

NOTES from COUNCIL—20 May 2024

I. Updates

- Sue has been in touch with three Inquirers.
- Becky was elected to fill the Council seat being vacated by Bev after tonight's meeting. Everyone participated in the election. Votes were widely distributed among the five candidates—a testimony to the breadth of leadership in the community. Amma expressed her appreciation for Noelle's work in running the process.

II. Look ahead at June through August

- The Council will not meet in June or July. We will resume in August with an extended meeting of 2 hours. The content of this gathering will be an orientation for members; the setting of a regular meeting day and time for the year; drafting the 2024-2025 calendar of events; and praying for each member of the community by name.

III. Other

- Sister Mary Reuter announced that Saint Benedict's Monastery will have a new postulant joining them in September. We rejoice with our sisters in Christ!
- Amma expressed thanks to Bev for her three years of service on the Council.
- Two persons were recommended to take Becky's place as a dean this fall.
- We reviewed our experience of serving on Council:
 - The tradition of beginning the term by spending time in prayer for each member of the community was unanimously agreed to be a highlight of our work together.
 - One of the Council members stated that service on the Council was much more of a spiritual endeavor than she had thought it would be.
 - Sister Mary encouraged us to find more ways to connect with Saint Benedict's Monastery.
 - She also suggested that we find a way to share books with one another—a sort of lending library or as one person likes to call it, a *scriptorium*.
 - Amma expressed her gratitude for everyone who so generously serves as a member of the Council.

The meeting concluding with prayers of blessing and thanksgiving for Bev's years of service on the Council.

REPORTS

AMMA'S REPORT

1. Council Election

- Becky was elected to the seat being vacated by Bev at the end of her term this month. My sincere thanks to Noelle for riding herd on the process!

2. Formation

- I completed my one-on-one conversations with the Juniors in David's group. All of them are recommended for final oblation. Cindy and Victoria will make their final oblations at this year's retreat; Tim and Treasa's date is TBA but will likely be July 11th, depending on Tim's availability with the calendar at his new church. Art and Bob continue their Juniorate work together.
- Please continue to pray for guidance about someone to become a new on-going formation dean in the autumn.

3. Leadership Transition Process

- Glenn, Janet, Noelle and I continue to work on a draft transition process, taking into account the input provided by the community at our April 20th triannual call. We also proposed to the retreat committee that the hour they designated for us at retreat will be spent talking together about who we are and in what direction we see ourselves to be called. The thought is that our shared self-understanding will necessarily shape our hopes for leadership.
- Noelle received helpful information from Gail and Victoria about group conversations, especially regarding conflict resolution. Their insights will be distributed as a companion to the final leadership transition document. Thanks to our two in-house counselors for their insights!

4. Prayer Book

- We ran into delays in compilation of the prayer book materials. Our revised—slightly optimistic—hope is that we will be able to bless a first draft of the Ordinary Time settings at retreat.

5. Other

- I wrote a letter to the community outlining the Council's recommendation about ongoing education in the monastery: https://the-cloister.mn.co/posts/55406593?utm_source=manual.
- I also wrote recommendations for Janet and Michelle for their applications to the Certificate in Benedictine Spirituality program at Saint John's. Both are eager to share their learnings with us.
- Three persons have volunteered so far to work on the Silver Jubilee celebration.

ALISON'S REPORT

Finances: We have 21 people going to retreat. Seventeen people have paid or requested scholarships. Our checking account balance is \$12,220. Our estimated retreat expense is \$11,400:

- \$9,150 Abbey Guest House
- \$1,200 airport shuttle
- \$300 to St. Ben's for dinner and visit
- \$200 ice cream
- \$300 stipends for speakers
- \$250 other expenses.... Printing, candles etc.

Other: Bev and I have continued to meet with Noelle and Kris re: discernment for profession. We are about ½ way through this first 12 week period. Once we are done, the next two professed sisters will meet with them for 12 weeks until they have met with all the professed sisters. Kris and Noelle are both listening and discerning in deep and meaningful ways.

BEV'S REPORT

The Liturgy Team met on May 6. We reviewed Lent, Holy Week, Easter and through the weeks of Easter. We also determined that we would observe Ascension on Thursday, May 8/9, this year; and planned the Liturgy note for Ascension through Pentecost. Bev will post that note. Alison will post the Compline liturgy for the return to Ordinary Time for Monday, May 20.

Our Novice, Br. Paul, continues his novice lessons. May 14 was the 7th of the ten lessons.

CINDY'S REPORT

I have posted once on From the Front Porch, sparking a good sharing of knowledge from the elders to the juniors. Very rich. I have posted one Benedictine learning opportunity on the past month.

GLENN'S REPORT

No report.

NOELLE'S REPORT

Prioress: This past month I focused on the council election, sending out individual emails to confirm candidates and then contacting people for their votes. It went smoothly and everyone was helpful in responding by the due date.

I edited the council minutes and posted them on our website.

I also continued to help with the Leadership Transition Process, communicating with Gail and Victoria for ideas to help guide healthy discussion and resolve conflict, and working to draft the individual pieces assigned to me.

I posted a request for volunteers for the Jubilee Celebration team and we have five volunteers. Kris is setting up a private space for us in Mighty Networks and we will begin gathering our ideas soon.

Lectio: Lectio will continue through June and then go on break for the summer. We have a small but loyal following and it is a blessing to gather and share in this way together.

Tech Team: The tech team has been hard at work updating our website pages, most recently completing the last of the front facing pages. We are working on the contact page to see if a form with a drop-down menu might be more useful as the direct links to emails don't work the same for everyone.