



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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Obituary

Jan. 3, 2011

Sister Mary Gregory Cushing passes

CLYDE, Mo.— Sister Mary Gregory Cushing, OSB passed away at the age of 97 on Dec. 28, 2010, at Our Lady of Rickenbach in Clyde, Mo.

She was born Mary Angeline Cushing in Hamilton, Mass., on May 26, 1913, to Walter and Louise Gertrude Cushing. While growing up, Mary enjoyed dancing, acting in plays, playing the piano, knitting, crocheting and reading. Her spiritual life was nourished by attending daily Mass and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament. She also had a very special devotion to Our Lady and to the Little Flower.

After graduating from high school, she worked at the Employers Liability Insurance Company in Boston for four years. She finally decided to pursue the call to religious life and prayer, joined a Carmelite monastery in Newport, R.I., and loved it. After four months, however, she was asked to leave because she was thought to be too frail to observe their Lenten fast and penance.

She returned to visit the Carmelite monastery several times. Her former postulant director recommended she write to the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration to continue discernment. Impressed by the Sisters' life of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, this satisfied the desires burning in her heart.

She entered in 1938 at the age of 25. She made her First Profession on Aug. 24, 1940, taking the name Sister Mary Gregory, and made her Final Profession on Sept. 1, 1945.

Over the years she lived at several of the BSPA monasteries: Clyde, Kansas City, Mo., Mundelein, Ill., San Diego and Tucson, Ariz. She worked at various duties over this span, including in the printery and the correspondence departments. She also helped in the sewing department, making collariums, and worked in the altar bread department. In San Diego, she was assigned to kitchen duty where she baked bread. In Tucson, before her final move to Our Lady of Rickenbach, she worked as archivist, chronicler and receptionist.

<MORE>



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She served as organist for 52 years, retiring in 1992. She was also choir director and liturgist at various times during those years. One of her fondest memories was touring European monasteries in 1982 with the Benedictine Musicians of the Americas.

Sister Mary Gregory enjoyed listening to music and reading books on various topics such as mysteries, archaeology, theology, biographies, astronomy and spirituality. She also did ham radio for several years.

Sister Mary Gregory, who celebrated her 70th jubilee of monastic profession last summer, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December. She made the decision to wait quietly for the Lord to come to take her home as further treatment was considered unhelpful. She died very peacefully on the morning of Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Harold Cushing; and her sisters, Victoria Clark and Louise Powers.

She is survived by her monastic family; a niece, Mary and Barry Lastinger; and a nephew, Michael and Linda Powers. A Mass of Christian Burial took place Jan. 3 at Our Lady of Rickenbach Chapel, Clyde. Memorials can be sent in care of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432-8100. Online condolences can be left at www.pricefuneralhomemaryville.com.

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