



Mother Abbess flanked by Sr. Gemma Rose and Sr. Mary Pia.



Mother Abbess lights Sr. Gemma Rose's candle



Vowing obedience.



The ceremony was graciously hosted by St. Joseph's parish in Springfield.

Profession & Investiture Ceremonies FOR AVA, SEPTEMBER 2022



Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus
Gower, MO

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

AUTUMN 2022

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Hello from Missouri, where the Lord has been kind enough to send us a beautiful Fall! Once more, the Abbey has had the great joy of fifteen advancements by way of Investiture, First and Solemn Profession ceremonies, presided over by Rt. Rev. Abbot Philip Anderson of Clear Creek. Another ceremony followed a couple weeks afterwards for our Ava pioneers, and we are very grateful to Bishop Edward Rice for presiding, along with the presence of his predecessor, Bishop John Leibrecht. All were grace-filled and happy days, as you can see in the photos on the following pages. Thanks be to God for such beautiful vocations.

We are also grateful for His sending us many new candidates this year, four at our daughter house in Ava and seven here at the Abbey, which means— you guessed it! We are completely out of room! The dream of building has become an absolute necessity, and so we pressed forward with groundbreaking in Ava, trusting in God's help and yours. With expenses rising, the 20 million dollar project makes us think of Mother Angelica's definition of faith: one foot on the ground, one foot in the air, and a queasy feeling in the stomach. The expenses are coming at us quickly, and so we cast ourselves with confidence upon the Providence of God and your own generosity.

Ground has been broken! Help St. Joseph!



We realize we have to do our part as well, so are in the midst of completing our new website, mapping out the National Father's Shrine on the St. Joseph's monastery grounds, working with Spirit Juice Studios on a fundraising video, preparing a children's book for publication in the Spring, and releasing a new CD: [THE HOLY TRINITY AT EPHEBUS](#), which is now available for order. Please help us in any way that you can, especially by your prayers as we continue on in this gargantuan task of building another house for God. May Our Lord bless and sustain our efforts for the sake of the man He called His father.

Dear Saint Joseph, Guardian of Virgins, please inspire many souls to assist our growing community in southern Missouri in their great need for this church and monastery. Many, many thanks to you all!

In the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Mother Cecilia OSB



The Ava Sisters tour the construction site.

Profession & Investiture Ceremonies AUGUST 2022

With their hair cut, the novices-to-be look upon the newly clothed Sr. Laetiana as she returns to her place, and they await their own turns.



Mother Abbess lights Sr. Helena's candle



Sr. Francesca with her mother and niece.



Sr. Maria Battista rises to profess vows.



Left: Sr. Maria Battista with her sister.

The new solemn professed hold their rings high as they chant: "I am espoused to Him Whom the angels serve"



Vowing obedience



Four first professed cut the cake.



The solemn professed, from left to right: Sr. Francesca, Sr. Marie Madeleine, Sr. Maria Battista, and Sr. Helena.

New Novices and Professed at the Abbey, from left to right: Sr. Mary Solana, Sr. Laetiana, Sr. Corrine, Sr. Marie Agnès, Sr. Josephine, Sr. Katarina, (Fr. Abbot Philip Anderson of Clear Creek) Sr. Daniela, Sr. Anastasia, Sr. Germaine, Sr. Maria Jacoba, Sr. Photina (and Mother Abbess Cecilia.)



Sr. Philippa and Sr. Helena with their Fraternity seminarian-brother, Gideon.



Sr. Francesca with her brother, Brother Peter of Clear Creek.



Newly professed Sisters Sr. Josephine and newly Invested Sr. Mary Solana with their brother Abbé Charles of the Institute.



Sr. Marie Madeleine with her parents, also parents of Sr. Laetiana.



Sr. Germaine meets her new baby sister, Perpetua.



May God, Who has begun His work, bring it to fulfillment! Special thanks to photographer, Elizabeth Miller.