



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2010

### Benedictine Sister Mary Dolores celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee

**TUCSON, Ariz.** - In April, Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Mary Dolores Dowling, OSB celebrated 60 years of professed monastic life during a quiet celebration with her Tucson community.

“Over the last 60 years I have seen our community tackle problems of change and grow together,” Sister Mary Dolores said. “I have seen us emerge from a European form of monasticism to a more American style, which includes praying in our own language rather than Latin and having more time for personal prayer.”

A native of Ontario, Canada, Sister Mary Dolores felt a call to religious life while in high school.

“We lived only a block from our church, so we attended Mass daily,” she said. However, she decided to start college before actively discerning the call. While attending Ottawa University, she began inquiring about different monastic orders.

“I knew I wanted a contemplative life,” she said. “I wrote to groups in Maryland and New York and also to the Benedictine Sisters in Clyde. Looking back, it was a case of ‘You did not choose me, but I chose you.’”

Graduating with a degree in English and philosophy, she entered the Benedictine Sisters on the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 3, 1948. She made her first monastic profession on April 13, 1950. Her first assignment turned out to be a long one, as a member of the editorial staff of the Congregation’s magazine. In the ensuing years, she was twice elected to serve on the Sisters’ General Council and was prioress of the San Diego and Tucson communities. She also earned a master’s degree in theological studies and wrote “In Your Midst,” a history of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration’s founding and growth in America. Now she is at home in Tucson, selecting the Scripture readings for Lauds and readings for Vespers.

“Among my fondest memories are my brother’s first Mass at our monastery in Clyde, bird watching in the spring, hermit days on the beach at our San Diego monastery and gatherings on the patio porch here in Tucson for community holidays,” she said.



**Sister Mary Dolores**

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