

# Benedictine Bridge

connecting with the communities at Holy Wisdom Monastery  
weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life

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June 2018



## You are invited to the First Monastic Profession of Denise West



The Benedictine Sisters of Holy Wisdom Monastery invite you to celebrate a Eucharistic liturgy and First Monastic Profession of Denise West on Sunday, July 15, 2018 at 9:00 am in the assembly room at Holy Wisdom Monastery. There will be a lunch following the worship service.

Please RSVP by July 1, 2018, Sunday Assembly members may sign up after Sunday Assembly. Oblates who are attending the July retreat will be included in the meal unless you opt out of Sunday. Everyone else, please register online. No gifts, donations are always welcomed.

Photos by Jennifer Peters.

[RSVP today!](#)

Sisters & Sojourners

## Student intern Kate Stel coming in June

Kate Stel, a M.Div. student at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will be a student intern at the monastery June 19-August 25, 2018. Kate has a special interest in ecospirituality. She was drawn to the monastery by its "distinctive approach to religious identity combined with Holy Wisdom's deeply entrenched commitment to the land." Kate will work in the prairie and the gardens with Greg Armstrong, the Friends of Wisdom Prairie, and the sisters during her time with us. Kate will live with the sisters. Help us give Kate a Benedictine welcome!

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## Retreats for women

by Sister Lynne Smith, OSB, co-director of formation



## Becoming a sojourner

Many of you have met Benedictine Sojourners at Holy Wisdom Monastery or read about their time here in *Benedictine Bridge*. But have YOU ever thought about living for six months in an intentional community?



Benedictine Sojourners is a six-month live-in experience at Holy Wisdom Monastery where single women live in community with the sisters, learn Benedictine spirituality and values, and reflect on the meaning and purpose of their life. Women who become Sojourners receive formation in community living skills and an opportunity for personal and personal and spiritual growth through reflection and the daily rhythm of Benedictine life. Sojourners work 20 hours a week in the mission and ministry of the monastery. At the end of six months women

take the skills they have gained into their daily lives. Any women 24-50 interested in this experience may contact Sister Lynne at 608-831-9305.

## Come and learn about the Benedictine Sojourner program at a weekend retreat

The sisters offer Experience Benedictine Life at the Monastery, August 25-26, 2018 and November 3-4, 2018, as a way for single, Christian women, 24-50, who are interested in the Benedictine Sojourner experience to meet the sisters, learn about Holy Wisdom Monastery and begin to discern if the Sojourner experience is right for them.

[Submit an interest form for the retreat by August 11, 2018](#)

## New spiritual retreat for women

Give yourself the gift of a retreat this summer at Holy Wisdom Monastery. The sisters offer a retreat for women July 28-29, 2018. [A Weekend Away](#) begins with registration at 9:30 am on Saturday and lasts through 12:30 pm Sunday. Come fill your senses with a walk in the prairie and re-discover the peace of God for you. This facilitated retreats offers participants time and space to connect with themselves, with God and others in the peaceful setting of the monastery. The weekend will include faith sharing, journaling, contemplative walking in the prairie, *lectio divina*(contemplative reading of Scripture), meals, worship with our ecumenical Sunday Assembly and conversation. For more information contact Sister Lynne at 608-831-9305 or [lwsmith@benedictinewomen.org](mailto:lwsmith@benedictinewomen.org). If you can't attend in July, the retreat will be offered again October 13-14, 2018.



[Register by July 14, 2018](#)

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## Continuing education

Thanks to generous donors to Giving Tuesday, this summer Sister Paz Vital and Novice Denise West are able to continue their education through classes away from the monastery.

Sister Paz heads to Dallas, Texas to the Hispanic Summer Program at SMU Perkins School of Theology from June 14-July 2, 2018. The class she is taking is called Pastoral Care 2018—The Path of Descent: Transforming Our Pain through Love.

Denise is excited to be going to St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota to take two classes at the Monastic Institute's Benedictine Studies Program. She leaves June 25 and will return on July 7, 2018. The classes are Passions and Prayer: Early Monastic Insights into Human Psychology and Spiritual Practices and Body, Being and Becoming: Explorations of the Body in the Rule of Benedict. (Photo by Jennifer Peters)



Guests & Retreatants

## Experience beautiful Wisconsin this summer with a retreat at Holy Wisdom

by [Toby Grabs](#), director of operations

Holy Wisdom Monastery is awash in the sights and sounds of the approaching summer as plants flower and birds sing. Lost Lake is a center of animal activity with turtles sunning themselves, waterfowl taking up residence, and frogs and toads singing their seasonal songs. These are a few of the reasons some of our guests enjoy taking a retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in the summer.



Other guests like to visit nearby Lake Mendota parks, Governor Nelson State Park or Mendota County park. Both parks have swimming beaches and the state park has hiking trails and a boat launch. Local farmers' markets are abundant in the area with two held nearby in Middleton on Tuesdays from 2:30-6:00 pm in the parking lot of the Capital Brewery and on Thursdays from 8:00 am-1:00 pm at Greenway Station near Biaggi's.

Overnight room availability this summer is good with many weeknights open and quite a few weekend rooms available as well. For more information on a summer retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery contact Monica Jefcoat by email at [mjefcoat@benedictinewomen.org](mailto:mjefcoat@benedictinewomen.org) or phone at 608-836-1631, x158, or visit our retreat webpage at [www.benedictinewomen.org/visit/personal-retreats/](http://www.benedictinewomen.org/visit/personal-retreats/). (Photo by Mary Kay Baum)

[Reserve a personal retreat](#)

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Oblates

## Compassionate Communication: Right Relationships with myself and others—open to the public

July 13-15, 2018

Don't miss your chance to learn how to stay present to one another as you make a connection in a way in which everyone's needs are valued. This practice is based on Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication and Robert Gonzales' Living Compassion, and it shares values with the Rule of Benedict. This process includes learning how to listen to our own inner thoughts and discern how to use this information in a way that serves

Facilitated by Mary Hoddy, Oblate of Holy Wisdom Monastery, and Mary Kay Reinemann

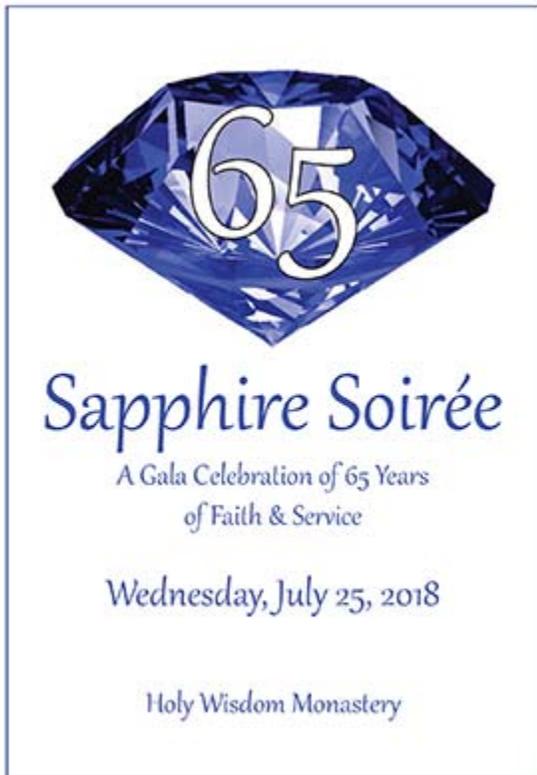
[Learn more](#)

[Register by June 22, 2018](#)

Friends & Supporters

## Sapphire Soirée

by [Rachel Olson](#), development program manager



According to gift-giving traditions traced back to 19th century European royalty, a 65th anniversary is so rare and so special that it is represented by, and celebrated with, a precious blue sapphire.

On Wednesday, July 25, 2018, beginning with a reception at 5:00 pm, the Benedictine Life Foundation will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Benedictine sisters' commitment to the people and the land that we now know as Holy Wisdom Monastery with a very special Sapphire Soiree. This will be a gala evening of fine dining followed by a piano concert by Father Bob Koopmann.

For information about sponsorship opportunities for this evening, or for other assistance, please contact Janet Neurauter, [jneurauter@benedictinewomen.org](mailto:jneurauter@benedictinewomen.org), 608-836-1631, x124; or Rachel Olson, [rolson@benedictinewomen.org](mailto:rolson@benedictinewomen.org), 608-836-1631, x120.

Seating for this rare and precious occasion is limited, make your reservations today!

Sunday Assembly

## Sunday Assembly offers new opportunity for children, celebrates the Feast of St. Benedict and holds a special prayer for healing

by [Lynn Lemberger](#), director of worship and music



### Wisdom Explorers—July 22

Join us for a day on the prairie for youth connected with Holy Wisdom Monastery's Sunday Assembly, ages 5 to 16. The Wisdom Explorers will seek connection to God and creation through a nature walk, building birdhouses, song, prayer and togetherness. The exploration will start at 2:00 pm and conclude in the early evening with dinner for the whole family and

roasted marshmallows over a campfire. Contact Tony Gibart, [tonygibart@gmail.com](mailto:tonygibart@gmail.com) with questions.

Register today!

### Potluck Brunch Celebrating the Feast of Benedict & Scholastica—July 15

Plan now to join us after worship on July 15 for the annual Potluck Brunch to celebrate the Feast of Benedict and Scholastica. All are invited to bring a dish to share and join in Benedictine hospitality and fellowship.

### Anointing of the Sick—July 22

Following our liturgy on July 22, we will offer a special prayer for healing. All are invited to participate in this special liturgy. The prayer that we offer is for all of us seeking God's help, and for us to pray with and for those in our community who place themselves in God's loving care. Join us in the Oratory following Sunday Assembly worship. The service will take about 20 minutes depending upon the number of people attending. All are welcome.

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## Deepen your spirituality this summer

### Group Spiritual Direction: An Introduction and Exploration

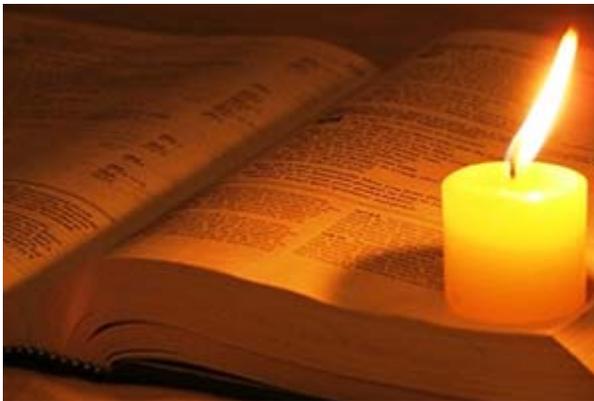
Thursdays, July 12, 26; August 9, 23, 2018 | 9:00-11:30 am

Led by Carla Peterson and Liz Morris

Whether you are new to group spiritual direction or wish to explore it further, this series of mornings is an introduction to group spiritual direction as prayer. Intended for people who want to explore their relationship with God, learn from listening deeply to others, and hold one another for the purpose of grounding and growth in Love. Each session will end with a reflection time. Silence will be threaded throughout each morning.



[Register by July 5, 2018](#)



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### Thoughts, Tools and *Lectio Divina*: A Daily Pathway to Communicating with God

Fridays, July 20, 27; August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018 | 9:00-11:30 am  
Led by David McKee and Carla Peterson

Based on Benedictine Sr. Mary Margaret Funk's "Matters" series of books, we will explore various kinds of afflictive thoughts that lead us into difficulties and learn spiritual tools that help us counter those thoughts. *Lectio Divina* and a variant, sustained *lectio*, are important tools on the pathway to communication with the Holy one. Listening deeply to the Divine within

we can come to see that our whole life is the practice of sustained *lectio*. Across the six classes we will engage the revelatory "texts" of Scripture, nature, and our own experience and we will share with each other practices that help us deepen our spiritual life.

[Register by July 13, 2018](#)

## Youth Chorus brings audience to their feet!

by [Janet Neurauter](#), director of mission advancement

It was the end of the concert. Suddenly the kids sat on the floor grinning from ear to ear. The last song of their performance was *Wau Bulan* arranged by Tracy Wong. *Wau Bulan* (moon kite) is a traditional Malaysian folk song performed with perfectly timed arm movements, clapping, and tapping the floor. At the end of the song, the Lake Superior Youth Concert received a standing ovation from the crowd.



Because of its wonderful acoustics in the Assembly Room and warm hospitality, the monastery has become a venue for free concerts. Every year, the Middleton High School Choir presents a holiday concert in December and in March 2017 Duluth's College of St. Scholastica Concert Choir and Bella Voce Chorus presented a concert at the start of their spring tour. Our recent concert by the Lake Superior Youth Chorus made up of thirty-four 6 - 9<sup>th</sup> graders included the familiar *Shenandoah* as well as *I Sing of the Northland*, a song written especially for the chorus by Eric Barnum.

Free concerts are always announced in the Benedictine Bridge, on Facebook, the website and in Sunday Assembly bulletins. Please join us! You never know what surprises the choirs have in store!

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## The what, the how, the why

by [Janet Neurauter](#), director of mission advancement

When you walk the grounds at Holy Wisdom, attend Sunday Assembly or a meeting, retreat, or program, it is easy to see what we do. We offer a beautiful and welcoming setting to be alone or with others, a wide variety of events and programs, and the opportunity to connect in a way that is deeply spiritual.

And how is this done? By the work of the sisters, the staff and many volunteers. By listening and sharing. By being open to new possibilities. And certainly with the support of generous donors.

However, most important is the "why." Why does Holy Wisdom exist? Why is it important? St. Benedict writes that we are to welcome all as Christ. And in that welcome people find inclusion, acceptance, caring and connection. And in that welcome the earth is protected and nurtured.

We welcome your financial support of Holy Wisdom in responding to the needs of the people we serve. Join our many donors who embrace the mission of weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.

*How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world.* —Anne Frank

[Click here to donate and make a difference!](#)

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## There is still time to submit artwork for summer art exhibit

by [Rachel Olson](#), development program manager

Holy Wisdom's community-of-communities is home to an extraordinary array of talent and ability including some exceptional visual artists whose work will be displayed in the monastery's gallery between August 5 and October 7, 2018.

The Benedictine Life Foundation is pleased to present the third annual Summer Art Exhibit featuring artwork by Sunday Assembly members, Friends of Wisdom Prairie, Oblates of Holy Wisdom Monastery and volunteers. The exhibit will kick-off with a reception on Sunday August 5th, after Sunday Assembly. Artists will be present to answer questions and talk about their work.



All the pieces displayed are selected by the Monastery Art Jury. Current members of the jury are Donna Carnes, Kent Sweitzer, Janine Veto, and Sandy Wojtal-Weber. Artwork is chosen for the exhibit based on the Benedictine values of beauty, balance and simplicity. Artists have the option to offer their work for sale.

**The deadline for submitting photos of work to be considered for the Summer Art Exhibit is Friday, June 22, 2018.** Interested artists are invited to submit their artwork for consideration by sending photos of the work by email to [rolson@benedictinewomen.org](mailto:rolson@benedictinewomen.org) or mailing or by hand delivery to Rachel Olson at the monastery. Please include the name and size of each piece being submitted, the artist's name, and the medium. Only two-dimensional work that can be hung using the existing gallery hanging system can be accepted at this time.

For further information or assistance, [please contact Rachel Olson by email](#) or by phone at 608-836-1631, x120.

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## Learn about the importance of insects at the next dinner lecture

By [Greg Armstrong](#), director of land management and environmental education

**Friends of Wisdom Prairie dinner lecture on grassland insects**  
August 15, 2018 | 5:30-8:00 pm

Join the Friends of Wisdom Prairie for the next dinner lecture with entomologist Claudio Gratton who will enlighten us about the important role that insects and other invertebrates play in the ecology of grasslands. This will be interesting and will aid the Friends of Wisdom Prairie in their efforts to help the sisters care for the earth. Registration coming soon.





## Bridging the communities through communications

by [Car McGinley](#), director of communications and Nancy Sandleback, archivist and collections manager

How many of you readers remember the early newsletters from the sisters? Some of you weren't even born in 1971 when the first Center newsletter was published. During that year, two issues were printed.

From 1972-1981 the newsletter was referred to as the *St. Benedict Center newsletter*. In 1982 a single sheet flyer was used until *Expressions* debuted in December. *Expressions* was an 8-page printed piece that was published until 1993. In addition during this time, we published *What's Up at St. Benedict Center* from 1987-1991. This was renamed *Connections* and was distributed from 1991-2000. *Connect* was created for Retreat & Conference Center users and published between 1995-1999.

In November, 1999 the first issue of *Benedictine Bridge* was printed on our in-house printing press. This substantial 24-page publication was distributed to nearly 7,000 readers, 3 times each year with Lent, Ordinary Time and Advent issues. The publication was printed with black ink only (except the cover which was printed in blue). Photos were developed, first in a dark room on-site, then later commercially and printed as monochrome photos with black ink.

*Linda Hancock, a Madison calligrapher and longtime friend of the sisters and staff, designed the cover artwork for the print version of Benedictine Bridge.*

From 1999-2006 the *Benedictine Bridge* advisory committee met to determine content of the publication and recruit writers. The committee consisted of staff (Kathi Koegle, Marykay Bell, Neal Smith, Mary David Walgenbach) and external volunteers, Marshall Cook and Norma Madsen.

Nationally-known spirituality speakers came to Holy Wisdom Monastery during the 2000s and often wrote articles for *Benedictine Bridge*, including Joan Chittister, Calvin DeWitt, Patrick Henry, Norvene Vest, Gordon Lathrop, Fr George Kilcourse, Walter Brueggemann, Kathleen Norris, James Whitehead, Maxwell Johnson, William Skudlarek, OSB, Michael Dowd, George Tavard, Margaret O'Gara, and Abbot John Klassen, OSB.

As email became a major communication tool, we decided to reduce costs and discontinue the printed version of *Benedictine Bridge*. Our first electronic *Benedictine Bridge* was sent in July 2007.

Today the electronic version of *Benedictine Bridge* is emailed to 8,100 readers each month. Writers from the communities of Sunday Assembly, Oblates, Friends of Wisdom Prairie and volunteers, in addition to staff contribute to the newsletter and share personal stories of the monastery. Digital color photos are used throughout the publication. The planning team for the publication includes Sister Joanne Kollasch, Denise West, novice and Carolyn McGinley, editor.

As we look to the future, we continue to listen to our readers about what you want to read in *Benedictine Bridge* and adjust accordingly. Soon we will be sending the newsletter from our customer relationship management software InfusionSoft and hope to be able to tailor content to what our readers are interested in. Stay tuned!

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## New on our website

Follow the links below to see what's new on our website.

[A summer walk on the prairie](#) by Sister Lynne Smith

[June phenology \(monthly nature happenings\)](#) by Sylvia Marek

[June new books in the library](#), by Nancy Sandleback



## Recent homilies:

- [Patti LaCross' homily, June 10, 2018](#)
- [Leora Weitzman's homily, June 3, 2018](#)
- [David McKee's homily, Holy Trinity Sunday, May 27, 2018](#)
- [Jerry Folk's homily, Pentecost, May 20, 2018](#)

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## Calendar

[Sunday Worship](#), 9:00 am  
Monastery Assembly Room

### [Daily Prayer](#)

Monastery Oratory  
Morning Prayer, Sunday-Saturday, 8:00 am  
Midday Prayer, Monday-Friday, 11:45 am  
Evening Prayer, Sunday-Saturday, 4:30 pm

### [Centering Prayer](#)

Monastery Oratory  
Morning Centering Prayer, Tuesday-Saturday, 7:35 am  
Evening Centering Prayer, Tuesday-Friday, 4:55 pm

Retreat & Guest House Room 10  
Centering Prayer Group, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Follow the links below to learn more or register for upcoming events at Holy Wisdom Monastery

For the complete calendar visit [holywisdommonastery.org/events](http://holywisdommonastery.org/events)

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June 17

Sunday Assembly Childcare Ministry, 9:00-10:00 am

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June 20

Wisdom Prairie Workday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

[Register one day or more before the event.](#)

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June 24

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:00-10:00 am

Hospitality and Car Pool Sunday

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July 1

Sunday Assembly Childcare Ministry, 9:00-10:00 am

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July 8

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:00-10:00 am

Social Justice Group, 10:30-11:30 am

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July 11

Wisdom Prairie Workday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

[Register one day or more before the event.](#)

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July 12

Group Spiritual Direction: An Introduction and Exploration 4 session series begins, 9:00-11:30 am

[Register by July 5, 2018.](#)

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July 13-15

Oblate Retreat (open to the public): Compassionate Communication: Right Relationships with Myself and Others

[Register by June 29, 2018.](#)

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July 15

Sunday Assembly Childcare Ministry, 9:00-10:00 am

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July 20

Thoughts, Tools & Lectio Divina: A Daily Pathway to Communicating with God, 6 session series begins, 9:00-11:30 am

[Register by July 13, 2018.](#)

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July 22

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:00-10:00 am

Wisdom Explorers, 2:00 pm

[Register today.](#)

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July 25

Wisdom Prairie Workday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

[Register one day or more before the workday.](#)

[Sapphire Soirée](#), 5:30-9:30 pm

65th anniversary gala  
Seating is limited, registration will close when full. [Register by July 11, 2018.](#)

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July 28-29  
A Weekend Away  
A spiritual retreat for all women  
[Register by July 14, 2018.](#)

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July 29  
Hospitality and Car Pool Sunday

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For the complete calendar visit [holywisdommonastery.org/events](http://holywisdommonastery.org/events)



**Holy Wisdom Monastery**

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