



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Benedictine Sisters to celebrate variety of summer commitments

CLYDE, Mo. - The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration will welcome several women furthering their commitment to monastic life this summer.



Sister Mary Sophia Becker, OSB will make her final monastic profession on Saturday, July 21, at the congregation's monastery in Tucson, Ariz. Sister Sophia entered the Benedictine Sisters in 2001 after attending a Monastic Experience program sponsored by the sisters. She serves as the vocations director for the Tucson community.



Clarisa Cutia, from Metairie, La., has been accepted as a postulant and will enter on Friday, Aug. 3, in the Adoration Chapel in Clyde, Mo. Clarisa, who participated in the sisters' Spring Break Experience has a background in early childhood development and works at a day care center.



On that same day, Postulant Nancy Gucwa will enter into the Benedictine Sisters' novitiate. She entered in 2006 after a successful career in the banking and financial industry. Postulant Nancy, who was a member of the first graduating class that admitted women at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, will remain a member of the Army Reserves until her retirement.



Novice Sarah Miller, who entered the congregation in 2004, will make her first monastic profession during a ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 4, in the Adoration Chapel. Novice Sarah, who earned her undergraduate degree from Colby College (Maine) and a master's degree from the University of Chicago's Divinity School, is originally from Cleveland, Ohio.

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Women considering religious life are called in different ways from different backgrounds with different experiences. However, each must undergo the same rigorous process that will help them decide if a life devoted to God is for her. For the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, that process involves an application that includes interviews, health and psychological examinations and writing an autobiography.

After six months she enters the postulancy, a chance to learn more about the vocation of religious life, to become acquainted with other members of the community, work in the monastery and take classes. Those who pass their evaluations and wish to continue then enter the novitiate for two years. They undergo an intense spiritual formation of prayer, instruction in Scripture and liturgy, guidance and living the Benedictine lifestyle.

Women then enter the juniorate and make their first profession. They follow the three Benedictine vows of stability, a commitment to God; *conversatio*, the rules of monastic life including poverty and chastity; and of obedience. After a period of three to six years, a woman can then take the final step and participate in the rite of final monastic profession.

For more information or photographs, please contact Director of Communications Kelley Baldwin at (660) 944-2221 or kelley@bspa.us.

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