



News Release

October 8, 2007

San Benito sister celebrates 50 years of professed life

Dayton, Wyo. – The beautiful liturgies. The wondrous chapel. Sisters dressed in traditional choir robes raising their voices in song.

“It was like seeing a bit of heaven,” Sister Joretta Grant, OSB recalled upon reflection of entering the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration 50 years ago. She now lives at the congregation’s San Benito Monastery in Dayton, Wyo.

Sister Joretta, a Kansas native, attended services at the Benedictine Sisters’ motherhouse chapel in Clyde, Mo., with her family as a young child. Fond memories stretch back before she even understood what it meant to be called to religious life.

“I had never witnessed anything so beautiful until attending their services,” she said. “I knew I wanted to be a part of it.”

Equally drawn to the sisters’ devotion to the Eucharist, she bid her family and the secular life goodbye and entered monastic life before graduating high school. She made her first monastic profession on Oct. 5, 1957.

Throughout the decades, she has served as prioress and superior of several of the congregation’s communities and is now home at the San Benito Monastery. The grounds are enveloped by 38 acres of beauty, including the majestic backdrop provided by the Big Horn Mountains.

“It is easy to find God in the beauty surrounding us,” she said. “I love the peace and quiet of our monastery.”

The monastery is the smallest of the congregation’s four communities, home to three sisters who spend their days in prayer, cooking, cleaning, hosting retreats for people of all faiths and operating Monastery Creations, a gift shop that offers a full line of products made by those in monastic life. Many of the products are made by the sisters themselves.

They live according to the Rule of St. Benedict, which states “idleness is the enemy of the soul” and includes an emphasis on work.

<MORE>



Sr. Joretta Grant

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“I have been enriched by the lives of the people who have visited our monasteries throughout the years,” she said. “I have worked with some very holy sisters and have been blessed by each of them.”

While Sister Joretta admits she didn’t know much about monastic life before entering all those years ago, she holds no doubt in her heart that God called her for a reason.

“This is a wonderful life, challenging and not always easy,” Sister Joretta said. “But our life of prayer and adoration is a wonderful ministry to the Church.”

The Benedictine Sisters are members of the national Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which also includes houses in Missouri, Arizona and Oklahoma. The sisters lead a contemplative life devoted to prayer and celebration of the Eucharist.

For more information about Benedictine Sisters, log onto www.benedictinesisters.org.

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