



Sister Mary Gemma inspecting the construction site.

The Work Goes On

When people first hear about the “Pink Sisters,” they are often mystified. Women who spend their entire lives hidden behind the walls of a cloister? We frequently hear the question: “Sister, what do you DO all day?” Many are surprised to find out that our schedule is very busy and our life is very fulfilling. Our lives are centered around Eucharistic Adoration, and we gather together as a community seven times a day for liturgical prayer. The time not spent in public or private prayer is used for our various work duties, from cooking meals and cleaning to answering

correspondence to weeding the garden. We also make sure to balance the intensity of our lifestyle with time for recreation and fun. Our spirituality teaches us, however, not to separate our lives in to “prayer,” “work,” “recreation,” but to allow all things to flow together harmoniously into one whole—one continuous act of praise of the Triune God. The late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, reminds us: “Prayer and work must never be separated. If we go before God every day to reflect on our work and commend it to him, work itself will finally turn into prayer.” We also learn from our Constitutions that “our contemplative life in its entirety, as it becomes one with the love and surrender of our Eucharistic Lord, is in itself intercession—fruitful for the Church and the world—and that not only express petitions have intercessory character.” The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters have been offering their lives in intercession for the needs of all from our convent in North St. Louis since 1928. Relying on God’s grace and your support, we hope to continue far into the future. Our new building is a sign of our commitment and our confidence. As we still need to raise \$2 million to finish the construction and furnish the building, we appreciate your help in our work!

Question: Will YOU Be There?



“THINK PINK (SISTERS)” TRIVIA NIGHT SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2008

DOORS OPEN: 6:00pm TRIVIA BEGINS: 7:00pm PRIZES FOR WINNERS!
Master of Ceremonies: JOHNNY RABBITT of WIL AM1430 & CHANNEL 5
CARPENTER’S HALL—1401 HAMPTON AVE
(between HIGHWAY 40 & I-44 in SOUTHWEST ST. LOUIS—free, lighted, secure parking)
Light snacks, drinks provided: please bring your own food

Get together your team of TEN or we’ll be happy to put you in a group. **Cost: \$20/person**

To register, stop by the convent or call (314)381-0167* Monday-Saturday 9:00am to 4:00pm
*please note: this phone number is for TRIVIA NIGHT ONLY. For card orders or prayer requests, please call (314)381-5686

A FUND RAISER FOR OUR BUILDING PROJECT

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary
of the death of



St. Joseph Freinademetz First SVD Missionary to China

January 29, 2008

“The Lord has taken from us this second founder of the mission, this kind and holy soul that served so well, generously and unforgettably, the people of South Shantung. Hence we may hope that a heavenly crown was prepared and that the Lord called him in order to grant his faithful servant a well deserved rest and a choice place in his noble kingdom. The more zealously, selflessly, and self-sacrificingly he labored, the happier he will be now, but also be active for us as intercessor at the heavenly throne.”

—Our Founder, St. Arnold Janssen, speaking of St. Joseph’s death



Mount Grace Newsletter

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

www.mountgraceconvent.org

May to October 2007

You and your loved ones 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 Infant Christ,
Sister Mary Gemma and all the Sisters



“Our work is of infinite importance. It concerns our life’s happiness, our life’s task, our eternity; indeed, the eternity of countless souls who are to be saved though our efforts.”

—St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD



Slowly but Surely...Up it Goes!



We have been fervently praying to St. Joseph for his protection over our building project as it has slowly materialized during the past months. The Foster Father of Jesus has been a faithful guardian for us. The greatest mishap we had was during a summer storm when the roof of the new building was not yet in place. Our Correspondence Room flooded where water leaked under the door to the new wing. Even here St. Joseph was watching—the water came right up to the very edge of our computer equipment, but did not damage anything! We will have the honor of the presence of Archbishop Raymond Burke for the blessing of our new wing in March, in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our Legion of 1000 Adorers.



Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth Archbishop of Kisumu, Kenya

honored us with a visit on August 25. We enjoyed listening to his vocation story and details about the Church in East Africa. The Archbishop was glad to hear about our convent in Togo, West Africa. Together, we pray for the “young” African Church, which is still developing and holds great promise for the future.

Jubilee Celebration

Our Sister Mary Gertrud marked the fiftieth anniversary of her religious profession on May 21. This milestone of so many years of faithful service was celebrated quietly by the Community, according to Sister’s wishes. We offered our usual 7:00 a.m. Mass in her honor, and gave her our congratulations afterward in the dining room. Our day of relaxation and joy was a fitting tribute to our Sister, who always goes quietly about her duties with little fuss. Sister Mary Gertrud entered the cloister at the Convent of the Blessed Trinity in Bad Driburg, Germany in 1954. She made her first vows at our Motherhouse in Steyl, Holland in 1957 and shortly after received her appointment to come to St. Louis. She made the trip, by ocean steamer and by train, knowing very little English. She has been here ever since, except for a few years when she returned to Europe. Sister Mary Gertrud has worked in the kitchen and in our former host baking department. She has held the job of sacristan for many decades, providing for the priests who celebrate Mass for us and keeping the sacristy and sanctuary sparkling clean. After a recent fall and several broken bones, Sister is now slowing down a bit. She trained our novices well and the Liturgy still runs smoothly during her recovery time. The work of a sacristan is very contemplative, always in close contact with sacred things. Sister Mary Gertrud’s fifty years of vowed life are a testament of the nearness of her heart to her Beloved. Surely she merits to hear the words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord!”



Willkommen! Witamy! Welcome!

Sister Mary Brygida
(below) and Sister
Maria Virgo (right).



The cloister hallways became a little brighter this summer as we welcomed two visitors into our midst. They came from Europe for a chance to improve their English-speaking skills and to learn from our novice directress about teaching new candidates our way of life. **Sister Maria Virgo** is German but is stationed at our Motherhouse in Steyl, Holland. Her lively personality made her a great joy to have around, and she pitched in with enthusiasm whenever there was work to be done. Her three-month stay seemed altogether too short. **Sister Mary Brygida** made the journey from our convent in Nyssa, Poland and stayed for six months. A bit shy and shaky with her English at first, she was soon lecturing at Mass and participating in the Divine Office both by helping to lead singing and by composing her own intercessions for Morning Prayer. She taught the novitiate how to say our Quarter-Hour Prayer in Polish and delighted the community by cooking some Polish meals. We were sorry to see our Sisters go, but it is a consolation to know that we remain united in prayer and in our common mission of service to the Triune God.