From the Prioress

With injustices in our days such as gun violence, human trafficking, and malnutrition, among many others, we bless those who work tirelessly to bring change and goodness to our world. As individuals, we may feel powerless in addressing these injustices, but when people join together in prayer and action, change occurs. We may not see the effects of those changes on a large scale, but if our actions and prayer help just one other person to recognize the goodness of God then we bestow blessing on that person, receive blessing in return, and give glory and honor to God. In addition, our single action can cause a ripple effect, and the one we bless may turn and offer blessing to another.

As Prioress, each Saturday evening I am privileged to give a blessing entitled “Servers’ Blessing” upon the Sisters who will serve the community in the upcoming week. This blessing reminds each of us that we are called to serve one another through our daily actions and words and that by doing so we serve God. This blessing reminds us that in all that we do or say we give honor and glory to God.

I offer this blessing to you, as well, as a reminder that in your daily actions and words you, too, are a blessing for others.

“O God, grant to all of us the grace to serve the community with joy and love. Increase our awareness of the needs of others and give us the grace to serve with generosity.

May our good intentions be realized in our service to each other.

May we all realize that in serving others we serve you through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.”

It is indeed a gift for each of us to bless and honor others through our service, knowing that in doing so we give glory to God. May we, together, bonded in unity and the love of Christ, continue to be the blessing that others need.

A particular blessing for a monastic community is the Perpetual Monastic Profession of a Sister. On page 2, you will read of Sr. Michelle’s perpetual profession by which she made a lifetime commitment to living the Benedictine way of life within this monastic community. The profession ritual is a blessing not only because of the self-giving of the Sister, it also reminds each Sister of the gift and call of her own vocation to generous and joyful service both inside and outside the monastic community, knowing that, as the Servers’ Blessing at left describes, “in serving others we serve Christ.”
Sister Michelle Renee makes Perpetual Monastic Profession

“To seek God together”: these words were the immediate response of Sister Michelle St. Marie when asked what drew her to the community of Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman. She saw within the balanced life of prayer and work in monastic community a way in which her desire for God could be expressed and nurtured. Her exploration of this life and initial formation in it over the past seven years culminated on July 7, 2018, with her perpetual monastic profession. With this profession, Sister Michelle made a permanent commitment to monastic life within the community of Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman.

The Eucharistic Celebration, during which the Rite of Perpetual Monastic Profession was celebrated, was held at Sacred Heart Monastery Chapel. Rev. John O’Donnell, O.S.B. presided over the Eucharistic Celebration and offered the homily. Sister Tonette Sperando, O.S.B., Prioress of the monastic community, led the Rite of Perpetual Monastic Profession, received Sister Michelle’s vows, and offered a reflection on this important step in the life of every monastic. Joining the monastic community for the celebration were Sister Michelle Renee’s sisters Paulette Haynes and Annie Scarborough along with their families, as well as Oblates and friends.

Sister Michelle’s connection with the Benedictine Sisters traces back to her teenage years when she attended a vocation retreat at the monastery. Her continuing remembrance of this retreat and a deepening sense of God’s call led her back to Sacred Heart, at first for retreats and eventually for vocation discernment. In November 2011, Sister Michelle entered Sacred Heart Monastery as a postulant. The following year she was formally received into the community as a novice, receiving the Religious name of Sister Michelle Renee St. Marie. After completing her novitiate, Sister Michelle Renee began ministry as an occupational therapist, a field in which she worked for nearly twenty years prior to entering the monastic community.

She currently serves at United Ability in Birmingham, working with children from two to five years of age and also mentoring occupational therapy students. Within the monastic community,

Benedictine Manor News – A conversation with Sr. Tonette

Thirty-five years ago, an unexpected ministry came to birth on our monastery grounds – Benedictine Manor. At that time, the Sisters had learned of the need in our area for independent living options for seniors and decided to bring such a ministry to life in one of our newly-empty college dorms.

During these years, many changes have taken place in residential options available to seniors. While these shifts are positive, it has meant that fewer people are seeking the independent living option provided by Benedictine Manor, and over the past several years the need for this ministry has decreased substantially. After careful analysis of all available information, thorough exploration of all options, and much prayer and discernment, the Sisters made the difficult decision to close the Manor before the current realities affect the level of service we can provide to our residents. Now, the blessing that has been Benedictine Manor will continue in other ways as the remaining residents take the blessing with them to their new places of residence, and those who have been blessed to serve at the Manor share the fruit of that blessing in new ways.

A Benedictine Update staff writer recently spoke with Sister Tonette Sperando, Prioress, about the decision to close Benedictine Manor.

**Update:** What was the hardest part of the decision?  
**Sr. Tonette:** By far, the hardest part is saying goodbye to friends and neighbors. We have developed a loving relationship and friendship with our Manor residents and staff through the years. We will miss them tremendously, and will miss the blessing that this ministry has brought into our lives. Each resident has been a gift to us.

**Update:** Does this mean that anything at the monastery will change?  
**Sr. Tonette:** This change is only about our Benedictine Manor ministry, not the Benedictine Sisters as a whole. Our monastic life of prayer and community continues. This change in our ministry of Benedictine Manor, while painful, is part of the human reality of change that happens even within the inherent stability of Benedictine life.

**Update:** What kind of support is being given to the residents as they transition to new places of residence?  
**Sr. Tonette:** When we notified the residents in May of our decision to close, we assured them of our commitment to assist them in the process of transition. We are working closely with each resident and have provided resources to make this transition as smooth as possible. We are committed to continuing the same high level of service until the day the last resident completes his or her relocation.

**Update:** How long will the ministry continue to operate?  
**Sr. Tonette:** Initially, our prayer was that the residents be able to relocate to a new living facility that would meet their needs by the end of November 2018. The reality is that by mid-August all of the residents will have already relocated, so the ministry is being given to the residents as they await the opening procession. Sr. Tonette, as Prioress, received Sr. Michelle’s profession. Sr. Mary served as Scholastic Director during her final years in Initial Formation.
Sister Kathleen Christa celebrates Silver Jubilee

With joyful hearts, the community celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Kathleen Christa Murphy, O.S.B., on Saturday, May 12, in the monastery chapel. Sr. Tonette Sperando, O.S.B., Prioress, received Sister Kathleen Christa’s Renewal of Monastic Profession and offered a reflection at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Rev. Joel Martin, O.S.B., served as Presider and Homilist.

Sr. Kathleen Christa’s journey to Sacred Monastery began in the warm cocoon of a close and loving family whose life centered around their parish, school, and neighborhood. After earning a B.A. degree in English and Art from College of Our Lady of the Elms, Sister Kathleen Christa’s creativity and artistic talent found an outlet in a successful career as a designer in retail advertising. Her desire to serve others led her to work. After an extended discernment retreat in Colorado, Sr. Kathleen Christa began serving with a Catholic volunteer program in Colorado, and later served as a Missionary Cenacle Volunteer in New York. Sister found great fulfillment and a new sense of purpose in working with the homeless and the poor, even as she still treasured times of retreat and solitude in which to listen deeply for the voice of God in silence.

While at a gathering of Cenacle Volunteers at a retreat center in east Alabama, Sr. Kathleen Christa was encouraged to visit the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman on her way back north. As she describes it, “I arrived just in time for Vespers, and my soul soared as I heard the community sing the Psalms.” An extended visit with the monastic community at Sacred Heart led Sr. Kathleen Christa into a discernment process, and eventually led her to enter the community. She entered the Novitiate on the Feast of St. Benedict, July 11, 1992, made her First Monastic Profession on July 31, 1993, and her Perpetual Monastic Profession on November 29, 1997.

For many years, Sister served in the Retreat Center, welcoming guests, offering retreats, and engaging in administrative work. Her warm and open nature, welcoming heart, and enthusiasm for sharing the monastic spirit with others made Sister Kathleen Christa a natural fit for this ministry.

Within the monastic community Sr. Kathleen Christa has served as Formation Director, has served on several committees and is generous in sharing her artistic vision with the community. Beyond these roles, Sr. Kathleen Christa is known and cherished within the community as a loving, generous, and thoughtful community member who lives well the promises of her monastic profession. Her Sisters rejoice with her in celebrating 25 years of fidelity to monastic life!

A Note from Development

Sr. Karen Ann Lortscher, O.S.B.

What a blessing you are to us! You regularly join with us in giving glory and honor to God. With your support we are able to bless many others by our prayer, community life, and ministries. We hope that our prayer and actions also bless you and your loved ones. Friends have told us that we can help you by passing on some good news about the new tax laws. I list two points of possible interest below, but also encourage you to seek advice from your tax advisor.

Did you know that you could contribute to the Benedictine Sisters (or Sacred Heart Monastery Foundation) and actually save money in taxes? For those 70 ½ or older, you can direct your required minimum distribution (up to $100,000) from your traditional IRA to help the Benedictine Sisters and this transfer will not count as taxable income. Although you would not be entitled to a charitable tax deduction, directing your distribution to us not only limits your taxable income, it could potentially place you in a lower income tax bracket. Just make sure the transfer from your IRA is made directly from your fund to us.

You may have seen the blessing of tremendous appreciation in your stock portfolio, and as a result, you will be facing a significant capital gains tax. However, when you make a gift of appreciated stock (or mutual fund) to the Benedictine Sisters (or Sacred Heart Monastery Foundation), you can make an impactful contribution for a fraction of its present value. For example, a stock you purchased for $3,000 some years ago is now worth $10,000. If you were to sell those shares, you would be subject to tax on the capital gain. If you were to donate those shares, you could make a gift of $10,000 at an out-of-pocket cost of $3,000, and pay no capital gains tax at all.

Once again, thank you for blessing us with your friendship and support. If you have suggestions, concerns, or if you would like to donate, please do not hesitate to call 256-615-6071, write a note, or e-mail development@shmon.org

Benedictine Manor News

(Continued from page 2) closure may occur much sooner than anticipated.

Update: What will happen to the building after the Manor ceases operations?

Sr. Tonette: At this time, the Sisters’ primary focus rests with the well-being of the current Manor residents. Once all residents have relocated, the Sisters will begin the conversation about future needs and possibilities for that space and how it can best be used in the future.

Update: How will this impact the overall ministry of the Sisters?

Sr. Tonette: The two primary and essential ministries of Benedictine communities are prayer and life in community. Our external ministries flow from these two primary commitments. The gifts we have to offer will continue to be put to good use responding to the needs around us out of the fullness of our life in Christ. For instance, our Retreat Center is a thriving oasis of peace for many, and our individual Sisters serve in a variety of ministries both here at the monastery as well as in other locations. God has much work for us to do, and we are eager and excited to serve!

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Sharing a blessing, receiving a blessing

For the Sisters who have served as administrators of Benedictine Manor, the role has always been far more than administrative. It has encompassed friendship, pastoral care, recreation, prayer, and breaking bread together. In short, it has been about creating community.

The Sisters who have served in administration at the Manor include Sisters Mary Susan Sevier, Mary Adrian McLean, Margaret Mary Fisher, Bertha True, Ursula Laurent, Cecilia MacDermott, Virginia Rohling, Veronica Ryan, and Therese Haydel. For each of these Sisters, creating community with the residents has been a transformative experience in ways large and small. In seeking to bestow blessing, they have in turn been blessed.

When Sisters Mary Adrian, Virginia, Cecilia, Veronica, and Therese were recently asked about their ministry at the Manor, the theme of community emerged again and again. Following are some of their remembrances of serving at Benedictine Manor, and the blessing bestowed.

Sr. Mary Adrian (former Assistant Director and Co-Director):
My years at the Manor were filled with new experiences and growth. I deepened spiritually from the special blessing of listening to the residents stories - both happy and sad. I also learned much from the staff, and everyday forms of service such as fixing leaky faucets, mowing the lawn, and balancing the books took on heightened meaning and became paths of growth for me. During the first years we had very little to begin the growing ministry, but we developed a grand community spirit filled with joy and laughter. I remember well our first Christmas tree with only borrowed lights and tinsel, but we were so happy to celebrate the Christ child! This ministry for me was a time truly blessed and filled with love and joy.

Sr. Cecilia (former Director):
I greatly enjoyed my ministry at Benedictine Manor. The residents and staff formed a family of friends and workers who respected each other and were willing to work together. Unless I was engaged with a resident or vendor, my office door was always open for residents to come in to share requests, ideas, or needs with me. As time went on, I grew in my understanding of seniors. Both the residents and I developed an even greater respect and appreciation for each other, and this was truly a blessing for all of us.

Sr. Virginia (former Director):
The respect and value I held for older people intensified through my ministry there. It was a gift to be able to be present with them as they went through challenging experiences. The bond among the residents was strong, and they accepted one another. There was always a strong family spirit, and I was always impressed by their ability to welcome a new resident, extending to them a ‘welcome to the family’ attitude. This welcome was a blessing to see and experience, and I was grateful for the opportunity to help create this welcoming atmosphere at the Manor. The value that the residents placed on the atmosphere there was evident, and it made me happy to see them happy.

Sr. Veronica (current Director):
Ministering at Benedictine Manor has intensified my ministry for one another as well as their acceptance of each other and me, with all the ups and downs, ins and outs. At the end of the day there is great love for one another. I call this community. Most of all I have learned to live each day joyfully, to live in the present and to see each day as a gift.

Sr. Therese (current Assistant Director):
It has been a blessing to witness the graciousness and joy and the love of the residents themselves, especially the eldest ones. In teaching children, there is an innocence in their loving. With this age group, their loving comes from a more mature place. There is a quality to their loving that is deeper and witnesses to the need to embrace everyday as a special day. Every day is a blessing, is a gift. In spite of being in a fragile place in life, they continue to have a spirit of light and life, and the ability to love and accept themselves and one another. Their example has been a blessing to me.
Have you visited the Retreat Center recently? Have you experienced the peace that so many report that they feel as soon as they turn onto our grounds? We have been blessed with wonderful retreat facilities, beautiful grounds, excellent retreat presenters, and an ability to accommodate the needs of a wide variety of individuals and groups. This coming year, four different Benedictine Sisters will be presenting programs in the Retreat Center, sharing the fruits of their prayer and study. We will also offer a special one-day program on Catholic author, Flannery O’Connor. We invite you to view the full set of offerings on our website and hope that you will be able to join us for one or more programs, or come for a time of personal retreat. Below, we share with you a couple of quotes from some of the many guests who have found our Retreat Center to be a place of blessing.

“I found the hospitality to be simple and perfect...simply perfect. The peace of this place is palpable.”

“Thank you for providing a sacred and beautiful place for me to retreat and savor my time with the Lord.”

Sacred Heart has been the site of four gatherings of Benedictines so far this year, two large and two small. In January, the community hosted the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses (CBP), welcoming forty Prioresses of Benedictine monasteries from throughout North America. Sr. Tonette Sperando, Prioress, a member of the CBP Coordinating Committee, was also on the committee that planned the program.

Despite the cold weather of January, participants were greeted with the warmth of Southern Benedictine hospitality throughout their stay. The several days of meetings concluded in memorable fashion with a Mardi Gras themed banquet complete with authentic New Orleans fare, Mardi Gras décor, and, thanks to the generosity of a donor, the Silvery Moon Band from Huntsville, playing live jazz and Dixieland favorites. It was an evening that will not be soon forgotten by the guests who hailed from every part of the country, and some beyond the US. In addition to the meeting content and concluding banquet, participants were offered the opportunity to visit Colony, AL, for a special cultural program on the history of Colony. Sr. Margaret Mary Liang was instrumental in arranging for this special program.

In June, the Sisters hosted approximately sixty Sisters for the General Chapter of the Federation of St. Scholastica, a quadrennial gathering in which Prioresses and delegates from each of the twenty monasteries of the Federation meet to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern. Sr. Lynn Marie McKenzie, currently President of the Federation, chaired the meeting. The week-long gathering concluded with a special banquet featuring Umbrian fare in honor of the Italian homeland of St. Scholastica. Images of St. Scholastica greeted participants all along the passageway to the dining room and several statues of Scholastica were prominent features of the dining room décor.

Representing Sacred Heart Monastery at the Chapter were Sr. Tonette Sperando, Prioress, and Sisters Karen Ann Lortscher and Elisabeth Meadows as delegates. During the meeting, Sr. Lynn Marie was re-elected to a second four-year term as President of the Federation.

In addition to these two large gatherings, the community hosted the Federation of St. Scholastica Council in April and the Executive Committee of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors in May.

With these four meetings completed, the community looks forward to hosting the CBP again next winter in a joint meeting with the Benedictine Abbots who will be at St. Bernard Abbey. It is a gift to be able to host our Benedictine family!

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When you meet to discuss your plans with your legal advisor you will need the following legal name for the Sisters:

Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama or Sacred Heart Monastery of Cullman, Alabama Foundation

Thank you for considering this important and tax effective form of supporting the Benedictine Sisters!

May God bless you richly for your generosity to our Community.

Sr. Karen Ann Lortscher, OSB Development Office
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Cullman, AL 35055
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Summer, 2018
Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama
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In July, Sr. Minona Anne D’Souza attended the Benedictine Spirituality Workshop and Retreat, a three-week program for Benedictine Sisters who are preparing for perpetual monastic profession. The workshop retreat was held at St. Gertrude Monastery in Cottonwood, ID. On August 1, Sr. Minona Anne will begin a new ministry as Director of Daystar House, a ministry to homeless women and children in Cullman originally founded by Sr. Mary Hughes. In beginning this ministry, Sr. Minona Anne will conclude a year of ecumenical ministry of visiting the sick and homebound of Christ Lutheran Church and assisting at Benedictine Manor and in the Retreat Center.

Sr. Marian Davis has presented two retreats in our Retreat Center in recent months, one for The Catholic Ladies of the Chapel at Redstone Arsenal and later a Lenten Retreat, “A Lenten Journey with Gerard Manley Hopkins.”

After several years of part-time and summer coursework, Sr. Elisabeth Meadows has completed the degree requirements for a Master of Arts in Theology with a concentration in Monastic Studies from St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN. She was awarded the degree in December following the successful completion of her Oral Comprehensive Examination.

Sr. Mary McGehee has given presentations in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Birmingham in recent months on the topics of Interreligious Dialogue (Pittsburgh) and Hildegard of Bingen (Florida and Birmingham). She also continues to present or assist with Centering Prayer workshops. Over the past few months, she has had the opportunity to attend conferences on Gospel Non-Violence and spiritual wholeness in Birmingham and Notre Dame, IN, respectively.

Sisters Magdalena Craig and Elisabeth Meadows traveled to St. John's University in Minnesota this June to attend a one-week course on early monastic insights into human psychology and spiritual practices taught by internationally-known monastic scholar, Fr. Columba Stewart, O.S.B. While at St. John’s they renewed connections with monastics and friends from around the country.

Several Sisters have presented vocation talks at parishes around the diocese in conjunction with the diocesan Totus Tuus program. Sr. Karen Ann Lortscher has been key in coordinating the community’s presence at these events.

Sr. Margaret Mary Liang has developed a special bond with the Cullman County town of Colony. In January, she assisted Colony residents in planning a cultural program about the history of their community for participants of the Conference of Benedictine Priories (CBP). This summer, she has had a key role in organizing a Summer Enrichment Program for children in the community. While the program itself is coordinated and directed by Colony residents, Sr. Margaret Mary has lent support and encouragement. She has also coordinated a connection between the monastic community and Colony, finding ways in which the monastic community could offer support to the program.

The Benedictine Sisters have long-standing ties to Colony, with several Sisters having developed strong relationships there over the years. The monastic community is grateful that Sr. Margaret Mary is continuing to nurture these ties.

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Please help us conserve costs and stay in touch by notifying the Development Office of any name or address changes.
Community mourns the loss of Sr. Margaret Frederick

Sr. Margaret Frederick, O.S.B., died on December 22, 2017, at the age of 82. Reception of the Body with Vespers of the Dead was held December 26, 2017, and the Mass of Christian Burial was held the following day. Interment was in the monastery cemetery.

Sr. Margaret entered Sacred Heart Monastery in 1953 as a postulant. The following year she entered the novitiate, receiving her Religious name of Sister Mary Stephen. In 1955, she made her First Monastic Profession, with her Perpetual Monastic Profession following in 1958. Sister’s educational preparation included a Bachelor's degree in Speech and a Master's in English, both from John Carroll University in Ohio.

The ministry of education was a natural fit for Sr. Margaret. Enthusiasm for her subject, creativity in teaching, and genuine care for her students led her to be beloved by those she taught and highly respected by those with whom she worked. Sr. Margaret taught at several schools in the Diocese of Birmingham, including nine years at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham. However, most of her years of teaching ministry unfolded in Florida where she taught for over thirty years, first at Pensacola Catholic High School and later at New Smyrna Beach High School where she taught Advanced Placement and Honors English. In addition to her teaching load, which included at various times journalism, humanities, and religion, she served in other roles such as newspaper and yearbook faculty moderator and National Honor Society moderator.

Within the monastic community, Sr. Margaret held the position of Superior on several of her mission appointments. She also served for a time on the Monastic Council. Her Sisters deeply appreciated Sr. Margaret's love of beauty, generous spirit, joyous presence, and her legendary storytelling ability in which she could render in unforgottably vivid color what might be an otherwise monochrome tale.

In her lengthy final illness, Sister remained a vibrant and vital presence within the monastic community. She continued to convey joy and to notice and name the beauty around her even in the midst of illness, providing her Sisters and caregivers alike with a daily witness to the goodness of God.

In Sympathy

Our community mourns the loss of our Sr. Margaret Frederick, O.S.B. (see above). We also share in the sorrow of our Sisters who have lost family members: Sister Eileen Gallagher for the loss of her father, Thomas J. Gallagher; Sister Mary Adrian McLean’s, (’52), for the loss of her sister, Helen McLean Dill, and her niece Nancy “Joey” McLean Thompson. Among our Benedictine family we remember Sr. Johnnette Putnam, O.S.B., of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS, who for a time resided with our community.

We remember fondly alumni and former faculty members who have gone to God: Robbie Nesperling, ’50; Marie Woerz Hollaway, ’42; Beverly Peinhardt White, ’59; Ruth Reichwein, ’57; Ann Moyer Heck, ’50; James Blackwood. We also mourn with alumni and former faculty who have lost loved ones: Barbara Hinkle Maner, ’53, for the loss of her husband, Roy Lee Maner; Donald and Dean Green for their daughter Donna Green Shikle; and the Lowry family for their father, Aubrey Lowry, whose mother Wynema Lowry served so graciously.

We remember friends who have died: Bishop David E. Foley and Rev. J. Peter Sheehan, both of our Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama; Fr. Angelus Shaughnessy, OFM Cap., who also served here; Jean C. Donohoe, mother of Rev. Richard Donohoe; Betty Giardini; Charles Voss; Warren McPhillips, Sr.; Becky Farley; John Graveman; Susan Roth, Charles Herlihy; Melvin Ricketts; William Coburn; Bobby Nadeau; Ivor Kraft; Bang Van Haynh; Carolyn Peinhardt Johnson; Henry Basenger; Connie Adams; Garlan Gudger, Sr.; Michael Houlihan; Dan Agee; Chester Cox; and William McAleer.

Sr. Margaret Frederick

Contagious enthusiasm

Sr. Jane Bishop’s enthusiasm for her cottage industry with pecans is so contagious that she has begun attracting volunteers to work with her on the project. Some have come as far as Birmingham to join Cullman friends in helping to sort shelled pecans and prepare them for packing.

When asked about how she developed an interest in pecans, Sr. Jane enthusiastically noted the fresh air and exercise that she enjoys when out gathering pecans from the monastery grounds and other areas near Cullman where she has permission to gather. She states, “I love the beauty of God’s creation and how all the elements, including the trees, work together in community. It is a sharing that is beautiful and inspiring.”

Like the community of God’s creation, a community has formed around the pecan project and numerous individuals have generously volunteered to assist Sr. Jane. Some have offered her the opportunity to gather pecans from their yard, some have brought her pecans they had gathered, and some have helped sort and pack pecans. Sr. Jane’s enthusiasm is indeed contagious and has helped the project grow from the beauty of creation to the beauty of community and shared endeavor.
Letting Go and Letting God:  
The Wisdom of Twelve-Step Spirituality  
August 28, 2018  
Sister Therese Haydel, O.S.B.  

Introduction to Centering Prayer  
August 31-September 2, 2018  
Contemplative Outreach  
Birmingham Staff  

Woman in the World of Jesus  
September 5-6, 2018  
Sister Marian Davis, O.S.B.  

Celebrating Women  
September 28-30, 2018  
Sister Mary McGehee, O.S.B., & Team  

Cross and Compassion:  
The Spiritual Journey of St. Edith Stein  
October 20, 2018  
Sister Elisabeth Meadows, O.S.B.  

Intensive Centering Prayer:  
The Forgiveness Prayer  
November 16-18, 2018  
Diana Tschache &  
Contemplative Outreach  
Birmingham Staff  

Sisters and guests alike are grateful for the new signage that has been installed around the monastery grounds. The signage is part of an overall landscaping project that is taking place in gradual phases. If you would like to contribute to this much-needed project, please contact the Development Office at (256) 615-6071 or (256) 615-6072.