

# WITNESS THE BENEDICTINE



VOL. 1 Summer 2022

SACRED HEART MONASTERY AND SACRED HEART BENEDICTINE FOUNDATION

## *Sister Phoebe Schwartz, OSB, celebrates her 25th Anniversary!*



On May 29, 2022, Sister Phoebe Schwartz, OSB, celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary of her monastic vows with the Benedictine Sisters of Dickinson (formerly of Richardton). Sister Paula Larson, Prioress, presided at the Solemn Vespers at our former monastery chapel in Richardton. With her many innate gifts, Sister Phoebe has continued to grow in her monastic life throughout her commitment.

Born Barbara, the oldest child, in San Bernardino, CA, and the only girl to Ferdinand and Joan (Boyer) Schwartz, she pursued learning even as a young child. When she was five, her family moved to Freeman, SD, where she excelled in school as well as being the big sister to her four younger brothers, the youngest of whom she was guardian for four years. Her early years were full of helping in her family, but her leisure was spent reading, swimming, camping with her Girl Scout troop, and then more reading.

During and after high school, she worked at the local Printery until she enrolled at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion for two years. She then moved to Rapid City where she lived for 13 years, where she managed a group home for developmentally disabled adults. She was quite involved with her parish as liturgical minister and member of the Liturgy committee, as well as serving on the Diocesan Retreat Committee. While in Rapid City, she enjoyed exploring the Black Hills, a prelude to spending time in Spain, Mexico and France with groups that combined her love of history and language.

Barbara first visited Sacred Heart Monastery near Richardton in November 1993 and immediately felt at home. After a few more months of discernment, she knew it was time to accept God's call. She entered the Monastery in January 1995. Upon becoming a novice the following year, she received her name of choice, Phoebe, a co-worker of St. Paul. She made her first monastic profession on January 19, 1997, and her final vows May 26, 2001.

In 1998, Sister Phoebe received a BA degree from Dickinson State University in Spanish and History, two of her favorite subjects. From August 1997 through August 2003, she served as administrator of our Marillac Manor in Bismarck. Her monastic community had recently added this independent living facility for the elderly next to St. Vincent's Care Center that the Sisters had started in 1941.

After two years of graduate school in Colorado, she earned a Masters degree in Public History. She worked for eight years as Director of Religious Education and Liturgical Coordinator for Queen of Peace Parish in Dickinson. She then served her monastic community in Richardton as director of the Spirituality Center, liturgist, director of Oblates and part-time cook. Through her 12 years with the Old Red Scenic Byway Committee she helped secure the designation of a scenic byway and enjoyed promoting the communities along the way.



After the community moved from Richardton to the new Sacred Heart Monastery in Dickinson in 2019, Sister Phoebe now serves the community as our liturgist, kitchen manager, and member of the monastic board and council. She has completed training for spiritual direction and has several directees. This is an important ministry for her as she feels blessed to journey with people as they seek God.

## *Sister Janeane Klein and Sister Dolores Heidt celebrate their 70th Jubilee!*

Sister Janeane Klein and Sister Dolores Heidt celebrate their 70th Jubilee of religious profession this year. What a milestone! Both Sisters are residents of Care Centers so the celebration will be simple.

Sister Janeane in her years of religious life has been primarily involved in some aspect of health care. She started out in x-ray and lab work at one of our hospitals. When she left that area of work, she remained in patient care and ancillary services in nursing homes, hospital, and at the Monastery. Currently she is a resident at St. Vincent's Care Center in Bismarck (one of her old stomping grounds) and is enjoying life to the best of her ability. Happy Jubilee!



*Sister Janeane Klein*



*Sister Dolores Heidt*

Sister Dolores began her religious service as a teacher for many years in our mission schools. She enjoyed that work but as middle age came around, she decided to switch to pastoral care work. She continued this until her retirement. Presently, Sister Dolores is a resident at the Richardton Health Care Center and thinks it is a great place. The nursing home received a Five-Star rating so we guess she is right. Happy Jubilee!

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## *Sister Carol's Winter Hats*

Sister Carol has been very busy making these cute winter hats to give away to charities needing winter gear. She is very grateful to all who have donated yarn and asks God to bless them. Some of the charities who will be receiving them are the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Dickinson, who gives emergency assistance to people in the area; the House of Manna in Dickinson and other homeless shelters; healthcare centers; various elementary schools and missions; Trinity Mardi Gras Booth; St. Mary's Church Bazaar in Richardton; and the local Coats for Kids project.



*Sister Carol with an assortment of winter hats she has made.*



*Sister Carol's individual messages are attached to each hat.*

Anyone that is blessed to receive one of these caps will also find an individual message that she has attached. Thank you, Sister Carol, for your beautiful handiwork and prayerful words.

## *Gratefulness from Ila in the Foundation Office*

I was sitting in church one Sunday singing the familiar song "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Sometimes words of songs you have sung since you were a kid suddenly jump out at you, shout at you, and say, "Do you know what you are singing?" "Oh what peace we often forfeit" were such words to me that day. I need to remember that Jesus knows our every weakness and then take it to the Lord in prayer, just as the song says.

Weakness means something different for each person, health or mental weakness, physical weakness, even weakness in not wanting to change. May we all remember to pray without ceasing as it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. I do not think Paul meant that we pray all day long, but to know that we can pray at any time, and carry God with us wherever we go.

Change is not an easy thing, but is necessary in everything we do. We have seen some changes in the Foundation routine in the office in the last two years. We are now having only two fundraisers a year. Thank you to those who participated in our May calendar raffle, it was a great success and many familiar names were drawn throughout the month. The healthcare names that you sent in were read in Chapel on May 6, they were kept on the prayer board for the entire month. Our next fundraiser will be the October Raffle to celebrate 106 years as a Monastery.

We have combined our *Promise of the Prairie* newsletter with the *Witness*. This change not only saves you mail but saves us printing and mailing costs. By doing this, we are no longer printing the donor names in our newsletter. We will still track your donations here at the Monastery and will let you know when you attain a donor level! Please know how important you are to the Sisters and how thankful they are for your continued support. One other change we have made is to have the Foundation Board governed by the Sisters. Our board members for the upcoming year are Sisters Paula Larson, Laura Hecker, Phoebe Schwartze, Jill West and Michael Emond. I am thankful for their service and wisdom while serving on this board.

Please remember to send in prayer requests! The Sisters will be prayer warriors for you and your family. The prayer board is always open; it is our biggest ministry since moving to Dickinson.

*Ila Perhus, Foundation Director*

*"For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, yes."*

**Dag Hammarskjöld**

### **DONOR LEVELS**



**FRIENDS:** Donations up to \$999.99

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*(Lifetime accumulated gift total)*

**Benedictine Sisters of Richardton**

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## *Neighbors and Blessings*

St. Vincent's Care Center and Marillac Manor in Bismarck are sponsored ministries of our Monastery. We have gone through a number of management changes since 2001 but in all those years both have remained a sturdy Catholic sponsored ministry.

Sister Anna Rose has the following to offer:

"It is with joy and love that the Staff of St. Vincent's Care Center and Marillac Manor serve the residents and their families. With the many challenges of these times, St. Vincent's and Marillac continue to be a place of prayer and service. Both places are grateful for the retired priests who offer daily Mass, provide other sacraments such as confession, and anointing of the sick. The spiritual needs of all are readily taken care of on a daily basis."

St. Vincent's was the first Catholic Nursing Home in the State of North Dakota. We feel blessed to be partners with seniors and those who have disability on their spiritual journey.



*Sister Anna Rose*

