



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 19, 2010**

### **Postulant answers God's call to religious life**

**CLYDE, Mo.**— On Aug. 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Erma Raquel Relunia knocked on the chapel door of the Benedictine Sisters' Tucson, Ariz., monastery to seek admittance to the postulancy.

Prioress General Sister Pat Nyquist, OSB opened the door to Erma as a sign of the Congregation's acceptance of her into the postulant phase of her formation.

During the ceremony, she was presented with a set of the Congregation's Liturgy of the Hours books, signifying her entry into the monastic way of prayer and work.

"The ceremony was very special for the Sisters of our Tucson community as it has been many years since they hosted one," Sister Pat said. "Entrances generally take place at our motherhouse in Missouri. Since we recently transferred our postulancy program to the Tucson community, it made sense for them to be a part of this special day."



**Postulant Erma is excited about answering the call to religious life with the Benedictine Sisters.**

As a postulant, Erma will share in and experience the Benedictine way of life and ministry of prayer. A native of the Philippines who spent the past eight years in Toronto, Canada, Postulant Erma earned a bachelor's degree in biology and management from FEATI University in Manila and a graduate degree in human resources management from Seneca College in Toronto. She learned more about the Benedictine Sisters through a Spring Break Monastic Experience she attended in 2009.

"Erma brings a deep desire to grow spiritually and to deepen her relationship with God in our Congregation, especially through the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours, which are central to our life of prayer," Sister Pat said. "Her joyful spirit is a delightful addition to our community life."

Postulant Erma will spend her postulancy at the Tucson monastery where she will be guided by Postulant Director Sister Lynn Marie D'Souza, OSB.

"Erma brings many gifts to our community. She plays the guitar and sings and has a generous and loving heart," Vocation Director Ruth Elaine Starman, OSB said. "Living in the American Southwest will certainly be a switch from experiencing the cold and snowy winters of Toronto."

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