



L.) The first butterfly born gave our senior Novice, Sr. Rebecca, some Monarch affection by landing on her glasses and delicately holding on to her eyebrow. R.) Sr. M. Caridad takes interest in the baby of the family, Benjamin. Sister was afraid to touch and would only grin and point at our lovely guest. Below our novices, Sr. Lisa and Sr. Rebecca, were surprised with “twin butterflies” born on the same day and took delight in showing them off.



After diligently performing her duties at Mount Grace, SR. MARY THERESE gifted with a true missionary spirit, was ready to pack her bags and travel over the ocean blue to the Philippines. After prayerful consideration, she realized that the needs of the Congregation rested more in her home country. Sister has been blessed with a zealous nature and she put her heart and soul into the position of being music/liturgy directress. Sister is always ready to lend a helping hand and willingly prepared for the long journey to Davao in the beginning of June. Our grateful and loving prayers accompanied Sister who left us with many hearty memories.

*Wishing you blessings during this Holy Season
and into the coming New Year.*

May you receive the PEACE Christ came to give.

“...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

(Isaiah 9:6)

OUR NOVITIATE took on a bit of extra responsibility by raising 12 Monarch butterflies this summer. This proved to be an analogy of spiritual growth for us all. Sr. Rebecca makes her first vows in November and delighted in meditating on one of God’s many wonders of nature.

Monarch—the Miracle Butterfly

Could it be a reflection of our Spiritual Journey???

The Spiritual dimension of the four life-style stages of the Monarch could metaphorically represent our own striving to grow in holiness. First, the egg stage represents the beginning of all life. Second, the larva stage corresponds to our earthly life—the caterpillar sheds 4 skins as it develops, just as we grow from infant to adulthood shedding our childish ways as we mature. Third, the caterpillar discards its fourth skin in 48 seconds and enters the chrysalis stage—now totally blind; the caterpillar’s internal parts perish and turn to green liquid inside the chrysalis, only the heart remains in its crown. This represents the tomb of the believer...only our souls remain and are purified until our purification is complete. The caterpillar emerges into a beautiful butterfly with compound eyes that can see creation in every color of the rainbow and we take on a glorious body—“we were sown in corruption and now we are raised to incorruption.”



**As Christmas comes,
soft and still,
May the Spirit of Peace
gently fill
Your heart and home
with Love and Goodwill.**

*You and yours will be gratefully
remembered in our
Advent and Christmas Liturgies
December 16 to 24
and December 26 to January 3
and in our Eucharistic Celebrations
on Christmas Day.*

*In the love of the Holy Infant,
Sr. Mary Gemma & Sisters*

**Mount Grace
Newsletter**

*May to October 2004
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**Pope John Paul II
on the Feast of Corpus Christi
announced a Year dedicated to the
EUCHARIST**

It began in October, 2004 and will close in October, 2005. The beginning of this hallowed year coincides with the opening of the International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. This year will be an introduction to the Synod of Bishops next October in Rome. The subject of this special assembly is “Eucharist, Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church.” The Sisters invite you to pray with them for the Holy Father and all his Bishops, that this synodic gathering will be effective in signaling to the people of the Church the significance of this Sacrament in the life of Catholics around the world and the need to address any and all abuses of the Eucharist. Two Biblical themes the Pope deems important are—*memorial* and *covenant*.



A FEAST DAY FESTIVAL OF FAVORS: On May 14 we enjoyed some fun with our Superior, Sr. Mary Gemma. On May 22 was her Golden Jubilee and we were delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate both events. Sr. Mary Christina lent her motorized chair to our talented maintenance man, Patrick. He did a splendid job customizing the chair to resemble the "Pope Mobile." The Sisters spruced it up with signs, lights and beads. The Golden "Gemma Mobile" was a grand surprise for our Superior and a big hit with our Community—learning to drive it was another feat and fun too. This was a grace-laden day filled with much joyful thanksgiving to the Lord.



The Golden Jubilee Mass—Archbishop Burke presiding with 14 priests in attendance. To a full Chapel, the Archbishop preached an enriching homily on our Contemplative Life.



*50 years of
Consecrated Life
served faithfully,
lovingly and
gratefully*

"As you renew in your hearts your act of profession, recall to mind that interior inspiration of the Spirit which originally led you to set out on this way to God. Recall the circumstances of this inspiration, how it became more and more insistent, possibly returning after a time, until you could not fail to recognize in it the voice of God, the force of love with which the Lord calls a person to belong to Him undividedly. Recall this to mind, in order to thank God with a new heart and to proclaim His mighty works. That inspiration of the Spirit cannot die out. It is destined to endure and, together with your religious vocation, to become more mature through your entire life." (Pope John Paul II)

*"Secundum
Cor
Tuum"*

*("... According to Your Heart." Ez. 34)
Archbishop Raymond Burke's motto*



Our good Archbishop Raymond L. Burke opened our June Novena dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Archbishop commissioned the above icon of the Divine Heart and made it available to those in the Archdiocese. It is his wish to promote consecration to the Sacred Heart and to encourage enthronement of this image. This reveals his ardent desire to surrender himself to Jesus the Lord of his life. Our Solemn Novena was exceptionally well attended this year. Each evening our participating celebrants enhanced the devotion to the resplendent Heart of Christ with their unique gifts of preaching and a spirit of loving reverence for the Eucharist. We ask God's blessing throughout this year on all those who participated in any way and all your petitions are kept in prayerful remembrance.

TRANSITION is affecting our Churches across the United States. The demands upon the Cardinals, Bishops, Clergy and Laity are remarkable in scope. Mount Grace has been receiving prayer requests from priests and parishioners asking for guidance and grace to accept the changes that come about through Parish mergers and closings. We are sure the other contemplative Communities are likewise getting requests. One lady, whose parish has already merged with three others, shared that she was resistant at first but decided to take on a more positive attitude. Everything became more pleasing and the new parish family is bonding in a special way because of the hardships they embraced together—patient endurance. This year dedicated to the Eucharist is "close to the heart" of our Congregation. Now is the perfect time for all of us to try and offer ourselves on the altar and to become the very Person we receive—at each Mass we are transformed bit by bit into Jesus. Eventually we will begin to think, pray, hope and love as He does—we can be transfigured into Christ. Let us pray for one another and support each other during this time of alteration. The Lord will bless us abundantly for meeting this challenge and showing "good will" to ALL.

REV. LAWRENCE HERZOG one of our dedicated Archdiocesan priests is on the faculty of DuBourg High School and a part-time Assoc. Pastor in St. Roch Parish. Father has been attending our Sunday evening Vesper Service for many years. He also has a talent for playing the organ. Father Herzog had musically accompanied this service several times. Recently we have made arrangements with Father to participate in Sunday Vespers by playing the organ in our Chapel and this is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. We truly appreciate his musical gift. WELCOME AND GOD BLESS YOU, FATHER, for sharing your time and talent with our Community and visitors who come to Mount Grace Chapel to adore our Eucharistic Lord.

