

Priory of  
Our Lady of Ephesus  
8005 NW 316TH ST.  
GOWER, MO  
64454

PAX

# At Ephesus

THE BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

WINTER 2011

## Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

At long last, we are home! "This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes." (Ps. 117:23) We are delighted to be writing to you for the first time from our new Priory. Here, the sky is expansive, the air is fresh, the sunbeams flood in through our windows, and when you go outside, you hear.... nothing at all! This precious silence is a welcome friend, more readily disposing each of us for the silent contemplation we seek within our hearts.

Our Lord has indeed granted us a tremendous material blessing, but He has showered upon us great spiritual ones as well. At the end of October, we received news that Fr. Christopher Henderson, CPM would be assigned once again as our chaplain beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of you may recall that Father served

as our chaplain for two years starting back in 2005. Upon hearing the news, the Sisters gathered in the chapel to sing the great hymn of thanksgiving, the *Tē Deum*. How very grateful we continue to be for such a clear and singular manifestation of the love and mercy of Our Lord for this community!

The thirty-mile move from North Kansas City to Gower went smoothly and quickly. In fact, we had planned on two days to carry it out, but because of the generosity and hard work of so many, (over 100!) we were able to transfer the entire contents of the

monastery in just one. Help ranged from good friends of the community, to the football team from the high school next door, to a whole crew of roofers who drove all the way from Wichita, trucks and all. We are so grateful to everyone who assisted us in this somewhat intimidating endeavor. Moving, something most of us dread, was turned into a most pleasant and painless experience. May all who lent a hand be richly rewarded!

Epiphany  
blessing  
2011





**MOVING DAY!** Clockwise from top left:

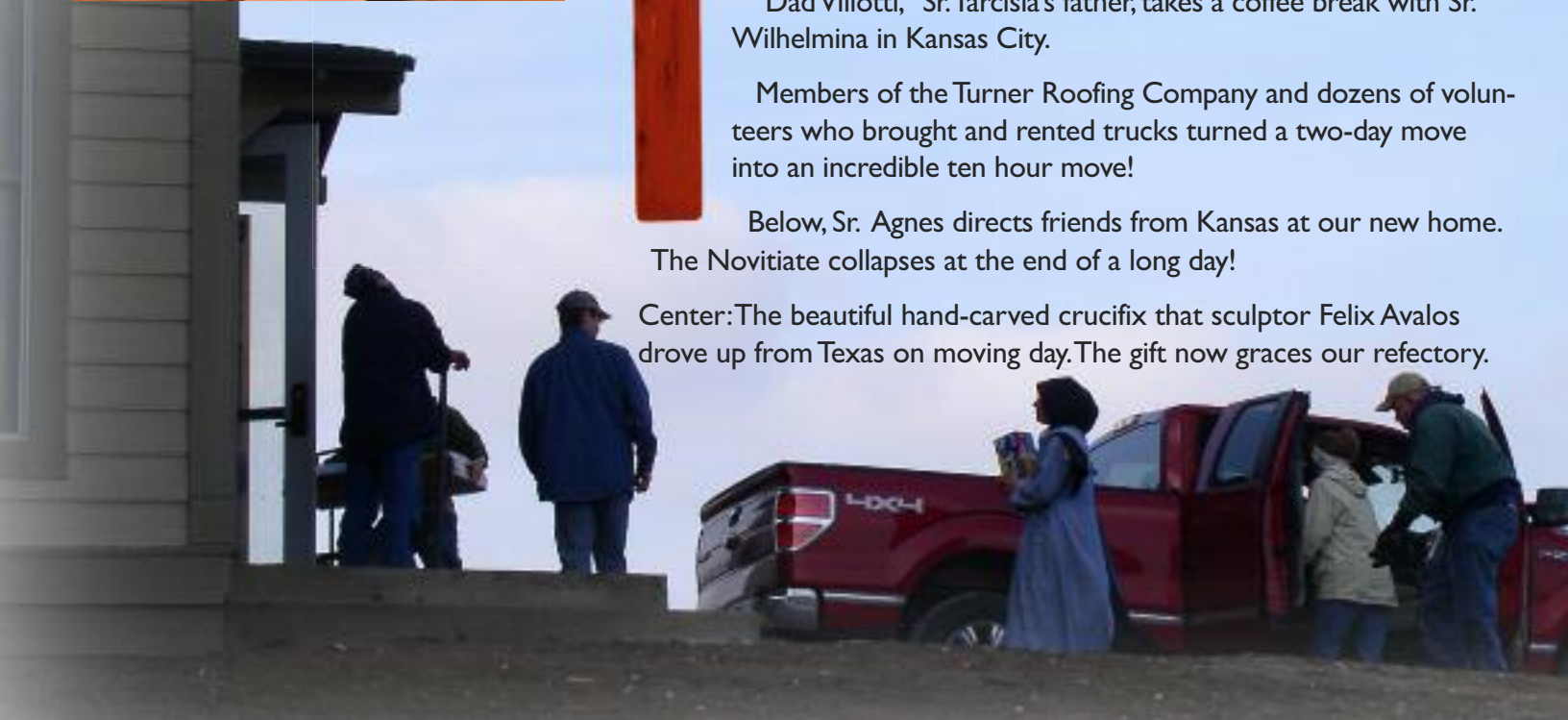
Sr. Jean-Marie and Sr. Scholastica finish repainting the donated altar the night before the move.

“Dad Villotti,” Sr. Tarcisia’s father, takes a coffee break with Sr. Wilhelmina in Kansas City.

Members of the Turner Roofing Company and dozens of volunteers who brought and rented trucks turned a two-day move into an incredible ten hour move!

Below, Sr. Agnes directs friends from Kansas at our new home. The Novitiate collapses at the end of a long day!

Center: The beautiful hand-carved crucifix that sculptor Felix Avalos drove up from Texas on moving day. The gift now graces our refectory.



# THANK

# YOU!!



On moving day, the Sisters on the Kansas City end gathered together, in the bare chapel for one last time, kneeling in choir positions for the Office of None. Only a few books had not been whisked away and packed, so the Sisters shared or recited from memory. There were no pews, no stations of the cross, not even the consolation of the Lord's presence, but the charge of the Divine Office was carried on. All of the Sisters reunited in the new chapel for Vespers. The altar was finished, the new choir stalls in place, and the books unpacked, *Deo Gratias*. Since it was December 17, the first of the great "O Antiphons," "*O Sapientia*," was sung with particular fervor and gratitude at the Magnificat. The sisters processed out and embraced one another. We are so blessed to carry out the work of God in such a peaceful setting.



Bishop Finn came to bless the new Priory just two days after the move. We processed through the whole house, chanting a Litany of the Immaculate Heart, while the Bishop scattered holy water in every room. We then assisted at Mass for the first time in our beautiful chapel. But up until the end

of Mass, we could not yet call the Priory home. It became so only when Our dear Lord took up His perpetual abode in the tabernacle.

The days after this wonderful celebration found themselves chock full of not only unpacking and putting things in order, but also preparing for Christmas in six



short days! Though it was all a bit daunting, everything was done with serenity, as the work simply filled in the gaps left between the hours of the Divine Office. There is an unhurried deliberateness as we continue to unpack, but the move has been a lesson in what we can do without! We shared the same great consolations as the Holy Family did at Christmas: little at our disposal, but the warmth of a fire and the charity of one another.

At the close of the Christmas Season, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our postulants and novices were due to receive the habit and make their first profession. The blizzard which still leaves us under drifts of snow blew the profession forward another three weeks. So another Advent begins for these Sisters, who will make their vows on Sexagesima Sunday. One week later, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have an Open House for all who would like to see the new Priory.



An afternoon walk.



We cannot thank God enough, nor can we thank you, our benefactors sufficiently, for the great blessing of this new Priory. May God reward you eternally, and bless you in every possible way this year.

In Corde Mariae,

Mother Cecilia and Sisters

The blessing of throats on St. Blaise's Day



**OPEN HOUSE**  
**March 6, 2011**  
**1:00—4:00 pm**

**The Conclusion of "Mary's Prudence" from *The Virtues of Mary* by Fr. L. Lanzoni**

It is a special prerogative of prudence to aid others with good counsel, to dispel their ignorance, to remove their doubts, to show them the path they must follow, the perils they must avoid, the precautions to be used. Therefore we invoke the title of Virgin most prudent with the title "Our Lady of Good Counsel." She is the Mother of Him Who is the counsellor, and in the Divine Office those mysterious words are applied to



Mary: "Counsel and equity are mine, prudence is mine." Who is there among us in time of temptation of doubt, of perplexity, has invoked our dear Lady of Good counsel and has not obtained light, peace and ineffable joy? We all feel the truth and beauty of St. Bernard's words: "In dangers, in distress, in doubt, think of Mary, call on Mary's aid."



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