

Seeing 2020 With a New Vision Statement

What is short, unifying, presents a compelling future, invites others into that future and requires organization members to stretch their expectations, aspirations and ambitions to accomplish a mission? Our new vision statement!

It did not come quickly for us. Trusting the words of Habakkuk, "If you wait for the vision, it will surely come," we carefully sorted, sifted, pondered and prayed over those crucial words that would inspire us, shape us, empower us and bring us into the future. Patience and perseverance won the day on June 14, 2008, when we agreed upon the vision that possessed the power to stretch us toward our mission.

"Prayer Awakens. Justice Impels. Compassion Acts. Thy Kingdom Come." This call excites our imagination, invites our hearts and stirs our energies to create a preferred future for ourselves and others.

"Prayer Awakens" reminds us that Benedictine life, as in past ages, always begins with prayer. We once again affirm the primacy of prayer in our lives—communal and personal. It is only through prayer, contemplative prayer, that we leave behind distractions, divisions, and fragmentation and go to that place of inner wholeness and truth where we see differently; where we see persons, places and events in light of the Scripture; where we see situations as God sees them.

Seeing differently is not enough. God, as portrayed in the bible, not only sees the needs of the people but especially has compassion for the poor, the widow, the orphan and the oppressed. Awareness of the many needs around us impels us, incites us to have compassion for the hungry, the immigrant, the imprisoned, the uninsured, and the many others who stand outside the circle of privilege. Our vision "Justice Impels" does not give the option to be unmoved by the needs of so many.

Prayer awakens. Justice impels. Compassion acts.

Thy Kingdom Come.

Feeling with and for those who suffer invites action. Trusting God's liberating power while recognizing it usually occurs through human beings, "Compassion Acts." Our vision calls us to be involved in the work of justice, the work of right relationships with God, self, others and the planet. Whatever discerned action individuals or our community takes on behalf of neighbor or planet, it must come from a compassionate, healing stance.

"Thy Kingdom Come!" is a cry for completion and expresses the why of our prayer and works. The "Kingdom," now incomplete, requires our efforts to bring it to greater fullness—the fullness envisioned by Isaiah and Jesus where good news is preached to the poor, captives are freed, sight is returned to the blind, and oppression of all kinds is ended. "Thy Kingdom Come," words taken from the Lord's Prayer which we pray together three times daily, will also serve as a reminder to us of the vision we have embraced: to be awakened by prayer, impelled by justice and moved by compassion to make God's vision, the vision of Jesus alive in the world.

Although we have only begun to unpack its meaning, this vision is already making its way into how we think, how we choose and how we reach out. May it guide us to a future spent for others.

As we mark our Centennial, we are so aware of how you also have shaped this vision in us. Our Strategic Planning process invited and received wide participation from you. Forty-five people beyond community members served on the Planning Committee; three

hundred people were interviewed generating 3000 pieces of information to assist us in planning for the future; and your prayers sustained us as we persevered in the process. Thank you. We now look forward to 2020 with 2020 vision hoping for 100 more years of being about the work of the kingdom.

Blessings, S. Clarissa ✨



Sr. Clarissa at her 50th anniversary of monastic profession, August 16, 2008.

Celebrating 100 Years “At Home” in Idaho

Centennial Launch at 16th Annual Raspberry Festival a Big Success

The 16th Annual Raspberry Festival, August 3, 2008, was a resounding success. Almost 3,000 festival-goers enjoyed a fun-filled, family-focused day featuring: a 10K Raspberry Fun Run / 5K Shortcake Walk; Cowboy Breakfast; commemorative display at the Museum; famous raspberry shortcake and BBQ beef sandwiches; Show-N-Shine Car Show; live music; quilt show at Spirit Center; cultural and craft demonstrations; silent auction; Grand Prize raffle; raspberry products; museum visits; chapel tours; and an Arts & Crafts Fair with more than 40 vendors. At 1:00 pm the chapel bells delighted the crowd for 10 full minutes – joyously ringing in the official opening of the Monastery of St. Gertrude Centennial: “Celebrating 100 Years ‘At Home’ in Idaho, 1909 – 2009”.

Trying the Bean Bag Toss.



A highlight of this year’s event was the 8-game, old-fashioned Kids Carnival. Raspberry Festival attendees of all ages tested their luck at the Guess How Many booth; hunted for treasure at the Gemstone Dig; and won prizes playing classic carnival games including Knock ‘Em Down Baseball, Ring Toss, Fishin’ Pond, Dart Throw, Bean Bag Toss and Penny Pitch. Jingles, a balloon artist clown, added to the fun – twisting whimsical creations for all. For photos and more info about the Festival, visit www.HistoricalMuseumAtStGertrude.org ✪



Jingles the Clown delighted the crowd.



Left to right: Lewis & Clark Long Boat Reenactor; Enjoying the Arts & Crafts Fair; Music, Shortcake and more were popular in the gym; Prioress Clarissa Goeckner with Boise Mayor David Bieter.

Centennial

2008 - 2009 Upcoming Centennial Events

September 14, 2008, 2:30 - 4:00 PM, Monastery Chapel
Feast of St. Hildegard of Bingen FREE Concert
Honoring: St. Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, musician, artist, herbalist, educator and Mother Hildegard Vogler, Foundress of St. Gertrude’s in Cottonwood 100 years ago.
Featuring: Carletta Allen of Cottonwood, violinist, accompanied by Sister Cecile Marie Uhlom, organist; Kathryn Radakovich of Lewiston, vocalist, accompanied by Sr. Cecile Marie Uhlom; and The Jellybeans of Pullman/Moscow, an a capella choral group.

September 18, 2008, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Spirit Center
Historical Museum’s Fall Lecture Series
C.E.S. Wood and the Nez Perce. Laurence Cotton, co-producer of this new documentary film, will present the film and discuss the deep impact the Nez Perce War had on Wood’s life and his multifaceted career, as well as on regional, national, and Nez Perce tribal history. The film also details the friendship that developed between Wood and Chief Joseph.

September 25, 2008, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Spirit Center
Historical Museum’s Fall Lecture Series
All the News That’s Fit to Sing: Scandals, Politics & Slander in Song. Bill Rossiter performs “musical oral history”. Few of the songs are polished, but many are hilarious, and they have guts and directness that make up for what they lack in finesse. Courtesy of Idaho Humanities Council.

October 2, 2008, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Spirit Center
Historical Museum’s Fall Lecture Series
Celebrating 100 Years “At Home” in Idaho. Sister Janet Marie Barnard, OSB, tells the history of the Sisters of the Monastery of St. Gertrude. Rare historic photos enhance the lecture.

October 9, 2008, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Spirit Center
Historical Museum’s Fall Lecture Series
Steaming on the River. Carole Simon-Smolinski will discuss the history of steamboats on the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. Historic period photographs included.

November 16, 2008, 2:30 - 4:00 PM, Monastery Chapel
Feast of St. Gertrude of Helfta FREE Concert
Honoring: St. Gertrude of Helfta, Patroness of the Monastery, author, spiritual director and the faculty and students of St. Gertrude’s Academy (SGA). **Featuring:** Former SGA students and faculty.

December 14, 2008, 7:00 PM, Monastery Chapel
Cottonwood Community Choir Christmas Concert
Honoring: The Swiss Sisters with Samen’s special devotion to the Jesu Kind (Christ Child) **Featuring:** Selections by the Sisters.

January 1, 2008, 12:15 PM (Noon Meal), Refectory
Monastery History Series
Beginning of 3-4 minute readings from Monastery’s history. Readings will occur daily until the Grand Finale on August 16, 2009).



Congratulations, Golden Jubilarians!

Prioress Clarissa Goeckner and Sisters Ida Mae Fuchs and Bernadette Stang celebrated 50 years of monastic profession on August 16, 2008 in the monastery chapel. The Sisters renewed their commitment before more than 250 family members, friends and well-wishers who attended the glorious ceremony and outdoor reception following.

Bishop Michael P. Driscoll presided over the Eucharist with its resounding hymns, instrumental selections, scripture readings and a moving homily by Sr. Bernadette's nephew Father Mark Stang.

Jubilee themes of renewal, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice were highlighted throughout the liturgy and woven into the context of St. Gertrude's current Centennial celebration: "100 Years 'At Home' in Idaho, 1909 – 2009."

For more about this event, photo slideshows and stories about the Golden Jubilarians please visit us on the web at www.StGertrudes.org/jubilees.htm ✽



Left to right: Srs. Bernadette, Ida Mae and Clarissa, at their first monastic profession, June 11, 1958.

"I am grateful to my community for their support and love over these many years."

-Sister Ida Mae Fuchs



Father Mark Stang delivers a moving homily as Srs. Bernadette (left), Clarissa (center) and Ida Mae look on.

"In reflecting on these fifty Golden years, my heart is overflowing with gratitude."

-Sister Bernadette Stang



Srs. Clarissa (left) and Bernadette admire the reception cake.

"As I look to the future, our community is celebrating its 100 years of presence and service in Idaho. My hope is that the vision, heroism, ingenuity, faith and spirit of service that inspired our foremothers will continue to be with us."

-Sister Clarissa Goeckner

100 YEARS

St. Gertrude's Centennial Prayer

Loving, ever faithful God, we thank you for this past century of our presence here on the Camas Prairie.

We are grateful for the pioneering women who established this monastery and laid the foundation for the Sisters' works of prayer and service during these past 100 years.

It is with gratitude and joy that we celebrate our "100 Years 'at Home' in Idaho" and look forward with anticipation to the years that are yet to be. We ask for your continued guidance and blessings on all that you ask of us for the welfare of your people and for the Church.

May we glorify you through our ministry of prayer and our commitment to social justice. May we be fruitful and meet the needs of your people and the earth you have given us to tend. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our brother.

100 YEARS

Amen.

Request copies of St. Gertrude's Centennial Prayer. Send a SASE to: Monastery of St. Gertrude Development Office ATTN: Bookmark Request 465 Keuterville Road Cottonwood, ID 83522



Left to right: Fr. Mark Stang, Prioress Clarissa Goeckner, Bishop Michael P. Driscoll, Sisters Bernadette Stang and Ida Mae Fuchs.

The Journey “Home”

Our First 25 Years
Part 1 of a Special Centennial Series

In 1882 foundresses Mother Johanna Zumstein and Sisters Rosalia Ruebli and Magdalene Suter came to the United States from Sarnen, Switzerland. They lived and worked at Gervais, Oregon before moving to Uniontown, Washington in 1884 and then to Colton, Washington in 1894. In 1907, Mother Hildegard Vogler brought the Sisters to Idaho with the intent to establish a permanent community. On April 26, 1909 St. Gertrude’s was officially declared the Motherhouse — marking the beginning of 100 years of Benedictine presence on the Camas Prairie. The journey “home” had taken 25 years.

From the perspective of the present day, Sister Evangela Bossert envisions the moment when the decision was made to relocate to Idaho:

In the fall of 1905, Mother Hildegard Vogler was re-elected for a second three-year term as Prioress. Very soon she realized that their crowded living conditions had to be addressed. She concluded that her first priority must be choosing a site to build a new Motherhouse and Novitiate. Then she learned that Abbot Frowin Conrad from Conception Abbey in Missouri was beginning a new foundation a few miles into the hills around Cottonwood, Idaho. Already Fr. Berthold, OSB, had become the pastor of St. Mary’s parish in Cottonwood, and had been asking her to send teachers for the parish school. Even more challenging, was the letter from Bishop Alphonse Glorieux of the Boise Diocese, hoping for teaching sisters for the State of Idaho.

Mother Hildegard recalled that a few year’s earlier, John and Gertrude Uhlenkott had offered to give the sisters some of their land if they would settle on the Camas Prairie and build a monastery there. With this in mind Mother Hildegard went to find Mother Johanna to discuss the situation with her.

Mother Hildegard: Mother, I think we are going to have to look beyond the State of Washington to find enough land to build a permanent Motherhouse with room for expansion.

Mother Johanna: I visited Camas Prairie and Cottonwood in 1901 with Father James Frei and Mr. Schultheis.

Mother Hildegard: That must have been after you and Sr. Mechtilde returned from your trip to Switzerland—when you brought us five new candidates.

Mother Johanna: Yes it was. At that time we were considering the Camas Prairie as a possible site for a more permanent home.

Mother Hildegard: But you made no decision. Why not?

Mother Johanna: We decided that it was too remote since there was no railway transportation.

Mother Hildegard: But that is changed now and the railroad is going through.

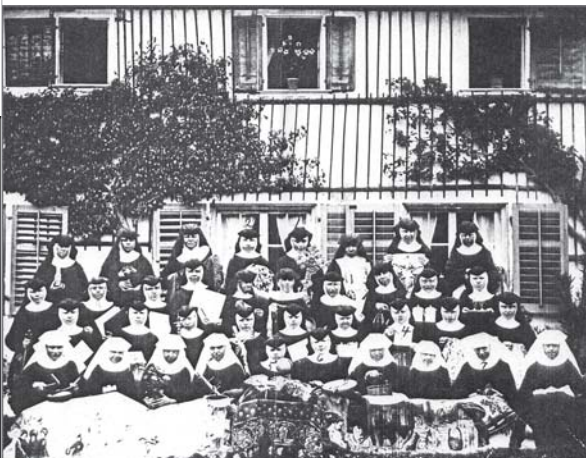
Mother Johanna: Yes, that is true, but even now I favor building in Whitman County where we have already settled and made some friends.

Mother Hildegard: But you realize that land is very difficult to obtain here.

Mother Johanna: Yes, I am aware of that. I will go with you to Cottonwood so a new judgement can be made. Perhaps now is the time for me to ask to be relieved of the responsibility of being your assistant. A younger member could be of greater help at this time.

Mother Hildegard: You have always been a treasure in the community, but I will honor your request.

Mother Johanna: I no longer have the heart for a new project that will be so challenging. I will be content to remain at St. Scholastica’s and continue to supervise the grounds and orchards. The outdoors has become my cloister and St. Scholastica’s, my home. ✕



EARLY 1880s

The founding Motherhouse at Sarnen, Switzerland.



1882

Mother Johanna Zumstein (center) and Sisters Magdalene Suter (left) and Rosalia Ruebli arrive in the United States.



1883

The Sisters' first residence in Gervais, Oregon.

On the Mission: Barbara Ann Bielenberg

Sister Barbara Ann Bielenberg has been a Registered Nurse for 38 years – the last ten at St. Joseph Care Center (SJCC) in Spokane, WA. Starting on the graveyard shift, Sr. Barbara became Night Supervisor and later moved to swing shift. This year, she was appointed day shift MDS (Minimum Data Set) Coordinator, which is part of the Government's federally mandated process for clinical assessments of all residents in Medicare or Medicaid certified nursing homes. Sister Barbara feels that her Benedictine way of life is a special gift God has given her to share and that the values at SJCC of Teamwork, Respect, Compassion and Integrity fit well with her monastic values and mission.

“In all of this I grow in understanding God’s call and transformation.”

-Sister Barbara Ann Bielenberg

Sister Barbara shares that, “In all of this I grow in understanding God’s call and transformation. In healing hospitality I thank

those who help me and give me a chance to serve them. I attempt to acknowledge the dignity and sacredness of each person. In grateful simplicity I use my gifts as a nurse in giving and caring for others. In creative peacemaking I strive to make others feel

comfortable, accepted and valued. I work at change for the better and seek to be an example of justice for all.” ❖



Sr. Barbara Ann with a patient.

Benedictine Sister Traveled to Africa

Sister Evangela Bossert’s childhood dream came true when she and Sister Dorothy Jean Byers from Queen of Angels Monastery in Mt. Angel, OR, traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa July 12 –August 24, 2008. They lived, prayed, studied, made presentations, reflected, and discussed the Benedictine Way with a group of 65 Benedictine sisters there. This opportunity is part of the Alliance of International Monasticism’s effort to deepen the connections among monastic communities of Cistercians and Benedictines world-wide.



Sr. Evangela Bossert.

Sr. Evangela grew up in Kansas City, MO in the 1930’s and 40’s when it was clearly a segregated city. Even as a child, questions about that cultural practice walked the backroads

“I see this opportunity to be with these 65 African Sisters as a call to discipleship.”

-Sister Evangela Bossert

of her mind. “My parents seldom talked about the issue but their actions taught me an alternative. When people, whether white or black, came

to our home in need of help, they were invited to the family table,” Sr. Evangela explained.

When she joined St. Gertrude’s at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement she knew she desired to expand her cultural perceptions. Reading books and watching programs on cultures of black people around the world deepened her appreciation for them and her respect blossomed anew when she was privileged to direct sisters from different African countries who participated in a 90-day sabbatical program at St. Gertrude’s in the 1980’s and 90’s. She admired their beautiful English and their daring involvement in programs to help African women become educated and earn a living.

“I see this opportunity to be with these 65 African Sisters as a call to discipleship,” Sr. Evangela said. “My whole life has been so safe. This was a departure from the familiar. It made me focus on the oneness of faith within the church. It invited me to act in solidarity with these women, to relate with them primarily by acting as Christ would act with them.” ❖



1905-1907

Mother Hildegard Vogler relocates the sisters to Cottonwood, Idaho.



1909

On April 26, 2009 St. Gertrude’s Convent is officially declared the Motherhouse.

The Harvest Is Ready; Will You Help?

Capital Campaign Update by Sr. Mary Kay Henry, Director of Development



“The harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers for the harvest.

-Matthew 9:37

Freshly mown hay, amber waves of grain and canola, early fall flowers, ripening apples, tasseling corn, colorful leaves, washed canning jars and the county fair all evoke images of harvest.

Through our **“Growing a Future Rooted in Hope”** capital campaign we continue to cultivate our dream to seek God as a vibrant Benedictine community in which **“Prayer awakens. Justice impels. Compassion acts. Thy Kingdom Come.”**

Specifically, cultivating the dream has born fruit in three primary fields: a beautiful, much-used conference and retreat center called Spirit Center; a more energy efficient monastery that is updated for the 21st century; and life-extending endowments for Spirit Center and the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude. For the past four years we have invited our families, friends, co-workers, foundations, vendors and others to participate in growing our future as a house of prayer and a center for ministry and spirituality by contributing to our capital campaign. **Thanks to the generous response of 889 donors we have garnered \$4,423,585 (88%) of our \$5,000,000 harvest. Will you help us reap the full harvest by the end of 2008?**



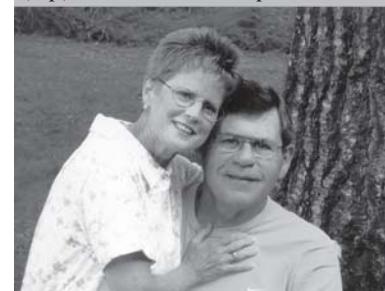
Fall sunshine streams through a new monastery window.

Spirit Center

- 3 various sized meeting rooms
- 22 double occupancy guest rooms
- Spectacular views
- Prayer and meals with the sisters
- Walking, hiking spaces
- Many options for different kinds of retreats, educational opportunities, meetings, events and more
- Skilled staff for spiritual direction, group facilitation
- Over 1,200 retreatants annually
- Over 600 additional participants in educational functions, meetings and events
- **Cost of building Spirit Center: \$3,400,000**



Retreatants enjoying Spirit Center: Come to the Quiet, February 2008 (top) and the 2007 Couples Retreat.



Renovation of the Historic Monastery

- 273 single-pane windows replaced with double pane, energy efficient models
- ADA compliant elevator installed to provide access to every floor in the monastery
- Obsolete telephone and nurse call systems replaced
- Living and work spaces remodeled and rearranged
- **Costs of Renovations: \$2,000,000**
 - Windows: \$606,000
 - Elevator: \$432,031
 - Communications systems: \$91,000
 - Renovations and furnishings: \$870,969

See Our Life, Share Our Future

Within the main capital campaign we conducted a focused mini-campaign, “See Our Life, Share Our Future”, inviting people to sponsor a monastery window. Two very successful phonathons raised \$329,221 as part of this mini-campaign. This, along with prior contributions, totals \$529,725 of the \$606,000 goal for windows.

WIN A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Donate any amount to our capital campaign now through November 13, 2008 for a chance to win one of three special **\$100 Centennial Gift Certificates** for **Spirit Center**, the **Museum** or the **Book & Gift Shop!** Drawing to be held at the Feast of St. Gertrude concert, November 16, 2008, 2:30 PM, in the monastery chapel. FOR INFO: 208-962-5062.

"Our involvement with the Monastery of St. Gertrude is our strong belief that their stated missions help society at large with core spiritual and environmental values. Their accomplishments during the past hundred years reflect those strengths. The Sisters have a mission statement for the future and a plan for how to implement it. Their five year Capital Campaign Program is nearing a successful end, thanks to you. Your continued prayers and gifts will help the Sisters accomplish their missions." -Doug & Mary Ellen Black, Lewiston, ID. Doug serves on our Development Council & Capital Campaign Committee.

Endowments for Spirit Center and the Historical Museum

- Provide long-term financial stability
- Expand programming
- Cover extraordinary maintenance costs
- Assist with salaries when necessary
- Over 8,500 guests annually at museum to see exhibits, or participate in meetings and events
- **Goal for endowments: \$1,500,000**
 - Spirit Center: \$1,000,000
 - Museum: \$500,000 (already had \$600,000)

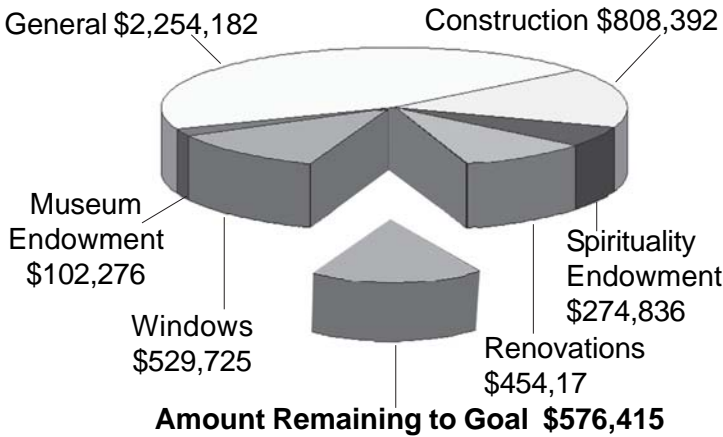


The Historical Museum at St. Gertrude is a popular destination for school groups.

A Special Invitation

✦ We invite you to join in the mission of our community by making as generous a gift as possible to our "Growing a Future Rooted in Hope" campaign.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY



Special Donor Recognition Opportunities

Ask us how you can participate in exciting opportunities to:

- ✦ Sponsor a Spirit Center Conference Room
- ✦ Sponsor a Spirit Center Guest Room
- ✦ Create a Named Endowment for Spirituality Ministry
- ✦ Create a Named Endowment for the Historical Museum
- ✦ Sponsor Museum Preservation Space at Spirit Center
- ✦ Sponsor a Window in the Monastery

We specifically invite you to help us garner the \$576,415 needed to complete our five million dollar harvest by December 31, 2008. Several of you have shared that you plan to make a campaign gift in the new year. Your "right time" will also be our right time. Please consider making a multi-year pledge (up to 5 years). We accept gifts of cash, securities, charitable gift annuities and similar instruments. Gifts of any amount are welcomed.

Donor Information

Growing a Future ~ Rooted In Hope

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, ZIP + 4 _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to: **Idaho Corporation of Benedictine Sisters**
Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law

To make a gift via credit card, please complete the following:

Credit Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

In gratitude for God's gifts, I/we pledge:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ | | |

Payable as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly | <input type="checkbox"/> Annually |

For a period of:

- 5 years Other _____

I/We wish to designate my/our gift as follows:

- General Campaign - Where needed most
- New Construction - Conference and Spirituality Center
- Endowment: Spirituality Ministry
- Endowment: Historical Museum at St. Gertrude
- Renovations - Historic Monastery

To make a gift of securities or a charitable gift annuity or donate via direct withdrawal contact our Development office: 208-962-5062 or director@StGertrudes.org

New Administrator

Mary Schmidt Joins Spirit Center Team

The Monastery of St. Gertrude's core values of healing hospitality, grateful simplicity and creative peacemaking, along with Spirit Center's tradition of embracing and welcoming people of all faiths, impacted Mary Kries Schmidt's life-changing decision to end her 25 year career with the University of Idaho to become Administrator of Spirit Center.



Mary Kries Schmidt.

Raised in Kamiah, Mary graduated from the University of Idaho with a BS in Home Economics and an MS in Family & Consumer Sciences. She worked as the UI Idaho County Extension Educator in Grangeville, and as Project Director for the Centers for Discovery after-school program where she led efforts to start after-school youth programs in the

communities of Grangeville, Cottonwood, Riggins, Elk City, Kamiah and Kooskia. A primary focus was leadership and training in starting non-profit organizations, board training and fundraising. Two years ago Mary assumed directorship of the Idaho Horizons Project – a partnership between the Northwest Area Foundation and the University of Idaho for rural community development. She worked with 26 rural northern Idaho communities from Bonners Ferry to Cascade on developing leadership to address poverty and create thriving communities where everyone has the opportunity to prosper. According to Schmidt, "my Spirit Center position will continue to challenge me in my passionate concern for poverty issues. The monastery's Social Justice Committee has a long history of addressing issues related to poverty and human rights. We are exploring how we can partner in this critical work."

Some of Mary's primary responsibilities at Spirit Center include: supporting our retreat team in helping people on their spiritual journeys; assisting people struggling in our complex, chaotic world to center themselves and be strengthened to live more fully-conscious lives; continuing to network with the larger community around monastery values and services, and collaborating with all monastery departments to explore ways to expand use of Spirit Center by outside groups for education, meetings and events.

Schmidt says, "I believe that as a lay woman I can offer a unique perspective on connecting many people and the monastery. I look forward to this challenge." ❖

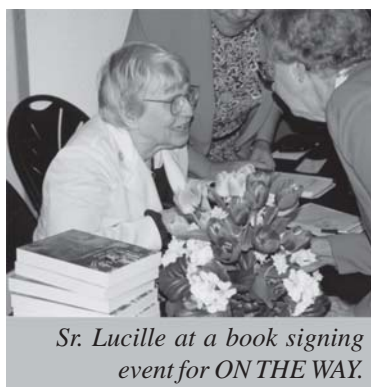
Farewell, Sr. Lucille

Popular Spiritual Director Sr. Lucille Nachtsheim Dies at 90

Sister Mary Lucille (Mary Anna) Nachtsheim, OSB, 90, died peacefully at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID, on June 4, 2008. Earlier this spring she had marked both her 90th birthday and 70th anniversary of monastic profession. She is remembered as a gentle, deeply prayerful and contemplative woman who always



sought authenticity and depth in her spiritual life. Desiring to share this gift with others, her entire life was spent being companion to those who sought to deepen their spiritual lives: candidates, postulants, novices, community members,



Sr. Lucille at a book signing event for *ON THE WAY*.

deacons and the laity. She relished the opportunity from 1980-1982 to coordinate the Spirituality module of formation for the first class of deacons for the Diocese of Boise. Sister Lucille is also remembered as a strong woman of vision, courage and action as she helped implement

the changes of Vatican II. The community will always be grateful for her grounding leadership as Sub-Prioress and her courage in those challenging times. Her book *ON THE WAY: The Journey of the Idaho Benedictine Sisters*, will tell the monastery's story far into the future. Her smile, kindness, gratitude and love for God will be missed by all her sisters in community, her caregivers and friends. A vigil service was held in the monastery chapel on June 8. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated there on June 9 at 1:30 pm. ❖

In Memoria
Sr. Lucille
Nachtsheim
1918 - 2008

For more about Sr. Lucille,
go to www.StGertrudes.com
and click on In Memoria.



In the News

Sisters Receive Kessler-Keener Award

✦ **The Benedictine Sisters** of the Monastery of St. Gertrude were recipients of the *Idaho Extraordinary Witness Award 2008* presented by the Kessler-Keener Lecture Series on

May 1, 2008 at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, ID.

This award honors an individual or group in Idaho who has had a significant impact in the area of human rights, peace and justice. For



details go to www.stgertrudes.org and click on What's New, then Sisters in the News. *Pictured from left to right (above): Sisters Carol Ann Wassmuth, Bernadette Stang and Meg Sass, Prioress Clarissa Goeckner, the Reverend Edwin Keener, Sisters Corinne Forsman, Rose Marie Nutsch and Mary Kay Henry.*

Sisters on the Move



✦ **Sr. Teresa Jackson** (left), studying at the School of Theology at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota since August 2007, has completed a graduate certificate in monastic studies. She returned to the Monastery in May and will continue to be co-coordinator of the oblate program, will direct the volunteer program, assist Sr. Janet

Barnard with the vocation program and conduct occasional classes for formation as well as continue her work on various committees. Sr. Teresa said, "I am happy to be back in community and am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to further my graduate studies."



Sr. Carlotta Maria Fontes (left) assists shoppers at the Farmers Market.

Farmers Market a Success

✦ **Monastery Industries** launched a successful booth at the Grangeville, ID Farmers Market on June 7, 2008. In addition to sharing handicrafts, the sisters have enjoyed meaningful interaction with the public throughout the summer.

Goodbye, Father Hal

✦ St. Gertrude's bid farewell to **Father Hal Weidner** on June 22, 2008. Serving as Chaplain since September 13, 2007, we deeply appreciated Fr. Hal's humor, intellect, kindness and spirituality. He came to St. Gertrude's from Hawaii and, from here, heads to Wesleyan University in Connecticut to serve as Chaplain. For more visit www.StGertrudes.org/FrHal/FrHal.htm.

New Novices

✦ **Postulants Wendy Olin** of Emmett, ID and **Cindy Harris** of Melrose, MA became Novices on June 24, 2008 during Evening Praise. Prioress Clarissa Goeckner presented to them the Rule of Benedict and the Constitutions of our community, and called them to put on the Benedictine Medal as a commitment to further discern their vocation to monastic life.



Postulants Cindy Harris (left) and Wendy Olin knock on the door to request entrance into the novitiate.

Sr. Janet Barnard Celebrates Silver Jubilee



Sr. Janet (left) with her mother, Marjorie Barnard.

✦ **Sister Janet Marie Barnard** celebrated 25 years of monastic profession on Saturday, July 12, 2008 in the monastery chapel.

With Fr. John Gathungu presiding, Sr. Janet renewed her monastic profession before more than 100 guests. The inspiring Mass was followed by a reception in the refectory. For more on Sr. Janet's celebration, her Silver Jubilee story and photo slideshows please visit www.StGertrudes.org/jubilees.htm



Sister Janet Marie Barnard renews her monastic profession.

Reader Contributions

Be a part of the Canticle!

Submit your best reflections, poems, artwork, photographs or favorite memories of the Sisters to jbradish@StGertrudes.org and we will publish 1-2 selections on this page in each issue!

GUIDELINES: Submissions must be electronic. Text = 300 words or less; typed into the body of your email. Graphics = 300 dpi; JPEG or TIFF format.

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Sister Herman Joseph Mager,
1901 ~ 1991.

The Transmigration of Sister Herman

"If you weren't a person, what would you be?"
I asked an old nun they called Roadrunner.
She laughed at the thought of being anything else
except a bride of Christ, trudging streets
in rusty habit, castoff tennis shoes,
scorning permed hair and polyester

Brought to the Convent as an orphaned toddler,
she never left, rendering menial work
as dairymaid, cook and sacristan.
The blighted apples from abandoned trees,
outdated food from markets,
she brought the worthy and the profligate,
leaving behind a vintage joke
and a blessing.

After a moment she reconsidered,
announced with snagged grin,
"I'd be a horse. When you get to Heaven,
look for me among the horses."

I dream of her now in the tree-ringed meadow blue
with camas, frolicking among playful fillies,
the great stallions, the gentle geldings.
A mare, loose in her skin of glossy black,
shivering in the spring chill
but lost in the heaven of another sun.

Carolyn Frei, Lewiston, ID ✉



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Cover Photo — Stonemasons lay the
foundations of the Monastery of St. Gertrude
chapel building in 1919.