

The ALUMNATOR



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

Alumnae Reunion 2025

"Store the memories in your heart.
Treasure them for endless ages."

Only four months ago, September 20 & 21, 2025, we gathered for our annual alumnae reunion ! We began Saturday morning with registration in St. Anne's Building on the campus of Immaculate Conception Church, downtown Fort Smith. Some of the Sisters from the Monastery joined us and there was endless visiting. We enjoyed a delicious catered lunch followed by a short business meeting. A copy of the financial report was on each table & it was noted the Alumnae was able to give a generous donation of \$25,500 to the Monastery to help with new signs. The classes in attendance were each acknowledged. Again, as last reunion, Janelle Knoedel Lazzo, Class of 1951, was the earliest graduate present.



We reminisced how and when the Alumnae was reorganized about 1978-79. The Alumnae had disbanded after the Academy closed in 1968. A "Scho Girl", Ruth Stanford Rogers, Class of 1967, put a note in our local newspaper column asking if anyone was interested in reorganizing the Alumnae to please contact her. It started with that note. We met with Sister Andrew who had been the Alumnae director. At that time Sister was a patient in the Monastery Infirmary. She gave us a small metal index box with the cards containing names & addresses of graduates. Several "Scho Girls" met and started the ball rolling. A reunion was held July 1979 on the Monastery grounds. Over 300 attended with husbands & children.

The reunion committee had ordered corsages for our former teachers. Much to our sadness Sister Andrew passed away June 25, 1979. We placed her flower on her in the casket. Somehow I know she felt that small metal box was again coming to life !

Sister Kimberly Prohaska, Monastery prioress, spoke & shared what is happening at the Monastery. One Sister has made temporary vows & one young woman is discerning her vocation with them. Sister expressed their gratitude for our contributions and how thankful they are for the "Scho Girls" loyalty.

Those in attendance were asked if they had any questions or suggestions about future reunions. No one came forward and it was decided we will continue with annual reunions.

Saturday evening we were joined by the Sisters for dinner at Prima Italia restaurant downtown. The atmosphere was relaxing, we enjoyed visiting again and delicious food. Sunday we gathered for 10:00 am Mass in the Monastery chapel. Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Chan, Monastery chaplain. Music was provided by Maryanne Meyerriecks. At the closing

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Following Mass we enjoyed a wonderful brunch in the Monastery dining area prepared by the Monastery kitchen led by chef Cindy.

It is not possible to put into words what these gatherings mean. One of our thank you notes we received after the reunion states:

"Thanks! You and your ladies did such a great job. We really appreciate having a reunion. Even if there are just a few people, there are so many precious memories that are attached that it feels like a blessing. Thank You again !"

With a grateful heart I thank everyone who worked to make the weekend happen and those approximately 65 who attended.

Dorothy Worner Sullivan, Class of 1960
Alumnae Co-chair



See more Reunion
photos on
pages 9 and 11.

Letter From St. Scholastica Prioress

Dear St. Scholastica Alumnae,

1/14/2026

To update you on some of the happenings since the last Alumator and the Horizon were sent out - we have completed the columbarium projects. We have one columbarium for the Sisters and another for those of the public who wish to be a part of St. Scholastica Monastery in this way. We have packets of information about the columbarium available and there is information on the monastery website for those who want to be interred here. If you know anyone who would like to consider our columbarium, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We still have a few stone benches and plaques available as opportunities for memorials for those who may want to honor a loved one. One area on the monastery grounds/ cemetery is for the future and lasting care of the cemetery and we plan to establish a fund to pay for perpetual care of the monastery's final resting place for the sisters and those individuals who have chosen to be interred in the columbarium.

I hope that you have seen the new signage on the corner of Rogers and Albert Pike. We are blessed to have IT technology and digital signage that promotes various events and happenings for the Monastery, as well as advertising with collaborators of St. Scholastica.



We especially promote the value of Benedictine Hospitality by inviting the public to share in our prayer life and Eucharistic celebrations. We share our Catholic identity with prayer messages and about the various programs we are involved in, such as the Oblate and GEM program and Hesychia House of Prayer. We promote the monastery gift shop, the special feast days or birthdays of the Sisters, employees and volunteers. We welcome other Churches publicizing events on the signage as well. We let the people of Fort Smith and beyond know that the Sisters of St. Scholastica are praying for them. We have special messages honoring you, our St. Scholastica Academy Alumnae. Know of our love and gratitude for you and how you impact the graciousness of our lives! We would not have this beautiful signage to bring blessing to the public about who we are and what we do if it were not for your tremendous generosity! You, the St. Scholastica Academy Alumnae, gifted us \$25,500.00 to cover the cost of the signage and more, and we Sisters thank you for this amazing gift to us and to those needing messages of hope and faith in their day to day lives.

We have established a Task Force Committee to help us discern how we can repurpose items remaining from the former monastery building, and we are in the dreaming phase of being good stewards of the monastery grounds. Those who serve on this task force are members of the River Valley Community and

others connected with the Sisters of St. Scholastica. We have members who are oblates, alumnae, community professionals, Trinity staff, and former members serving on this team. We hosted our first meeting last summer, and the energy around this work is exciting and hopeful as we look to various possibilities before us. We have been working together with the Sisters to dream about what we can still give to the community and in honor of the God we seek, honor and love. We are now in process of vetting landscape architects about some of our dreaming's and repurpose possibilities including the love of the monastery bells and materials that remain from the former monastery. What we cannot use we hope to find homes for in new places of faith in need, and this is yet a work in progress and we hope what we design will be a sacred place of simplicity, an oasis of tranquility and peace for those who visit the monastery of St. Scholastica. We ask for your prayers as we listen and learn about how to honor the gifts that God has given us.

We have one Sister in Temporary Profession. Sister Siena asked to renew her vows for one year as she is helping an extended family friend back to better health in Dallas, Texas. We hope she will make her perpetual commitment to God and the monastic life in 2026. Sister Laura Cathcart is a native of Little Rock and a former member of Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro. She made her transfer of stability to St. Scholastica Monastery on June 24, 2025. She is the director of Oblates, oversees the management of the gift shop and has recently become a certified spiritual director. Sister Siena Fisk is a native of the Philippines and comes to St. Scholastica from Texas. We ask your prayers for them as they continue living the Benedictine life. We have an affiliate from Missouri who will be coming in the fall to live with us in our immersion program for one to three months. Her name is Juanita Rios. We have a few interested young women who are thinking about religious life and discerning their call with us. One joined us for Sunday Mass during the reunion. Her name is Ana Stone, and she is a part of Sacred Heart Parish, in Charleston, but she resides in Lavaca. She is seventeen years old. Another young seventeen-year-old. Ezmah Perrodin is from Fayetteville and considering her call after high school. Sister Siena just returned from SEEK26 in Ohio where she worked a vocation sponsored booth promoting the religious Sisters of St. Scholastica. This is the second of such events that are geared toward college age and young adult persons.

We have fifteen sisters in the community. One serves in ministry away from the monastery. Sister Louise Sharum served as a mentor at Hesychia House of Prayer in New Blaine, until God called her home to life eternal on October 26, 2025, at age 94. We grieve her loss and are grateful to Sisters Lisa Atkins, RSM and Sister Anita DeSalvo, RSM for their love and care for her and for their continued ministry at House of Prayer. Sister Therese Moreno works at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville this year and looks to return from Northwest Arkansas this summer after serving eleven years of ministry at the University of Arkansas.

We do not have sisters residing in local assisted living facilities. Like all religious across the nation, we are coming to terms with the reality of a fragile future as fewer young men and women look to religious life as a viable way to live. Much discussion, work, and effort are being made to embrace the unknown future we all walk. The future of religious life is shifting and will look different from what we have known. What we do know is that the Sisters of St. Scholastica have been a solid Benedictine presence in Arkansas for nearly 147 years, and we trust God will keep the Benedictine charism for many more years to come. We will celebrate our anniversary on January 23, 2026.

We ask your prayers for us as we always remember you. These are not easy times. We will be discerning for our next election of Prioress this coming year and much of our energy will be devoted to praying to the Holy Spirit as we look to elect the Sister God is asking our community to lead us further into our future and continued relationship with the God we seek. Our election will be October 7-10, 2026. We ask for your prayers as we work with our monastic congregation and facilitators in this process. We will let you know when we see Pink Smoke!

As many of you are aware we hosted our annual bake sale on December 13, 2025, at the monastery. This event was the largest one-day sale we have yet to host. We collected over \$11,200.00 and Sister Hilary Decker created a quilt that was raffled off and garnered over \$500.00 for her efforts! We know the success of the day is largely due to your support of this annual event. The best part of the day is getting to be with you, who come out and bake and share your love and time with us.

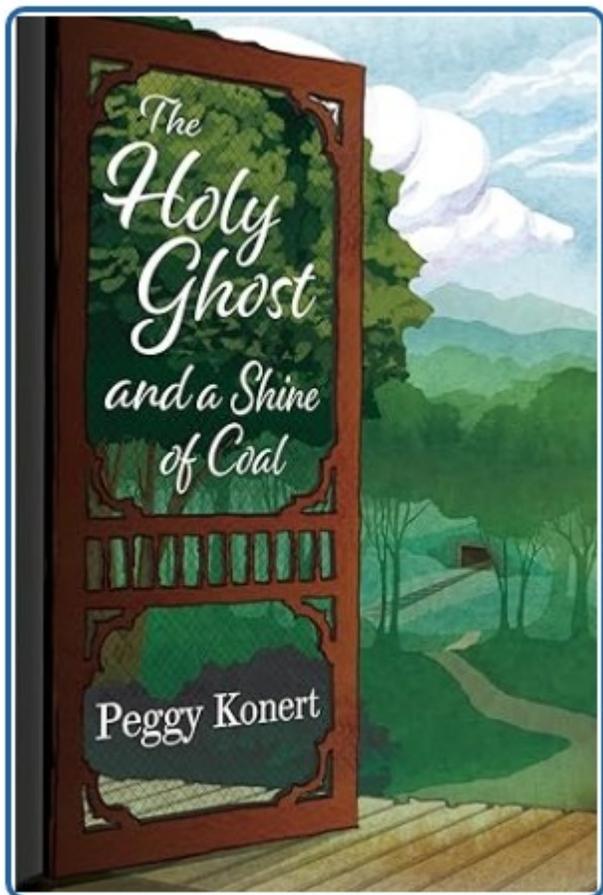
We did have a lovely Advent and Christmas season, and we hope that you and all you loved ones did as well. The days before Christmas did not leave us without various forms of excitement such as visits from area schools and parishes, and other loved ones wanting to see the Sisters for the holidays. We did have issues with fighting gravity with five Sisters going to the ER for such tumbles. Gratefully, we are all on the mend! Our Sisters are one loving yet tough bunch. You can never keep a good Benedictine Sister down!

We invite you to come to celebrate Mass with us, explore the possibility of the Oblate program, and visit the Sisters. We are grateful to you for your support of the GEM program and the needs of the Sisters. We are humbled by your care, example, and dedication to all that you do. Please be sure to see all the signage about the monastery grounds which you all helped us to have and enjoy!

Without a doubt, there is nothing better than a Scho girl. "Once a Scho girl, always a Scho Girl" and how much we love all of you. Happy New Year to each of you! We look forward to seeing you again at the next Alumnae gathering!

Blessings,
Sister Kimberly Prohaska, OSB, Prioress

Peggy Konert Class '68 Pens Coming-of-Age Novel



Peggy Konert has penned a coming-of-age novel revolving around 10-year-old June Ellen, set in late 1940s Arkansas. The defunct coal mining industry creates the tale's backdrop for spunky June Ellen and her painful struggles with the changing social and economic milieu post-World War II. Her father has Black Lung Disease. He and Mama must fend off the mercenary Mr. Mackey's efforts to take over the Shoal Creek Mine- which would bring the entire rural community to its knees. The mine is a paradox, killing the miners yet providing their livelihood. Konert's novel is rich in period detail, with hardscrabble folks as varied as the Ouachita hills and hollows. A reading treasure for historical fiction bibliophiles.

Find on Amazon.com

You cannot serve both God and mammon.

It does not make sense that the Master praised the dishonest steward after the latter squandered his Master's property.

No, it does make sense. The Master praised the dishonest steward not for his dishonesty, but for his prudence. The steward asked the debtors promissory notes which made him appear good. By doing so, the steward prudently made the image of his Master better for his generosity.

Jesus teaches us something more; that is, though the Master praised the dishonest steward for being prudent, the bottom line remains that the steward mismanaged the wealth of his Master.

In the parable, Jesus reminds us that we ought to be trusted even in small matters so that we can be trusted in bigger matters.

If we have earthly wealth, we ought to be trusted even more with heavenly wealth, the wealth which only God gives. The earthly wealth that the steward manages is nothing compared to the eternal wealth in heaven. Earthly wealth therefore is the smaller thing, and heavenly wealth is the bigger thing. We ought to be trusted with small things, in order for us to be trustworthy to tackle heavenly wealth that is about to come.

Mammon, or money, can be a deterrent to God.

We cannot serve both God and mammon. Either we serve God and dump earthly riches or be enslaved to money and dump God to the side. We cannot have our cake and eat it too.

Money, the smaller thing on earth, ought to guide us on how much trustworthy we are going to be with bigger things; in order that when the biggest thing, heavenly riches, are set before our very eyes, we can be found more trustworthy.

For the smaller thing, money, can never buy health, peace, and happiness. Only heavenly riches can bring forth health, peace, and happiness. And those riches... we ought to be working for, in order to be deserving of God's trust in us.

2025 DUES, DONATIONS, REUNION BY CLASS

Barbara Beshoner Bordenet '47
Genevieve Ehemann Lemley '50
Janelle Knoedel Lazzo '51 R
Lona Geels Seiter '53 R
Betty Schwartz Kreutzer '53
Wilma Wewers Ahlert '54 R
Faye Ann Kershen '55
Bernice Ardemagni McCauley '56
Alma Lipsmeyer Gipson '56
Mary K Dalmut Neumeier '57
Lillian Geels Kohler '57
Carmelita Gilyard Adams '58 R
Bette Intres Spruell '58 R
Patricia Hassler O'Hagan '59
Cathy Leding Klober '59
Ann Cooper Childs '60 R
Margaret Franz '60 R
Mary Hensen Ahlert '60
Marilyn Rofkahr Zeiler '60 R
Lucy Vogelpohl Tausinger '60
Rosella Zeiler Lasater '60 R
Mary Cecilia Ruesewald '61
Jane Berry Sanders '61
Susie Cooper Koenigseder '61 R
Roselyn Eckart Layes '61 R
Mary Cecilia Ruesewald Ragsdale '61
Pamela Yother Sharum '61
Marilyn Gangluff Gunther '62
Dorothy Oberste Clay '62 R
Sandra Borengasser Ahlert '63 R
Dolores Willems Hofrichter '63 R
Mary Cullivan Canterbury '64*
Emily Geels Soller '64 R
Joan Glenn Stavig '64
Janette Hilton Dahlem '64 R
Betty Lisko Masingale '64
Areletha Miller Springs '64 R

Ann Weiterer Bell '49
Catherine Neihouse McVay '50
Bernice Bergup '52
Dorothy Huber Barton '53
Cynthia Zakes Pitts '53
Mary Geels Koenigseder '55
Francie Veitenheimer Scheffe '55
Helen Duerr Hays '56
Lynn Osborne Boag '56
Mary Dennis Edwards '57 R
Rosetta Kern Lensing '57 R
Linda Gramlich Batcheler '58
Jane Anhalt Calvert '59
Barbara Hug Anhalt '59
Kathy Moody Bombela '59
Carolyn Eckart Lensing '60 R
Doris Geels Koch '60 R
Janie Kennedy Krone '60
Shirley Senko '60
Dorothy Worner Sullivan '60 R
Delores (Sissi) Anhalt Bennett '61
Kay Bennett Smith '61
Jeanette Beschoner Kelly '61
Cathy Corrotto Lorenz '61
Mary Ann Hug Geels '61 R
Carolyn Walker Drozdowski '61 R
Jo Ann Dennis Campbell '62 R
Patricia Hensen Lucy '62
Annette Vogelpohl Knittig '62 R
Mary Risse Devaney '63
Carol Binz Blaschke '64
Barbara Forst Stelle '64 R
Lasonia Gilyard Whitmore '64 R
Rita Golwas Self '64 R
Mary Kennedy Burns '64 R
Mary Longley '64
Catherine Roesch '64 R

Sue Simmons Baker '64
 Katie Strobel Simmons '64 R
 Ramona Willems Keizer-Hornsey '64
 Edna Dean Howard '65
 Mary Rich Webb '65
 Viola Hoelting '66 R
 Susan Roach Reed '66
 Mona Zang Wooten '66
 Cindy Bradney Shaw '67 R
 Maria Geels '67
 Bonnie Ransdell Diefendorf '67 R
 Susan Borengasser Gamble '65-68 R
 Mary Catherine Bock Hart '68 R
 Linda Eckart Starling '68
 Joan Knoedel Rodemann '68 R
 Pat Lensing Sprick '68 R
 Suzanne Robben Brown '68
 Christine Borengasser Wheeler '69 R

Betty Udouj Pryor '64
 Debbie Wewers Bentley '64 R
 Mary Adams Yandell '65 R
 Olivia Filipek Holland '65 R
 JoElla Simmond Newbury '65 R
 Virginia Rinke Ricketts '66
 Susan Shaw Barry '66
 Carol Blaufuss Oberle '67
 Leona Dalton Cardenas '67 R
 Alicia Minden '67 R
 Jane Strobel Dugan '67
 Mary Adams '67-'68 R
 Judy Clotfelter Wilhelm '68 R
 Lois Kerschen '68
 Peggy Konert '68 R
 Carla Nolte Wagner '68 R
 Susie Strobel Schneider '68
 Helen Zeiler Wren '69

R indicates Reunion registration/attendance
 *Donation in memory of Charlotte Eckert
 We apologize if anyone's name has been omitted.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION DUES RENEWAL 2026

First	Maiden	Last	Yr. Graduated/Attended
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 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/donations and send to:

ST. SCHOLASTICA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 493

FORT SMITH, AR 72902

ALUMNAE AND SISTERS DEATHS

Wanda Knight Hamilton '59	Jan. 21, 2024
Anna Schoenberger Shumaker '53	Sept. 24, 2024
Lorene Frederick Jones '53	Mar. 2, 2025
Lucille Post Johnson '47	Jan. 30, 2025
Mary Werner Lutz '47	Mar. 2, 2025
Carla Reames '62	Mar. 11, 2025
Mary Jo Roesch Sweeney '63	May 18, 2025
Mary Chandler Ferraro '49	June 16, 2025
Alice Gerke Stuff '59	June 26, 2025
Elizabeth Becker McAnally '60	July 6, 2025
Pat Baskin (teacher)	July 25, 2025
Cathy Leding Klober '59	Oct. 5, 2025
Nancy Girard Price	Oct. 25, 2025
Sister Louise Sharum '49	Oct. 26, 2025
Jeanne Rowlett Nolte '48	Nov. 5, 2025
Theresa Wewers Boekholder '56	Dec. 17, 2025
Dorothy Pazdera Weisenfels '56	Jan. 18, 2026
Leona Hoelting '64	Jan. 26, 2026

Jubilarian for 2026

Sister Hilary Decker '56 70 years



Scho Girls Do Get Around:



Scho Girls in Monte Cassino: Pictured above: Gail Wiederkehr Clark '69, Nancy Eckelhoff Wald '68, Becky Wewers Johnson '68 and Alicia Minden '67.

Three Scho girls were in Switzerland last September: Ramona Willems Keizer-Hornsey '64, Mary Willems Eckart '66 and Barbara Hug Anhalt '59. No photo available.



Look who ran for office
Julie Robben Lineberry
Class '66

Candidate for Special Election
Feb. 10 – Virginia 39th Senate District



St. Scholastica Alumnae Association Reunion 2026

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

Saturday, September 19

10:00 AM - Registration in St. Anne's Building on grounds of Immaculate Conception Church

12:00 Noon - Lunch and General Meeting

6:00 PM - Dinner at Prima Italia, 720 Garrison Avenue

Sunday, September 20

10 AM - Mass in the Monastery Chapel followed by brunch in the Monastery Dining Room

No charge for pre-registered graduates/attendees of St. Scholastica Academy. Guest fees below.

We suggest a registration deadline to help us in planning reunion events. We never turn down last minute registrations and we like that some spontaneously join us when possible. BUT we need to ask last minute, unregistered attendees to pay the guest fees to help cover the cost of ordering enough food.

Questions? anhltb@aol.com (479-461-1197) or dorothysull1974@gmail.com (479-414-1952)

-----Detach here and return the form below.-----

REUNION 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Alumnae attending (no charge):

Luncheon _____ Dinner _____ Mass/Brunch _____

Number of guests attending:

Luncheon (\$15) _____ Dinner (\$25) _____ Mass/Brunch (\$12) _____

Total for Guests: _____

I would like to make a donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

First Name Maiden Name Married/Last Name Yr. Graduate/Attended

Address:

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Mail Registrations to:

St. Scholastica Alumnae Association

PO Box 493

Fort Smith, AR 72902

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 3