

FALL 2024

BENEDICTINES
OF MARY, QUEEN
OF APOSTLES

At Ephesus

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

The sendoff for our second
shipment of Sisters to England.

It seems we have had so many commingled joys and sorrows in these last few weeks, but even the sorrows have been joyful occasions for us as we go through the marvelous growing pains of expansion, letting God expand our hearts as we go! We have just come off of a marvelous family reunion with a joint ceremony here at Ephesus.

Our Sisters journeyed *en masse* from Ava and Evansville to come witness the joint Investiture of eleven Sisters from two houses. The new Novices were entrusted to their new patronages: Sr. Seraphina (the Holy Face), Sr. Marieva (Our Lady, the New Eve), Sr. Miriam Rose (Holy Name of Mary), Sr. Dismara (the Good Thief), Sr. Marie Placide (St. Placid, Disciple of St. Benedict), Sr. Maria Louisa (St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, our secondary patron), Sr. Mae Angela (the Holy Angels), Sr. Simona (Simon the Apostle), Sr. Oriana (Our Lady's Expectation), Sr. Mary Aquina (the Angelic Doctor), and Sr. Giovanna (the Beloved Apostle.) On the same day, a class of eight Sisters recently spread out over four houses professed vows together then went on to their respective (new) homes: Sr. Laetiana, Sr. Marie Agnes and Sr. Corrine at the Abbey, Sister Mary Pia and Sr. Pauline returned to St. Joseph's, Sister Maria Jacoba to St. Anne's, and Sr. Mary Solana professed vows and set out for England only a few days later with Sr. Josephine, her sister. Sr. Grace and Sr. Marie-Bernarde are going to temporarily strengthen the foundation as native European vocations begin coming in. After the partings began, our three Sisters at the Abbey made Solemn vows: Sr. Maria Stella, Sr. Maria Dolora and Sr. Mary Elizabeth. We hope you enjoy the ceremony photos!

We hope also to be able to count on your continued support of our community in the attempts to pay off the bills for our three daughterhouses, a truly impossible task without your faithful support. May God bless you all!

In the Hearts of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph,

Mother Cecilia, OSB



Sr. Josephine pushes her sister, Sr. Mary Solana, in the wheelchair intended for herself in a failed attempt to catch their plane!



A "serious," militaristic 21-nun salute greeted Mother Cecilia on her 21st anniversary...



...followed by a candlelight procession to Compline.



Work begins on the National Fathers' Shrine at Saint Joseph's Priory in Ava.



Lighting the
profession candles



Reading the Chart
of profession



Chanting of
the Suscipe

First Professions



Sr. Germaine
receives the
black veil.



Sr. Marie Placide
processes in



Sr. Miriam Rose
(below left)
and Sr. Dismara
(below right)
approach the
altar.



The candles are
redistributed.



Bishop Johnston cuts Sr. Marieva's hair.



Sr. Giovanna, Sr. Mary Aquina, Sr. Oriana, Sr. Simona, Sr. Mae Angela, Sr. Maria Louisa, and Sr. Marie Placide await the remainder of their habits.



It is Sr. Seraphina's turn to have her hair cut.



Sr. Miriam Rose receives the habit.



A happy Sr. Maria Louisa goes back to her place.



Sr. Mary Aquina smiles after hearing her new name.



How deeply we enjoyed the reunion of three of our houses, catching up before and after the ceremonies!



Sr. Ellassara
congratulates
Sr. Dismara.



The newly professed cut the cake!
Left to right: Sr. Corrine, Sr. Germaine,
Sr. Maria Jacoba, Sr. Laetiana, Sr. Mary Pia, Sr.
Mary Solana, Sr. Pauline and Sr. Marie Agnès.



Sr. Simona, Sr. Maria Louisa and Sr. Dismara give a celebratory concert.



Sr. Seraphina, Sr. Maria Louisa, Sr. Marie Placide, Sr. Mae Angela, Sr. Dismara, Sr. Miriam Rose, Sr. Oriana, Sr. Mary Aquina and Sr. Giovanna cut their cake too.



Sr. Mary Solana catches up with family too!



Special thanks to photographer Miriam Bauer!



Bishop Finn with the Solemnly Professed: Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Sr. Maria Dolora and Sr. Maria Stella



Receiving
the crown



Mother Abbess leads the newly Solemn
Professed to their choir stalls.



Showing off the newly acquired rings



Solemn Professions



Merry England



Pulling up the old carpets.

Miraculously, we were able to locate and buy back the library of Colwich, just before it was sold to a bookseller!



The Sisters have been so blessed to have the Mass offered each day!



A lovely neighborly visit with the Dominicans from Stone.



Our British reinforcements received a royal welcome and feast at the Jordan home.



A great tradition in transition: Abbess Anna of Stanbrook, Abbess Davina of Colwich, and Archbishop Longley and others graced Saint Mary's for a final Mass for the Stanbrook and Colwich Sisters. The purchase is finally complete!

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