



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
San Benito Monastery P.O. Box 520, Dayton, WY 82836-0520

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Benedictine event gives students chance to connect Gospel and the earth

Dayton, Wyo. – Wyoming’s majestic Big Horn Mountains served as a backdrop to the inaugural Summer Adventure of Prayer and Service in June at the San Benito Monastery in Dayton, Wyo.

The event, co-sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and Earth Hope, invited its 17- to 18-year-old participants to pitch their tents under the Western sky and discover connections among the Gospel, social justice issues and earth spirituality.

The weeklong program included hiking through and learning about the geology of the Big Horn Mountains, painting in nearby Tongue River Canyon, visiting sacred Native American sites and learning about Northern Cheyenne and Crow traditions, service activities with the Benedictine Sisters, and reflections by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of the novel that inspired the award-winning movie, “Dead Man Walking.”

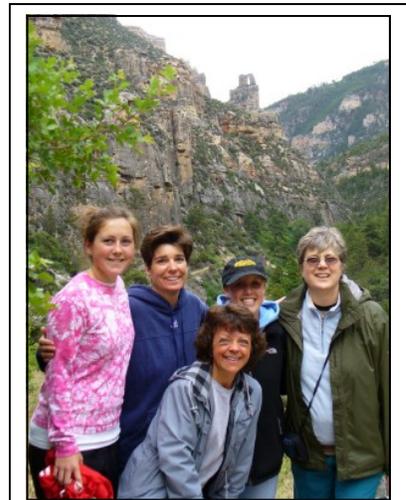
“For me, the camp inspired a reverence for the earth,” said Meredith Stoops, a young woman from Kansas City, Mo. “Everything I learned and experienced led me to love the earth and work to protect it. I especially liked learning about the Native Americans. They loved the earth and that love influenced every decision they made.”

“The Medicine Wheel, which is a sacred site for Native Americans, was also a profound experience for everyone,” Vocation Director Sister Ruth Starman, OSB said. “I enjoyed getting in touch with nature again and feeling in awe of the incredible universe God has put us all in. The camp is definitely something we’ll sponsor again next summer.”

The Benedictine Sisters are members of the national Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which also includes communities in Missouri, Arizona and Oklahoma. The sisters lead a contemplative life devoted to prayer and celebration of the Eucharist and also manage Monastery Creations, a gift shop that features many products made by Benedictine Sisters.

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

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Volunteers and participants in the inaugural Summer Adventure of Prayer and Service spent a week discovering connections among the Gospel, social justice issues and earth spirituality.

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Find us on the Web at www.BenedictineSisters.org