

Prayer and Work, Volunteering in Community at Holy Wisdom Monastery



Betsy Reif pruning trees at Holy Wisdom Monastery

Betsy Reif experienced life in a monastery this summer. She was welcomed at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin as a valued participant in the Volunteer in Community program. Holy Wisdom Monastery is the home of the Benedictine Women of Madison, whose mission is to weave prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life as an ecumenical Benedictine community.

Through the Volunteer in Community program, the sisters invite women to spend time at the monastery, to experience a refreshing routine and a sense of renewal as they share in the sisters' daily lives of prayer and work. Betsy participated in daily work which included maintenance of nearly 100 acres of restored prairie, as well as the woods, orchards and gardens of the monastery. She and other volunteers had an opportunity to learn more of Benedictine values through daily classes and participation in the prayer life of the community, and meals with the sisters. They became a part of the life of the monastery during their stay and brought a variety of gifts to the monastery. One of the volunteers has summarized her experience in these words: "I felt free to spend time exploring myself while experiencing the joy of belonging to a community."

More information about this program is available at www.benedictinewomen.org or by contacting Ann Moyer, amoyer@benedictinewomen.org, 608-836-1631, ext. 197.



Volunteers in Community at Holy Wisdom Monastery (including Betsy Reif, at right).