

# In Loving Memory



Sister Radegunda (Frieda) Bischofberger, 101, died October 19, 2003, at the monastery, surrounded by her monastic community. She was born to Johann Baptist and Theresia Klauer Bischofberger on March 28, 1902, in Appenzell, Switzerland.

Sr. Radegunda arrived in the U.S. in 1923 after 11 days aboard *The Relgenland*. She made Profession as a Benedictine Sister in 1924. Sr.

Radegunda ministered as a kitchen worker at St. Gertrude's and St. Michael's monasteries in Cottonwood; St. Valentine's Hospital in Wendell, ID; St. Anthony's School in Greencreek, ID; St. Joseph's School in Genesee, ID; St. Paul's School in Nampa, ID; St. Anthony's School in Nezperce, ID; Our Lady

of Consolation (later St. Mary's) Hospital in Cottonwood; and St. Benedict's Hospital in Jerome, ID. She also worked at Holy Rosary School in Pomeroy, WA, and St. Mary's School in Chewelah, WA. At age 88 she officially retired from 15 years of part-time service in the monastery kitchen, but continued to do light housekeeping at the museum for another eight years.

Sr. Radegunda loved reading, music, creating hair-pin lace and caring for the monastery cats. She kept in touch with her family in Switzerland and enjoyed several trips to visit them.

Combined with her adventuresome spirit, her quick wit, ready laugh and twinkling eyes charmed people. Beyond that she inspired them by her deep faith and prayer.

She was the last sister from Switzerland in the community. Her eight brothers and sisters preceded her in death; she is survived by her monastic community and many nieces and nephews.

# New Postulants Move In

Kim Jordan (left) and Cindy Schultz moved into the monastery in November to begin their Postulant year.



After a few disoriented days figuring out how to move a household into a monastic bedroom, Kim and Cindy have settled into a routine.

Kim is a divorced mother of two from Houston, TX. She is getting familiar with Idaho's weather and still has some trouble remembering where she put her purse.

"I have lots of time to pray, especially when I'm dusting the chapel," she said with a smile.

"I'm excited about the opportunities awaiting my discovery in this holy place," Cindy Schulz said when questioned about her time here.

Cindy is a registered nurse who grew up in Cottonwood. Getting into the monastic rhythm is taking her some time, too, even though she has always been close to the sisters.

The postulant stage of formation lasts one to two years and requires moving into the monastery and sharing the prayer, work, and leisure of the sisters. Postulants take classes in Scripture and Benedictine spirituality and practice.


## Gifts, from page 1

2001 she visited Medjugorje and after her return began to look at religious life in earnest. She and a friend came to a weekend retreat at the monastery. While here Carla felt absolutely certain that she had to come here.

In 2002 Carla moved to the monastery to begin her year as a Postulant. She finds the prayer life and work at the monastery "exhilarating. I love working outside, and prayer with the sisters is profound."

"During this time I am looking for a deeper connection with God and trying to find out what my ministry will be. Also, I strive to simplify. Coming from a city and fast-paced career I find that quieting my mind and heart in order to 'listen' can be a challenge."

Mary and Carla join four other women in formation: Novices Jean Ihli and Michele Bateman, and Postulants Kim Jordan and Cindy Schultz.


  
 IDAHO CORP. OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS  
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**Look Inside ...**

Our Gifts to You:  
Novices!

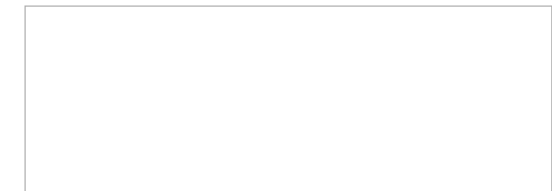
Finding God's Perfect Gift:  
Sr. Winifred's Vocation Story

Two More Women  
Come to the Monastery

  
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## Come Away to a Retreat

### Come to the Quiet

January 16 - 23, 2004 (Tuesday, 7:30 PM to Tuesday 1:30 PM)

*Directors: Sr. Lillian Englert & Kathy McFaul*

A silent individually directed retreat. Relax in God's presence, surrounded by natural beauty and supported by a praying community. There will be opportunity for optional faith sharing, creative expression through music, art, body prayer and ritual.

### Contemplative Prayer Retreat

March 12 - 14, 2004 (Fri. 7:30 PM to Sun. 1:30 PM)

*Presenters: Sr. Evangela Bossert and Kathy McFaul*

An opportunity to learn an approach to contemplative prayer drawing on the spiritual tradition of *Cloud of Unknowing*. Opportunity for guided practice of this prayer form and optional individual conferences with a spiritual director.

### Get Off the Freeway

February 27 - 29, 2004 (Fri. 7:30 PM to Sun. 1:30 PM)

*Presenter: Sr. Meg Sass*


Change at an ever-faster pace is a constant in our lives. It takes a toll from our personal and shared reservoirs of physical, emotional and spiritual energies. Spend a quiet weekend on the back roads, exploring the spirituality of change, how to limit its demands and how to replenish our energy supplies.

### Body, Mind & Spirit: Discover Your Gifts

March 26 - 28, 2004 (Fri. 7:30 PM to Sun. 1:30 PM)

*Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean Glodowski*

This seminar is designed to help you understand the vital connections between the body, the mind and the spirit. Identify your strongest gifts and learn practical ways to develop those gifts.



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# ST. GERTRUDE'S Canticle

A JOURNAL OF OUR LIFE

## Look Inside

- Vocation News ..... 2
- Sr. Winfred's Story .... 3
- Developments ..... 4
- Sr. Radegunda Dies ... 5

## Stay in Touch!

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# Our Gifts to You

by Darla Anglen-Whitley

The Feast of St. Gertrude on November 16, 2003, was a time for celebration at the Monastery of St. Gertrude. At a simple ceremony Postulants Mary Mendez and Carla Fontes were received into the monastic community as Novices.



Carla Fontes (left) and Mary Mendez entered the novitiate in a simple ceremony on the Feast of St. Gertrude. Fontes and Mendez join Novices Jean Ihli and Michele Bateman, Postulants Cindy Schultz and Kim Jordan in formation at the monastery.

Both women stood outside the chapel and knocked on the door for entrance. Prioress Jean Lalande opened the door and asked, "What do you want?" They replied, "The mercy of God and entrance into the novitiate."

Sr. Jean then welcomed Mary and Carla into the chapel, invited them to pray with the community and asked them to place their car keys, checkbooks and credit cards on the Bible as a sign of their willingness to depend on the community for all their needs.

Novice Mary, 57, a divorced mother of three from Dinuba, CA, is an RN and hospice nurse. She began seriously thinking about religious life in 1999 and decided to volunteer at a Benedictine monastery in Richardton, ND. She hoped that working at

a monastery would drive away the crazy thoughts she was having. Instead, she recognized that her heart and soul are Benedictine and began to discern her vocation in earnest.

She accepted an invitation to visit St. Gertrude's and knew within the first eight hours that she had found her new home. Mary moved to Idaho in 2001 and worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood and the Monastery's Infirmary for a year. She then entered formation as a Postulant and is now moving into her time as a Novice.

"The purpose of this stage of formation is to become formed in the mind and heart of the community of St. Gertrude. This time will be full of prayer, study, common work of the monastery and solitude as I continue along this road to full membership."

Novice Carla, 43, is from Boise, ID. Before coming to the monastery she worked for a Boise manufacturer receiving parts and doing data entry. In



## Greetings from the Prioress

Season's Greetings to All!

It's hard to realize that the great Feast of Christmas is already here. This is the time when we celebrate the mystery of Incarnation: God taking on human flesh in Christ. Jesus embodies God's love. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us! How incredible!

But there is more to the story than just God becoming flesh. Because of our incorporation into Christ, WE embody Christ's presence, God's love, in our world today. This was St. John's magnificent vision.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory ... Of his fullness we have all had a share – love following upon love."

It is our mission to incarnate God's LOVE in our world, and to continue Christ's work of salvation – bringing light into the darkness through works of healing, reconciliation, peacemaking, and forgiveness.

May this be our prayer these days: God of Love, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life and love to a waiting world as Jesus did. We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Brother. Amen.

I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas. May Christ be born anew in each one of you. You are remembered daily in our celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and in Eucharist. Please keep us in prayer, too. We are so grateful for your presence in our lives.

Enjoy the "rest of the story" in this issue of *The Canticle*.

Peace!

## Sisters in the News

Two sisters from the monastery received Ministry Recognition Awards from Bishop Michael Driscoll on September 28, 2003. Sr. Maria Elena Schaefer is the director of religious education at St. Nicholas parish in Rupert, ID. She was nominated for her dedication to the children and youth she works with in the parish. Her nomination form stated that "When children can't attend regular Sunday classes, she takes the classes to them."

Sr. Rose Marie Nutsch has taught in the Diocese of Boise's Catholic schools for over 30 years, 17 of which have been as a second grade teacher at Sacred Heart School in Boise. "Sr. Rose serves as a resource to the entire staff. Her life is a dedication of service. The virtues of obedience, humility, prayer and respect signify why Sr. Rose Marie deserves this award."

*St. Gertrude's Canticle: A Journal of Our Life* is published three times each year by the Development Office at the Monastery of St. Gertrude. Sr. Mary Kay Henry, OSB, Director of Development. Darla Anglen-Whitley, Editor. (208) 962-3224 EMAIL develop@connectwireless.us • www.StGertrudes.org

## Vocation News

by Sr. Janet Marie Barnard

Several volunteers, sisters and a novice met together as the Vocation Advisory Council in November. Many ideas flew around the circle focusing on how to get the good news out about vocations to St. Gertrude's.

With a formation group of six women, we want everyone to know that vocations are alive and well in Cottonwood!

However, we also need to balance this great news with respect for the formation group's need for privacy, time apart "from the world" and inner work during these years.

We are grateful for your prayers for this important ministry.



### Come and See Vocation Events

Reflection and discernment weekends for single women. Pray with the Monastic community and other women exploring religious life.

- January 23 - 25, 2004
- March 5 - 7, 2004
- May 14 - 16, 2004

## Finding God's Perfect Gift

"God gives everyone a gift and mine is music," smiled Sr. Winifred Lorenz.

And indeed it is. Sr. Winifred made her first profession in 1933. Six years later she hit the teaching circuit as a music instructor and kept on teaching for the next 33 years. She taught in Keuterville, Nampa, St. Maries, Pocatello and Cottonwood. She also played organ for Mass and gave private lessons in her spare time.

Sr. Winifred (Rosanna) was born in 1915 to a music-loving family. Her parents, Jacob and Susan Lorenz, were committed to giving each of their six children the best music education possible.

She was warned by her dad that she could only start music lessons once. "He told me if I started lessons I had to keep going. I couldn't quit when it got hard." Winifred began piano lessons, and soon it was evident that she had the gift of playing by ear.

Some of her early music teachers were sisters from St. Gertrude's. Winifred also at-

tended St. Gertrude's Academy, so she was familiar with the monastic life and entered as a candidate in 1931.

"I remember the exact moment when Mother Superior asked me to become a music teacher," Sr. Winifred recalls. "I was pressing butter into wooden molds when she walked into the kitchen and told me.

"My first thought was 'I can't do that.' But faith in God and belief in my musical gift gave me courage."

Her first position was in Keuterville, ID, where she taught music and choir and played the organ at Mass.



"I celebrated my 70th Jubilee this year. It's important that everyone find their gift from God and do their best with it. I spent my life sharing music – God's gift to me – with children and adults all over Idaho.

"I can't think of anything better."

## Blessing the Nation's Christmas Tree

For the first time in US history, Idaho was given the unique honor of providing the tree that adorns the front lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. during the holiday season.

In a cold and windy ceremony one afternoon in November, the 70-foot tall Engel-



Sr. Jean Lalonde reads the blessing with the sisters on the right.

mann spruce received a blessing from the Sisters at St. Gertrude's as it stopped in Cottonwood.

Frances Conklin of Dog Bark Park organized the Cottonwood event. When trying to come up with a ceremony unique to the area, she immediately thought of the sisters.

"Cottonwood could provide the tree a special blessing by the sisters" Conklin recalled. Then she invited the sisters to include the blessing in the 70 gift bags that accompanied the tree to Washington.

"We've heard that the blessing has been read to the crowd at several different stops on its way to Washington," said Sr. Jean



## DEVELOPMENTS

by Sr. Mary Kay Henry, Director of Development

Recently a friend asked me a question that surprised me: "If we think of Christmas as the moment God gave the world its greatest Gift, can we call God the Benefactor and call Jesus God's lead gift to the world? Is the Gospel Jesus' legacy to us?"

These were new images to me; how would you respond? Here are a few thoughts the question evoked in me.

Can we talk about God's bequest of the Word-made-flesh! How about Jesus' bequest: "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full!"

How about twins St. Scholastica (February 10) and St. Benedict (March 21) and their work of art called the *Rule of Benedict*? After 1,500 years, Benedict's record of what he and Scholastica learned from living community life still inspires women and men all over the world to profound contemplation overflowing as all kinds of services needed in today's cultures.

This duo remain a shining example of the legacy that ensues when ordinary people listen for God's call and put their best talents at the service of others.

On a personal note: My beloved father is celebrating the holidays in heaven this year. He died at his home in Safford, AZ, on October 25, just two weeks short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. My brother Pat and my sisters Virginia and Rosalie were with him. My brother Mike, his daughter and I had spent a week with him the end of September.

He was a very creative, hard-working, fun-loving and deeply caring man who



## Museum Notes

by Lyle Wirtanen, Director Historical Museum at St. Gertrude

The museum was asked to provide several artifacts to be featured on PBS's long-running series **American Experience**. The upcoming segment explores the history of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and will air on area public television stations in the spring of 2004.

Initial contact by PBS was made through Lewiston business machine collector, Ernie Jorgenson. The museum has a number of rare office machines on display, donated by Jorgenson. One of them, a Dactyle calculator made in Paris in 1905, is one of only two in existence.

The artifacts to be "starred" in the production include a vintage calculating machine, a drafting set (ca. 1890), and a slide rule.

The calculating machine is a Marchant Model EEG9 electric pinwheel machine made in Oakland, California in 1923. The calculator is still in operating condition.

Interestingly, documentation identifies the drafting set as one used by George Pierce, a chief engineer on the construction of both the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oakland Bay Bridge.

I want to thank all of you in advance for supporting the museum this year through your donations to the annual appeal. We also appreciate your support through memberships, attending our events, and volunteer time. Without your help, our job would be much more difficult.