

From the
Director

By Ann Comstock, Oblate

*"We'll always come to thee again,
when Alma Mater calls"*

Calendar of Events

January 12	SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
March 23	SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
April 3	Annual Communion Brunch
June 7	SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
June 25	Summer Picnic
September 13	SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict
November 9	SBA Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict

Angels needed...

to provide a helping hand at the following ministries of the Benedictine Sisters:

Benetwood Apartments

Contact:
Pat Hause, OSB
(814)899-0088

St. Benedict Community Center

Contact:
Dianne Sabol, OSB
(814)459-2406

Saint Benedict Education Center

Contact:
Miriam Mashank, OSB
(814)452-4072, Ext 234

Emmaus Ministries

Contact:
Mary Miller, OSB or Margaret Kloecker
(814)459-8349

The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

Contact:
Annette Marshall, OSB
(814)455-5508

Mount Saint Benedict Wellness Program

Contact:
Helen Heher, OSB
(814)899-0614, Ext 2403

Annual Alumnae Campaign

The Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association is wrapping up its Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift, we ask that you consider doing so. Your gift will help us support the Alumnae Association Scholarship Fund, ministries of the Benedictine Sisters or the sisters' most urgent needs. For more information, contact Ann Comstock at (814) 899-0614, Ext 2573 or visit ErieBenedictines.org.

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

- Jeanne Barbara Toczykowski Boyland '46
- Delphine Cackowski Gostomski '59
- Janet Kownacki Ball '68
- Barbara Slomski '75
- Jeanne Elizabeth Kraus McCarthy '36

E-MAIL CALL!

We are now using the Constant Contact e-mail program to alert Alumnae members of upcoming events as well as timely news items. We need your e-mail address for this. Please send it, including your first, maiden and last names along with class year, to Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org.

Visit **ErieBenedictines.org** for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your e-mail address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use e-mail, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd., Erie, PA, 16511. And whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article, jot it down, or call us, so we can share the news with all our members.

Angels Among Us

We have lost one of our angels. On September 4, 2010 Lavina Gertrude Haibach Graf, a kind and loving soul and our oldest living alumna died peacefully at her home in Erie, PA. Lavina was 100 years old, having celebrated her 100th birthday on May 14. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and a dedicated and loyal member of the Class of 1927.

I recently received a copy of Lavina's memoirs, written in 1995 for her granddaughter's school assignment. Lavina's daughter, Mary Ann Graf Ehrman '60, said, "Mother dearly loved Saint Benedict Academy and her high school years lived inside its hallowed halls on 9th Street." The following words recall some of her memories of Saint Benedict's Academy:

I attended an all-girl Benedictine Catholic High School where all the teachers were nuns. Some students, probably one third, who lived out of town, were known as boarding students...the local girls were day students.

My freshman year started in September of 1923. The courses offered were either Academic or Commercial. Subjects offered included English, Algebra, Geometry, American and Ancient History, Chemistry, Latin, French, Spanish, Economics, Commercial Arithmetic, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Typing, Business Machines, Art, China Painting and Music (piano and violin lessons).

In the spring there was a music recital involving the music students. The recital was in a large parlor. The furniture was what would now be considered gorgeous antiques. The piano on which I took my lesson was a Steinway Concert Grand!

The main sport was intra-mural basketball. The uniform for this consisted of black below the knee bloomers, black cotton knee-high socks, sneakers, and a white cotton midly-blouse.

The school had no established dress code. The mode of dress seemed to be skirts and blouses. Discipline was strict, there was no conversation in the hallways during change of classes.

In my high school class ninety percent took the Commercial course. The girls who took the Academic course were the few who went on to college to become teachers or nurses.

After finishing high school the graduates sought employment. In many cases some of the earnings were used to help out at home. After high school I earned \$18 a week as a bookkeeper. It was fun to be able to shop for clothes, perhaps take up golf or join a tennis club. The girls formed their own social groups, met to play Bridge or "500" or joined a sewing or knitting group.

Thanks Lavina, for the memories.



Lavina Haibach Graf pictured on her 100th birthday, May 14, 2010.



SBA Executive Board

Top row: L to R

Mary Rita Roach Groucutt '72; Lisa Manendo '74; Ann Comstock '64; Cathy Considine Stemmler '64; Darlene Harkness Kerstetter '82

Bottom row: L to R

Katie Shewan Young '87; Cathe Piorkowski Hedderick '76; Cheryl Lenhart '89; Sister Mary Ellen Plumb '71; Paula Roseborough Medina '89; Valerie Joint '88; Sister Rosanne Loneck '61