

# TIDINGS

## Saint Bede Monastery and Center

A Newsletter from The Sisters of Saint Benedict  
VOL.19 NO. 3

Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
Fall 2006

### Conferees Share Views On Religious Communities

Editor's Note: Sister Lucy Miller, OSB, graciously supplied notes from the 21st Monastic Institute held July 1-7 at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. Other attendees from Saint Bede Monastery: Sisters Barbara Weiland, Mary Frances Gebhard, Dale Wollum, Ruth Feeney, Marjorie Hill and Mary Jane Cournoyer; Lay Associate Robert Hollern, and Mary Ann Koth, and Mary Artz, friends of the Sisters.)

Benedictine scholars covered a variety of topics at the 21st annual Monastic Institute, which attracted about 270 Benedictines, other religious and laypersons interested in the spiritual, cultural and personal dynamics that are changing monastic communities.

Titled "One Heart, One Soul: Many Communities," the event also celebrated 150 years of Benedictine service in Central Minnesota. St. John's University and the neighboring College of Saint Benedict hosted aspects of the week long conference.

Institute planners described the conference's goals this way: "We seek to increase our understanding of the cultural dynamics generating new religious communities, to explore what established monastic communities can learn from the experience of the new communities, and what the new can learn from the experience of the established."

Three male presenters, including **Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, OSB**, scholar and classical musician, covered topics ranging from historical, contemporary and global monasticism, and liturgy and prayer. Women and lay speakers focused on the practices, experiences and concepts that lie at the heart of today's monastic communities.

For example, **Sister Margaret Malone, SGS**, from Australia, said the table and the oratory are major images of community life. The table, a sign of human communion, is a place of group encouragement and support; the oratory encompasses listening to God's Word, which guides each member's interior, spiritual life.

"We need to be experts in humanity as well as in theory," Sister added. "At table, we can recognize Christ in one another."

"For me, the excitement began as we entered the grounds of St. John's Abbey," said **Sister Mary Frances Gebhard**. "We were Oblates, Associates, those who had formed intentional communities, and those just interested in what monasticism had to offer to a world torn by war, terror, greed and fear."

"There were Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Mennonites, Quakers, Episcopalians, men and women, old and young, vowed, single and married. The momentum

grew as the week went on and one could feel the Spirit working everywhere as people shared their experiences," Sister noted. "It made one wish that all whom you loved could have shared this moment. It was truly a gifted week."

**Robert Hollern**, who attended the Institute as a Benedictine Lay Associate from Saint Bede Monastery, said he enjoyed the hospitality of the monks, whom he joined in their stalls in the abbey's church for prayer, the singing of psalms and a funeral mass for a deceased Benedictine. He also visited and prayed with the Sisters at the College of Saint Benedict. Hollern, who last spring made a formal commitment to the Lay Associates, said the Benedictines he met were "quite liberal," and expressed surprise at learning that some Benedictines are serving at a North Korean hospital.

An early presenter, **Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB**, traced the origins of today's monasticism to Egypt, which he termed the "great spiritual theme park." "This phenomenon was extraordinary at the end of the 3rd Century and the 4th. The thinking was, 'We are screwed up people and we need to get back to God.'"



2006 Monastic Institute attendees at St. John's University  
Front Row (left) Sisters Mary Frances Gebhard, Dale Wollum and Mary Jane Cournoyer. Standing (left) Sister Marjorie Hill, Mary Ann Koth, Sisters Ruth Feeney, Lucy Miller and Barbara Weiland, Mary Artz and Robert Hollern.

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**Sister Margaret Michaud, OSB  
Prioress**

## TIDINGS

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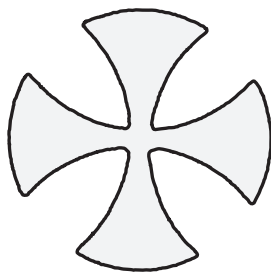
**Sisters:** Hildegard Geraets,  
Mary Frances Gehhard, Judy Kramer, Margaret Michaud, Dale Wollum

**Photography:** James A. Schwartz

**Sisters:** Judy Kramer, Karen Streveler

**Mailing:** Thanks to our **Dedicated Volunteers** directed by Linda Dekan

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Family members (from left) Abbot David Geraets, Henry Geraets and Francis Geraets in July gathered at Saint Bede for Sister Hildegard Geraets's 50th Jubilee.

# MONASTIC MUSINGS

— Sister Margaret Michaud, OSB

Recently there have been a number of stories in the press about the lack of sufficient funds for the retirement of religious. The *Seattle Times*, for example, had a piece on July 28 which began, "With tens of thousands of U.S. nuns over the age of 70, the Roman Catholic Church is facing a massive financial shortfall for the care of retirees in religious orders -- a gap that over the long term dwarfs costs from the clergy abuse crisis." The article went on to state that religious are facing the same problem as our society. Increasing numbers of retirees need benefits; fewer workers are available to support them.

The bishops of our country authorized a national collection for the retirement of religious in 1988. Since then there has been such a collection each December. It was scheduled to end next year, but the bishops agreed to extend the program another ten years. In spite of the collection, a recent survey from the National Religious Retirement Office revealed that there is an unfunded future liability of \$8.7 billion. Here at Saint Bede Monastery we have received a grant from the collection each year.

With the foresight of our then-prioress, **Sister Denis Smith**, we established a retirement fund for our sisters in 1968. We call this fund our "Community Support Fund." Gradually over the years we were able to add to it. In the 60s, 70s and 80s we had many sisters in salaried positions. This allowed us to pay off the debt from our building, cover current expenses and save for retirement.

As the earning sisters began to move into retirement, we could see that we needed to do some responsible planning. In 1986, when **Sister Connie Ostrander** was prioress, we initiated our development program. Since then, the response of our families, former students, friends and associates has been overwhelming. We have been able to see our Community Support Fund grow with the gifts we receive each year. According to the recent survey from NRRO, we still are not fully funded. (Only 4 percent of sister's communities are fully funded.) We are at a very good place, however. The figures say we now have 60 percent of what will be needed to cover our entire retirement costs. We are among the more fortunate religious communities in the nation. This is a great blessing!

In considering these data, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all the generous support we have received over the years. Along with financial gifts, we have enjoyed the help, the advice, the encouragement, the friendship and the prayers of so many. We are indeed blessed with a multitude of precious connections with wonderful people.

As you read this, dear friends, please know of our love and daily prayers!



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# Reaching Out

— Sister Dale Wollum, OSB



Sister Judy Kramer

□ **Sister Judy Kramer**, who last spring made her third trip to Ecuador as a translator with an area medical team, again served in that capacity this summer. Sisters' Spanish-speaking skills again served a young woman she previously met in Ecuador, Cumanda Leon Zeas. Cuma enjoyed the hospitality of the Sisters at Saint Bede Center while she awaited what proved to be successful surgeries by local health professionals to remove a large, growing tumor in her eye. Cuma's story

rated page one coverage in the July 8th Eau Claire *Leader-Telegram*.

□ Christopher Collins, nephew of **Sisters Bridget and Mary Jo Donaldson**, was ordained a Jesuit priest on June 9 in the order's Wisconsin Province. Sister Mary Jo said that in addition to their brother, **Fr. Tom Donaldson**, pastor of St. Francis Parish, Ellsworth, WI, her family also is blessed by the "good Catholic marriages" of Christopher's mother Barbara and four other Donaldson siblings.

□ **Sisters Haroldine Malinowski and Michaela Murray** in mid-June received "heartfelt congratulations" on marking their 75th and 60th Jubilees from **Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke**, former Bishop of the La Crosse diocese and now Archbishop of the Diocese of St. Louis. "As your former student," he wrote, "I thank God for the call which He gave you to the consecrated life, and for your faithful response."

□ **Sister Marjorie Hill**, who retired last spring from Immaculate Conception School after nearly 50 years of teaching assignments, realized a dream over the summer with a tour of Alaska's National Park and other memorable stops in the nation's largest state.

□ The Benedictine Sisters could choose from three retreats at the Center during summer. **Abbot Leo Ryska**, retreat director at St. Benedict's Monastery, Benet Lake, WI, and **Joanne Dehmer, SSND**, of Loyola Spirituality Center, St. Paul, MN, led preached and directed retreats, respectively, during June 11-16. **Sister Margaret Michaud**, Prioress, directed a retreat for Women Religious titled Eucharist: The Center of the Christian Life during July 9-14.



Summer Retreat  
Sister Monica Mai (left)  
and  
Joanne Dehmer, retreat  
director

□ Marlene Jannusch, who served the former Mount Senario College at Ladysmith, WI as education department chair and board member, in late July read chapters from her book, "Gentle Words for Every Season" before a group of book lovers at Saint Bede Center. Her book, the result of a decade of commentaries on WOJB radio in northern Wisconsin, was edited by Saint Bede staff member **Judy Bredeson** and includes photos by **Sister Karen Streveler**.



Author Marlene Jannusch (center) discussed her book with (from left) JoAnn Klink, Sister Karen and other participants.

□ Six Benedictines from Saint Bede who attended the Federation of Saint Benedict chapter meeting in July were joined by **Sister Rosalyn Tsai**, a Benedictine from Taiwan who previously spent time with this community while taking English classes at an Eau Claire community college. The week-long gathering, led by **Sister Michaela Hedican**, president



of the Federation, was hosted by the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery at Bismarck, ND.

□ **Sister**

*Saint Bede Sisters participants at Federation meetings included (front row, left) Karen Streveler, Hildegard Geraets and Ruth Feeney, and (rear) Michaela Hedican, Monica Mai and Margaret Michaud.*

**Margaret Michaud** is among 20 contributors to a newly published book, "Wisdom from the Tradition: A Statement of North American Benedictine Women in Response to Our Times." The book, latest in a series of works published by the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses, mines the wisdom found in the *Rule of Saint Benedict* for "reflection and renewal in communities of both women and men, those in formation, oblates and associates, and other interested publics."

□ **Sisters Margaret and Michaela** in September will represent Saint Bede Monastery at an international conference of Benedictines, known as the CIB, in Rome, Italy.



Sister  
Margaret Michaud

Sister  
Michaela Hedican

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## Conferees Share Views On Religious Communities

The result, he added, was the emergence of spiritual leaders and followers, "creating traditions of Christian spirituality." Men and women today continue to seek healthy connections with God and others, he continued. "They have a desire for a life of purpose (and) a desire for a structured spiritual life that is genuine -- a connection to a spiritual path. People are looking for a sincere spirituality based on scripture. The Holy Spirit is inviting us."

Another speaker, **Fr. Kevin Seasoltz, OSB**, editor of *Worship*, noted the irony of "church going" declines with rising interest in spirituality. "For some reason in the modern world, it is hard to be close to anybody -- yet this is what the world hungers for most," he said.

Seasoltz said Jesus, "totally receptive to human life," gives each of us an identity and His love. "A primary experience is Jesus in the Eucharist. In receiving Holy Communion," he continued, "I experience Jesus as a living dynamic person continuing to enter my experience each time I receive the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, we not only come to love Jesus, but we also learn to love."

**Abbot Primate Notker**, who spoke on global impacts of Benedictine communities, said there are "so many ways to live out the *Rule of Saint Benedict*." He said Benedictines are not "really an Order like the Dominicans or Franciscans. Actually," he added, smiling, "we belong to a Holy Disorder."

Notker said there are about 7,500 Benedictine men worldwide today, reflecting a decline of some 1,000 members in the last decade. During the same decade, he added, Bene-

dictine women gained 500 members.

"Most of these new vocations are coming from India, Africa and Asia," he continued. "The 19 regions of Benedictine women are called a 'communion' to express spiritual unity. The 'nuns' are cloistered and usually under a bishop. The 'Sisters' are active. Nuns and Sisters are two different charisms. Since the fall of the (Cold War's) Iron Curtain more Benedictines are appearing in Poland and surrounding countries."

Worldwide, Notker continued, Benedictines operate 150,000 schools, including San Anselmo, a training ground for monastic leaders in Rome, that is "probably the most famous Benedictine University." He said that Benedictines today work in various spiritual and secular environments and that "we do want to take all that is good, true and beautiful from the many cultures, ancient and new."

Abbot Notker cautioned the Benedictine communities to avoid the siren songs of an advertising culture that tempts us with new needs in today's "throw-away society."

"We must step out of this mode of thinking and appreciate what we've got," he said. "If we knew the story behind each person who comes to the community with us -- we would praise and thank God for the miracle of each one. We can be satisfied with what we've already been given. Fidelity and commitment are strong values for us."

"We are always hoping for no problems" the Abbot concluded. "There will always be problems -- even in religious life."

## Caring Beyond Borders

— Sister Judy Kramer, OSB

She came to the States alone on May 10. By May 19, after her first surgery, she called Bede's home and had acquired many "sisters." In late February, Martha Cumanda Zeas Leon -- "Cuma," came to the Fundacion Clinic in Cuenca, Ecuador just as the volunteer medical team from Eau Claire was packing to finish their week of services.

She shyly asked if I thought our doctors could do anything to remove the large ugly mass on her right eye. Dr. Steven Cook, the organizer and leader of the medical group, expressed amazement at the size of the tumor and admitted we would need expert help. He reassured us that he knew of some specialists that could remove the tumor and that Cuma should come to Eau Claire so her full beauty could be restored. As Cuma left, Dr. Cook orally went through an index of surgeons and eye care specialists back home. He knew he could count on them. I offered what I could -- board, room and a monastic family at Saint Bede.

Doctors Heidi Jarecki and Clint Merrick were understanding and positively excited about removing the five inch hemangropericytoma tumor and reconstructing Cuma's eyelid. Consults via a translator and post surgical care would have been a challenge without the excellent health care staff in Eau Claire! Smiles, concern, cheering

on and profound satisfaction on seeing improvement are deeper than a language barrier. Dr. Jarecki speaks some Spanish and that greatly pleased Cuma. She eagerly poured over pictures taken during surgery trying to understand why she had suffered the deforming tumor for 2 1/2 years.

At the end of the second week she asked me "if we ever had rice to eat." She ate heartily at the oriental rice buffet restaurants when we finally figured out that indeed rice was her favorite food!

Cuma (center) made friends everywhere she went, including Saint Bede staff members Linda Dekan, Development, (left) and Mary Traynor, Center Office.



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Continued from Page 4 **Caring Beyond Borders**

Cuma, a professional seamstress, overjoyed at discovering a sewing machine at Saint Bede Center in mid-May, went to work making items, remodeling her clothes. She made friends with her smile and mild manners. She was happy to speak in her native tongue when friends and recruits came by. She didn't really have enough well time to learn English but she understood a good deal at the end of her two-month stay.

After the second surgery on July 3, Cuma recovered rapidly and planned at once for her pending return to Ecuador. Often she would say, "I don't know why I was so fortunate to receive the skill, friendship and generosity of so many people. There is something important some-

where that I must do to pass on the goodness and kindness I have received. I keep praying, show me Lord, show me what I am to do."

Marco, one of Cuma's cousins who lives in New York (and recently became a U.S. citizen), flew to St. Paul, MN, rented a car and drove to Eau Claire on July 7. He came to thank Drs. Cook, Jarecki and Merrick, as well as the Saint Bede Community for all the kindness shown to Cuma. That beautiful 27-year-old woman left dry eyed. As she was leaving she looked into my eyes and said, "I know you have never been a mother, I know you don't ever plan to be a mother, but you have been a wonderful mother to me."

## Book Notes

— Sister Hildegarde Geraets, OSB

### IN SEARCH OF BELIEF, by Joan Chittister

Though this book is not a recent publication, regular readers of Joan Chittister's published materials will be pleased with this book. She skillfully guides the reader through the Creed, phrase by phrase. Each phrase is introduced with some of her personal experiences which helps to create an interest in the article being discussed. This is followed by putting the discussion in a contemporary setting. At times your personal beliefs may be challenged, but in the end questions are resolved and you will end up with a broadened understanding of what the Creed is teaching. You may experience a new spurt of energy in your spiritual growth and be able to resolve misunderstandings of teachings of the Church in a positive manner.

### LOST IN WONDER, by Esther de Waal

If you are a follower of Benedictine spirituality, you have already met the author Esther de Waal. Her popular book, *SEEKING GOD*, applies Benedictine spirituality to our everyday life. *LOST IN WONDER* takes us beyond the everyday distractions of busyness, stress and lack of direction to creating an appreciation of the world around us. Her theme is "God is in your everyday environment." In order to become aware of this fact, the busy person has to create quiet time so that moments of reflection are possible. As she observes, "unless you find time to stand back and give yourself breathing space, you are in danger of not being fully alive in order to enjoy the fullness of life for which you were created."

### American Cultural Baggage, by Stan Nussbaum

When you are feeling overwhelmed with the news of the day, try relaxing with this book. Not only relaxing, the book conveys a message about how Americans see themselves. The author begins with the questions, "What does it mean to be an American? Would the people in Canada or Mexico agree with your definition? What is it about our culture that turns off so many foreigners?" Through the use of 235 common sayings, Nussbaum will help you get a picture of our culture as others see us. Success is probably the highest value in our country, along with building self-esteem and having fun. Americans have a hard time thinking life could be based on anything else. This will help readers laugh at themselves, yet learn from the amusing questions. America has vast wealth and power, but can we experience real living? Are we free people, or slaves to the credit card? Is consumerism the key to a good life? Expect your thinking process to be challenged in an amusing manner.

### GOD'S CHOICE, by George Weigel

Here is another book in which the author tries to analyze the problems facing the Church today and how he sees Pope Benedict XVI working with them. Weigel is among other reporters who seem to have experienced a conversion at the funeral of Pope John II. As one who formerly questioned the possibility of Ratzinger being elected pope, he now sees him as the best person to work with other world leaders. Among the issues needing discussion are the censuring of some theologians, Latin American problems, reforming the Curia, defining the role of liturgists and inter-religious dialogues. You may not agree with Weigel's comments but it is a book you will want to read.





Sister  
Jean Kroeger, OSB

## Snapshot: Sister Jean Kroeger, OSB

For many Benedictines, the path to a fulfilling ministry can take many turns with experience, seeking God's counsel and assessing one's special talents. For Sister Jean, born into a large rural family at Summit Ridge, near Norwalk, WI, her journey led to a 26-year career as registered nurse at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, La Crosse.

Professed in 1960, Sister Jean credits her parents, the late Alexander and Rosemary Kroeger, and a former pastor, Fr. Louis J. Clark, for their guidance.

"Fr. Clark knew Benedictines and talked a lot about vocations," she recalled.

Sister's route to her health care ministry took a circuitous route. After attending Tomah (WI) High School and graduating from Regis High School, Eau Claire, she spent a year caring for the elderly at the Benedictines' former Mary Crest Nursing Home in Durand. Next she served as a cook at St. Mary's Convent, Richland Center.

Other experiences -- Summer assignments taking census for parishes in Columbia, S.C., and working at a church in New York's Bronx offered new perspectives on people and regions. Sister also cooked at the former Regis Convent in Eau Claire. Still, she recalled, a nagging thought pursued her.

"It was at Regis that I had considered going to LPN

school," Sister said. "I wanted to serve people and assist them." Decision made, she spent a year earning her credentials from the Sacred Heart School of Nursing, Milwaukee before starting a stint as a licensed practical nurse. Sister completed a nursing degree from Viterbo College, La Crosse, and passed her state nursing boards. Sister then began her career as a registered nurse at Gundersen Lutheran, La Crosse.

"My (nursing) specialties are neuro, ortho, ENT, pulmonary, urology, gynecology, cardiology and the general medicine floor patients," Sister Jean explained. "My experiences with these patients have been very memorable and fun."

Sister, who also sings in her parish choir, has twice joined area health professionals led by Dr. Steve La Liberte, a La Crosse optometrist, on short missions of mercy to Lurin, Peru. Sponsored by her diocese, health care, civic and other organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota, these volunteers through the years have donated surgical, optical and other services to nearly 3,000 of Peru's poorest people.

"The Gospel calls us to be of service through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy," Sister wrote after her most recent trip in March 2005. "I was able to practice a few of these works while serving some of the Peruvian people. This experience in another culture deepened my faith in God and my love for God's people."

## Justice and Peace Ministry Focuses on Pro-Life Issues

— Sister Mary Frances Gebhard, OSB

### Immigration Reform

The Catholic Bishops in *Called to Welcome the Stranger Among Us* (Nov. 2002), advocate for just policies that respect human rights and preserve the unity of immigrant families. For the latter, the bishops seek due process, naturalization and legalization opportunities.

The bishops oppose efforts to limit migration that "do not adequately address its root causes and that permit the continuation of the political, social and economic inequalities that contribute to it."

Their comprehensive reforms would affect U.S. immigration policy that protects human life, pursues social justice and practices solidarity. They call us all to work for this end and oppose the present proposed legislation that would criminalize millions of people who are undocumented or who have provided humanitarian assistance to the undocumented.

That legislation, the bishops believe, promotes racism and discriminates against the poor. Church groups from across the nation have spoken out for this kind of reform.

### Death Penalty

In November there will be an advisory referendum on the ballot in Wisconsin calling for the restoration of the death penalty. While this referendum does not authorize the death penalty in our state, it does open the door for such action. The U.S. Catholic Bishops, opposed to the death penalty for the past 25 years, have stated, "We reaffirm our common judgment that the use of the death penalty is unnecessary and unjustified in our time and circumstance." (*A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*).

The Bishops of Wisconsin recently issued a statement upholding this decision. While we all share the justified anger and revulsion at terrible and deadly crimes and support the victims with compassion, there is growing support in opposition of the death penalty. The bishops point out that while society has the responsibility to protect its citizens the state has other, non-lethal, means to protect its citizens and therefore should not use the death penalty.

Wisconsin, without a death penalty for 153 years, has a lower crime rate than many states that do have a death penalty. We cannot allow the death penalty to be re-established in Wisconsin.



Sister Mary Frances Gebhard, OSB

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# Developments

— James A. Schwartz, Director of Development

The seasons, always distinctive in Wisconsin, are reflected in the activities of the monastery and center. Late spring and early summer bring spiritual, school and other groups to the retreat and conference center. The Sisters, who pray together thrice daily in all seasons, honor Jubilee celebrants and greet visiting relatives and friends. They direct and participate in retreats, learning activities and adjust to seasonal nuances in ministries and community assignments.

Major maintenance and related projects are scheduled. Last summer the Sisters had their extensive driveway repaired, resealed and freshly marked for parking. This past summer another expensive project -- roof repairs to the community's buildings were completed.

Although development activities slow during the vacation season, preparations for an always-busy autumn remain brisk. September ushers in a newsletter and annual report, and the quarterly meeting of the 23-member Development Advisory Council. Planning accelerates for the Benedictines' annual Celebrity Banquet, a major fundraising event held in early February.

Twenty years ago the Sisters began their development program and a wonderful relationship with the people who help sustain their ministries and community. With fall's approach, we look forward to sharing another successful year with donors, AC members, volunteers and other friends who in countless ways contribute to the lives of the Sisters and their distinctive monastery and retreat center. Thank you for being with us.



James A. Schwartz  
Director of Development

**Briefly...**

☐ The Sisters' Donor Appreciation Event for donors, neighbors and other friends returns Sunday, March 18, 2007. Following a 1:30 p.m. reception in the Center's Caedmon Hall, singer-musician Warren Petryk again will entertain from 2 to 3 p.m.. The event, last held in March 2005, continues a social tradition of thanking donors, volunteers, friends and neighbors for their generosity, energies and good will on behalf of this Benedictine community.



Adolph Pichler, Fr. John Hogan and Sister Margaret Michaud



Pavilion and Scenery



Dan Langlois and Sister Clarita Selz

**Pizza at Round Hill**

Donors, volunteers and other friends joined the Sisters for pizza and much more on Saturday, August 12, at the diocese's Round Hill site on the Chippewa River, near Durand, WI.

Fr. John Hogan celebrated Mass in the Round Hill pavilion, later the site of a pasta-plus feast prepared and served by volunteers from St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Durand. Some 50 guests enjoyed the event under sunny summer skies.



Stand, reach and eat (diners outside pavilion)

## UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

As an ecumenical and conference site, Saint Bede Center offers a variety of religious, spiritual, cultural and educational programs. Listed below are some of the upcoming events which might be of interest to you.

- **September 19:** Faith Enrichment Day
- **September 23, October 28; November 18; December 16:** Diocesan School of Biblical Studies
- **October 22-24:** LCWR- Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- **October 27 - 29:** Marriage Encounter Weekend
- **December 8-9:** Advent Retreat - **God With Us**  
Directed by S. Joanne Dehmer, SSND
- **December 21:** Observing Winter Solstice-  
*Longest Night of the Year*

Are you part of an organization, committee or support group looking for a place to hold your meetings, workshops or retreats? Consider Saint Bede Center -- peaceful, private accommodations in a natural setting -- perfect for accomplishing the task at hand. Let us be your host.

For more information about these events, please call:  
**SAINT BEDE CENTER - (715) 834-8642**



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FALL 2006

## BITS AND CENTER PIECES

– Photos by Judith Kramer, OSB



### Visitors Make Center a 'Summer Place'

Hospitality was the watchword for eclectic groups at the Center this summer. Some examples (clockwise from top left): Women flank Sister Judy in celebrating 40 years since their freshmen year at the former Saint Bede Academy; Sister Mary Andrew, Medical Missionary Sisters of Mary, Chicago, shared views with Benedictines; Five young women from St. Therese Parish, Phillips, WI relaxed during their Center visit, and the "Here at Home Town of Wisconsin Teachers included



Saint Bede on their bus tour of state historic, cultural and scenic stops.



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