

What's Happening At the Monastery

Summer Newsletter, 2009

Icon Seminar

Deacon Charles Rohrbacher facilitated a seminar on March 7th at our monastery on the use of icons as an instrument of prayer. The day-long seminar was held in the chapel, closing with the Eucharistic Liturgy concelebrated by Bishop Michael Warfel and Father Dennis Homes, and assisted by Deacon Rohrbacher. Those who attended found the time both prayerful and informative.

Servant Leadership Workshop

Sister Joanne Brazinski, OSF came from Pittsburgh in March to give a workshop for the Poor Clares here and from Spokane on Servant Leadership. The days were filled with Sister Joanne's excellent input and opportunities for reflection and group sharing, as well as the joy of sharing our home with our Spokane sisters.

Thank You, Thank You!

The PCCW of St Joseph parish in Great Falls sponsored a soup and bread meal in the parish hall after Mass on Saturday, March 21st. The proceeds from this and collections after the Mass were given to us to help defray our building debt. A few weeks later the women of St. Luke parish helped us in the same way. We are so grateful to those who sponsored the events and to all who



Celebrate with Us!

September 30, 2009 will mark the tenth anniversary of the arrival of the Poor Clares in Great Falls. Bishop Anthony Milone had invited us to establish a new monastery here in the diocese of Great Falls-Billings. To celebrate these ten years that have flown by, Bishop Michael Warfel will preside at an outdoor Mass at the monastery on **Saturday, August 22nd** at 12:00 noon. There will be a picnic following the Mass, and **all are invited.** See page 2 for details!



On August 11th, we will celebrate the feast of St. Clare of Assisi. Bishop Michael Warfel will be the celebrant for the Mass at 7:00 p.m. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Franciscan Family

A new fraternity of Secular Franciscans is being created in Great Falls! Under the sponsorship of San Damiano Fraternity in Billings, eleven people are coming together at the monastery once a month to study the Franciscan way of life in preparation for becoming professed members of the Secular Franciscan Order.

How good it was to have Father Tom Hartle OFM, spiritual assistant for Poor Clares in the Holy Name Federation, with us from May 8th until the 12th! Having visited here ten years ago during the preparation for our foundation, he enjoyed seeing and hearing about all that has happened since then. It was a pleasure to have our brother here, and we were sorry to see him leave.

PRAYING WITH AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD....

Our Mission Statement:

We, the Poor Clares of Montana, daughters of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi, are called to live the Holy Gospel in the contemporary Church. We are dedicated to a life of contemplative prayer in an enclosed community, dependent on God's providence, providing a place where all are welcome to experience God's presence and peace.

You are all part of our mission as you share your resources with our community. Your support enables us to serve the whole Church through our life of prayer. At the same time, as St. Paul says, "You will be enriched in every way by your great generosity...." (2Cor.9:11)

The monastery building provides a setting for sharing our life of prayer with the People of God. Here all are welcome to pray with us in the chapel to find spiritual nourishment and peace. We have retreat accommodations for individuals who desire time and space for quiet and prayer. We also have meeting rooms that are available for Church-related groups.

Counting Our Blessings

Volunteers are such a blessing! A group of people is already forming to help make our 10th anniversary celebration a great success. We are grateful for the enthusiasm, the generosity, and the energy of those who have already volunteered, and we hope that their enthusiasm will be contagious. If you would like to participate in the planning or help on August 22nd, call us at 453-7891.



Come and join the fun of preparing for our celebration, as well as the day itself!

We are pleased to have regular guests for Evening Prayer at 5:15 each day. Evening Prayer is one of the two most important parts of the Liturgy of the Hours, the other being Morning Prayer, which is at 7:00 a.m. This prayer of the Church is prayed by religious and priests as well as lay people. All are invited and are always welcome to join us for these and other times of prayer. Call for information if you are interested.

Now that warm weather has come to stay for awhile (we hope!), we've been planting vegetables and flowers in our small gardens. Somehow the excitement of watching new growth and fruitfulness never grows old, and we love to watch the changes each day. Some people have shared plants from their own gardens, and another, with a gift card, made it possible to buy some gardening plants and materials we would otherwise not have had. May God bless you for enhancing our summer days



The Knights of Columbus invited us to their annual State Convention in Hamilton, Montana this past April. It was a pleasure to join these fine men and their wives, who have been supportive of our life of prayer since our arrival in Montana. We are ever grateful for their support and encouragement, which are evident as we share with them our experience of making a new foundation among them.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD....