

Seek. Pray. Share.

Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2 FALL 2020



Sisters participate in Ribbon 2020 Memorial Event to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

INSIDE

Sister insights into what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the community

A history of Madonna Learning Center in Memphis, Tennessee

Father Steve Lintzenich's thoughts on charitable giving during a pandemic





FROM THE PRIORESS

On New Year's Day, 2020, none of us could have fathomed what the year ahead would hold for us. During these past months, we have found ourselves living during a pandemic, the likes of which no one currently alive has ever experienced. We also are living during a time of great social unrest, marked by protests, riots, and calls for reform. What are we, as followers of St. Benedict, to think of all that is happening in our neighborhoods, cities, nation, and world?

St. Benedict started his monasteries and wrote his Rule at a time of chaos. The Roman empire was crumbling, and there were invasions and wars happening across Europe. Out of that experience, Benedict established monasteries known for stability, hospitality, and faithfulness to listening to the call of God. This is the foundation on which we stand today, and from this we continue to find ways to respond to the world in which we live.

A few years ago, our community created images of our vision of who we are as a community and our hopes for the future. One image that appeared over and over again was the dome of our monastery church with rays of light emanating from it. As we continue to live our Benedictine life with faithfulness, we strive to be those rays of light, bringing God's light to all who are in need through our prayer and through our ministries.

During our annual community days this past summer, I spoke to the community of sisters about resiliency. As Benedictines, we notice what is happening and then decide how to respond, how to support one another, and how to share our spirituality with those in need. As you read the pages of this magazine, you will hear our sisters comment about what they have learned during the time of the pandemic. I encourage you also to consider what you have learned over these past months and to ponder how God is calling you to growth. As you do so, be assured of our prayerful support for you and for all who are in need.

May God's light and peace fill you and give you hope!

Anita Louise

Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB
Prioress

Seek.Pray.Share.

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Design: Tory Lanaghan, Communications Specialist

Mission: We, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are monastic women seeking God through the Benedictine tradition of community life, prayer, hospitality, and service to others. By our life and work, we commit ourselves to be a presence of peace as we join our sisters and brothers in the common search for God.

Seek.

Seeking Faith in a Pandemic

Sisters share what they have learned during quarantine.



Sister Mary Francis Williams

As the pandemic took hold, my family and I knew we would not be meeting for our monthly Sunday Breakfast. We met every first Sunday in Vincennes. So, we started a virtual family get together to keep in touch. It soon included all extended family members. We shared how we were coping and following the guidelines – the social distancing, washing/sanitizing hands, masks, and staying home.

Challenges were initiated and shared, such as scavenger hunts where folks looked for identified items and reported who in the family had it and where they found it. These were fun. There were the family word search puzzles in various forms. Contributions were solicited and responses sent in for names of new books.

Many members of the family shared about their pets and sent photos of them. All kinds of interesting stories surrounded Father's Day and meaningful experiences with dads. These were delightful and so well told.

Then, by May, a group of the younger folks (nieces and nephews) decided to invite all to join a virtual mission up the Appalachian Trail. We began on May 13 and “walked, biked, ran, swam, and exercised” from Georgia to Maine in 44 days. We had 175 days allotted to finishing the trail, but those who participated really contributed, especially our anchor – a Command Sergeant Major in the Army. At age 80, I was named the Most Valuable Walker, and a brother seven years younger than I placed third. Many of the younger nieces and nephews participated as time allowed them to do so. Perhaps their miles were better, but age must have weighed in our favor. It was so much fun!

Now we are doing the Route 66 virtual mission. We are averaging about 50 miles a day and should finish this one before the allotted time expires. We began this one on July 3 and have reported 504 miles of the 2,280 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles. My challenge is to walk at least eight miles a day, and I have been meeting that goal. I like to record my mileage the morning after I have walked for a day. I tried reporting it in the afternoon but found myself adding another mile or more after I reported it.



Sister Sylvia Gehlhausen

We don't seem to have to rush around as much. We have a more peaceful, slower pace. Since more sisters are working from home, the younger

ones help older sisters a lot by carrying their tray at meals, holding doors open, smiling, and laughing with us. They are very kind and giving. I see a lot of sisters in church early before the regular prayer times to do more personal praying. We pray a lot for those who are sick with the virus. We ask God to end it.

Our cars that are home all the time need to be taken out for a drive, and I love when the sisters ask some of us older sisters if we would like to go along. This gets us out of our rooms and gives us interesting things to talk about.

We have to make sacrifices like not being allowed to do our own shopping. We have sisters appointed to shop for us, and they try very hard to get what we want. We have been in quarantine a very long time, but we encourage one another and try to laugh and be happy anyway.

We are blessed to have pretty grounds and places on the grounds where we can get out and walk. Many sisters are getting healthier because of the walking they do. They look wonderful and happy.

We are also concerned about and pray for school children and the teachers so they are able to have a program they can set up that is not so hard to follow, so the children can learn and parents don't have to worry about this.

Sister Ann Marie Howard

The entire world is being impacted by COVID-19. My prayer has been that the people who have no one or nothing will have some sense of God's love for them.

Sister Mary Emma Jochum

While recovering at Scenic Hills at the Monastery from consequences of SCI (spinal cord injury) from many years ago, I have come upon some poetry written by Lynn Ungar, a poet and minister. In March 2020, Lynn wrote a poem on "Pandemic." In the poem, she wrote, "Give up, just for now in trying to make the world different than it is. Sing, pray, teach only to those we commit our life."

She further says: "Center down and when the body becomes still, reach out with your heart. Know we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. Do not reach out your hands, reach out your heart, reach out your words." Lynn concludes by saying: "Promise the world your love for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we shall live."

This pandemic that we have been experiencing teaches that we must believe and trust in carefulness and faithfulness in precautionary measures. We must believe in consistency and responsibility for each other. We must believe in medical professionals who feel the responsibility to protect all of us. It is teaching us patience in time of waiting. Believe in simple living.

Sister Paula Wolff

I usually can give extra effort and do even unpleasant and difficult things when called upon for the greater good of community. The uncertainty of when the COVID-19

challenges will end has made me deepen my trust in God to give me the strength needed each day. My strongest prayer also has been for those feeling alone during this pandemic. I am blessed to have a whole community of sisters.



Sister Doris Schepers

We profess to live a life of continual conversion toward God, conversatio. During the pandemic, we were not able to go out and do things we normally

would. This helped us to have more time to focus on our relationship with God. Also, the ringing of the bells at 3:00 called us to another time/type of prayer. This created a pause in our daily routine to pray for an end to the virus.

The pandemic helped us to live a simpler lifestyle. We were not able to get in a car and drive wherever we wanted. We were not permitted to shop in a store. These both helped us to live a simpler lifestyle by not using as much gas, etc. It helped us to discern what was truly a need versus what was a want. While our needs were met, we found that some of our wants were things we could do without.

I feel this pandemic brought us closer together as a community. Instead of visiting others away from the monastery, we were able to spend more time with each other and create new bonds or strengthen those already there. We also called, emailed, and later visited, using social distancing, those away from the monastery, again creating and strengthening bonds.

Sister Jane Will

This time of being "cloistered" has meant a change in my ministry in spiritual direction. Since our doors are closed, and I am not making my usual monthly trip to Evansville to see spiritual directees, technology and I have become better friends. FaceTime or Zoom for spiritual direction has been better than I expected, and I'd say it's an amazingly blessed experience. It's our reminder that "God is the director!"





Sister Joella Kidwell

My experience of these last 4+ months has been varied. “Normal life” with its many duties, places to go and things to do slowed down and pretty much stopped. Our prayer schedule was the same yet different in that we were unable to have Mass. On Sundays and major feast days, we did celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, a homily on the Gospel, and a communion service. While it was different,

there was a richness also in the opportunity to hear reflections on the readings given by Sister Anita or another of the sisters. These were special and spoke directly to our life experience.

The first indications of spring were just slowing up as we began to change our lifestyle because of the virus. So daily, as I walked leisurely back and forth between buildings, I was able to watch the leaves begin to emerge from the various species of trees, the cherry blossoms and other beautiful flowering trees on campus and in the area. The birds returned and built their nests, the squirrels rushed around playing and hunting food, hurrying to hide up a tree as I passed by.

Every day for the last months has offered a new appreciation for the beauty of our earth and its many inhabitants. Just the past couple of weeks, we have enjoyed a mother deer with her new baby as they wander off and on our property. I am so grateful for this time to reflect on and enjoy the beauty of nature, and I am even more aware of how fragile it is and of our responsibility to take care of the earth.

Sister Louise Laroche

Don’t waste a crisis. I believe this is our wake-up call to shift our attention to globalization, planetary consciousness, and a new earth community.

“See, I am doing a new thing.” Isaiah 43:19

Sister Rose Mary Rexing

During the past months I learned how much I take for granted and how blessed I am, how I value the Eucharist, the wisdom of the psalms, the blessing of relationships and the importance of living in the present moment with the basics—faith, hope, and love.

Sister Corda Trouy

During this horrible pandemic of COVID-19, we are one in prayer with those people and their families who are suffering in any way!

As a Benedictine Community, we have taken more time at meals to have good conversations with one another. It is helpful that we are seated five at a table, instead of seven.

Sister Linda Bittner

The mystery of the virus continues. This has not changed since its beginning. We cannot see where it is – only the effects of those who fall prey to its danger. This calls me to be steadfast, to listen to those who study such matters, and to heed their wisdom. So, I wash my hands, sanitize, wear a mask, and social distance. It is getting old, but the virus persists, and I am called to stay the course – for your life and mine.

The COVID dance will come to an end but not before teaching me to do what needs to be done. The mystery remains. The need to endure persists. I am grateful for partners who move together as one for the common good. May it be so.

Sister Maura Beckman

This time of fewer appointments and fewer places to go has invited me to reflect upon the deeper sharing and greater gratitude for all I have been given. With it grows a real appreciation for being a child of God and a more genuine concern for others less fortunate.

Slowing down has given me time to ponder the worth of the life I have been given and the gifts I can share with the community in caring for one another. I have observed more reaching out to one another, attentiveness to the needs of others, and offers of service. All this has shown me that living gratefully is the way to go! I believe that we have been a loving community before COVID-19, but we have grown in our gift of loving service.

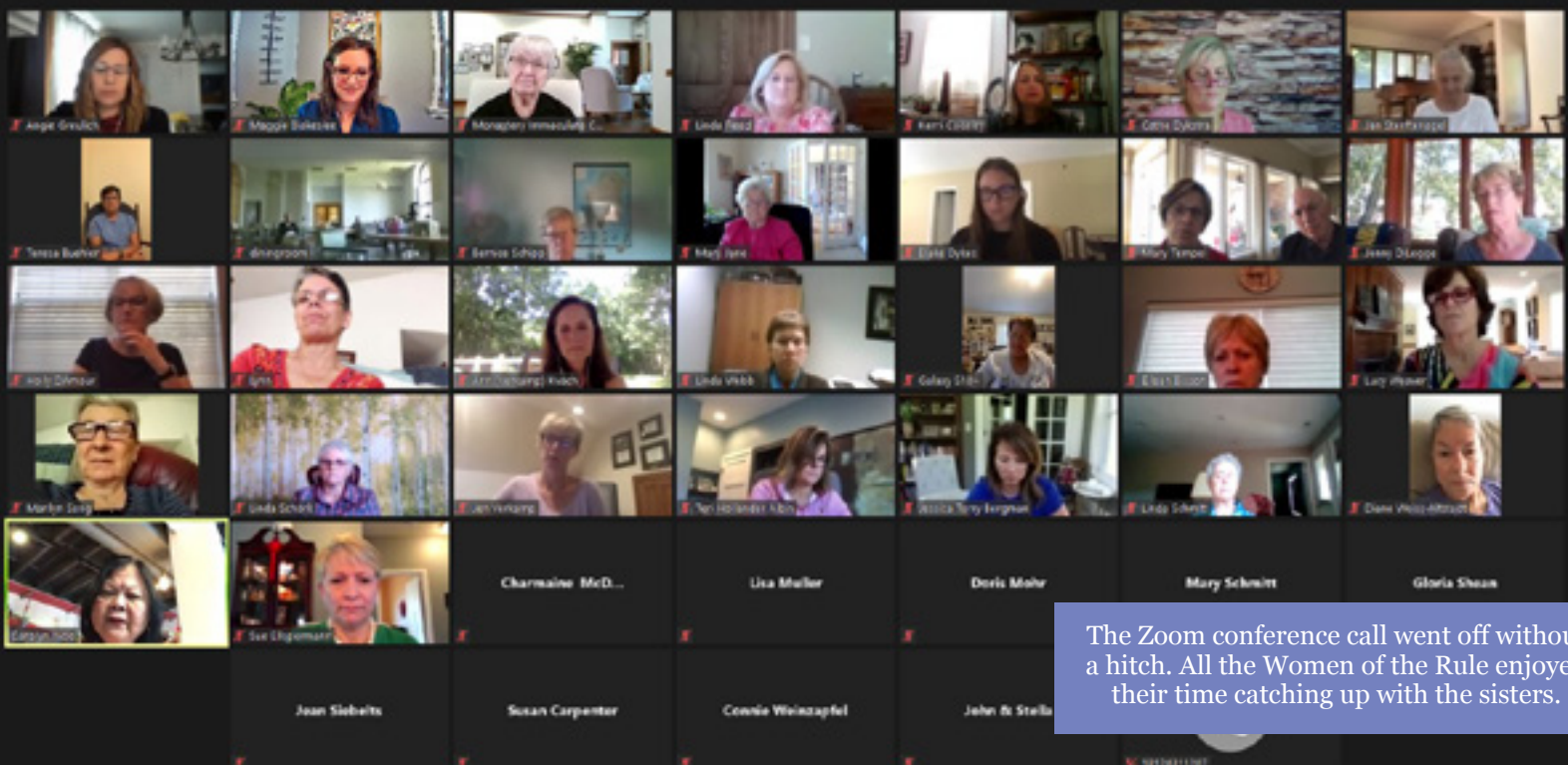
Sister Teresa Gunter

I never thought that I would enter a cloistered community. I was looking at being around different people, out in the public, always inviting people to visit, constantly on the move.

Since this pandemic started, I have come to really appreciate community. I have such a deeper respect and relationship with my sisters. I admire how everyone has stepped up to help with chores that need to get done, showed up for meals and been participating more fully in prayer.

Although I still say I was not called to a “cloistered community,” I have come to love us being cloistered. ●





Seeking Friends from Afar

Women of the Rule hosts online philanthropy luncheon.

by Dawn Schnell

The outbreak of coronavirus has created a profound impact on how we communicate with each other, given the need for social distance. People are connecting in new social ways with more phone calls and virtual conversations and conferencing. On August 7, 2020, the annual Women of the Rule Luncheon turned into a virtual event in which some extraordinary women gathered online, listening to sisters' proposals and voting on some critical projects for the monastery and local deaneries.

The Women of the Rule is a philanthropic group dedicated to supporting the Sisters of St. Benedict, by funding projects that intend to help the sisters with their ministries throughout the year. Before this year's virtual event, some of the group's prior work included funding for the Madonna Hill pathway, roof and window restoration and church door repairs, projects for the Monastery Goods and Services Bakery, and digital communication technology, as well as dollars for the St. Benedict Hall laundry rooms. Several Women of the Rule members and anonymous donors also funded proposals for the Texas/Mexico border trip, ministry to incarcerated women, and a trip from Peru to Italy for Sister Feli and Sister Maria from Monasterio Paz de la Cruz in Morropón, Piura, Peru

Guests of the Zoom meeting enjoyed live piano music from the Marian Parlor by Sister Michelle Mohr as all guests arrived. After a welcome prayer from Sister Anita Louise Lowe and a Women of the Rule overview from Sister Barbara Catherine Schmitz, members watched pre-recorded video proposals before voting on their recommended

projects. While votes were being tallied, Sister Jennifer Miller introduced guest speaker, Dr. Carolyn Woo. Dr. Sue Ellspermann delivered the closing remarks, and Sister Anita closed with a meaningful prayer for the members.

The group reviewed six proposals and voted for three they felt would best serve the sisters. Members chose to fund part of the upgrades to the old home economics department, technology for the monastery and mission deaneries, and Sister Catherine Duenne's Master of Arts in Ministry with a focus on Liturgical Leadership. The sisters were so grateful for the support.

With 94 active members, Women of the Rule is dedicated to making a difference in the world by supporting the mission and ministries of the sisters. All the members come together to form a partnership with the sisters by providing financial support for important strategic initiatives. They also engage in opportunities for personal enrichment through programs centered on Benedictine spirituality and values offered exclusively by the sisters for Women of the Rule.

Become a part of Women of the Rule today—and help change lives! Your gift of \$1,000 given by June 30 (our fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30) qualifies you as a member and entitles you to vote in the fall for the funding requests that will receive grants. Your annual gift can be given in one payment or in installments completed by June 30.

For more information, contact Sister Barbara Catherine Schmitz at 812-367-1411, ext. 2649. •

Pray.

Sister Mary Mark greets a student for the first day of class.



Madonna
DAY SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Pray for Madonna Monarchs

Madonna Learning Center celebrates 50 years of service.

By Tory Lanaghan

*"I not only believe in miracles, I depend on them,"
Sister Mary Mark Graf, founder of Marian Day School and
Madonna Learning Center.*

Since 1969, little miracles have happened every day at Madonna Learning Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Here, children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience specialized education, daily care, and work skill advancement. Each teacher dedicates time to maximizing the students' strengths and diminishing their challenges, leading to a well-rounded and fulfilling life.

Madonna Learning Center's history began with five families in Memphis looking for educational options for their children with disabilities. At the time, public schools

didn't have the resources to teach their children, so the only formal education they had was an hour of Sunday school each week. Desperately wanting to better the lives of their children, the families, led by Mr. Robert Winfield, turned to the Church for help. Eventually, he found the loving hands of Sister Mary Mark Graf.

When the families contacted her, Sister Mary Mark was working at Marian Day School, a center for children with special needs that she founded in Evansville, Indiana, in 1958. With its great success in serving students with unique needs, Mr. Winfield felt that Sister Mary Mark and the Sisters of St. Benedict were precisely the people their families needed to establish a school for children with special needs in Memphis. With permission from the sisters and help from the families, Sister Mary Mark, Sister Beata Mehling, and Sister Ruth Ann Schmitt moved to Memphis and began serving 21 students at St. Peter's Home for Children in Midtown.

The sisters had little to nothing to work with at first, but they received a lot of support from the diocese as they worked hard to better their students' lives. Soon, though, more students wanted to attend, and their facilities grew too small. In May 1970, Sister Mary Mark moved the school to St. James Catholic Church in Northeast Memphis. With the help of the Memphis community and many parents, the school was ready to open in August 1970, with 24 students and one new lay teacher.



Sister Ruth Ann teaching her students about animals using a puppet show.

As the school grew, so did the need for more patient and kind teachers. In 1972, Sister Judy Dewig moved to Memphis to help the junior high students, a mission that she had wanted since she was a young girl. She had helped Sister Mary Mark and Sister Beata as they prepared for the opening of Marian Day School in Evansville. During this time she met some of their students, hoping someday to teach them.

Sister Judy remarked at how much the students and teachers taught each other. "Some of our students were non-verbal or could not be understood, so as a school the speech therapist taught us sign language. We then could sing and sign as we celebrated God's goodness at our weekly celebration of the Mass."

One of her favorite memories included the richness of faith that grew in both the students and their families. Memphis did not have a large population of Catholic families, so many of the children who attended the school came from various faith backgrounds, including Baptist, Church of Christ, Jewish, and Muslim. The sisters would visit the homes of their students and share in the experience of their entire family and their religious traditions.

In working with the students at Madonna, Sister Judy remembers it as a faith-filled experience. The students had an attitude of gratitude, politeness, acceptance of themselves, and friendliness with everyone they met. Their prayerfulness and dependence on God was very evident as heard in their heartfelt prayers:

- Reatha was asked how she won two gold medals. She responded, "Everyone was cheering for me. God was cheering for me, too."
- James led the lunch prayer saying, "Dear God, thank you for our food and bless all these handicapped people; we know it ain't your fault."
- Jason prayed, "Dear God, thank you for Madonna Day School. We don't know where we would be without it... and bless all 52 thousand students."

Madonna Day School's annual Christmas play became a favorite event of the Memphis community. Early on, the teachers wanted to showcase how far the children had progressed in a performance for their families. The teachers revised a version of the Nutcracker, tailoring the songs and dances to their students' abilities. Volunteers and teachers personalized costumes for the children. The first show was such a hit with the families and friends of Madonna that they have continued the tradition with a new play each year.

The sisters and lay teachers established many traditions, including participation in the Special Olympics at local,



Sister Beata and Sister Judy were special guests at the opening of the Germantown facility. The sisters are proud to continue the legacy of Madonna Learning Center with our prayers and support.

state, and national competitions. They were supported by the Baseball Club with the Memphis Blues. However, in 1996, the sisters noticed a change of demographics in the area of St. James, and after 27 years, Madonna Day School moved to Germantown, Tennessee. At this time the name of the school was changed to Madonna Learning Center to better define its purpose.

The school now has nearly 85 participants. Shortly after the sisters left, the administration expanded its capacity from school-age children (ages 4 – 18) to include an adult program for graduated young adults. The Monarch Adult Program utilizes different levels of study focusing on daily living skills, social skills, and job preparation so the participants gain useful, real-life job experiences and become more independent and able to excel in today's world.

Whatever age and whatever disabilities their students have, Madonna Learning Center continues to focus on creating little miracles in the lives of children and adults with special needs. Though Sister Mary Mark passed in 2010, she would be proud to see her students progress and the lasting impact that she and her sisters have left on the Memphis community.

Madonna Learning Center continues to stand on the motto of "Together We Can." Together we have been there for each other to achieve miracles each and every day, serving the families and students of Madonna Learning Center in a faith-based Christian atmosphere full of love, kindness, and acceptance. Together we make positive changes and create opportunities for every student and adult at Madonna Learning Center.

—From Madonna Learning Center's Mission Statement ●

Pray for Our Newest EAC Members

Sisters welcome new advisory council members.

By Dawn Schnell

The Executive Advisory Council (EAC) for the Sisters of St. Benedict was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Prioress and Monastic Council. The EAC advises in matters relating to the direction of strategic initiatives, programs, and resources of the needs of the Church, society, and the membership. The sisters would like to welcome their newest EAC members.

Alisa Hendrix

Alisa Hendrix is a long-time resident of Bloomington, Indiana, where she has a history of small business ownership, volunteerism, and civic leadership. She is a member of the Indiana University Foundation Board of Directors and is a leader in women's philanthropy for IU. Alisa is a founding member and past co-chair of the Women's Philanthropy Leadership Council. She also serves as a member of the committee on directors, and the long range planning committee for IU Foundation, and is a long-time steering committee member and past co-chair of the IU Colloquium for Women. Alisa recently completed nine years of service on the board of visitors for the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, where she completed a master's degree in 2015.



Alisa is an active leader in the Bloomington community, serving as director of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, where she is a member of the executive committee and co-chair of the grant program. She is a former director of the Bloomington Hospital Foundation and currently serves on the investment committee. She is a long-time volunteer for Kappa Alpha Theta, serving as a chapter advisor, event chairperson, and is a past president of the Bloomington Alumnae Chapter.

Alisa has two children, Chad Sutor, who is a May 2012 graduate of Purdue University, and Jennie Sutor, who is a May 2017 graduate of Indiana University Bloomington. She has been a friend and supporter of the Sisters of St. Benedict since 2016.

Max and Jen Verkamp

Max and Jen Verkamp have lived in Jasper for the past fifteen years. Max grew up in Jasper while Jen is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio.



A registered nurse at the Lange-Fuhs Cancer Center, Jen enjoys working part-time in addition to serving the community through her involvement in various organizations. Having just completed a term as board president, she now serves as immediate past president of the Dubois County Community Foundation board of directors. Jen also leads a Girl Scout troop, serves on the Young Women LEAD advisory board, is a member of Dubois County CARES, and is an active member of Women of the Rule.

Max has worked in management at Indiana Furniture for the past four years after having spent twenty-four years in various roles for MasterBrand Cabinets in Jasper, Cincinnati, and Atlanta. Max is involved with Mentors for Youth, Friends of the Arts, St. Joseph Parish Council, and Jasper Partnership Commission, which works with Jasper's Sister City of Pfaffenweiler, Germany.

Jen received her undergraduate degree in Nursing from Kent State University. Then, she pursued master's degrees in education and nursing administration from Xavier University. Max completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and his masters in business administration at Xavier University. Both enjoy traveling, sports, skiing, and spending time with family. They have three children: Lauren (17), Ryan (14), and Erin (11).

Max's aunt, Sister Mary Ann Verkamp, is a current member of the Sisters of St. Benedict. Her sister, Sister Mary Aquin Verkamp, who passed away in 2009, was also part of the community. Max and Jen have been supporters of the sisters since 1996.

Sister Council Members

Sr. Anita Louise Lowe	Sr. Louise Laroche
Sr. Rose Wildeman	Sr. Jill Marie Reuber
Sr. Marilyn Schroering	Sr. Donna Marie Herr
Sr. Barbara Lynn Schmitz	Sr. Karlene Sensmeier
Sr. Joella Kidwell	Sr. Celeste Boda



Gary and Cindy Weinzapfel

Gary and Cindy are both lifelong residents of Jasper and graduates of Jasper High School, and both graduated with honors from the University of Evansville. Cindy earned her bachelor's degree in business management, majoring in finance. Gary earned an associate's degree in computer science, and a bachelor's degree in business

management, majoring in both marketing and personnel management.

After graduation, Cindy began working in her family's business, Streicher Construction, in Jasper, where she is currently the controller. Gary began working for Ruxer Ford Lincoln in Jasper, where he is now the general manager. Both are active members of Holy Family Parish, where they serve in several parish functions. Gary and Cindy have had a long-term relationship with the Sisters of St. Benedict through Gary's aunt, Sr. Agnes Weinzapfel, who has been a member for many years. Cindy is also currently a member of the Women of the Rule.

Cindy and Gary have three adult children: Kristen, Jennifer, and Adam, all former students of the Sisters of St. Benedict music program at Holy Family (now Holy Trinity) School. They have one grandchild, Russell.

Thank you to Alisa, Max, Jen, Gary, and Cindy on becoming our newest members. We also show our appreciation to all existing members for their work, support, and guidance of the Sisters of St. Benedict. ●

Lay Council Members

Earl and Tonya Borders	Pat Koch
Dean and Karen Bosler	Judy Palmer
Carl and Marcy Cook	Mike and Pam Schwenk
Doug and Cheryl Gettelfinger	Ken and Monica Sicard
Nancy Habig	Gene and Mary Tempel
Alan and Dana Hoffman	Kathy Weyer

The emeritus members are:
Dave and Brenda Buehler
William (Bill) Bussing
Thomas (Tom) McKenna

In Memoriam

Sister Marge Sasse

January 15, 1935 – August 8, 2020



Sister Marge Sasse, 85, of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana, died on Saturday, August 8, at Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana.

Sister Marge (Margaret Maddalena), formerly known as Sister Mary Gualbert, was born on January 15, 1935, in Evansville, Indiana. She was the youngest of six children of Joseph and Verena (Fuchs) Sasse. She entered the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand in 1952

and made her profession of monastic vows in 1954.

Sister Marge attended St. Benedict College in Ferdinand, studying education, and obtained a master's degree in religious education from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. She worked as a teacher throughout Southern Indiana at St. Matthew in Mount Vernon, St. James in Haubstadt, St. Mary in Washington, St. Mary School in Huntingburg, St. Bernard in Rockport, North Spencer Alternative School in Dale, Holy Redeemer, and St. Benedict in Evansville. She also served as a missionary in Guatemala and 16 years in Peru. Sister Marge also taught in California at St. Catherine School, worked in parish ministry at St. Ferdinand, St. Benedict, and Sacred Heart, and engaged in supportive services and prayer ministry at the monastery.

Sister Mary Dominic Frederick

July 14, 1930 – August 18, 2020



Sister Mary Dominic (Betty) was born on July 14, 1930, in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She was the oldest of three daughters of Dominic Aloysius and Eva (Kamer) Frederick. She entered the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand in 1949 and made her profession of monastic vows in 1951.

She is survived by a sister, Jeane Kathryn Losch, and nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death are her parents, Dominic

Aloysius and Eva (Kamer) Frederick, sister, Augusta Marie Lynch, and her husband, Thomas.

Sister Mary Dominic attended St. Benedict College in Ferdinand, receiving her bachelor's degree in education, and obtained a master's degree in English from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She worked as a teacher throughout southern Indiana at St. Theresa School in Evansville, St. Peter and St. Paul in Haubstadt, St. Ferdinand in Ferdinand, and Mater Dei High School in Evansville. Sister Mary Dominic was a teacher and principal at the Academy Immaculate Conception and Marian Heights Academy in Ferdinand for nearly 25 years. She also served in community administration as a council member, was an exchange teacher for Marymount School in Surrey, England, and served as the archivist, and in prayer ministry at the monastery.

Share.



Father Steve washes feet at the children's Good Friday Mass to show them the love and servitude of Christ.

How Father Steve Shares God

Father Steve Lintzenich donates to worthy causes during pandemic.

by Greg Eckerle

Father Steve Lintzenich says it was easy to choose the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand as an annual recipient of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from his IRA (Individual Retirement Account).

He continued to make this contribution this year, even though the distribution wasn't required because of the recent CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act.

"I feel there's no reason not to continue to donate, because God has blessed me and I should keep giving it away," says

Father Steve, who was ordained as a priest in 1974 and retired in 2014 after 30 years of service at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Evansville, Indiana. "Why should I stop just because of the pandemic?" He knows his charitable contribution is going toward a good, valuable cause.

"When I started having income, I had to donate at least 10 percent, so it was easy to choose the Benedictines because of my long history with them. That's what it's all about, creating family." Father Steve became aware of the Ferdinand sisters when he went to Saint Meinrad Seminary at age 14. The relationship grew swiftly as he moved into parish ministry and worked alongside several Ferdinand Benedictines, including Sister Jennifer Miller, Sister Jane Michele McClure, and Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, who was parish administrator at St. Mary's from 2003 to 2008.

Father Steve noted that "Sister Jennifer had a great gift to give reflections, to share spirituality. She was a joy. Sister Jane Michele does a great job in development at Habitat for Humanity, a group I'm really partial to. She's a good steward. I probably worked most closely with Sister Barbara Lynn, who was one of my true teachers in the ways of parish development. She was very instrumental in growing St. Mary's, along with many other sisters. Of course, on many visits to Ferdinand I knew many of the talented sisters in religious education. So I've been blessed to know a lot of Benedictine sisters. They've been a great gift to



Father Steve begins the blessing of the palms on Palm Sunday for his parish.



Father Steve in his office at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Evansville. He enjoyed 30 years of service there and worked with Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz.

done. It's been a great joy and a great ride. The sisters have been very hospitable."

When planning your RMD strategy from an IRA, you may want to consider making a charitable donation through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD can satisfy your RMD and exclude the amount donated from taxable income. QCD's don't require itemizing. You can use them for charitable donations, get the tax break, and still take advantage of the recent higher standard deduction.

When faced with his RMD decision, Father Steve says, "I had preached and practiced stewardship, I had tithed, and when I heard of the tax break, I decided to give that money to my charities, because I've been so blessed. God has let me live this long, so it's important to give that money away. I feel it's critical for Christians to be good stewards of their money, time, and talent, and all the gifts God gives them. That's why I give money away."

For more information about donating in this way to the worthy causes of the sisters, please contact the Mission Advancement Office at 888-649-1121, ext. 2631, or email maoffice@thedome.org. •

the diocese as well as their parishes, and in many ways besides being teachers. The sisters really embody spirituality, and I think they have a great spirit. It always makes me proud to bring people to Ferdinand, to see what the sisters have

Announcing Special Tax Breaks for Donations Made in 2020

Congress recently passed the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One goal of the act is to stimulate philanthropy by increasing incentives for donors to support charitable organizations like the Sisters of St. Benedict. The following information is provided so you may consider these incentives as you plan your 2020 charitable giving and tax strategy.

CARES Act 2020 Tax Year Benefits

Standard Deduction

Many people do not itemize their federal returns because the standard deduction (\$12,400 for single/\$24,800 for married) exceeds their deductible expenses. In 2020, the CARES Act provides an "above the line" charitable deduction for cash gifts up to \$300 when using the standard deduction; this creates a dollar-for-dollar reduction in a donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), reducing their taxable income.



Itemized Filers

Provisions for those who itemize:

Cash Gifts – Income tax deductions for cash contributions were previously limited to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). CARES Act increases the limit to 100% of AGI for 2020.

Gifts of Appreciated Assets – If you support the sisters through the sale of stocks, bonds, or real estate that have appreciated in value and been held at least one year, you are entitled to an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the assets (up to 30% of your AGI) and avoid capital gains tax that would be due upon a sale. Deductions beyond the 30% threshold can be carried forward into up to 5 additional tax years.

IRA Distributions

The CARES Act eliminated the required minimum distribution from an IRA for people over age 70 ½. However, because it also increased the limit for tax deductions on cash gifts to 100% of AGI (see itemized info), people over age 59 ½ can take a cash distribution from their IRA, avoid an early withdrawal penalty, donate the cash to the Sisters of St. Benedict, and receive a charitable deduction up to 100% of their AGI.



Please consult your legal or tax advisor for specific advice regarding the tax deductibility of charitable contributions.

Sharing Spiritual Guidance

Sisters' spirituality team has remote sessions and video lessons.

Spiritual direction is essentially companioning someone in his or her spiritual life. A spiritual director listens to the person's life story and is attentive with the directee to God's call and presence as it unfolds in the ordinary events of life.

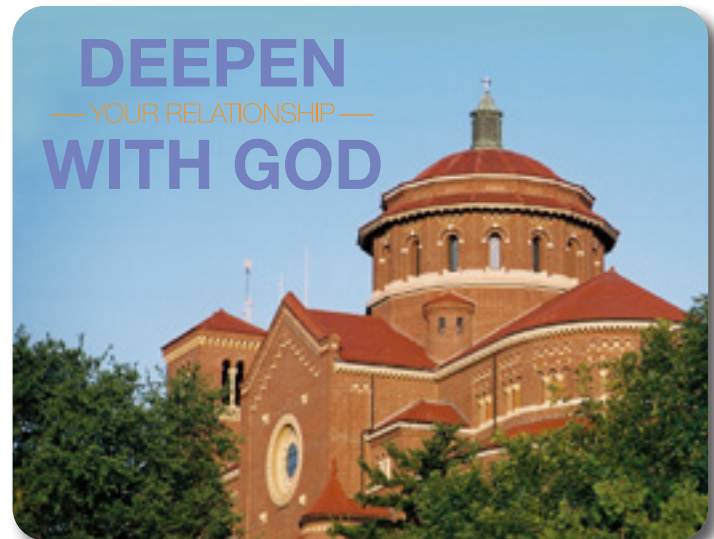
The goal of spiritual direction is to deepen one's relationship with God by learning to recognize divine grace in all aspects of one's life. Through monthly conversations, a spiritual director serves as a guide and companion on the journey of seeking God.

Other ways of describing spiritual direction include holy listening, spiritual friendship, or sacred journeying. It is the art of listening with an ear for the movement of the Holy, or the Divine, in the context of a trusting relationship.

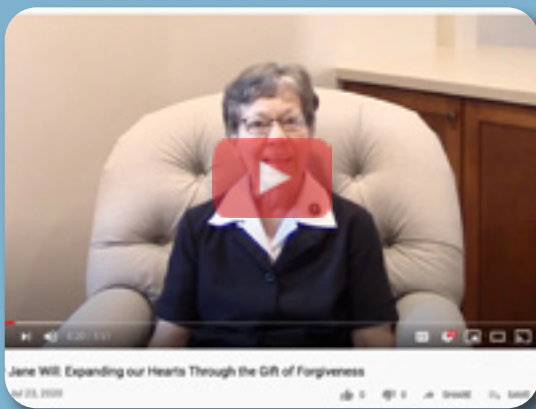
Because sessions focus on the faith journey, spiritual direction is not a substitution for psychotherapy or counseling. The standard fee for spiritual direction is usually between \$45–\$60 per session, negotiable according to need and arranged with the director. No one will be deprived of spiritual direction for financial reasons.

What are the benefits of spiritual direction?

- Support, guidance, and encouragement on one's spiritual journey
- Time for reflection on one's experience of God
- Increased awareness of God's movement in the ordinary experiences of life
- Recognition of God's invitations to a more intense relationship
- Sharper focus on one's prayer life and spiritual practices
- Deeper search for God
- Guidance in making discerned decisions
- Learning ways to love God fully and love others unconditionally
- Increased trust due to confidentiality



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 812-367-1411 or visit our website <https://www.thedome.org/how-we-serve/spiritual-direction>



Sharing a Spiritual Connection

Our Spirituality team comes to Facebook and YouTube on the first and third weeks of the month to share their wisdom. Join them as they talk about prayer, reflection, and growth in Christ through various means. Learn about Lectio Divina, fasting, and meditation as you collect all the tools you need to ease your spirit into conversation with God.

Keep an eye out for more updates on our social media!





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