



Tidings

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF

ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

SPRING 2012

www.annunciationmonastery.org



Sisters Re-Elect Sister Nancy Miller

On March 10, 2012, following a weekend of prayer and discernment, the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery re-elected Sister Nancy Miller as prioress. Sister Nancy was initially installed as prioress on May 16, 2008. Prioress election is held every four years at Annunciation Monastery, with a 12-year limit.

Election story continues on page 3



MESSAGE FROM THE

Prioress

The Easter season brings with it the promise of new life in Christ Jesus. May that promise of new life in Christ be alive in your hearts always.

Every four years, our monastic community enters into a process of discernment where we dialogue and pray about our hopes for the future and where God is leading us at this time. This time allows us to speak freely of our vision for the future as a Benedictine community and how we need to change and grow in our ministries.

As part of this process, we then choose a member from the monastic community who will lead us. Having been re-elected as prioress of Annunciation Monastery, I rely on the promise of new life in Christ to sustain and direct me. We sisters firmly believe, with God's help, we can serve in a way that is mission-directed and fluid with the challenges of the times. We move forward with faith that our efforts will be blessed by God.

Our vision for the next few years has a focus on our Ministry of Sponsorship, Vocations and Monastic Life. We have identified these as elements of our life that we want to be strong in and thus serve God's people in a meaningful way.

In our Ministry of Sponsorship, we continue the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus through the work of our sisters in collaboration with those who work in our sponsored ministries—St. Alexius Medical Center, Garrison Memorial Hospital and the University of Mary.

Sharing the Gospel values and our common heritage ensures that the mission remains strong today and in the future.

Reaching out to women who have a call to religious life is important to us and to the Church. Through live-in experiences, one-on-one contact and giving witness to the values of our monastic living, we hope to help women respond to God's call.

Our faithfulness to the monastic way of life is the anchor of our service to all of God's people. We devote time, energy and prayer to structure our days and we minister out of that center. We find that when we are well grounded in our life together as community, we are better poised to give effective service to others.

As we move forward in our commitment to our direction statements, we thank you for being a part of the mission through your prayers, friendship and support. Together we build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Blessings to all!

Sister Nancy Miller, OSB

Thank you to the sisters who helped us during our discernment process leading up to election of prioress. We are truly grateful for your prayerful support and guidance during this holy time.

Lt. to rt: Sister Cecilia Dwyer, OSB, Saint Benedict Monastery, Bristow, VA; Sister Jeanne Ranek, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD (facilitator); Sister Nancy Miller, OSB, Prioress of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, ND; Sister Susan Hutchens, President, Federation of St. Benedict, St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, IL.



“Together we work to ensure that Catholic, Christian and Benedictine values are lived out each day as we serve in health care and higher education.”

“It is with a grateful heart that I continue in my ministry as prioress of Annunciation Monastery,” says Sister Nancy Miller. “These past four years have filled me with a sense of being richly blessed with learning and growth as a monastic. I have an ever-deepening appreciation of my sisters in monastic community. I am inspired every day by their faith, love and support, and commitment to the mission of Jesus.”

Born and raised in Harvey, N.D., to Joyce and Paul Miller, Sister Nancy is the fifth of eight children. She first became acquainted with the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery while attending the University of Mary where she received her undergraduate degree in business administration and a master’s degree in management.

As prioress, Sister Nancy provides leadership in the sisters’ sponsored institutions: St. Alexius Medical Center, the University of Mary and Garrison Memorial Hospital. She serves as president of the board at St. Alexius Medical Center and the University of Mary. “Together we work to ensure that Catholic, Christian and Benedictine values are lived out each day as we serve in health care and higher education.”

The prioress is the spiritual and administrative leader of the religious community. Prayerful discernment and study takes place every four years as the sisters develop their long range plan outlining directives to enhance mission, ministry and promote vocations to religious life. “It is critical that we collaborate with others and respond to the needs of the times as our founding sisters responded – guided by the Holy Spirit with vision, faith and courage,” says Sister Nancy.

“Annunciation Monastery is not just home to our sisters, it is a place of hospitality for people of all faiths. We strive to respond to the contemporary hunger for God through our spirituality programs, spiritual direction and retreats. We offer a peaceful, prayerful place for people to come and be refreshed. Through vocation live-in experiences throughout the year, women discern God’s call in their own lives. We support and encourage them in their vocations.

“We Sisters of Annunciation Monastery vision for the future with renewed commitment to the people of the Bismarck Diocese and beyond. We are here for you and we pray for you every day.”

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Psalms Inspire Book

Though written ages ago, the psalms proclaim all aspects of human emotion – the times of joy and thanksgiving, the periods of anger, doubt, fear and darkness, and the ordinary days in between. A natural story-teller, Sister Kathleen Atkinson has weaved daily reflections into the psalms in her first book, *God is Always There. Psalms for Every Moment*, published by the Liguori Press.

Sister Kathleen Atkinson with her new book, to be released in June!

Sister Kathleen shares about her book:

Q: How did Liguori Press find out about your writings?

A: I had written an article for our monastic newsletter, *Tidings*, when someone clipped it out and sent it to the editor of *The Liguorian* magazine. I guess they liked it because they asked me to write an article about “Mentoring on the Margins.” After that, we talked about the possibility of me writing a book.

Q: Had you ever thought about writing a book in the past?

A: Yes, but it stopped at that. People encouraged me in that direction – mainly to put together a collection of my writings. I’m sure this happens with most writers at some point, but you question whether you have something that’s worth putting on paper and making it public.

Q: Is it easier to believe you’re a writer now?

A: Yes and no. I believe I’m in the process of becoming a writer. I’ve had reflections and poetry published, but a book feels even more vulnerable.

Q: How does the writing process unfold for you?

A: I walk. I stew. I move some more. That’s the only way I can describe it. I am more creative through action. I can’t just sit down and write. It’s good to have deadlines to force me to sit down and write. But everything I write is born through movement.

Q: Your book brings the reader to daily reflection on the psalms. How did you come up with the idea for your book?

A: As Benedictines, we pray the psalms every day. The psalms provide a real-life context for daily living. In my book, the psalms are divided into three sections: faith, hope and love. I’ve selected a psalm for reflection, a short story to connect it to ordinary life and a simple invitation to action.

Q: How do you hope people will feel when reading your book?

A: I hope it sheds some light onto the lives of the readers, that they can see themselves, or people they know, in certain circumstances and find God in them.

Q: It's difficult to find God in times of great loss and sorrow isn't it?

A: Living authentically and faithfully is never easy. Natural disasters, the death of loved ones and broken relationships fill us with sorrow. Life isn't made up of sorrow or joy; life simultaneously holds both sorrow and joy. God is there in it with us, no matter what we are going through. That's why the psalms are so powerful. Whether we are cursing, rejoicing, longing, crying, laughing, dancing – God loves us and understands. Do not let anything overcome you because God is always there. God is always there.

Sister Kathleen Atkinson's book, *God is Always There. Psalms for Every Moment*, will be available in June 2012 through Amazon, local bookstores and at Annunciation Monastery.

She is writing her next book scheduled to come out in Winter 2013.

Prayer Partners Bless One Another

Each year University of Mary students are invited to partner with a Sister of Annunciation Monastery in prayer. The sisters often send notes of encouragement and prayer to their students at test times, sporting events, concerts or when students have personal prayer needs.

Kimberly Hutchison and Sister Janet Zander share a close bond as prayer partners. A first-year student from Maryland, Kimberly recalls feeling particularly homesick at Thanksgiving time. "I was missing my family and Sister Janet sent me a special card with a quote from Ephesians," she said. "It made me feel so much better and I was surprised because Ephesians is my favorite book of the Bible!" The thoughtful note reminded Kimberly that she has the love and prayers of the sisters.



Sister Janet Zander is a prayer partner for University of Mary student, Kimberly Hutchison.

Ephesians 3:16-17. "May God from the wealth of his glory give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner self, and may Christ make his home in you through faith."



Kimberly often joins the sisters in prayer and at game nights at the monastery. Sister Janet came to dinner one evening and found Kimberly serving the sisters coffee at their dinner tables. "That is the mark of a servant leader," says Sister Janet with a smile. Kimberly shrugs and says, "That's just the right thing to do when someone invites you to stay for dinner!"

Sister Janet says it is meaningful to form relationships with student prayer partners to "encourage, support and hold them in our hearts."



Sisters Delora, Rose and Francis Schweitzer

"We Were Called to be Sisters"

“**T**he Lord calls people to do different things in life, we were called to be sisters,” says Sister Francis Schweitzer (91) of herself and her two sisters, Sister Delora (96) and Sister Rose Schweitzer (98).

Whether the call from God began in the little sod house on the Schweitzer homestead where Sisters Rose and Delora were born, or at the farm south of Dodge, N.D., the three sisters grew up in a loving family where religion was central. They, along with six brothers and two other sisters, were born to German immigrants from Russia.

They remember their father, Sebastian, as a generous and wise man, who was often called upon by neighbors when they had personal or financial problems. “Somehow he would find a way to help them,” says Sister Rose.

Their mother, Johanna, was a talented cook and baker. “What I wouldn’t give for a bowl of her homemade chicken noodle or potato soup,” says Sister Francis wistfully. The sisters helped with the housework and the cattle. “We each had our own cows that we milked every day,” said Sister

Rose. “Those cows knew it too!” In their free time, the kids loved to play games, go fishing, and play ball since they were “big enough to have their own team!”

The Schweitzer sisters had little exposure to nuns as young girls. Sister Delora was the first to enter religious life. She recalls attending special church events in Richardton and Dickinson. She was curious about the sisters who were in attendance. She admits to wondering more about how the sisters were able to eat while wearing the coif and habit than any considerations about becoming a sister. Over time she listened to God’s gentle nudging and visited St. Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., where she became a sister.

Sister Delora says, “Our mother had said she wouldn’t mind if all of us girls became sisters.” All of them did become sisters with the exception of Frances who was called to married life. Sister Rose and Sister Francis followed after Sister Delora. Another sister, Sister Ella, joined St. Benedict’s. She is now deceased.

When the Sisters of St. Benedict were called upon to establish a new independent community in Bismarck, the three sisters transferred to the new community. Sister Rose said, "Surprisingly, the three of us had all volunteered, not knowing this because the process was highly confidential." Sisters Delora, Rose and Francis were among the 144 sisters who became the community of Annunciation Monastery.

Sister Rose's first assignment was in a convent in Albany, Minn., where she had charge of the kitchen. "I didn't know much about cooking," she admits. She found she could take care of the cooking and food service became her lifelong ministry – in hospitals, care centers and convents. One of her most enjoyable ministries was baking at St. Alexius Medical Center for 20 years. She "retired" in 1990 and lived with Sister Francis and other sisters at the convent at Garrison Memorial Hospital.

Sister Francis believes her ministry in the kitchen was a result of "knowing how to bake a cake." She jokes, "One day I baked a cake, and the next I was assigned to take over the kitchen at St. Joseph's Convent in Mandan." She may not have known much more than how to bake a cake at first, but she brought her ministry to perfection. Her homemade donuts have reached "legend" status at the monastery. She served as dietary manager for over 34 years at Garrison Memorial Hospital.

Sisters Francis and Rose now live at the monastery. They love the people of Garrison and treasure their time there.

Sister Delora's lifelong ministry has always involved teaching, for a combined total of 45 years. Her first assignment was teaching second grade at St. Patrick's in Dickinson. She was later assigned to Christ the King School, Mandan, where she taught primary grades for 25 years. She also served as assistant principal and principal of the school. Although she had planned to retire, she couldn't turn down the request to assist students of the University of Mary Learning Skills Center who needed extra help with reading and writing. When she had the misfortune of breaking her hip, she reluctantly agreed to retire.

Sisters Delora and Francis echo the words of Sister Rose who says, "I have always been happy in this life." When asked about the secret to their youthful spirits and longevity, they offer this: "Community life and prayer brings peace. And, we have lots of fun together!"

Outstanding Teacher

Congratulations to Sister Nicole Kunze, who was awarded the University of Mary Regents Award for teaching faculty. The award was voted on by her colleagues and the following criteria is taken into account: demonstrating outstanding service; fostering a positive learning environment; showing respect, concern for students, colleagues and guests, and advancing the Christian, Catholic and Benedictine mission of the University of Mary.



Sister Nicole Kunze with University of Mary President, Father James Shea.

Still Answering God's Call: 50 Years of Monastic Profession

Sister Barbara Weber and Sister Janet Zander will celebrate 50 years of monastic profession during the Eucharist on Saturday, June 30, at 1:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel at the Benedictine Center for Servant Leadership. The public is invited.

Both Sisters Barbara and Janet became postulants on Dec. 8, 1960 and made their monastic profession on July 11, 1962. While they entered religious community at the same time, their ministries took them in different directions—each serving in a “ministry of presence.”

Sister Barbara Weber, daughter of Leo and Mary Weber, grew up on a farm northeast of Hague, N.D. She is the oldest of four sisters and four brothers.

She graduated from St. Mary's High School, Bismarck, in 1961. In 1977, with a degree in social work from Mary College (now the University of Mary), she began work as a social worker at St. Alexis Hospital (now St. Alexis Medical Center). In 2005, with a change in ministries, she continued her work at St. Alexis as a pastoral assistant on the telemetry and intensive care units where she offers a comforting presence to patients and staff.

In her spare time, Sister Barbara enjoys reading and writing letters to family and friends. She says the past 50 years have gone by quickly, with each passing year instilling an even deeper appreciation for Mass and daily common prayer with the sisters.



Sister Barbara Weber, OSB



Sister Janet Zander, OSB

Sister Janet is the oldest of the two girls and seven boys born to John and Ida Zander in Mandan, N.D. She was familiar with Benedictine sisters as a student at St. Joseph's grade school and St. Mary's Central High School, but she did not think it was her calling. She once attended a vocation event and recalls telling her mother, “It isn't for me.”

Graduation from Mandan High School was followed by work in a farm credit office. Sister Janet recalls participating in her family's Lenten practice of daily Mass that year. “It was during that Lent, in the power of the Eucharist, that I came to the realization that God might be calling me to be a Benedictine sister and it wouldn't hurt to give Annunciation Priory (Annunciation Monastery) a try!”

Sister Janet began her ministry in elementary education, teaching at Cathedral Grade School in Bismarck, St. Patrick's school in Dickinson, and Christ the King in Mandan. She then assisted in the monastery business office and served as secretary to the prioress for 11 years. When Sister Joanne Graham was prioress, she recognized Sister Janet's gifts for liturgy and asked her to pursue a degree in liturgy at Notre Dame.

After receiving her liturgy degree, Sister Janet became pastoral minister at Queen of Peace parish in Dickinson, N.D. She describes her seven years of ministry there as incredibly blessed. “It was an exciting time because the parish was starting to build a church. I loved the people and found them welcoming, open and receptive to new possibilities of being church.”

In 1989 Sister Thomas Welder, who was president of the University of Mary, invited Sister Janet to serve as her administrative assistant. Sister Janet continues in this position today, assisting University of Mary president, Father James Shea.

“It is energizing to be in the university setting,” says Sister Janet. She values the students, wonderful colleagues, opportunities to learn, grow and enjoy convocations, drama, music, athletic events and daily walks with friends.

“As the years have gone by, it’s interesting how my conviction has deepened in the realization that this is an extremely fulfilling way of life,” says Sister Janet. “Being supported in monastic community through inspiring role models, in seeking God together and getting to know oneself through community brings such a richness to life.”

Gift of Icon Surprises Sisters

At a dinner celebrating the installation of the Most Rev. David Kagan, seventh bishop of Bismarck, an original icon was gifted to the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery from the University of Mary. Father James Shea, president of the University of Mary, presented the icon to Sister Nancy Miller, prioress, with a warm tribute to the Benedictine sisters and monks who have labored for the Gospel on the prairies of western North Dakota.



The Most Reverend David Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck, visits with Sister Nancy Miller, prioress. (Photos courtesy Deacon Joe Krupinski)

Icon explanation provided by icon writer, Nicholas Markell

Central in the icon is Saint Benedict of Nursia, blessing and with open book (Rule of St. Benedict), a symbol of his life as abbot and teacher, through which God remains glorified. To his sides are Mother Benedicta Riepp, holding and presenting the Annunciation Monastery bell banner and Bishop Vincent Wehrle, holding and presenting the Bismarck Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The structures are symbols of the lives of the leaders and founders.

The icon was written on a traditional carved wood panel with braces, using materials such as marble dust, chalk and 24 karat gold. Actual stone fragments from the Cathedral were ground to create pigment and water from the Jordan River was used in the paint.



Prioress Sister Nancy Miller gratefully receives the icon from University of Mary President, Father James Shea.



The icon was commissioned by the University of Mary for the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Icon by Markell Studios, Saint Paul, MN.



Sisters Rosanne and Renee Zastoupil share stories by the fireplace in the solarium at St. Alexius Medical Center.

A Special Bond Between Sisters

Sister Renee and Sister Rosanne Zastoupil were born into a family of nine children on a farm southwest of Dickinson. The two sisters grew up in a strong faith-filled family surrounded by seven protective brothers.

They give credit to their parents for their strong values and pioneering spirit. “We had a real devotion to the Blessed Mother and we always said the family rosary,” says Sister Rosanne. “On the rare occasion that we missed church due to weather or illness, we had church at home...rosaries, litanies, reading from the Bible; it was more than we did in church! And there was no slouching during prayers!”

Sacramental life was central to the Zastoupils. They went to confession every month as a family. On holy days of obligation, the kids missed school and went to church. “If we had company, our parents would send us kids upstairs to say our prayers, and we did, without fail,” recalls Sister Renee.

Sister Renee’s call to religious life came early, when she was in the fifth grade. She had a fleeting “flash” of herself dressed in white, ministering in a hospital. “I knew I wanted to become a sister in healthcare. I have never waived from that desire.”

At 13 she left home to attend high school in Bismarck and was taught by Benedictine sisters. Although unaccustomed to being away from home, Sister Renee doesn't recall feeling homesick since she was steadfast in what she wanted to do. At 14, Sister Rosanne also left home to attend Priory High in Bismarck.

Although both Sisters Renee and Rosanne felt a leaning toward religious life, they admit needing to work through some things before entering the convent. They had friends, attended dances and, as Sister Rosanne likes to tease, "Renee had to get rid of some boyfriends before she could enter!"

"I didn't recognize my call as early or as clearly as Sister Renee," says Sister Rosanne. "I was considering things I thought were glamorous at the time like becoming a stewardess. Somehow the Holy Spirit guided me so my interest in religious life grew stronger. I was always ready to take the next step toward becoming a sister."

Sister Rosanne hoped to pursue a ministry in business, but as a young sister, she was assigned to teach grade school at St. Joseph's school in Dickinson. "It was something I felt ill-prepared to do and I did not feel called to that ministry. But the need was there, so I went. Talk about Benedictine obedience!" she exclaimed. "I taught for two years, realizing it was not a good fit. Thankfully I was re-assigned to do bookkeeping and admitting for Garrison Memorial Hospital. This was where I felt I had something to offer!"

Sister Rosanne proceeded to earn degrees in business administration and accounting. She feels blessed to have served in the business office at the University of Mary for almost 40 years. A self-professed workaholic, Sister Rosanne admits to being a bit of a perfectionist and being "somewhat impatient," when it comes to getting things done.

Sister Renee graduated from the School of Radiologic Technology and Laboratory, served in Richardton Memorial Hospital, and later returned to St. Alexius Medical Center as director of EEG and program director of the School of Radiologic Technology for 26 years. In 1990 she changed ministries and became a certified chaplain and has served in that capacity ever since.

Sister Renee and Sister Rosanne are grateful for the support of the monastic community, as well as the support they get from one another as biological sisters. "I share a lot with Sister Renee," says Sister Rosanne. "She has so much background with confidentiality in health care that I know I can trust her with anything! I tend to lean on her." Sister Renee has a more relaxed approach, "I don't let things get to me, I think I've learned to deal with the ebbs and flows of life and deal with each situation as it presents itself, always trusting that things will work out."

What is the secret to the sisters' perseverance and energetic ministry? Sister Rosanne shares this advice, "One of the things I've learned is, you don't have to be at everything. I made the rule for myself that I need to be in bed by 10:15 p.m. and I stick close to my daily routine. I exercise, I work hard in my ministry, in my monastic community and in my vocation. I try to find time for University of Mary sporting events and enjoy a good movie now and then. Sister Renee enjoys cooking, baking and relaxing with sisters in monastic community and friends.

Both sisters agree, when the time comes to leave their work ministry, they will serve others through volunteer work. They want to be busy, be around people, and be of service. As Sister Renee sums up, "After all, age is nothing but a number. It's not how old you are, it's how you live your life!"

From Headaches to Harmony

ENERGY Balance
WELLNESS
Peace SERENITY JOY

Light classical music accompanies their graceful movements. Sister Eleanor Stockert's reassuring smile and peaceful presence guides the participants as they serenely move through the gentle movements of T'ai Chi Chih® Joy Thru Movement.

T'ai Chi Chih (pronounced "tie-chee-chuh") was developed by tai chi master, Justin Stone, who created this gentler form of moving meditation to circulate and balance the body's internal energy (known as "chi" in Chinese).

In eight sessions, people learn the 19 movements, which are done in a specific order to circulate energy through the body, benefiting the mind, body and spirit.

Sister Eleanor began T'ai Chi Chih in 1994 for health reasons. Migraines kept her bedridden for several days at a time and medication made her sick to her stomach. Determined to find a natural treatment to alleviate pain and get off her medications, Sister Eleanor attended T'ai Chi Chih classes and says, "With time, my headaches went away completely and my whole being felt more relaxed; that's why I really believe in it." She feels her arthritis symptoms have also lessened. Others report experiencing stress relief, normalizing of blood pressure, better balance, and decreased back and leg pain.

After experiencing the benefits of T'ai Chi Chih, Sister Eleanor was asked to attend courses and become a certified instructor. She has been teaching 16 years.

After a session, participants say they feel relaxed and peaceful. "I enjoy the movements of T'ai Chi Chih because they flow gently and there's little resistance; it's different than most forms of exercise where movements have tension and a sense of violence in them," says Ken Rogers. "My wife and I took this class together because it's a way to exercise and improve flexibility." The couple also practices yoga, said Rogers.



Wayde Schafer began T'ai Chi Chih to get exercise that would be meditative and promote strengthening of the core. "My balance has greatly improved and I notice strengthening in my legs," he says.

The non-strenuous movements consist of a gentle shifting of weight on the legs and feet. Arm movements are smooth and flowing, not fast and rigid like in the martial arts. Rogers says, "You almost have to build a relationship with the energy in T'ai Chi Chih. You have to relax and resist the temptation to move fast."

LeAnn Lannoye has been practicing T'ai Chi Chih for almost two years. She feels it is a great stress reducer. "I feel more peaceful in situations that might otherwise cause a negative response or stress. It is both relaxing and energizing at the same time."

Sister Eleanor advises people to practice T'ai Chi Chih for 20 minutes every day for it to be most effective.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," says Bill Knudson. "I really enjoy the combination of movement, relaxation, energy and meditation; I would recommend it to anyone."

Sister Eleanor plans to offer classes in the fall of 2012.

In Loving Memory



Sister Audrey Martin

Born: March 5, 1927
Professed: July 1, 1948
Died: December 27, 2011

Sister Audrey Martin, OSB

A cheerful, outgoing woman of faith, Sister Audrey enjoyed people of all ages. She taught for 25 years in elementary and high schools and was a creative teacher who loved her students and they knew it. She also served as counselor at St. Mary's Central High and was subprioress, director of vocation ministry and oblate director at Annunciation Monastery.

She established the first on-site archives at St. Alexius Medical Center and later became archivist at the monastery.

Sister Audrey had a great sense of humor, a hardy laugh and a beautiful singing voice. Coming from a close family, she enjoyed family gatherings and reunions. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. May she dwell forever in the loving embrace of God.



Sister Mary Elizabeth Mason

Born: September 13, 1917
Professed: Congregation of Christian Education
February 27, 1937
Annunciation Monastery
November 25, 1948
Died: February 27, 2012

Sister Mary Elizabeth Mason, OSB

Dedicated to God and to helping people, Sister Mary Elizabeth served as teacher, administrator, pastoral assistant, gifted writer and editor and faithful volunteer in the monastic and civic communities. She taught at St. Mary's Central High School, was the first principal of Priory High School, and was chair and professor of humanities at the University of Mary. She was pastoral associate at St. Anne's Church and taught English in the Marshall Islands.

Her writing and editing endeavors included assisting with post Vatican II documents for the Federation of St. Benedict, the English translation of the Rule of Benedict, RB 80, and associate editor of *Sisters Today*. Her last work was the 50-year history of the University of Mary, *Learning to Lead*.

A deeply spiritual woman with a keen intellect, Sister Mary Elizabeth loved to learn and her concerns were global. We will miss her kindness, quick wit and generosity. She once summed up her life in five words: "God is good to me."



Prioress Sister Nancy Miller and Sister JoAnn Krebsbach, subprioress, are pictured here with the 5th grade class from Cathedral.

Sister Eleanor visits with her two new friends at lunch.



“What do Sisters do?”

We get that a lot!

What a joy it is to share our lives with children! Some of our sisters have been pen pals with students from Cathedral School. Through precious hand-written notes, we have gotten to know these students. We finally got to meet them face-to-face in March, when the class came for a tour and lunch with our sisters. They asked questions and found out how we pray, live, work and have fun together in community.



Sister JoAnn Krebsbach gives the students a tour of the monastic library. Sisters read and study, just like they do!



Catholic Schools Week

Chemistry professor, Sister Nicole Kunze, finds creative ways to teach chemistry experiments to these students during Catholic Schools Week at St. Anne's.



Top Photo: Sisters Patricia Schap, Mariah Dietz and Rosemary DeGracia are gracious servers.



Left Photo: Sisters JoAnn Krebsbach, Nancy Gunderson, Agatha Muggli and University of Mary students serve delicious and nutritious meals.

Sisters and University of Mary Students Serve at The Banquet

On January 26, it was our privilege to prepare and serve a meal to over 320 people (plus 30 take-out meals!) at “The Banquet” at Trinity Lutheran Church. This free meal is offered every Thursday for anyone in need of a hot, nourishing meal and conversation. Sister Thomas Welder greeted guests at the door and led singing “Happy Birthday” to those who were celebrating birthdays.



Top Right Photo: Sister Thomas Welder greets guests.



Bottom Right Photo: Sister Kathleen Atkinson offers a tasty meal to a little guest.

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A Joyful Spirit: Girls, God and Fun!

For girls entering
6th, 7th and 8th grades

Friday, July 27, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Enjoy a fun day of activities with the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery! The day includes: meeting new friends (including the Sisters!), prayer, games, crafts, food and fun! To register, contact Sister Hannah Vanorny at (701) 471-0151 or e-mail: vocations@annunciationmonastery.org

Cost: \$5/includes food and supplies