



*Benedictine Life Foundation
of Wisconsin, Inc.*



Annual Report 2014

Wisdom Prairie Project a success!

By Mike Sweitzer-Beckman, director of development



Sister Mary David Walgenbach (right) with the help of children from the Sunday Assembly bless the ground of the Wisdom Prairie Project. Photo by Sandy Wojtal-Weber.

In 2012, the sisters had an opportunity—and took a chance. A 53-acre parcel surrounded by their property was on the market with interested buyers ogling over a parcel primed for development on Lake Mendota's north shore. The sisters saw this as an opportunity to conserve more land, and restore it to natural prairie and oak savanna.

The opportunity fit well with the sisters' mission of caring for the earth. However, they knew they couldn't do it alone without the help of the greater community. The Wisdom Prairie Project was born.

We are pleased to report that the support has come, both strong and steady. Nearly 500 families, corporations and foundations have contributed to the success of the \$1.9 million Wisdom Prairie Project. The goal of the project was to acquire and begin the initial restoration of this parcel in order to integrate

it with the rest of the restored prairie and oak savanna at Holy Wisdom Monastery. Some of our major supporters and partners in 2014 include Town of Westport (\$35,000), Madison Community Foundation (\$30,000), Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (\$15,000), Evjue Foundation (\$10,000) and James E. Dutton Foundation (\$5,000).

There are three major benefits to the success of the Wisdom Prairie Project that so many became a part of:

The first benefit of this project is that we are conserving more open space in a rapidly urbanizing area north of Lake Mendota. In the next 10 years, there will be 5,000 new homes in the area. We are pleased for the opportunity to conserve a natural plant and wildlife habitat that our guests can continue to enjoy for generations to come.

The second benefit of this project is that a prairie and oak savanna reduce phosphorous runoff into our lakes as compared to agricultural land. In fact, Dane County estimates that there will be a reduction of 110 pounds of phosphorous that end up in Lake Mendota each year once this parcel is restored to native prairie and oak savanna. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi has cited that every pound of phosphorous that ends up in our lakes translates into 500 pounds of wet algae. This means we can count on 55,000 fewer pounds of wet algae per year in our lakes as a result of this project! The blue green algae growing in our lakes makes it difficult for native aquatic life to thrive, and also makes the lakes less enjoyable for people.

The third benefit of this project is that it will greatly help with one of Dane County's largest priorities for Parks and Recreation: creating trail connectors for cyclists and pedestrians between existing open spaces. This parcel was one of the missing links to connect Governor Nelson State Park to Lake Mendota County Park and the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. This trail would run through the land at Holy Wisdom Monastery. It is expected that this trail will benefit the 20,000 citizens of Middleton, 4,500 in the Town of Westport, and the additional 10,000 people that will be moving into new homes in the next 10 years in our area.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of making this project a success, and providing open space to enjoy for generations to come.

Friends of Wisdom Prairie

By Greg Armstrong, director of land management and environmental education

The Friends of Wisdom Prairie came into existence in 2014 for the purpose of helping the sisters care for the earth. This includes hands-on work in land management—restoring prairie, savanna and woodlands native to southern Wisconsin. In addition, the Friends of Wisdom Prairie Council created several programs that will provide environmental education infused with Benedictine spirituality to stimulate enthusiasm for the good work of caring for the earth. These programs include a series of dinner lectures with speakers on environmental and eco-spirituality topics, a series of outings to visit other natural areas to see how they care for the earth, and several tours of the monastery lands to learn about our native flora and fauna.

In 2014, Holy Wisdom Monastery received a comprehensive analysis of its land and a plan for ecological land management. The plan calls for the restoration of all the fire communities that likely inhabited monastery lands before European settlement, including open prairie, savanna grasslands with a few open grown oaks and oak woodlands. The Friends of Wisdom Prairie volunteers vigorously undertook the huge task of converting the sisters' new property, which was mostly farm land, into these complex but beautiful ecological communities. Probably the most impressive of these restoration activities came with the sowing of prairie seed on nearly 20 acres of an old soy bean field at the beginning of November by nearly 100 volunteers. In addition a lot of weedy trees that had grown up in the farmer's fence rows were cut down to "clean the slate" for the future savanna. The Friends volunteers also worked to sustain the earlier prairie restorations on monastery land.

There were two dinner lectures held in 2014 which were well attended and warmly received by attendees. The experience was enhanced by the friendly interactions over wonderful meals prepared by monastery chef Barbara Wright. There was one outing to visit the Pheasant Branch Conservancy, a beautiful neighboring natural area. These programs were so well received that more extensive series were planned for 2015.

Visit our website at holywisdommonastery.org for an updated schedule of dinner lectures, volunteer workdays, tours and outings sponsored by the Friends of Wisdom Prairie.

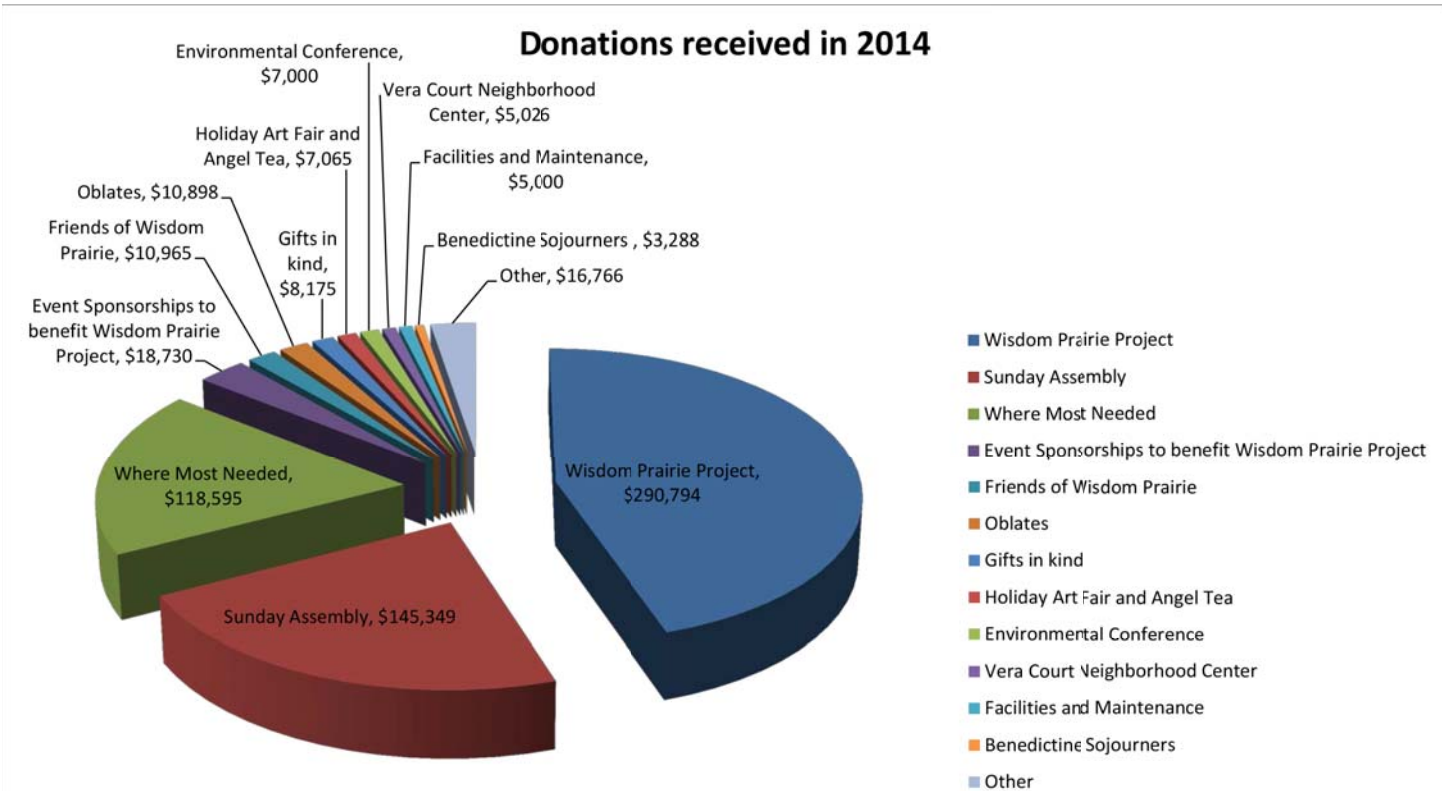


Even the youngest Friend helped plant the prairie; Friends learn how to seed a prairie; Friends joyfully broadcast seeds across almost 20 acres of land; a feathery prairie seed lands on barren-looking ground.

2014 Donations by Fund

Donations to Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. by fund - 2014

Fund	Amount
Wisdom Prairie Project	\$290,794
Sunday Assembly	\$145,349
Where Most Needed	\$118,595
Events Sponsorships to Benefit Wisdom Prairie Project	\$18,730
Friends of Wisdom Prairie	\$10,965
Oblates	\$10,898
Gifts in Kind	\$8,175
Holiday Art Fair and Angel Tea	\$7,065
Environmental Conference	\$7,000
Vera Court Neighborhood Center	\$5,026
Facilities and Maintenance	\$5,000
Benedictine Sojourners	\$3,288
Other	\$16,766
Total funds raised in 2014	\$647,651



Scholastica Sustainers

We honor those who have chosen to share their generosity for 10 or more consecutive years with automatic induction into the Scholastica Sustainers community. Scholastica Sustainers are long-term supporters who believe in and are energized by our mission.

Saint Scholastica, the twin sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia, was a dedicated supporter of the ministries of her brother. The story goes that Benedict was visiting his sister and he wanted to return home to the monastery he founded. Scholastica pleaded with him to spend the night to allow more time for conversation and prayer together, and he refused. She then prayed to God for rain to keep him there and a wicked storm came. Scholastica died three days later. Scholastica is remembered for never wavering in support for her brother.

As Scholastica was to Benedict, the Scholastica Sustainers are to Holy Wisdom Monastery; they stand by our side. Many live nearby our location in Middleton, Wisconsin, but some live as far away as Indiana, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

We are grateful to the following Scholastic Sustainers for their support over the past decade and beyond:

- Barb and Dan Abbott
- Sandy Adams
- Jane Ahlstrom
- Mary Alberts and Don Spencer
- Carol and Phil Andersen
- Anonymous (3)
- Greg Armstrong and Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong
- Shirley Beers
- Michael and Jane Belongie
- Paul Boutwell and Berdell Nielson
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- Jeanne Burger
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- Jean and Victor Delisle
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- Colleen and Bill Feist
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- Ann Huggett
- Judy and Terry Jones
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- Rita Kreitz
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- Marjorie Nixon
- Beth and Jerry O'Brien
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- Paul Patenaude and Peter Hoff
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- Lou Ann Petersen
- Anna Pidgeon and Volker Radeloff
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- Linda and Bill Preboski
- Mary Kaye Radtke and Donna Miller
- Frank Ranallo
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- Rev P Linwood and Mrs Nancy Urban
- Bob Weiss
- Donna Welbes
- Dr Joseph and Louise Wiesenfarth
- Katherine Woytych
- Lois Yatzeck
- Betsy and Stuart Zadra

Benedict Society

Benedict Society is a group of long-term supporters of Holy Wisdom Monastery who have notified the Benedictine Life Foundation about their support for the sisters through a planned gift. Making a planned gift to Holy Wisdom Monastery can be a way for your legacy to live on in support of the ecumenical monastery whose mission is weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life. If you embrace these values, a planned gift can be a wonderful way to ensure that future generations can participate in our mission and ministries.

By joining Benedict Society you are supporting the long-term vision and mission of the Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery. Notifying the Benedictine Life Foundation of your intentions and enrolling in Benedict Society offers the following additional benefits:

- Acknowledgement of your gift on our website and in our other printed and electronic materials (if desired – Benedict Society members can also remain anonymous to the public).
- Annual dinner with the sisters and other Benedict Society members at Holy Wisdom Monastery.
- Occasional special communications for Benedict Society members.

You too can join Benedict Society! If you have already designated the Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. in your estate planning documents (bequest in a will, life insurance policy beneficiary, retirement plan beneficiary, etc.), then please notify Mike Sweitzer-Beckman, our director of development, at 608-836-1631, x124 or mikesb@benedictinewomen.org. Once notified, we will automatically enroll you.

We are grateful for the following members of Benedict Society for their expression of commitment and support toward the long-term vision of the Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery:

- Anonymous (14)
- Jane Ayer
- Rev Dennis Crowley
- Bill Diederich and Jim Green
- Tim Jeffery
- Alice Jenson
- Harold and Rita Kreitz
- Norma and Doug Madsen
- Judy Nolde
- Jayne Neuendorf
- Rev Jon Olson
- Phyllis and Richard Pelkey
- Steven Powell
- Rev Carol Shaffer
- Neal and Diane Smith
- Janine Veto



Supporters of Holy Wisdom Monastery share community and healthy food at the Scholastica Sustainers and Benedict Society dinner, September 2013.

Individuals & Families

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations that provided the Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. with gifts of time, talent and treasure in 2014. Donations of cash, stock, gifts in kind and volunteer hours help to breathe life into our mission of weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.

Barb and Dan Abbott
Doreen Adamany
Maureen Adams
Sandy Adams
Sylvia Adrian
George Affeldt
Jane Ahlstrom
John Ainslie
Debbie Albano and Peter Leki
Mary Alberts and Don Spencer
Carol and Phil Andersen
Phyllis Andersen
Catherine Anderson
Cindy Anderson
Claire Anderson
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Rev Elizabeth Andrews
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 Jim Wrich
 Katherine Wu
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 Marie Wunsch
 Maggie Wysocki
 Lois Yatzeck
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 Ronald A. York
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 Betsy and Stuart Zadra
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 Marlene and Donald Ziegler
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Gifts in Memory/Honor

The Benedictine Life
Foundation received gifts in
memory and in honor of 85
people. We are so pleased to
honor all of these people (and
one cat), as your gifts breathe
life into our mission of
weaving prayer, hospitality,
justice and care for the earth
into a shared way of life.

In Honor of Ann McBride
Patricia Riley Koval

In Honor of Anne &
Mark Koman
Caroline Quinlan and
John Dickerman

In Honor of Beth O'Brien
Jack and Jan Finney
Caitlin and Ben Konecny

In Honor of Bob Smith
Barbara Smith

In Honor of
Brother Wayne Teasdale
Lou Behm

In Honor of Carol Noel Paul
Michael Paul

In Honor of
Christina Sophia Simone
Andy Campbell

In Honor of
Colette & Stan Corwin
Mary Ann Schulte

In Honor of Colleen Howes &
Elina Cilliers
Anonymous

In Honor of Dave Jarecki
Faye Whitaker

In Honor of
Dr & Mrs Dulaney Glen
Rev P Linwood and
Mrs Nancy Urban

In Honor of Ed Beers,
Ed Steichen,
Joanne Heggen &
Tom Schroeder
George and Audrey Hinger

In Honor of Eduardo Corpus
Ann French

In Honor of
Heather & Mark Lange
Anonymous

In Honor of Heidi Haverkamp
Kate Raun

In Honor of Hildy McGown
Car McGinley

In Honor of Jean Delisle
Dr Dorothy Delisle and
Shawn Pompe

In Honor of Jeanette Miller &
Mark Ofenloch
Anonymous

In Honor of Joanne Kollasch
& Mary David Walgenbach
George Affeldt

In Honor of
Joanne Kollasch, OSB
Barb and Dan Abbott
Doreen Adamany
Sandy Adams
Sylvia Adrian
Jane Ahlstrom
Mary Alberts and
Don Spencer
Carol and Phil Andersen
Phyllis Andersen
Rev Elizabeth Andrews

In Honor of

Joanne Kollasch, OSB

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Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong
Jane Ayer
Candy and John Barthel
Rev Barbara Battin and
Jim Clay
Ellen and Chris Belle
Michael and Jane Belongie
Connie and Jerry Bernardy
Jerrienne and Bill Bland
Caroline Bormann
Nancy and Paul Breitsprecher
Carroll and Larry Bross
Mary Jane and David Bull
Dr Candice Corrigan
Coworkers at
Holy Wisdom Monastery
Mary Lee and Lloyd Croatt
Kate Delaney Jolin and
James Jolin
Jean and Victor Delisle
Frederick Devett
Jennifer Dobson
Marlene Duffield
Jean Edens
Stephanie and Roy Elkins
Judy and Jack Ellickson
Rita and Ed Emmenegger
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Elizabeth Koos
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Meg and Richard LaBrie
Dee and Nick Larson
Sarah and John Laurent
Joan and Allen Liegel
Joan Lundin
Norma and Doug Madsen
Dr Gary Maier and
Sandy Collins
Al and Karen Majkrzak
Nell Mally
Joan McCarthy
Sally and Thomas McCoy
Michel and Patrick McGettigan
Julie Melton
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Thomas Jeffries
Liz Morris
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Rev Dr David Moyer
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Michael Stier and
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Pam Sulima

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Reverend Jan Summers
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Elizabeth Swenson
Chris and Jon Todd
Sal and Judy Troia
Rev Dr Frederick and
Mrs Louise Trost
Maureen and John Van Dinter
Janine Veto
Vimal Vyas
Dick Wagner
Roleen Walgenbach
Monica Walker
Bob Weiss
Sara and John Whalen
Dr Joseph and
Mrs Louise Wiesenfarth
Ursula and Peter Woelfle
Katherine Woytych
Sister Mariel Wozniak
Jim Wrich
Mary and Jerry Wuller
Mary Zaborski
Marlene and Donald Ziegler
Steve and Barbara Zwettler

In Honor of Kathleen Martin
Anonymous

***In Honor of
Lawrence Shattuck***
Cybelle Shattuck

In Honor of Lydia Lago
Carmen Lago

***In Honor of
Lynne Smith, OSB***
Nancy Hutchison Enderle

In Honor of Marcella Smith
Anonymous

In Honor of Mary Ann Schulte
Coletta and Stanley Corwin

***In Honor of
Our Children's Children***
Julie Melton

In Honor of Our Parents
Karl and Velma Marquardt

In Honor of Peg Davey
Shelley Safer and Neil Komesar

***In Honor of Peg Davey &
Tom Zanzig***
Elizabeth Davey

In Honor of Pleasant Rowland
Trudy and Steve Bernsten

***In Honor of Pleasant Rowland
& Jerry Frautschi***
Sylvia Marek

***In Honor of Richard &
Phyllis Pelkey***
Martha Pelkey

***In Honor of Ron Endres &
Will Mann***
Rhea Stangel-Maier

In Honor of the Sisters
PC Moisan-Thomas

In Memory of Alice Marquis
Jeanne Marquis

***In Memory of Anna Kollasch
& Clarence Bormann***
Connie and Jerry Bernardy

***In Memory of
Barbara Townsend***
Cathy Taylor and Susan Schmitt

***In Memory of
Clarence Bormann***
Caroline Bormann

***In Memory of
Craig & Lyle Ziegler***
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Elaine DeLancey***
Anonymous

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Barb and Dan Abbott
Sandy Adams
Jane Ahlstrom
Mary Alberts and Don Spencer
Anonymous (2)
Ms Ann Baltes, Mr Bill Rosholt
and Ms Grace Rosholt
Bette Barnes
Jeanne Burger
Margaret Carson
Helen and John Duffy
Rita and Ed Emmenegger
Peg and Daniel Geisler
Mary Jane Gogan

In Memory of Ed Steichen

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Colleen and Kent Hartung
Lila and Richard Hemlin
George and Audrey Hinger
Ann Huggett
Mary Jenny
Mark Johnson and Eric Alborn
Chris Junkins
Joanna Kramer Fanney
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Margaret Sommers
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John "Jack" Zwettler

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Ann Custer
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In Memory of Kurth &

Crevier Family

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In Memory of

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In Memory of

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& Lewis Frank Bogart

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Barbara Schmidt

In Memory of Paul & Marcello

Candlin & John Candlin

Linda Candlin

In Memory of Peter Brinkman

Rev Paul Brinkman
George and Audrey Hinger

In Memory of Redd (the cat)

Lynne Marek

In Memory of Reny Johnson

Jim Green and Bill Diederich
Roma S. and Ronald A. York

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Suzanne Brault Pagel
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Lu Ann Cleary-Benninghaus
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Mr Neal and Mrs Diane Smith
George Tuggle
Dick Wagner
Teresa Walker
Katherine Wu
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In Memory of Robert G.,

Nada R., and

Michael A. Toomey

Robert Toomey

In Memory of Suzanne Kmetz

Deborah Kmetz

In Memory of

Theresa Hoffman

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In Memory of

Trish Russell Harrsch

Sheila Harrsch

In Memory of

Virginia Erickson

Lou Ann Petersen

In Memory of Virginia Gravel

Jean Wendt



Holy Wisdom Monastery, home of Benedictine Women of Madison and a community of ecumenical Benedictine communities, weaves prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.

Photos on cover at Holy Wisdom Monastery (counter-clockwise from top left)

60 years of monastic profession: Sister Joanne Kollasch celebrates 60 years of monastic life with friends and family on 'God's Hill,' May 2014. *Photo by Kent Sweitzer.*

Community living: Rosy Kandathil (left) becomes a novice with Benedictine Women of Madison, Sep. 2014.

Friends of Wisdom Prairie: Dedicated to caring for the earth, the Friends of Wisdom Prairie group started in 2014. Friends help seed nearly 20 acres of new prairie, Nov. 2014.

Care for the earth: In several years we should see prairie flowers like these growing in the Wisdom Prairie due to the success of the \$1.9 million Wisdom Prairie Project.

Ground blessing: Community out on the prairie. Sunday Assembly members and friends gather outside to bless the Wisdom Prairie Project, Oct. 2014. *Photo by Sandy Wojtal-Weber.*

Photo on back cover

The peaceful and colorful prairie surrounds the monastery building.



Holy Wisdom Monastery

4200 County Road M • Middleton, WI 53562 • www.benedictinewomen.org • 608-836-1631, x124