



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

# At Ephesus

THE BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

SPECIAL EDITION  
SPRING 2010

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

The Church is alive, ever-young, and strong! There is so much to tell you, so many blessings, which wouldn't have been possible without your whole-hearted support. We needed to send this "SPECIAL EDITION" of our newsletter to relate as much as possible.

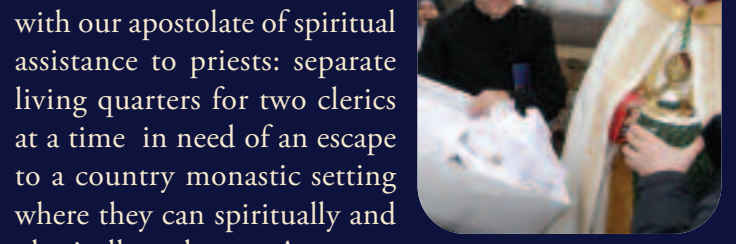
The "latest and greatest", is the most glorious feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles, May 15th last, when we had our community's historical and first final profession of Benedictine vows. Eleven of us, called by the Church, vowed to God forever: stability, continual conversion of life, and obedience under the Rule of St. Benedict and the Statutes of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles. The commitment was sealed with the clothing in the cuculla and choir veil, the espousal to Jesus Christ by our bishop with the wedding ring, and the commission to carry on the Divine Office night and day for the rest of the Church.

The photographic souvenirs of the day will be found in the centerfold of this edition.

Our building project and gardens, blessed by spring rains, progresses steadily. The foundation is laid and framing is next! With God's grace and your support we're building something to support the Church. This building will first serve as housing for the 23 of us—with room to grow—with an oratory, sewing room, and, in keeping



The bishop exorcises the land.



with our apostolate of spiritual assistance to priests: separate living quarters for two clerics at a time in need of an escape to a country monastic setting where they can spiritually and physically recharge. As soon as possible, after the next phase when the monastery is completed, this building will provide a respite for up to 35 guests. This year approximately 35 bishops, priests, and seminarians have come to our Priory to spiritually and physically recharge before returning to their missions and apostolates: for retreats, an afternoon break, to pray the Divine Office with us, or just for a home cooked meal.

Our good bishop, Most Reverend Robert William Finn, despite all he has to do instructing, sanctifying and governing our diocese like a good shepherd, managed to squeeze into his busy schedule a trip to our property in Starfield on the feast of Saint Patrick, to exorcise the land of all harmful snakes. The prayers and ceremony were put together with the assistance of none other than our Irish Bishop Emeritus, Raymond Boland. At my request, His Excellency slipped in a special command to the good snakes (who are permitted to stay) to hide themselves from my sight so I don't have to even see them. Already I went on my first walk, at the head of the crowd for once, full of courage and with no slimy, slithering sightings. All Hail to



God is good! Our foundation is in place! This guest-house will serve as temporary enclosure for 35 nuns with space for 3 aspirant/retreatants.

"Dear Sisters, know that God the Holy Ghost seals the profession you make today. In His divine and eternal mission of love, He is never far from you. As surely as His fire settled powerfully and brightly upon Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost, so also He will rest in you and upon you as you call on Him. Don't think that you will wear Him out—but never stop calling Him who is spouse of our Lady, and Lord and Giver of Life.

Hear also the words of the Savior, who in His last agony gave us His mother as our own, Ecce filius tuus... Ecce mater tua. Behold thy son... Behold thy mother.' Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother; take us under your mantle and we will never be afraid. Mary, Queen of Apostles, intercede for us and perfect what we undertake. Amen."



BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus  
1400 NE 42nd Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64116

**SPECIAL EDITION**



"...the Risen Lord Jesus Christ...wants you to wear the crown, not for a day, but unto eternal life."

—Homily of Bishop Finn  
May 15, 2010 Profession of Perpetual Vows

Our Easter Candle laid out before the Easter Vigil Mass. Its design was inspired by the theme of the Year of the Priest.



Saint Patrick! Special prayers were also offered for the safety of the workers on the project and the short ceremony was ended with a presentation of a statue of St. Patrick, handmade by one of our nuns, to give to the bishop who takes such good fatherly care of us. As we adorn our bishop's alb with apparels for our festive Masses with him, so St. Patrick's alb received the same medieval adornments to signify the five wounds of Our Lord. Of course when meal time came around, we had corned beef and cabbage cooked with a challenge on the ground. (Thank you, Fr. Wolfe, for the cast iron pots!) It gave us the energy we needed to plant potatoes that day.



While on the Irish mode, since all the proposed buildings and sections of land for our future country monastery will be named in honor of, or connected to Our Lady, the very first building, situated on the rise of the northwest section, will be named appropriately after Our Lady of Knock: "Knockmuire" (Mary's Knoll). On the back wall of one of the courtyards formed by the capital "E" footprint of the building, will be a shrine to her, who appeared to encourage the weary and faithful Irish. She said nothing, but there were the things they needed to see to remind them of what was necessary for them to remain steadfast in their holy Faith, despite their sufferings and trials: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; the sacred priesthood in the person of St. John to minister to their needs; her own motherly and silent presence, as they follow the Lamb to eternity; and St. Joseph guarding them all.



Although temporarily to serve as our monastery enclosure, this edifice eventually will be the permanent guesthouse, not only where friends can come to retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life, but also where aspirants must stay before entering our future monastery building, after they have knocked on our door requesting to enter the community and begin to live the Benedictine life.



Kind benefactors have donated trees for our orchard, and we look forward to putting the fruit of our labors on the table. Our potatoes and lettuce are in, as well as rhubarb, asparagus and blueberries. Our chaplain called down God's blessing on our garden during a Rogation procession on St. Mark's Day.

One evening during Eastertide we had the joy to give Benedictine-Ephesian hospitality to four priests from four different countries. They exercised hearty appetites, sang to their hearts' content, and gave us their priestly blessing in four different languages: Gaelic, Colombian-Spanish, Ibo and Brazilian-Portuguese.



After celebrating and eternalizing our big day, we all returned to our daily *labora* of sewing vestments and preparing for our clergy guests. This Summer we are expecting quite a few priests, semiarrians and aspirants (serious vocation discerners) to spend time at the Priory.

We are planning a true "Labor Day" work weekend (Sept. 3-6).



There are big outdoor projects requiring man-power to prepare for our settling and get ready for farm animals. Timothy Ecoff is coordinating the event; please call him at 785-214-1444 or 785-242-1520 for more details. We would be grateful for the assistance and will feed you well!

This summer, several aspirants are coming for vocation discernment retreats. At our Priory here in the city, by the grace of God, the community increased from 13 to a maximum capacity of 23. In Starfield, the community can expand to 35 nuns, where we can live their Benedictine vocation of prayer and work in our apostolate of praying and sacrificing for the sanctity of priests. Priests need our prayers and support just as much as ever. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support our apostolate. We cannot continue our mission without your help! Together we're expanding our apostolate of praying for and supporting priests. We thank you heartily for your financial assistance!

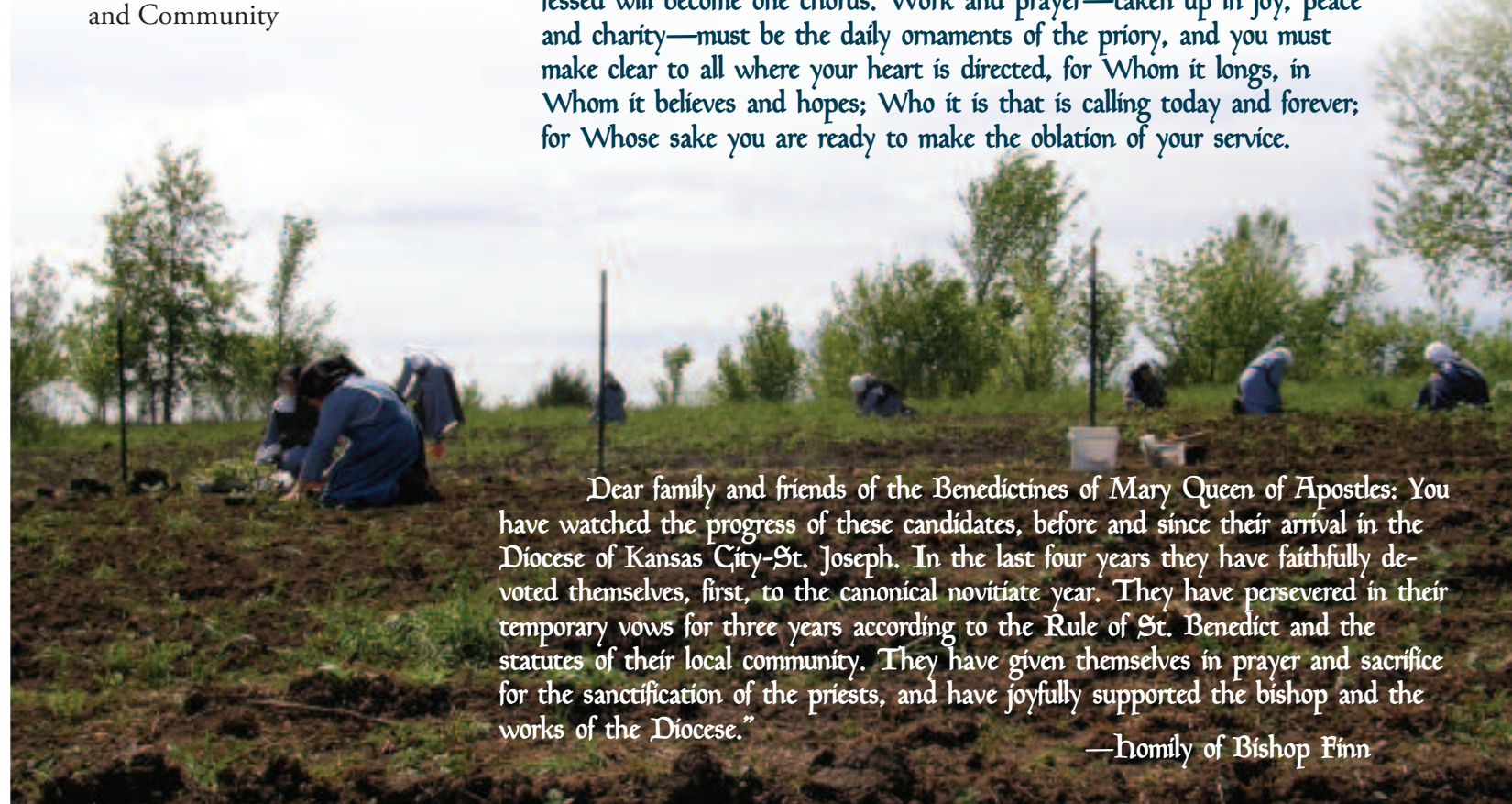
Please remember the newly professed, novices, postulants and aspirants in your prayers as we remember you in ours, everyday. And don't forget to include your own prayer intentions when returning the enclosed envelope!

In Corde Mariae,

*Rev. Mother Therese, OSB*

Rev. Mother Therese, O.S.B.,  
Prioress of Our Lady of Ephesus,  
and Community

**"With steadfast love for the Church and a promise of stability within the monastic community, each will make her assent and the voices of the professed will become one chorus. Work and prayer—taken up in joy, peace and charity—must be the daily ornaments of the priory, and you must make clear to all where your heart is directed, for Whom it longs, in Whom it believes and hopes; Who it is that is calling today and forever; for Whose sake you are ready to make the oblation of your service."**



Dear family and friends of the Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles: You have watched the progress of these candidates, before and since their arrival in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. In the last four years they have faithfully devoted themselves, first, to the canonical novitiate year. They have persevered in their temporary vows for three years according to the Rule of St. Benedict and the statutes of their local community. They have given themselves in prayer and sacrifice for the sanctification of the priests, and have joyfully supported the bishop and the works of the Diocese."

—Homily of Bishop Finn



This simple and profound act is the purpose and focus of our celebration today. It will be rightly marked with beautiful hymns and words: nothing less than the revealed Word of God and the ancient prayer of the Church. You will hear the names of Sts. Benedict, Scholastica, and the other special patrons. The Signs of Profession will inspire us, and impress upon us all the dignity and finality of the



Some of the visiting clergy

The bishop espoused each happy nun to Our Lord by placing a ring of gold on her right hand.

action of the professed and the grace that comes efficaciously through the Church's blessing. We will lift fervent intercessions and prayers of praise. We shall invoke the Holy Ghost, and join our offerings to that of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar.

And they shall be joined to Christ their spouse; joined to Christ their spouse; joined forever to Christ their spouse."



All the eleven signed vow charts were slipped under the altar cloth to lie directly under the corporal on which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered.



The rings awaiting a blessing lie on the altar.



Our blue choir veils symbolize Mary's maternity, and the red lining, as in Old Testament times, her virginity. We wear them for major Offices, lectio divina and Mass. This vesture we assumed at the inspiration of the icon of Our Lady which hangs in her house at Ephesus, (cf. next page). The three small crosses represent that she is the temple of the Holy Trinity.



The nuns venerate the candle symbolizing their life of union with the Light of the World.



The newly professed received Holy Communion on the top step of the altar; just after the bishop consumed the Body and Blood of Christ.



The famous "hug ceremony"



At home in our Priory's oratory, after a grace-filled day, the newly-professed display their rings, gift of a kind and generous New York jeweler. More pictures of this great day, and Bishop Finn's homily are available online: [www.benedictinesofmary.org](http://www.benedictinesofmary.org).

"With the spiritual and temporal support of many benefactors they have begun to build a new home, for themselves and many who will come after them: a place where they can work and listen, offer hospitality and pray. Thanks be to God for the graces of these days. May he direct every step they take, as well as anything we would wish to do for their support."

—Homily of Bishop Finn, May 15, 2010



Our community's very first Fraternity of St. Peter chaplain returns from France for our big day, and prepares the novitiate choir.

### "Mary's Prudence" from

The Second of the Cardinal virtues is Prudence. While justice looks straight to the end in view, prudence regards the choice of the means which are useful or necessary for the attainment of the end. Prudence therefore is a certain sagacity or keenness which enables charity to discern what should be done or left undone, said or not said; to decide, in fine, how every virtue



### The Virtues of Mary by Fr. L. Lanzoni

may best be practiced according to the variety of times, places and persons. The Holy Scriptures highly extol the prudence of Abigail, of Solomon and the five wise virgins, and in like manner we with Holy Church, never weary of admiring the prudence of Our Blessed Lady whom we invoke every day with the glorious title of *Virgo prudentissima*.

Procession into Old Saint Patrick Oratory, cared for by Canon Avis of the Institute of Christ the King



The professurae, dead to the world, lie prostrate under the funeral pall while the Litany is chanted and the bell tolled.

Our novitiate and religious sister-friends joined the Kenrick seminarian choir to chant the Mass.



Reading the perpetual vows aloud.



The traditional "Suscipe" as described in the Rule of St. Benedict. The attending monks answered the newly professed by chanting the same.



Blessing of rings and choir veils



Bride of Christ



Showing the rings to all in the church, while chanting "My Lord Jesus Christ has espoused me with His ring and as His bride, adorned me with a crown."



"Receive me, O Lord, according to Thy word, and I shall live: They intend and desire to offer the total gift of their lives, for the full extent of their lives, that they may have life. This is also the desire of Jesus, who tells us, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' (Jn 10:10) In the name of the Church and in the person of Christ the Head, it will be my privilege to receive them and their solemn pledge."  
—homily of Bishop Finn

Placing hands in the hands of the prioress as a sign of obeisance. The prioress put hers into those of the bishop.



Signing the chart of vows on the altar.



Monks from six different Benedictine and Baptistine houses ministered in the sanctuary.

May God bless the many behind-the-scene assistants in church and at the reception hall!

Investiture in the cuculla, the traditional monastic choir habit. We wear ours whenever we "officially" stand with Our Lady at the Foot of the Cross.