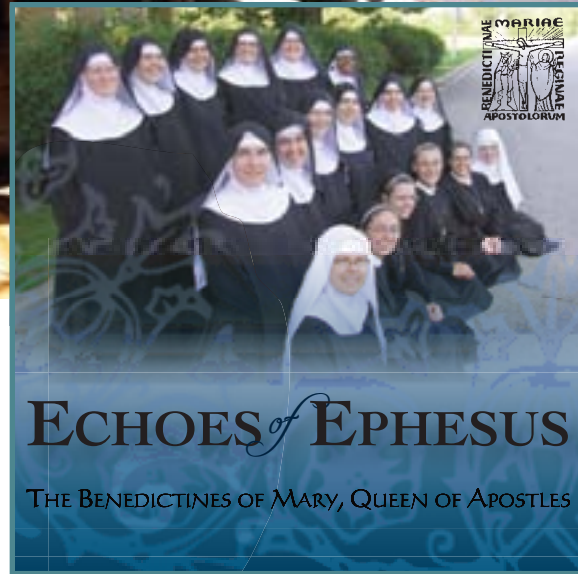




Be sure to keep your eye on our website, www.benedictinesofmary.org. It is being completely refurbished and will have many new features, including how to avail yourself of the opportunity to make donations, and to get our new CD recording, "Echoes of Ephesus", with our community singing our own compositions, Gregorian chant and other religious pieces.



"Mary's Conformity to the Will of God," from *The Virtues of Mary* by Fr. L. Lanzoni

To conform all our desires and affections and every movement of our will to the will of God is, in the language of Scripture, to have a heart according to God's own heart. Such was the heart of Mary. Though she was mother of Our Lord, she thought of herself only as His handmaid. "As the eyes of a maiden look unto the hand of her mistress" to know her behests, so was Mary wholly occupied in considering and fulfilling the commands, nay, the very desire of God. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy word." These few words are full of meaning, they reveal to us Mary's soul. *Behold, I am ready for anything God asks of me. Behold the handmaid who exults in the consciousness of her own nothingness. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, who rejoices in the nothingness of the creature in view of the infinite*



greatness of the Creator. *Be it done unto me as God pleases. I will serve God, not as a passive, senseless instrument, but with all my activity, with all the strength of my personal will. Be it done unto me according to Thy Word, O holy angel of God! In thee I see God Who has sent thee. Thy word is for me a sign of His will, and therefore my soul with deepest reverence receives it and with it I accept all immediate or remote, foreseen or not foreseen by me. I consent not only to the Redeemer's birth, but also to all His sorrows, tears and shame, His Passion and death, and all the sufferings of His mother and His saints. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word."*

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

At  Ephesus
THE BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

SUMMER 2008

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Where have the days gone since our last newsletter in Lent? Thankfully, in eternity we'll be able to catch up with ourselves.

Our annual retreat, preached by Benedictine Fr. Regis, from Conception Abbey, renewed us in spirit at our busiest and most blessed time of year: Spring. Not only the various liturgical feasts, including our own feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles observed on Saturday after the Ascension, but also the many ordinations and ceremonies, are scattered between a multitude of vestment orders to finish on time for ordinations all over the country and abroad. We have now learned that the only thing more anxious than a bride before her wedding, is a deacon before his ordination!



With Father Regis, OSB

Due to the full calendar of this time, not only for us, but for our Bishop, we are transferring our own important ceremonies of Investiture in the Habit and Profession to a different time of year.

Just recently we witnessed the receiving of the Benedictine habit of our new novice, Sr. Maria Concordia, at the hands of our Ordinary, Most Reverend Robert W. Finn, D.D., and also joyfully received four new postulants, eager to pray and work with us under the holy Rule of St. Benedict.

What will we do since we have filled up 18 of the 20 cells in this city house, several young women are knocking at our door, and the buildings of our permanent Priory in Gower are not yet started? This, we tell ourselves, is Our Lord's problem! (And you can be sure we remind Him, too). His Providence has never failed us, so long as we have faithfully lived as true spouses of Christ, utterly dependent on Him, to Whom alone we cling.

With great ardor we carved out by hand twenty-one 3'x3'x3' holes in the fertile soil of Gower, and planted



Bishop Finn
and Sr. Maria
Concordia

the first phase of our fruit and nut orchard. The next couple of years will see the same increase, so that when we finally settle at our permanent Priory, we will have enough of an orchard to feed 58 sisters.

As I write, a pole barn is being completed there to house our tractor and implements, currently being lodged so kindly at a nearby dairy farm. Farmers have always been great friends to us, due, no doubt to a common life of hard work and closeness to nature and each other: perfect dispositions for communion with our Creator, the Author of nature.

The roads and parking lots have all been configured and staked and are ready to cut their way through the Priory grounds. The details of the retreat house for priests and the gatehouse have been painstakingly laid out and prepared, and the large monastery's design development has made significant progress, even down to the perfect spot for laundry chutes—very important for a house full of women. Now we await sufficient funds to officially break ground.



After familiarizing our new diocese and environs with who we are and why we have been called to live our life of prayer, silence and solitude for the sanctification of our priests in the heart of the Church in America, we are relieved and grateful to say that now we have some friends and benefactors who are selflessly working to spread the word for us, so we can adhere more closely to our way of life and form of cloister as best we can in a temporary city setting.

Although not under papal enclosure due to our limit-

Our four new postulants hail from Michigan, Upstate New York, Pennsylvania (Yes, Scranton!) and Minnesota. Typical postulants, the “babies” of a religious community, they keep us busy and smiling. They clomp on stairs, sigh at the end of recreation, giggle during the dishes, and lose their veils. All that is transformed, of course, by the time they get their white veils. They are also known to us as the “Chain Gang” who lock and unlock the beautiful, surprise-donated outdoor tables and chairs everytime we need them moved for the mowers. (Otherwise things disappear or are vandalized around here at night).



Taking every opportunity to get out of the city

ed apostolate for the support of priests, we remain within the cloister of our Priory for all else, excepting necessary appointments and shopping, until we are settled and have built up an auxiliary band of Oblates to take care of temporal necessities for us. It will always be considered the external expression of our charism to welcome clergy for private retreat and spiritual refurbishment, and to attend Ordination, Candidacy and Chrism Masses.

So, we continue here in the city, despite the difficult—practically impossible—balancing of the inside and outside, as the Benedictine life is meant to be led. We work, we pray, we love and are loved by Our Lord, firmly united with Our Lady at the foot of the Cross.

We are the little vessels in her hands, as she receives the Blood and Water from the Side of her Son, and pours out for His priests, there in the person of St. John. If a vessel could speak, it would tell us that its only joy is to be used as such; to be filled, only to be emptied out.

And this explains the incomparable joy of the members of our community. We are content in Our Lady's hands, being filled with Divine Life, and poured out for our priests. May she be pleased to give the priests in care of your souls an abundant share in this mercy and grace. It will serve to benefit you ultimately!

Our dear friend in Rome, Msgr. Charles Mangan, has given us a book on Our Lady to publish, not only to honor her, but also in order that its proceeds will go to support our building fund. And it bears the first Imprimatur ever given by Bishop Finn. We will send a copy to anyone who sends a donation of \$20.00 or more.

With deep gratitude, in Christ, for your support as we attempt to build a house of prayer,

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

