

Priory of
Our Lady of Ephesus
GOWER, MISSOURI

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Dear Family, Friends & Benefactors

As I write this, we have just entered into the most sacred week of the entire liturgical year: the days when we commemorate the excruciating physical and moral sufferings of Our Lord and Redeemer, increasing and intensifying to their culmination at Calvary on the holy wood of the Cross. These days cannot simply transpire in a superficial way, but will be spent in earnest and loving meditation on the Passion of Our Lord: the tremendous manifestation of Jesus' love for His Father, and His love for each one of us. Throughout the sorrow of these days in which we truly try to enter into the dispositions of our Savior and our Spouse, we also look forward with joy to His glorious Resurrection. He remains our intercessor before the Father with His wounds as the magnificent trophies of His great love. Through the liturgy of this time, we seek to express something of a return for His love, as all Creation cries back to Him in the new life we see returning all around us.

Our very dear friend now in his nineties, a venerable Monsignor here in our Diocese, was asked by one of the Sisters how he was feeling. He replied, "younger than spring-time! The older I get, the more I realize how important the way of spiritual childhood is!" And symbiotic as the Little Way of St. Therese is with our little Rule of St. Benedict, our "little actions" amidst this season of new beginnings comes very much to mind. So we present a pictorial tribute to this Little Way in these pages.

Construction on our beautiful church has been steadily progressing, as you can see by the pictures. We were able to reach our end of the year goal by March 19th, due especially to an anonymous \$150,000 gift. (I'll use this opportunity to say thank you to this most generous soul!) We are so grateful to all of you who have been supporting this holy endeavor through donations and prayers. We thank especially the donations which come from children, offerings which touch us very deeply!

Inspired by their childlike confidence, we entrust ourselves once more to the loving care of St. Joseph. We still have 6 months of payments looming on the horizon, totaling about \$2.5 million, so we humbly ask for your continued assistance. Indeed, a gift during these few months is worth so much more to us than it will be in six months, or next year. We want to be the best stewards of your charity that we can possibly be, and to my mind, that means assigning funds directly to our church construction, rather than our local bank. We hope to preclude any monies going toward interest payments on a hefty loan!

We want to do our part as well, and so have undertaken another recording in honor of the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Be sure to watch for our order form as soon as it is ready, hopefully later on this Spring. Please know of our prayers for you as always!


Coming soon:

In the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Mother Cecilia, OSB

THE HEARTS of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH at Ephesus

Sacred Heart
Novena of Masses
JUNE 8TH-16TH
enroll at
BENEDICTINESOFMARY.ORG




A recording session of
our new CD




The first
year of
making our
own tapers
and altar
candles

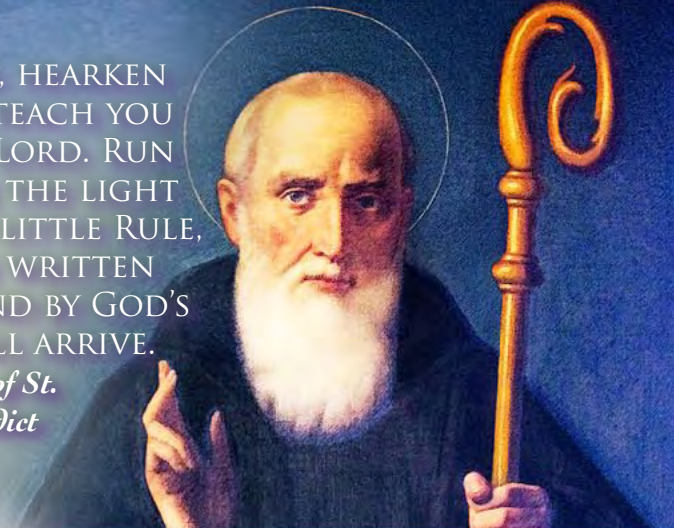


IT IS THE GOSPEL ITSELF, IT IS THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL THAT SHE REDISCOVERED; BUT WITH WHAT GRACE AND FRESHNESS: 'IF YOU DO NOT BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU SHALL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN'

—Ven. Pius XII

COME, CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME, I WILL TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD. RUN WHILST YOU HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE...KEEP THIS LITTLE RULE, WHICH WE HAVE WRITTEN FOR BEGINNERS, AND BY GOD'S GRACE, YOU SHALL ARRIVE.

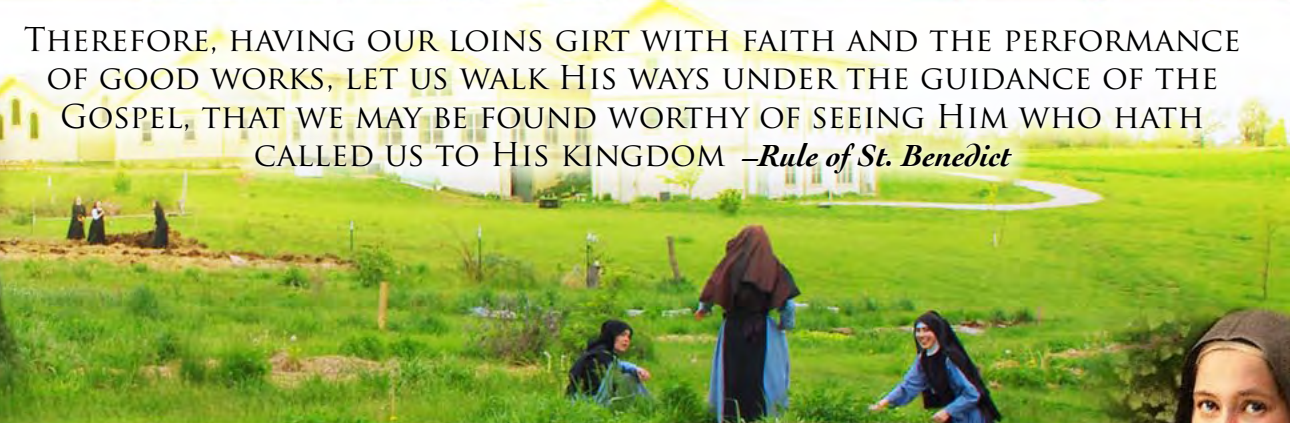
—Rule of St. Benedict



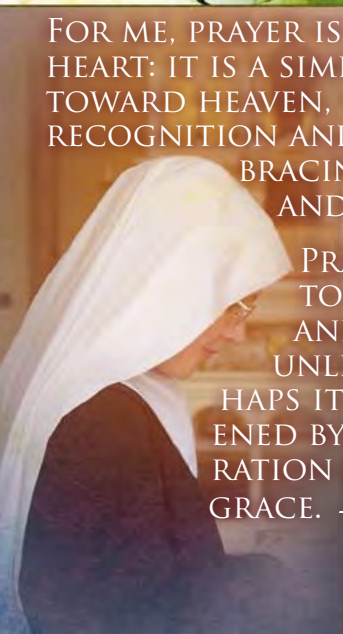
LET US SAVE ESPECIALLY THE SOULS OF PRIESTS; THESE SOULS SHOULD BE MORE TRANSPARENT THAN CRYSTAL ... ALAS, HOW MANY BAD PRIESTS, PRIESTS WHO ARE NOT HOLY ENOUGH... LET US PRAY, LET US SUFFER FOR THEM, AND, ON THE LAST DAY, JESUS WILL BE GRATEFUL. WE SHALL GIVE HIM SOULS! —St. Therese



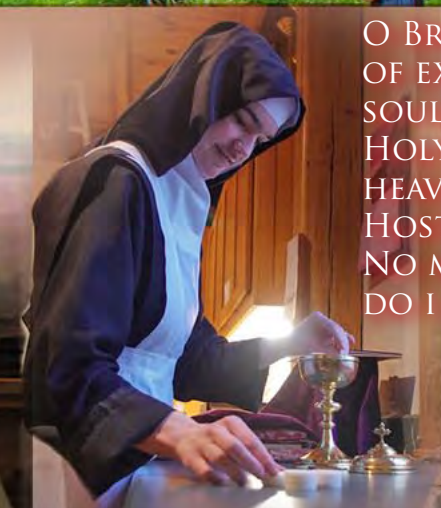
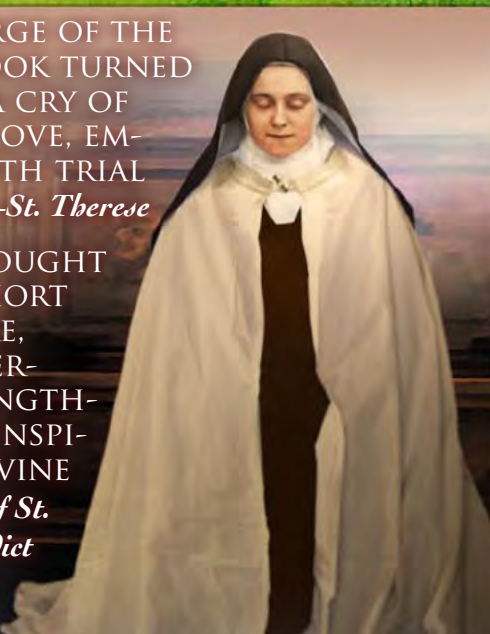
THEREFORE, HAVING OUR LOINS GIRT WITH FAITH AND THE PERFORMANCE OF GOOD WORKS, LET US WALK HIS WAYS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE GOSPEL, THAT WE MAY BE FOUND WORTHY OF SEEING HIM WHO HATH CALLED US TO HIS KINGDOM —Rule of St. Benedict



FOR ME, PRAYER IS A SURGE OF THE HEART: IT IS A SIMPLE LOOK TURNED TOWARD HEAVEN, IT IS A CRY OF RECOGNITION AND OF LOVE, EMBRACING BOTH TRIAL AND JOY. —St. Therese

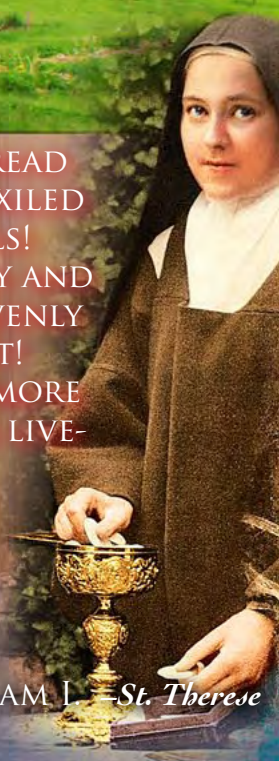


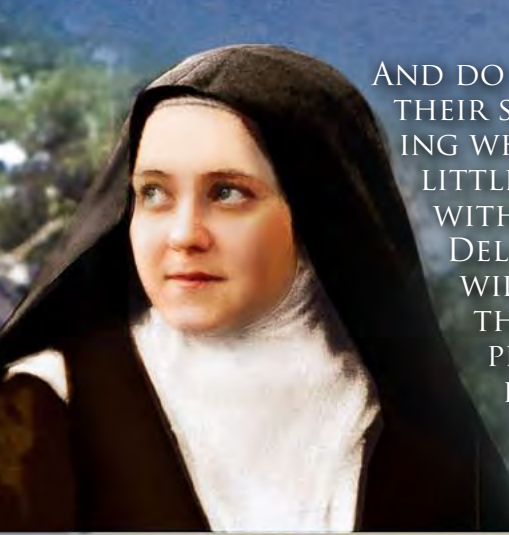
PRAYER OUGHT TO BE SHORT AND PURE, UNLESS, PERHAPS IT IS LENGTHENED BY THE INSPIRATION OF DIVINE GRACE. —Rule of St. Benedict



O BREAD OF EXILED SOULS! HOLY AND HEAVENLY HOST! NO MORE DO I LIVE—

IN THEE MY LIFE IS LOST. THY CHOSEN CIBORIUM AM I —St. Therese





AND DO YOU NOT THINK THAT ON THEIR SIDE THE GREAT SAINTS, SEEING WHAT THEY OWE TO QUITE LITTLE SOULS, WILL LOVE THEM WITH AN INCOMPARABLE LOVE? DELIGHTFUL AND SURPRISING WILL BE THE FRIENDSHIPS FOUND THERE - I AM SURE OF IT A SIMPLE LITTLE CHILD MAY BE THE INTIMATE FRIEND OF A PATRIARCH. OH! HOW I LONG TO DWELL IN THAT KINGDOM OF LOVE -*St. Therese*

OUR HEARTS AND OUR BODIES MUST, THEREFORE, BE READY TO DO BATTLE UNDER THE BIDDINGS OF HOLY OBEDIENCE; AND LET US ASK THE LORD THAT HE SUPPLY BY THE HELP OF HIS GRACE WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO US BY NATURE. -*Rule of St. Benedict*



I CAN DO NO GREAT THINGS, ONLY LITTLE THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE. -*St. Therese*



IN THE PRETTY FLOWERET'S CUP, WHEN THE MORNING SUN COMES UP, YOU CAN SEE THE TINY BEE, FLITTING FAST THROUGH SUMMER HOURS, VISITING THE WOODLAND BOWERS, GATHERING HONEY STEADILY.

AH! OF LOVE YOUR TREASURE MAKE; AND, EACH DAY, FOR CHRIST'S DEAR SAKE, TO HIS HOLY CRADLE COME. ALL THE HONEY OF YOUR LOVE GIVE, SWEET BEE! TO THIS MEEK DOVE; MAKE HIS HEART YOUR HIVE AND HOME!



A WORD OR A SMILE IS OFTEN ENOUGH TO PUT FRESH LIFE IN A DESPONDENT SOUL. -*St. Therese*



Bird's eye view of construction in January



Roofing the north wing



The off-hours supervising crew



The sisters wave from the narthex and upper gallery for lay guests



The barrel vault over the choir (nave)



Below: our amazing Knights of Columbus who refurbished our pews brought from Mother Drexel's shrine in Pennsylvania.





The stonework is nearing completion!



Work on the sanctuary groin vault



Progress on the southwest



and the northwest



BUILDING PROGRESS

The Sisters gather every Sunday in the choir

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES
Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus
8005 NW 316th St.
Gower, MO 64454



Are you hastening toward your heavenly home?
Then with Christ's help, keep this little Rule
which we have written for beginners...

—Rule of Saint Benedict

