



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION  
31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Missouri 64432-8100 Phone: 660/944-2221

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 31, 2008**

### **Benedictine Sisters elect Sister Ramona Varela as Tucson prioress**

**CLYDE, Mo.** - The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration have elected Sister Ramona Varela, OSB as their new prioress for the Tucson, Ariz., community.

Sister Ramona most recently served as the congregation's prioress general, and just completed her term of office in June. She succeeds Sister Lupita Barajas, OSB as the Tucson prioress and will serve a four-year term.

A Tempe, Ariz., native, Sister Ramona entered the Benedictine Sisters shortly after her high school graduation. She made her first monastic profession on Sept. 12, 1963, and has held several positions throughout the congregation.

She served part of a previous term as prioress in Tucson but was elected as prioress general of the congregation shortly after in 2002. During that time, she spearheaded a variety of projects, such as an expansion of the Benedictine Sisters' Web presence and e-commerce shopping site, development of a low-gluten altar bread, long-range strategic planning and exploration of renewable energy resources.

Sister Ramona is well-known for her musical compositions and expertise at the organ. Her musical background extends to the guitar, for which she has composed various songs. With her knowledge of the Spanish language and culture, she receives an enthusiastic welcome to the monastery in the Southwest.

The Tucson community is home to 22 of the almost 100 members of the Benedictine Sisters. The monastery offers several faith-based and non-secular opportunities for community members, including hosting retreats, youth groups and the Benedictine Oblates in addition to providing meeting areas for groups.

Sister Ramona was officially installed into office during a ceremony held July 31 at the sisters' Benedictine Monastery in Tucson. For more information, please contact Kelley Baldwin at [kelley@bspa.us](mailto:kelley@bspa.us) or (660) 944-2221.



**Sister Ramona Varela**

###

**Contact – Kelley Baldwin, Director of Communications**

Phone – 660/944-2221 ext. 180

Mobile – 660/562-7433

Fax – 660/944-2152

Find us on the Web at [www.BenedictineSisters.org](http://www.BenedictineSisters.org)