

Prioress Calls Us Into the Future

Standing on the edge of our community's 100th Jubilee of being "At Home in Idaho" is an exciting place to be!

Last November five of us joined with the sisters of Mount Angel to celebrate both of our communities' 125 years of presence in the Northwest. Soon we will celebrate our becoming a motherhouse in Idaho on April 26, 1909, when Mother Hildegard Vogler moved her office from St. Scholastica's Convent in Colton, Washington, to St. Gertrude's on the beautiful Camas Prairie. Our sojourn in Washington ended and our ventures in Idaho began.

This is an occasion to celebrate the people and the story that brought us to where we are today. We must celebrate our foundress, Mother Johanna Zumstein, along with her companions Sister Rosalia Ruebli and Sister Magdalene Suter, who left their Benedictine cloister, San Andreas in Samen, Switzerland, to bring a ministry of prayer and service to the Northwest. We will celebrate Mother Hildegard Vogler who established the first, and to this day the only, Motherhouse in Idaho. Then came the prioresses who answered the needs of their times by establishing schools, building hospitals and providing leadership and ministry to the people. These were followed by those who, after Vatican



Prioress Sr. Clarissa Goeckner (center) on the day of her election with former prioress Sr. Jean Lalande (lft.) and Federation President Sr. Kathy Huber (rt.).

II, had to strike a new direction—one that called them and us beyond fear into the future.

With deep gratitude I recall pillars of our

"The ideal of Jubilee invites us to deepen ourselves as a praying, forgiving and reconciling community."

-Sister Clarissa Goeckner

community who had a profound influence on me — Sister Augustine Uhlenkott, Sister Alfreda Elsensohn, Sister Imelda Bauer, Sister Regina O'Connell and the many others whose talents and dedication enriched our community, our Federation, our diocese and our state. Who are the sisters

who impacted you significantly?

We will celebrate the many people who have supported us along the way — from the Uhlenkott and Ungrund families who provided us with land — down to present day benefactors, oblates, volunteers, families and friends. This support has been invaluable.

We will remember the legacy of faith, courage, generosity and the pioneering spirit that has been passed down to us. This same spirit continues to call us beyond our fears

as we move into the public phase of our Capital Campaign and complete Strategic Planning for the future of our lives and our ministries for the church and the world.

How shall we celebrate? We are in the process of shaping events which will mark this important moment in the life of our community. We look forward to sharing these with you throughout the Jubilee Year from August 2008-August 2009.

What are the invitations of Jubilee? The biblical Jubilee tradition calls us to inner spiritual renewal. First, we are called to let the land lie fallow, to take Sabbath time, to look at the past prayerfully, discerning how best to move ahead. Jubilee calls us to forgiveness. I like how Maria Harris puts it in her book *Proclaim Jubilee! A Spirituality For The Twenty-First Century*, "Forgive everyone, everything, everywhere and allow yourselves to be forgiven." Then let reconciliation be born from the forgiveness that has been granted. Jubilee challenges us to practice justice in all our relationships—with God, self, one another and the earth. Jubilee also calls us to set free whatever is held bound.

The ideal of Jubilee invites us to deepen ourselves as a praying, forgiving, and reconciling community. It urges us to find ways in which to be leaven, a voice and an advocate for justice and peace. What could be a more relevant gift to offer humanity and our planet at this time and throughout the next 100 years? **Then, let us CELEBRATE!** ✱

A Ministry of Presence

*The Vocation Story
of Sr. Bernie Ternes*



Sr. Bernie Ternes volunteering at a food bank in Seattle, WA.

In 1941, Angela Ternes began the journey of her lifetime. Westbound on a train from Strasburg, North Dakota, headed for the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho, Angela felt like she was moving to the end of the world — especially after her first glimpse of the towering Rocky Mountains.

Getting to the train station had taken 11 years. At six years old Angela visited her older sister, Sr. Agnes, at an Ursuline Convent. Right then Angela “knew without a doubt that I wanted to be a sister — an Ursuline Sister.” By the time she reached high school however, dating and other attractions “made religious life seem much less appealing.” But, deep in her heart, Angela knew that God was calling her, so she determined to join the Ursulines the summer she turned 16.

Fate however, had a different plan. Another of her sisters, Sr. Carm, had decided to join St. Gertrude’s and Angela knew that “it would devastate my parents to have both of us leave home in the same summer.” In the ensuing year, Sister Carm sent glowing reports home about St. Gertrude’s while Sister Agnes urged Angela to join the Ursulines.

“I stormed heaven with a novena praying for enlightenment. On the second to last day we received a surprise letter from Sister Carm saying she was coming on a home visit and would like me to return with her. I took that as an answer to my prayer.”

Angela entered the Monastery of St. Gertrude as Sister Bernie in 1942. The next three decades found her teaching in schools across Idaho — both Catholic and public. In 1976 she took a field trip to the First Avenue Service Center in Seattle, Washington. After seeing first hand the suffering of people on “Skid Row”, Sister Bernie signed up

as a Night Crisis Team volunteer. Eventually, the streets became her ministry.

“I discovered then that the deepest yearning of my heart is to be among God’s Anawim — the lost and forgotten ones.”

—Sister Bernie Ternes

and sitting on bar stools with those who had no hope. Engaged in what she calls “the ministry of presence,” Sister Bernie feels that “just being there for them,” helps these men and women recall the depths of God’s love.

“I am not really a monastic at heart. Perhaps I should have joined the Ursulines all those years ago,”

she reflected. “But this great community of St. Gertrude’s supports me absolutely. No matter where I am or what I do, I know I have the love and prayers of this wonderfully dedicated group of women.”

These days Sister Bernie makes her home in Spokane, Washington where she continues doing what she does best: serving the homeless. She volunteers at Our Place Ministries and also at St. Margaret’s Shelter for



Sr. Bernie Ternes ministers to a homeless man at the Lazarus Day Center in Seattle, Washington. Tom Reese photo. Copyright 1997, The Seattle Times.

women and children.

“I would encourage everyone to follow their dreams. My years on Skid Row, in prison [as chaplain] and at various shelters have been life-giving challenges for me. I am truly grateful to my community for their support, for only if I am grounded in prayer and realize my dependence on God, can I minister to others.” ✕

By, Darla Anglen-Whitley, Cottonwood, ID

Our Fond Farewell

*To Spirit Center's Kathy McFaul and
Sr. Barbara Jean ("BJ") Glodowski*

Kathy McFaul: In Her Own Words

In the poem "Covenant" by Sr. Margaret Halaska, God as a prospective tenant gently coaxes more and more room from a reluctant lessor. With each begrudging allowance, God repeats: "I like what I see." St. Gertrude's is about creating a place where God can coax more "space" in us, whether gently done or in the form of a swift kick in the pants; a place where we can hear God's assurance that God indeed likes what God



Kathy and retreatant at her Spirit Center office.

sees in us.

My years here have certainly involved the coaxing of more "space" in me for God and others. Planning an

array of retreat topics over the years with the retreat team, helping move into the new Spirit Center and growing in understanding of Benedictine spirituality have all been part of this growth. From the monastic community I have learned about hospitality, acceptance and forgiveness, and living into interconnectedness rather than autonomy. From the retreatants I have seen God's incredible diversity of expression manifested in their faith and integrity.

I had no idea when I first came here 9 years ago that so much would unfold from a one-year commitment. I give thanks for the monastic community who welcomed me into new roles and whom I have grown to love deeply over these years, and for the retreatants and the Prairie community who have touched my life so profoundly. You have all taken up residence in my heart.

In the Words of Others

Kathy McFaul practiced Poverty Law and coordinated a Catholic women's spirituality project in Seattle prior to volunteering at St. Gertrude's and then serving with the retreat team. When she later became Director of Spirituality Ministry, she orchestrated moving this Ministry from the monastery to Spirit Center. A listening heart, prayerful presence, broad vision and attention to details marked her outstanding leadership in collaborative program development, marketing, public relations, networking and fiscal management. Community, staff and retreatants will miss Kathy deeply as she leaves this Ministry to spend an extended time in solitude at a hermitage. ✱

Sister BJ Glodowski: In Her Own Words

I remember one day during my first year at Spirit Center when I was kneeling in front of the high-tech boiler, reprogramming it, thinking, "Is this what I signed up for?" My question was answered when a guest from a convention group had a major crisis in her workplace. She went to her guest room during a break, touched into the Monastery's praying community and the Spirit and was able to complete her time with us in a "great, restful peace" – despite the crisis. That was when I knew beyond all doubt that the presence of Spirit Center has more to offer than only facilitated retreats. It is all about spirituality.

As a Spiritual Director responsible for eight directees, I also helped serve the overflow demand from our facilitated retreats in addition to coordinating conferences and events. Hearing feedback from Spirit Center retreatants and visitors were pivotal moments for me... words I will always remember such as: "What a spiritual place"; "This place is so peaceful"; and "God is truly present".



Sr. BJ teaches a workshop in Kalispell, Montana.

In the Words of Others

Sister Barbara Jean ("BJ") Glodowski has been a member of St. Gertrude's community since 1959. Serving in a variety of capacities including teacher, State Department of Education Reading Specialist, Sub-Prioress and Mission Director/Pastoral Care at both St. Mary's and Clearwater Valley Hospitals, Sr. BJ was called to serve as Director of Spirit Center when it opened for business in 2005. In this capacity Sr. BJ managed budgeting, operations and marketing – doubling the number of hosted events at Spirit Center each year under her guidance. She developed an 89-page procedural manual for the facility and established a Volunteer Manual – logging 500 hours of volunteer time in the first year.

Currently Sr. BJ is the Ombudsman Program Developer for the Area Agency on Aging for Idaho's Region II – a five county area ranging from Moscow to Riggins that encompasses 38 long-term care facilities. ✱



Capital Campaign Highlight : WINDOWS

Two years ago we would have described our monastery windows as “old and drafty.” Grateful for their 85 years of service, we finally replaced all 273 of them with modern, energy efficient models.

Windows are much more than wooden frames with glass; they are also the view through the frame and beyond the glass. They illuminate our lives and strengthen our community — just as your ongoing friendship and support help frame our lives in the broad view of the Benedictine tradition and the freshness of God’s call into the future.

In mid-April look for our **Windows Update Brochure** inviting you to “*See Our Life, Share Our Future.*” Replacing the 273 windows cost \$606,000. Generous capital campaign donors have already moved us two-thirds of the way there. **Can you help us** with the last third? We invite you to help us “frame” our new windows in a practical way by sponsoring one or more of them in honor of your loved ones.



Sr. Wilma Schlangen in front of window sponsored in her honor in the monastery’s old kitchen.

*See Our Life
Share Our Future*

Please consider sponsoring a large window in the monastery’s original, stone building for \$3,000 or a smaller window in the brick annex for \$1,000. Your gift can be pledged over a five year period. The upcoming brochure has all the details, including how you can make your gift on-line at www.StGertrudes.org. For more information about this wonderful opportunity please contact our Development staff by phone at 208-962-5062 or send e-mail to director@StGertrudes.org ✽

Growing a Future ~ Rooted In Hope

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Renovations - Historic Monastery |

To make a gift of securities or a charitable gift annuity or donate via direct withdrawal from a checking/savings account please contact our Development office at 208-962-5062 or director@StGertrudes.org

In the News

Upcoming Events

✦ **April 11 - 13 & May 9 - 11, 2008** "Come & See" Vocations Weekends. Explore the Benedictine way of life as you stay, play and pray with our community. Contact the Vocations Office for details at 208-962-5024 or vocation@StGertrudes.org.

✦ **May 3, 2008** Step back in time and swing to the sounds of Hog Heaven Big Band. This benefit for the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude features a no-host bar, catered buffet, silent auction and Grand Prize Give-A-Way: a romantic stay for two at the High Country Inn in Ahsahka, ID! Only \$25/person. Tickets available online at www.HistoricalMuseumAtStGertrude.com. Call the museum at 208-962-2050 for more details.

✦ **June 26 - 27, 2008** "Remembering & Healing: Historical Interpretation of Chinese Sites in Hells Canyon". Experience Chinese Massacre Cove with historians Dr. Priscilla Wegars and R. Gregory Nokes. Evening lecture and reception plus jet boat trip into Hells Canyon. \$100/person. Contact the museum for more information or to register at 208-962-2050.

New Staff

✦ **Jacqueline Bradish, MS** has joined the Development Office team as our new Marketing & Communications (MARCOM) Manager. Learn more about "Jac" online: www.stgertrudes.org/Monastery/Develop/develop.htm.

✦ **Mary Schmidt** comes on board in late June as the new Administrator of Spirit Center...welcome Mary!

Technology Gift

✦ **25 Dell computers** were gifted to the monastery by St. Mary's School in Boise, ID. The 5-year old machines are being prepared for use by Sr. Janet Barnard (*photo, at right*) — Vocations Director and resident computer expert. The new systems have Windows XP and Office 2003 courtesy of a matching gift from Microsoft and a generous donor. We are hoping to recycle our old machines, so please contact Sr. Janet if you know of anyone who may need one.



Vocations Notes

✦ **Sister Janet Barnard**, our Vocations Director, was in Spokane Feb 10-14, 2008 for a Busy Student Retreat at Gonzaga University attended by 30 students. March 14-16 she was at Gonzaga Prep for the Spokane Diocesan Youth Conference with 300 youth present! She worked with the Spokane Area Vocation Directors to staff these events. Sr. Janet will be in Pullman March 30-April 3 for a Busy Student Retreat at Washington State University. Several women with interest in religious life have been in contact with Sr. Janet over the winter and are planning visits to the monastery in the near future.

Sisters on the Move

✦ **Sister Evangela Bossert's** childhood dream will come true as she travels to Johannesburg, South Africa July 12 – August 24, 2008, to offer spirituality classes to a community of Benedictine Sisters near there. Look for the full story on Sr. Evangela's (*photo, at right*) journey in the Late Summer 2008 Canticle.



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For More Info

Call 208-962-5022 or e-mail
gsinformation@StGertrudes.org

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paper with soy ink.

You're Invited to a Very Special Celebration!

Upcoming Events

August 3, 2008 Official opening of Centennial Jubilee at Raspberry Festival; Historic display opens at Historical Museum at St. Gertrude

September 14, 2008 Feast of St. Hildegard FREE concert

October 24 - 26, 2008 Oblates mark 20th anniversary of their founding

November 16, 2008 Feast of St. Gertrude FREE concert

December of 2008 (date TBD) Cottonwood Community Choir Christmas Concert

January 1, 2009 Monastery history readings begin at noon meal

January 18 - 25, 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

February 22, 2009 Feast of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica FREE concert

April 26, 2009 Special "Thank You" celebration for our prairie neighbors

Summer of 2009 (date TBD) Pilgrimage to Uniontown & Colton



*Celebrations
Commence
August 3,
2008*

*For details and a complete schedule
of events watch for our Special
Centennial Supplement in June, 2008.*

In 1907 Mother Hildegard Vogler brought us to Cottonwood, Idaho with the intent to establish a permanent community. In April, 1909 the Monastery of St. Gertrude was officially declared our Motherhouse — marking the start of 100 years of presence on the Camas Prairie. Beginning in 1882, when our foundresses Mother Johanna Zumstein and Sisters Rosalia Ruebli and Magdalene Suter came to the United States from Sarnen, Switzerland, our journey "home" had taken 25 years.

We invite all of our Sisters, Families, Volunteers, Benefactors, SGA Alumni, Employees and other Friends of the Monastery of St. Gertrude to come and join us during a full year of special events commemorating our Centennial Jubilee — 1909 to 2009.

***CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
"AT HOME" IN IDAHO***



IDAHO CORPORATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS

Monastery of St. Gertrude

465 Keuterville Rd., Cottonwood, ID 83522-5183

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Announcing Our 100 Year Jubilee

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See page 7
for a valuable
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Cover Photo — Monastery of St. Gertrude in 1910.

