



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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News Release

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A lost art found: Tucson Benedictine Sisters making albs again

CLYDE, Mo. – Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at the Tucson, Ariz., community have rediscovered a lost art – at least one lost to them.

After the passing of Sister Demetria Newman, OSB, the Sisters in the community's Liturgical Vestment Department discovered no one else knew the art of making an alb.

An alb is a long, white robe or vestment worn by priests, deacons and other ministers. Sister Joy Ann Wege, OSB and Sister Mary Jane Romero, OSB attempted to complete some that Sister Demetria had started but soon realized it was a lost cause.

"The alb is the first vestment a seminarian or altar server needs," Sister Joy Ann said. "Much to our sorrow and to the regret of priests, deacons and seminarians we had to discontinue offering them because we simply didn't know how to make one."

Then Stephen Langford, a retired tailor, moved into the Sisters' Tucson neighborhood and donated his sewing machine and other equipment. The Sisters asked by chance if he knew how to make custom-fit albs. Turns out, he did.

"He graciously offered his assistance and taught us the steps, including the sequencing of fitting the pieces on the person," Sister Joy Ann said. "With his guidance, we have resumed the work of making custom-fitted albs."

Their customers are happy too, rejoicing in the Sisters' rediscovery of one of their most beautiful ministerial works.

For more information about the Liturgical Vestments Department, click on <http://www.tucsonmonastery.com/vestments/vestments.php>.



Benedictine Sister Joy Ann Wege (top) works on one of the custom-made albs created at the Benedictine Sisters' Tucson community.

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