



The Love of God readily produces the spirit of prayer whereby the soul ascends to God, speaks to Him, thinks of Him, longs after Him. This loving elevation of the mind and heart to God is the secret and most delightful occupation of every soul that loves God. Hence words cannot express the delight our Blessed Lady took in prayer. She had lived from childhood in the precincts of the Temple where she had been accustomed to Divine contemplation. Hence by habitual disposition of mind she always felt attracted to the contemplation of heavenly things. Thus she was never less alone than when she seemed to be in solitude, because then she could best hold colloquy with the angels and with God. Her sublime contemplation did not

hinder her diligence in good works, but while busy with external tasks she treasured in her mind all the words and deeds of her Jesus, and pondered on their mysterious meaning. But, more than this, we may say that she never ceased to commune interiorly with Jesus, and that therefore her whole life was spent in alternate contemplation and prayer. In fact, Jesus and Mary loved each other without limit, and whether they were near or far away they were ever united in spirit. They conversed without interruption in the secret language of love, and in Mary this love took the form of adoration and of prayer to the Word Incarnate, whom she worshipped in the inmost sanctuary of her heart "in spirit and in truth" (Jn. iv. 24)

from *The Virtues of Mary*
by Fr. L. Lanzoni
"Mary's Spirit of Prayer"

Priory of
Our Lady of Ephesus
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PAX

At Ephesus

THE BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

LENT 2009

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Late December to late March . . . where did the three months go? Easter is upon us, and it seems Lent just began. Such is the lot of those who live for eternity. We can't seem to get ahold of time; it evades us since we don't live for it.



Many of you have expressed such interest in our goings on here at the Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus, and there have been so many events transpiring since last we communicated to you, that it has been decided to leave nothing out. And since there's no better way to squeeze a thousand words per activity into the newsletter than with pictures, we have employed two pages this time, instead of one.

First of all, a heart-felt thank you goes to all who have been so attentive to our needs, and so generously and promptly supported us with not only your contributions, but even the items on our cellarer's wish list. We are now

fully armed with watches for every clime and place; we have shoe polish and brushes enough to go around for everyone, including the three newcomers; each vehicle has a set of jumper cables (embarrassed to say we've already had to use them...); no one has to look over another's shoulder to sing out of a Pius X Hymnal; the multitude of fix-it projects have no excuse to be left undone with a wide range of power tools that work; and our tiny kitchen sister has an electric slicer big enough to do even her. (Therefore, we bought special gloves that are like a coat of mail for the hands). May God reward each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness!



We were honored to welcome *Wise Men from Afar*, in the personages of various bishops, monsignors and priests—actual successors of the Apostles—to Our Lady's House at Ephesus/Kansas City this Christmas . . . and then there were the future wise men, our seminarians, who had to "sing (carols) for their supper".

Puttin' in the prates on St. Patrick's Day



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BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

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On the sixth of January, Feast of the Epiphany, five young women dedicated themselves to God in a special way. Four postulants, donned in bridal gowns, entered the sanctuary of the same church to give themselves to Our Lord.

As if the month of January were not full enough from the Epiphany feast day celebrations (See centerfold), the rest of the month was just as full as it started.

Our chaplain, Rev. Thomas Fritschen, FSSP, did the special Epiphany blessings not only at our Priory, but even at the future Priory up north, inscribing the initials of the Three Kings over the door of the pole barn, blessing and incensing our humble beginnings.

A group of local Catholic school students came to show their charitable support and experience a day's work with us, "their nuns," and were able to take a peek inside our Priory. May God bless them, their teachers and families!



An intense period of prayer, reflection, research and discussion, with a voluminous amount of writing, ended the already busy month. The result? A document, supplementary to the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, that will serve to govern our foundation and



community's future growth and expansion: The Constitutions of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles.

From the birthplace of St. Benedict in Norcia, Italy Fr. Cassian Folsom, OSB, visited at the beginning of February to meet with Bishop Finn and Mother Prioress to discuss and finalize the Constitutions.



We had hoped by now to give you news of a ground-breaking ceremony soon, but we're still clearing the brush and burning piles. The fund raising has thus far been successfully steady, and we were offered financing by a bank, but with the requirement of a guarantor. We don't need to explain to you that no one in this economic climate wants to risk anything until things improve. So we are going about it the long, hard way, dollar by dollar with prayers to St. Joseph in between. We

are consulting our advisors and authorities for an alternate plan so we can get to the property soon.

Life is not without its joys and hopes, however. We are still planting the second round of fruit and nut bearing trees this Spring for the orchard, and starting the blueberry patch. Sister Wilhelmina, 85 years old and 68 years faithful in the religious life, separated the onion seedlings on Ash Wednesday for our city garden.



At long last we got our blanket of snow, and we were so happy it was a Saturday and the school was closed. That meant we got to go sledding down the terrace right into their parking lot (behind us) which hadn't yet been plowed.

As we conclude our Lenten period of prayers and sacrifices, we have the hope of a joyous Easter, which brings with it new life, spiritual and material. We have been so blessed in both ways, we are eternally grateful to our loving and providing Heavenly Father who has given us His Divine Son to be our All. What more do we really need? May He fill you with an abundance of His Life.

Cellarer's Wish (Not NEED) List for a community 21-strong and growing:

In Corde Mariae,

- Long-handled potato garden forks
- Broom style leaf rakes
- Electrified hog wire
- Solar panel for electric fencing.
- Ikea JOKKMOKK tables (we have plenty of chairs)

*St. Thomas, cellarer
Benedictines of Allpharicus*



Rev. Emery De Gaál, noted fundamental theologian and great lover of Our Lady from Eichstaat, Germany, traveled by car from the Seminary of Our Lady of the Lake, Mundelein, IL, where he teaches, to Kansas City to give us a “heavy-duty” block-type course in preparation for our Solemn Profession next year. Father gave us Cardinal Avery Dulles’ insights to the Church’s understanding of Revelation.

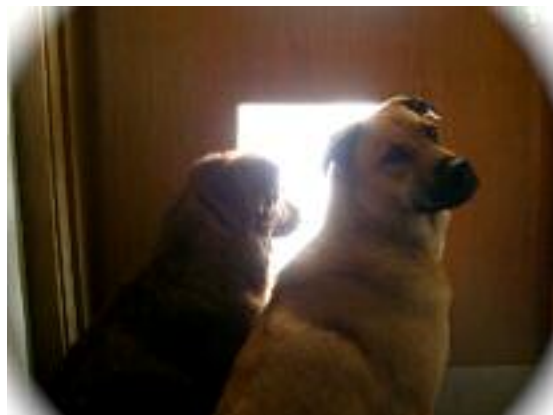


Many of you know we have been making fudge for seminarians during their slump-months of October and February. Our list of “seminary beneficiaries” has grown, as you can see from the stacks.



You can also see that we are really, very crowded, even stir crazy, still in the city. And that goes for the watchdogs, Rosie and Sunny as well. As often as we can, we try to go to our property, which is slowly being prepared for our relocation there.

Here in the city, we have filled up all the cells, doubled up in one, and stashed a novice in an oversized closet. Believe it or not, that closet is the most envied spot in the house. Without a window, and at the crick of the “L” that shapes our building, it is immune to the noise of the street, the high school activities and the noisy all-night/fun-loving neighbors!



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Before she made her first profession of vows, Sr. Grace received an exhortation from the bishop, in the midst of which he paused and told her if she wanted to leave, she may do so at that point. The camera captured her response.

“Receive me, O Lord, according to Thy word, and I shall live”.



“And do not disappoint me in my expectation”.



Mother Prioress receives her vows



“Pray for me, Mother”.

The Bishop, in the person of Christ, gives the newly professed her black veil, the symbol of consecration to God, and death to the world.



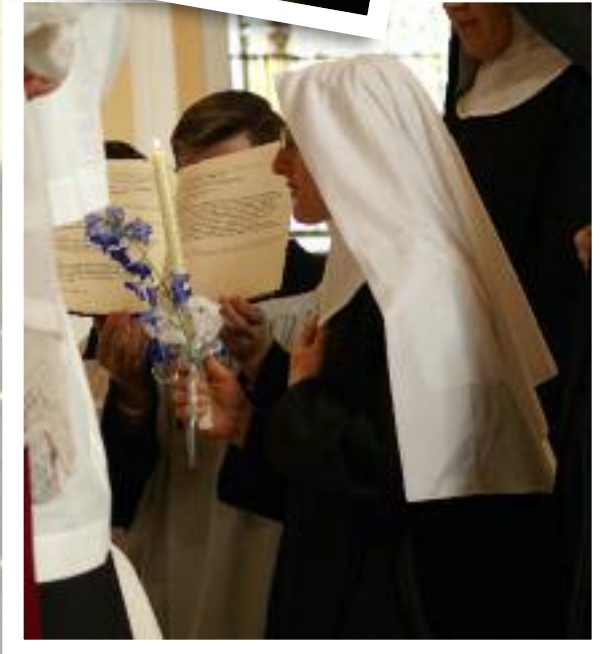


Veils removed and hair flowing, the Sisters presented themselves to our bishop who, in the name of Christ cut off their crown of glory, an ancient rite symbolic of their removing themselves from the vanities and pleasures of this world, to hide themselves in the Side of Our Savior.

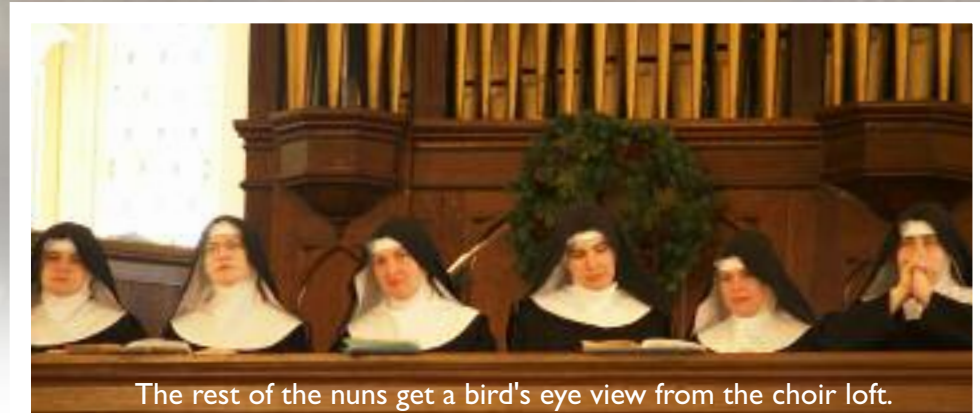


The rest of the community expectantly awaits the announcement and explanation of the novices' new names, which they couldn't hear from the choir loft.

Then they are clothed in the Benedictine habit and are given their new names to begin their two-year novitiate in preparation to make their first profession of vows.



Happy Bishop Finn.



The rest of the nuns get a bird's eye view from the choir loft.



Happy Benedictines of Mary