



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
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News Release

April 15, 2008

Benedictine Sister Mary Esther Elbert Passes

CLYDE, Mo. - Sister Mary Esther Elbert, OSB, 96, died April 11, 2008, in Clyde, Mo. She was a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

She was born Sept. 4, 1911, to Michael and Clara Belle (Kanappel) Elbert in Sedro-Woolley, Wash.

After graduating high school at 16 she attended Holy Names Normal School in Seattle. When her older sister entered the Benedictine Sisters, she became interested in their contemplative life and dedication to the Eucharist. She entered in 1932 and made her final monastic profession on April 22, 1939.

Sister Mary Esther once said, "I just knew I wanted to be a bride of Christ. I am grateful for the beauty of our monastic homes and the peace and quiet that has helped our seeking closer union with Jesus and one another. I recall the awesomeness of adoration, especially at night when in the quiet stillness and semidarkness God seemed so near."

During her years as a Benedictine Sister, she lived in the congregation's communities in Mundelein, Ill., San Diego, Tucson, Ariz. and St. Louis. She served in a variety of ministries including work in the printery, the altar bread department, garden, library, maintenance and the reception room. She was as a chronicler, a councilor, an oblate director and worked with the Benedictine Guild and as a pastoral minister.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Sister Mary Johanna Elbert, OSB and Josephine Elbert Smernoff; and three brothers, Paul, Anthony and Bernard Elbert.

Sister Mary Esther was known for her joy and her appreciation of beauty in nature, in life and in others. She was generous, gracious and loving. Now one with the Lord whom she adored, she delights in the fullness of joy and beauty.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on April 14 in the Adoration Chapel, Clyde, followed by burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Clyde.

Memorials can be sent in care of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432-8100.

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