

THE ALUMNATOR

February, 2024

St. Scholastica Alumnae Association
P.O. Box 493, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902

Reunion 2023 Report

Dear 'Scho Girls,'

As I write this, along with many of you, we are experiencing a very cold winter! We pray for all of those who are suffering because of the frigid temperatures.

Reunion 2023, September 9 and 10 were wonderful days, being together and sharing memories of our days at SSA. I am seeing us grow closer with each reunion whether or not we are in the same class.

Saturday the 9th we began registration in St. Anne's Hall on the grounds of Immaculate Conception Church. This was followed by lunch and a brief business meeting. Beginning the meeting I told the group our Alumnae co-chair Barbara Hug Anhalt was not with us. This weekend was the only time in years she and her six siblings were able to gather for a reunion. We reported our financial statement with a balance of \$35,123.20. This did not include any of the ongoing reunion expenses. I introduced Sr. Siena Fisk, the most recently professed Sister at St. Scholastica Monastery. She told us about herself and how/why she chose the Monastery. Sr. Kimberly Prohaska, Prioress of the Monastery, reported there will be a committee formed to present ideas for the use of the land where the former Monastery building stood. They are looking at replacing signs for the Monastery and she stated the Alumnae has said they would help with the cost. She expressed how much the 'Scho girls' mean to the Sisters. She said she is a 'Scho girl' wanna-be!

We acknowledged individual classes. Of course, with the excitement no one took notes of the numbers! I'm pretty certain the Class of '60, shown right, topped the numbers.



Mass on Sunday morning, at 10:00 a.m., was celebrated by the Monastery chaplain Fr. Joseph Chan. A copy of his homily is included in this issue.

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In Barbara Hug Anhalt's absence, I stated that we both agree to remain co-chairs of the Alumnae and are willing to have the Reunion annually. I asked if there were any suggestions or comments from the floor. The group agreed we would plan to meet in 2024.

The evening dinner at Taliano's Hall was a wonderful meal and a great time again for sharing. Many of the Sisters joined us.

Following Mass we enjoyed brunch in the Monastery dining area. At this time, we recognized Jeanne Rowlett Nolte '48, the oldest attending 'Scho girl' who was celebrating the 75th anniversary of her graduation.

The Sisters then welcomed tours of the new Monastery building and their guest house.

This comes with a grateful heart for those of you who worked to make the weekend happen. You are always ready to step up to the task.

The Sisters keep all of you 'Scho girls' in their prayers.

Looking forward to a 2024 Reunion!

Dorothy Worner Sullivan, Alumnae Co-Chair
Class of 1960



Jean Rowlett Nolte '64
celebration 75th
anniversary at last year's
reunion.

LOOKING FOR SSA YEARBOOKS

That's right, we are looking for SSA yearbooks. We have copies from 1949, 1953 and 1957, but we need them from other years as well. Why do we want yearbooks? Fr. Jerome Kodell at Subiaco is in contact with someone at Arkansas State Archives who is willing to digitize the yearbooks. They will also digitize all issues of The Scholastican and The ALUMNATOR. Sr. Kimberly Prohaska, Prioress, has given her approval.

Why would we want these items to be digitized? All items would then be available on the State Archives website for anyone to research. Once items are digitized, Fr. Jerome says, "You need only to google Arkansas State Archives and type St. Scholastica in their search engine and then select the particular resource."

The advantage of having these materials digitized is that they "will be preserved and available for alumna and family members and for researchers from now on."

Other materials to be digitized are student and faculty lists from 1924-1967, "The Radio" (1925), "The Booster" (1932) and "The Wren" (1946).

Yearbooks will be returned after the digitizing. If you have one from years other than those listed above, and are willing to loan them to us, please contact:

Barbara Hug Anhalt '59
anhltb@aol.com
479-461-1197

or Dorothy Worner Sullivan '60
dorothysull1974@gmail.com
479-414-1952



Letter from Sr. Kimberly Rose Prohaska, OSB

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery have been busy with many things since our last letter to you, our St. Scholastica Alumnae.

On October 30, 2023, we received Sister Laura Cathcart as a transfer Sister as a member of St. Scholastica Monastery. She is a native of Arkansas and has been a religious Benedictine since 1990. She currently serves as Oblate Director and Manager of the monastery gift shop. We are happy that she has found a monastic home with us.

We hosted a successful bake sale again this year, and your love and support in helping us with the event helped to make it all that it could be. We are not sure if we will host one again in 2024, but that will be decided when the monastic council meets to plan the year in September. Following that meeting, we will inform you of our decision about the next bake sale.

This past year, we lost three of our Sisters to life eternal.



Sister Pierre Vorster, OSB, went home just days after her 101st birthday, March 22, 2023.

Sister Andrea Loran, OSB, left this life on July 13, 2023, at age 96.



We had the recent loss of our Sister Stephanie Schroeder, OSB, on December 7th, 2023. Her services will be held on June 28-29, 2024, so as to accommodate her family.

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Hesychia House of Prayer in Shoal Creek is experiencing renewal with our collaboration with two Sisters of Mercy, Sister Lisa Atkins, RSM, and Sister Anita DeSalvo, RSM. For the past three years, we have been ministering to those who seek solitude and prayer. As Hesychia is the place of our founding one hundred and forty-five years ago, this means a great deal to the sisters, knowing that God has blessed us with this collaboration between the Benedictines and Religious Sisters of Mercy in a new way. Sister Louise Sharum remains at the House of Prayer as a mentor to the Sisters of Mercy.

Much work has been done to bring new life to our House of Prayer, and that new breath is evident in those who come to Hesychia. The property is getting a much-needed face-lift; the hermitages have been updated interiorly and exteriorly. The walking trails have seen improvements and have prayer stations along the way. We needed to get a new tractor with equipment and Gator or golf carts to help the sisters and our maintenance person get about the property. We still maintain the woods, and the presence of cattle is a welcomed experience for those who visit Hesychia. We are looking for a decent farm truck for the work the team does at the House of Prayer. We are repairing St. Mark's Hermitage from the recent winter weather that damaged the forty-year-old water pipes, impacting the bath and kitchen wall and flooring. Other areas of work include the addition of a new hay barn and the taking down of the old barns. One barn is so far gone that we are working to recover some of the wood to repurpose into frames and other possibilities. The other barn, with stone as part of the base, will be refreshed and painted to serve as a prayer space for those who enjoy spending time with God in a nature-like setting. We are grateful to Sister Louise, Sister Lisa, Sister Anita, Mike DeSalvo, and our volunteers who help sustain all that Hesychia means to us.

Other projects we have going include the new signage and our plans for a columbarium. We are currently in the design phase for each of these projects. We look to have both of these completed in the year 2024. The signage will be located on the corner of Rogers Avenue and Albert Pike, where the current sign is located. We will have a sign at the entrance of the new monastery drive and another directional signage as one enters the monastery drive that invites people to the main door, deliveries, and gift shop. We thank our St. Scholastica Alumnae for your commitment to the signage project. This signage will be a bit of an upgrade to the current sign as we will be able to post events not only for the sisters but for other Catholic needs as well. An example of this would be sharing when area parishes host events or if Trinity Catholic has some news to promote for the school.

The columbarium project will be designed to fit our cemetery. We will have a section dedicated to the sisters who desire cremation as an option at the time of their calling home to God, and we hope to have a section available to the public for those who wish to be connected to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in this way. Some friends and Alumnae are looking for ways to memorialize loved ones, and this may be a feasible option for those who wish it.

(See Letter continued on page 5)

(See Letter continued from page 4)

Another area of work we are involved in deals with the former aspirancy building (now called the ministry building) and the much-needed work needed to maintain it. We are finding that it will be harder to heat and cool, and quite a bit of structural aging is making itself apparent. We will begin to have discussions about the feasibility of the building and how that impacts us now and for our future needs.

We are now establishing a committee or task force to help the sisters decide how to use the former monastery space. This committee should be ready to host its first meeting in the coming months. Some of the work includes discussion and discernment about some of the remaining items we have since the deconstruction of the former monastery building. Some of these items include the large (5-ton) altar, the side altar that honored St. Joseph, the Baldacchino, and the communion rail (marble). Our hope regarding some of the communion rail is to make a book of blessings stand from that. There are some doors and smaller items as well that we hope to repurpose. We have bricks from the former building as part of this collection of things and the three bells that might be placed differently. We will decide how to make the bricks available for sale to those who want one.

So, as you may note, we are Benedictine Women busy with many things, and this does not include the other parts of our lives that we share together. We are happy that the St. Scholastica Alumnae will have their reunion again this year. Our sisters find it life-giving to spend that special time with you. As always, we love when you come and visit us. Never forget that our monastery doors and Benedictine hearts are open wide for all of you.

Sr. Kimberly Rose Prohaska, OSB

Let's Keep In Touch

Our website: www.StSchoAlumnae.org

Our Facebook page: St-Scholastica-Alumnae-Association-FSA

Email the Co-Chairs:

Barbara Hug Anhalt anhltb@aol.com

Dorothy Worner Sullivan dorothersull1974@gmail.com

Snail Mail: St. Scholastica Alumnae Association, PO Box 493, Fort Smith, AR 72902

Monastery Gift Shop: www.stscho.org/secure/giftshop

Monastery website: www.stscho.org

Call the Monastery: (479) 783-4147



Gift Shop and Oblates

Katie Shields, above right, and pictures from Gift Shop.

We have many items for Lent and Easter for sale in the Gift Shop. We are also featuring items written by local author and scripture scholar Catherine (Cackie) Upchurch. Please come by and visit us. Our Gift Shop is staffed by Benedictine Oblate Volunteers Katie Shields (pictured), Mary Kennedy Burns '64 and Pat Moore.

Oblates of St. Scholastica Monastery strive to serve God and others in the Spirit of St. Benedict. They meet monthly at the monastery to visit with the Sisters, celebrate Mass together and share how God has been working in their lives. If you are interested in learning more about the Oblate Program please email oblates@stscho.org.

Volunteers are needed to help in the Gift Shop! Saturdays from 12:30 to 3:00 and Wednesdays from 1-3:30 pm. If interested in volunteering please email Sister Laura, manager of the Gift Shop at giftshop@stscho.org.

The Gift Shop hours are M,W,F from 9:30-3:30 and Saturdays from 12:30-3:00. (Closed the second Saturday of each month.)

Sister Laura Cathcart
(479) 242-2501

Pilgrimage To Rome

Jane Anhalt Calvert '59 and Bettye Bercher Franz '58 are with Abbot Elijah Owens (Subiaco Abbey) while on a pilgrimage to Rome in September, 2023.

The picture was taken at Montecassino in the small chapel where St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, are buried. The group had just celebrated Mass at this holy site.

Montecassino was bombed and completely destroyed by the Allies during World War II. After the war, it was reconstructed, replicating the original design.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR ALUMNATOR 2024

OPENING BALANCE - \$30,678.22

EXPENSES

The ALUMNATOR - \$1039.35
SR. PIERRE'S FUNERAL/MEAL - \$493.67
REUNION 2023 - \$4173.55
*BANK SERVICES CHARGES - \$10
POST OFFICE BOX RENTAL FOR 2024 - \$176
TOTAL EXPENSES - \$5892.57

INCOME

DEPOSITS - DUES AND DONATIONS - \$8318.00
BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 24, 2024 - \$33105.65

Detailed accounts for THE ALUMNATOR, SR. PIERRE'S SERVICE AND REUNION 2023 are available if requested.

**In September 2023, the bank began charging \$2 a month for providing a detailed paper statement.*

Fr. Joseph Chan's Homily

Mass with the Sisters – Reunion 2023

“Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” We owe love and reconciliation with one another for we are each other’s keeper in the path to salvation.”

In our first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, each of us are the appointed sons of man, who are the watchmen of Israel, of our world. If we do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt but we will be held responsible for the wicked man’s death. But if we warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but we shall save ourselves.

Giving fraternal/sisterly correction is hard for both the giver and the receiver. As an act of charity, if it were the giver, we have to conduct the counsel in private and pastorally. We are to praise in public, and chastise in private. The Gospel tells us that . . . “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.”

Conversely, if we were the one told that we have offended another, the responsorial Psalm reminds us “to harden not our hearts” for it is through others, in a state of grace, that we hear God’s voice; it is through others that God speaks to us!

If fraternal/sisterly correction is conducted in a forgiving atmosphere, we imitate the work of God who reconciles the world to himself, out of his love for us, through the passion and death of his Son, Jesus. By reconciling himself with us through Christ, God entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. “Paying” what we owed, in love, is only possible by following the example of the love of God for us, when we reconcile with those who offended us and with those we have offended.

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. This means that both parties, as an act of loving one another, have to make an attempt that there will be reconciliation in order for the law to be fulfilled, before tensions/conflicts/ animosities escalate to the point of involving witnesses, the Church, and before one gets treated as a gentile or tax collector; thus, become an outcast.

In reconciliation, God’s grace brings souls together as sisters and brothers. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Families will remain united and divisions will cease, once we reconcile with one another, only through love, for we owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another.

Save the Date

Reunion 2024

Scheduled for September 21 and 22, 2024

Registration will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 21, in the St. Anne's Building on the campus of Immaculate Conception Church. Sunday Mass will be with the Sisters at the Monastery, followed by brunch.

Details about Saturday evening will be included on the registration form to be sent separately this spring. Join us!

St. Scholastica Alma Mater

by Sr. Mildred Dunn dedicated to Sr. Julia Heim and the Palestrina Choir.

List to the call of the Ozarks,
To the hills in verdant array,
And there in the midst of their splendor,
You will find our S.S. A.

Long may she live in her glory,
As she furls her banner on high,
Marching herself on to vict'ry
As she views the blue Southern sky.

All hail, St. Scholastica!
The school that we love so well.
We pledge our loyalty,
In faith and the love we tell.

Your standards and ideals
Are guiding us on the right.
Hail, St. Scholastica!
'Neath the banner of green and white.

Dues/Donations/ Reunion Participants

Ann Weiterer Bell '46
 Genevieve Ehemann Lemley '50
 Janelle Knoedel Lazzo '51
 Lona Geels Seiter '53 R
 Rosemary Ahlert Lelemsis '53 R
 Dolores Raible Stemper '53
 Tadea Montalvo Bernes '54
 Rebecca Wiederkehr '54 R
 Margaret A Erman Price '55
 Mary Geels Koenigseder '55
 Bernice Ardemagni McCauley '56
 Theresa Wewers Boekholder '56 R
 Mary K Dalmut Neumeier '57
 Mary Anne Elskan Burford '57
 Jo Ann Kleck Lehnen '57 R
 Delores Wiederkehr Neumeier '57 R
 Rosemary Heinrichs Lestyr '58
 Mary Ellen Raible Sommer '58
 Patricia Hasler O'Hagan '59
 Cathy Leding Klober '59
 Annetta Dean Oliver '60
 R Margaret Frantz '60 R
 Mary Hensen Ahlert '60
 Marilyn Rofkahr Zeiler '60 R
 Lucy Vogelpohl Tausinger '60
 Rosella Zeiler Lasater '60 R
 Theresa Bock Carle '61
 Roselyn Eckart Layes '61 R
 Jodi Hofrichter Barr '61 R
 Rosemary Plunkett-Stith '61 R
 Carolyn Walker Drozdowski '61 R
 Marilyn Gangluff Gunther '62
 Carolyn Hofrichter Clark '62 R
 Dorothy Oberste Clay '62 R
 Patricia Wewers Reid '62 R
 Sandra Borengasser Ahlert '63
 Mary Risse Devaney '63
 Joanna Zimmer Wardein '63
 Joanie Glenn Stavig '64
 Janette Hilton Dahlem '64 R
 Helen Liewer Kutil '64
 Mary Longley '64
 Katie Strobel Simmons '64
 Debbie Wewers Bentley '64 R
 Mary Adams Yandell '65 R
 JoElla Simmons Newbury '65 R
 Susan Roach Reed '66 R
 Carolyn Thron Porr '66
 Leona Dalton Cardenas '67 R
 Alicia Minden '67 R
 Bonnie Ransdell Diefendorfer '67
 Susan Borengasser Gamble '68
 Lois Kerschen '68
 Phyllis Zeiler Ewing '68
 Jeanne Rowlett Nolte '48 R
 Catherine Neihouse McVay '50
 Dorothy Neihouse Calderera '52 R
 Dorothy Huber Barton '53
 Ann Piper Givens '53
 Betty Schwartz Keutzer '53
 Wilma Wewers Ahlert '54 R
 Jean (Imogene) Albracht Kennevan '55
 Faye Kershen '55
 Helen Duerr Hays '56
 Kitty Schwartz Hug '56
 Marcella Bergup Geiss '57
 Mary Dennis Edwards '57 R
 Rosetta Kern Lensing '57 R
 Lillian Geels Kohler '57
 Martha Jane Biltl Magee '58
 Mary Leding Heiss '58 R
 Jane Ann Anhalt Calvert '59
 Barbara Hug Anhalt '59
 Kathy Moody Bombela '59
 Carolyn Eckart Lensing '60
 Martha Greuel Fisher '60 R
 Doris Geels Koch '60 R
 Shirley Senko '60
 Dorothy Worner Sullivan '60 R
 Jeanette Beschoner Kelly '61
 Cathy Corrotto Lorenz '61 R
 Dolores Hartman Gangluff '61
 Mary Ann Hug Geels '61 R
 Rosemary Thomas Wingfield '61
 Pamela Yother Sharum '61
 Patricia Hensen Lucy '62
 Kathleen Keller '62 R
 Annette Vogelpohl Knittig '62 R
 Ginger Ahlert Georgie '63 R
 Christine Ford '63 R
 Dolores Willems Hofrichter '63 R
 Emily Geels Soller '64 R
 Rita Golwas Self '64 R
 Mary Kennedy Burns '64 R
 Betty Lisko Masingale '64
 Sue Simmons Baber '64
 Betty Udouj Pryor '64
 Ramona Willems Keizer-Hornsey '64 R
 Edna Dean Howard '65
 Viola Hoelting '66 R
 Linda Simmons Peters '66
 Mona Zang Wooten '66
 Maria Geels '67
 Carol Blaufuss Oberle '67
 Jane Adams Brummel '65-'68
 Donna Hoelting Herron '68
 Linda Starling Eckart '68
 Theresa Geels Klein '57

ALUMNAE DEATHS

Virginia Lachowsky Porterfield '65	Nov. 27, 2019
Annette Devine Fitzgerald '52	May 22, 2022
Pauline Geesing Sanzaro '49	June 3, 2022
Mary Ann Wilhelm Halcisak '53	Mar. 4, 2023
Sister Pierre Vorster '42	Mar. 22, 2023
Gwyn Hendricks Johnson '58	Apr. 1, 2023
Lona Knittig Weisenfels '53	Apr. 5, 2023
Mitzi Bender Bardrick '48	Apr. 12, 2023
Dorothy Corrotto Westmoreland '66	Apr. 14, 2023
Florence Schnitzer Roman '43	Apr. 15, 2023
Sally Baert Bray '68	Apr. 25, 2023
Martha Siebenmorgen Vorster '45	May 7, 2023
Margaret Klein Babitzke '52	May 12, 2023
Therese Huber Hoelzeman '49	June 13, 2023
Sister Andrea Loran	July 13, 2023
Patsy Geels Schluterman '50	July 13, 2023
Jean Ann Bercher Roddy '60	July 25, 2023
Evangeline Sharum Werner '52	July 27, 2023
Anne Marie Horning Ellison-Johnston '59	Oct. 9, 2023
Barbara Scherm Smith '55	Oct. 12, 2023
Clara DeSalvo Granger '48	Oct. 21, 2023
Becky Elser Young '67	Nov. 20, 2023
Sister Stephanie Schroeder '50	Dec. 7, 2023

Jubilarians

Sister Madeline Bariola '54	70 years
Sister Rosalie Ruesewald	70 years

Alumnae Association

Dues Renewal 2024

First Maiden Last Yr/Graduated/Attended

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ Check here if this is a change of address, telephone number or email

Annual Dues \$10 _____

Donation for support of the Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery _____

Total _____

Please enclose this form with your dues/donation and send to:

ST. SCHOLASTICA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

P.o. BOX 493 FORT SMITH, AR 72902

Donations for the Sisters

As you know, we ask for donations for the Sisters with your dues and with reunion registrations. Because the Scho girls have been so generous in the past, we are able to give the Sisters \$25,000 as they begin work on signage for the Monastery. We can do this without compromising our on-going expenses, but we would like to help more if we can.

The signs are badly needed, as anyone who has been to the Monastery recently can attest. The Sisters have worked hard to determine exactly the signs that will serve them best.

Your donations can be specifically for the signs, or they can be added to your dues. Your generosity is impressive and we are confident in promising the Sisters more financial help as their signs are constructed.