

“If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labor”



The construction is under way...our chaplain, Fr. Dennis, has cheerfully moved into the convent guest room as he awaits the completion of his new living quarters. The Sisters are beginning to prepare for the International Superiors Assembly, scheduled to take place at Mount Grace in the fall of 2008, and the added space created by the expansion is a necessity. Those planning to come for the Sacred Heart Novena in 2008, during which we will celebrate the 80th anniversary of our convent and chapel, will be glad to have the off-street parking.

When we sent out our letter in February announcing our building project and asking for help, we were literally overwhelmed by the response we received. From those who gave their “widow’s mite” to those who were able to give more, we were touched by the generosity of all. So far we have raised nearly one-fourth of the money we need. Along with the money came many notes telling us how our convent in north St. Louis has impacted lives. Some had parents or grandparents who helped build or furnish the chapel or garden. Some have gotten engaged while making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament here. We received a letter from a woman who had grown up on East Warne Avenue and was 14 years old when Mount Grace was built in 1928. She came every day to the chapel to pray that she would marry the right man. She and her husband had 70 happy years together, raised four children, and now she has 21 great-grandchildren. Our life of prayer and sacrifice is a hidden one, and we do not often see tangible results. In a world that emphasizes productivity and measurable success, we spend our lives in quiet prayer for all in need. We are content to wait for the next life to receive our reward, but the mail that flooded in was an edifying experience for us. It reinforced the idea that we are all connected and interdependent, relying on each other to help make the world a better place. Our generous benefactors have a special place in our prayers, and we know we can rely on your continued support.

Mark your calendars!

We will hold our first ever **Think Pink Trivia Spectacular** on Saturday April 12, 2008 and you are invited to attend this fun night out. Our guest master of ceremonies for the evening will be Johnny Rabbitt of WIL AM1430 and Channel 5’s “Show Me St. Louis.” The money raised from this evening will assist in the completion of the new addition to Mount Grace Convent. More information will follow at a later date as we work out the details.



*Divine and eternal Word,
reveal to us
more and more
the marvels of
your Sacred Heart,
so that inflamed
by your love,
we may be witnesses
to the world of how greatly
God has loved it.*

—from our Vademecum

Mount Grace Newsletter

November 2006-
April 2007

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

*“May the
Heart of Jesus
live in every
heart.”*

—St. Arnold Janssen, SVD
Our Founder

Visit our Web Site:
www.mountgraceconvent.org



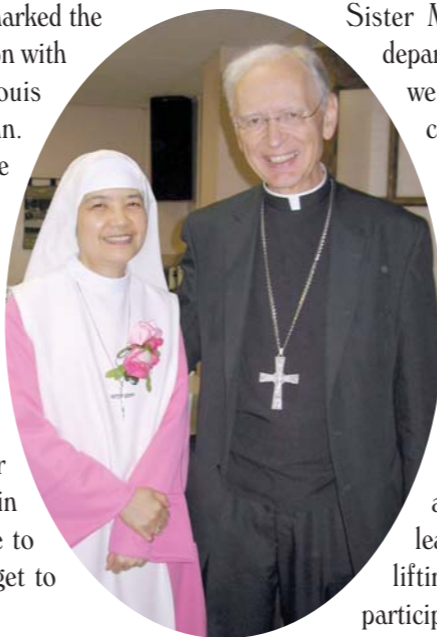
Raising
funds,
having
fun

Our "Pink Sisters Sweatshirts and T-shirts" have proved to be a very popular way to help raise money for our building project! So popular, in fact, that we are regretfully unable to take phone orders any longer so that we can keep our phone lines available for those with prayer requests or wishing to order Mass enrollment cards. Sweatshirts and T-shirts are available for purchase at the convent Monday-Saturday during regular business hours. You may also request an order form by FAX (314-318-6756) or by MAIL (Mount Grace Convent, PO Box 470219, St. Louis MO 63147).

"I find my joy in the Lord"

On November 11, Sister Mary Feliz marked the silver jubilee of her religious profession with a Mass presided over by St. Louis Auxiliary Bishop Robert Hermann. Seven other priests concelebrated at the Mass as we gave thanks to God for the blessings he has showered on her over the past 25 years. Afterwards, we enjoyed a festive dinner together and then Sister Mary Feliz greeted her visitors in the Marian Hall. Some of Sister's family made the journey from other states and Canada to join her for the joyous occasion. Her mother, twin sister, and other siblings were unable to come from the Philippines, but did get to enjoy pictures of the event.

Sister Mary Feliz was born in Cebu, in the Philippines, and entered our convent there. In 1981 she pronounced her first vows as a Holy Spirit Adoration Sister. After making her perpetual commitment to the Lord with final vows in 1987, she followed his call and accepted a transfer to Mount Grace. She has also spent a few years at the Convent of Divine Love in Philadelphia.



Sister Mary Feliz is in charge of our card department and processes the many requests we receive each day for Mass enrollment cards. In addition, she serves part-time as a portress. She can usually be found with a craft project in the works and has crocheted many beautiful afghans. The card department is well-decorated at Christmas time thanks to her handiwork.

One of the privileges and duties of being a Holy Spirit Adoration Sister is the daily singing of the Divine Office, and Sister Mary Feliz is one of the leaders in our choir. Twenty-five years of lifting heart and voice to God, along with participating in our perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, has been the way Sister Mary Feliz has served the Church through fidelity to her vocation. The One who called her to be his spouse is also faithful, and grants in abundance every necessary grace. We rejoice with our Sister for the goodness of the Lord in the past, and trust he will watch over her future as well!

We have entrusted our building project to the patronage and protection of St. Joseph, foster father of our Savior. We pray as a community daily to him following the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and we are sure he is watching over it and us. As plans for our expansion materialized, everything just fell into place. Difficulties have been overcome, and as problems arise they are solved with surprising ease. We trust that he will insure the project's eventual success. We plan to build a meditation area in his honor for the use of visitors to Mount Grace. A statue of St. Joseph and the Christ Child has already been donated. Great St. Joseph, pray for us and care for us!

Let us
love as Joseph
loved
pray as Joseph
prayed
work as Joseph
worked
✦ ✦ ✦ ✦
Then we shall
always be near
and dear to
Jesus
and
Mary



2007
Legion Mass

2008 will bring the 50th anniversary of the Legion of 1000 Adorers. At this year's Eucharistic celebration, the Legion's spiritual director, Fr. Ed Rice, suggested that members prepare for the jubilee by introducing others to the practice of making regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

"Ice and snow, bless the Lord!"

The ice storm that ravaged the area in December affected us as well, knocking out our power for several days. Under the weight of the thick coat of ice that blanketed everything, tree branches came down and bushes were crushed. As we added extra layers of clothing and watched our battery supply dwindle, we still found reasons to give thanks to God. Friends and benefactors immediately thought of us, making sure we had everything we needed. Our workman battled snow and ice to set up a generator so that the Sisters would be able to have hot water. In the quiet darkness that resulted from the lack of electricity, we prayed for those who were suffering from the storm, those who were out on dangerous roads, and those who had no one to care for their needs. While on one hand the ice caused great devastation, on the other hand it was a source of great beauty. Our garden was transformed into a crystal palace, a breath-taking sight. The sun caused everything to shimmer and we marveled at how the bleak winter scene had been altered into something more magnificent than Solomon in all his glory. When the ice melted and the electricity was restored, we were grateful to be able to return to our regular schedule.

