

# CANTICLE OF ST. GERTRUDE

## A JOURNAL OF OUR LIFE



**2014 Theme:**  
 "Love one another as  
 I have loved you." John 13:34

**This issue: Hope**



## GETTING A HANDLE ON HOPE

### *A Message from Prioress Sister Clarissa Goeckner*

Reasons to be without hope these days are many. The news brings daily reports of natural disasters, war, violence, poverty, starvation, unemployment, injustice, terrorism, persecution. Many of these are deep-seated, longstanding and deeply embedded in our history. This can elicit feelings of hopelessness and thoughts that we are powerless to make a difference. Christopher Fry's words from "A Sleep of Prisoners," come to mind: "Affairs are now soul size." How can we take a stride of soul that will bring hope?

Amazingly enough, it is hope that can best deal with hopelessness. Many theologians, poets, philosophers, ordinary people and saints help us reflect on hope. St. Paul gives us this thought: "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance." The poet and philosopher John O'Donohue offers these reflections: "Hope is one of the most amazing resources in the human heart. It is deeper than desire, optimism and wishing that everything will turn out all right. Hope doesn't back off in fear of a daunting situation. It comes with a commitment, in spite of all odds, to find some way to impact the difficult situation. Our hope is a form of longing that if we act as if there is hope, then, it will become active in our time."

There have been many who have "acted as if there is hope" and made hope active in their and our lives. A local example is Sister Paule Tacke. She was a student at our former St. Gertrude's Academy. This slightly wild, party-going young woman heard a call beckon and before high school graduation chose to join the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Princeton, New Jersey. She was assigned to South Africa where she began her career as a teacher. During this time, many children were abandoned at the sisters' door so she founded Bethany Place of Safety for children ages newborn to age six. As the children grew, she realized that there was a need for a second home so she founded Thembehlie Orphanage and a school for children. Her hope for these children led her to get funds to put countless young people through secondary school. She died in June in South Africa. Her

four-hour-long funeral gathered more than 1,000 people who not only mourned her passing with gratitude and respect but are carrying her hope forward to the future.

Others who bring the spark of hope alive include Mulala, the Pakistani girl whose courage made it possible for millions of other young women to see education as a possibility; calling for the second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII opened the Church to renewal and called it to be the vital, vehicle of hope it was meant to be; Mother Teresa of Calcutta believed that she was called to serve the "poorest of the poor" and her Missionaries of Charity continue to be hope for the poor; and Benedictines for Peace and other like-minded people take steps towards peace.



**Hope is the  
 meaning of  
 the creativity  
 within us.**

~ John O'Donohue

Barbara Kingsolver articulates this observation about hope: "The very LEAST you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the MOST you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof." At the very LEAST what do you/we hope for? At the very MOST, how will this hope awaken our lives to realize their full giftedness and potential to touch families, communities, and the world with hope?

When Sister Wendy Olin made her Perpetual Monastic Profession in August, with arms outstretched, looking to the days before her, she sang and then the community echoed this psalm verse: "Sustain me by your promise that I may live/Do not disappoint me in my hope!" Her one and only life was promised to live in hope. During Sister Catherine Manderfeld's Mass of Resurrection, once again the community sang this same psalm verse. Her one and only life had been completed in hope!

May we live our one and only lives close to the hope that we have identified as ours and make that hope real and active as we daily strive for that big hope — Thy Kingdom Come! ✕

### OUR MISSION

Eager to welcome God's transforming power in ourselves and our world, we, the Benedictine Sisters of the Monastery of St. Gertrude, seek God together through monastic profession and respond in Healing Hospitality, Grateful Simplicity and Creative Peacemaking.

# SISTER STORY

## SISTER CAROL ANN WASSMUTH: THE FREEDOM OF COMMITMENT

Sister Carol Ann's life is an array of vibrant endeavors woven securely together by commitment. Some of her roles, like overseeing the Monastery's 1,400 acres of land and working in parish ministry, have brought excitement and joy while other roles, such as being the certified operator of the Monastery's water system, bring less enthusiasm. "Forestry is my passion," she laughs. "The forest is my heaven; the water system is my purgatory." Her role as the Monastery's choir director elicits a more middle-of-the-road response: "Really, I think this is God's idea of a joke. It's not my strongpoint but I can direct and organize. I am doing what has been asked of me to do the best I can; that's all any of us can do."

She explains that commitments are an act of the will and ultimately set the stage for more possibilities. "A commitment really frees a person to be real," she says, even if that means disagreements. "When I made my Profession vows at 17, it was for life. My commitment is to the community. I am really convinced of the value of Benedictine life and the vision we have to share with the world. Diverse people with different backgrounds can come together respecting one another, caring for one another. Just because we disagree doesn't mean we can't live together in peace."

She found an early example of faithfulness in the example of her parents, who were farmers in nearby Greencreek. The third eldest (oldest girl) of nine children, it was common at that time to have more than one child enter religious life. The summer after 8th grade, a cousin invited her to come and spend a weekend at St. Gertrude's. "I have such vivid memories of that weekend...I absolutely fell in love with it." She entered that fall.



In 1960, after graduating from St. Gertrude's Academy, Sister Carol Ann made First Monastic Profession and was assigned to teach upper grades in various Catholic schools around Idaho. With her aptitude for math and science, she was being prepared for the math and chemistry teacher position at the Academy. But then it closed, and life took off in new directions. First she earned a degree in religious studies in one year at Mundelein College in Chicago then was hired as the religious education coordinator at Sacred Heart Church in Boise. Here, she encountered the uplifting influence of Father John Donahue. "He believed in what I could become even though I was scared. I found a whole new world,

a whole new level to my ministry." He encouraged her to attend summer school at Boston College where she completed a Masters in Education with a teaching field in theology.

In 1989 she decided to apply for the position of associate pastor at St. Pius X in Coeur d'Alene, where her brother Bill served as pastor. The siblings worked together for eight years and the parish grew and prospered. "We had the same vision for what a parish could be, full of both play and work to witness to the rest of the world." When leadership at the parish changed, Sister Carol Ann asked to return to the Monastery for what she thought would be a year-long sabbatical. The prioress asked her to organize a Stewardship of the Land committee. One day she found a notice for a Department of Lands workshop on forest insects and disease and decided to attend. That's when she fell in love with forestry. More opportunities came for forest education and she went on to earn her Idaho Master Forest Steward certification. In 2001 she was named Idaho Tree Farmer of the Year.

Sister Carol Ann led the Stewardship of the Land committee in a process of articulating a Philosophy of Land Use that was adopted by the monastic community in 1993. It has become a standard nationwide and was recently featured in a newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. That statement begins with the community's recognition that they have a responsibility to care for the land and affirms their commitment to it. "You care for what you have — and that's definitely a Benedictine value." It is not surprising that Sister Carol Ann also coordinates the community's Social Justice Office. "I don't see any disconnect between social justice and ecology...doing what we can to bring about justice, peace, harmony, in all of God's creation. Everyone receives what they need. My hope is that our community can model that for others. We can live together in harmony without differences coming between us. That's what justice is about." ✕



*Last May, Sister Carol Ann was an instructor at Conservation Awareness Days in Latah County where 220 students attended. Above: Sister Carol Ann speaking at Earth Day Mass.*



## MEMBERSHIP: MOVING FORWARD IN HOPE, WITH A VISION

**Then the Lord answered me and said:**

**Write the vision;**

**make it plain on tablets,**

**so that a runner may read it.**

**For there is still a vision for the appointed time;**

**it speaks of the end, and does not lie.**

**If it seems to tarry, wait for it;**

**it will surely come, it will not delay.**

*Habakkuk 2:2-3*

Hope can seem like a very fragile thing these days when talking about membership in a religious community. Most religious communities are going through incredible changes. We are no longer in the days of large numbers of young people entering religious life and members of religious communities seem to alternate between a hope that things will again be like they were and a fear of an unknown future.

But perhaps our problem is a lack of foundational hope, the kind of hope that grounds the prophet Habakkuk as he waits for a vision. Perhaps we have trouble seeing the vision today because it is not what we expect, it is not a return to the old days but a vision of a whole new reality.

As the membership department (vocations, volunteers, oblates) moves forward, our vision is not written on tablets but is written on the hearts of the many people who become connected with the Monastery and our way of life. People feel drawn to who we are and to our values. There is something about Benedictine monasticism that speaks to people on a deep level. As a result they come as volunteers, they become members of the oblate community, they explore becoming sisters.

As a monastic community we can look at what is happening in two ways. We can grieve because although we continue to have strong women entering our community, they are not coming in the same numbers as they did fifty years ago. Or, we can rejoice that so many people are sharing our values and our way of life in new ways. In fact, maybe we can say that there is an entirely new paradigm of being Benedictine in this new century. We will



*Membership director Sister Teresa Jackson (right) with recent Monastic Immersion Experience participants Anna Moore from Moorpark, California (left) and Jyotsna Paul from Delhi, India.*

continue to have women come and enter as sisters but we will also have people share our life as monastics in ways not seen before.

We see the vision among a variety of people. It is the vision of the 70+ members of our oblate community who go through extensive screening and formation to make a serious commitment to live Benedictine values in the world. It is the vision of the many women who have participated in the Monastic Immersion Experience and learned how Benedictine spirituality can shape and form their lives after they leave St. Gertrude's. It is the vision of the volunteers who come and experience our life of "ora et labora" (prayer and work) and come away with a deeper understanding of how to apply the monastic values in their life. It is the vision of the women who come and discern a vocation to our way of life, and for those who stay and those who move on, they continue to carry the monastic way in their hearts.

It is an exciting time in the membership ministry. We have wonderful women in formation and preparing to enter. We also see hope in a new vision, in helping people explore new ways to be Benedictine in the world as well as in the Monastery. Together we move forward in hope, toward a vision of monastic life being renewed before our very eyes. ✕

# SPIRIT CENTER RETREATS

## MANIFESTATIONS OF BEAUTY: MUSIC

The Spirituality and the Arts program at St. Gertrude presents dynamic performances and retreats that engage artistic expression as devotion and the deepening of spirituality through creativity. The fall season is especially devoted to music.

It all began on September 14 when the **Gonzaga University Choir**, directed by Timothy Westerhaus, performed for the fourth year in the chapel. The choir makes its annual retreat at Spirit Center and concludes with an impressive and breathtaking performance.

Our next performance is "The In-Between: From Classical to Jazz" on Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 PM. This free concert will feature Camas Prairie native and classical soprano **Jill Terhaar Lewis** (below) with jazz musicians **Robert Lewis** (saxophone) and **Gerald Gregory** (piano). Terhaar Lewis and Lewis are a husband and wife team who currently live and teach in Charleston, South Carolina. The program highlights the shared qualities of classical and jazz and explores the differences.



On All Saints' Day, November 1, we will present "A Night of Remembrance: **Palouse Choral Society** (above) Performs Brahms' Requiem." The evening begins at 5:30 at Spirit Center with a candlelight procession into the chapel. There will be a reception afterwards. For tickets, call 208-962-5063 or buy online at [www.StGertrudes.org](http://www.StGertrudes.org). The retreat that same weekend, "**All Souls: Remembering the Faithful Departed**," is a unique opportunity to honor your own loved ones in both a monastic and artistic setting and includes tickets to the performance. This is our second music retreat of the season following "**Praying with Music**," October 14-16 with Oblate Jo Baim. As the Spirituality and the Arts Mission Statement proclaims, "We hope to foster an artistic environment and be present to the many manifestations of beauty in our world." ✕

Be  
still  
and know...

Seeing retreatants, Inn guests, and clients at the Healing Center at St. Gertrude and in Moscow, Idaho.

**Cynthia Schultz, RN, BCST, APP**  
Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapist  
Associate Polarity Practitioner  
office 208-962-5085 • cell 208-451-6797

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*Upcoming Retreats*  
at Spirit Center

**October 14-16 ~ Praying with Music** With Oblate Jo Baim.

**October 31-November 2 ~ All Souls: Remembering the Faithful Departed** (see above)

**November 4-6 ~ Contemplative Knitting** With Oblate Jeannette Kelley and Sister Katie Cooper.

**November 11-14 ~ The Path of the Anam Cara: A Spiritual Directors' retreat** With Sr. Mary Longergan.

**November 18-20 ~ Legacy of the Heart** With Joanne Station.

**November 21-23 ~ Losses of Our Lives** With Nancy Copeland-Payton.

**December 1-17 ~ Silence the Christmas Noise: An Advent Retreat** Private retreat options.

**January 23-30 ~ Embracing the Artistic Call, Initial Retreat**

208-962-2000  
[www.Spirit-Center.org](http://www.Spirit-Center.org)

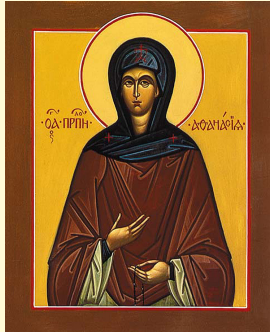


## MEET A MYSTIC

The rooms in Spirit Center are named for famous mystics and monastics. Each issue of Canticle features one of them.

**Athanasia Logacheva** (1809-1875) was a hermit who lived her devotion to prayer in the Russian wilderness. She faced many fears there but eventually was able to live in peace with the forest's creatures and her own soul. As she grew in wisdom, people came to her cave for guidance. Many tried to adopt her lifestyle but found it too hard. Witnesses to her prayer said that light streamed from her face and the same light would emanate from those who had received her spiritual counsel. In 1863 she was named superior of the newly established convent of St. Nicholas in Tomsk. ✕

Source: *Mystics of the Christian Tradition* by Stephen Fanning



inn at st. gertrude



Give the gift of Benedictine hospitality this holiday season with a gift certificate to our bed & breakfast. Call or email [inn@stgertrudes.org](mailto:inn@stgertrudes.org) for more info.

**Reservations: 208-451-4321  
or [www.InnatStGertrude.com](http://www.InnatStGertrude.com)**

## ART FOR HOPE by Sister Benita Hassler

Sister Benita creates inspiring collages on themes throughout the year. Here are two artworks she offered on our theme of Hope: "Lights of Hope" (left) and "Love and Hope." For a larger view, email [creative@stgertrudes.org](mailto:creative@stgertrudes.org).





# BORN INTO ETERNAL LIFE...

## IN MEMORIAM: SISTER MARY CATHERINE MANDERFELD, OSB

**October 28, 1917 - July 22, 2014** “There is nothing as strong as gentleness; there is nothing as gentle as real strength.”

Sister Mary Catherine Manderfeld was born into eternal life on Tuesday, July 22, at approximately 11:30 a.m. She was 96 years old and had lived 80 years of religious life. She was a dedicated and influential teacher who played an important part in the development of the Historical Museum.



Catherine Luella Manderfeld was born October 28, 1917, in Genesee, Idaho, to Henry Anton and Anna Marie Kambitsch Manderfeld. Educated by the Benedictine sisters at St. Joseph's School in Genesee, Catherine's transition to St. Gertrude's Academy and into the postulancy was nearly seamless. Life at St. Gertrude's was similar to home – lots of gardening, chores and responsibility.

Catherine became Sister Catherine on August 20, 1934. She took her first teaching position in Nezperce at the age of 16. She taught elementary grades for the next 12 years and then taught chemistry, physics, biology, and math at St. Gertrude's Academy for 27 years. She was educated at Holy Names College in Spokane and Mt. Angel College in Mt. Angel, Oregon. She earned her teaching certificate



from the University of Idaho. Later she earned a B.S. in physics with minors in math and philosophy at Gonzaga University. In 1959 she was awarded a four-summer scholarship to Gonzaga University by the National Science Foundation and subsequently received a Master of Science Education degree.

Her long teaching career has been honored over the years by many former students. She is remembered as an inspired educator, intelligent with enduring curiosity. In 1977 Sister Catherine retired from teaching high school and became Sister Alfreda Elsensohn's fulltime assistant at the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude. Sister Catherine also served on the hospital boards of Cottonwood's St. Mary's Hospital and St. Benedicts Family Medical Center in Jerome as well as on the Monastery Monastic Council.

In 1999 Sister Catherine and the sisters of St. Gertrude were awarded Idaho's first ever Esto Perpetua Award for outstanding accomplishments in preserving Idaho's heritage. On her ninetieth birthday she expressed her philosophy of living: “Life is lived one day at a time; we do what we need to do. I am grateful for the way God was able to touch lives through me.” Sister Catherine was dedicated to those in need and was a faithful prayer presence in the monastic community and beyond. Sister Catherine is remembered as a wise, gentle and gracious woman. She is survived by her brother Donald, nieces, nephews and her Benedictine community of the Monastery of St. Gertrude. Memorial Gifts in Sister Catherine's honor can be made to the Monastery. ✕

## CARE OF THE LAND: A Forest Update

Since 1999, we have been planting trees on the Cottonwood Butte, where most of our 1,000 acres of forest resides. Here are some pictures showing the growth of various plantings. Thank you to the many benefactors who have donated trees!



*Ponderosa Pine planted in 1999.*



*Western Larch planted in 2004.*



*Ponderosa Pine planted in 2007.*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HOPE

by Sister Kim Marie Jordan

**In these days of difficulty,  
we Americans everywhere must  
and shall choose the path of  
social justice..., the path of faith,  
the path of hope, and the path of love  
toward our fellow man.**

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Our vision statement includes the words *Justice Impels*. Since the beginning of the new millennium, our community has focused on justice issues in our world. These have included the needs of women and children, bringing awareness to human trafficking, global hunger and healthcare needs. As Benedictines, we remain hopeful that working for and with marginalized people will in turn give hope for the future of our world. As we look around at global issues facing us today with numerous wars, disasters and shrinking natural resources, it is through hope that we can work together for justice for all.

We all must remember that hope is necessary to bring about change. Hope allows us to believe that people suffering in poverty can find a way out and that those with mental illness can find relief. Hope is vital in trying to fight addiction, to rebuild lives after prison, and to create solutions to end homelessness. It is hope that impels those working for justice against discrimination of any kind.

Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, Dorothy Day, Nelson Mandela — these influential leaders in our country and our world based their work for civil rights, fair labor practices, aid for the poor and homeless and against apartheid on the hope that the future would someday bring about justice for these issues. They worked for and inspired people and nations. They all started with hope.

We must be aware that hope for social justice transcends reality. We can be optimistic about bringing change to the world, but being hopeful about people and society's ability to change, to get beyond suffering and disappointment and work through hard times is absolutely vital. ✕

*Sister Kim Marie is a member of the Monastery's Social Justice Committee. She is employed as a social worker on the critical care unit at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston.*

## CELEBRATING JEANNETTE

In 1976 Jeannette Nuxoll from nearby Keuterville began working in the Monastery kitchen and she is still baking bread and cooking up favorite dishes to this day. She had the opportunity to cook alongside such kitchen legends as Sisters Wilma, Dolorosa, and Radegunda. "I learned something new almost every day and was able to share some things I knew, as well," she recalls.



Incorporating ethnic foods and accommodating food allergies provide opportunities for continued learning, she says. She especially loves to bake (for the "quietness of it") and considers pies and Swiss steak her specialties. Jeannette has 8 children, 23 grandkids, and 8 great-grandkids. She assures that family gatherings are potluck-style. ✕

## FEDERATION OF ST. GERTRUDE

Nearly fifty nuns (below) convened at our monastery June 22-27 for the Federation of St. Gertrude General Chapter Meeting. The theme for the week was, "Behold I Am Doing Something New: Imagine, Create, Embrace!" Our own Sister Teresa Jackson was elected to the Federation Council. Read the full story at [www.StGertrudes.org](http://www.StGertrudes.org). ✕



### Handmade Gifts for the Holidays



Find artisan-made rosaries, knitted crafts, soaps, salve, and much more at our Gift Shop located at the new Welcome Center in the Historical Museum. Call Sister Miriam at 208-962-5022 for gift ideas or visit [www.StGertrudesGifts.org](http://www.StGertrudesGifts.org).



## art·i·FACT: Stories from the Collection



Our community opened the first hospital in Cottonwood in 1930. Our Lady of Consolation Hospital was later to become the current St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Wesley Orr was the first physician there and the Museum exhibits his collection of medical instruments and equipment used at the hospital; they date from about 1900 and were used until the 1950's. Some of the artifacts include a skin grafter, manual drill, and an instrument for cutting ribs. Many of these artifacts succeed in deepening an appreciation for current medical technology!

Learn more at [www.HistoricalMuseumatStGertrude.org](http://www.HistoricalMuseumatStGertrude.org)

## 15th Annual Fall Lecture Series

7:00 p.m. at Spirit Center, FREE

These events, held on Thursdays during the month of October, provide insights into the history of our region. A Q&A session with the presenters follows the lectures. Light refreshments are provided.

### October 2, 2014 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Cort Conley: "Song of the Winds: 1,200 Miles by Canoe Down the Snake River"



### October 9, 2014 ~ 4:00 and 7:00 P.M.



Janet Worthington: "Laura Ingalls Wilder: Moving West" *Wear your pioneer outfit!*

### October 16, 2014 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Philip A. Homan: "Queen of Diamonds: Kittie Wilkins, Horse Queen of Idaho, and the Wilkins Horse Company"



### October 30, 2014 ~ 7:00 P.M.



Tom Blanchard: "Mining in Idaho: Today and Yesterday"



These programs are made possible by funding from the Idaho Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Get in-depth information about each lecture event at [www.HistoricalMuseumAtStGertrude.org](http://www.HistoricalMuseumAtStGertrude.org)

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY...

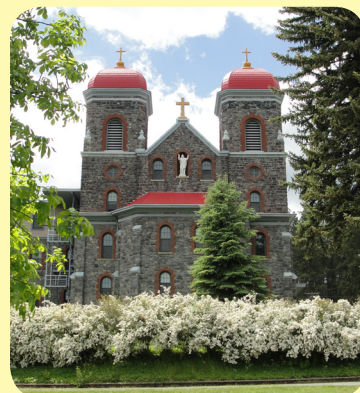


...committed to prayer and bringing about the Kingdom of God. For over 1,500 years Benedictines have lived lives of prayer and service to the world. For over 130 years, our community has lived this legacy of continual prayer, service, and community life and seeks to pass it on. We move into the future knowing that our presence,

our ministry, our faith, and our prayer witness to the transforming power of a way of life centered on God.

### You are welcome here.

With early Christian communities as our model, we live out the values of praying together, living together, sharing all things in common, and serving the wider community and one another. There are many ways you are invited to participate:



- ✧ **Attend** prayer, Mass, or one of our Spirituality and the Arts concert events
- ✧ **Come away** to Spirit Center for a retreat
- ✧ **Visit** the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude and learn about our region's history
- ✧ **Experience** Benedictine hospitality at our bed and breakfast, the Inn at St. Gertrude
- ✧ **Schedule** an appointment at the Healing Center
- ✧ **Find** monastic-made crafts and sacramental gifts at the Book & Gift Shop
- ✧ **Live** in the Monastery as a volunteer or Monastic Immersion participant
- ✧ **Learn** about becoming a Sister or Oblate.

For more information, visit [www.StGertrudes.org](http://www.StGertrudes.org).

We hope you are enjoying our color Canticles! Thanks to an anonymous printing donation, we are now able to print in color for the same cost as black and white. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share our life with you in this way.