



News Release

April 15, 2008

Benedictine Sisters welcome newest member

CLYDE, Mo. - The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration formally welcomed Mary Hastie to their congregation when she entered during a ceremony held March 3 in the Adoration Chapel in Clyde, Mo.

Postulant Mary grew up in Tabor in the Loess, a town located in western Iowa, and was drawn to nature at an early age.

“At home you could find me out wandering in the hills. I love nature and was always seeking adventure,” she said. “I dug caves into canyon walls and tried to build little huts and rafts. I played in the creek and climbed trees.”

As the daughter of Protestants, she didn’t hear the word “Catholic” until she was in the seventh grade.

“I was drawn to the word and wanted to learn what it was all about. I went to the school library and looked it up in the encyclopedia,” Postulant Mary said. “From that point on I knew I had to become Catholic, and I read everything I could get my hands on about God and Catholicism.”

As she entered her teenage years, Postulant Mary began thinking about religious life. She realized that becoming a nun was how she could give her entire life to Jesus.

“I wanted a whole-hearted surrender, and this was it,” she said. “Even though I wasn’t Catholic and I had never even seen a religious sister, I knew it was the answer for me.”

She was 16 when she finally entered the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, one of the happiest days of her life. After attending the Monastic Experience in Clyde when she was 18, her desire for religious life was strongly re-awakened.



New postulant Mary Hastie (left) formally entered the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration during a ceremony in March. She is pictured with Prioress General Sister Ramona Varela, OSB.

<MORE>

Contact – Kelley Baldwin, Director of Communications

Phone – 660/944-2221 ext. 180

Mobile – 660/562-7433

Fax – 660/944-2152

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Postulant Mary, who worked as a nursing assistant and in a critical care unit in a hospital before entering, was also active with the National Catholic Youth Conference and taught faith formation to younger members of her parish.

“I want to become a sister because I aspire to a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and want to spend the rest of my life praying for others,” she said. “I am striving to make God the center of my life and to seek his will in all things.”

Women who enter the postulancy spend the first year exploring a religious vocation under the guidance of a spiritual director. Postulants will develop and deepen their prayer life, take classes that aid in the transition to monastic life and work in various jobs throughout the community. If she is accepted into the novitiate, she will observe stricter enclosure for the sake of her discernment and study the Benedictine vows of stability, *conversatio* and obedience in preparation for her First Monastic Profession.

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