

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings once again, from the heart of the country, always a rather warm heart this time of year! But God is good, and we are grateful for whatever He sends - including the blessing of air conditioning, for which the Sisters from the northern climes are especially grateful! Even so, we remember our forefathers in religious life who pioneered this land and brought the Faith west of the Mississippi. Yet, unlike in Europe, which was built upon and civilized by monastic culture, still only a few scattered monasteries dot the landscape here in America. So, at the Lord's bidding, we set about making another one of those dots, as we break ground later this summer for Saint Joseph's monastery in Ava!

We move forward with deep faith, trusting that the Lord will provide what is needed for each month's payments on the constructions. We do turn to you, our faithful and generous benefactors, to help us move forward with confidence. The entire project is estimated at around \$20 million. Of course, that is a great deal of money, but in another sense, it really isn't all that much, considering the brick and mortar house that will rise up for the Brides of Christ, who intercede day and night for the Church and for the world.

In the end, all of this is undertaken for the greater glory of God...and *how much more glory* does He receive when mere digits from bank accounts are transferred to real and lasting materials that contain eternal repercussions? We ask you to take up this opportunity to be very generous this summer, to give us the confidence we need to roll up our sleeves and start digging! There is no doubt our sweet Lord will reward abundantly those who support and provide for His brides. And as in past construction endeavors, we turn to Saint Joseph who truly has an added interest in raising up this particular monastery, being named and placed under his patronage as it is!

If you know of any other souls who might be interested in being a part of this project, we would be most grateful if you would pass the word onto them. In all of this, we know many have suffered financial setbacks in this year, so for anyone who is unable to contribute, we readily welcome prayers that the project will not suffer for want of funds, and will continue without stopping. We are grateful beyond words for all of your spiritual and financial support!

We are eagerly looking forward to the Solemn vows of four of our Sisters, First vows of another five, and the Investiture in the habit of our seven postulants here at here at the Abbey next month. We will also rejoice with another First profession and Investiture in Ava in September. We hope to share some photos in our next newsletter!

As always, please know of our many prayers for you, your families and loved ones, and all your intentions, commending each to Our Divine Savior and Spouse. May He bless you from His Heart!

In Corde Mariae,

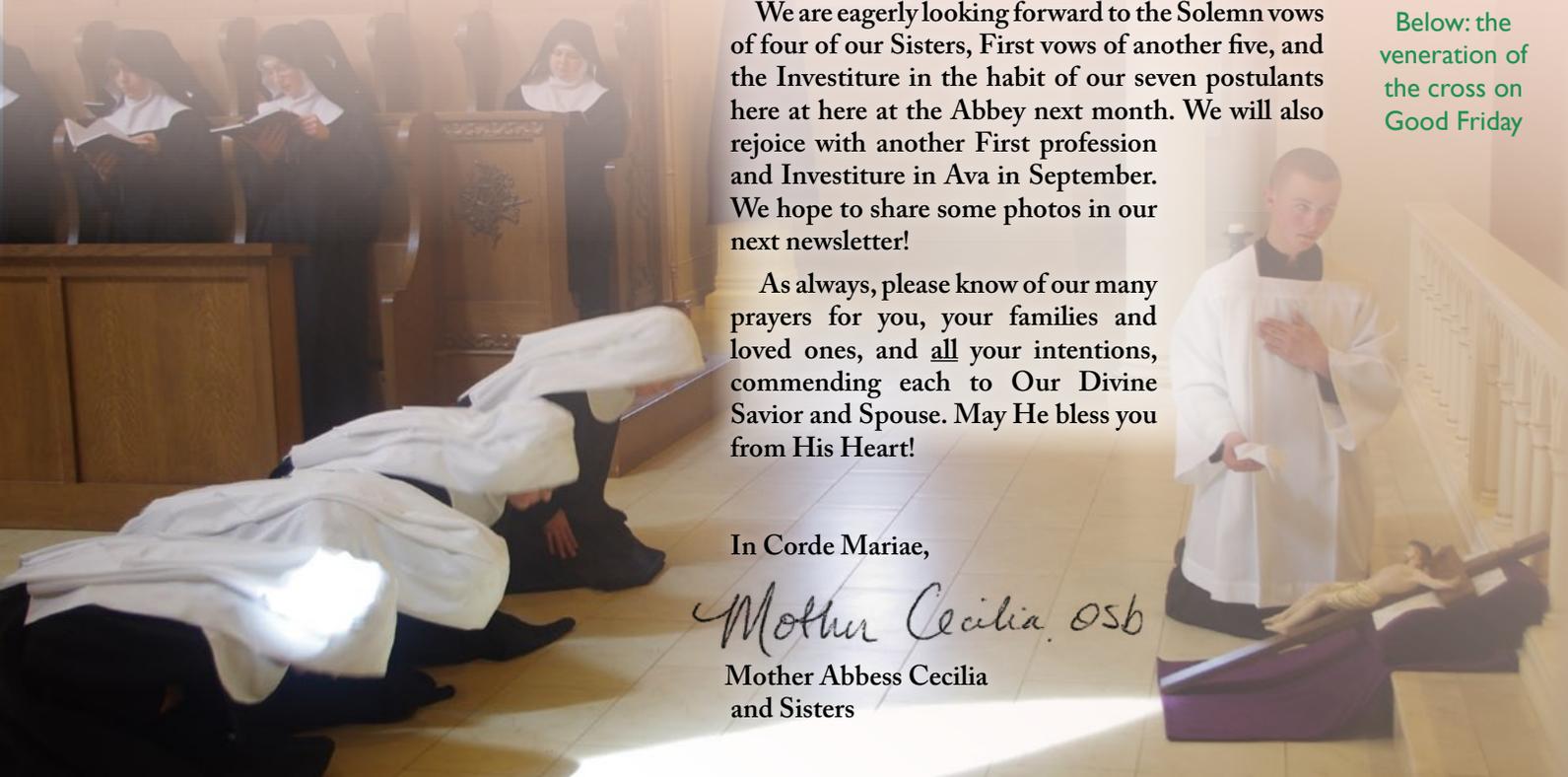
Mother Cecilia, OSB

Mother Abbess Cecilia
and Sisters



The altar of repose is prepared.

Below: the veneration of the cross on Good Friday



We were so blessed once more to host Hugh Owen of the Kolbe Center for a riveting conference.



Collective Amnesia in Regard to Genesis:
Cause, Consequences and Cure



Our British guests prepared a real English tea party for the Sisters, festooned with Union Jacks.



Our Paschal Lamb cake

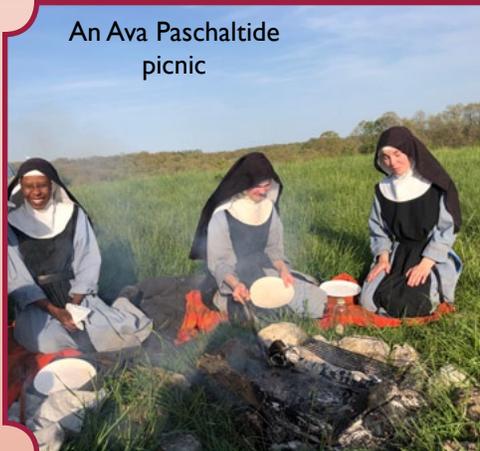
Paschaltide

Our Rosary procession on May 13.





After our Sisters in Ava concluded the Holy Week Services with Tenebrae (below) and the Masses of Easter, they headed up to Gower during the octave for a family reunion! It was such a joy to pray and work alongside each other for a few days, catching up on news, songs and skits with our pioneers. The whole order gathered for a photo before the Sisters headed back home to Ava.



An Ava Paschaltide picnic



The Rosary procession in Ava.



The Great Outdoors



We have been blessed with bumper crops of strawberries, lettuce and spinach.



Above: Mother Abbess played a trio with Fraternity seminarians for a beautiful processional piece.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Over a hundred strong marched behind our Eucharistic King at Gower



The beautiful procession at St. Joseph's monastery in Ava.



Above and left: Carefully prepared flower petal carpets were laid before Our Lord.



Fr. Isaac Diaz Mendoza also went to say a first Mass for the Sisters in Ava.



Fr. Ben Armentrout confers first blessings in Ava.

Sincere thanks to the newly ordained Fraternity of St. Peter priests who offered first Masses: Fr. Cidrian Cortes, Fr. Isaac Diaz Mendoza, Frs. David and Edgar Ramirez, who with their assisting seminarians gathered here for a photo, and Fr. Elijah Mundattachundayil (far left.)



& FIRST BLESSINGS





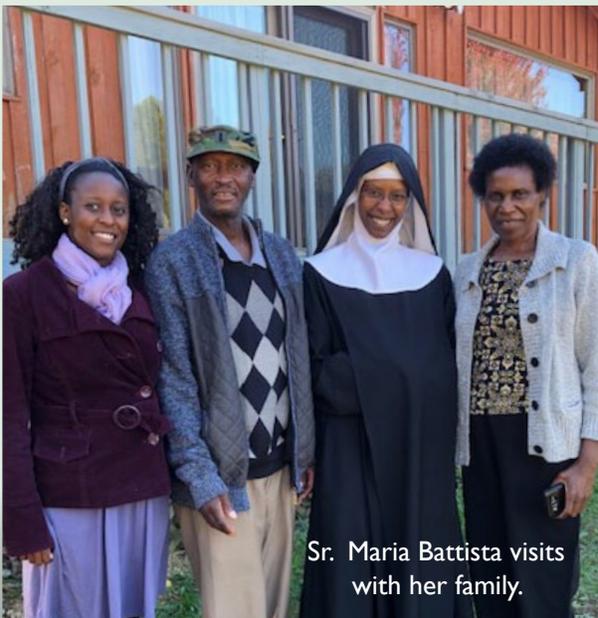
The Ava Sisters with neighbors from Assumption Abbey



New kittens!



More and more faithful gather weekly for Mass near the Ava monastery.



Sr. Maria Battista visits with her family.



This humeral veil was pinned in no time!

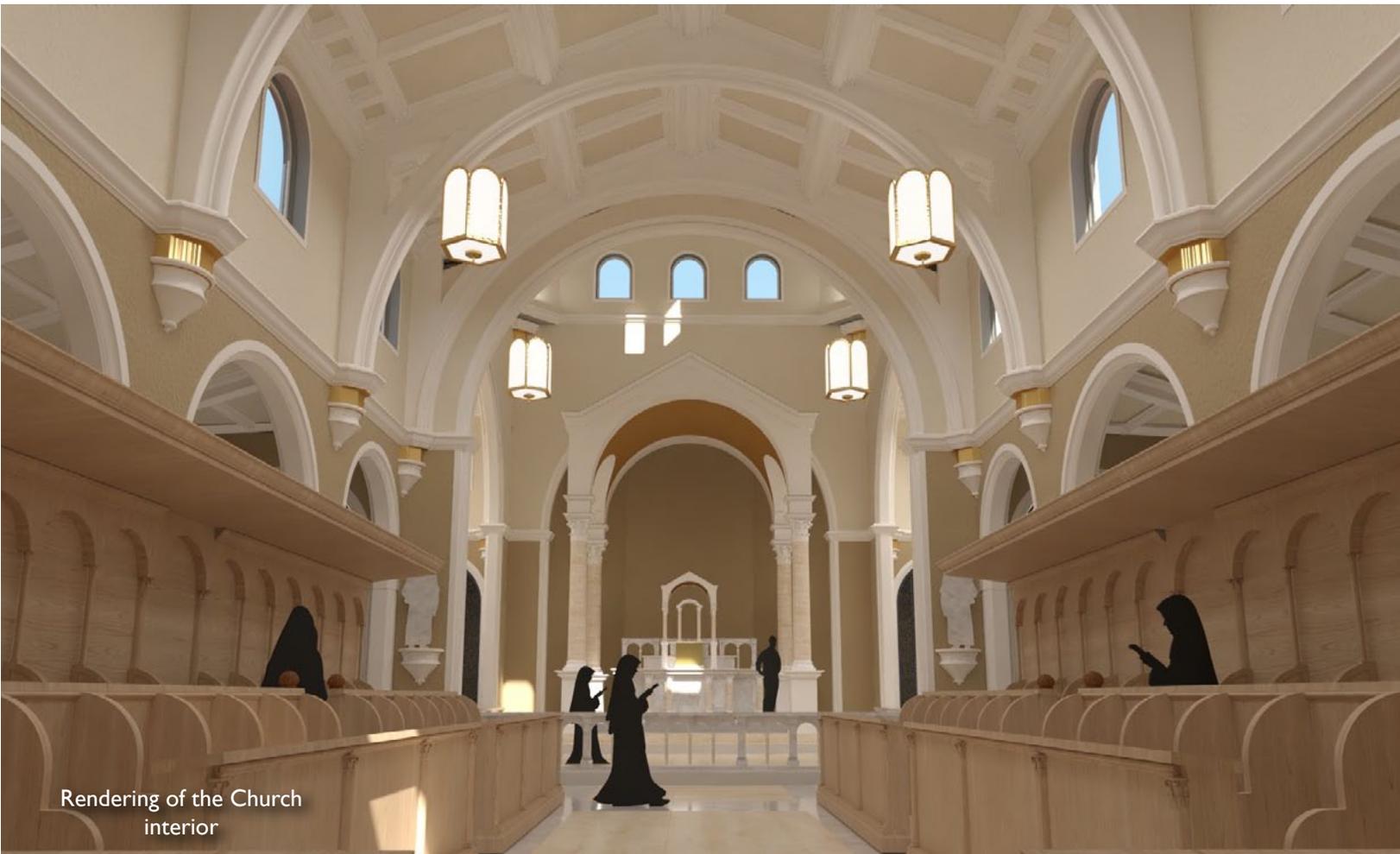
ST. JOSEPH'S UPDATES



Wild berry picking



The Sisters are quickly running out of space, and so are the weekly Mass attendants. Please help St. Joseph build a monastery!



Rendering of the Church
interior

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES
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St. Joseph
guards the
grounds of
his future
monastery.

NOTICE TO OUR BENEFACTORS:
WE DO NOT AND WILL NOT SHARE
ANY OF YOUR INFORMATION

