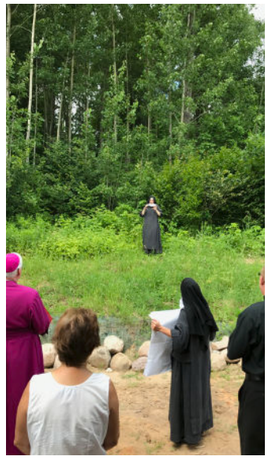
A Note from the Guardian

Remember this photo (at right) of two nuns with architectural plans? On the cover of this issue is the "after" photo. After a year of planning and work, the new addition and guesthouse is complete! We are grateful for everyone who has contributed by prayers, encouragement, financial help and labor to the construction and furnishing of the guesthouse and monastery addition, and to all who joined us for the occasion of its blessing on 22 July.



On a business telephone call this spring the person assisting me said, "You may experience some silence, but I am on the other end if you need me." In these last several weeks of upheaval—everything from our construction project to national and world events, this has come back to me as an impetus to faith. When our connection with God and with others is not so apparent or felt, and can even seem severed, Jesus is leading us to an adult faith, to a real sharing of his Gospel to make it actual and operative in the world here in our own place and time. Our part is trust, and no one can take on that work for us. Jesus is on the other end, and the walk in-between requires our continuous, active choice of courage, self-possession and trust, not for ourselves and our comfort only but for that of the whole world.

To celebrate the 15 August feast day of St Mary the Virgin, the patron of our monastery, we planted a tree (below). It is a time of new growth.

Yours in Jesus and Julian,

M. Hilary, OJN

Guardian of the Order

The Order of Julian of Norwich is a contemplative monastic Order of monks and nuns of the Episcopal Church.

Our widespread community of Oblates and Associates, of diverse Christian denominations, is committed to prayer, intercession, and conversion of life, supported by Julian's teaching of God's love for us in Christ Jesus.

Come and see!

www.orderofjulian.org

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Julian's Window

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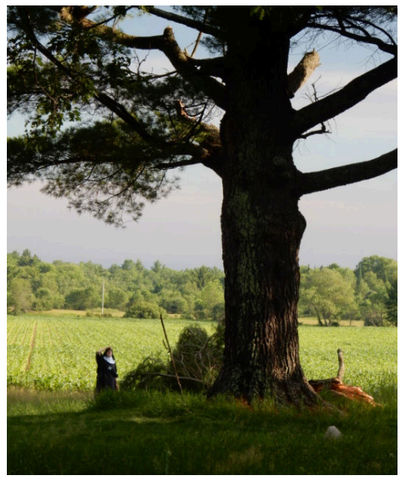
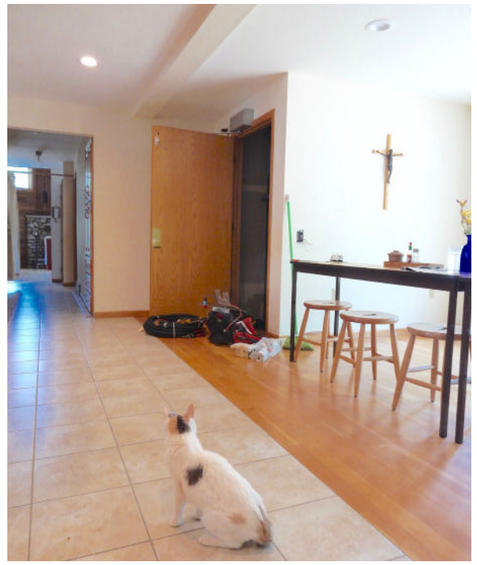
Community Notes

Throughout the upheaval of construction, finishing construction, cleaning the new space and furnishing it, community life has gone on with its more quotidien upheavals. This year the elevator was due for a hydraulic upgrade, which was accomplished over several weeks in May and June (slowed by missing parts). During the long interim we brought Sr Cornelia's work to her from the office.

June also brought Julianfest in Oconomowoc. This year our speaker was our Bishop Matthew Gunter, whom we also welcomed for the Blessing in July. Br Barnabas is doing well, and we do our best to visit him each week. Fr John-Julian continues to work on various writing projects. Mthr Hilary is making soap again after a hiatus of a few months. In July Sr Therese attended the Monastic Institute at St John's, Collegeville MN. This year's Institute was on *Laudato Si'* and considering a monas-

Below: *Mthr Hilary examining damage to the great white pine from a rainstorm in June* • **Above**: *Whitby, with elevator work* • **Right**: *Whitby & Sr Therese at the blessing of the Scriptorium*





tic response. The community will be looking closely at this in coming months and we hope to share our reflections with you.

A few people have asked about Julian Shop; yes, we still have the Shop. It is online at our website, and has been undergoing maintenace for a few weeks. It should be available again by the time you receive this.

Since the grading around the new addition was completed in April, a lot of work hours have been devoted to landscaping, especially drainage issues. It has been slow going and some areas have washed out or will need to be redug due to periods of torrential rain. This labor has meant there is no vegetable garden this year, though we do have tomatoes—reasonably deer-resistant—growing in pots out front.

The week of the Blessing we were still tied up with cleaning and last-minute details. Our neighbors Gene and Jane decided the grass at the end of our driveway was getting too long and wouldn't look good, so they mowed it, and then mowed along the driveway, and then just kept mowing around the house. By the time they were done they had taken care of all the mowing we hadn't been able to get to, and some we hadn't planned to.

About 27 of our friends, affiliates, and neighbors came for the Blessing, and a few others stopped by in the afternoon for the Open House. Moving almost thirty people through the hallways and small rooms was a logistical operation we hadn't considered, but it went very smoothly, and even Whitby—usually the first one to run behind the copy machine when a stranger comes into the house—bore up very well, with a little help from various hands. Afterwards we enjoyed a pizza luncheon together.

To have this new space is a marvelous gift and we hope to enjoy it a little more during our community retreat, which is planned for September. Official opening of the guesthouse will come this fall.

Many of you have asked for an update on funding for our construction. Thanks to your generosity we have already received $30,000 towards our goal of raising 1/4 ($90,000) of the total construction cost. Can you help us raise the remaining $60,000?

A little about the guesthouse and monastery addition:

Built by Gimme Shelter Construction of Amherst, Wisconsin.

It is passive solar, high-efficiency, and runs off the house systems. We hope to add solar panels in coming years. The cabinets and stairs were made of reclaimed, refinished oak by our neighbor Gene (who is also a builder and carpenter) and the floors upstairs were manufactured at the Robbins factory in White Lake. Upstairs are three monastic cells, a bathroom, and a novice library. The guest quarters downstairs have radiant heat and a Jøtul woodstove, and include rooms for two guests, a conference room, a common area, bathroom, WC, foyer and porch.

To the monastery, we added a masonry heater (instead of replacing the outdoor wood boiler). This heats most of the monastery for longer periods and with much less wood than a wood boiler. It also bakes bread.

A brief tour of the new addition.

On this page, clockwise from the top right:

The guest common area; conference room; one of the guest rooms; one of the new monastic cells upstairs; and the foyer.

What you really want

Sr Therese OJN

Peter said, Lord, if it is you.... *Matt 14.28*

Perhaps Jesus did not have to get up in the middle of the night and cross the lake like this. Whatever he is doing out there on the water, this strange nocturnal adventure has something to say about Love: this is what Love can do—nothing is impossible for it. He can help them in anything if they trust Him; He is only waiting for them to ask because He is there just for them.

Peter, who like everyone wants something without knowing what it costs, does ask and Jesus says to him "Come."

The cost of this trust for Peter, as for all, is his self-sufficiency and fear, the way he bribes himself with anxiety. He might not relinquish it this time. Yet it is always in this "Come" that everything happens. Whatever the consequences, this Come is Jesus's promise that He will provide for all; Peter's part is not to stop, to persist. The cost of responding to Jesus is to give up all thought of returning to the boat, to the old way of doing things and handling things. The disciples have the choice not to accept this costly metanoia, to fear and to stop trusting Jesus, as though some difficulty of theirs could make Him less powerful. They can choose to settle for the wrath, or the blame, or the anxiety that, in a perverse way, have never failed to pacify them.

Or they can continue with Him, to choose Him instead. While Peter's gaze is fixed on Jesus, Peter has given up the control he previously had, his previous means of handling the wind and the waves. He will only be willing to give up that control as long as his gaze is fixed on Jesus.

The novitiate library in the upstairs enclosure • the guest porch