



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
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News Release

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Sister shares craft before heading to national soap conference

CLYDE, Mo.— Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Cathleen Marie Timberlake, OSB was a guest of the monks at Christ in the Desert Monastery in Abiquiu, N.M., before heading to a national soap conference in May.

Christ in the Desert was founded in 1964 and has followed the Benedictine life with no external apostolates but maintains a guesthouse for private retreats where men and women can share the Divine Office and Mass in the Abbey Church with the monks. A gift shop is also part of the monastery's income, which includes a mail-order department of books and other religious items.

The monks asked Sister Cathleen Marie if she would teach them the soap-making process so they could add it to their revenue-generating works.

“The brothers, along with Rosey Verdile who heads up their craft-making efforts, were great students,” Sister Cathleen Marie said. “It was an honor to get to immerse myself in their life of liturgical prayer outside of our class times.”

Afterward, she traveled to Indian Wells, Calif., for the 11th annual Handcrafted Soapmakers conference. Topics included good manufacturing practices and cosmetic regulations, profit margin killers and trademarking.

“It is a marvelous opportunity for networking among other soapmakers who have honed their skills through years of experience,” Sister Cathleen Marie said. “This was the first time I had attended the conference as a member of the board of directors, so that added a wonderful new dimension for me.”



Benedictine Sister Cathleen Marie Timberlake (far right) enjoyed sharing her knowledge of handcrafted soapmaking with members of Christ in the Desert monastery.

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