

*My portion is the Lord, says my soul,
therefore I will hope in Him.*

We experienced more fully the Paschal mystery of death and resurrection this Lenten season with the loss of two of our Sisters. **Sister Mary Martina**, in her 100th year of life, passed away on March 10. Sister was part of the living history of our Congregation, as she was our oldest member and she had known our Co-foundress Mother Mary Michael. She had a sharp memory and was a storehouse of information on many subjects. Sister Mary Martina entered our Motherhouse in Steyl, Holland, and made her first vows three years later in 1927. In 1928, she was sent on her mission assignment to the US. The original plan was that she should be a pioneer in the new foundation at St. Louis, but she made a "detour" to our convent in Philadelphia and spent the next sixteen years there. She has been at Mount Grace since 1944, working in the laundry and ironing room. She was active and involved in the community up until the last year of her life, when spreading cancer forced her to remain in bed. After a lifetime of faithful service, her Spouse of 79 years called her home to her eternal reward. **Sister Mary Theophila** heard the call of her Divine Bridegroom two days later on March 12. Her wake was held March 15th, her 98th birthday. Sister, a native of



Sister Mary Martina in 2002, celebrating the 75th Jubilee of her religious vows.

St. Louis, entered the convent in 1930 and has served at all four of our convents in the US. She was also appointed novice directress in our convent in Baguio, the Philippines. While she was there, World War II broke out and because of her American citizenship she was interned in a Japanese concentration camp for nine months. After the war she returned to the US and has been a member of our community since 1989. Bedridden for the last years of her life, she always had a sweet smile for those who came to visit her. Seventy-three years after her religious profession, she is now contemplating her Beloved face-to-face. Even as we mourn their passing, we celebrate the life and the witness of our two Sisters and we can rejoice in the knowledge that the God whom they served so faithfully is never outdone in generosity. "Well done, my good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord!"



Sister Mary Theophila at our convent in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Could you not

Our Legion of 1000 Adorers celebrated its 48th anniversary on March 4th with a Mass presided over by the Legion's spiritual director, Fr. Edward Rice. Legion members are "prayer partners" with the Pink Sisters and pledge to make one visit a week to the Blessed Sacrament



watch one hour?

in our chapel. We invite you to consider deepening your prayer life, sharing in all the blessings and graces of Eucharistic Adoration, by becoming a member of the Legion. In the peace and stillness afforded in our chapel, the Lord will speak to your heart. Come, let us adore Him!



"Choosing an enclosed space where they will live their lives, cloistered nuns share in Christ's emptying of himself by means of a radical poverty, expressed in their renunciation not only of things but of 'space,' of contacts, of so many benefits of creation. This particular way of offering up the 'body' allows them to enter more fully into the Eucharistic mystery. They offer themselves with Jesus for the world's salvation....The cloister brings to mind that space in the heart where every person is called to union with the Lord. Accepted as a gift and chosen as a free response of love, the cloister is the place of spiritual communion with God and with the brethren."

(Vita Consecrata)

Mount Grace Newsletter

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Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters
1438 E. Warne Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63107

"The Heart of Jesus our Redeemer is the symbol of his intimate union with the Father and his perfect surrender to the Father's saving will. From the fullness of this loving Heart we draw the richest graces of the Holy Spirit"
— from our Constitutions

Visit our Web Site:
www.mountgraceconvent.org



Father John (L) and Father Felix (R):
brother missionaries.

I will give you a shepherd...

Our beloved chaplain for the past five years, Father Felix Eckerman, SVD, was forced to resign his post at Mount Grace due to health reasons at the end of 2005. Father had been a missionary in central India for 50 years before answering the call to be our chaplain. Father is a lover of the Eucharist and was glad to have the chance to refresh his prayer life while serving us. He offered spiritual direction to many of the regular visitors to our chapel and made newcomers feel welcome with a friendly word. Father Felix will be greatly missed by all.

We were delighted when we received word that Father John Musinsky, SVD had offered to be our temporary chaplain until a replacement for Father Felix could be found. Father John was the Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word from 1967—1977 and then served in Nemi, Italy before returning to the US in 2003. We welcomed him to Mount Grace in January, and Father Felix spent a few days “showing him the ropes.” The two priests had studied together in the seminary, and it was heartwarming to witness their camaraderie. We wanted to take full advantage of Father John’s deep spirituality and appreciation for our contemplative lifestyle, and asked him to give classes on our founder St. Arnold and German lessons to our young Sisters. Some Sisters were also looking forward to a private-directed retreat at the end of March, but our Lord had other plans. He suddenly called Father John home

I am filled with joy as I enter the house of the Lord!

On November 3, 2005 Sister Maribel stepped across the cloister boundary and we processed into the chapel to pray for the newest member of our Mount Grace community. Her mother, sister, and pastor, who had traveled with her from North Carolina, watched from the other side of the grille as she recited a prayer and placed a candle in front of the crucifix by the altar. This moment was another step in answering the call to religious life that she had first felt during her last year of school at the University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry. Sister Maribel is a native of Puerto Rico and wanted to become a dentist in order to be of service to others and do missionary work. Because she was unable to find full-time work in Puerto Rico, she moved to North Carolina and began to work for the Public Health Department. Meanwhile, her attraction to religious life was growing stronger and becoming more focused toward contemplative life. Sister



St. Louis is not known for its snow, but it does get more than Puerto Rico or North Carolina! Here, Sister Maribel poses with her first snowman, “Jerome.”

Maribel found out about the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters on the internet and after visiting our convents in Philadelphia and St. Louis, she decided to enter. Sister spreads joy around her with her cheerful smile and enthusiasm as she is learning to make the adjustment to our cloistered lifestyle. Besides her classes on our contemplative-missionary charism, Church history, and other topics, Sister Maribel’s duties include helping out in the kitchen, sacristy, and correspondence room. She is also learning how to prepare flower arrangements for the chapel. She especially enjoys her time spent before our

Eucharistic Lord, helping to keep up our Perpetual Adoration. The next three years that Sister Maribel spends in continuing formation before making vows will be a further testing and discernment of God’s will for her life. We also pray for her, that she will continue to give a generous “yes” to the call of the Lord however he

Make a joyful noise!

The determined efforts of several volunteers are ensuring that soon the sound of the church bells that we received from the former St. Aloysius Parish in Spanish Lake will be heard from our Mount Grace Chapel. The generosity of our friends and benefactors has made it possible to raise the necessary funds to purchase the striking equipment. The two pillars between which the bells will be hung stand in our front courtyard behind the statue of Christ the King. In our next newsletter, we will include pictures of the installation and the blessing of the bells. We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all of you who have made the “Bells of Mount Grace” ring!

The “Bells of Mount Grace.” We plan to name them “Arnold” and “Michael,” after our Founder St. Arnold Janssen and Co-foundress Mother Mary Michael.



A time to tear down, a time to build

Our chaplain’s residence is nearly 100 years old, and is showing signs of its age. Our next project will be to tear down the old and build Father a new house. Having a safe and well-built home for our chaplain makes the hassles and inconvenience of the construction worth it, and we trust in God to bring this endeavor to completion!

to himself on March 2, the day after Ash Wednesday. To know Father John was to love him, and we were shocked and saddened at the loss of this holy man. However, we rejoice at the goodness of God, who allowed Father John to fulfill his desire to spend his last days in a place where he could devote himself to prayer and the service of others. In the short two months that we were graced with his presence, he left a lasting impression on us. May he rest in peace!

Father John did not leave us orphans, as on the same day of his death we received news that a permanent chaplain had been found for us: Father Dennis Logue, SVD. Father is currently serving in West Virginia and we look forward to his arrival at Mount Grace in late May. In the meantime, generous SVD’s in St. Louis and priests from the Archdiocese see to our spiritual needs.