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Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology (BIST) and Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB

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Roske, Peggy L., "Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology (BIST) and Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB" (2015). *Archives History Lessons*. 10.

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The
**Benedictine
Institute of
Sacred
Theology**



BIST, 1958 Archives photo O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital
Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST
BIST Official Seal, 1957 O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital
Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST

The Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology was initiated in 1958 at the request of Benedictine prioresses of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

They wished the Sisters of their communities who were charged with the formation of new members to have a theological background and an understanding of the history and spirituality of the Benedictine tradition.

Therefore, they requested that a graduate level program be established.

1978-79 Theology Department Self-Study

The
**Benedictine
Institute of
Sacred
Theology**



BIST Official Seal, 1957 O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital
Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST
Text from Theology Self-Study 1978-79, Box 669 f.6, SJU Archives

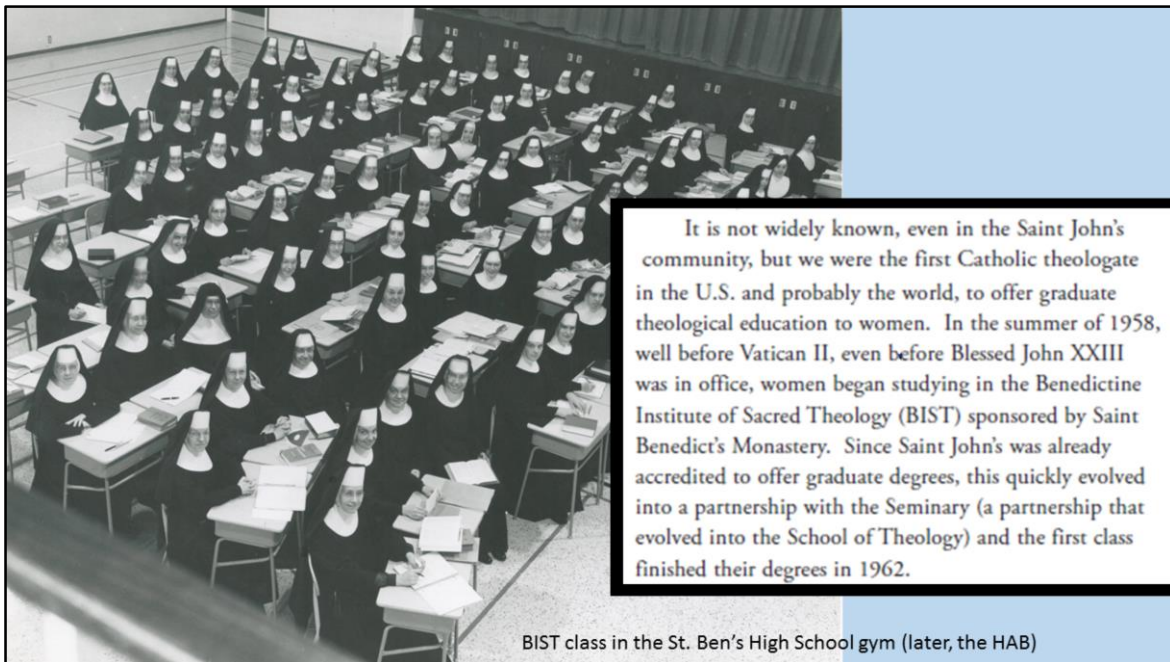


They invited Father Paschal Botz, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey/University, and Sister Mary Anthony Wagner, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Convent/College to be director and associate director of the Institute, respectively.

The locality of St. John's and St. Benedict's was chosen because of the proximity of the St. John's University library.

*1978-79 Theology
Department Self-Study*

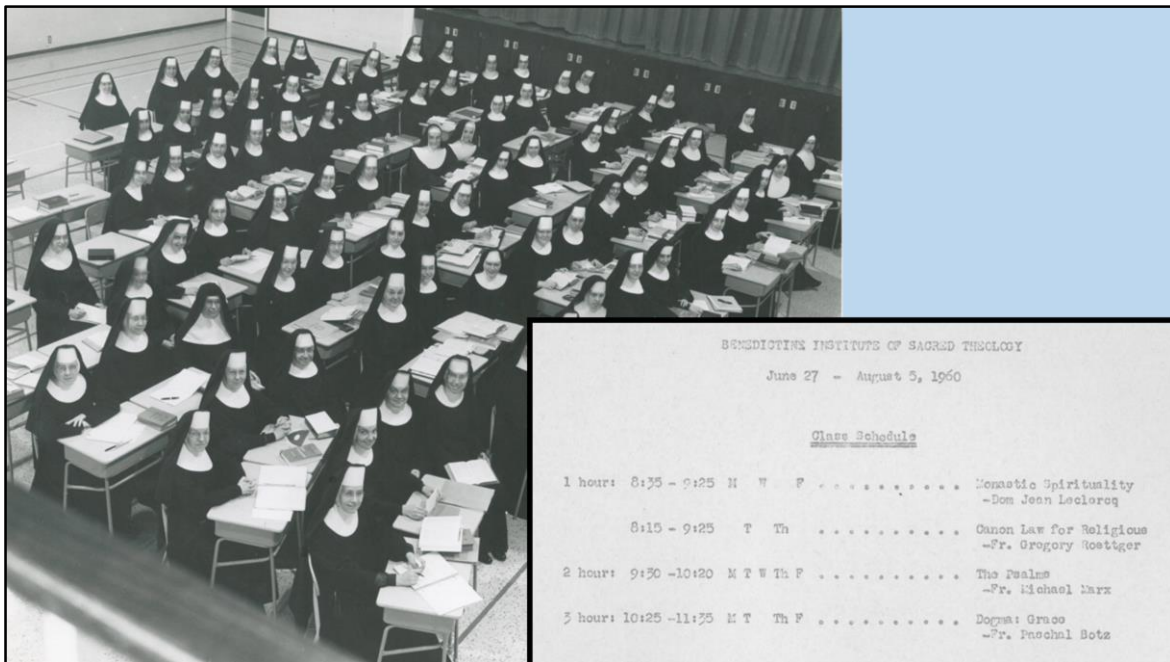
First Class of Students, 1958 from the SJU Archives O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST



BIST 2 12 class in HAB gym ca.1961

Conversatio Spring 2006 p. 3

<http://www.csbsju.edu/documents/sot/alumni/conversatio06.pdf>



BIST 2 12 class in HAB gym ca.1961

BIST Class Schedule, 1960 Box 669 f.1

O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST



OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

For Students in the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology

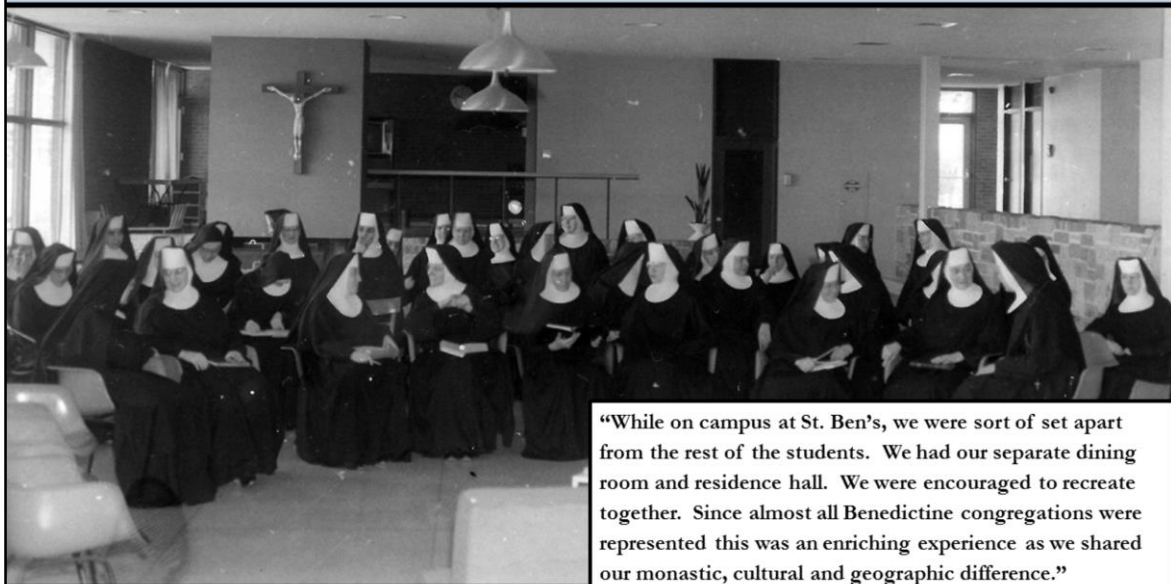
5:15	(except 6:00 on Sunday)	.....	Rise
5:40	(except 6:25 on Sunday)	.....	Lauds, Prime
6:20	(except 7:05 on Sunday)	.....	Communion to the sick
6:30	(except 7:15 on Sunday)	.....	High Mass
			<u>Breakfast</u>
8:10		.....	1st bell for 1 hour (T Th)
8:30		.....	(M F)
9:25		.....	1st bell for 2 hour (MTWThF)
10:20		.....	1st bell for 3 hour (MT ThF)
11:40		.....	Sext and None Particular Examen Angelus
12:00		.....	<u>Dinner</u>
3:00 - 4:00		.....	<u>Lunch</u>
5:00	(except 4:45 on Sunday)	.....	Vespers
5:25	(on I & II class-Festivals, Fridays, Sundays)	.....	Benediction
5:45		.....	<u>Supper</u> Recreation
7:15		.....	Latin. Nocturnal Silence
9:00		.....	Library closes

BIST 2 12 class in HAB gym ca.1961

BIST Class Schedule, 1960 Box 669 f.1

O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST

DAILY LIFE AT THE BIST



“While on campus at St. Ben’s, we were sort of set apart from the rest of the students. We had our separate dining room and residence hall. We were encouraged to recreate together. Since almost all Benedictine congregations were represented this was an enriching experience as we shared our monastic, cultural and geographic difference.”

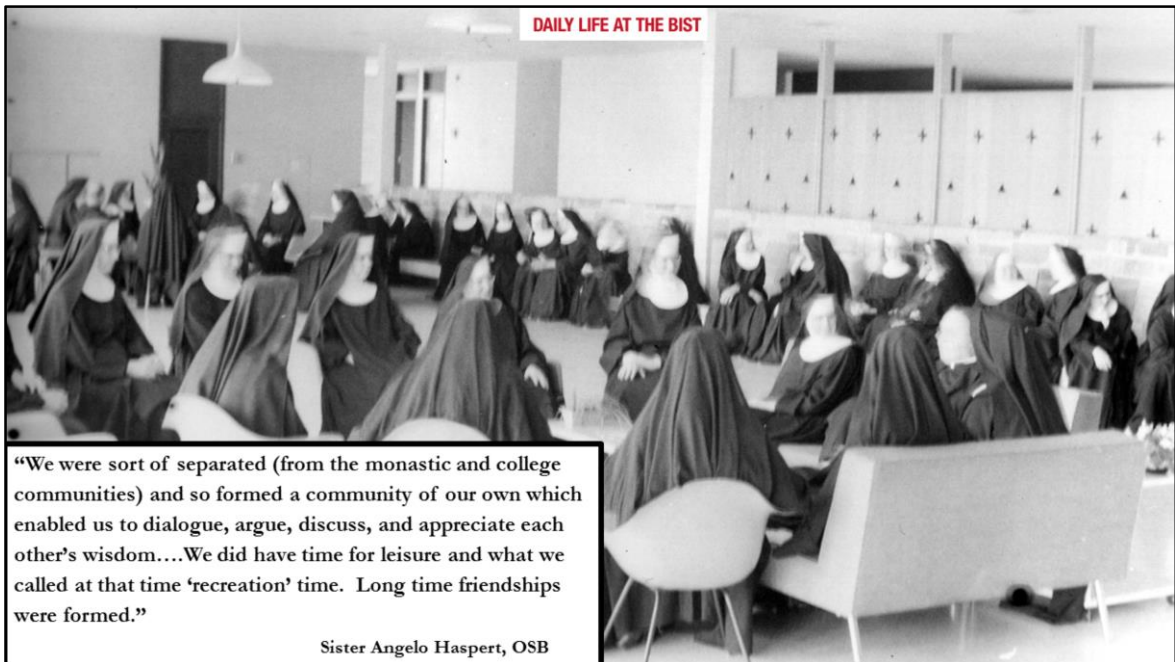
Sister Lucille Hubmann, OSB

BIST, Sisters in Mary Commons, 1958-1961

Photo from the SJU Archives. O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST

Text: *Conversatio* Spring 2006 p. 14

<http://www.csbsju.edu/documents/sot/alumni/conversatio06.pdf>

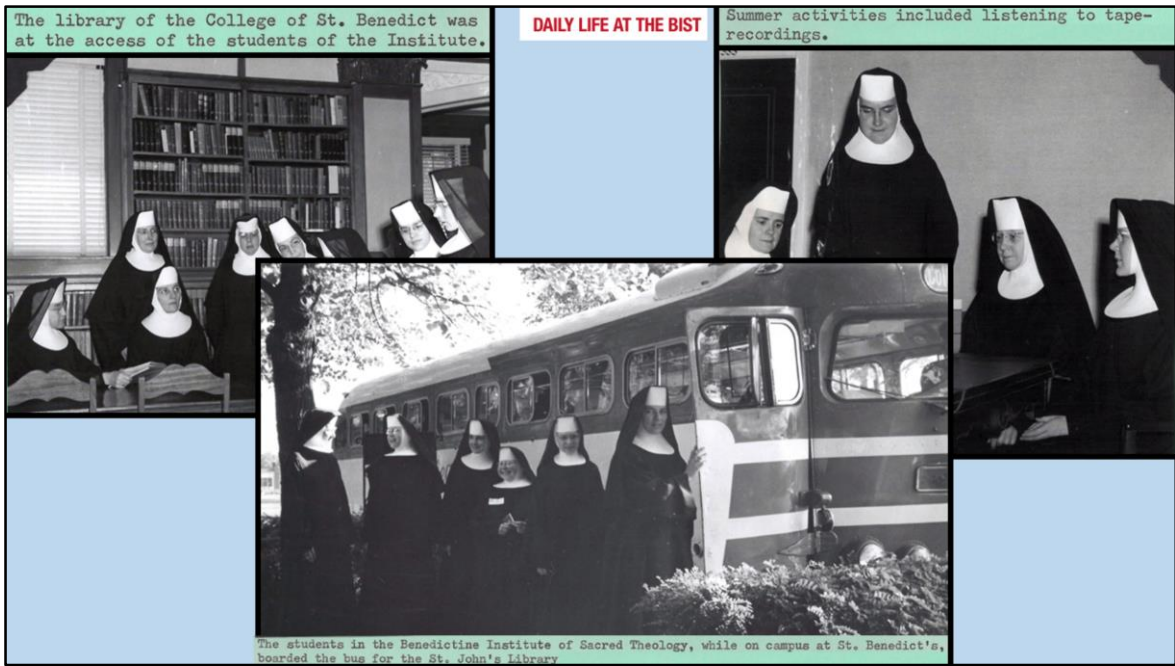


BIST, July 29, 1959. Photo from the SJU Archives

O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST

Text: *Conversatio* Spring 2006 p. 14

<http://www.csbsju.edu/documents/sot/alumni/conversatio06.pdf>



Photos from the SJU Archives

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STATISTICAL STUDY ON REGISTRANTS
in the
Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology

Year:	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Number enrolled	60	67 (51 .. (16 .	73 (41 ... (12 .. (20 .	80 (37 (13 ... (16 .. (14 .	81 (33 (10 (13 ... (9 .. (16 .
Number of Mother-houses represented	26	29	29	33	31
Number of States, Canada & Mexico	19	21	22	23	22

Positions:
subprioresses
novice mistresses
junior mistresses
postulant "
principals or
local superiors
high school teach.
elem. teachers
nurses
college dean
college teachers
librarians
editor, printer
musicians
parish mission
workers

BIST Statistics, 1958-1962

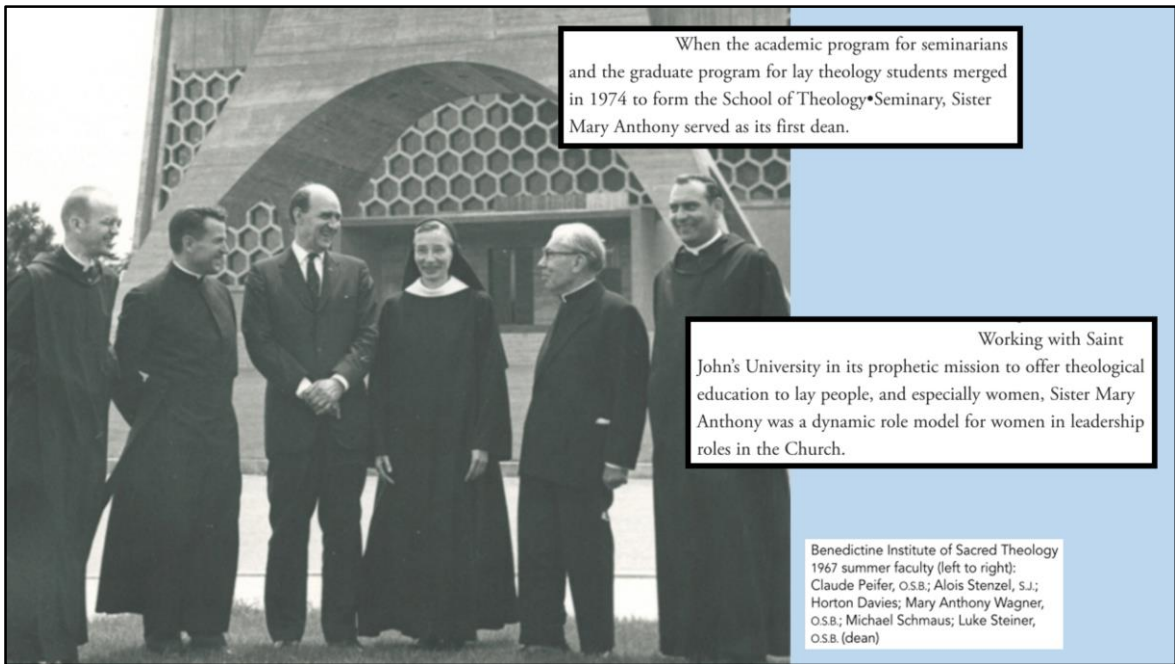
BIST Statistics, 1958-1962 from Box 1354 folder 1

BIST Official Seal, 1957

O:Archives/sjuarchives/Digital Archives/Depts&Programs/SOT/BIST



BIST 2 15 commencement 1964
Photo from the SJU Archives



BIST 2 14 - faculty, 1967
Photo from the SJU Archives

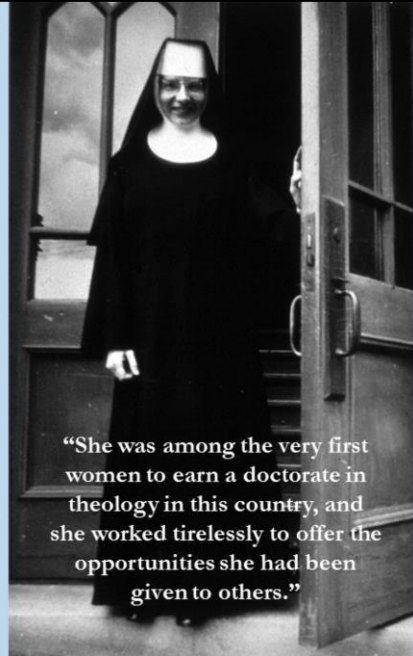
ANNOUNCING THE SISTER MARY ANTHONY WAGNER AWARD

THE 2005 RECIPIENTS: BIST CLASS OF 1962-63

The first recipients of the award were as groundbreaking as Sister Mary Anthony in their own way. They are a group of mainly Benedictine sisters, from all over the United States. Now, they are in their 80's and 90's – some of them are no longer living – but all of them should be remembered as the bold classes of 1962 and 63, of the BIST, the first class of women to receive a master's degree from a seminary in this country.

They came to St. Benedict's College in St. Joseph, MN, which hosted to BIST until the first class graduated in 1962. According to class member Sister Lucille Hubmann, OSB, (St. Bede Monastery, Eau Claire, WI), "The US Benedictine Prioresses... wholeheartedly responded to the BIST. They pledged to send at least one sister from their communities to begin this unique and foresighted institute." Those sisters went on to serve their communities and the wider church as novice directors, teachers, pastoral ministers and other leaders.

Conversatio Spring 2006, p. 13



Text: *Conversatio* Spring 2006 p. 13

<http://www.csbsju.edu/documents/sot/alumni/conversatio06.pdf>

Photo from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives



Solving the problems for Peg McCarty and Ann Marie Burgmeier is Sister Mary Anthony, one of the instructors of Christian Life and Worship.

Faculty Plan Busy Summer

In addition to Fulbright award winner Sister Margretta and American Physiological Society grantee Sister Mary, Sisters Mary Anthony, Mary David, Etienne and Luke will be enrolled in summer sessions. Sister Mary Anthony will complete her work for the Ph.D. in theology at St. Mary's, Notre Dame. Sister Mary David will attend the University of Minnesota's graduate school of education, and Sisters Etienne and Luke will resume summer studies at Notre Dame where they are pursuing studies in their respective fields of French and Business Education.

S. Angelo Haspert, OSB, said that, as early as **1950**, S. Mary Anthony gave a paper at St. Anselm's Abbey in Manchester, NH in which she "pleaded for more theological and systematic training in Benedictine Monasteries preparing women to take on major leadership roles."

Conversatio, Winter 2006, p. 12

1957 Facula_p.25 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/8536>

1957-05 The Benet Volume 22 Number 05

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1780>



S. Mary Anthony earned:

- her B.A. in religion from St. Louis University
- her M.A. in religious education and liturgy from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.
- her Ph.D. in theology from St. Mary's School of Theology at Notre Dame

S. Mary Anthony:

- taught in grade schools in Buckman and Farmington, Minn.
- taught religion at Saint Benedict's High School
- worked with women interested in entering the Benedictine community
- was the Principal at the High School in Pierz
- taught in the theology department at the College of Saint Benedict
- was the assistant director of the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology, which later became the graduate school of theology at Saint John's University
- was the dean of the graduate school of theology
- was editor of the magazine *Sisters Today*
- was the oblate director for Saint Benedict's Monastery



Photo on left from the St. John's University Archives

Text from obituary, 2002 Winter *Saint Benedict's Today* p.41

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5893>

Bottom photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives



Sister Mary Anthony is known as a competent and caring teacher-one who inspires people to quality Christian living. It is obvious to anyone meeting Sister Mary Anthony that she loves her students and she enjoys teaching. Students respond to her enthusiasm while they are in her class and many continue to keep contact with her after they graduate.

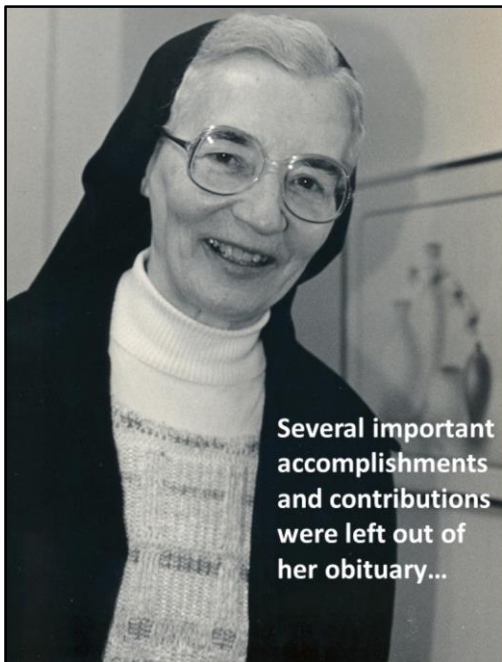


S. Mary Anthony Wagner, ca. 1980s (on left & bottom); ca. 1970s (right)

O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\People\Sisters – OSB

Text: 1988-12 *Saint Benedict's Today* Winter p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/4439>



Several important accomplishments and contributions were left out of her obituary...

"She was a shining example of the Benedictine ideal of combining work and prayer in daily life," says CSB/SJU theology professor John Merkle.

Father Killian McDonnell, OSB, recalls that "she was as gentle as a feather and determined as a rock."

"She was a very prayerful, holy woman. Yet, very joyful," adds Father Luke Steiner, OSB. "The greatest thing was her warmth and hospitality."

Conversatio, Winter 2006, p. 12

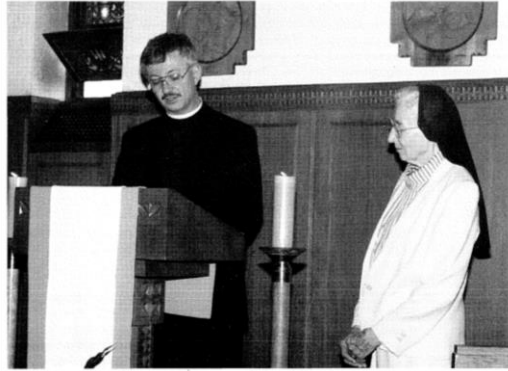
S. Mary Anthony Wagner, ca. 1988 O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\People\Sisters – OSB

S. Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB, professor emerita at CSB, was presented with a presidential citation by SJU on Thursday, May 15 by SJU President Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, at a banquet honoring graduates of the Saint John's School of Theology.

S. Mary Anthony served as assistant director of the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology from 1958 to 1963. She was instrumental in the formation of the graduate school in 1964, where she served eight years as assistant to the dean. From 1974 to 1978 she served as dean of the Saint John's School of Theology.

"S. Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB, provided courageous, path-breaking leadership to the graduate theology program in the 1960s and 1970s. The character and ethos of the School of Theology has been shaped in untold ways by the efforts and example of S. Mary Anthony," said Fr. Dale Launderville, dean of the School of Theology. "The current commitment of the School of Theology to collaborative ministry would hardly be possible without the skill and dedication of S. Mary Anthony and her colleagues in the School of Theology in the 1960s and 1970s."

Currently, S. Mary Anthony is the editor of *Sisters Today*, a magazine for women of the religious faith across the world.



S. Mary Anthony Wagner, O.S.B., receives Presidential Citation from SJU



http://www.csbsju.edu/documents/sju_archives/citation_3_s._mary_anthony.pdf

Colored photo from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives

Bottom right photo from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives

She was the first faculty resident at St. Ben's specifically for international students...

Foreign students

House attempts unity

by Carolyn Carr

A sense of belonging and a definite place to call home is what International House hopes to accomplish next year. Located in the Smith Apartment Building, International House is designed to fill many of the needs of foreign students and to provide an atmosphere conducive to sharing and understanding among cultures. It will house a total of 35 in-

dividuals, foreign and American with S. Mary Anthony Wagner, Foreign Student Director, as faculty resident. Expectations high, S. Mary Anthony expounded on the ideals of the project.

"It is my hope that our experience of the 'miniature global world' on the CSB campus next year will make the torch on the Statue of Liberty penetrate the loneliness, the inhumanness of misunderstanding, the unconscious 'injustices', the apathy and blindness toward differences and

the deafness to the harmony of sounds arising out of many beautiful and varied cultures."

All students participating will be eligible to register for the Seminar On International Living, (offered both semesters), making it possible to receive 2 credits under the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. The course, designed and coordinated by S. Mary Anthony, will be held in the "International Room" to be located in the "International House.

Slated to meet once a week, the seminar will consist of discussions of daily living situations on both the intellectual and emotional levels. Also planned for discussion will be the problem of adjustment-for Americans; for new foreign students; and for foreign students, who having spent 4 years here, are preparing to return home. Reading material, films, art, etc.

House con't. page 6

1975-05-08, *Vitae*, p. 1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/2055>

“In the past... foreign students were just here. They had no physical means to gain unity and friendship.”

The Smith apartment complex in the west end of the campus was designated as the International House, opening its doors in 1975.

page 6

Smith apartments provide cultural variety

by Sue Ronello

Japan, Germany, Bahamas, Philippines, United States, China: these countries represent some of the homelands of the students living in the International House. Residence to both foreign and American students, it is the broadening of insights.

Steps toward its existence were implemented by S. Mary Anthony Wagner, foreign student advisor. Prior to the development of International House, the majority of foreign students lived in Aurora Hall. Yet, dorm life was unsatisfactory in drawing the students together; it hindered contact, exposure, and communication among them as a group.

“In the past,” S. Mary Anthony points out, “foreign students were just here.” They had no physical means to gain unity and friendship. As a result, the Smith apartment complex in the west end of the campus was designated as the International House, opening its doors to the project in 1975.

Coined the “global village,” the International House promotes an integration of cultures. Its underlying purpose is to provide a “home away from home” for foreign students. Yet in its mingling of nationalities, it goes beyond this fundamental task by striving to broaden both an awareness and an understanding of cultural backgrounds to all its residents.

In fulfilling this goal, the House adopted a policy for residence. Every apartment is limited to no more than two members of one nation. Furthermore, every resident is required to attend a weekly intercultural seminar.

Often headed by an administrative or faculty member, the seminar is a discussion or presentation of various cultural backgrounds. A student participant may earn one credit through the IDS department; leading a seminar is a requirement.

Currently there are 25 foreign and 13 American students involved in the housing project. In providing personal growth through cultural interaction, life in the International House has certain advantages over other campus residences. Seniors Carol Burchell and Sue Wujcik, who lived in the East apartments last year, are happier in their present situation. “There is more feeling of togetherness,” says Carol. “We know more people here both through the seminar and in meeting them in passing.”

Connie Cabanero, a junior from the Philippines, is spending her second year in the House. She too is in favor of the living situation. “There is a friendly atmosphere,” she says, “and I know everybody by name.”

Besides its neighborly spirit, the House offers other advantages. There is an International Room, on the lower level, a meeting place for seminars and other group activities. In addition, the room is an area for students to gather or study. The complex is also the only resident building open during vacation periods, and for added security, its main entrance has a self-locking door.

Learning about other nations, experiencing cultural traits, understanding ethnic differences—together these comprise life in the International House.

The Cable

November 23, 1976

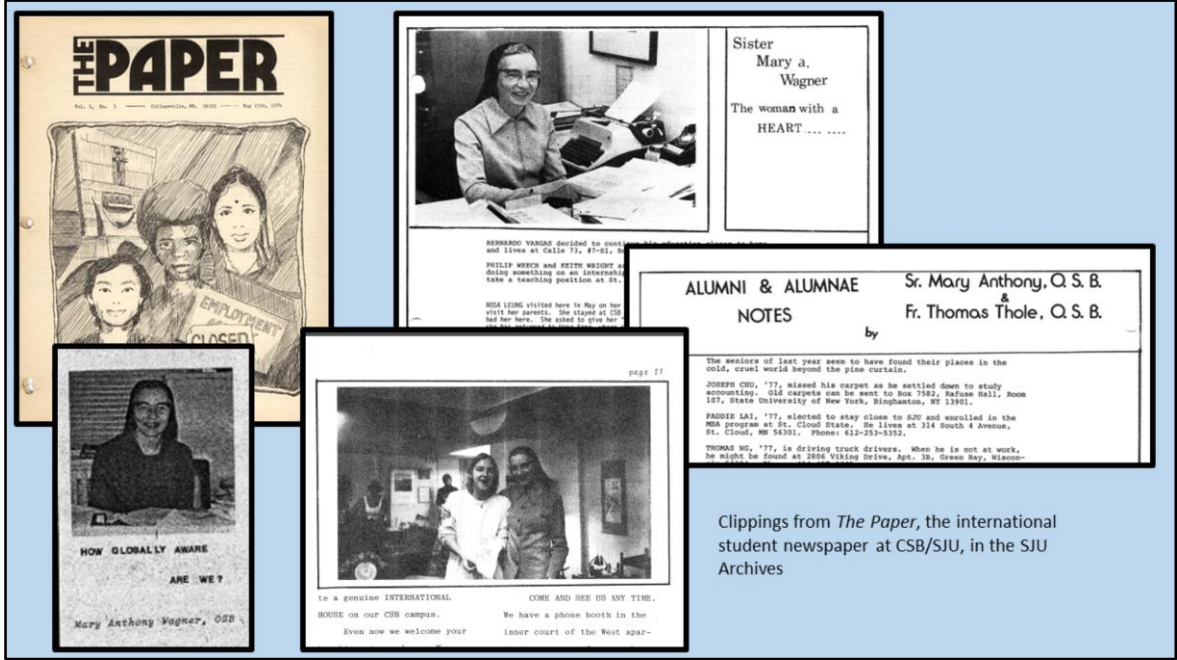


photo by John Kazimir

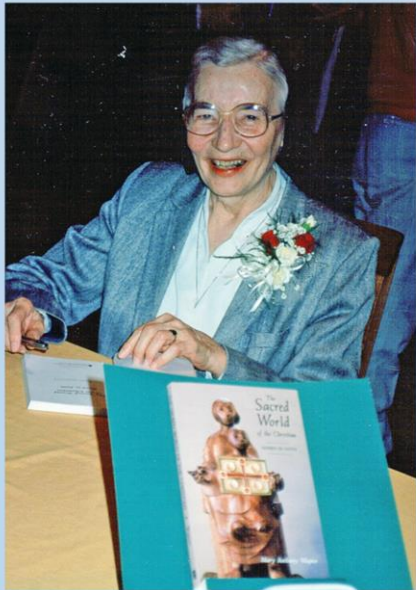
Shuri Ito (Japan) and Gethsada Davis (Jamaica), enjoy a quiet talk in the International House lounge. International House offers a unique environment for any student wishing to live in a community of many nations.

1976-11-23, *The Cable*, p. 6

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/595>



Clippings from *The Paper*, the international student newspaper at CSB/SJU, in the SJU Archives



She published a book –
The Sacred World of the Christian...



Photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives

On left: S. Mary Anthony, author - *The Sacred World of the Christian*



CSB Archives photo (O drive)

Right color photo from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives; B &W photo from the SJU Archives



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Saint John's University, and Saint Benedict's Monastery
by Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU Archivist.
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Diekmann, Godfrey with McDonnell and Wagner
Photos from the SJU Archives