community when she was of age. Like her pious brothers, St. Winebald and St. Willibald, she was very devout and sought to live a quiet life in the service of God. However, her personal sanctity attracted the attention of her uncle, St Boniface, who was a bishop leading missionary efforts in Germany. He requested from her Mother Superior that she and a few other nuns be permitted to assist him in his work, and his request was granted.

En route to Germany by sea, a great storm threatened the lives of the passengers on St Walburga's ship. Many cried out in despair and fear, but she prostrated herself and prayed. When she rose, she rebuked the wind and the seas in the manner of our Lord when he was among the disciples. The seas calmed down, and



peace was restored to the ship's crew and passengers. This incident became well known, and St Walburga sought the refuge of prayer and silence as soon as they arrived at their destination.

In spite of her desire for anonymity, she was soon made abbess of the convent in which she settled. She was known for her great love of God and the nuns of her community. Today many monasteries are under her name and patronage, and her feastday is celebrated February 25.

Benedictine Oblates of Holy Angels Convent

Oblates of St. Benedict associate themselves with a Benedictine community in order to strengthen their Baptismal commitment and enrich their Christian way of life. Anyone interested in joining the Oblate program of Holy Angels Convent, please contact Sr Mary John at srmmaryjohns@gmail.com.



Oblate Day: Sr Mary John is pictured with Br Ambrose Fryer, OSB of Subiaco, who spoke to our Oblates about "The Joy of Lent" in March.

Get to Know Sr Miriam Burns



Year I entered religious life: 1979

Hometown: El Dorado, Arkansas

Feast day: September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

Treat I like for my feast day: Pecan Pie

Favorite saints: Sts Michael, Peter, and John

Hymns I love to sing: How Great Thou Art

Favorite books to read: The Miracle of the Illumination of All Consciences

Last book read: Diary of St Faustina

Favorite Flower: Red Rose

Favorite movie: The Passion of the Christ

A precious memory: Trip to the Holy Land and Rome

Favorite Bible Verse: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done..." -Luke 1:38

Hobbies or interests: Christian movies about the Bible

A color that makes me happy: red

Favorite activity at evening recreation: Games

Dream pilgrimage: Return to the Holy Land

If I could meet anyone, past or present, it would be: St Michael the Archangel

Favorite way to pray: Contemplative

Hidden talent: Fishing

Favorite artist: Michelangelo

Favorite pope: St John Paul II

Best season of the year: Spring

Favorite title of Our Lady: Our Lady of Sorrows

Special animal: Puppies

Favorite church: Holy Angels Convent Chapel

Team I cheer for: New Orleans Saints

Favorite thing about Holy Angels: Our community

Pilgrimage and Studies Abroad

by Sr Glorea Knaggs, OSB

St John Paul the Great once remarked that pilgrimages are for the Church "a gift of grace." During my winter pilgrimage to Italy, graces were in abundance, and I am filled with gratitude to God and my community for giving me the opportunity to visit so many holy places and learn more about the work of formation through the CMSWR Santa Croce Program. My trip started in central Italy at the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, the Motherhouse of our congregation, near where things began with St Bernard Tolomei, our founder. I was hosted by our friend, Abbot James Liprie, Vicar General of the Congregation. I was blessed by the monks' hospitality, the stories they shared, and especially, by participating in daily prayer and Mass with them.

After a few days at Monte Oliveto, I boarded the train for Rome. During the winter term, our classes were held in the afternoons, giving us the flexibility to visit churches and historical sites at a greater distance each morning. We attended Mass one morning at Vatican Radio, Mass with the Benedictine community at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, and even celebrated St Scholastica's feastday with Mass and breakfast at St Anselmo's, the Benedictine college in Rome. One morning we visited the niece of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati at her apartment. She kindly shared with us family stories of him and gave us each a relic.

They say that when you visit Rome, there is always one church that is "yours." For me, I have to choose two. St Peter's Basilica is home away from home. The vast beauty, light, and majesty that characterize this place make it so hard to leave. We attended a Sunday Mass there, and to my surprise, I realized that I was seated just under the statue of St Benedict! My other church would have to be St Benedict in Piscinula. This Church is built right over the place where St Benedict lived while in Rome. I prayed at a tiny cell which is believed to have been his bedroom – one of the many special graces I received on this pilgrimage, for which I will be forever grateful.



Sr Glorea found plenty of photo opportunities with great backgrounds



The Eucharistic Chapel at Monte Oliveto Maggiore



Sr Glorea with her Santa Croce Program companions, at the Vatican Museums

Leave a Legacy

Ways to support the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of 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.

Sympathy & Prayers

The Sisters extend sincere sympathy and prayers to the following who have lost a loved one recently:

Sr Marya Duscher and family, on the death of her brother-in-law, Doyle Sellner, on March 6.

Mother Mary Clare and family, on the death of her uncle, George Taylor, on August 22.

Activities & Meetings



Happy Retirement: Our maintenance man of nearly 20 years, Ray Kemper, retired in March. God bless you, Ray!



New Golf Cart: Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and the kindness of our Subiaco monks, Fr Cassian Elkins delivered a brand new golf cart to us in April. It has been a blessing to be able to take our Sisters around the property in this new vehicle.



Happy birthday, St. Bernards: On July 5, our Sisters helped serve birthday cake to St. Bernards employees to celebrate our 123rd birthday. Pictured with employees (L-R) Sr Cecilia, Sr Jeanette, Mother Mary Clare, and Sr Maria Rose.



NICU presentation: In July, Brett Vinson, a St Bernards Respiratory Therapist, gave our Sisters a presentation about developments in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Sr Elaine and other Sisters admired the model premie used for demonstrations.



Special Visit: Newly ordained priest Fr John Paul Hartnedy paid a visit to our Sisters in June. Pictured above, he is giving a blessing to a group of our Sisters.



Triple Swing: (L-R) Sr Mary Beth, Laura Pickens, and Mother Mary Clare came to cheer on participants at the St. Bernards Foundation Triple Swing fundraiser.

Get to Know Sr Mary Beth Hackley



Year I entered religious life: 2005

Hometown: Cranston, Rhode Island

Feast day: May 31 - The Visitation

Treat I like for my feast day: Pineapple & Cream Cheese Upside Down Cake

Favorite saints: Sts Elizabeth, Benedict & Scholastica

Hymns I love to sing: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord

Favorite books to read: The Bible - it always feeds me

Last book read: Prudence, by Fr Gregory Pine, OP

Favorite Flower: Carnation

Favorite movie: It's a Wonderful Life

A precious memory: Seeing my baby sister for the first time. My dad held her down low so all of us could see her.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Matt. 6:24

Hobbies or interests: Knitting and listening to audiobooks

A color that makes me happy: sky blue

Favorite activity at evening recreation: Knitting and having good conversations with the Sisters.

Dream pilgrimage: Simply finding more time for prayer and spiritual reading

If I could meet anyone, past or present, it would be: Jesus Christ

Favorite way to pray: In my room, in silence, with my feet propped up and a hot cup of coffee, with His word and good teaching, like Bishop Barron or Fr Mike Schmitz.

Favorite pope: St John Paul II

Best season of the year: Spring

Favorite title of Our Lady: Our Lady of Grace

Favorite church: Our Chapel

Team I cheer for: New England Patriots

Favorite thing about Holy Angels: I feel it is home. In my soul I know this is where God wants me to work in His vineyard.

Vocations Activities



Sr Cecilia (center) with other Sisters at the Marian Days in Carthage, Missouri



In August, 9th graders from Sacred Heart High School, Muenster, Texas enjoyed a visit to Holy Angels

Is God calling you?

Are you or is someone you know considering a vocation to Religious Life? Contact Sr Cecilia Nguyen, Vocation Director, at Vocations@olivben.org.



Sr Cecilia and Sr Maria Christi joined the diocese in hosting a discernment retreat for women in April

Keep in
touch!



www.olivben.org



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Olivetan Benedictine
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