



News Release

November 5, 2007

Sand Springs Benedictine Monastery to Close

CLYDE, Mo. - The Congregation of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration announce the closure of Osage+Monastery in Sand Springs, Okla. projected for the spring of 2008.

For the past several years, the sisters have been involved with strategic, long-range planning for their four interdependent monasteries located in Missouri, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Arizona.

"While God continues to bless us with new vocations, it is necessary at this time to provide quality monastic living for all of our sisters while striving to conserve our resources," Prioress General Sister Ramona Varela, OSB said. "It is a decision not easily made, recognizing the unique gift the Osage community has offered to both the local community and to the world at large."

The Osage Ashram-style monastery was founded in 1980 by five Benedictine Sisters who were inspired by the Vatican II document on the Roman Church's Relations with non-Christian Religions: *Nostra Aetate*. Abbot Primate Weakland was asked by the Vatican to urge Benedictine and Cistercian monastics in both the United States and Europe to begin such encounters with people of other religions. The Benedictine Sisters responded to this need through Sister Pascaline Coff, OSB who headed the new foundation that began in June 1980 with the encouragement of Archbishop Beltran, the Ordinary of Tulsa at the time.

Osage is unique in the simplicity of their lifestyle and their hospitality, which welcomes people of all faiths as well as clergy and lay Christians of other denominations. Countless retreats, private and directed, have been hosted by the sisters at Osage+Monastery.

Father Bede Griffiths, OSB OCam from South India also graced Osage+Monastery by his five visits that included conferences. He inspired and had a deep interest in the community, its oblates and its volunteer group known as the Friends of the Forest in their quest for contemplative prayer and dialogue. Meditation, with its silence and stillness, is common to both Christians and non-Christians and provides a unifying bond with all people.

For the past 27 years, Osage+Monastery has served the Church, the Congregation, people of this country and throughout the world. It is with deep regret this decision must be made, and yet with trust in God we hope to continue the good work within the

Congregation that has been done in Osage, especially in regard to the East/West Dialogue, Sister Ramona said.

For more information about the Benedictine Sisters, log onto www.benedictinesisters.org.
For more information about the Sand Springs closure, please contact Prioress General Sister Ramona Varela at (660) 944-2221 or e-mail ramona@benedictinesisters.org.

Contact – Kelley Baldwin, Director of Communications

Phone – 660/944-2221 ext. 180

Mobile – 660/562-7433

Fax – 660/944-2152

Find us on the Web at www.BenedictineSisters.org