

Priory of
Our Lady of Ephesus
1400 NE 42ND TERRACE
KANSAS CITY, MO
64116

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PAX

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At Ephesus

THE BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

LENT 2007

Dear Family, Friends, and Benefactors,

So much of God's plan of providence has been unraveling recently, that we thought it necessary to increase the size of our newsletter. It is impossible to give all the details of His goodness towards us, but we hope you can at least catch a glimpse, and join with us in unending thanks and praise. He knows how dependent we are on Him!

First of all, we are ever-so-grateful for the opportunity every day to acknowledge His supreme dominion over all things, and our absolute dependence upon Him, our one and last End through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Only by means of Our Lord's offering of Himself to His Father at the altar, are we able to sufficiently thank Him, receive pardon for our sins and make bold to ask Him for what we need. We are blessed to have as chaplain a religious priest of the Fathers of Mercy, and we look forward to his transferring with us when we build our new monastery in the country.



Holy Mass celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Christopher Henderson, C.P.M. on the Feast of the Epiphany, the first First Saturday of the year. All our benefactors are remembered in a special way each First Saturday of the month.

Building plans are moving along, and the construction company, timber framer and architect have been working on them for months. The monastery is such a huge project, they will build the priests' retreat house for us to move into temporarily, and gatehouse for our chaplain, so that we can get out of the city sooner, and actually watch the main building go up as funds come in. The donation of 120 acres of beautiful, rolling Northwest Missouri land makes all this a reality.

Far from having enough money for the project, we really need your support. We are starting a capital campaign, and trust that St. Joseph will take over and guide all those involved. Out here we have met so many kind and helpful new friends that truly share our vision, and devote so much time and selfless energy to promote it. These individuals, as well as you who have brought us to this point, have a special place in our hearts as we have

Sr. Scholastica and Sr. Misericordia put last-minute touches on a statue of the Immaculate Conception for Bishop Finn's private chapel. He purchased it unpainted to match the St. Joseph statue we repainted and gave him last Easter.

The Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph are the patrons of the Diocese.



our First Saturday Masses offered for their and your intentions.

Our good Bishop Finn graces us often with his visits of fatherly concern, encouragement, and humble prayer requests for his intentions for his diocese of 27 counties. He does so much to fearlessly promote the truth of Jesus Christ and His Church, and we know it is not easy for him, so we are honored to do what we can in our hidden way. We love to take turns spending the night preceding the feasts of Apostles in vigil before our Eucharistic Lord, pleading mercy and grace for him and his priests.

Our community is elevated to the canonical status of Public Association of the Faithful *in via ad ducendam viam religiosam* on March



19, 2007, the feast of St. Joseph. This important step in our foundation makes our profession of vows in May and onwards, public vows and binding as such, en route to becoming a fully established Benedictine community. Preparations are being made for our big feast in May, Mary Queen of Apostles. On the 18th, at a private Mass of Bishop Finn, the Prioress will make her profession, in order to receive the vows of the other sisters at the Mass on the next day in the basilica church of Conception Abbey (located 45 minutes north of St. Joseph, 80 minutes north of MCI airport, 100 miles north of downtown Kansas City. Please see www.conception.org for more information). The time for that Mass has been changed to **1:30 PM**, so please make note. If you plan to come, and have not sent in your RSVP, **please contact us as soon as possible** so we can

Detail of embroidery on painted silk.

Bishop Finn's motto on the stole translates: "Seek first the Kingdom of God".



In our last newsletter, we were still working on a set of vestments for Bishop Finn. We completed the vestments and mitre just in time for the Diocese's 50th Anniversary Mass on December 8.

On Christmas day, each sister prepared a little-known Christmas Carol to sing to the Sisters around the tree. (Right: Sr. Emmanuel, Below: Sr. Cecilia)



have a head count for the reception to follow. Our postulant, Sr. Kaylynn Dunne of Paola, KS, will be receiving the holy habit and her new name in religion at a ceremony, presided by the Abbot Gregory of Conception, during the Mass. Our own Bishop Robert W. Finn will preside over the profession ceremony of the others who completed their canonical novitiate, and our dear friend from Scranton, PA, Bishop Emeritus James C. Timlin, will be the celebrant of the Solemn Pontifical Mass. It will be a grace-filled time, and

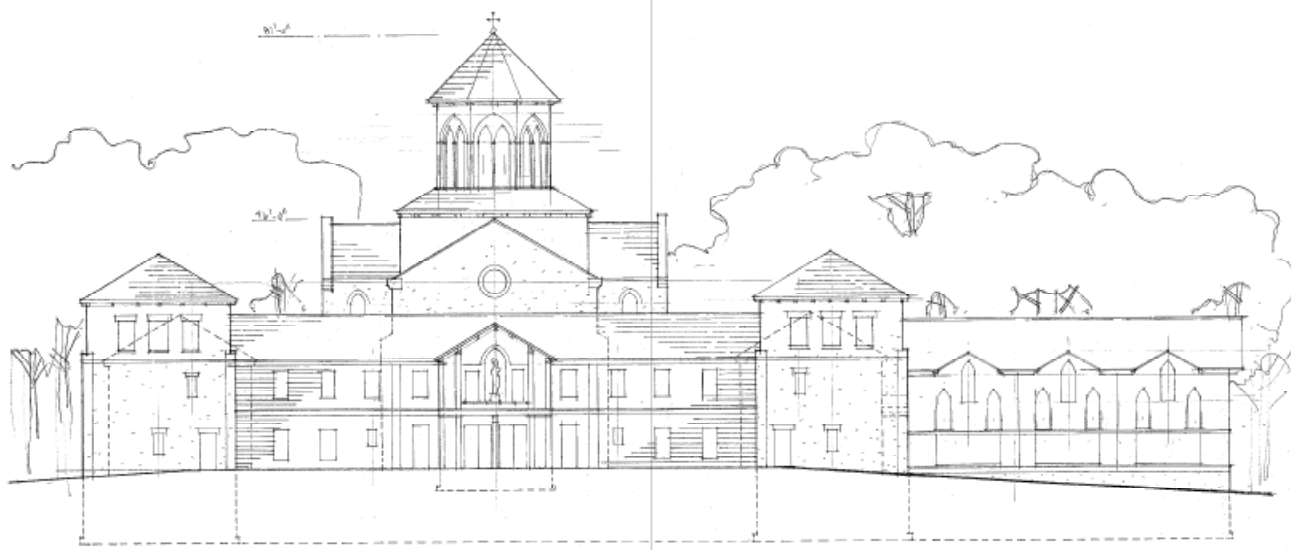
we ask your prayers that we remain faithful to the many graces God, in His mercy, has, and will, pour out upon us.

What shall we say about our other activities over the past few months since our last newsletter? Our first Christmas in Missouri was a blessed time for us. It's always a joy to spend more intimate time together as a community, with a more relaxed schedule, much singing and feasting for the Twelve Days of Christmas. We welcomed our Father and Bishop and family and friends during the festivities.

Even the Little Infant King was decked out in His finest. Three of our sisters had spent a secret one hundred hours making Him a handmade lace and linen alb, like He wears in Prague. Since our bishop is in need of a great deal of money to have Stations of the Cross and confessionals made for

During his Christmas visit, His Excellency vested our Little Infant king with a new lace alb which three of our sisters made for a Christmas surprise for the community. Over one hundred hours were collectively spent tatting and sewing the garment on Sundays, during swatches of free time, and en route to our weekly classes at Conception Abbey.





WEST ELEVATION

If you decide to help St. Joseph build our monastery, our tax ID # is 20-4450092!

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Did you know?

That if you are 70 1/2 or older and make a donation of \$100,000 or less on or before December 31, 2007 you may be eligible to benefit from the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

All or part of your mandatory withdrawal can be donated *directly* to the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles from your IRA (or ROTH IRA) account without the need to record it as taxable income on your tax return and then claim a charitable deduction (up to half of your income) as was necessary under previous law. There will be no income tax from your donation, no added tax on Social Security income, no consequences to tax bracket. 401(k) users must sign donation amounts over to an IRA to be qualified for tax-free gifting.

Please consult your tax advisor for details.

his cathedral, we encouraged him to dress our Little King in His new alb, reminding His Excellency that He promised, “The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you”. Bishop Finn told the Little King that if He got Him His money, he would get Him a red tie for His alb (like bishops traditionally wore)!

Vestment making has been going full steam ahead since we have been here. The orders never stop coming in, and, thanks be to God, with more sisters, we manage not to get too far behind in the work. We decided to stop until June, in order to make vestments for ourselves. We didn’t have what we would need for a ceremony as big and complex as on May 19. The Sisters of the Precious Blood are training us in their century-old skills of vestment handwork, and we are so thankful to them for that kindness.

There are five seminaries for which we make fudge for during the months of October and February, when (we are told) spirits are usually low and the weeks seem endless. Two more seminars will be added to the list for next time. It gives us great pleasure to cheer the seminarians up with a surprise delivery of many varieties of boxed energy, along with a promise of prayers. We want them to know we are behind them, and they are much needed for the Church today.

Because we aren’t farming as we did in Pennsylvania, we need to get exercise, and so when it’s too cold for soccer or kickball, well, we ice skate! (The next best thing to flying, it is said....)



It’s seminary-fudge time again!
The fudge team uses postulant Sr. Kaylynn’s Grandmother’s recipe to prepare and package February fudge for five seminaries. We will add two more seminars next time!

PLEASE NOTE:

The time for our May 19 Solemn Mass, Clothing and Profession Ceremonies at Conception Abbey has been changed to 1:30 PM.

PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION AFTERWARDS AND HAVE NOT SENT US YOUR RSVP.



We miss the country terribly, but still find an opportunity to ice skate now and then!
Luckily, our new property has little ponds, destined to be ice rinks someday!

We arrived in Kansas City last year in time for our first tornado, and the winds that have been whipping up the last few days remind us that we have been in the Midwest almost a year. And we love it. We love the people who are so kind and down-to-earth, and slower--paced. They take time to think, time to speak, time to show charity. It's not unheard of to come to an intersection and not even see a stop sign! One must be looking out for the other. May God reward these good people who have opened their arms and hearts to us "northerners", who managed to bring more snow and ice than has been seen around here in many years.

Our studies continue, as usual. We never seem to get enough! Latin, monastic history, the Holy Rule, Lectio Divina and the Psalms, more Latin. Moral Theology coming up next, followed by the Cardinal Virtues, more Latin, Gregorian Chant...Perhaps in this summer's newsletter



we'll write more on this subject—if a thousand other topics and events don't crop up to tell you about. Be assured of our prayers and best wishes for a "profitable" remainder of Lent, and a glorious and holy Easter.

In Corde Mariae,

*Sr. Therese, o.s.b., Prioress
of Our Lady of Ephesus*

**Sr. Therese, o.s.b.,
Prioress of Our Lady of Ephesus
and Sisters**



Sr. Misericordia receives the first priestly blessing of Fr. Vitali Leontiev, FSSP. Father is stationed at The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter Apostolate in Maple Hill, KS. Even though we do not have a priest retreat house yet, we still manage to welcome priests for some respite, especially our dear friends in the Fraternity.



Ever since that day of Pentecost, He has dwelt in [the Church] His favored bride. He is the principle of everything that is in her. He it is that prompts her prayers, her desire, her canticles of praise, her enthusiasm, and even her mourning. Hence her prayer is as uninterrupted as her existence. Day and night is her voice sounding sweetly in the ear of her divine



Spouse, and her words are ever finding a welcome in his heart . . . The prayer of the Church is therefore the most pleasing to the ear and to the heart of God, and therefore the most efficacious of all prayers. Happy then, is he who prays with the Church, and unites his own petitions with those of this bride, who is so dear to her Lord that He gives her all she asks.

The Liturgical Year, Abbot Guenger



Very Reverend William Casey, C.P.M., Superior General of the Fathers of Mercy, recently came for a visit. He lunched with Bishop Finn and Fr. Christopher, our chaplain, also a Father of Mercy.

The Cellarer's Wish List

- overseas and Canadian stamps
- The Ecclesiastical Hierarchy
Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite
ISBN 10-0819117994
- Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils
Tanner,
(two volumes)
ISBN 0878404902
- QuarkXPress upgrade for Mac



On February 10, the feast of St. Scholastica, Mother Therese made her formal petition for public profession of vows after prostrating herself in Chapter.



Bishop Finn received and signed Mother Prioress' petition. Sr. Connie, O.S.F. Director of the Diocesan Office of Consecrated Life, also signed the document as witness.

With deep gratitude, the Benedictines of Mary would like to add the following names to our **St. Joseph's Guard of Honor:**

- Larry and Diana Day
- Mr. Joseph Ismert and Family
- Mr. and Mrs. James Baker

The beginning of the chapter "Mary's Love for God," from The Virtues of Mary by Fr. L. Lanzoni

It is therefore in Mary's maternity that we must find the secret of her love for God. In truth, no love can equal that of a mother, and therefore no one loved God as did the Mother of God. That God should have willed to become Incarnate and to become the son of a woman, is a profound and adorable mystery of Love. But that is what she who was raised to the dignity of the divine maternity should have loved her God with boundless affection, this indeed can be easily understood. We cannot think of maternity apart from love. But the Divine Maternity of Mary is unique, and the love that it inspired must likewise have been incomparable. This shows us that there is no exaggeration in the statement made by theologians, that Mary's love of God surpasses all the love of all the saints. This thesis has also been admirably demonstrat-



ed by Suarez, who starts from this principle that, since Mary is the Mother of God, it is incongruous to suppose that the love of such a Mother for such a Son is not the greatest possible. Again Albertus Magnus, after admitting that the precept of the love of God is perfectly fulfilled only by the blessed in heaven, hastens only to add that it seems unworthy of God that no one should have ever loved Him perfectly on earth. If anyone, he continues, did so love Him in this state of pilgrimage, it was Mary. The Church therefore in her liturgy, when she would fain to find expression for the transports of Mary's love, found no words more appropriate that those of the spouse of the Canticles, who has no love, no thought save for her Beloved, seeks Him alone, possesses Him alone. "My Beloved to me and I to Him" (Cant. ii, 6) Mary's Beloved was her God.