

An Art Exhibit

by the

Benedictine Sisters and Oblates Queen of Angels Monastery

December 6, 2025

To Honor the 50th Anniversary of the
Queen of Angels Oblate Program

The Rule of St. Benedict

Chapter 57

If there are artisans in the monastery they are to practice their craft with all humility..."so that in all things God may be glorified." (1 Peter 4:11)

Sisters

Sister Christine Rausch

Sister Christine has crocheted and knitted since she was about twelve years old. Recently, she created these sweetly colored baby sets that include a blanket, jacket, cap and booties. She has long enjoyed sewing as well.

Sister Marietta Schindler

Sister Marietta started crocheting in 1969 and is known for her prayer shawls, each of which has an angel pin and prayer card attached to it. She has made thousands of such shawls in many different colors, to sell at the Monastery Gift Shop and to give away as gifts.

Sister Miriam Hendrickson

Sister Miriam, known for her beautiful poetry both within the monastic community (QAM and beyond) and in the broader community (awards and publication), now resides in Spokane but her stability remains vowed to QAM. Here, she served in the Sisters' infirmary, at Shalom Prayer Center and in other ministries.

Sister Protasia Schindler (RIP 1959)

A natural artist with no formal training, Sister Protasia painted many religious-themed works. The largest is "Mary, Queen of Angels" (12'4" x 7'8"), made for the 1912 Chapel and now displayed in the 1998 Chapel. A reproduction is displayed here. The two small paintings, "The Death of St. Benedict" and "The Death of St. Scholastica", were painted before 1949.

Sister Therese Marie Albrich (RIP 2002)

Sister Therese Marie was a dearly beloved primary teacher for many years in parochial schools. After she retired, she devoted herself to painting/drawing beautiful nature scenes. She also designed several Monastery cards, including a pen-and-ink sketch of the exterior of the building and the giant sequoia. And she wrote lovely poetry that reflected her deep spiritual life and love of beauty.

Sister Carmel Weisner (RIP 2005)

Sister Carmel, who was a very prolific artist, began her practice by doodling with colored ink pens. Her paintings are wild with color and interesting lines and figures. She painted a huge mural on the wall of the Dining Room before its demolition in preparation for the rebuilding of the Monastery after the 1993 earthquake.

Sister Joan Pokorny

Sister Joan began her musical career in grade school, playing the clarinet in the Oakridge School Band. Here she is in her band uniform, probably in the 6th grade. Sister Joan also played the guitar.

Sister Maureen Neidermeyer

"I began taking calligraphy classes in about 1956 from Sister Grace, who taught a summer class for us Sisters, and continued studying with Father Robert Palladino at Marylhurst. Several years ago, I took a year of classes from Father Philip Weigel at Mt. Angel Abbey. I enjoy doing calligraphy because I like the challenge of creating beautiful letters. It is hard to do, but the effort is worth it."

Sister Donna Marie Chartraw

Sister Donna Marie adapted the traditional O Antiphon texts to fit the music she composed around 2005. These versions are still sung by the Sisters during every Advent season.

Sister Annette Murphy (RIP 1978)

This is a copy of the thesis that Sister Annette wrote in 1960 for her Master of Arts degree from the University of Portland: "Original Organ Accompaniments for Selected Chants". A striking component of the thesis is that the music is notated by hand.

Sister Margaret Mary Johnson (RIP 2000)

Sister Margaret Mary started painting in 1939 or earlier, in the old laundry (no longer standing) where Sr. Protasia had her studio. As can be seen in the portfolio in this exhibit, her work was extraordinary for its diversity of mediums -- oil, pastels, charcoal, carving in wood and soap, leather work -- as well as for its quality and range of subjects. She also made embossed cards that were sold in the Monastery Gift Shop.

Sister Anne Ryan (RIP 1993)

Sister Anne constructed the "Young Saint Benedict" mosaic, which was originally on the wall in the Shalom Prayer Garden. It now hangs on the wall of the brick Laundry Room in the back of the Monastery.

Sister Immaculata Tuma (RIP 2017)

Sister Immaculata came to the Monastery as a skilled baker. Perhaps her most popular creation was the Morning Coffee Cake that she baked for the Sisters and their guests, for fundraising at the Oktoberfest and elsewhere, and for donor gifts. Sister made the cakes in huge batches of 100 or more, and her lifetime production was in the many, many thousands. After her death, the recipe was shared in [Reflections](#), the Queen of Angels magazine. Sister Immaculata also wrote this poem, "Autumn Meditation".

Sister Susan Casey

Sister Susan is an exceptional photographer, especially when depicting nature around the Queen of Angels campus. From 2012-2021, she took many pictures for the Shalom Prayer Center and the Monastery. She enjoyed making beautiful photo cards that were featured at the Monastery Gift Shop.

Sister Rebecca Pirkle

"I am submitting some art that I did over the years, starting when I was a student at Mt. Angel College, as well as a photograph I took at the Oregon coast that won an award and my poetry. I have never shared my work before, as I did not think anyone would be interested in my creative endeavors. We have had so many real artists in our community! I think more of my creative talents are in decorating and arranging. That is probably why I always enjoyed setting up and decorating my classroom."

Sister Jill Aigner (RIP 2017)

Sister Jill wrote a memoir, [A Stranger in My Skin: An Unconventional Path to God](#), as well as three other resources for seekers: [Seek Abide: Scripture Themes with Reflective Questions](#), [His Way My Way: A Growth Journal](#) and [Foundations Last Forever: Lectio Divina, a Mode of Scripture Prayer](#). Besides being a very gifted author, Sister Jill was an avid and expert photographer. Her exquisitely beautiful work was used in Priory Productions filmstrips as well as for gifts of photo cards and framed photos. On display is her photo of mushrooms.

Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer

"Photography is a contemplative, prayerful and creative time for me. I like to see the small beauties in nature and hold them up for others to see, enjoy and praise God. Sister Christine Rausch taught me to crochet sometime in my monastic life -- I have no idea when -- but I have enjoyed doing it for many years and have made many, many shawls, blankets, hats, etc. It, too, is a time of contemplative silence, prayer, creativity and centering. I started the Prayer Shawl ministry at St. Mary Parish, Mt. Angel, in 2013. I have dabbled in watercolor painting and Haiku poetry."

Sister Angela Meister

Sister Angela practiced the art of writing icons for many years, and her images graced the Chapel and other locations throughout the Monastery. On display here is "The Trinity". The art collection at Mt. Angel Abbey now houses most of her work. Additional examples of her creativity are the outdoor Stations of the Cross (located on the path to the Sisters' Cemetery) and the indoor Stations (hanging in the Main Hallway of the Monastery).

Oblates

Ingrid Gordon

Handmade Envelopes

“Using a template, I create these colorful envelopes using old calendars, wrapping paper and newspaper pictures.”

Tracy Esguerra

Framed Counted Cross Stitch on 12-Count Aida Cloth

Rose pattern from Leisure Arts, created in 1987.

“I made this for my mother’s birthday in 1987.”

Patricia Ames

Framed Watercolors

Titles:

Reaching Up, Reaching Out

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Living Waters

John 4:14 But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst. The water I shall give
Will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Charlean Clemons

Award Winning Song Writer (2025)

Title: *Let The Rivers Clap Their Hands*

“Inspired by a line from Psalm 98, this song honors St. Francis’ love for all of God’s creation.

Also on display are prototype drawings I would like to use to create a children’s book version of the song.”

Linda Craven

Framed Collection of Redwood Photographs and Original Poem

“I took these photos in August 2025 at Prairie Creek Redwoods Park in Northern CA.”

Jo Hussy

Framed Calligraphy

Titles:

Do You Not See

The Whole of Life

Chris Wilson

Framed Artwork

Title: *So, a Psychopath Walks Through a Graveyard, Right?*

“The image is a reproduction of a Renaissance-era religious scene -- a work of devotion rendered in intricate human detail. Figures kneel, pray, and reach toward the divine with gestures of both reverence and grief. Each face holds a story: angels lean low, mortals look upward, and sorrow moves in symmetry with hope. The composition captures the eternal conversation between the living and the sacred – a dialogue of loss, connection, and transcendence that mirrors the story itself.”

“When performed live at Mac’s Place in Silverton, OR, this piece accompanied the story’s telling – the image stood as the visual echo to the music’s improvisation, where western strings met ancient reverence. Together, they formed a single language of art – proof that across time, place, and culture, the geometry of grief and love remain the same.”

Mary Jo Tyler

Two Books of Photos with Original Poems

Titles:

Through Nature’s Lens: Reflections on the Sacred Journey

Through Nature’s Lens: Presence

“These are my photos, poems, and prayers inspired by the Divine Presence in nature.”

Mary Hollinger

Wall Hanging

Blessed Bee Quilt pattern by Wooden Spool Designs.

Hand appliqued; machine quilted by To The Point Quilting, Stayton, OR.

“Hand-cut wool pieces in rich fall tones form a lively scene of bees buzzing among golden sunflowers and rustic beehives. Layered textures and subtle color shifts create depth and movement, evoking the hum and glow of a late-harvest afternoon. Both cozy and vibrant, this piece honors the quiet industry of bees and the beauty of the changing season.

Handmade Booklets

“Layered with paint, textured paper, and diverse materials these booklets combine acrylics, sketches, images, and my original haiku to create intimate, tactile spaces for reflection. Three booklets address Lauds, Sext, and Vespers (part of Liturgy of the Hours) and the remaining books speak without words. All the booklets convey feelings through color and form and invite quiet exploration, allowing the viewer to create their own meaning within the interplay of texture, light, and shape.”

Clara Jean Dawson

Stained Glass

Title: *Archangel Michael, Over the Seas – Protector of All*

Pam Kerr

Acrylic on Wood Panel

Title: *Abner, Venezuelan Hip Hop Dancer*

You, from the other side of the tracks
Who would have thought
We'd all have so much in common
We've been given an invitation
I think we should dance

“As of late 2025, nearly 8 million Venezuelans have left their country, a figure that makes it the second-largest displacement crisis in the world, second only to Syria in modern history. The causes are the severe economic and political crisis, resulting in widespread poverty, food insecurity, and a collapse of public services. Many have fled to escape violence and persecution with the breakdown of law and order including political repression.”

Dorothy Baroch

Author

Listen to the Heartland of the Church: A Pathway to Parish Renewal

“I dedicated this book to Sr. Antoninette Traeger, QAM Oblate Director when I made my oblation.”

Moments of Victory, Moments of Change: Stories of Perseverance and Quiet Courage

“This is the first in a two-part anthology.”

A Window to My Soul

“This is a collection of my musings, poems, and articles.”

“As we age and allow wisdom to weave her magic in our souls, new views and opinions and ideas become part of our spirit. My books, poems and reflections echo discoveries made during my life's journey, thoughts that surfaced because they desired to be shared without invitation.”

Gretchen Metzler

A Diorama of a Room

“The key to understanding this life in our own time is to realize that what is asked of us in this ancient Rule of Benedict is simply to begin to live an ordinary life extraordinarily well.”

Joan Chittister, OSB

Mary Blankenship

Framed Original Poems

Titles:

Easter

“I wrote this poem on the occasion of my reception into the Church while reflecting on the continuing nature of our salvation, using the ancient origins of the word *easter* – from the Old English ‘eastre,’ - ‘toward dawn, the direction of the new light;’ and the Indo-European root – ‘awes’ or ‘to shine.’ “

Driving to Church

“Describes a joyful experience of awareness of our immanent God – God omnipresent – and the resulting spontaneous song of praise.”

Gay Gomez

Author

A Wetland Biography (1998)

“Travel through time to Louisiana’s coastal marshes and uplands for a deep dive into the regions land, wildlife, culture, history, and conservation efforts.”

Susan Black

Paintings

Titles:

This is What It’s Like to Have an Idea - watercolor, 2005

Who Has Measured with His Palm the Waters (Isaiah 40:12) - watercolor, with graphite pencil and some acrylic, 2024

The Ladder of Humility - acrylic, painted for N. Hendricks’ retreat on Humility, 11/2025

“At the beginning of my art ‘career’ 25 years ago, I took up watercolor painting because I thought it would be easy. How hard *could* it be, if kids did it? I soon discovered watercolor’s true nature – a challenging one – and fell in love. Watercolor is simple, pigment dissolved in water, applied to paper, yet deeply complex, due largely to issues of control because water flows and the paint doesn’t always stay put. Watercolor is endlessly fascinating.”

Nancy Hendricks

Home Canning Display

Jars of peaches, plums, applesauce, apricots, and tomatoes.

“The bounty of the Lord’s harvest to sustain us throughout the year.”

A print of Psalm Prayer 65:9-13

Wronda Gustafson

Encaustic Paintings

Oil and cold wax as the medium.

Titles:

Resurgam 1666

Genesis 1:3-4

Kerrie Harwood

Acrylic Paintings

A Landscape

Hydrangeas

Hydrangea/Floral

Victoria Bethel

Make a Joyful Noise

Instruments played by Victoria:

Flute

Djembe Drum (West Africa) – “I have witnessed the amazing power of drumming to heal relational wounds.”

Mountain Dulcimer (Appalachia) – “I made this out of old church pew wood from NC.”

“The only proof you need there is a God is music.” Kurt Vonnegut

“Who could retain a grievance against the man with whom he had joined in singing before God ?” St. Ambrose

Alysa Hilton

Weathergrams Hung on Pine Branches

“A *weathergram* is a reflection on a season, calligraphed by the artist, and then given away to be hung on tree branches exposed to the elements.”

Benedictine Bookmarks – for our guests, please take one

Alysa calligraphed these with St. Benedict’s often quoted insight and instruction to

“listen with the ear of the heart.”