Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh

Benedictines

Monastic Women with Discerning Hearts

2026

St. Benedict Monastery
Bakerstown, Pennsylvania







Our New Prioress,
Sister Shelly Farabaugh, OSB

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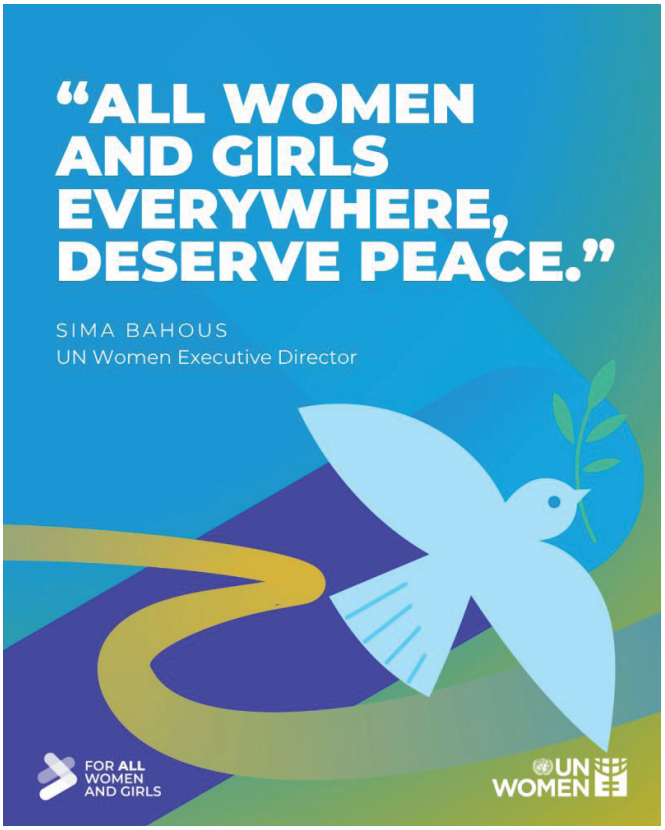
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Meet Tom and Ann Tallon

When you sit down to talk with Tom and Anna Tallon, the first thing they will say is, "We're believers, too." From that point on, Tom will be sharing a story or asking Anna to "…tell about the time….."

They are lovely together, and singularly as well. They work hard Monday through Friday and the Sisters are not their only clients. Their business, This Is the Day, is a two-fold antiques (selling, buying, appraisals, etc.) and cleaning service. "I had cancer last year. We've both had it, and we've slowed down. No more homes with children. Have you ever changed sheets on a bunk bed?" Anna asks before laughing.

Years ago, before their business, Anna was an accountant and Tom (known as "Tommy" by his Irish family of many Toms) was serving the homeless. But their beginning is the real story here. Anna was attending Prayer Group and was sitting in the last pew when she spotted Tom sitting in the first. A voice told her, "You're going to marry him," and Anna replied, "No way, God – been there, done that." Anna continued, "After that he was everywhere I went, I just kept running into him." Tom's story is just as sweet. Ministry has always been important to him, and he had been feeding people living on the street for a long time. On their first date, he took Anna to the shelter where he was working, and "we walked in the door and her face lit up like a Christmas tree. I knew at that moment. That was where we had our first kiss."

Twenty plus years later they have overcome some true hardships together. They are each other's champions and loudest supporters. The compliments and "sweet things" bounce back and forth like a well-played tennis match. There are more challenges coming, though, as Anna is facing an operation in the future. But being side by side, and "Believers" as well, there can be nothing but blue skies ahead.

Benedictine Sisters OF PITTSBURGH
The Benedictine Tradition Lives.

Benedictines is a product of the Office of Community Advancement

Managing Editor
Elizabeth Tamburri

Contributor
Joann Zagorski

Photography:
Victoria Cugini
(Victoriabrunn23@gmail.com)

Tammy Gatto
(@tammygatto.photography)

Laura Petrilla
(laura@laurapetrilla.com)

Graphic Design:
Laura Donaldson
(LauraSDonaldson@gmail.com)

Proofreader:
Ellen DiMartini

Printing:
Bethel Park Printing
412-835-4433

St. Benedict Monastery
3526 Bakerstown Rd.
Bakerstown, PA 15007

Phone: 724-502-2600
Fax: 724-502-2601
Email: info@osbpgh.org
Website: www.osbpgh.org

To update contact information, please call 724-502-2597

Visit us on Facebook and Instagram

Main cover photo of Sister Shelly by Laura Petrilla

We are the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, continuing over 150 years of seeking God in Prayer, Community, and Ministry.

Thank you to all contributors of the ***2026 Benedictines.***

A Letter to You From Sister Shelly



Dear friends, donors, and family,

I send warm greetings from the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh. This is my first newsletter as Prioress after being elected in the spring. My contact with you is so important and delightful to me.

By way of introduction, I first entered the community after High School at Saint Benedict Academy in the late 1960's. And if you remember how those times were, I decided to leave the community before I made Monastic Profession to be sure I was making a good decision for the rest of my life. I thought it would be for 1 year, but God had other plans. After being out for 25 years, I realized that the call to be a Benedictine was still strong and present. One of my mottos is that ***"the glory of God is a person fully alive."*** Fully alive means interaction with others to help "rub off the barnacles" of our life that separate us from God.

My return in the late 1990's, led to Initial and Final Monastic Profession to live my life as a Benedictine Sister of Pittsburgh, in prayer, community, and ministry. I continued to love my work in helping God's people in whatever way I could be with them. My various ministries kept me on the way in the "School of the Lord's Service" as St. Benedict directs us. I learned a lot about living with others as a child of a large family (10 kids) and most of us have lived our lives helping others as nurses, teachers, or through social services.

Now my life has a strong center in the community and with the sisters who are continuing to serve God in whatever way they can even in their 80s or 90s. Sr. Roberta Campbell agreed to serve as Sub-Prioress, and so we make a good team of love, care, and planning for the future. Where God will lead, I don't know, and yet I feel totally convinced that along with you, our family, friends, and benefactors we will find the way into the future that God has planned. We, 30 sisters, pray every day for those who have loved us with time and talent and treasures. You are a very special person in our lives.

Peace and Blessings of God's extravagant love,

Sr Shelly Farabaugh

Bits and Pieces





Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor and the work of Dezzy & Steeltown Home Design, St. Benedict Monastery was painted and renewed top to bottom.

The St. Benedict Monastery Gift Shop will close on January 1, 2027.



Leadership & Life Coach Graduation



Clockwise starting in the upper left: Tina Yelle, Edith Servino, Lisa Murphy, Patricia Serafini, Nancy Dicola, Lena Warren, Lourdes Quintana, Lisa Kane, Lani Hill, Alaine James, Marybeth Kearns-Barrett



Sister Dolores Conley recently had a children's book published. *Adventures of Bitsy Leaf and Friends* can be found online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Premier Imaging did a beautiful job reframing pictures of the Prioresses and monastery buildings, putting the final touches in the conference room.



From Discernment... ...to a Vote

Everything about the Benedictine Sisters is special and unique, even the process of choosing a Prioress.

Before the 1980s, the Benedictine Sisters gathered in the chapel where they were handed a ballot. The ballot listed the name of every Sister in the monastery. The Sisters would cast their vote until one Sister received at least 51% of the Community vote.

But then, new trends in management and organizational development began to take hold. Leaders like General Electric's Jack Welch and author Rosabeth Moss Kanter encouraged businesses to move from authoritarian leadership toward collaboration, shared ideas, and consensus. The Benedictine Sisters were ready for a change. It was the perfect time for a new way of choosing a Prioress. Outlined by the Federation of St. Scholastics, Benedictine Communities learned the core of the discernment was dependent on the shared work and input of the Sisters. Over two weekends, the sisters discuss, envision, and make decisions.

For the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, this year's discernment process lasted one weekend, beginning on Thursday, April 16. Voting occurred on Saturday, April 18. An independent facilitator and the President of the Federation were engaged to oversee the entire process.

Discernment Part One: Community Direction Setting

The Community sets its direction through small- and whole-group discussions. After reflecting on its needs for the next five years, the Sisters develop Direction Statements that will encompass those needs. The facilitator then helps combine and refine the statements into three to five key priorities.

Discernment Part Two: Description of Leader

The Community will then review the needed characteristics of a leader who can help guide the Community to adequately address each direction statement. Through discussion, an extensive list of characteristics will be trimmed to a reasonable length.









Following a short period of reflection, the Sisters will meet in small groups to discuss the names of Sisters who may have the needed characteristics. Every Sister will have the opportunity to share her thoughts. All names will be listed.

After some discussion, Sisters will be asked to indicate the candidates based on the discussion in the small groups. The facilitator will privately tally these preferences. The process continues until there appears to be a convergence of opinion to a few Sisters.

The Sisters having the most consensus will be asked if they would be willing to accept a nomination. For those willing to accept, a dialogue between the named Sisters and the community occurs. This will continue as long as Sisters feel the need to share information. After a period of prayer and reflection, the Sisters move to the chapel to officially vote.

Voting: A Prioress is Chosen

The entire voting process occurs in the chapel. First, two tellers are chosen by the Community. The President of the Federation will decide on the content of the ballot. The tellers will distribute and collect the ballots. In the chapel, before the Community, the ballots are opened, each name is announced, counted, and recorded by the two tellers. When a simple majority is reached, the President of the Federation will declare that a Sister has been chosen. The election will not be declared final until the chosen Sister verbally accepts the nomination.

Council: Appointment and Election

As soon as possible after voting, the Prioress-elect will choose a Sub-Prioress and council member. The Community will elect two additional Council members.

Note:
The following changes have been made since the previous election:

1. The term of the new Prioress has been changed from six years to five.
2. The number of Council members has been changed from seven to five.

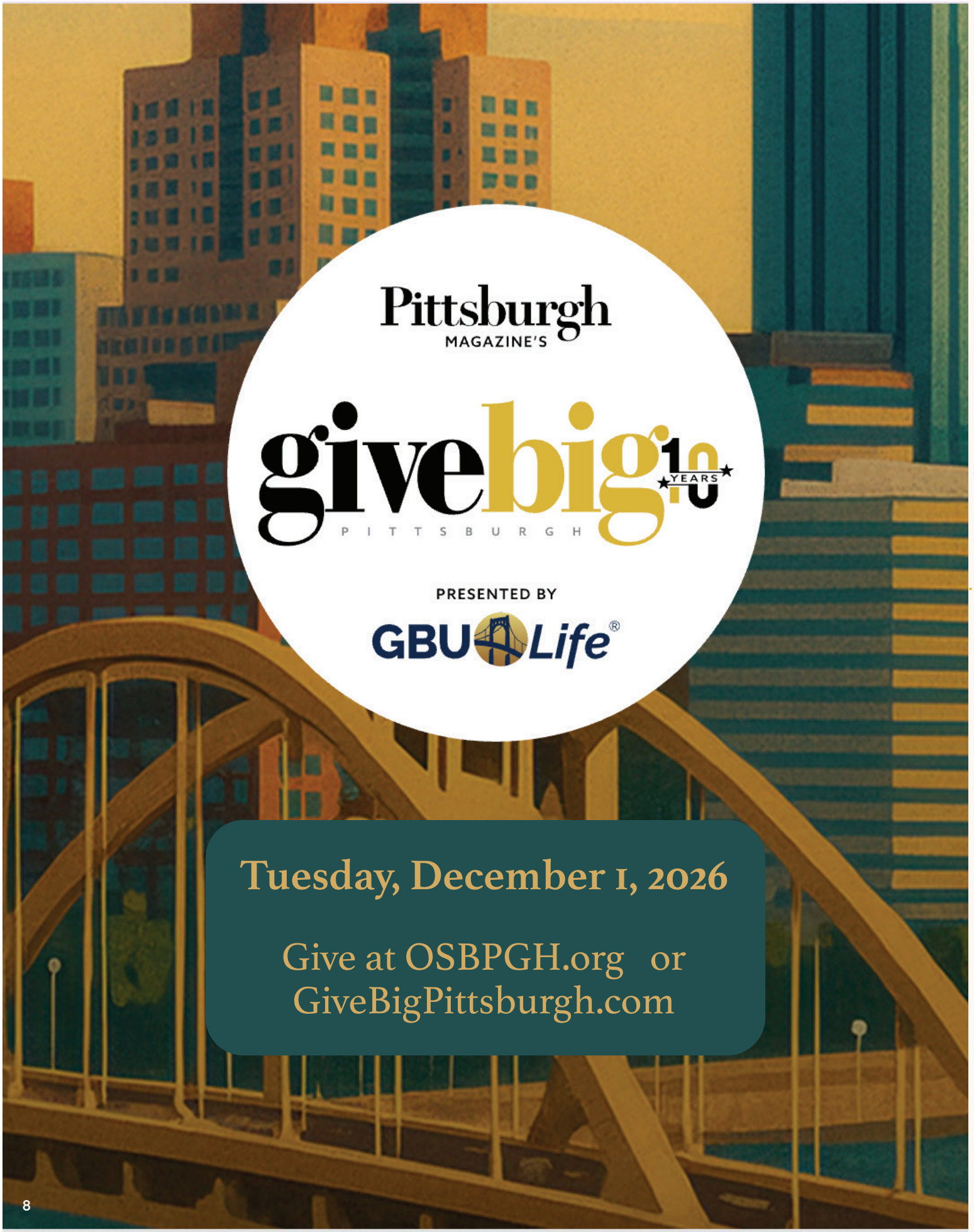
Installation

The Prioress-elect and new council are blessed some months following discernment and voting. This year, installation took place on June 7, 2026 (below).








Pittsburgh
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PITTSBURGH
10 YEARS
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Tuesday, December 1, 2026
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GiveBigPittsburgh.com

2026 JUBILARIANS



Sister Mary David Lecker

70TH JUBILEE

Sister Mary David made first profession in 1956 at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, PA, and is celebrating her 70th jubilee. Sister began her professional life as an elementary teacher. Sister's longest ministry was the Directorship of Religious Education in Kane, PA, which she held for 20 years. In addition, she had the opportunity to minister to the sick in their homes, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. Sr. Mary David also worked at a personal care facility as an aide, which she found very rewarding. During this time, Sister helped around St. Joseph Monastery in whatever way was needed. After the monastery that she loved so much dissolved, she transferred to St. Benedict Monastery in Bakerstown and has been a treasured member of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh since 2015.

"Through the events of my life, the good and the difficult, my focus has never changed. I always want to be in a monastery loving and serving Christ, that in all things God may be glorified."

"Meeting the needs of people while dealing with bureaucratic obstacles has always been challenging. So often we forget that with passion, perseverance, and God's Providence, anything is possible."

Sister Judith Nero

70TH JUBILEE

Sister Judith, OSB made first profession with the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh in 1956, and is celebrating her 70th jubilee this year. Sister began her ministry at St. Benedict Academy teaching speech and debate. Her first mission assignment was teaching at St. Teresa of Avila School in Perrysville. Sister Judith's life took many turns after those years. She taught high school in Connellsville, PA, did hospital pastoral ministry in Youngstown, and campus ministry in Canton, Ohio. Sister Judith is also well-known for knitting and crocheting beautiful items for the Community gift shop. Sister Judith believes that our Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh not only teach us how to live life with spiritual abundance, but also guide us to see death as a true passing where one continues to grow, continues to live – only now, in the arms of God.





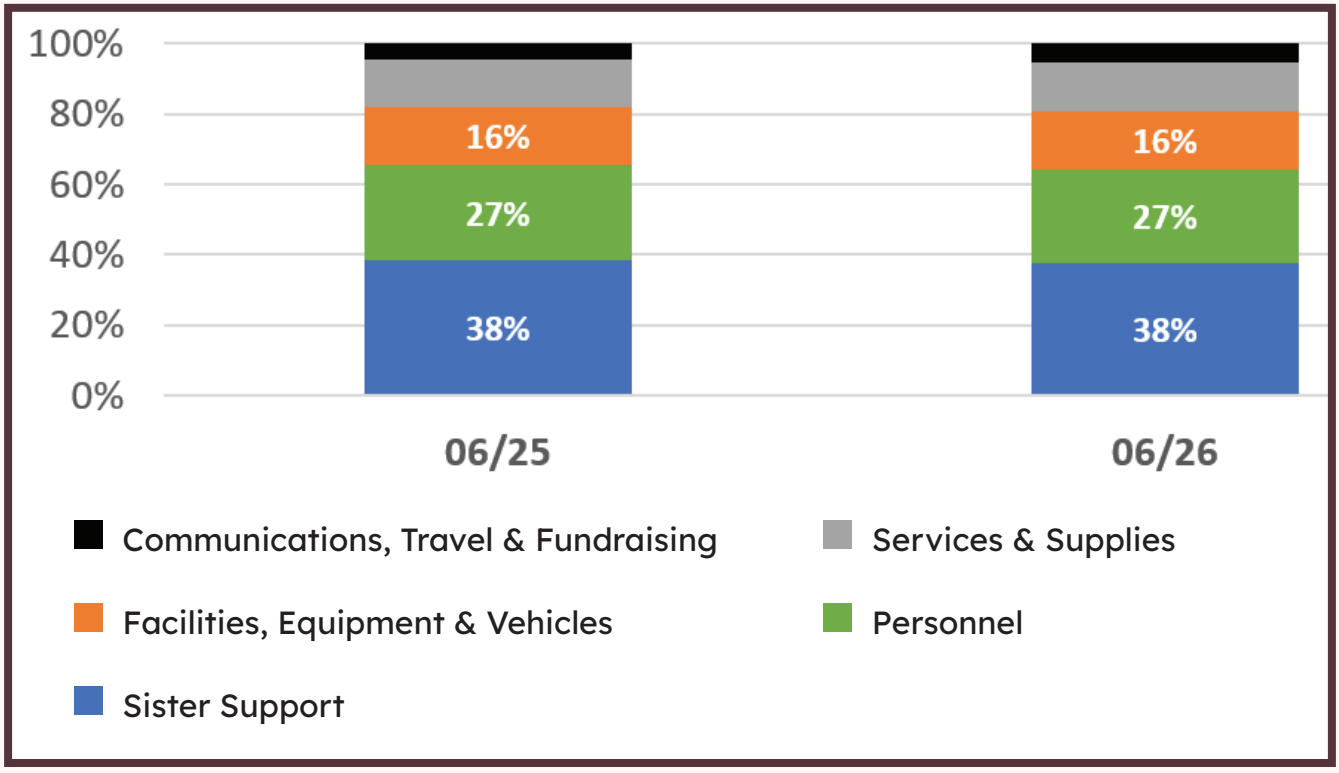
Sister Rosalyn Soller

75TH JUBILEE

In 1951, Sister Rosalyn made first profession with the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh. She spent 40 years in the ministry of education, teaching at the elementary level, later at St. Benedict Academy, and served as principal at Sacred Heart School in Jeannette, PA. She also served as director of novices for the Benedictine Sisters. Sister Rosalyn served in Neon, Kentucky, where she lived with "the poorest of the poor" while working at a hospital in Lexington. Next, she became Coordinator of Religious Education at Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Ross Township. Reflecting on her 75 years in religious life, Sister Rosalyn feels that she has "come full gamut with the independence to live the Benedictine Rule in an open and free way as the times would dictate, always attentive to the needs of the people of God."

"Our history in these years can be summarized as: the Church spoke and we listened; then we spoke, and the Church listened; then the Spirit spoke, and we all listened!"

How our resources support the community



Statement about Financial Contributions:
We are grateful for the IRA and annuity distributions received. If payment is sent directly from the financial services company to the Benedictine Sisters, please let Elizabeth Tamburri in the Office of Community Advancement (724-502-2597) know a gift will be forthcoming so your gift will be more easily recorded and acknowledged. Sometimes distributions from financial institutions are missing some information that we use to identify the donor. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



How Women Are Reshaping Philanthropy Through the Great Wealth Transfer

When it comes to philanthropy, women often take a collaborative, relationship-driven approach that emphasizes long-term social responsibility. Rather than viewing charitable giving solely as a financial transaction, many women seek to contribute stewardship, mentorship, and professional networks to the causes they support. Their philanthropic priorities frequently include religious organizations, human services, and grant making foundations. As women continue to assume greater leadership roles within foundations and nonprofit organizations, they are helping to redefine how charitable resources are deployed and measured.

The Great Wealth Transfer, an unprecedented transfer of trillions of dollars in assets from baby boomers to younger generations, is accelerating this transformation by placing significant financial resources in the hands of women who often view philanthropy as an extension of their values. As women inherit substantial assets from parents and spouses, and benefit from longer life expectancies, they are gaining greater influence over how wealth is distributed and invested. This growing financial stewardship is expected to shape philanthropic priorities, increase support for mission-driven initiatives, and further elevate women in creating long-term social impact.

Key Statistics

- As of 2020, women controlled a third of total US household financial assets which attributed to more than $10 trillion
- By 2030, American women are expected to control much of the $30 trillion in financial assets that baby boomers possess

This growing financial influence extends beyond wealth ownership. Women are also becoming increasingly active participants in managing personal wealth. Younger generations are demonstrating higher levels of financial engagement, including investing, estate planning, and seeking professional financial guidance. As wealth ownership and financial literacy continue to grow, women are positioned to play a transformative role in shaping the future of philanthropy, community development, and generational wealth creation.

Sources:
McKinsey & Company, “Women as the next wave of growth in US wealth management” (July 29, 2020).
J.P. Morgan, “Women in philanthropy: A transformative force in light of the Great Wealth Transfer” (August 22, 2025).

Thank you to Gregory Zuroski, Institutional Investment Consultant at Gallagher Fiduciary Advisors, LLC for this information.

You can contact him at: 412-232-3279 or gregory_zuroski@ajg.com

Gratitude and Grateful

If you were to ask me what I am grateful for, I would have to say music, dance, and art are all things I am grateful to have in my life. Oh, and also, 5 days a week, I am grateful for completing my daily commute to work along Routes 279 and 79 North without being involved in a collision.

But gratitude comes from my Catholic faith; there are three pillars that I would say are my 3Ms: Mysteries, Miracles, and Mercy.

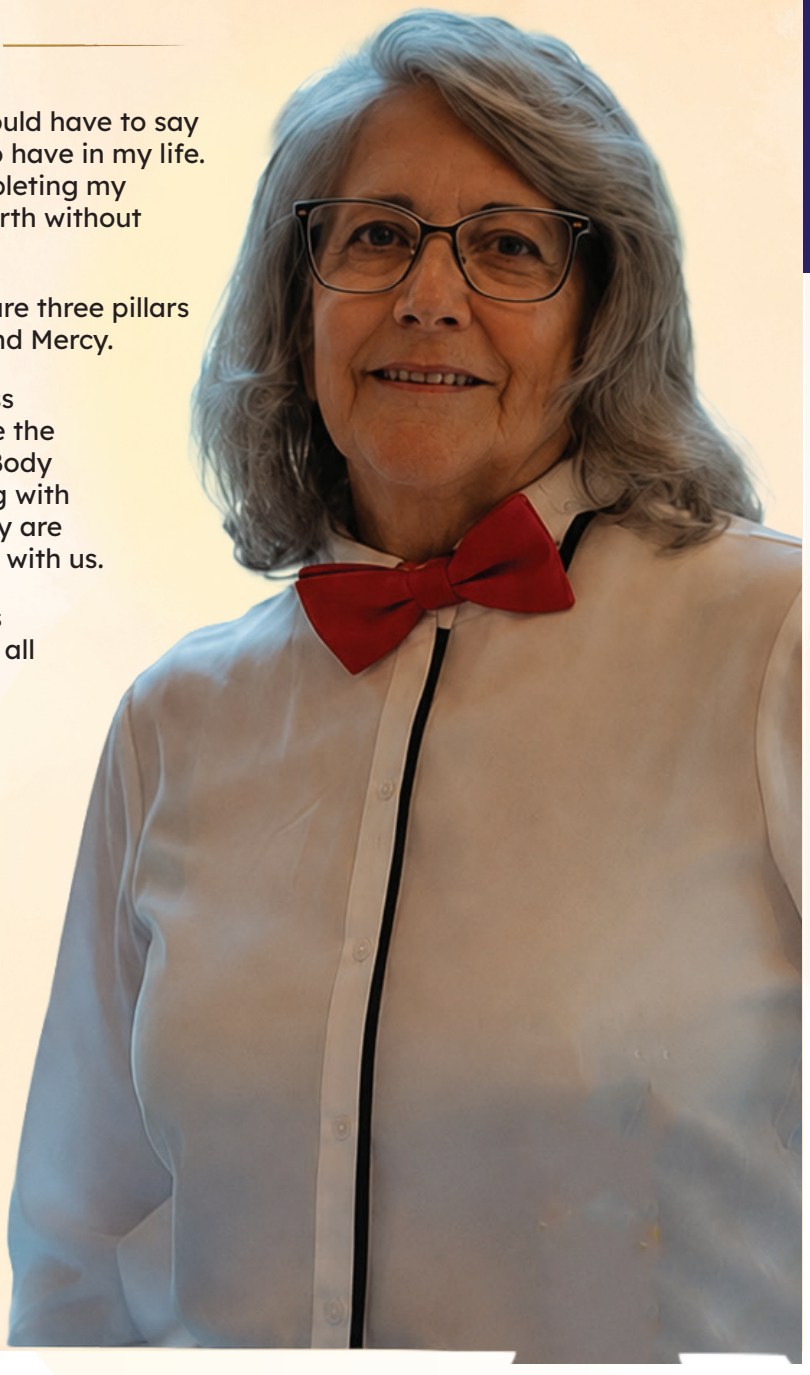
One could spend a lifetime discovering the countless mysteries of our faith. The greatest for me would be the Eucharist. Knowing that as we are celebrating the Body and Blood of Jesus, there are a host of angels along with our deceased loved ones, right there beside us. They are not seen, but they are right there at the Mass along with us.

Miracles, those unexplained events and happenings without scientific explanation, are faith builders for all of us, providing me with hope.

Then there is Mercy; being of an all too quick to respond and react personality, I am daily asking for God's mercy and forgiveness. Thank you, God, for Mercy.

Family and friends provide me with so much gratitude. I believe God gives us support on earth from those close to us. Family and friends walk with us daily and can be our angels; I am happy when I can do the same for them.

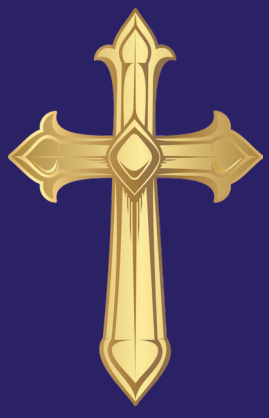
Lastly, I have joy and gratitude for God's creation; its splendor, its perfection, and precise minutiae fill my heart with endless wonder and gratitude.



by Mary Ann Sembrat

UPCOMING

AT THE MONASTERY



Spirtual Spas

Advent - December 5, 2026
Lent - February 20, 2027



Food Drive
Month of October
to benefit the Lighthouse Foundation



Leadership and Life Coach Training Cohort 6
Begins in November
Applications must be turned in in September



Give Big Pittsburgh
December 1, 2026
givebigpittsburgh.com



New Year's Eve Peace Vigil
December 31, 2026



Association of Pittsburgh Priests Fall Speaker Series
Series is on Zoom

REGISTER at: associationofpittsburghpriests.com

October 5 - 7 p.m.
Just Peace and Just War
with Maryann Cusimano Love

November 5 - 7 p.m.
Democracy, Community, and the Common Good
with Simone Campbell

ALSO COMING

Epiphany Open House
January 9 1:30 - 3:30 PM



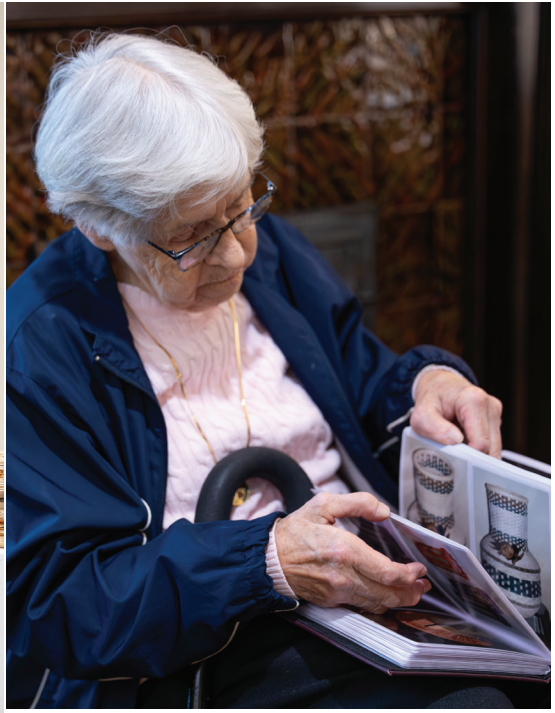
Celebrating Sister Donna's Art

In May the John A. Hermann Jr. Memorial Art Gallery (Lincoln Ave. in Belleview), Ceil Sturdevant, and Vicki Ivancik hosted a one-month exhibit of Sister Donna Wojtyna's carvings and weavings. Well attended, many of Sister Donna's pieces were purchased. However a few remain, and until January 1, can be bought at the St. Benedict Monastery Gift Shop.

Enjoy some photos of the Sisters and their friends enjoying the exhibition.







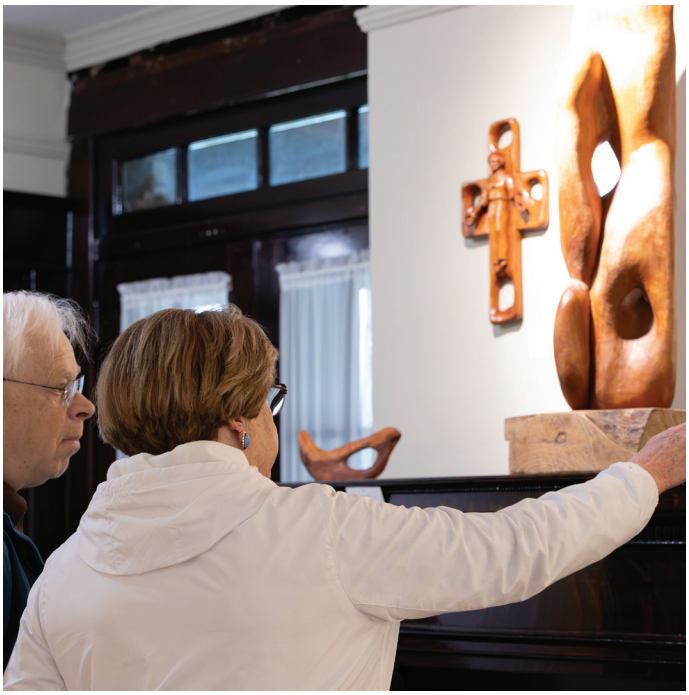




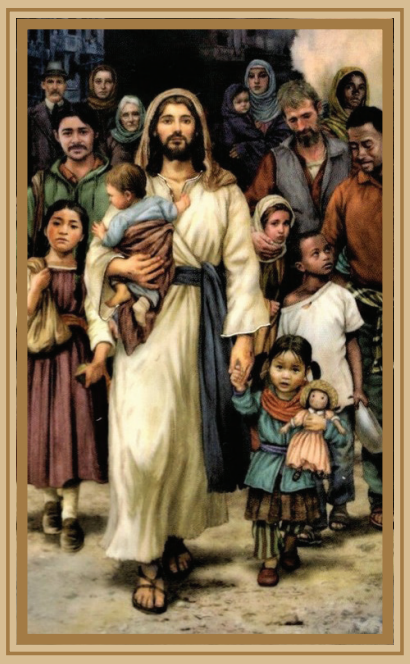












In 2026, World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on September 27

A Prayer for Refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland.
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages.
"Will you let me in?"
Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us
With that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow.
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.
Amen

-Catholic Relief Services

IMMIGRATION STATEMENT

We, the Community of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, endorse the following statement of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses:

In the spirit of the Gospel and the inspiration of Saint Benedict, we as members of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses, representing more than 1,100 sisters, commit ourselves to Christ-like hospitality. Therefore, we call upon our leaders, especially governors, state legislators, members of the United States Congress, and our president to reconsider proposed immigration policies and to work toward solutions that uphold the dignity and rights of all people. We urge them to create pathways to citizenship for immigrants, provide humane treatment for those in detention, and ensure that immigrant families are not torn apart. In addition, we commit ourselves to work with other organizations who are advocating and caring for migrant peoples.

As Benedictine sisters, we are inspired by the life and teachings of Saint Benedict. In the sixth century time when he lived, travelers and pilgrims were often met with violence on the road and sought refuge in his monasteries. Benedict was inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to receive all who came seeking refuge. He modeled his life on that of Christ who received the poor, the lame, the outcast, and the stranger.

For centuries, men and women have continued to be inspired by Saint Benedict's example of Christ-like hospitality and his teaching that all people who present themselves are to be received as if that person were Christ. Saint Benedict quoted Jesus who said, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). May we and all people, in our time, do the same.



Sister Dolores & the Journey of a Dancer





Problems for artists are many but one that seems to haunt through the ages – people appreciating, or even noticing their work. That is not the case for Sister Dolores' quilt inside the doors of the monastery dining room. What may not be noticed is the small, framed explanation to the side. Typed paper telling the story of the, yes, king size hand made paper quilt. It is the story of a dancer. Beginning when afternoons are filled with jump rope and we are filled with yet unknown gifts. To the prime of our lives when we are free to use our talents as we choose and then the final panel where we leave this earthly place to meet the creator and live in eternity. "A new earth," Sister Dolores refers to it.

Sister Dolores was living in the St. Charles house (a small house on the former St. Benedict Monastery campus) when the ideas of the quilt first came to light. Teaching art at North Catholic, which included cooperative work coordinating a musical there, Sister returned home to her art room each day. Alone in her favorite place while preparing art lessons and dance routines still in her mind…inspiration came. "...inspiration always seems to come when I'm working," Sister Dolores said.

Art has been a revealed gift since Sister Dolores was a child. One of her first real enjoyments was the art festival held each year at her grade school. With several pieces on display Sister was often asked to draw portraits from already produced work. While she enjoyed the process and result, she always felt as if she should be producing from her heart. It was the first piece of original work being recognized that set Sister on her journey.

Today, after years of oil and water painting, weaving, dancing, working with clay (such as the Hands portraying the Stations of the Cross throughout the monastery), Sister's enjoyment is in teaching, still at St. Athanasius Community Center, and paper making. Like the dancer on the quilt, Sister is still in her prime – using her gifts freely.

Our Oblates



FRONT ROW (Left to Right)
Bernadine Cimprich, Barbara Weidenhof, Jamie Dillon, Sister Evelyn Dettling, Joyce Cummings, Joyce Stewart, Colleen McGrath

BACK ROW (Left to Right)
Barbara Szalai, Nancy Stroscio-Haney, Norma Todorowski, Sandy Kaminski, Judy Spreng, Jane Rahenkamp, Marion Reynoso, Barbara Walls, Virginia Cook

Oblate Directors:
Joyce Stewart,
Barbara Walls,
Barbara Weidenhof





Deborah Evagash signing her Oblation commitment.



GIVING BACK

The Oblates and Sisters gathered and filled one of Sister Donna's beautiful baskets with almost everything a baby could need for the St. Teresa of Avila summer parish festival raffle.



An interview with our new Prioress

Sister Shelly Farabaugh



Leading with COMPASSION, COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, AND COURAGE

By Joann Zagorski

A woman of tenacity, spiritual wonder, and love for the Sisters, Sister Shelly was voted the Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh on April 16, 2026. Although born in Carrolltown, at the age of two, Sister Shelly's family moved to Bedford, PA where she attended grade school and junior high. For High school, however, Sister Shelly attended St. Benedict Academy. She entered as an aspirant and graduated from the Academy. Sister went on to earn a bachelor's degree and master's degree in psychology from IUP, and Ph.D. in Psychology from Union University and Institute. Sister Shelly's compassionate nature led her professional career where she spent many years providing mental health therapy, and also served as Executive Director of various non-profit organizations and religious organizations. Additionally, for ten years Sister served those in need in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. Even now Sister has not slowed down, recently completing the BENCO Leadership and Life Coach program and is now a Professional Life Coach. For Sister Shelly there is always more than a position, or the "responsibilities" of a position. There is the pull and stretch of giving beyond the requirements, or the title - whether it is a job or day-to-day living, Sister Shelly lives and breathes all that she believes.

What are your top priorities for the next five years?

My whole focus is on Community. The main priorities are: the well-being of the Community, our future as a Community, stewardship of the blessings that we have, and our prayer – to make our liturgical practice very good. Those are the big things. So the first thing is Community, and how we're going to do that is through compassion, collaboration, communication, and courage - because it's going to take some courage to deal with the future. The future is not like it has been in the past 30 years or 100 years. And the Spirit leads us - there's just no two ways about that.

What do you see as the biggest opportunity for the Community?

I think some of the biggest gifts that we have to offer people are our prayer and our hospitality. Our Sisters are very good at that.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I think it's very pastoral, collegial. I also know that sometimes you have to say the hard words. And I wouldn't ask somebody else to do something I wouldn't do myself. And gratitude! Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld had a saying: "For all that has been, THANKS. For all that will be, YES." You take it as it comes, believe that it's all blessing, and do the best you can with it. That's another gift we have to offer, because it doesn't matter whether you're 90 or 87 or 25, we can share gratitude with one another.

Professionally you've been a social worker and more recently a life coach. How does that background impact your leadership?

I think it's excellent training. Life coaching teaches you how to listen, how to ask good questions, and how to help the other person continue to be the expert on their own life. And that was a big change from being a therapist. Coaches do not tell people what to do. They encourage the person to figure it out for themselves. So, the two of them - at the very least - work together very well.

What other resources do you draw on?

Benedict's Rule and Scripture are important in my life. Benedict's Rule is full of life balance - an important thing for me. I could give you many quotes, especially how the Prologue of the Rule begins with, "Listen carefully" and the final words of the Rule are, "and we will reach them (the loftier summits) by listening." I have many favorite quotes from the Psalms and other places in the Scriptures. In the Prophet Isaiah 43:4, "Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you…" and many more.

You were in the Community and then left for a while. Tell us about that.

I was here (with the Benedictines) all during high school and then three years for novitiate. When I was ready to make first profession I thought to myself, "Here I am making a commitment for the rest of my life and it's the 1960s. Do I really know what I'm choosing or not choosing?" So I left, telling the Sisters I'd be back in a year. Well, it ended up being 25 years. One Sunday, I was at the old monastery having brunch with Sister Benita and said, "Sometimes I think about coming back to the Community." About three nights later, she called and asked, "Did you want somebody from the membership committee to be in touch with you?" I said, "No, I want a telephone call or telegram from God!" What did she come back with? "Maybe this is the telephone call!" So, then things just began little by little. I kept waiting for people to put up roadblocks about coming back and nobody did. Then when I did come back, my mother would always say, "I can see you're so happy."

Continued on page 41



Officers



Sister Shelly Farabaugh – Prioress

The Community elected Sister Michele "Shelly" Farabaugh as Prioress. "A funny thing happened that day. After the election I just happened to be the prayer leader for noon praise. The first line of prayer was, 'Oh God, come to my assistance.'" Sister Shelly's experience, many talents, and commitment are a beautiful match for a position so challenging. "My sisters are extremely important to me and caring for them in all ways is what my job is about. This is an honor, it is humbling, and I pray I do a good job..." With a smile, Sister Shelly continued, "God says, I've got this."



Sister Roberta Campbell – Sub Prioress

There are some rare individuals who instinctively know how to balance the administrative with the heart of a job. Whether Prioress or Sub-Prioress, it can become a very fine line. Fortunately, Sister Roberta – appointed as Sub-Prioress by Sister Shelly – is such a person. And, with intent, "While I will help the Prioress, work closely with her on committees and such, I will find a way, a new way, with the Sisters." A former Prioress, Sister Roberta, understands how the administrative roles can sneak up and become the focus of both positions. Continuing the work of the KEB committee (discernment process assisting the Sisters in designing their future), and the work of the Liturgy (although Sisters Evelyn and Michelle will both provide a "huge help") are plans Sister intends to keep. Additionally, Sister would like to help introduce some surprise activities. "What is personally important to me…. I want the Sisters to know they are safe. I want them to be comfortable; I want them to have fun – enjoy life and to know this is home. I want each Sister to feel in their heart, ***'I am important.'***"



Sister Michael Mack – Canonical Treasurer/Secretary

Sister Michael dedicated eighteen years as the Treasurer for the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh. Her accounting subjects and work for nonprofit agencies proved valuable in accepting that position. Sister Shelly in her new Administration appointed Sister Michael as the Canonical Treasurer (required position) and Secretary. Sister Michael also has a secretarial background and knows most of the work expectations. Sisters Shelly, Roberta, and Michael complement each other - as long as they can be there for the Sisters, they want to be of service. Sister Michael will continue to make time for her love of the monastery gardens. She is already contemplating reworking and consolidating some areas.

Council



From L to R: Sister Sue Fazzini, Sister Evelyn Dettling, Sister Roberta Campbell, Sister Shelly Farabaugh (Prioress), and Sister Michael Mack

Administrative Team



From L to R: Sister Bridget Reilly, Sister Mary Agnes Gmuer, Sister Roberta Campbell, Sister Shelly Farabaugh (Prioress), and Sister Dolores Conley



Sister Benita DeMatteis

A New Chapter Begins

An afternoon of welcome, celebration, and community.

The Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh hosted an Open House on July 11 to introduce our donors and community at large to the newly elected Prioress, Sister Shelly Farabaugh. The following photos capture the sisters and guests sharing in the celebration.








Peggy











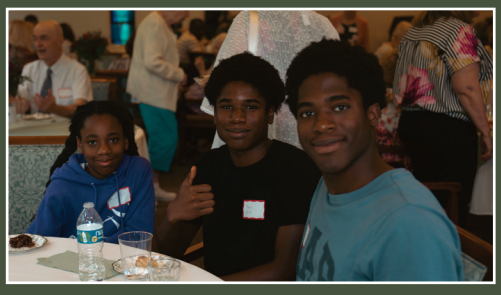

ULTRA









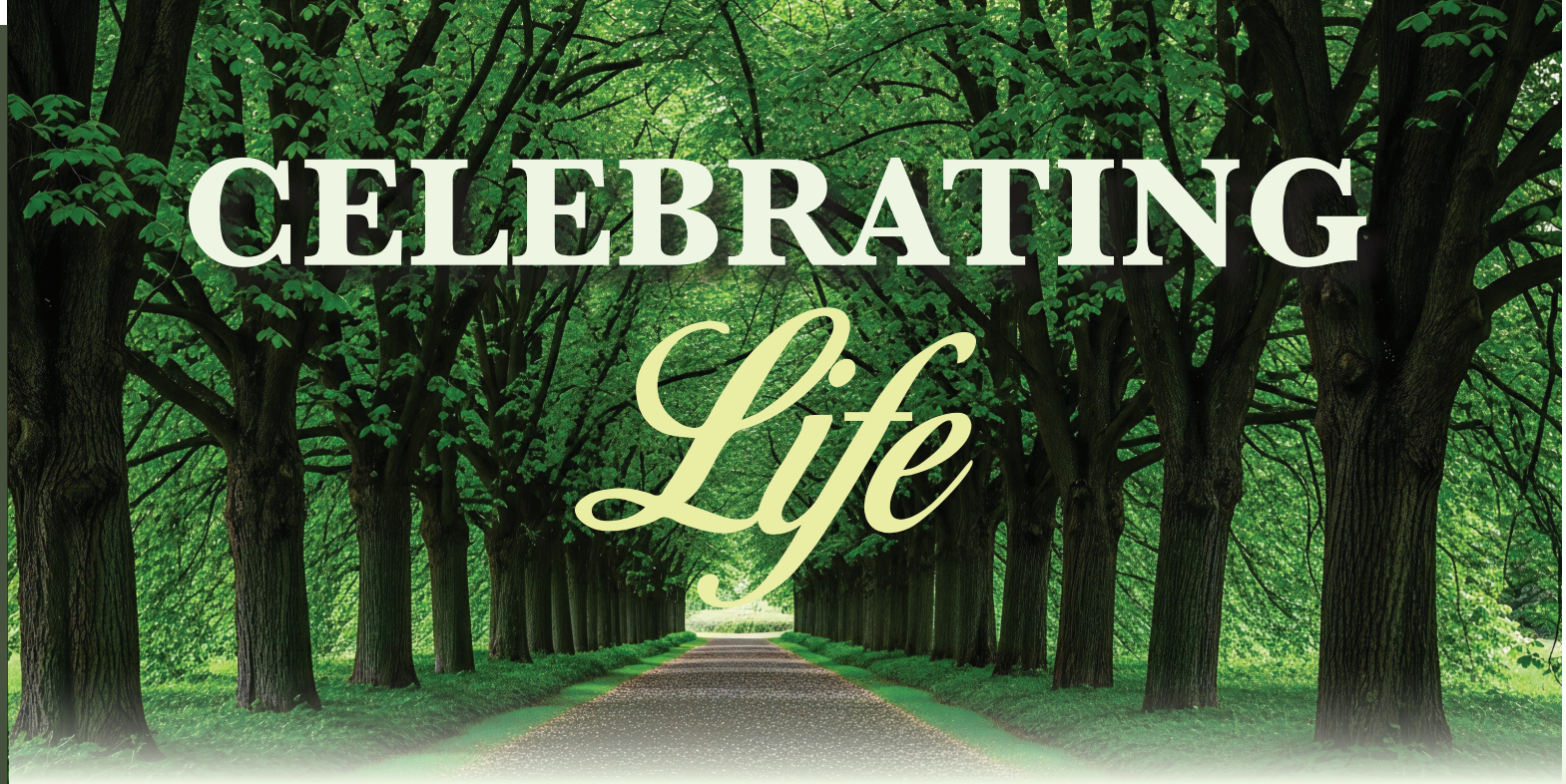












CELEBRATING *Life*

We live in a chaotic world surrounded by busyness. Sometimes we yearn for serenity.

Several years ago, I made a retreat in a country setting. As I ambled along beside a rippling creek, I noticed a variety of blowing grasses and leaves beckoning for my attention. I started picking one of each type, noting the artistic differences in each. I was astonished at the great variety in shape, size, delicate veins, shading, and artistic design. By the end of that casual walk, my collection amounted to about 50 unique samples. I started sketching some of the fascinating shapes.

It's important to take time to notice the little things around us!

Close your eyes on a summer evening and listen to the sounds in your surroundings: whispering trees, bird calls, bees visiting flowers, blowing leaves, a faraway plane, distant traffic. With practice, you may even be able to hear the silence within your mind!

A good book blends with a quiet atmosphere or soft music to place calm in the day. We need to take time to celebrate the gifts God sends us daily: sights – sounds – feelings – God's artistic presence that is so often missed in our everyday busyness!

Introverted personalities love this lifestyle. Extroverted types prefer to interact with another individual by a visit in person or by phone, text, or e-mail. The best interaction, of course, is in person. Eye contact, awareness of body language, paying close attention to the flow of conversation can lead to intimacy and a deeper appreciation of the person with whom we are sharing this time together. As St. Benedict says, "Listen with the ear of your heart."

Developing a hobby adds zest to life! For some persons reading, sketching, listening to music, learning to play a musical instrument, baking, basketry, knitting, crocheting, sewing, collecting family recipes, or investigating genealogy adds joy to their day. These are just a hint of the world of adventure! My favorite pleasure is working jigsaw puzzles. (The right brain matches the colors; the left brain matches the shapes of the pieces.) When I'm reading, I keep a list of new vocabulary words to stimulate my brain. When traveling or in a waiting room, a crossword puzzle book is my companion.

It's important to TAKE TIME to do the things that make YOU happy!

By Sister Corinne Moeller

New to the Monastery

If you've been at the Monastery recently, you may have noticed some new faces around. Get to know our newest employees who help keep our community running smoothly.



Jared Stango, *Executive Director Finance*

Beginning with a childhood in Homer City, Jared earned a bachelor's degree (Accounting with a minor in Political Science) from St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. Jared became a man with many hats – each of which he wears with a full commitment. His work as the Director of an initiative designed to be the administrative financial caretaker of four communities of Sisters is more than enough. But he is also a husband of twenty-one years. His wife, Jill, is a professional in her own right, an artist and former elementary art teacher for the Fox Chapel School District. Jared is also a father; his oldest child, Stella (17) who plans on becoming a Speech Pathologist. She has narrowed colleges down to one of two Pittsburgh schools. Stella is still playing volleyball and competing on the track field. Jude (15) is not yet ready for college planning but is enjoying playing basketball, baseball, and club baseball. Max, thirteen, loves baseball, and along with his brother, is a member of the Pittsburgh Diamond Dawgs. Calm and steady with an easy laugh, Jared has spent most of his career as the Chief Financial Officer of for-profit businesses. Most were of a similar size to that of today's initiative. Jared found the career move "a fresh change" with the learning curve in transitioning to not for profit "… new, but not steep." Like an older brother and most men who move in a stately manner, Jared has the answers to most questions. He also humorously admits he "tries not to worry too much beyond my paygrade." While describing his excitement in helping the Sisters carry out their legacy, Jared says, "It helps to become a bit detached from worldly things."



Karen Henschel, *Bookkeeper*

Karen and her husband Bob will be celebrating their marriage of 40 years this August 30th. They have one daughter – Heather – and the smartest, most beautiful granddaughter in the world, Reagan. Reagan is three and runs a make believe small store using her grandmother's calculator. Karen loves cooking, often trying new ethnic dishes. She and Bob are on a bowling league and while Karen says her average score is 130 with a dismissive laugh, it is a solid respectable number. The family is looking forward to a vacation soon that will be complete with a condo, beach, and lots of sun. As bookkeeper for the Sisters, Karen (an accountant since 2011) loves the idea that she is an important part of helping the Sisters keep their finances straight so they can maintain the life they designed for each other. Karen has worked various jobs around the Tri-State, mostly for profit (except for Genesis), and now working in the quiet, she doesn't miss the hustle and bustle of business outside of the monastery. It's been five months since Karen was hired - steadily working Monday through Friday. Karen loves "hearing their stories, learning about their lives. They were weavers, artists, teachers, administrators…they are amazing to me."



AJ Laban, *Head Chef*

AJ is soft-spoken, kind, and quite unusual. With three children (Meghan active Navy presently stationed in Guam, Emily a Human Resource Director in DC, and Jacob retired Navy now with the FCC in DC), AJ will spend as much time as you have talking about his love for them and his pride in them. AJ has been cooking since high school which hasn't stopped him from acquiring a BA in Business, a MA in Education, and an associate's degree from the Culinary Arts School. He has traveled the world to open hotels, casinos, and resorts for Hard Rock International. His work took him to Prague, the Philippines, Punta Cana, Russia, Thailand, Serbia, and to one of his favorites, Abu Dhabi. He has been to some locations several times. When not working AJ has his favorite child, Fleury – an 11-year-old Pug to care for, "When I miss my kids, which is all the time, Fleury seems to know and gives me love." He also loves planning his next trip (looks like San Antonio when Meghan is stateside before her possible transfer to Greece), golfing, fishing, and country music concerts – anything Ella Langley and Lainey Wilson. "I love working here – it is the best job I've ever had. I love the Sisters – this is family."



Sue Vitous, *Assistant*

If you watch Over the Top, starring Sylvester Stallone as a man on a quest to become a champion arm wrestler, you will see Sue. After Stallone's second bout at an important Las Vegas competition, the camera focuses on two women competing—one of them is Sue. In the actual competition, Sue won. and was named Champion (her longest match was 45 seconds.) Additional titles include 4th in the Country and 6th in the World. Sue is the 2nd oldest of 13 children. She has been a hard-working woman since the age of 15. She is an artist and assists a local caterer when not working Sunday – Thursday at the Monastery. Sue grew up in West View – near the old Dance Land, and an amusement park with "the BEST dips anywhere, West View Park." Sue was a quiet baby, didn't speak until she was 4 (because her "Irish twin" sister spoke for her), but made up for it when she worked as an assistant setting up tour riders. Sue was with the Rolling Stones in Detroit (Kidney Pie for Keith Richards, and Shepherd's Pie for Mick Jagger), she shared the kitchen peeling carrots with Toby Keith, spoke with Glenn Frey of The Eagles, worked at the Louisiana Bayou fest, and worked on tours in Cincinnati, Tennessee, Texas, and Florida. "While it is good money, and while I miss it, you're living out of a suitcase." Sue has been married to Bill for 44 years. They have two children, Willie – an ornamental ironwork artist, and Lisa, a cardiac thoracic charge nurse.



Ben Barcaskey, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Ben is a local man who was discovered by an encouraging recruiter from New York. He considers the hiring a matter of "being in the right place at the right time." He has worked in construction all his life and loved the independence and good pay. But unlike working at the monastery, he seldom had the opportunity to meet the people he was working for. Some days, he worked without speaking to a anyone. Spend even a few minutes talking with Ben, and it's easy to see why that kind of isolation wasn't an ideal fit for his warm, outgoing personality. Ben was recently married to Lisa, a Special Needs teacher. They are still newlyweds, having married December 27, 2025. Ben has a daughter, Zoey a neuroscientist employed at Pitt, who is temporarily living with them. As a close family they enjoy adventures outdoors – hiking, side by side fishing, hunting, and traveling. Ben is also the family cook; on Sundays he enjoys making food for the week – and has mastered everything from soup to WAG food ("wingin it till it's good"). With a spirit of hospitality every bit as strong as the Sisters, Ben is one of those rare individuals who doesn't have to work to express kindness and benevolence.

Smiles Go Miles



By Sr. Judith Ann Criner, OSB

Many years ago, as I prepared to leave home for classes at Sacred Heart Parish School in Jeannette, PA, my mother would do a last-minute check of our appearances. She would assess our uniforms, shoes, coats, headwear, boots/galoshes, mittens, books, paper lunch bags and anything else that she felt was needed to adequately fulfill our performance during the coming school day.

Although being born in Italy and raised primarily in an Italian speaking community, when she arrived in the USA as a child, my mother quickly adapted to the American culture. Mom was educated, talented, and perceptive of people and their needs. Incoronata's (Cora), her Italian name, core values revolved around God and family. Spirituality was a part of her living essence and it carried over into her life and, therefore, our family.

One reminder that my mother gave us (my younger brother and me) was to greet those we met during the day with a smile. Mom believed that a genuine smile was as important to our appearances as a clean, pressed uniform or shined shoes. Often, she stressed that a smile was not just an accessory to our appearance, but something vital to be shared with each person we met during the day.

Our mother impressed upon us that our smile might be essential for another person to receive. Our smile could be a crucial gift to those who needed to receive it that day.

Now, years later, I can still see our mom waving from the open doorway as we headed to the school bus stop in High Park. She would wave us off calling out, "Don't forget to smile. You never know who needs it!"

Perhaps I remember these words of wisdom so fondly because a smile can be shared effortlessly, as long as it emanates from the heart. By turning up the corners of your mouth, one can symbolize happiness, friendliness, and warmth. It can communicate trust, social connection, and even peace. Young or old – anyone can give a positive greeting to another with a smile.

"May someone's smile bless you today."

Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh

Leadership and Life Coach Training

An online coach training for women in faith-based ministry

Cohort 6 begins in November
Applications are due in September

For more information visit our website or contact
Sister Susan Merrie English: 724-502-2580

www.BenedictineCoaching.org



Leadership and Life Coach Training

Leading With Purpose

Anyone looking for the definition of self-determination should spend some time with Jane Rahenkamp. Her life began quietly enough - college, marriage, three children, a multi-year career rise to management. Then Jane decided to become a Life Coach.

Today, Jane is the Education Director of the Leadership and Life Coach Training for Women in Faith-based Ministry. The two-year online, international program – accredited by the International Coaching Federation (ICF) - has grown significantly since its first days. Jane was a part of those early days. "I can look back on my life and see how it brought me directly to this moment and responsibility." Jane says, "Well educated coaches are needed more today than ever to provide trust and safety; trusting that the other person is able to figure out what they need to do and providing them the space to work it out by asking powerful questions and listening actively…all lends itself to working toward peace in the world."



As the Education Director, Jane will work closely with the Executive Director, Sister Susan Merrie English, and Directors, Sister Evelyn Dettling, Sister Judith Ann Criner, Sister Roberta Campbell, and Sister Shelly Farabaugh. Coordinating and overseeing all aspects of the program, the team will ensure Core Competencies needed by coaches are taught in clear and meaningful ways. Jane would like to help standardize the program and processes to make the learning environment more supportive and effective. "Students learn that going through the program is transformative. It requires an individual to look within and see how you are relating to others. This is not a simple thing. I want to make sure we help students along the way as much as possible."

Graduated students also receive support. They are awarded a one-year membership to ICF Pittsburgh and join a camaraderie of coaches who spend time together virtually learning new processes and concepts around coaching. Additionally, the Life Coach Training for Women in Faith-based Ministry administrators are always one phone call, one email, or one lunch away.

November Cohort

Applications for the November cohort are still being accepted. For more information, please contact Sister Susan Merrie English at smenglishedd@gmail.com.

Meet the Life Coach Training Team



Sister Judith Ann Criner (center) will be joining Directors Sister Shelly Farabaugh, Sister Roberta Campbell, Sister Evelyn Dettling, and Sister Susan Merrie English (from left to right) this coming fall.



Sister Susan Merrie English
Executive Director
Benedictine Leadership and Life Coach LLC



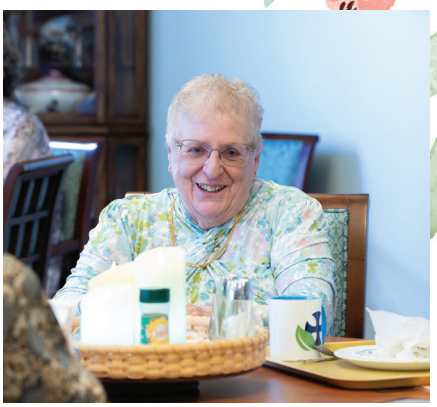
Rosemary Hanrahan
MD MPH PCC
Lead Faculty Member



Christine Stack
Professional Certified Coach
Mentor and Leadership Coach

Easter Sunday
WITH THE SISTERS





L to R: Sisters Irene, Rosalyn, Evelyn, Father Leroy; Joyce Cummings











Clockwise: Sisters Georgine, Susan Merrie, Shelly (Prioress), Michelle, Mary Agnes, Donna; Norah; Sister Nancy; Sister Judith; Sister Corinne, guest, Sisters Mary David and Lucille

Coffee, Conversation, & God

Two Sisters reflect on a lifetime of prayer



There is nothing like learning from two Sisters during a mid-morning coffee break. Sister Jeanne Ubinger and Sister Anne Lazar are always ready with pockets full of teaching moments. Both Sisters grew up in homes where prayer was an essential part of everyday life. Prayers began and ended every day and were scattered like flowers throughout the week.

The power behind those prayers was never questioned. The world was at war during their childhood and the nation often prayed together for the safe return of fathers, sons, brothers, sisters, and aunts. Every Sunday during dinner Bishop Sheen helped lead the charge with *The Catholic Hour*, and later *Life is Worth Living* for four million people. Bishop Sheen did not often speak specifically about prayer, but he did talk about social justice, the evils of communism, and especially the war of human morality being fought in the European, Pacific, and Mediterranean Theatres. But there were also services in community churches. Churches with unlocked doors, and services like Miraculous Medal and Our Lady of Fatima, rosary evening services, military and civilian prayers to St. Jude.

St. Michael the Archangel, St. Barbara, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Loreto – even prayers to Guardian Angels (Mike for Sister Jeanne, while Sister Anne still carries hers on her shoulders). Not everyone made it home from that war, and atomic bombs were dropped on yet unborn generations, yet nations were united by something more than military might and did put horror and evil to rest.

There is no question in Sister Jeanne's or Sister Anne's minds and hearts that prayer can change anything. "It is talking to God. Belief, prayer, penance, fasting, love for our neighbor. It all matters," said Sister Anne. "I think its one of the most important things," said Sister Jeanne, and she went on, "...it is sitting down and having a cup of coffee with God. You talk from the heart, and God listens."

While I watched these two women, Sister Jeanne spoke about being a child sneaking cookies and Sister Anne laughed about the Guardian Angels on her shoulders being decorated in red, white, and blue. Seeing their smiles I wished today's America was a nation unified by prayer. But our coffee break was ending – the Sisters had games to get back to and I had paperwork. "You know," Sister Anne said, "It's never too late." Sister Jeanne nodded, "That's right."

And I believe them.



Lassies Always Do It With *Style*

Time for your, my, our class reunion, or get together for lunch (no driving at night). All through our homes, we check in each mirror and beg our spouse, partner, anyone – to lie through their implants, and/or false teeth - just to stay out of trouble - and tell us 'we are still…'.

We think beneath our thick glasses, laser eye correction surgery, and contacts: that we still have the same figure, just the same as it was – just a bit rearranged. Our skin is still silky, although loose in drape maybe, but still silk with a bit of crepe. We swallow their words - hook, line, and sinker - turn up our hearing aids, and roll back the years. We enter our banquets, the bars, the restaurants, feeling just fine.

No judgements, no more cliques, rumors, dramas or selected lunch tables for Lassies. Somehow, we expect our classmates to stay as young as long ago days. Even when we attend funerals!

Without the "glow up" paradox of trying to protect success, and all of those good looks, SBA Lassies really do appreciate our bittersweet passage – our passage through the times and our lives. We do it well without allegations or abuses or clash of some other high schools, too!

With Appreciation
Martha Sprys, Laux
SBA CLASS OF 72
New Entitled Widow







ALUMNI CLASS ANNOUCEMENTS

Class of 1972

Whether large reunions or the monthly lunches at the Sunny Jim's Tavern on Camp Horne Road, there are great opportunities for individual support, escorting each other or offering suggestions for medical escorts, sharing advice, and keeping lifelong friendships alive - to say nothing of how much fun is shared.

Class of 1982

45th anniversary - 2027

Classmates can express their interest in a luncheon or dinner, a weekend or weekday, for late April or early May and comments of interest by contacting:

Facebook page: SBA Class of 1982 or profithse@aol.com

NAVIGATING A NEW DIGITAL AGE



BY MILES TAMBURRI

AI is being introduced to our lives from every angle. It's the buzzword at dinner parties and social events. In the workplace, organizations are finding a way to embed AI into the culture to improve efficiency. With all the AI talk, I am sure some of us are having flashbacks to an 80's cult classic movie. To the best of my knowledge, I don't believe AI is here to take over the world, but it will continue to be part of every day life.

CURIOUS ABOUT AI

Outside of my iPhone, I don't consider myself advanced in technology, but I am inquisitive and enjoy learning. It was my curiosity and love of learning that propelled me to learn a bit about AI.

While there are a number of AI platforms, the two most common are ChatGPT and Copilot. Based on my lack of technological knowledge, I have found little difference between the two, outside of preference. My wife lives by ChatGPT and and while companies I have worked for have allowed me greater access to Copilot, personally I use them interchangeably.

When I first explored the AI platforms, it was for personal purposes. I was at an event a while ago that was presenting a small AI workshop. The first thing the speaker said, was anything you type into Google, you should start typing into AI. From that moment, whenever I am looking for a restaurant, recommendations of anything, information about sending a text message or email (to control tone), I open up Copilot and type away. Also, when traveling and working out in hotel gyms, I will enter the available equipment in Copilot and ask it to create a workout plan.

HOW TO USE AI

When asking AI questions, it's important to remember that you control the parameters. For example, if you ask AI, "What's my favorite color?" the system won't necessarily know, because you have never told AI what your favorite color is. However, if you phrased it a little differently, maybe, "What colors do I look the best in?," AI has the ability to search the internet for any pictures you have posted, share the findings and give an answer based on social media likes and comments. (A lesson in how much information to include in your social media.)

> "I don't believe AI is here to take over the world, but it will continue to be part of every day life."

Continued on Page 41

A Journey of Place and Spirit

Carol Dougherty's path to Bakerstown

Life has been quite a journey for Carol. This journey began as a Catholic child growing up in North Hills, then on to Massachusetts, California, Cleveland, and North Carolina. Along the way, she became a writer of several books, a theatre manager, and a Zen Buddhist priest.

Sitting in a writing workshop facilitated by Natalie Goldberg (every writer's writer), the Zen influence – which Natalie has studied for more than forty years – struck Carol in a life changing way. Carol began studying Zen Buddhism and ended up at the San Francisco Zen Center in California. Initially she stayed for seven years in San Francisco and in the Tassajara Zen Mountain Center in Carmel Valley. She was ordained a Soto Zen Buddhist priest in the lineage of Shunryu Suzuki-Roshi (Zen Mind, Beginners Mind) and left California to acquire a Master of Divinity degree at Naropa University in Colorado.

During the fall of 2009, Carol's mother was placed in an Alzheimer's care facility. After completing her degree in May of 2010, Carol returned home to be with her father as he visited her mother daily. Her mother died in the fall of 2011, and her father some years later.

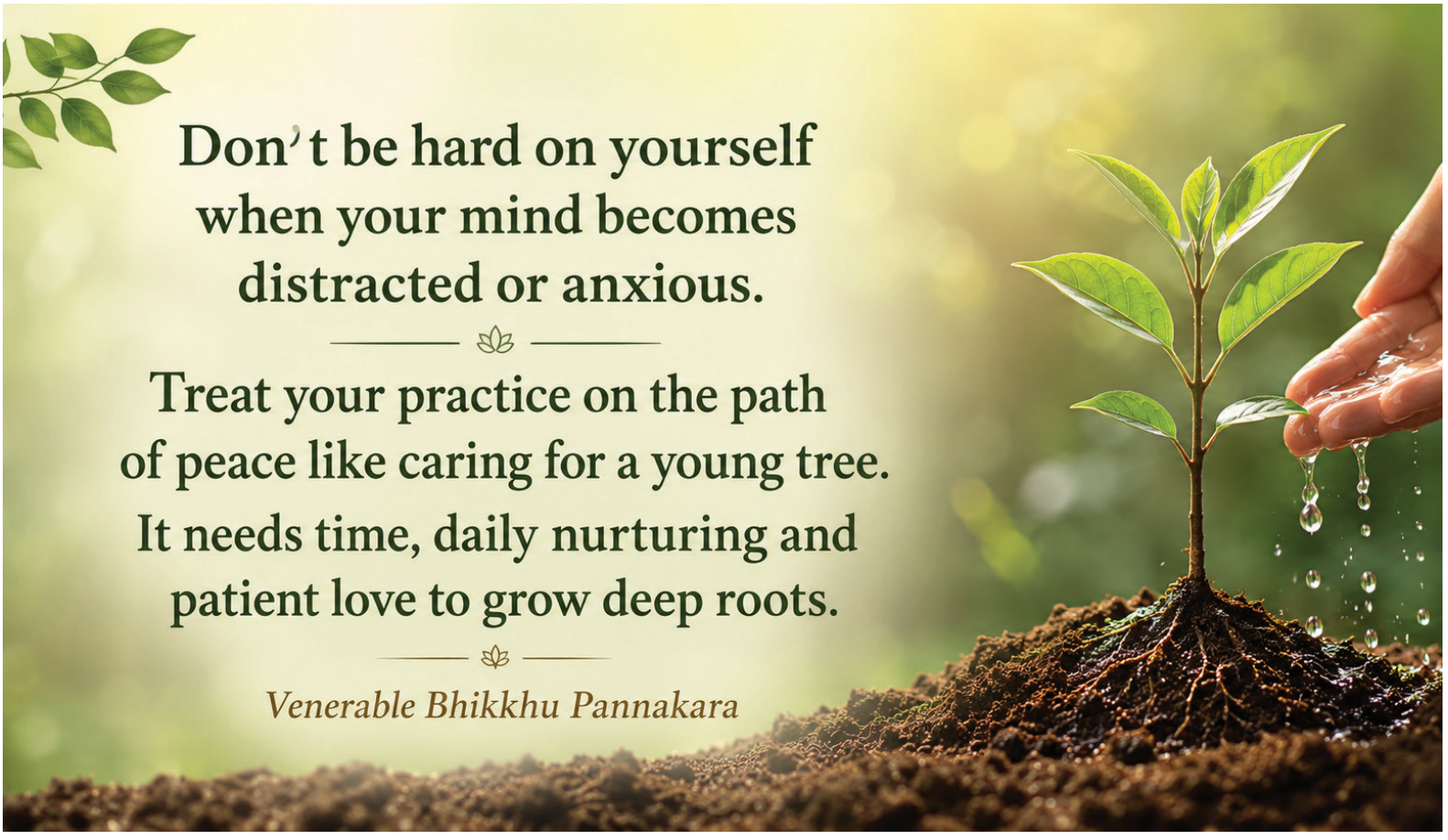
Today, Carol finds the future unclear and waiting to be discovered. For now, though there is comfort and pause in the pastoral setting of Bakerstown, with rabbits, does, and fawns that visit daily. She enjoys having old and new friends living in the monastery yards up the hill, as well as the peace and beauty of the gardens and nature surrounding her.



Don't be hard on yourself when your mind becomes distracted or anxious.

Treat your practice on the path of peace like caring for a young tree. It needs time, daily nurturing and patient love to grow deep roots.

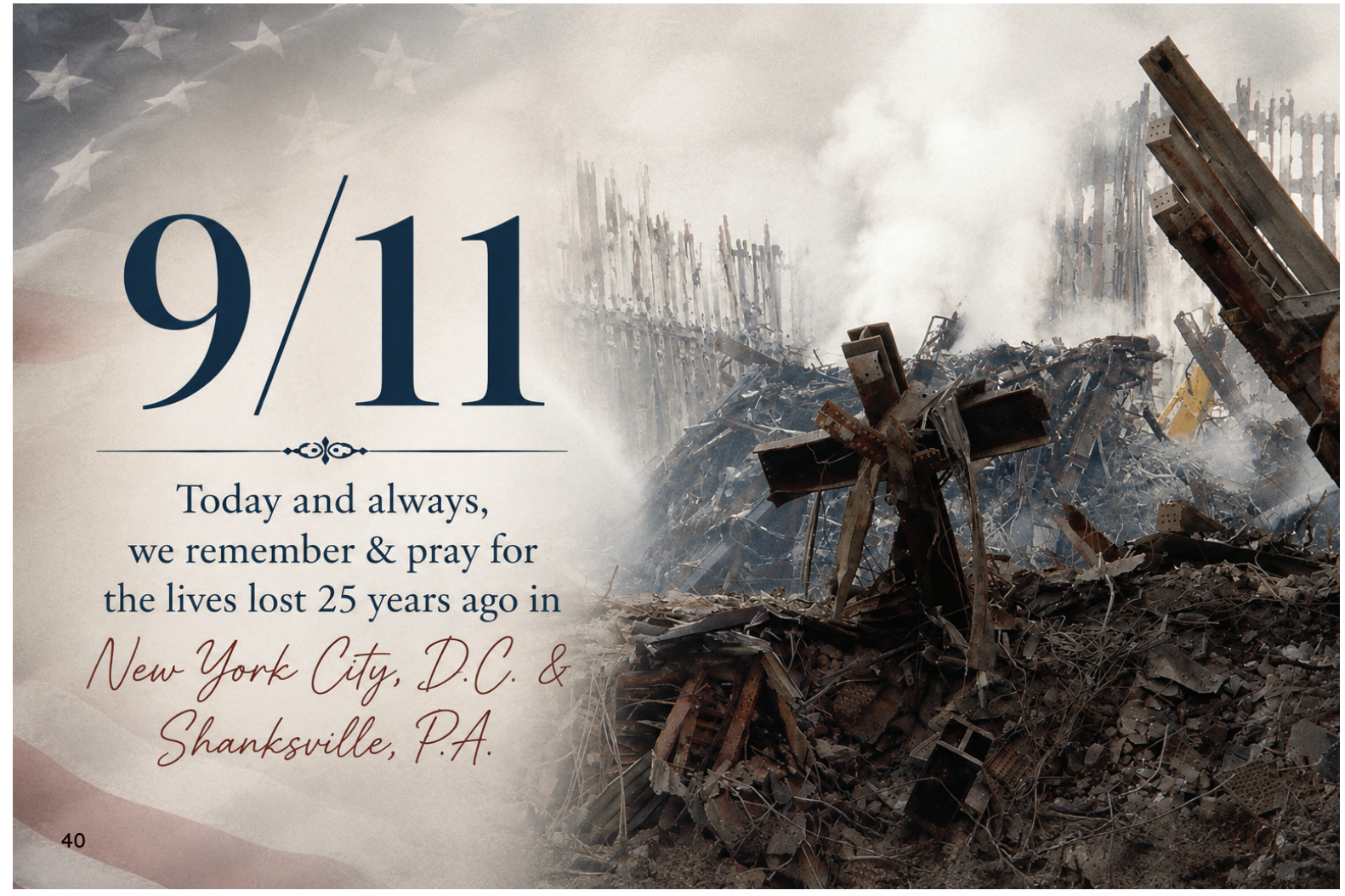
Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara

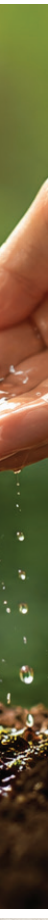


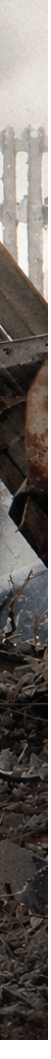
9/11

Today and always, we remember & pray for the lives lost 25 years ago in

New York City, D.C. & Shanksville, P.A.







Sister Shelly interview from page 21



What was it that made you want to come back?

It's a very simple answer. I believe that people are like turtles – we gather barnacles of poor behaviors, things in your life that don't help you to be the best person you can be, whether it's selfishness or whatever. I believe in the saying from Saint Irenaeus, "The glory of God is a person fully alive." So, in order to be fully alive you have to put yourself in positions to work and get rid of those barnacles. You do that with other people. If you're married and have a family, that's going to help you out. But as a single person, it's more challenging. I knew that I needed to be someplace where I could be the best person I could be – get the barnacles rubbed off!

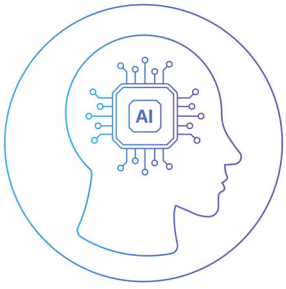
If you can ask a question to anyone you want, who are you talking to?

Pope Leo. I admire his ability to speak the truth in the face of difficulty in the world. I might ask him how you do that. I do think it's probably about putting one foot in front of the other and listening to the Spirit.

What are you looking forward to in the next 5 years?

I think we're going to have fun! What's most important is to help the Sisters to be the best people they can be, and the most loving people they can be with one another and others around them, and to show Christ's love to everyone we meet. Especially that we might be Sisters of the beatitudes like Jesus was and to pay attention to the people on the margins of society and life.

Navigating a New Digital Age from page 38



Less personally, if you input a movie time, AI will not only provide local movie times, but it will also provide an opinion on the movie, show theaters and show times, and provide direct links to purchase tickets and concessions. With those same parameters, entering those same questions into Google or another search engine, you will receive some of the information that AI is able to produce, but it will require more time, multiple clicks, and potentially send you down an internet rabbit hole.

As I became more comfortable with using AI for personal inquiries such as movies, restaurants, or hotels, I began integrating the technology into work. I found AI is great for proofreading, research, and can even offer suggestions on how to interact with people based on their respective personality. Now with anything technology related, it is important to do your own proofreading as well - always confirm AI provided the right answer to the question. Like all technology, AI depends on input. AI however will pull information from any source - some of which may not be credible.

I have enjoyed learning about and using AI to find ways to make my crazy life run a little smoother. While this piece doesn't provide any golden tickets of knowledge, hopefully it sparks some interest to begin your own explorative journey to learn about the good and cautionary parts of AI.

Remember, change isn't coming, it's already here.

"The lesson for us is - let us be *givers* as well as receivers, let us be *courageous*, let us be determined to do the right, let us *rise above* opposition, let us not be satisfied to accept what those who have gone before us have won for the world, let us feel our responsibility to win *new victories* for the good and the right."

- Harriot Stanton Blatch

In Loving Memory



Sister Susanne Chenot

On September 14, 2025, Sister Susanne Chenot, a much loved member of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, passed into her heavenly life.

Born on December 10, 1938, Sister Susanne was one of seven children born to Regis and Flora Chenot. She was loved by her siblings Glenn (Jacqueline), Karen (Deceased), Sally (James Davis), Phyllis (James Sobczak), and Gary (Patricia), her godchild, niece Rachel, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Patricia Chenot entered the Benedictines in 1956 and became Sister Susanne, a life-long witness to the Benedictine values of community, prayers, and ministry. She used her extensive education to benefit many people. She had a B.S.E in Elementary Education and a M.S.E in Library Science (both Duquesne), M.E, in Religious Education (Boston College), and Certificate in Religious Formation (St. Louis University).

Sister Susanne taught in Pittsburgh and Ohio parish schools for 20 years. She served as Campus Minister at IUP, Chaplain at Manor Care, ministered in Neon, KY, served as Pastoral Assistant at St. John Parish, Scottdale, served in the Greensburg Diocese, and as Chaplain at Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation. Sister Susanne also volunteered with many organizations including the League of Women Voters at IUP, People of Peace in Scottdale, Benedictines for Peace, and Benedictine Sisters Formation Team.

Known for her welcoming and compassionate spirit, Sister Susanne touched the lives of many, including Benedictine Oblates and visitors to the Monastery. Her spirit radiated a gentle and genuine joy, reflected in her deep-seated spiritual convictions.

Sister Susanne loved her Benedictine Community, once writing: “I have found the love and friendship among my Benedictine Sisters to be the most satisfying aspect of my religious life. I realize how my community connections ripple outward.” She will be remembered for her joyful spirit, her love and kindness toward everyone she met. May Sister Susanne be at peace in the loving embrace of God. Sister Susanne Chenot’s funeral mass was held at the Monastery on October 4, 2025 at 11:00 AM.

Gifts in honor of Sister Susanne may be made to Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh.

In closing, we want to thank our incredible community of donors and contributors who make the stability of the Sisters' present and future possible. Every life touched is a result of your kindness and generosity.

We are aware of the many organizations in need and many choices you can make; please know we will remain honorable and giving stewards of your support.

Today, take a moment to simply pause...
close your eyes,
quiet the noise, feel your heartbeat...
we are together at this moment..
and as miraculous as that may be,
"...life itself is the miracle."
- George Bernard Shaw



BE JOYFUL. THANK YOU!

Benedictine Sisters
OF PITTSBURGH

3526 Bakerstown Rd.
Bakerstown, PA 15007
724 502-2600; Info@osbpgh.org

Prioress:
Sister Shelly Farabaugh, OSB

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