

Sister Nancy Bauer

Prioress from 2005–2011



Sister Nancy Bauer was born in Miesville, Minn., on November 13, 1953, the fourth of five children born to Sylvester and Alvina Tutewohl Bauer. She entered Saint Benedict's Convent on September 29, 1976, and became a novice on July 2, 1977. She made her first profession on July 11, 1978, and her final profession on July 11, 1981. Sister Nancy holds a bachelor's degree in photojournalism from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in theology from Saint John's School of Theology and a doctorate in church law from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Prior to her election as the 15th prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery on February 27, 2005, and her installation on June 12, Sister Nancy worked as a photographer, reporter and, eventually, editor of the *Saint Cloud Visitor*, the weekly newspaper of the Diocese of St. Cloud. She also served as the associate editor of *Sisters Today* for two years, as community relations consultant at St. Benedict's Senior Community in St. Cloud, Minn., and as a visiting instructor in canon law at St. John's University School of Theology.

Having taken the following focus for her service as prioress, "Let us bring Christ to each other, and let us bring each other to Christ," Sister Nancy attended to the overall leadership of the community in that spirit and encouraged the sisters to live their monastic mission to the fullest—to listen and respond to the needs of the Church and the world through their ministry of prayer, work and community.

Sister Nancy led the community through another phase of community planning entitled "Visioning and Comprehensive Planning for Hospitality and Outreach, 2007-2011." This process resulted in the establishment of two hermitages as part of the programming offered at the Spirituality Center. In addition to this project, the historical Marmion building was razed and replaced by a new residence for sisters named "Marmion." Another planning initiative, "Convergence: Benedictine Outreach Ministry," was underway as she completed her term in 2011. Significant among celebrations during Sister Nancy's term was that of the community's observance of its sesquicentennial in 2007.

Sister Nancy's term witnessed the merger of the community of Saint Bede Monastery, Eau Claire, Wis., with Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minn. Merger conversations with the sisters at Mount Benedict Monastery in Ogden, Utah, also began.

Following her six-year term as prioress, and between the years 2011 and 2014, Sister Nancy served as the associate editor of *Give Us This Day* and as vice-chancellor of the Diocese of St. Cloud. In 2014, she was appointed to the Canon Law faculty at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where she currently teaches.

