

# TIDINGS

## Saint Bede Monastery and Center

A Newsletter from The Sisters of Saint Benedict  
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Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
SPRING/SUMMER 2009

### Five Sisters at Saint Bede Monastery Celebrate 275 Years as Benedictines

#### Sister Therese Roth, OSB



Sister Therese Roth, OSB

Throughout her 75 years in Benedictine life, Sister Therese Roth has impressed countless children and others with her spirituality, good humor, and passion for holistic education. A native of La Crosse, she was the youngest of nine children born to Leonard and Mary Roth.

After finishing eighth grade, Sister Therese had planned to join the La Crosse Franciscans. Later, after meeting two Benedictine Sisters at

her grandmother's funeral, she began explorations that led to St. Benedict's Academy and later a bachelor degree at Saint Benedict's College at St. Joseph, MN.

"There was something about these two Sisters that was different – they were so human, yet so holy, and so interested in people. These characteristics have marked Sister Therese's ministries and previous joyous celebrations of golden and diamond jubilees.

Professed in 1934, Sister Therese began a teaching assignment at St. Anne's Elementary School in Minneapolis. Later she taught, and sometimes served as principal, at St. Thomas More, La Crosse, St. Mary's, Richland Center, St. Patrick's, Eau Claire, and Cathedral School, La Crosse, and St. Mary's, Altoona, where she taught and later served as director of the Instructional Materials Center. From 1964-67 she served as supervisor of elementary schools for the Diocese of La Crosse.

Along the way, Sister Therese earned an MA in Education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI and completed other graduate work at George Peabody College at Nashville, TN. During a sabbatical from 1970-72 at St. Scholastica College, Duluth, MN she studied innovative teaching techniques.

"I've always been interested in comedy as a teacher," Sister said. Beyond books and homework, Sister has used jokes, cartoons, costumes, and other methods to engage the whole student in the learning process.

Now living at the Clairemont, Sister continues to pray for others. For years, her spirituality and compassion took

the form of handmade crocheted items that reached people in need in the Arctic and Appalachian regions. She continues to advise others on the power of prayer.

"It's vital to pray and become one people of God," she said.

#### Sister Lucy Miller, OSB

**See...seek...seeds** –the story of my religious life in a nutshell, and after 50 years of weathering, it's still growing and has become a huge tree. What the Lord can do with a mustard seed!

**See...**We all have to ask ourselves at one time or another, "What do I want to do with my life?" I have only one life to live and I want to make it a good one. Each of us answers this question by our choices and circumstances. "Lord, help me see," Bartimeus asks of Jesus (Mark 10, vs.51). The Magi asked of Herod, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2, vs. 2). In choosing a Christian Life, we have seen His signs somewhere, somehow, and want to follow. When Peter and Andrew left John the Baptist to follow Jesus, Jesus asked them, "What is it you seek? Come and see." (John 1 vs. 38, 39) These scenes from scripture capsule the story of my coming to religious life.

The newly built St. Thomas More School and Parish in La Crosse in 1948 marked my introduction to our Benedictine Sisters of Saint Bede Monastery. My dad and mother had just built a new home in that area when I was in the third grade. I was so excited about attending this brand new school and having the Sisters be my teachers. Through those years, the seeds of my religious vocation started stirring.

**Seek...**After graduating from Aquinas High School in La Crosse in 1957, I asked to join the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Bede Community in Eau Claire. I was accepted as an aspirant that fall. The Holy **Rule of Saint Benedict** has the community ask the candidate, "Why have you come?" The answer is, "To seek



Sister Lucy Miller, OSB



**Sister Michaela Hedican,**  
**OSB Prioress**

## TIDINGS

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## Monastic Musings — Sister Michaela Hedican, OSB

*(The following is the third in a series of reflections on the document entitled: **Wisdom from the Tradition, A statement of North American Benedictine Women in Response to Our Times.**)*

Commercials have long intrigued me. If you want to know what makes human beings tick, pay attention to the needs into which commercials play. Take for instance the famous restaurant which boasts, “When you are here, you are family.” Ours is a time characterized by profound feelings of alienation. Many people struggle with a sense of isolation, loneliness, rejection, and a gnawing feeling of being alienated from others. To know that there is a place where you can be part of a family feeds into the need to be connected, to belong, to matter to others. For this restaurant, it is being part of the family. For St. Benedict, it is being a member of the community that is the antidote to alienation.

“Equal Love for Everyone” is the chapter in *Wisdom from the Tradition* that deals with living in community as the response to the cultural experience of alienation. For over fifteen hundred years Benedictines have responded to the basic human need to belong by following the Gospels and the call of Christ as they pray and work together in community.

It is through the Benedictine profession of stability that community bonds of affection and accountability are developed and strengthened with each other. St. Benedict exhorts community members to be the first to show respect to each other (*RB 72:4*). He asks the members to support each with the greatest of patience (*RB 72:5*). He instructs them to compete earnestly in obedience to one another (*RB 72:6*).

Community life is grounded, according to Benedict, on sharing common prayer and common meals. It also includes seeing Christ in one another, especially the guest, the sick, the stranger, and the suffering. Approaching others in this way creates an atmosphere where all in the monastery and those who visit the monastery, experience the warm welcome of humble hospitality.

The ‘feeling like family’ at a certain restaurant may only last while enjoying a meal – a moment of reprieve from a sense of being alienated. Being community for Benedict is a life-time journey which moves through alienation and finds solidarity with others who seek God and hold nothing dearer than Christ.

### Beauty Found

*The beauty of the Rose is not in the bud,  
But in the quiet, gentle unfolding  
of petal touching petal –  
Shyly revealing its inner secrets  
As its fullness blossoms into glory –  
Inviting us to see, to touch, to smell  
to enjoy – to experience awe –  
to bask in its brilliant hues  
to revel in utter amazement  
At the profound beauty delicately, lovingly cradled  
In the Hand of God!*

-- From “Glimpses into Life” by Sister Dale Wollum, OSB



**PONDERINGS: When have you felt a sense of alienation?  
What is your experience of community?**



*Sister Dale Wollum, OSB*

## Jubilees...

*Continued from Page 1*

### Sister Lucy Miller, OSB

the Lord.” Sisters Patricia, Bridget, Barbara and I were schooling the Lord’s service through Divine Office, meditation (*Lectio Divina*), community living and ministry, cultivating these experiences into a lifetime. On July 11, 1959, we made our First Profession of Vows in St. Patrick’s Church, Eau Claire. This summer marks the 50-year anniversary of this happy event. In looking back over the years, I’ve come to see our Lord also “seeking” us the whole time.

**Seeds...** “The seed is the Word of God. When the seed falls upon good ground, they, who with a right and good heart, having heard the Word, hold it fast, and bear fruit in patience (*Luke 8, vs. 11*). During our lifetimes, we gradually recognize the weeds and wheat in our personalities. In time, the seasoned gardener within can more readily pull the troubled patches and coddle the good. I have been richly blessed by you, the people, and your inspiring faith and generosity. Thank you! *That in all things God may be glorified!*

### Sister Barbara (Amelia) Weiland, OSB



Sister Barbara (Amelia) Weiland, OSB

Jubilee...a time to celebrate, to rejoice, to reflect and give thanks for 50 years as a Sister of Saint Benedict.

When I was a senior in high school at La Crosse, I made a day of recollection with other young women who were interested in learning more about religious life. However, at that time I was not quite ready to make a commitment.

After graduating from high school I did clerical work for a few years. During that time, the possibility that I may have a religious vocation continued to come to mind. I prayed about it and discussed it with my parents. A neighbor recommended that I talk to one of the Benedictine Sisters at St. Thomas More Convent, who suggested that I spend a weekend at Saint Bede Priory. I wrote to Sister Agnesine (Lucille Hubmann) who was the aspirant mistress. She invited me to come for a visit. I was impressed by the small size of the community and how beautifully the Sisters prayed the Divine Office. That fall I entered the community. My parents were supportive of my decision.

After profession of vows in 1959, I completed a course in radiologic technology at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Duluth, MN. Then I worked at Saint Benedict’s Hospital in Durand, WI. When the need arose for someone to transcribe medical records, I was asked to fill that position. After our community sold the hospital, I continued to work as a medical transcriptionist in La Crosse and Eau Claire. My last position was in St. Paul, MN, where I

retired in 1999. Since that time I have lived at Saint Bede Monastery doing a variety of community services, especially as sacristan.

Some momentous occasions have been the receiving of my Benedictine medal as a postulant; receiving the habit upon entering the novitiate; First and Final Profession of vows, and celebrating my 25th Jubilee.

What has sustained me through the years? First and foremost it has been communal prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours. Also of significance to me is the sharing of communal meals and recreation, as well as the friendships that have developed over the years.

Each day I thank God for the grace of a religious vocation. I am grateful for my good parents, Henry and Amelia Weiland, and for those who have accompanied me on my monastic journey.

### Sister Patricia Ostrander, OSB



Sister Patricia Ostrander, OSB

As a young child, in the early 1950’s, two Benedictine Sisters made a positive impact on me because they were positively engaged with children, looked happy and smiled. As simple as that! Sister Mary Pattison and Sister Josile were my positive childhood religious examples. Even as a child, I admired them for knowing how to be real with children.

I read a book about religious life, “What Must I Do?” That book left me with the idea that our lives need to be spent living as God wants us to do and be!

My mother was a very spiritual person and before her marriage had pondered joining the “Clyde Benedictines.” She had subscribed to “Tabernacle and Purgatory,” the periodical of these contemplative Benedictines. As I was in my teens, I remember copies of the magazine were placed in our living room by my mother. Through that magazine I received a sense of what it meant to be a Benedictine. How I internalized the idea at that time, I don’t know, but I came to understand that Benedictines were peaceful Peacemakers.

One night I couldn’t sleep so I left my bedroom and walked down to the river behind our home. I sat in my willow reading tree and in a flash of a moment noticed the beauty of the stars, moon, land and the river and asked myself, “What do I want to do when I grow up?” I was silent, and stunned by the beauty around me thought, if God can make the human body, stars, our beautiful moon, and so many faces, each individual, on millions of people that they hold the face of God, then I want to live as close to God as possible. There were seminal moments that led me to seek a life as a Benedictine Sister. As I joined Saint Bede Priory, Sister Helenette Baltus and I became life-time friends. It was her natural goodness and beauty of soul that resoundingly conveyed what I

*Continued on Page 4*

## Jubilees...

Continued from Page 4

### Sister Patricia Ostrander, OSB

thought to be the goodness of Benedictine life. She was my mentor and my ideal. Sister is now 93 and in a nursing home, still reflecting that graced inspiration and beauty of Soul.

As I reflect on 50 years as a Benedictine, I am grateful for my journey of Life! Reality taught me that this life, as any other, is a balancing of pain, suffering and splendid joy! The joy far outweighs the pain, and in fact the pain is sometimes a springboard to a greater and deeper joy. I stand in awe of the way the Benedictine *Rule* can provide a path of spirituality for lay persons, a way of living in the Presence of God. So much in the Holy *Rule* helps us to live with our mind on God and on the good of others as well. I have been led to work directly with the poor for the past 15 years, but the miracle of Benedictine life for me is that I have the sublime knowing that it isn't I, but rather God, through me, that gives me the courage and strength and achieves miracles for the poor! I pray that the very "reaching out" of my life will be the path to greater inner quiet and awe of God's miracles! "Pax" PEACE is my prayer for you!

### Sister Bridget (Scholastica) Donaldson, OSB



Sister Bridget  
(Scholastica)  
Donaldson, OSB

Sister Bridget Donaldson, OSB, is the daughter of Ralph and Josephine. She is one of nine children. Two others are "in religion," Sister Mary Jo, OSB, and Father Tom, diocesan priest.

Sister Bridget was professed in 1959. The Rule of St. Benedict's emphasis on listening to God's voice has long served as her guide for ministry. In her listening, Sister tries to bring people hope in a stressful society, helping them be greater to the community and the Church. This wisdom, coupled with her vibrant personality, good humor and eagerness to help others, serves her well as Pastoral Associate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Holmen, WI

where she has served since 1986. Among her academic credentials is a Master's in Pastoral Studies from Chicago's Loyola University.

Fr. Del Malin, her previous pastor, says that "Sister Bridget has a powerful influence in the life of St. Elizabeth Parish...her joy, her compassion, her sense of church are sources of so many gifts to us. She gives the 'energizer bunny' unbelievable competition."

"People beat a path to her door to share her stories," he continued. "They also know that when they are hurting, they will find a listening, loving person. She is our dispenser of food and clothing to people in need of the Holmen-La Crosse area. Because of her enthusiasm, people find it difficult to say 'NO' to her as she involves so many people in parish life. Her love of the Lord and a great pastoral sense makes her a gift to our parish."

Through the years, Sister Bridget has drawn accolades from her students, colleagues, parish pastors, and team members. Her teaching ministries led her to St. Thomas More, La Crosse, St. Mary's, Richland Center, and St. Patrick's, Eau Claire. Especially rewarding, Sister recalled, was assisting students to discover their potential for creativity and learning. A high school student describes her as a "most admired teacher," and noted that helping others is another of her most loving qualities. "She is a teacher, a mother and a friend."

In 1975, Sister Bridget went to St. Patrick's, Elroy, to be Pastoral Associate with Father Joe Grassl who helped her bring Vatican II to parish life. Over the years, she directed the religious education programs at Elroy, Wilton, Wonewoc and New Lisbon. She is an installed Diocesan Leader of Prayer. She came to St. Elizabeth's as Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education in 1986. Sister continues working at St. Elizabeth's with its pastor, Father Robert Schaller and the parish staff.

Her spirituality, leadership, and people skills have led Gov. Tommy Thompson to appoint her to state Juvenile Justice and Family Life Commissions. Sister Bridget helped establish guidelines for Confirmation in the diocese and served on a committee to reevaluate religious education text books. She has also served on diocesan worship and pastoral committees.

Being a 21-year cancer survivor, Sister strives to live one of the Biblical and great Benedictine mottos, "That in all things God may be glorified."

### Sister Margaret Michaud receiving gift from

### Sister Judy Kramer, Director of Saint Bede Center

Sister Margaret Michaud guided our March 31 Lenten session on the *Passion Narratives*. After the two-hour feature, Sister Judy Kramer, Director of Saint Bede Center, presented the stunning book, *Praying the Word* (from the St. John's Bible Project) to Sister Margaret. This gift was given as a token of our appreciation and "on behalf of the perhaps thousands of people whose lives have been enriched by Sister Margaret's classes and lectures on scripture."



Visit us at: [www.saintbede.org](http://www.saintbede.org)

## Sisters' Spiritual, Social Events Cover Wide Range of Activities



Dick Ryder greets Sisters Mary Jane Cournoyer and (right) Margaret Michaud during the Celebrity Banquet reception.

### Food, Fun and Lively Bidding Mark "Dinner Beyond the Hill"

Valentine's Day was especially sweet for the approximately 200 friends who attended the ninth annual "Dinner Beyond the Hill" at Eau Claire's Best Western Trail Lodge and Hotel. The event, which grossed about \$32,500 for the **Sisters' Retirement Fund**, featured an opening skit by the Benedictines and a closing, high test performance by the **Tom Anibas Group**, featuring the crowd-pleasing antics of Shaun McInnis as "Elvis." More than 100 silent and live auction items, including hand-crafted quilts and furniture, found buyers. This Community wishes to thank **Auctioneer Jerry Andrews**, event/table sponsors, donors, vendors, volunteers and many other friends for their various contributions to a memorable evening. On March 15, the Sisters, with the Anibas Group again providing entertainment, expressed their appreciation to approximately 100 of their friends at the Community's **Donor Appreciation Event**.



Silent Auction items rated close inspection by prospective bidders.



Appreciative Benedictines opened the 2009 banquet with a creative "Thank You" skit.



Guests enjoyed friendly service by volunteers at tastefully appointed tables.



Banquet guests huddled around Linda Dekan, the event's coordinator.

At the March Donor Appreciation Event, fast-paced entertainment by the Tom Anibas Group, introduced multiple "Elvises" for memorable 50's-era tunes.



Sister Michaela Hedican, Prioress, and friends flashed smiles during the banquet's social hour.



## Saint Bede Sisters Honored by Catholic Charities

The Benedictine Sisters of Saint Bede Monastery on April 25 were honored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse with the "In My Name Award." The award, also presented to a La Crosse couple, is founded on Christ's promise to reward all those who serve others in His name.

"We are honored to receive this award which we accept in the name of all of our Sisters who have prayed and worked in the Diocese of La Crosse since 1892," said Sister Michaela Hedican, Prioress. "Eighty three Sisters from St. Benedict's Monastery at St. Joseph, Minnesota established an independent monastery in Eau Claire in 1948."



Sisters Monica Mai, Margaret Michaud and Michaela Hedican, (from left) admire the "In My Name Award" with Bishop Jerome Listecky of the Diocese of La Crosse.



Fr. Mark Pierce, an instructor for the Diocesan School of Biblical Studies, studies one of display panels with two of the many visitors who viewed the exhibit at Saint Bede Center.

## St. John's Traveling Bible Exhibit Draws Scores of Visitors to Center

Spanning an entire hallway, this 17-panel of Biblical text and illustrations is the product of calligraphers and artisans using the materials of 15th Century monks to produce stunningly modern artistic illustrations for the Bible, Gospels and Acts, Psalms and other spiritual works. Saint Bede Center hosted the exhibit during March 25-April 12 as one of four sites chosen for the display in the Diocese of La Crosse. The original work is being done entirely by hand, using vellum (calfskin), inks, precious metals, and calligraphy in the style and beauty of the Holy Books produced in ancient monasteries.

## Six Lay Associates Make Commitments



Five Associates, who made their commitments in March, included (from left) Ken Novak, Claire and Larry Martin, and Marianna and Thomas Greenlee.



Judy Layde (left), who also renewed her commitment as a Lay Associate, is shown with her Benedictine sponsor, Sister Ruth Feeney.

## Book Talk — Dr. Ronald Warloski

There is a book that I strongly recommend: **Richard Wightman Fox**, Jesus in America, A History. (HarperCollins, 2004) Wightman provides a study of the images of Jesus in America from its founding through the 20th Century. It is well written, has little or no jargon, and is full of valuable and interesting information and insight into “how Americans have believed in and portrayed him.” It is a wonderful example of how history can provide perspective and knowledge applied to religious issues. Well worth the effort.

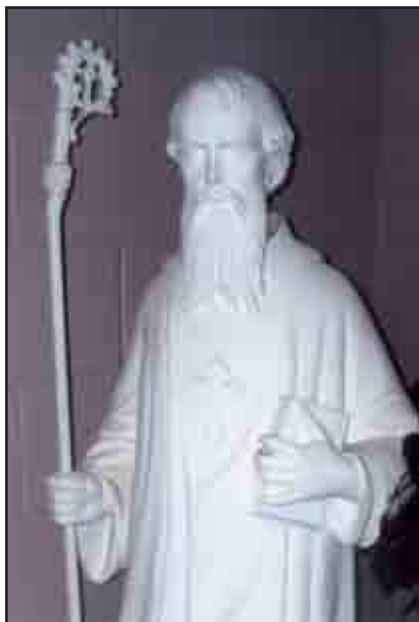
**Kathleen Norris** delivers another worthwhile book: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer’s Life: Acedia and Me (Riverhead Books-Penguin, 2008). “Acedia” is a new term for me. The writer defines it as “the serious malady of being unable to care.” She finds that “the restless boredom, frantic escapism, commitment phobia, and enervating despair” characteristic of our age is “acedia” in modern dress. The book sounds stuffy. It’s not. Using her life and episodes therein, Norris explains how the condition develops. She then goes on to show how attributes of Christianity were crucial to alleviating it for her. I found particularly interesting the list of persons describing acedia from the psalms to the 21st Century.

**Short Takes:** I also liked this book by **Rodney Stark**: Cities of God: The Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome (HarperCollins, 2005). Mr. Stark uses quantitative history to re-tell the story of the growth of Christianity. And the story he tells is fascinating. It was an entirely new insight into the spread of Christianity in the First Century, neither tedious nor boring, as quantitative history can be.



Dr. Ronald Warloski

## Sisters’ Statue of Saint Benedict Graces Parish’s New Chapel — Sister Judith Kramer, OSB



The Sisters’ Statue of St. Benedict is a visual reminder that Benedictine Sisters began teaching in the Eau Claire area in 1892.

He was heavier than they expected! Carefully they wrapped the almost life-size statue of Saint Benedict in two well used, colorful, cotton sleeping bags. With a good deal of effort and skill they coaxed the image of the founder of western monasticism onto a sturdy refrigerator dolly. We removed the staff from the patriarch’s hand so as not to tempt a fracture.

The migration proceeded with continued effort; even the rubber tires groaned under the statue’s weight. Down the ramp of the cloister hall, through the side door, and down another incline to the courtyard they carefully moved the cargo that dark November afternoon. The waiting truck, equipped with a ground-to-truck life bed, labored steadily to raise the securely wrapped statue to the place near the truck cab where it was firmly ratcheted into place for its journey to Fifth Ave. and Fulton St. in downtown Eau Claire.

As the men, truck, and heavy statue of Saint Benedict left our monastery grounds, I stood musing about how the weight of the cargo in that truck was symbolic of the wisdom and long years in history which have been influenced by the spirit of Saint Benedict. The statue also symbolizes the many years that we Benedictines have loved and labored to pray and work from this hill just south of Eau Claire. And yet, the time had come to transfer the statue to the newly created Benedictine chapel in the former St. Patrick’s School building.

Fr. Bill Dhein and the parish council of Sacred Heart/St. Patrick’s have moved forward and refurbished the former ground level classrooms into a daily Mass chapel. Easy access and economizing on heat and lights motivated the eagerly undertaken work to create a more intimate prayer environment. The council decided to name the new space, The Benedictine Chapel, remembering the Benedictine Sisters who have faithfully served the parish since 1892. Since we, too, are in the process of downsizing and anticipate a new monastic living space, we have entrusted the statue to the cradle parish of the Benedictine ministry in Eau Claire.

Visit us at: [www.saintbede.org](http://www.saintbede.org)

## In Memoriam

In December and January, the Benedictine Community marked the passing of two of its senior members. **Sister Roma Paulus** died December 2, followed on January 10 by the passing of **Sister Haroldine Malinowski**, 97. **Sister Lois Klimek**, 91, died on February 1, at Alexandria, MN, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Church. The Sisters' entry into eternal life was celebrated with Mass of Christian Burial in Saint Bede Chapel, followed by interment at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Eau Claire.



*Sister Roma Paulus, OSB*

**Sister Roma Paulus, OSB**, a resident of the Clairemont Nursing & Rehabilitation, Eau Claire, died December 2. The Benedictine Sisters gathered on February 24 to celebrate what would have been Sister Roma's 98th birthday.

A native of Bloomer, WI Sister was the eldest of ten siblings, one of them the late **Sister Moira Paulus, OSB**, whose influence led Roma to enter the Benedictine Community at St. Joseph, MN in 1938. First professed in 1941, Sister Roma in 1948 was among the 83 Benedictines who established an independent motherhouse in Eau Claire. She soon began a long ministry as a primary and intermediate teacher, and in several posts as a principal at parochial schools in Altoona, Eau Claire, La Crosse and Richland Center. Sister, who celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2001, also had served her community as the Director of Junior Sisters and as superior at some of the Benedictines' local houses.

An avid reader, Sister Roma was known for her interest in peace, justice and social issues, and for her welcoming hospitality to friends and visitors. She maintained her lifetime interest in learning and involvement with her community. **Sister Ruth Feeney**, a former coordinator of the Clairemont Sisters' Unit, described her colleague and friend as "vibrant, very social."

**Sister Haroldine Malinowski, OSB** was the seventh of nine children born to John and Elizabeth Malinowski at Superior, WI... Motivated to consider Benedictine life by a cousin, Sister Haroldine attended Saint Benedict's High School at St. Joseph, MN, where she entered the community in August 1929. She was professed in 1931. Sister Haroldine also helped found the Saint Bede Community in Eau Claire.

To prepare for her 42-year teaching ministry Sister Haroldine earned a BS in Education from Viterbo College in La Crosse in 1963. She obtained her Permanent Teaching Certificate in the Diocese of La Crosse while continuing her education in Eau Claire and at Duluth and St. Paul, MN.

Sister Haroldine loved children, especially those in her primary grades at Altoona, Eau Claire, Ellsworth, La Crosse and Richland Center. She also taught in schools at Little Falls, Cold Spring and Sobieski. Retired from the classroom, Sister Haroldine then spent seven years teaching English to Hmong children. Her dedication service was honored in 1984 by the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Eau Claire. Sister Haroldine also participated in the city's Senior Volunteer Program and served in various assignments at the monastery. Her many interests included gardening, reading and knitting warm clothing for others.



*Sister Haroldine Malinowski, OSB*



*Sister Lois Klimek, OSB*

**Sister Lois Klimek, OSB**, 91, A Benedictine Sister of Saint Bede Monastery, Eau Claire, died January 31 at Douglas County Hospital at Alexandria, MN. Previously, she had been a resident of that city's Knute Nelson Memorial Home.

A native of Millerville, MN, Olivia, as she was named by her parents, Peter and Anna Klimek, was the second of five children. She entered St. Benedict's Convent at St. Joseph, MN in 1936 and became a novice in 1939 when she received her religious name of Sister Lois. Sister was professed in 1940 and celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1990.

After receiving her teaching certification from the College of St. Benedict, Sister began her primary grades teaching career that extended from Bismarck, ND and Holly Springs, MS to diocesan schools at Eau Claire, La Crosse, Ellsworth, Onalaska, Mondovi and Altoona.

In 1979, Sister Lois gained permission to live nearer her family in Alexandria, where she was locally employed for many years. Returning to Eau Claire, she became involved in community service activities.

After ill health forced her retirement, Sister Lois resided at Wissota Lakeside Nursing Home at Chippewa Falls and later at Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation, Eau Claire, where she enjoyed reading, music and watching the birds and animals outside her window. Sister returned to Alexandria in 2003 to be with family, remaining there until her death.

## Developments

— James A. Schwartz, Director of Development

As the nation – and world – continues to struggle with economic crisis, we are reminded of challenges faced by many of our donors and friends. Beyond the pinch on pocketbooks, the toll is causing us to make choices about mortgages, healthcare, education, and a host of life's other necessities.

At Saint Bede the Sisters cope with prayer and ministries that touch others. But, like many of us, they also are reducing costs wherever possible. An ongoing concern is providing for the care and comfort of their senior members who have devoted their lives to prayer and service to others.

Their concern is tempered by the generosity of friends old and new. Their careful stewardship over resources -- an essential part of their Benedictine heritage -- is especially evident as the Sisters plan for a future in a smaller, more manageable monastic home. Their discernment, in various ways, involves every one of the community's 29 members.

Meanwhile, the Sisters continue to give thanks for the blessings of friends, donors, volunteers, advisors and others. Saint Bede Center, with its ecumenical focus on spiritual and other programs, continues to welcome guests.

February 14 saw another successful **Celebrity Banquet**, ninth in the "Beyond the Hill" series held at Eau Claire's Best Western Hotel & Suites. And on Sunday, March 15, an estimated 100 friends, Lay Associates, donors, volunteers, advisors and others turned out for the Sisters' **Donor Appreciation Event**. Ten days later, at La Crosse, the Saint Bede Community was honored by Catholic Charities with its prestigious "**In My Name Award**." Then, during March 25-April 12, the distinctive St. John's Bible Exhibit, part of a \$4 million project of the Benedictine Abbey and university at Collegeville, MN, delighted hundreds of visitors to Saint Bede Center, one of four Wisconsin sites to house the widely acclaimed traveling exhibit. (See photos from these activities on this issue's insert section.)



James A. Schwartz  
Director of  
Development

### Briefly...

Please remember in your prayers Development Advisory Council Member **Missy Candlochen**, who died at Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation. Missy was retired from Sacred Heart Hospital where she worked as a nurse and later as a ward clerk. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 28 at Saint Bede Chapel.

Congratulations to **Jane Mueller**, Development Advisory Council member, who in January, was named to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

To conserve resources, the Sisters have approved a new publications schedule for *Tidings* and seasonal solicitations. The spring and summer issues of *Tidings* now are combined to save printing, returned mail and other costs during the vacation season when many readers are not at their home addresses. *The Annual Recognition of Donors* will be included with the Fall *Tidings*, to be mailed in late August.



### Sister Helenette Baltes

"Let Nothing be Preferred to the Work of God." For over 60 years Sister Helenette Baltes has lived this injunction of St. Benedict. Through these years of change and adaptations, Sister Helenette prepared liturgies, supporting communal prayer and Mass with organ accompaniment. She rehearsed with cantor and choir. An accomplished organist, Sister Helenette provided postludes in prayerful arrangements in the monastery chapel. Her dedication has been an inspiration to all!

It was no surprise that Sister Helenette's fingers were among the first to unlock the mysteries of the computer, internet and electronic mail. In early January, due to failing health, Sister joined our Sisters living at the Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Eau Claire. She joins the Sisters there as they continue giving time and effort to "the work of God." Her trusted laptop and phone are installed in her room. She enjoys messages and continuing contact with her family and friends. – **Sisters Michaela Hedican and Judith Kramer**

## MONASTERY SUMMMER SCHEDULE

- **June 7 – Jubilee Celebration for:**

Sister Barbara Weiland  
Sister Bridget Donaldson  
Sister Lucy Miller  
Sister Patricia Ostrander  
Sister Therese Roth

- **June 7-12: Community retreat Directed by Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB**

- **July 21-27: Federation of Saint Benedict Chapter Meeting at St. Benedict Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**

## AT THE CENTER

- **October 17-18: Marriage Encounter at Saint Bede Center**

...And when can we make a reservation for YOU to spend a day of summer soul renewal at Saint Bede Center?

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. **Call us at 715-834-8642**



**TIDINGS**

**Saint Bede Monastery and Center**

1190 Priory Road - PO Box 66  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0066  
(715) 834-3176

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# TIDINGS

A Newsletter from The Sisters of Saint Bede Monastery

SPRING/  
SUMMER 2009

## BITS AND CENTER PIECES



– *Sister Judith Kramer, OSB*

“Yes, re-start of married love is possible through lots of ‘let’s talk it over,’” wrote one young mom on her evaluation after our mid-winter (January-February 1) Marriage Encounter. After several months of preparing talks, the team (Bohrers, Hursts, Sokups and I) welcomed seven encountering couples to Saint Bede Center that bright January morning. With newly revised format of only two days and one night, we set the stage for personal reflection, couple dialogue, some tears and lots of laughter. Team members told their stories of together facing sickness, tragedy, depression, financial burdens, mice in bathroom ceiling light fixtures, and the bag of Christmas gifts hidden in the garage, found and used in October!

A Marriage Encounter is designed to make a good, solid

marriage even better through communication. That goal is achieved by mutual understanding, honesty, ready forgiveness, laughter, and renewing the bond of marriage with affection. In January, one of the couples who would become first time parents in March took a break from talking and delighted us all with a fresh snowman!

Saint Bede Center has hosted Marriage Encounter weekends since 1978. Renewed efforts by parish contact couples, radio and television interviews with Sue and Ken Ripp, our leadership couple, and invitations by friends continue to encourage wonderful couples to listen, ponder and renew their marriages.

Might you be interested in a Marriage Encounter? Our next scheduled weekend is Saturday morning, October 17, through Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2009.