



The In Touch

Volume 61, Issue 9

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Sister...

I have a little bit of a love/hate relationship with Facebook. I could do nicely without its intrusive algorithms and subtly judgy advertisement choices, its endless mind numbing reels and free space for bullying, but I deeply value the many chances to connect with friends, occasional chances to connect with strangers who become friends, and surprisingly frequent opportunities to connect with friends who had become strangers and become friends again.

An old college buddy of that last variety messaged me the other day. "What's up with you?", "What's new?" We chatted a little about the books he's writing and my kids, and I told him I would be taking vows as a Benedictine religious sister in September. This was not something he would have expected from our college days.

"What does taking vows mean for your life?" he asked.
Good question...

What does it mean to be a monk or a religious sister in the world?

After a period of being a postulant (one who asks), then a novice (one who is new), a novice may apply to take the Benedictine vows of stability, obedience and conversatio (which is a difficult to translate word that basically means fidelity to monastic life) within their community. I'm sharing part of my letter of application to the Benedictine Priory of St. Mary with you:

My very dear Sisters,

The Profession Liturgy of the Priory of St. Mary asks three questions:

"What do you ask of God and God's Holy Church?"

"Are you now resolved to unite yourself more closely to God by the new bond of Monastic Profession?"

"Are you resolved to observe Stability in this community, to strive for *Conversatio*, and to offer the sacrifice of Obedience?"

I know you sat with those basic questions (and maybe still do...) In some form or another thousands of sisters have sat with those questions thousands of times. I have been sitting with those questions. I have been struggling with those questions, praying with those questions and occasionally avoiding those questions for 3 years - considered in a broader sense, far longer than that.

In that context, two interrelated ideas presented in *The Vowed Life* recently took my breath away. Sister Judith, SLG writes, “In one way the Religious life is quite simply a structure for ‘turning to Christ’ with all your life, *an intensification of baptism which leads to a particular way of living*”, an intensification of God’s call to belong wholly and completely to God, God’s call to fully be what you are. Sr. Judith has described both an intensification that by its nature changes one’s way of living and being, and a living, breathing, ancient and ever-renewing structure fostering that change. That takes my breath away. It feels like an impossibly audacious adventure and the embrace of a homecoming all rolled together. It feels like sacrifice that nurtures, obedience that frees, and change that sets deeper roots.

Also in *The Vowed Life*, discussing the revival of the Religious life within the Anglican Church in the 1800’s, Peta Dunstan explains that, “Without that public commitment to God, [the monastics’] life of sacrifice would be insufficiently anchored.” I need that anchor.

I want to answer those questions. I want to answer those questions in public. In front of the bishop. In front of my prioresses and the entire community.

To sound just a wee bit less demanding and more monastic, I am asking for the chance to voice my commitment before God and whatever part of the world cares to hear. I am asking for permission to anchor a life in God within the Priory of St. Mary, with my sisters.

I debated for a long time whether it made sense to share all of this in the newsletter. I know it is titled “Ramblings”, but Benedictine spirituality and vows do not directly affect most of the congregation. But, my beloved faith community, we are all of us answering, in our own ways, God’s call to seek God in all God’s love and abundance and mystery and compassion and glory. We travel together on this journey of intertwined and mutually supportive paths. “For as we progress in this our way of life and in faith, our hearts shall expand, and we shall run the way of God’s commandments with the unspeakable sweetness of love.” (Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue, v48)

In God’s holy love,
Sr. Sam



Notice: We need volunteers
Readers for Sunday's & Altar Guild Members



9/1~9/30 ~ Parker Wright
~ David McKee
~ Karen Tveit
~ Carol Stillar
~ Brittany Klatt
~ Erin Franklin
~ Lynn Naeckel
~ Carole Johnson
~ Andrew Strand
~ Dixie Juel
~ Bob Stone



9/3 ~ Lee & Carol Grim
9/16 ~ Alan & Kate Wright
9/21 ~ Doug & Celia Tanem



9/4 ~ Jon Rueter
9/18 ~ Linda Krieger
9/26 ~ Andrew Noland
9/30 ~ Grace O'Kane

Watch Holy Trinity Livestream On Facebook

Service bulletin is on our website: www.ifhtec.org

Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services can also be viewed on KCC-TV



Schools back in... Watch for Kids!

**COMMUNITY CANCER
WALK**

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026

Location: MN North Community College- Rainy River

8:45 a.m. Registration RRCC Commons

9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Come to walk, visit, have a cup of coffee, walk, donate, and register for a drawing.
Money raised to purchase \$300 Gas Cards for Koochiching County Cancer Patients
actively being treated for cancer.**

September '26 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Erik Strand	
13 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Linda Vance	
20 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Jeanne Corrin	
27 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 18th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Carole Johnson	



SEPTEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Altar Guild
						Donna & Karen
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						Georgeann & Michele
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00a.m.						Georgeann & Michele
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline (Georgeann)					Carolyn & Molly
27	28	29	30			
Holy Eucharist 10:00 am		Vestry 5:00				

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