



the Mount

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE

A Season of Change and Stability

Special Edition, Fall 2010

Take Time to Watch the Leaves Turn

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"My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of God."

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Thanks to Printing Concepts, Inc., in Erie, for the design and printing of this special issue of The Mount for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. In addition, they provide certified paper, this issue FSC, which supports our efforts to be good stewards of the earth.

*This issue of The Mount is produced by Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB
 Cover Photo: Ann Muczynski, OSB*

Much has changed at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery since the spring issue of *The Mount*. In fact, there have been so many changes it was decided a special edition was in order. As I was working at pulling together this Mount magazine, I received a call from a parish priest who was in need of an organist for a funeral. My first, though fleeting, thought was that I couldn't possibly do it with this magazine deadline looming large. My second and final thought was simply, how can I not? I had no meetings and no classes to teach at the scheduled time of the funeral, no press releases pending, nothing "urgent" — except, of course, this magazine. So, because I feel that things happen for a reason, because I feel strongly about the rituals that surround life and death and death and life, and because as a church musician I know from experience how important the music component is, I agreed to provide music for the funeral. Little did I know that it would help me make sense of our vision for this issue of *The Mount*. Both in living and dying, life changes.

The season of autumn is about change; it is equally about stability. Trees change colors but still stand tall; leaves fall but the promise of new life remains; grapes are harvested but the vines linger behind; daylight lessens but does not disappear; birds migrate but they return; people die but their memory lives on. Walking the balance between change and stability is key to the experience of autumn; embracing transition and transformation is vital to the promise of rebirth and renewal of which autumn is but a reminder. Both in living and dying, life changes.

At Mount Saint Benedict Monastery we know this well. We are in the midst of a season of change and stability. It began with the election of our new prioress, Sister Anne Wambach. From there it grew as appointments were made and lives changed. In some offices different faces appeared; in others, faces were familiar. Walking the balance between change and stability is key to being Benedictine; embracing transition and transformation is vital to being Benedictine. Change and stability; transition and transformation. Both in living and dying, life changes.

Author Elizabeth Lawrence said: "Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn." Won't you watch them turn with us? Join us in embracing change, appreciating stability, reverencing transition, and experiencing transformation. In this special issue of *The Mount* we invite you to enjoy "autumn" — to experience its unique mixture of nostalgia, blessings and potential as you read about yet another beginning of what promises to be a fruitful season in this Benedictine community.

Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB

BENEDICTINE CHARISM STATEMENT

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





From the Prioress

On May 31, the day I became prioress-elect, my life began a season of change that was unlike any other I had experienced to this point. I was humbled by the trust that the community had placed in me and overwhelmed by the expression of love and support that was extended to me.

Upon my election I had the opportunity to speak to the community. I share those words with you in this special edition of *The Mount* because they express so well what I continue to feel and believe.

*May 31, 2010
Feast of the Visitation
Day of Election*

I am going to begin with a quote that I received from a friend several years ago: "She has discovered in herself a certain poverty of words; she cannot find the words to make her truest feelings understandable — even to herself."

Sisters, I have been touched deeply and I am overwhelmed by the experience in the community these past few days. In word and in action the reverence, the love, the affirmation, the giftedness of each person was so tangible; the strong desire for oneness and the sense of community so concrete.

The Feast of the Visitation, a feast in which Mary and Elizabeth celebrate a special relationship and share what God is doing in and through them, is a great day for us to celebrate our relationships in this monastic Benedictine community and through them, our relationships with the world beyond the monastery: women visiting, sharing life, reaching out to help and support one another and to celebrate their joy.

Thinking about us in community, I see myself in Mary's role, the woman with the physical strength, the excitement, the enthusiasm to walk to visit with Elizabeth—open to the wisdom that you, the many Elizabeths, have to share with me.

As Mary proclaims in the Magnificat: "My soul proclaims the greatness of God. My spirit rejoices in God my savior." God has done marvelous deeds in us; our hearts are overflowing. Let us rejoice and give thanks and praise.

I thank you for your love, your affirmation, your confidence in me. You will have my love, my affirmation, and my confidence in you as we walk together into our future.

And I thank you, our faithful family members, friends, oblates and benefactors. Your presence in our life and the gifts you bestow on us, allow us to do more than we could have ever imagined possible. With the grace of God and your ongoing support we strive to remain ever faithful to the Benedictine way of seeking God in the communal life and responding in prayer and ministry so that in all things God may be glorified!

Anne Wambach, OSB
Prioress, Benedictine Sisters of Erie

The Timeline of Change and New



Sister Anne Wambach, a native of Philadelphia, is the daughter of Isabel Thompson Wambach and the late Michael Wambach, Sr. She began her journey in religious life in 1978 when she entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA. In 1992 Sister Anne moved to Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie to respond to a desire to experience the monastic way of life. In 1997 she made her monastic profession as a Benedictine Sister of Erie. From 2006-2010, she served on the Monastic Council.

Sister Anne holds a B.S. in elementary education and an M.A. in church music in liturgy. She has ministered in the teaching profession as teacher and principal and in church music ministry as oboist, pianist and vocalist. At the time of her election, Sister Anne was serving at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, both as program and executive director.



Family members and friends of Sister Anne traveled to Erie from Philadelphia, New York and Florida to celebrate her installation as prioress.

May 31

The Church calendar celebrates the Visitation of Mary on May 31. It is the Christian feast day that commemorates the visit of two holy women, both pregnant and soon to be mothers. Mary and Elizabeth share a special moment of grace and blessing, rejoicing with one another, standing in awe of the goodness of God. Everything in this event is filled with action and excitement, with change and stability. Never again would these women be the same; always would they be blessed because of their belief that the promise of God would be fulfilled.

In this year of 2010, May 31 became a memorable day for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. After a weekend of discernment and prayer, conversation and listening, on a feast day of women celebrating women, a community of women reached out in joy and in support to embrace Sister Anne Wambach as the new prioress-elect.

June 13

As specified in *Call to Life*, the approved constitutions of the Federation of Saint Scholastica, the Monastic Council serves as "an advisory board to the prioress." In addition to this, the monastic norms for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie state that the council will consist of five members. Two members of the council are elected by the community and three members are appointed. On June 13, after engaging in a discernment process, the community elected Sisters Mary Lou Kownacki and Charlotte Anne Zalot to the Monastic Council. Following this, Sister Anne appointed the additional three members. They include: Sisters Annette Marshall, Diane Cook and Susan Doubet (sub-prioress).



Standing: L-R Sisters Annette Marshall, Charlotte Anne Zalot, Mary Lou Kownacki, and Diane Cook. Seated: Sisters Anne Wambach and Susan Doubet.

July 11

A beautiful Sunday afternoon marked the feast of Benedict and the installation of the new prioress and council. The community provided the occasion, the chapel was the setting, the guests added to the excitement; the ritual made it memorable and a reception concluded the celebration.



Beginnings, Faithfulness and Stability

Hearts overflowed with joy and love as outgoing prioress, Sister Christine Vladimiroff, called forth prioress-elect, Sister Anne Wambach, to accept the office of prioress. After being affirmed, supported and blessed by the community Sister Anne then called forth the members of the Monastic Council



to confirm their willingness to act as her advisors. At the completion of the ceremony the sisters and their guests gathered in the community and dining rooms for a lovely reception where good food and pleasant company were enjoyed by all.

It was a day of change, a day of beginnings. The threshold into a new administration had been crossed. Like most new beginnings, it was an exciting one. Something ended and something began. At this juncture, as Sister Christine said so well in the spring issue of *The Mount*: "We continue to live in interesting times which are full of potential and possibilities and challenges and limitations." As a community we embrace the changes that are happening while we remain rooted in monastic

stability. Benedict suggests that being rooted in Christ and the Gospel feeds the stability of heart that is so necessary when we are faced with change. It is our desire to stand tall as autumn trees. Whether vibrant with color or empty of leaves, our roots are strong and deep. We look forward to the possibility that is ours in this new beginning because we believe there is life in movement and potential in change.



AMONG THEMSELVES THEY SHOW THE PURE LOVE OF SISTERS; TO GOD, REVERENT LOVE; TO THEIR PRIORESS, UNFEIGNED AND HUMBLE LOVE. LET THEM PREFER NOTHING WHATEVER TO CHRIST, AND MAY CHRIST BRING US ALL TOGETHER TO EVERLASTING LIFE.

— RULE OF BENEDICT 72: 8-12



The Rite of Installation

Compiled by Sisters Patricia McGreevy and Jean Wolbert

July 11, Feast of St. Benedict, founder of western monasticism, is the traditional date for the transfer of the authority of the office of prioress to the prioress-elect through the Rite of Installation. The transfer of authority is effected in this ritual when Sister Christine, prioress, asks for and receives Sister Anne's acceptance of the office of prioress.

The ceremony opens with the solemn procession of the professed monastic community into the monastery chapel. This rite of gathering and processing to the place of worship is known as the monastic statio. It symbolizes the life long journey to God, taken, not in isolation, but together as a monastic community.

The ritual symbolizes the rich biblical tradition of the covenant relationship of God with the Israelites (Lev. 26:12) and that mutuality of leadership in the monastic community to which the prioress-elect is called. The solemnity of the moment is captured in the dialogue between the prioress, prioress-elect, and the monastic community.

Sister Anne is called forward by Sister Christine and asked if she will accept the office of prioress, the visible sign of Christ's presence in the community. With the grace of God and the support of the monastic community, Sister Anne accepts the leadership of the community in its search for God according to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict.

The covenant relationship between the monastic community and Sister Anne, prioress, is further demonstrated when Sister Anne asks the monastic community if they will continue to seek God in cenobitic community in a life lived according to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict.

The community's affirmation is expressed in prayer and with a blessing of the newly installed prioress. Each Sister greets the new prioress and receives from her some particular symbol of the covenant just exchanged in the ritual.

The prioress invites those who will serve as her advisors as members of the Monastic Council to come forward. Each in turn is asked if she will accept the responsibility to advise the prioress in guiding the community in its journey to God through a life lived according to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict.

Integral to the public observance of the prioress's installation is the call to the oblates and guests of the monastery who are in attendance to publicly state their promise to join the prioress and monastic community in its commitment to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict in the Oblate Way of Life and in making known the presence of God's mercy and compassion in the Church and the world.



Like Trees Rooted in God, Our Branches Reveal the Treasures

Administrative Staff

Administrative Associate	Susan Doubet, OSB*
Administrative Projects Director	Patricia McGreevy, OSB*
Recording Secretary of the Monastic Council and Monastic Chapter	Marilyn Schauble, OSB*

Department Directors

Communications	Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB*
Dean of the Monastery	Rosanne Loneck, OSB*
Development	Mary Jane Vergotz, OSB
Finances	Diane Cook, OSB
Food Services	Justina Gutowski, OSB
Formation (Initial and On-going)	Stephanie Schmidt, OSB*
Health Services	Nancy Hartsfield, RN
Hospitality	Jean Wolbert, OSB*
Information Technology	Mary Therese Egan, OSB
Liturgy	Irene Spacht, OSB*
Oblates	Marilyn Schauble, OSB
Physical Resources	Charles Marie Holze, OSB
Vocations	Marilyn Schauble, OSB*

Community Positions and Programs

Archives	Janet Staab, OSB
Chronicle	Theresa Zoky, OSB
Future Planning	Patricia McGreevy, OSB*
Lay Personnel	Judith Trambley, OSB
Library	Margaret Zeller, OSB
Wellness	Helen Heher, OSB

* New Appointments

Sabbatical Granted

It is the Benedictine practice for the outgoing prioress to have a sabbatical time, a period of rest from work. While Sister Christine remains the President of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses until 2014 and although she does have some presentations and retreats scheduled throughout this next year, she will have the opportunity to have what Benedict calls "holy leisure." In Sister Christine's words:

"The monastic practice of holy leisure is the capacity to savor stillness and solitude which is neither idleness nor laziness. It is to enter into a new rhythm. I consider myself fortunate to have the gift of time to 'do' Sabbath." The community continues to support Sister Christine in wishing her a rich and memorable sabbatical, one whose rhythm refreshes and energizes her for all the good things yet to come.



THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED... RB 52

Degree Earned

Community member, Katherine Horan, OSB, was recently awarded an associate specialized technology degree from the Erie Institute of Technology. We congratulate her for satisfying the program requirements in Multimedia Graphic Design and are certain that she will find ways to put her studies and accomplishments to good use.



Dream Realized

Four Benedictine Sisters are involved in a project sponsored by The Trinity Square Foundation, Inc. (TSF) that hopes to bring beauty to the inner city through art, literature and environment. TSF is a group of volunteer neighbors, businesses, religious leaders and committed



With Holy Trinity Church in the background, Sisters Mary Miller (standing) and Mary Lou Kownacki mark the site of the Inner-City Poetry Park.

citizens working to reclaim and renew a deteriorating central-city neighborhood, specifically a square four block area that includes East 22nd and East 23rd Streets from Reed to Ash. Sisters Mary Lou Kownacki, Mary Miller, Anne McCarthy and Mary Ellen Plumb, three of them TSF Board members and all of them presently residing in the

neighborhood, recently received a grant from the Erie Community Foundation that will help a dream come true: an Inner-City Poetry Park. The Poetry Park will provide a beautiful and safe gathering space for creative programs in poetry and music as well as a place for neighbors to celebrate, rest or play. Sister Mary Lou explains: **"In that garden, we will plant -- on artistic fences and flowers and paths -- words of beauty like 'Hold fast to dreams' and 'Life has loveliness to sell.' These will be words that children and adults can read and print on their hearts. Words that can sustain them in dark times. Words that bring them closer to God's intent for human beings."**

A Valiant Woman Honored

On Saturday, August 21, the chapel at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery was the site for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Erie branch of Church Women United (CWU). CWU is a national volunteer, racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian



**Glorify God. Cherish Christ.
Listen to the Spirit. Reverence one another.
Uphold all.** — MARILYN SCHAUBLE, OSB

women's movement. It celebrates unity in diversity and works for a world of peace and justice. Included in this celebration were the CWU Valiant Women Awards. Among the 2010 Valiant Women honorees was Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB. She was recognized for her commitment and service to this organization for more than 35 years, particularly through her involvement in Inter-Church Ministries. The leadership she has provided through example and every day Gospel living was acknowledged with deep appreciation. The community rejoices with Sister Mary Louis on the occasion of this very special honor.



October Art Show: Drops of Memory

An art show of recent digital photographs and stained glass by artist, Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, will open on Sunday, October 3 from 10:30

to 11:30 a.m. This show, inspired by tears of sorrow and memory at the death of loved ones, represents a collection of various types of water on and in nature. It is being held in the Chapter 57 Gallery at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. In addition to the Sundays of October during which the show is open from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., it will be open daily during Chapter 57 gift shop hours: M-W-F, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and T-TH, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The show closes on Sunday, October 31, at 10:30 a.m. In Sister Margaret Ann's words, "This is a significant show for me since I lost my Dad and brother-in-law last year. The water is not only from rain, but also tears of sorrow and memory. Water is such a life source that in sorrow, new life does emerge in many forms. The movement of our life journey is to the light and beyond. These works represent part of that journey."

New Executive Directors Named

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

Annette Marshall, OSB, has been appointed to the position of executive director at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. She will continue the work of Anne Wambach, OSB, former executive director, who was recently installed as the 21st prioress of the Benedictines of Erie. Says Sister Anne, "Sister Annette's educational background and ability in teaching and administration, along with her years of community leadership, will bring to this position all of the qualities needed to



continue commitment and dedication to the inner-city children of Erie."

Sister Annette currently serves as executive director of Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, now known as Earth Action. She previously worked as associate director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern, PA and as an elementary and high school teacher at various local schools. As a result of having held administrative posts at institutions including Villa Maria Academy, Saint Benedict Academy and Saint Gregory School, North East, Sister Annette brings a wealth of administrative and educational experience to her new position. "The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House plays an important role in the city of Erie," Sister Annette says. "I look forward to continuing the strength and purpose of this very meaningful ministry with energy and excitement."



AIM USA

The Board of Trustees of AIM USA has appointed Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, as the new executive director of the secretariat, a position that had been held by Susan Doubet, OSB. Most recently Sister Stephanie has served as Executive Director of House of Healing in Erie, a residential program for women, and alternative to prison, where they can reside with their children.

Sister Stephanie has taught theology in secondary schools and directed other social service programs in the city of Erie. Having studied at the Gregorian University in Rome, as well as having participated in summer conferences in Paris and a summer with missionaries in Guatemala, Sister Stephanie brings a familiarity with the international world to this position. The wisdom she has gained from these experiences will no doubt serve Sister Stephanie well.

**"SUCCESS IS NOT THE KEY TO HAPPINESS.
HAPPINESS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. If you love
WHAT YOU ARE DOING, you will be successful."**

— HERMAN CAIN

“As Benedictine Sisters of Erie we commit ourselves to be a healing presence and prophetic witness for peace by working for sustainability and justice, especially for women and children.” Corporate Commitment

New Beginnings . . .

that is the Sisters' hope for the thousands of children, families, refugees and the poor and hungry who are served every day in the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

These stories and photos are just a snapshot of the many people whose lives have changed as a result of the partnership between you and the Sisters. They are stories of courage, determination and the triumph of the human spirit over the harsh environment in which many live. Without you, none of this would be possible.



Ministries of the Benedictine Sisters

St. Benedict Child Development Center –	175 children per year
St. Benedict Community Center –	400 people a week
Benetwood Retirement Apartments –	83 residents
Emmaus Soup Kitchen –	42,000 meals served per year
Food Pantry –	600 families registered/20,000 food bags distributed each year
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House –	500 children per year after-school, evening and summer program
Sister Gus' Kid's Café –	10,000 meals served per year to children after school



Your past financial support has touched the lives of many, helping to uphold a vision of society where all can live in justice and harmony.

Your assistance is needed to continue this pattern of change. Some of the present needs that you can help with include:

A new roof for Benet Center, the building that houses ministry offices, a Sisters' small group residence, and a job simulation program designed to train unemployed parents and refugees with actual hands-on work skills, so that they will be better prepared when they enter the workforce.

New basketballs, volleyballs, dodge balls, carts, vests, whistles, and games for the physically, mentally and emotionally challenged persons, and at-risk youth that enjoy recreation at St. Benedict Community Center. The center is the neighborhood gym for wheelchair basketball, soccer, and floor hockey.

Building up the *Fresh Start Fund* which allows parents enrolled in St. Benedict Education Center programs to draw small amounts of money to help with children's school supplies, token gifts for special occasions such as birthdays, as well as diapers and emergency situations such as utility payments and bus tokens.



Benedictine Sisters of Erie Community of Life Program 2010



At the monastery:

New stoves and ovens for the kitchen. The present stoves are so old parts are longer available for repairs.

A re-coating of the deck/roof so it can survive another harsh winter and prevent floods.

New flooring in the hallways and community and dining rooms of Mount St. Benedict, home to many of the Sisters.

Financial support for the operating budget to help with the basics of life: electricity, health insurance, food and transportation.

The projects, programs, services and needs mentioned are some of the things that your gifts subsidize. Perhaps you are familiar with the adage: "The power of giving can change a person's life." It has become a popular catchphrase to encourage people to share from their means and it makes sense in the context of this special issue of *The Mount*. The complete giving of self to the new tasks and jobs to which many of the Benedictine Sisters have been called has indeed changed lives, stretching and fulfilling the sisters in new and wonderful ways. The sisters' resolve and energy to continue their ministries is stronger than ever. We ask your help so that the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, made manifest by assisting those in need, may be sustained. "The power of giving can change a person's life." May your life be blessed because of your giving.

The enclosed envelope is offered for your use. You can also go to the secure website, <http://www.eriebenedictines.org/help> to learn of other ways of giving.

We sincerely thank you for supporting the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and their life-giving work.

The Church Year, most often referred to as the liturgical year, celebrates a Christian understanding of time. In her book, *The Liturgical Year*, Joan Chittister, OSB, writes "The liturgical year is the year that sets out to attune the life of the Christian to the life of Jesus, the Christ. It proposes, year after year, to immerse us over and over again into the sense and substance of the Christian life until, eventually, we become what we say we are — followers of Jesus all the way to the heart of God."

During the month of November we celebrate in a special way all those who have gone before us in death to find their way to the heart of God. The belief that they now share in the joy of eternity calls us to prayer; the belief that they now live fully in God infuses us with hope that one day we will be reunited with them.

We invite you to cherish the memory of your deceased loved ones by taking part in our Community of Life Program. Send us the names of those for whom you would like us to pray. Throughout November, the month of all saints and all souls,

we, the Benedictine sisters, will include those names in a special remembrance during our communal prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours. At the same time, individual sisters will hold your intentions close while mentioning the names of your spouses, family members, and friends in their daily prayer.

A donation is not necessary to join the Community of Life Program. If you choose to gift us with a contribution we will use it to continue the work we do in our many ministries. Most importantly, we ask you to pray for and with us. It is this support that allows us to continue the Benedictine way of reverencing Christ in one another.

Join us for a special liturgy at
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
on the
Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m.
Please be our guest for
coffee and breads
after the liturgy.

Dear Sisters,
Thank you for the invitation to join the Community of Life Program.
Please pray for

at the Liturgy of the Hours throughout the month of November.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
e-mail _____
Offering _____

Mail to:
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
6101 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511-1599

From the **Director**



E-MAIL CALL!

We are adding a new form of communication called Constant Contact. This is an e-mail program alerting Alumnae members of upcoming events as well as timely news items. We need your e-mail address for this. Please send it, including your first, maiden and last names along with class year, to Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org.

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

Lavina G. Haibach Graf	'27
Marcella Berchtold Fromknecht	'33
Elizabeth Baumann Ingram	'36
Virginia Kaminski Conover	'43
Mildred Berdis Merski	'47
Mary Lou Stein Cooney	'48
Patricia Carrigan Kiefer	'52
Maxine Helen Lupo	'53
Jean Ann Hammer	'54
Mary Therese Wittman Pope	'55
Dolores Adamus Cowan	'57
Barbara Mikolajczyk Cyterski	'57
Kathleen Hunter Schumacher	'57
Alice Dillon	'58
Marilyn Paluszewski Widomski	'58
Anita Jane Mancuso Feddock	'60
Linda Kremp Baker	'61
Ann Wozniak	'61

*"We'll always come to thee again,
when Alma Mater calls"*

SBA ALUMNAE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

President: Mary Rita Roach Groucutt '72
Vice President: Katherine Shewan Young '87
Treasurer: Cathy Considine Stemmler '64
Alumnae Director: Ann Comstock '64
Benedictine Community Liason: Rosanne Loneck, OSB '61
 Mary Ellen Plumb, OSB '71
 Lisa Manendo '74
 Cathleen Piorkowski Hedderick '76
 Darlene Harkness Kerstetter '82
 Paula Roseborough Medina '89
 Cheryl Lenhart '89

A special welcome is extended to our new Executive Board members: Darlene Kerstetter, Paula Medina and Cheryl Lenhart. We look forward to working with you over these next 2 years.



Reunions



Members of the SBA classes of '89, '90, and '91 met on July 26 at Mount Saint Benedict for their class reunion. They shared a picnic lunch with the Sisters. It was a great chance to get together with old friends and recall days spent at SBA.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 22 SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
November 10 SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
December 7 Annual Christmas party at Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center

We will be celebrating Christmas in a new way this year! The event has been moved to the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center. There will be free Valet parking at the door and a larger area for dining. We hope to see many of you there. Start getting your groups together early. Watch the mail for your invitations. You should see them at the end of October.



Get your gang
together now
for this annual
festive holiday
event!



Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB '48 with Catherine Anderson '66 getting together on a night of phoning on behalf of the Annual Appeal along with Renee Theobald Kloecker '56, shown right.

ANNUAL ALUMNAE CAMPAIGN

The Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association is currently in the midst of our Annual Appeal. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." With that thought in mind, we are asking that alumnae members consider making a gift to support the Alumnae Association Scholarship Fund and other Alumnae activities, the Sisters' most urgent needs or Ministries supported by the Benedictine Sisters. For more information, contact Ann Comstock at 814-899-0614, Ext 2573 or visit the secure Web site ErieBenedictines.org.

HELPING HANDS PROGRAM UPDATE

Volunteers are needed at the following Ministries of the Benedictine Sisters:

Benetwood Apartments

Contact:
Pat Hause, OSB
(814) 899-0088

St. Benedict Community Center

Contact:
Dianne Sabol, OSB
(814) 459-2406

Saint Benedict Education Center

Contact:
Miriam Mashank, OSB
(814) 452-4072, Ext 234

Emmaus Ministries

Contact:
Mary Miller, OSB
Margaret Kloecker
(814) 459-8349

The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

Contact:
Annette Marshall, OSB
(814) 455-5508

Mount Saint Benedict Wellness Program

Contact:
Helen Heher, OSB
(814) 899-0614, Ext 2403





Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
6101 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511-1599

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Please help us to maintain an accurate mailing list and keep our costs down by contacting us with any change in mail or e-mail information. If you prefer not to receive *The Mount* please let us know. Send correspondence to: Ann Comstock, Benedictine Sisters, Development Office, Mount St. Benedict Monastery 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511, (814) 899-0614, Ext. 2573, sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org



*You are always welcome in our home at
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.*