Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

We are still basking in the graces of the glorious days that have befallen us here at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus. We hope you enjoy the pictures courtesy of Tracy Dunne that so captured these monumental days. “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us extol His name together!” (Ps. 33:4)

In Corde Mariae,

Mother Cecilia, OSB

Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus
Gower, MO

Bishop Finn traces the Greek and Latin alphabet into ashes strewn in the form of an “X” across the floor of the choir.

The altar relics are borne into the church.

In our choir stalls at last! We were privileged to have so many religious join us there for our ceremonies.
“Who is this King of Glory?” The Bishop kneels before knocking on the door of the church with his crosier.

After blessing the exterior walls, the faithful were invited into the church to witness the anointing of the walls beneath the dedication crosses, and the anointing of the altar.

Architect William Heyer mortars the relics into the altar.

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Photos in this row courtesy of Megan Marley
Bishop Morlino joyfully announces our new foundation in his Diocese.

Fr. Bachmann of Clear Creek leads the Silverstream Monks with Organist, Brian Meyers.

What a grace to have another temple of the Lord where He will be forever glorified! The nuns and servers gather after the seven and a half hour ceremony!

September 10: Mother Cecilia prayerfully awaits her Abbatial consecration.

Bishop Morlino joyfully announces our new foundation in his Diocese.

Fr. Bachmann of Clear Creek leads the Silverstream Monks with Organist, Brian Meyers.
Mother Cecilia lies prostrate during the Litany.

Above: Mother Abbess’ “Daily” cross, a gift of the Bovi Family. Left: Mother Abbess’ Consecration. She is the first to receive the traditional Benedictine Abbatial Consecration in the History of the United States. Right: Mother Cecilia beholds her ring, gold with blue topaz fashioned especially for her by Vincent Buoniello.

Below: The Mass proceeds.
Sr. Agatha reads her chart of profession.

Mother Abbess receives her Lord and God at the foot of the newly-consecrated altar.

With their vows paid before the Lord, the now black-veiled professed approach the altar with lamps burning, and give their candles to remain alight on the altar for the rest of Mass.

Sr. Anne Marie pledges obedience into the hands of Mother Abbess.

The chanting of the ancient Suscipe.

Mother Abbess receives her Lord and God at the foot of the newly-consecrated altar.
Sr. Anna Margaret, Sr. Julia, Sr. Catherine and Sr. Maria prepare to have Fr. Abbot of Clear Creek cut their hair (below Left) and then receive their new names: Sr. Martina, Sr. Mary Petra, Sr. Veronica and Sr. Maria Stella.

Mother Abbess led to her throne by Bishop Morlino and Fr. Devillers...

...where she knelt to receive the crosier carved for her by Paul Sirba.

Photo courtesy of Megan Marley
Joyful tears flowed abundantly as each Sister knelt before our new Mother Abbess.

Right & Left: The exquisite wood carvings of Clear Creek presented for our choir.

Mother Abbess is congratulated by Fr. Abbot, our Bishop Johnston and new Bishop Morlino.

Anna Araque’s glorious cakes!
September 9: The first Mass in the new church, the Mass of Dedication.