

# TIDINGS

## Saint Bede Monastery and Center

A Newsletter from The Sisters of Saint Benedict  
VOL. 21 NO. 3

Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
FALL 2008

### Open Doors, Open Hearts — Sister Michaela Hedican, OSB

(Editor's Note: In addition to the following thoughts by Sister Michaela Hedican, Prioress, she invites on behalf of this community all those who wish to join the Sisters for Morning or Evening Prayer. Also welcome are those who seek to "join our 1500-year-old heritage of the Benedictine way of life as a Benedictine Sister or join us as a Lay Associate." Sister Michaela said "the hearts of the Sisters are open to what God desires of them as their future unfolds.")

Last August the Sisters announced that they would be selling their monastery and property. Until the sale is completed and we are ready to move, our doors remain open to guests who are to be welcomed as Christ (*Rule of Benedict* 53:1).

Our hearts have been touched by the number of groups who have shown genuine interest in purchasing our facilities for purposes that would be consistent with our values and the Benedictine heritage we hold dear. Some groups are looking at using it for educational purposes, some hope to continue hosting and sponsoring programs that have been a part of the Center's history. Others are looking at the possibility of extending the ministry of welcoming guests to persons who are in need of care. Perhaps there will be a combination of these ministries that will fill our hallowed halls.

In the meantime, the Sisters continue the rhythm of

their monastic life: praying together three times a day, sharing meals, serving God's people and entering into community life according to our ancient Benedictine heritage.

As Benedict calls us to be wise stewards of God's gifts we have begun to "right size" our belongings, both individually and throughout the monastery. The Sisters also are viewing all the activities and experiences of each day with new eyes since we know each event will be treasured as we contemplate it from our new home – wherever that will be. Ours is an Exodus experience of staying open to where God is leading us.

The Sisters desire to stay together here in Eau Claire and to continue sharing their life as Benedictines as they serve God's people in whatever way is needed. We are stepping out in faith, open to the Lord's voice and confident that the Lord will lead us.

Each morning as we join our hearts and voices for prayer we ask for God's wisdom to know where God is calling us. Following is our individual prayer that asks for the Lord's guidance in the Sisters' discernment of our future.

#### *Prayer for Guidance*

*Loving God of providence,  
We beg you to be present to us  
As we plan for our future.*

*Guide us each day in your design,  
Breathe on us your spirit of courage and caution.  
Fire us with vision, creativity and fidelity.*

*Help us look forward with hope  
just as we look back with gratitude.*

*Help us, Loving God,  
to come to that plan  
which will best enable us  
to remain faithful to you and to  
our monastic commitment. Amen*





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

## TIDINGS

Saint Bede Monastery  
1190 Priory Road  
P.O. Box 66, Eau Claire, WI 54702  
715-834-3176  
sisters@saintbede.org

**Editor:** James A. Schwartz

**Contributors:**

**Writers: Sisters:** Michaela Hedican,  
Judith Kramer, Margaret Michaud,  
Dale Wollum

**Others:** James A. Schwartz, Mary  
Traynor, Dr. Ronald Warloski

**Photography: Sisters:** Karen Streveler  
Judith Kramer

**Other:** James A. Schwartz

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

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## Monastic Musings — Sister Michaela Hedican, OSB

By-lines and slogans in the world of commerce create mindsets and a value system that sell products and influences the way we think. Take for example the Burger King motto, “Have it your way” or the product line entitled “Members Only” both of which speak volumes about what is important in our culture. Struck by the prevalence of individualism and alienation in our world today, to which these two examples point, the Benedictine Prioresses of North America determined it was time to speak about a wisdom drawn from our 1500-year-old tradition of Benedictine living.

Commemorating the 150th anniversary in 2002 of the arrival of the three Benedictine women who brought this ancient tradition to North America, the Prioresses deemed it appropriate to make a statement that would share with others a way to live that incorporates the values of respectful listening, community, mutual obedience, hospitality and peace. These five dimensions of our life as Benedictines are experienced as alternatives to the individualism, alienation, fear, lack of communication and violence that pervade our world today.

In 2006, *Wisdom from the Tradition: A Statement of North American Benedictine Women in Response to Our Times* was published. It is a brief document that reflects on the gift that the Benedictine way of life has to offer our world today. Drawing from fifteen centuries of accumulated wisdom which the lived experience of the *Rule of Benedict* provides, this document lays out the way we as Benedictine women seek to live together and witness to a life of mutual care and concern.

Over the next few issues, this column will explore the topics covered in this document published by the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses. As Benedict states in his *Rule*, (RB4: 41) we are to “place our hope in God alone.” May the way Benedict shows us how to engage the Gospel and center our life in Christ assist us in bringing the world the hope for which it longs.

Ponderings ~ Where in your life do you experience the values  
of respectful listening, community, mutual  
obedience, hospitality and peace?

Copies of *Wisdom from the Tradition* can be purchased at the Center Gift Shop.

## Benedictine Lay Associates: An Invitation

— Sister Margaret Michaud, OSB

Although the Benedictine Tradition is centuries old, it is based on values that are strikingly contemporary. The *Rule of Saint Benedict* teaches its followers to live lives of prayer and service. Fundamental to this endeavor is the profound sense of reverence for all Creation. This means care of the human family, especially the poor, the sick and the guest. Material goods are treated with proper stewardship. “Peace,” the famous Benedictine motto, is a value fundamental to authentic Benedictine monastic life wherever it is lived.

In an effort to share these values and the precious wisdom of the *Rule* with others, here at Saint Bede’s we have a group called the Benedictine Lay Associates. These are Christian women and men of all ages who seek an opportunity to share the wisdom of Saint Benedict. Associates live in their own homes and follow the particular vocation to which they have been called. At regular gatherings and other times associates join the community for prayer and other activities. Ordinarily they meet monthly to share some aspect of the Benedictine Tradition.

Associates are committed to:

- Live a Christian lifestyle • Engage in daily prayer and spiritual reading
- Participate in the life of their particular church • Respond to the Gospel in service to others
- Incorporate Benedictine values into their daily lives

The next meeting will be at the monastery on Sunday, September 14, at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome. **If you’re seeking a deeper spiritual life with others with the same desire, you might want to consider this invitation.** For more information, call 715-834-3176.

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

## Reaching Out

— Sister Dale Wollum, OSB

from Nicaragua. Part of the observance of the sesquicentennial was a bus trip to Barton, WI, site of the Sisters' first convent.

□ During the summer **Sister Michaela Hedican**, as president of the Federation of Saint Benedict, attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of the Superiors of Men at Denver, CO. Presenters included Sister Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, theology professor at Fordham University, who spoke on "The Banquet of Faith." Fr. Richard Rohr, founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation at Albuquerque, NM, spoke on "Religious Life as a Transformational System." The joint assembly also issued a resolution for action on climate change.

□ **Sister Ruth Feeney**, sub-prioress and former coordinator of the Sisters' Unit at Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation, in June received recognition by that company as "an important part of our residents' lives." Although not an employee of Clairemont, Sister Ruth was cited in the company's newsletter for her work in assisting the resident Benedictines. "She is always so helpful to everyone else and always has a smile on her face," the writer noted.

□ **Sister Margaret Michaud**, former prioress who now coordinates the Sisters' Unit at Clairemont and activities of the Benedictine Lay Associates, this summer directed the retreat for the Benedictine Sisters at Mount St. Benedict Monastery at Crookston, MN. At Saint Bede, **Fr. Daniel Pekarske** gave a preached retreat for the Sisters, who were led in directed retreats by **Sister Joanne Dehmer, SSND**. Please pray for **Fr. Dan Pekarske**, who is battling a serious illness.

□ **Sister Barbara Weiland** is shown using the recently renovated stairs at the main entrance to the monastery and Center. The cement replacement work was done this summer by Dave Nichols and Co. Sister Barbara is faithful to daily walks on the seasonally lush grounds of the monastery.

□ During June, **Sister Mary Frances Gebhard** participated in an executive meeting of JONAH at Saint Bede Center. The monastery is a charter member of the local chapter of the ecumenical organization whose initials stand for Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope. JONAH focuses on a wide range of social justice and related issues in the Chippewa Valley. It is part of the state-wide organization WISDOM, which provides leadership training for people of faith through a national network, Gamaliel.



Sister Judy Kramer



Sister Ruth Feeney



Sister Barbara Weiland



Sister Mary Frances Gebhard

## Sister Doris Steinfeldt's Treats Picked from Summer's Bounty

Summer, vacation time for many, is the start of foraging season for Sister Doris Steinfeldt. Sister Doris, who celebrated her golden jubilee in 1996, is "retired" after many years as a teacher and supervisor of medical technology programs in hospitals and Chippewa Valley Technical College.

"I've always been an outdoor girl," said Sister Doris, whose jams, jellies, candies, wines, bakery goods have long delighted the palates of the Benedictines and others.

"As a child I enjoyed working in the family's vegetable garden. I've spent nearly my whole life picking everything there is to pick. "Now, she added as August approached, "I'm looking around for grapes and berries for juices to make wine."

Sister's training in the sciences is evident in her precise use of ingredients for an array of fruit and nut-based concoctions and her varieties of dark chocolate candies. Her handiwork graces gift baskets auctioned at the Benedictines' Celebrity Banquets and those filled with Christmas gifts for special friends. Last year, for example, a basket of her wares brought \$300 from an appreciative bidder.

Through the years Sister Doris has adapted to the cycles of rich and lean seasons for berries and nuts. She cited a field lush with berries one summer that later sprouted mostly grass and weeds.

"All I had to do there last summer was stand in one place, and keep turning as I picked to fill a bucketful of fruit," she said. "Fortunately, I've usually got berries from previous years in my freezer."

Increasingly, with fewer fields and woods open for free picking, Sister often depends on the bounty of others for her favorite ingredients. She returns the hospitality of landowners with the fruits of her labor – candles, scented soaps, specialty cards, candies, ice cream toppings and more.

These talents and participation in Benedictine life, including concern for the elderly and infirm, have brought Sister Doris a bumper crop of friends.



Sister Doris Steinfeldt

## Book Talk

— Dr. Ronald Warloski

Saint Bede's library is an extraordinary resource. So are the Benedictines. When a germ of a column emerged, I met with Sister Margaret and discussed possibilities. These choices were the result.



Dr. Ronald Warloski

On June 28, 2008, Pope Benedict declared a year dedicated to St. Paul. He urged all to read, reflect, and pray on who Paul was, what he wrote and what he did. (Catholic News Service, July 17, 2008, Volume 38, No. 9 contains his sermon.) That sounded like a very good idea to me since Paul and I do not have a harmonious relationship. Certainly there are gems in the epistles – “many parts, one body,” and “the greatest of these is love.” But I also found much that was turgid, confusing and dull. Let me here and now apologize to all of you St. Paul devotees. Chalk my attitude up to ignorance and arrogance. Hence my need to read, reflect and pray.

Two very different items were chosen for this review. The first is a weighty tome by N.T. Wright, *Paul* (Augsburg: Fortress Press, 2005). The second was *The Bible Today*. My reasons for choosing Wright were two: 1) He's the bishop of Durham, England and 2) He is a much published and respected scholar. The two together should mean he knew what he was talking about.

According to Wright, Paul saw himself as being entrusted with a Jewish message for the whole world, the outreach of Israel's one, true God to the wider world of the Gentiles. But the substance of that Jewish message was now the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah to the world, who came out of the world of Judaism.

Wright sees Paul as having to straddle three distinct worlds: 1) Second Temple Judaism, 2) Greek or Hellenistic culture, and 3) the Roman world of power, of cult and imperial ideology. Paul's primary goal was to add a fourth dimension or world which would transcend and yet be incorporated in the other worlds of the first century Mediterranean world. That fourth dimension was the Church (ekklesia), which was the assembly of Jesus, a world of its own, but also standing in a unique relationship to the other three worlds. His self-imposed task was to blend all of those themes into a reality understanding to his world.

Wright offers plenty to reflect on, so much so that one needs prayer and sublime patience to cope. I'd like to point out two examples which I found challenging.

The first is the analytical technique Wright uses. He insists that to get to the real Paul, one has to study what scholars call the narrative, how stories affected perception and understanding in the ancient world. A world could and would and did call into existence an entire lengthy set of images – comprehension and understanding in other words. Paul's whole point is that with Jesus the Messiah, a totally new narrative has begun which had to be told in the images and understanding of the first century world. But all human and cultural narratives would be unalterably changed because of the emergence of the ekklesia. Paul's goal was to develop an image of the ekklesia while translating the words of Jesus for an urban world, using the narrative contexts of the ancient world. That meant, however, that his language and themes acquired their meanings and significance only in the context of the narratives of the first century. (No wonder I have trouble with him, said I.)

The second example is the way Wright analyzes that concept of Justification by Faith. Wright points out that the phrase is not in the Gospels, except for a hint here and there. Wright claims it was developed by Paul so that one could tell who God's people were. In the hostile Jewish and pagan worlds the believers lived in, it gave them an identity and place, their membership in the ekklesia.

This book is deep, rich and crammed with insights and too crammed with scholarly jargon. I came away from it basically dissatisfied. Scholarly Biblical Criticism has developed a language and approach that can bury meaning. What I now sought was a reading in which Faith, Hope and Love weren't lost in scholarly and academic analysis.

So I looked for something that spoke to the mind, but also to the mind and spirit. (Sister Margaret to the rescue!) *The Bible Today* is a bi-monthly periodical that devoted its July/August 2008 issue to “Paul and His Legacy.” There are six articles directly on an aspect of St. Paul. I particularly liked: Vincent Branick, “The Legacy of Paul,” Helen Doohan, “Romans 1-8: A Journey of Faith, a Journey in the Spirit,” and Mary Ann Getty, “When the Personal Becomes Gospel.” These articles helped me get past my preoccupation with Paul's intransigence, complexity and images. Not completely. But better than when I started.

### *Profile from the Past - Sister Leone Treacy, OSB*

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Sister began a storied 42-year teaching career in Eau Claire. From 1918-1960 she taught the upper grades at St. Patrick's School and served a decade there as principal. Later she taught math and tutored at Regis High School, then taught part-time at Richland Center before retiring. Sister Leone also served in administration during the early years of Saint Bede Priory.

Through the years Sister often reaffirmed her joy in her Benedictine life.

“I am where the Lord wants me to be,” she said. “We are here by God to do our best, with His help, to share the gifts we've been given. For me, teaching young people has been a very real privilege, especially to see them grow, develop and blossom.”

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Sister Clarita Selz, OSB

## In Memoriam

*Sister Clarita Selz, OSB, 76, and Sister Michaela Murrey, OSB, 84, died on May 30 and June 15, respectively, after lingering illnesses. Both were residents of Clairemont Nursing and Rehabilitation. Their funeral Masses in Saint Bede Chapel were followed by burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Eau Claire.*

**Sister Clarita**, a Humbird, WI native, was one of 12 children born into the farming family of Herman and Justine (Bergman) Selz. She graduated from St. Patrick's in 1950, a year after she

entered the new Saint Bede Motherhouse in Eau Claire.

Professed in 1952, Sister earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1964 from St. Catherine's College in St. Paul, MN, where she later pursued further education. Her long career in classrooms included teaching little children and pupils the primary grades in schools at La Crosse, Onalaska and Eau Claire. In 1965, Sister Clarita's dream of becoming a missionary led to four-month's study at the Intercultural Missionary Training Center at Cuernavaca, Mexico. In 1966 she traveled to Antofagasta, Chile to begin a 13-year ministry of teaching English as a second language at primary, secondary and university levels. She served as a pastoral minister in local parishes.

"I learned through osmosis," Sister later wrote, "absorbing the culture and language around me." Sister also worked with a program to prepare mothers to be catechists and as a volunteer chaplain for a women's prison.

Sister Clarita returned to the U.S. and completed CPE training at Willmar (MN) State Hospital, then served many years on the Pastoral Team of Eau Claire's Sacred Heart Hospital until illness forced her retirement in 2006. Her assignments for her community included sub-prioress, vocation director and director of the Benedictine Lay Associates. In 2002 she celebrated her Golden Jubilee.



Sister Michaela Murrey, OSB

**Sister Michaela**, the daughter of Stanley and Agnes (Partyke) Murrey, was raised on a ranch near Wilton, N.D. She was the sixth child in a family of six girls

and five boys. Sister Michaela, who enjoyed riding horses and herding cattle as a young girl, graduated from Wilton High School in 1940 and two years later earned her teacher certification from Minot (ND) State Teachers College. Encouraged by a brother to continue her education at a Catholic institution, Sister Michaela transferred to St. Benedict's College at St. Joseph, MN, where she earned a BA degree and entered the Benedictine community. She made her first profession there in 1946 and in 1948 was among the convent's 83 Sisters who founded a Benedictine motherhouse in Eau Claire.

Sister celebrated 60 years of Benedictine life in 2006. Her ministries included teaching the upper grades, sometimes also serving as principal, in Minnesota and Diocese of La Crosse schools that included St. Patrick's at Eau Claire and Onalaska, Richland Center, La Crosse and Regis High School in Eau Claire.

Sister Michaela, who also earned certification in library science and a MA in theology from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, enjoyed sharing her love of reading with students.

At the monastery, she solved crossword puzzles and regaled others with tales of her ranching days that invariably included a favorite song -- "Home on the Range."

## Profile from the Past - Sister Leone Treacy, OSB

Sister Leone Treacy, a revered teacher and principal who died in a Chippewa Falls nursing home on September 16, 1991, just short of her 102 birthday, was a "pioneer" in more ways than one.

Sister, who regaled students with covered wagon days on the South Dakota prairie, also was among the 83 Sisters who founded the Saint Bede motherhouse in Eau Claire in 1948.

She was born to an Irish immigrant father, a rancher and a mother, who died when Sister was 11. Sister Leone was left at an early age to care for a five-day-old baby and young siblings at the family's new farm home near Randall, MN, a town near her mother's birthplace. The family had traveled there from their desolate homestead, traveling hundreds of miles eastward in covered wagons. Sister's father had to negotiate a favorable price for the family's 160 acres from a railroad that was involved in a legal dispute with a competing line.

Bright and confident, Sister at age 18 and with only a year of high school, was teaching at a school at Little Falls, MN. In her early 20's she told her pastor of her lingering desire to enter religious life. "You are fitted to teach," he encouraged, and she soon resigned her elementary teaching post to enter St. Benedict's Convent at St. Joseph, MN. She was professed there in 1918 and made her perpetual profession two years later.

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Sister Leone Treacy, OSB



Sister Dale Wollum (back row) & Sisters from St. Paul's Monastery St. Paul, MN from left Sisters: Joan Utecht, Lucia Schwickerath, Jeron Osterfeld & Duane Moes



Saint Bede Chapel as it fills for 60th Anniversary Celebration

## Sisters' 60th Anniversary Celebration Draws 300 Guests to Chapel, Center

An estimated 300 friends, religious colleagues, clergy and other guests on June 15 helped the Benedictines celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of their monastic community. The gathering featured scripture and prayers and a litany celebrating 60 years of grace and gratitude.

A letter of congratulations and gift of beeswax candles were presented to Sister Michaela Hedican, prioress, by Sister Nancy Bauer, prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery, at St. Joseph, MN, source of the 83 Benedictines who in 1948 established an independent monastic motherhouse on Eau Claire's Wilson Street.

In accepting the gift on behalf of her community, Sister Michaela smiled in reminding the audience of the warm feelings "our motherhouse" has for Saint Ben's, which for the past 60 years has been "our Sister House." Among those extending congratulations were Sisters from St. Benedict's and from St. Paul's Monastery at Maplewood, MN.

Guests joined in a Litany of Service whereby the place and ministries of these 60 years were acknowledged and the refrain, "Not to us, O Lord, but to your name be glory," was sung.

Following the program in Saint Bede Chapel, celebrants enjoyed a reception in Saint Bede Center's Caedmon Hall. The Center featured a 19-panel photo/text exhibit of the Sisters' history and ministries.



Sister Lucy Miller & Father Robert Cook



Sister Bernard Heit, OSB

Retired in spring 2006 after 50 years of teaching, Sister Bernard Heit did what most Benedictines do when their formal ministries end: She accepted new assignments.

Sister Bernard, who celebrated her 50th Jubilee three years ago, was celebrated by parents, colleagues and others on retiring after 30 years of teaching at St. Mary's School, Altoona. She earlier taught at St. Thomas More, La Crosse, St. Patrick's, Onalaska and St. Frances, Ellsworth. Sister enjoyed all her first graders, who learned from her innovative games and puzzles. She focused on strengthening the self-image and confidence of these youngsters.

Asked if she missed her former students, Sister replied, "Not really. I ran out of energy" resulting from major back surgery and a continuing pinched nerve that hampers use of her left arm. She emphasized, however, that she loves the updates and visits from former students.

"I'm busy," she said, laughing, only disappointed that a painful left arm keeps her from a favorite pastime: fishing.

"I enjoy every day – one day at a time – and try to bring joy to other people."

## Snapshot: Sister Bernard Heit, OSB

Enjoyable pursuits for the Arkansaw native include reading, spending time outdoors, and card playing – especially with her four sisters and three brothers. A fourth brother is deceased.

"Our family has a great sense of humor, which makes it so much fun being together," she said.

Sister Bernard puts a high priority on the needs of others. Her touch is felt at the Office of the Federation of Saint Benedict, an association of 12 Benedictine national and international monasteries. She works as a bookkeeper, proofreader and helps with various computer tasks for Sister Michaela Hedican, Saint Bede's prioress and current president of the Federation.

"I couldn't have a better boss," said Sister Bernard, adding that she will miss working for the Federation. That will happen in July 2009 when Sister Michaela completes her term as president and the office is moved from the Center.

Sister also serves her community with care giving at Clairemont, where seven Benedictines reside. At the monastery she helps with correspondence, answers telephones and joins her colleagues with after-meal clean-up chores.

"I love being retired," Sister Bernard said. "I'm still working but (now) have more time to help people who need help."

## Developments

— James A. Schwartz, Director of Development

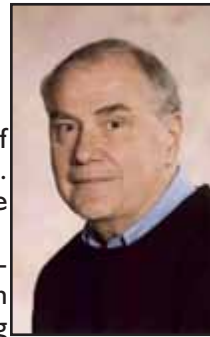
The seasons fly by. Time compresses a mosaic of impressions of community members loved, celebrated and given prayerful farewells. These and other spiritual celebrations mark the continuum of life for the Benedictine Sisters here.

In March Sister Michaela Hedican accepted a call to lead her community and on June 8 was installed as Prioress. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the Sisters also marked with prayers and liturgy the passing into eternal life by Sisters Clarita Selz and Michaela Murrey.

June marked a quarterly meeting of the Sisters' Development Advisory Council where the Benedictines and a guest speaker reviewed options for a future that includes the sale of the Sisters' property and relocation to a smaller, more manageable monastic site. Today, the community has 32 members.

On June 15, an estimated 300 people joined the Sisters for prayers, presentations, a reception and photo/text exhibits tracing the Benedictines' history in the Chippewa Valley and beyond. The crowd included family members, friends, colleagues and Catholic and other clergy. Nearly every celebrant has played a role in sustaining the Sisters' charism of hospitality, based on the *Rule of Saint Benedict* that proclaims "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."

Sharing the Sisters' joy were special friends – Benedictine Lay Associates, development and other advisers, care givers, mail and Celebrity Banquet volunteers and others. The following week, at the Sisters' celebration of their monastery's 60th year, they were joined by religious colleagues and clergy, Benedictine Lay Associates, Saint Bede advisers, caring volunteers and other friends. All have found ways to be one with this community. Despite being fewer and older the Sisters see no downside to lives dedicated to God and service to others. The Benedictines, after all, have joyfully followed that path for 1,500 years.



James A. Schwartz  
Director of  
Development



Welcoming doors to Saint Bede Monastery extend  
to Saint Bede Center (see page 8)

Briefly items..

Mark your calendars for the next Celebrity Banquet, which will make Saturday, February 14, Valentine's Day, a lively, fun time with great food, friends and auctioned gifts. Consider volunteering and/or sponsoring the event (\$500) or a table (\$300). Donated items for the live and silent auctions are welcomed. All proceeds benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund. For information, contact Linda Dekan (715-834-7130) at the Development Office.

Members of the Sisters' Development Advisory Committee, at their September 11 meeting, continued their discussions of this community's strategic plan. The Sisters continue to pray for guidance and are committed to staying together as a monastic community in the Chippewa Valley.

### Update on Sale of Buildings and Land

**As often as anything is to be done in the monastery, the prioress or abbot shall call the whole community together and after hearing the advice of the members let them ponder it and follow what they judge the wise course. (Rule of Benedict 3:1)**

Mindful of Saint Benedict's injunction to seek advice at the time of decision making, the Sisters have enlisted the expertise of a variety of professionals in the area of real estate. Their assistance, as we look to selling the buildings and land, has been invaluable.

Considering the advice of these professionals, the Sisters have prayed, pondered, discussed and have determined a selling price of \$4.5 million for the buildings and land. We will continue to rely on the expertise of these professionals.

Your prayers are appreciated as we continue to work with parties interested in our facilities and as we seek to do God's will.

**Do everything with counsel and you will not be sorry afterward. (Sir. 32:24)**

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## UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

As an ecumenical retreat and conference center, 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 16: Faith Enrichment Day - Celebrating 25 years! Featured speaker - Tom Thibodeau**  
"Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord:  
A Catechist's Perspective"
- **September 27, October 25, November 22, & December 13: Diocesan School of Biblical Studies**
- **October 18: Singing Meditation Retreat**  
- sponsored by Ruth Rosauer
- **October 24-26: Marriage Encounter Weekend**
- **December 5, 6: Advent Retreat**

**Watch for our Series on St. Paul, beginning this Fall!**

**Featuring : Sister Margaret Michaud, OSB - Oct. 7**

**Fr. Michael Joncas - Oct. 19**

**Fr. Frank Corradi - Nov. 9**

**Pastor Roy Harrisville, III - Oct. 28**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie

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**



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(715) 834-3176

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## TIDINGS

A Newsletter from The Sisters of Saint Bede Monastery

FALL 2008

– Sister Judith Kramer, OSB



In June Saint Bede celebrated 60 years as an independent monastery and now, in September, Saint Bede Center celebrates 30 years of hosting and hospitality. Oh, there will be no big program or commemorative cake, but if the walls could recall all of our memorable guests, there would be many tales to tell! We

average about 5,400 guests and program participants in a year. Just think of the large number of people who have graced our halls over the years.

I've had two terms as director of the Center and I am amazed to find many of the same types of groups still using our facility. One of the first groups we hosted in 1978 was a flower show symposium and on our calendar for this September we once again host the symposium for the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Marriage Encounter weekends, also started in 1978, are still offered at Saint Bede Center and perhaps most faithful are the religious education classes and Family Program from Newman Parish in Eau Claire.

We have some programs that have really maximized our space...like the years the Diocesan Lay Formation and Lay Ministry/Diaconate programs met here. Several of the large quilting and sewing groups leave not a bed to spare!

Individual guests have been "rescued" and housed here in winter storms, to complete a desperately close academic or writing deadline, to pray, rest and quiet themselves, to walk our trails and country roads or to make their home here while they undergo cancer treatment.

Music from recitals, concerts, voice, harp, flute and piano have danced through our halls. Family reunions and gatherings with picnics, karaoke and squeals of delight during games of hide and seek are part of the heritage of our Benedictine home. But when the door closes and the last guest leaves I breathe a prayer for safe travel and consult the calendar – for someone as important as you – might be our next guest.

As long as we can, we will continue to offer hospitality on the hill at Saint Bede. Most of the groups studying the possibility of purchasing the buildings and grounds share the hope of continuing some sort of welcoming and group hosting. May our open doors continue to welcome you!

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