

the Mount

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE

Spring 2007

*L*et my teaching fall like rain
and my words descend like dew,
like showers on new grass,
like abundant rain on tender plants.

Deut. 32:2

the Mount

Spring 2007

The Mount Magazine

Benedictine Sisters of Erie

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ErieBenedictines.org

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LIVING WATER

At the beginning of the Judeo-Christian story of creation, the spirit of God is described as “stirring above the waters,” and later, God creates “a firmament in the midst of the waters to divide the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-6) Also, God is called “the fountain of living waters.” (Jeremiah 2:13)

In Christianity, baptism links the concept of the water of life with the water of purification. St. Francis of Assisi, in the Canticle of the Sun, praises God for water: “Praised be Thou, O Lord, for sister water, who is very useful, humble, precious, and chaste.”

Additionally, “living water” or “water of life” in the New Testament represents the spirit of God, or eternal life.

And did you know? Providing drinking water is seen by many cultures and religions to be one of the most charitable of human acts.

SPRING. It is simple to see the season in a “big puddle” called a pond. This little wonder of nature nicely captures spring as the time of rebirth.

The dormant plants blossom and bloom. Eggs hatch, and the tiny turtles, frogs and fish wriggle, splash and flash from the murky bottom after the long winter snooze. Insects flit across the pond’s surface; the birds return to sing, sip and reclaim the lily pads. The peepers trill all through the night.

Spring as the season of renewal and rebirth has been symbolized by water since the beginning of time as written in Genesis, so we thought it fitting to choose “water” as a theme for this issue.

WATER. It is a necessity of life and a force of nature. It is significant to all cultures and religions throughout the history of the world; it is our sacred rite of birth in our baptismal vow, and of resurrection in death as that vow is renewed for eternity.

He is risen! Alleluia!

Let us continue our celebration of Easter as we indeed enjoy

spring when the world is puddle-wonderful!

-ee cummings

BENEDICTINE CHARISM STATEMENT

The Benedictine way is to seek God in the cenobitic life and to respond in prayer and ministry.



From the Prioress

There is a new corner stone marking the renovation and blessing of our monastic chapel. It reads PAX, peace. You can find this word carved over the entry door or gate of most Benedictine monasteries throughout the world. Benedict in the very Prologue of the Rule advises us: “to let peace be your quest and aim.” In the Rule he instructs the community to live in peace with each other. Monastic hospitality is to extend that peace to the stranger, the guest. Peace is to be a way of life for the monastic. It is a charism or gift to the world. In this Easter season, I reflect and remember that as Jesus appeared to the disciples, after the resurrection, he said: “Peace be with you, my peace I give to you.” What have we done with that gift of peace, so costly its price?

Never has this peace been needed more than in our day. We see the violence in society: devastating civil and international wars that are destroying entire societies and creating refugees who will never return home. Women and children are trafficked as commodities to be bought and sold and owned. Religion is being used as a reason to hate, torture, and kill. Immigrants seeking safety are hunted, jailed and deported. The environment is ravaged for the sake of corporate profit leaving people without water and with land made toxic. Civil discourse is missing from our public forum.

A monastery is not a place to withdraw from the world, but rather a place for prayer, community and solitude which will give us a deeper empathy into our world and awaken in us the compassion of God. Monastic living brings us to a focused awareness that helps us be present, listen and see deeply the displacement, alienation, marginalization and violence that results from injustice. We engage with our world in ways that will bring a meaningful response to the people who suffer, whether they live next door or across the globe. Peace is a quest. It must first fill our hearts and then we can give our life away in love.

We are seekers living in a changing and challenging world. We share a common heart and a common struggle. It is within ordinary life that life is precious, sacred and filled with possibilities and hope. God’s grace pursues us as we continue our journey to give the gift of peace. I remember a piece of poetry, using water as the metaphor for life.

We cannot grasp the water.

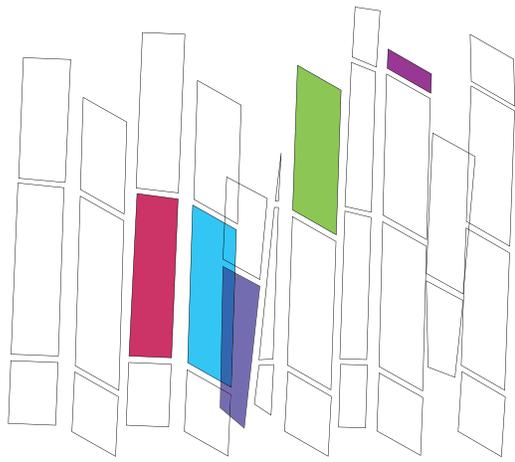
*Water is to be cupped with held fingers-
gently, preciously.*

*Water is to be held with open palms-
gently, preciously.*

If we move through life tenderly, we will impart the peace that we received from Jesus.

Christine Vladimiroff, OSB

Prioress, Benedictine Sisters of Erie



Newly renovated chapel to be blessed

“We bless it for it is sacred space.”

“The monastery chapel is the center of our monastic community; its cornerstone is Christ. We bless it for it is sacred space. The monastic oratory is a place where we come into the community through monastic profession and it is the place where we celebrate our Sisters’ lives at death.”
-Sister Christine

Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress, announces that the Benedictine Sisters of Erie are preparing for the Rite of Blessing for the newly renovated chapel at the monastery. The rite will be included in the Eucharistic Liturgy on Sunday, April 29 at 10 a.m.

Bishop Donald Trautman, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, will celebrate the liturgy and consecrate the new altar.

The renovation to enhance the worship and prayer space at the monastery is one project being funded through the Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign.

Several improvements were needed to provide a gathering space that meets the physical and spiritual needs of the Sisters and their guests:

- Interior renovation: Level the floor to improve accessibility, upgrade HVAC and electrical systems, and reconfigure space in the monastic choir tradition.
- Replace chapel roof and ceiling.
- Create a Blessed Sacrament Chapel for contemplative prayer and reflection.
- Incorporate a significant water (baptismal) symbol.

There will be an Open House for the public that afternoon from 3-5 during which there will be a brief tour and commentary on the architectural and liturgical highlights of the chapel.

*Water is life's mater and matrix, mother and medium.
There is no life without water.*

-Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



It is through the waters of baptism that one enters the community of faith and becomes a member of the body of Christ. When baptism is understood as a sacrament that incorporates individuals into a faith community, rather than simply allowing them entry into a church, it becomes clear that some reminder of baptism and some sign of water can be used to mark this reality with distinction.

In the past it was rare to see anything more than a simple holy water font in most convents and seminary chapels. Since they were not places where the sacrament of baptism was administered there was no need for the traditional font. However, because of a renewed understanding of baptism as entrance into Christian community as well as a deepened understanding of the vowed life as an intensification of the baptismal commitment, more and more religious houses are choosing to incorporate a significant reminder of baptism.

Sister Patricia Hause, OSB

Such it is with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. We have made a conscious choice to incorporate a significant water symbol into the newly renovated chapel. It will be in the form of a stone sculpture and a gentle man named John Lajba has been commissioned to do it.

Text by Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB
Photos by Sister Charlotte and John Lajba



A LAKE IS THE
LANDSCAPE'S
MOST BEAUTIFUL
AND EXPRESSIVE
FEATURE. IT IS
THE EARTH'S EYE;
LOOKING INTO
WHICH THE
BEHOLDERS
MEASURE THE
DEPTH OF
THEIR OWN NATURE.
—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

IF A WORK OF
SCULPTURE HAS
ITS OWN LIFE
AND FORM,
IT WILL BE
ALIVE AND
EXPANSIVE,
MORE THAN
THE STONE FROM



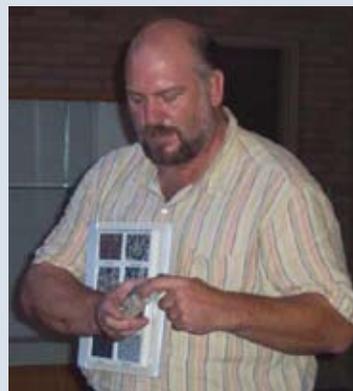
JOHN LAJBA ARTIST-SCULPTOR

John Lajba is an internationally known artist-sculptor from Omaha, Nebraska. He is widely recognized for his perceptive understanding of the work for which he is commissioned. As a commissioned artist John sees himself as the “filter through which God works.” It has been his

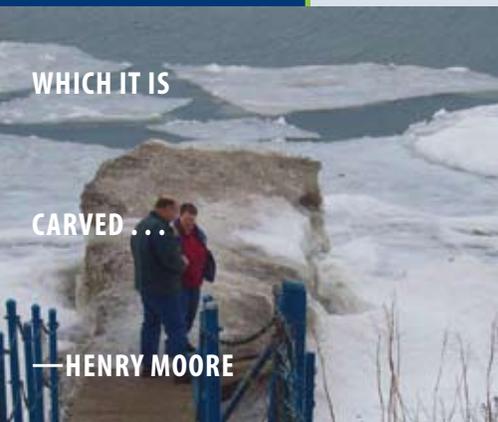
hope to not only create a sculpture but also to make possible a spiritual environment—an environment that is strong and secure, restful and comforting. Throughout the process John has envisioned a sculpture that would appeal to the senses and invite interaction, exude a sense of stability and suggest rootedness and faithfulness. Rather than being a “water fountain” or a “water thing” it will be a symbol grounded in good theology and spirituality.

John visited Erie. He traveled the woods and the lake shore; he came to understand the environment. John spent time with the Chapel Project Task Force and the community; he came to understand the charism and mission of the Erie Benedictines; he learned what is

important to us. Using the information he gained, John has been working for several months on the water symbol that will grace our worship space. His goal has been a creation founded on truth: One that uses real materials; one that is simple yet significant.



WHICH IT IS
CARVED ...
—HENRY MOORE



A WORK IN PROGRESS



The water symbol is being sculpted from granite quarried in South Dakota at the Dakota Granite Company in Milbank. Dakota granite is renowned for its beauty and distinctiveness. In John's hands the stone is coming to life. In part the stone is what might be considered flesh-colored, a hue which John believes gives the piece a feeling of humanness, a sense of joy, and a quality of warmth.

The base of the piece invites gathering. Its curves give a sense of undulation inspired by the rhythm of life in the natural environment surrounding the monastery as well as the charisma of the Erie Benedictines which is the heart beat of their ministry and works.

A tower of granite, reflecting strength and a sense of vigilance and stability, will feed into a basin. Running water will quietly and gently flow over this piece that has been specially textured through a variety of techniques in order to give the granite a softer, gentler feel.

WATER — the primary symbol of baptism. Baptism symbolizes death, burial and resurrection. In baptism we are immersed in water and rise up from water. It is our entrance into the Church, our incorporation into the community of believers, and our access to eternal life. A symbol with running water, living waters, invites us time and time again to recognize the power of the waters of baptism through which we are saved. The waters call us to lay claim to the life that is ours by virtue of our baptism. By nature, water is the element associated with cleansing.

Newness of life is ours every time we die to that which prevents us from being Christ-like, every time we wash ourselves clean of fear, guilt, addiction, pride, hate, selfishness. The waters renew and ready us to live as God's own once again. Therefore we need to be able to see the water, touch it and hear it. The waters need to be not only visible but audible, not still but moving. Pooled water provides the symbolism of living water. Living water gives life. Water is a necessity for human life; water is a necessity for Christian life. It is a symbol of the refreshment that comes from God. The reality of living water is a strong reminder: It reminds us that God nourishes and sustains us; it reminds us of the rhythm of ministry and mission; it reminds us that a place of rest awaits the faithful.





WATER OF LIFE,

JESUS OUR LIGHT;

JOURNEY FROM

DEATH TO NEW LIFE.

—DAVID HAAS

WE BELIEVE

The shape, the texture, the color, the running water—all are intended to engage the senses and invite touch. Reaching through water to connect with the gentle strength of softly textured stone encourages discovery. When it is completed we believe

the sculpture will have the potential to influence and inform, teach and enlighten all those who come in contact with it. As with any good sign it will suggest meaning and instill truth, impart inspiration and support community, convey spiritual significance and communicate values.

WE believe that our water sculpture, designed from stone and flowing with living water, will be a compelling witness to our Christian and Benedictine identity. It will confront us with the reality of what it represents: hospitality, welcome, Christian identity, liberation from death and birth into eternal life.

WE believe that our water sculpture will have the potential to shape the people who come in contact with it—to shape them into people who cry for life-giving water, people who pour themselves out for others. A visual as well as a tactile encounter with waters flowing over intentionally sculpted stone with layers of meaning yet to be revealed will invite us time and time again to reflect on who we are and what we are about. Over and over it will call us to witness to the saving power of Christ and to permeate the realities of life with a response that is both Christian and Benedictine.



WE believe that our water sculpture will make present the reality it signifies, the certainty it exemplifies, the challenge it represents. It will dare us to be people of faith, hope and love. It will articulate meaning and purpose and make of itself a lasting image. Without a doubt it is our hope that it will be a sacred element and a sacred space that will delight and direct—one that will continue to speak long after it is finished and placed.

The water sculpture is the gift of Doris Cipolla (left) and Charlene M. Tanner.

It celebrates a relationship shared and a life well-lived as it honors Char's memory.

She was a gentle strength and peaceful presence until her death on April 25, 2005.



*“When you put your hand
in a flowing stream,
you touch the last that has
gone before and the first of
what is still to come.”*

Leonardo da Vinci



Our 150th Jubilee Year in 2006 provided the Benedictine Sisters of Erie with many opportunities to express gratitude for the past and hope for the future. Our lives have been and continue to be enriched by our relationships with our families, friends, students and Oblates as well as sustained by the generosity of these same people and oftentimes, anonymous donors.

The quote from da Vinci symbolizes this continuum of our “communion of benefactors” which has gone before us with our current “communion of benefactors,” many of whom are mentioned in this publication. Generosity flows from the touch of one hand into the stream of water to touch another and yet another and yet another. More than 15 generations of selfless people have touched the flowing stream of the Benedictine community, helping us to carry out our commitment to a life in community, a life of prayer and a life of service. We are grateful to those whose hands helped us to shape our past and to those whose hands will help us to shape the future.

Our 2006 Annual Report is filled with encouraging news: Our operating income increased while we were able to decrease our operating expenses. The major factor contributing to the rise in operating income was the receipt of an increased number of bequests. Each year we are humbled and thankful when we receive gift notices from the estates of “quiet” supporters along with individuals who are part of our planned giving program.

Through the generosity of our deceased benefactors our 2006 operating income increased by 7%. The Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign (see report on page 13) had a positive effect on our 2006 operating expenses. By autumn we had accumulated sufficient campaign funds to purchase and install high-efficiency boilers for hot water and heat that resulted in lower utility bills and a 1% decrease in operating expenses over 2005. We continue to be vigilant in monitoring and controlling our expenses and our income as part of our fiscal management and dedication to good stewardship of your gifts.

Each Sunday the Benedictine Sisters pray for our benefactors at our Eucharistic Liturgy. We remember the people whose hands touched the flowing spring in the past, those who touch the spring today and those who have yet to experience the flowing spring that binds us together as community. We thank God for your presence in our lives. May we continue together on our journey to create a world where all people live in peace, where charity, mercy and justice prevail and where hope reigns.

-Sister Mary Jane

Diane Cook, OSB (left)
Treasurer

Mary Jane Vergotz, OSB
Development Director

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Community of Life

During November 2006, the Benedictine Sisters were blessed to join in prayer with 854 individuals for our Community of Life program. Each participant was matched with an individual Benedictine Sister who held her partner's loved ones in daily prayer. Thank you for your donation of \$22,894.

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In Memory of Nicola and Giuseppe D'Annibale • In Memory of Rita Sgarlata • In Memory of Joseph and Mary Leone • In Honor of Sr. Marie Celine Bucholz, OSB.

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Annual Draw

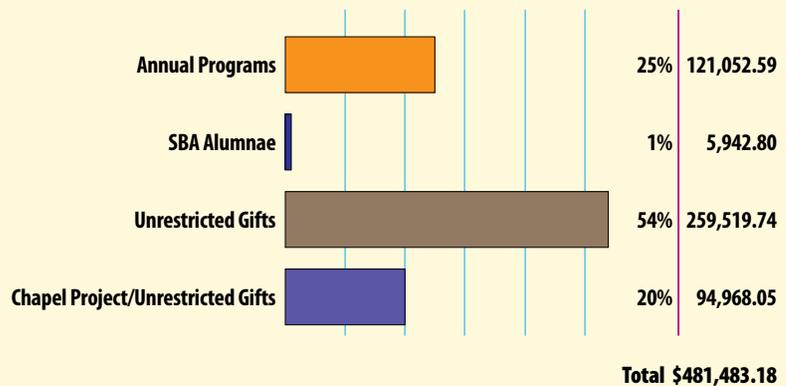
Thank you to all 1,720 benefactors who contributed more than \$57,398 to the 2006 Benedictine Sisters Annual Draw completed on July 23, 2006.

Matching Gifts

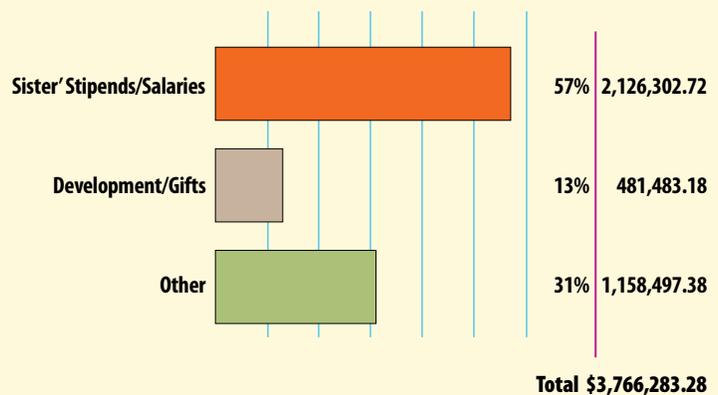
We thank the foundations that provide matching gifts to the Benedictine Sisters Ministry Fund:
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2006

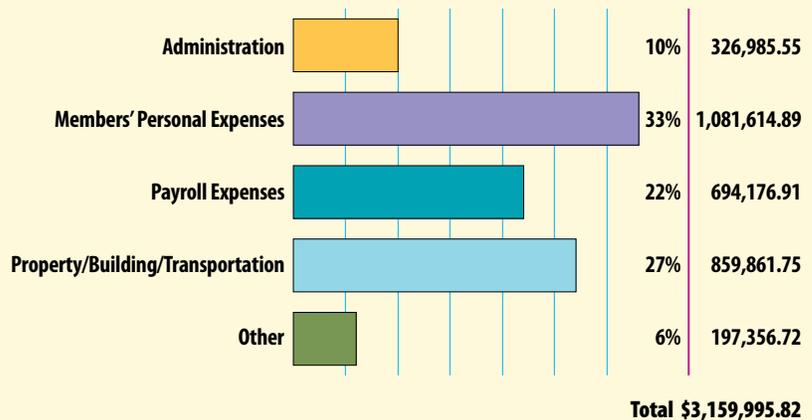
Development Income



Benedictine Sisters of Erie Operating Expenses



Operating Expenses





The Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign has exceeded the 2/3 mark toward our \$9 million campaign goal with pledges totaling \$6,094,483 and payments toward those pledges totaling \$4,616,248 as of April 11, 2007. Thank you for helping us to realize our dream of a renewed worship space. We are grateful to our families, friends, Oblates, St. Benedict Academy Alumnae, the business community and foundations who have supported our effort thus far through their contributions and volunteer work. As we enter the next phase of the Monastery Renovation—the Sisters Living Space—please consider a pledge to help us create an accessible, energy-efficient living area for our elderly Sisters and to create a ministry fund for current and future ministry efforts.

Erie Community Foundation visits ministries

Development Director Sister Mary Jane Vergotz, OSB (center) and Jo Clarke (left), director of annual giving for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, welcomed Donna Douglass of the Erie Community Foundation to the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House recently. Donna is the director of donor relations & regional affiliates for ECF and was on site to see the renovations made possible by a grant from the foundation in 2006. The \$100,000 grant was given to the Sisters' Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign Ministry Project and was also used to help fund the St. Benedict Education Center window replacement project.



Donna also visited the St. Benedict Community Center and learned from Sister Dianne Sabol, OSB, director, how the center meets the needs of a diverse group of physically, mentally and emotionally challenged persons by providing a variety of recreational and therapeutic activities.

For more campaign information in addition to the Web site call Sister Mary Jane at (814) 899-0614, Ext. 2409.



DONOR LIST

Last updated March 30, 2007

Campaign Goal:

\$9,000,000

Pledges Received:

\$6,094,438

Cash Received:

\$4,616,248

As of April 11, 2007

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We keep you in our prayers.

A Love for the Lake and



the Life it Supports



Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force

The Benedictine Sisters of **Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force** have published an environmental handbook for rural and urban Benedictine communities in Latin America. The handbook - which is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese - was produced with the editorial assistance and guidance of ARC (Alliance of Religious and Conservation) and the financial assistance of the World Bank. The project took three years to complete.

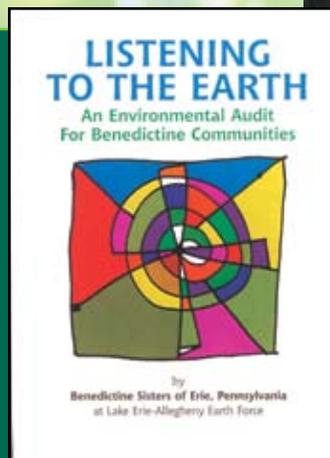
“**Listening to the Earth**” is available on the Internet and is expected to be a valuable resource for many Benedictine communities around the world. It is hoped that other religious and secular communities will take and adapt it to their own purposes. You can visit arcworld.org for more information and to download the book for free.

Sister Margarita shares her thoughts on this project and others as **Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force** celebrates 10 years.



The Benedictine Sisters at Earth Force are: Annette Marshall, OSB, administration director; Pat Lupo, OSB, program director; and Margarita Dangel, OSB, education director.

Sister Pat Lupo, OSB, tests the water quality of Seven Mile Creek as part of an Earth Force teacher training workshop at Glinodo Center in Harborcreek.



“Listening to the Earth, An Environmental Audit for Benedictine Communities” by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie of Earth Force can be downloaded from the Alliance of Religions and Conservation Web site: www.arcworld.org; it is free.



Living on the shores of Lake Erie, Sisters Annette Marshall, Pat Lupo and Margarita Dangel have developed a special affinity to Lake Erie, the Great Lakes watershed and the Earth environment in general.

The five Great Lakes are unique and a true natural treasure. Not only do they hold nearly 20% of the world's fresh water supply, they also have diverse coastal habitats where one-tenth of the population of the United States and one-quarter of the population of Canada live.

A love for the lake and the life it supports led these Sisters to study its fragile ecosystems and then teach others through their ministry at Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force. They instruct teachers and youth to look at watersheds rather than political boundaries as the definition of a region. The health of watersheds, the land area whose water (rainfall, streams) drains to a specific river or lake, will play a determining role not only in drinkable water for the future but also in the health of the entire region.

A recent example of this approach was the Earth Force Youth Training Day on Global Warming and Watersheds held at Mercyhurst College. Eleven professionals including Health Department workers, PA Fish and Boat Commission staff and college professors engaged 162 middle school students in learning about global warming issues and the effects it will produce in the community and the local watersheds.



Benedictine Sister Kathy Horan's students at Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School take a virtual tour of a community and conduct an environmental inventory. Sister Kathy, one of the most experienced Earth Force teachers, has worked with the program since it began in 1997.



Sister Margarita Dangel, OSB, explains the storm drain stenciling project to an Earth Force Montessori Regional Charter School student. She and other students stenciled this message near many storm drains in Erie County: "Dump no waste, drains to Lake" to educate neighbors about nonpoint source pollution: Pollutants detected in a concentrated water source such as a stream, river or lake that come from a wide range of sources.



Earth Force Fish! This art piece was part of the Erie community-wide public art exhibition in 2000. This fish, celebrating art, the environment and Earth Force, is now located at Glinodo Center.

Facilitating the Youth Training Day, Sister Pat encouraged students and teachers to make changes in their behavior telling them, “One person can make a difference in the reduction of CO2 and other greenhouse gases. A small group of us can make more of a difference. All of us together can significantly cut global warming.”

This call for change represents well the Earth Force mission: ***To engage young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future.*** Now in its tenth year, Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force has reached more than 20,000 students and has worked with more than 500 educators training and supporting them to create environmental improvements in their communities by changing either people’s habits or the policies by which our society operates.

Change is not achieved by one-time actions; Earth Force uses a six step process to guide students in making a long-term change. The basis of all change is knowledge about an issue and its indicators in local settings. Therefore, youth working with Earth Force start by taking an environmental community inventory. After identifying local environmental issues, they research the specifics of the issue, how it came into being, what has been done so far to resolve the issue and what solutions are recommended by various experts. The next step is setting goals and then implementing an action plan that is then followed by reflection and evaluation.

The aim of Earth Force is to provide opportunities for students to become environmental citizens. The need for these environmental citizens has never been as clear as it is today in the face of the global warming crisis. With a closer look at that issue, we also know that it is not only an environmental problem but a moral issue as well: Global warming will affect the poor and people of color worldwide more than it will harm the white middle class of the United States. We are a large part of the problem



Students at the Earth Force Youth Training Day explore their personal impact on global warming using a self-assessment tool from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Earth Force staff member Bill Bartlett, writer and editor of *Listening to the Earth*, engages students in the use of GPS (Global Positioning System units) to create maps of their communities.



Sister Pat Lupo, OSB, representing Earth Force, received the Sacred Gifts Award from the World Wildlife Fund and the Alliance for Religions and Conservation in 2001. It was one of 26 awards given, only five of which were from the United States. She traveled to Nepal to receive the award, personally delivered by Prince Philip.



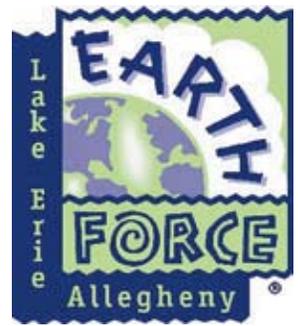
Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force serves western Pennsylvania and has an office in Pittsburgh. Earth Force students in Allegheny County study one of the educational owls at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh during the annual Earth Force Youth Summit in 2005.



Alice Peightal, an Oblate of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, has been a volunteer at Earth Force for the past 10 years. She began volunteering in 1991 at Glinodo Summer Camp, then with Earth Force. She continues to volunteer after Earth Force moved from Glinodo to the new Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle.



Earth Force participates in the annual Tom Ridge Environment Center "No Child Left Outside" Teacher Institute and trains educators with hands-on activities to foster a sense of place and to explore the impact our lives have on nature. This year's teacher institute is scheduled for June 20-22.



creating global warming but much larger world populations will suffer greater consequences if we don't make changes now.

Aware that people everywhere, and especially monastics, must take responsibility in living more consciously, Earth Force partnered with the Alliance

for Religions and Conservation (ARC) to create a handbook for religious communities that will enable them to do an environmental audit of their community. *Listening to the Earth*—much more than a handbook—was

recently published and can be downloaded from the ARC Web site

(www.arcworld.org). Bill Bartlett, Earth Force staff and principal writer

says, "In the writing of this book I grew to understand much more fully the precarious situation that we all share on this Earth; and I also grew more aware

that a disproportionate share of our environmental catastrophes are borne by the poorest on this Earth." Originally intended for use by Latin American

communities, this book is translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

Communities using the environmental audit with detailed background information will enable themselves and people everywhere to live healthier lives,

or as Sister Joan Chittister writes in the preface, "We are choosing now between those who are willing to drain the present for the sake of personal gratification and those who, loving the present, love it enough to preserve its richness for the sake of the future, as well. Clearly the whole world needs Benedictinism again, needs a mindset that cares for the tools of life 'as if they were vessels of the altar.'

We need a sense of balance, of enoughness, of stewardship and a sense of the eternal presence of God. We need a life lived in harmony with the seasons,

the sun, the self and the other."



Sister Annette Marshall, OSB, takes educators on a "green" tour of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. The Earth Force offices have been located at the center since last year. This enables Earth Force staff to network with other environmental partners at the center such as the Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Presque Isle Audubon, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

From the Director



We still have yearbooks available from 1973-75, 1977-84, and 1986-88. Memorabilia is available for purchase: tote bags, letter openers, tablets and pen-and-ink sketches of the old and new academies. Contact us at (814) 899-0614, Ext. 2573.

The Class of '67 announces their 40th reunion!

It will be on August 4 in the Garden Atrium of the Ambassador Hotel from 6-10 p.m. Graduates and their guests are welcome to attend a wonderful evening of shared memories!

Contact: Kathy Suluvski (814) 397-5413 or Ginny Kraus (814) 897-9779 / (814) 449-9502

RSVP by July 20.

The Class of '72 35-year reunion will be held on Saturday, August 25th at Jr.'s on the Bay. Invitations will be mailed soon. If you do not receive one and would like to attend, please contact Sharon Cross at (814) 835-1058 or e-mail to scross5424@hotmail.com

A Team Effort



Noon
Saturday,
July 21
to 9 a.m.
Sunday,
July 22
at McDowell
Field

Make a contribution to the Benedictine Sisters Team

- Purchase luminaria to remember a loved one or honor a survivor.
- Cheer for the Sisters Team during the Relay.

The Relay for Life Response Form is in your SBA newsletter OR download one at ErieBenedictines.org
 Information: Margaret Kloecker at (814) 459-8349.

Let us pray...

For our sister alumnae who passed into eternity—

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Marian Rastatter Haag | '32 |
| Dolores Messmer Robinson | '35 |
| Ellen M. McCallion Babo | '36 |
| Marian Heintz Davis | '37 |
| Lillian Grygier Lynch | '42 |
| Eileen Condon Lepich | '54 |
| Kathleen Cagara Smith | '70 |

Visit ErieBenedictines.org for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your e-mail address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use e-mail, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd., Erie, PA, 16511. And whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article, jot it down, or call us, so we can share the news with all our members.

Gather Together...



The Alumnae Picnic will be on Thursday, June 28 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. The fun begins at 6 p.m. Gather your friends and classmates for an enjoyable evening together! Cost is only \$7 per person. Please bring a turkey or dessert; meats, beverages and tableware are provided. NOTE: Please pack your cooler or insulated bag as refrigeration will not be available. Reservation form (from your SBA newsletter) is due by June 20. You can download the newsletter at ErieBenedictines.org. Questions? Call Margaret Kloecker '68 at (814) 459-8349.

Alumnae Outreach



Tina Krasinski Delio, '73 (above); along with Ann Comstock, '64, alumnae director; and Kate Gorczycki Arkwright, '66; discussed how to recruit volunteers to help the Development Office with telephone calls. The hope is that every single alumna is contacted in person with an invitation to give to the campaign.

The Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign's Alumnae Workgroup of the Leadership Committee met for the first time on Thursday, March 29. Together with development staff, the group reviewed the progress of the alumnae outreach for the campaign. They were excited to hear that alumnae have already contributed \$371,001 toward the campaign! The group enthusiastically discussed and formalized an action plan for raising more funds from fellow alumnae.



the Mount

The talents of the design and printing departments of Printing Concepts, Inc., in Erie, have made this issue of *The Mount* affordable for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. This issue of *The Mount* is produced by Kathy Linse. The executive editor is Sister Mary Jane Vergotz, OSB.

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