



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

Benedictine Monastery

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Benedictine Sisters' Tucson community celebrates jubilees

TUCSON, Ariz. – Two members of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration were honored March 29 at their Tucson monastery for the anniversaries of their monastic professions.

Benedictine Sister Reparata Hopp, OSB celebrated 60 years of monastic profession, and Sister Joy Ann Wege, OSB was honored for her golden jubilee.

“Our contemplative life has offered many opportunities for service,” Sister Reparata said. “There were several family members on hand, including siblings, nieces and nephews, so it was a day of special joy.”

As a child, Sister Reparata’s family moved often across the United States. The young girl loved reading and classical music and danced ballet. It was during her pre-teen years that she first felt the call to religious life.

“I fell in love with Jesus when I was in the sixth grade,” she said, “but I was not a Catholic so it took me seven more years to get to the point where I could become a nun.”

She joined the Catholic Church in 1943 and soon read an article about a young woman who had made her vows in a Benedictine community dedicated to perpetual adoration.

“That struck a chord in my heart. That was what I wanted to do – to pray,” she said. “I felt it was the best way I could serve the Church and the world in much the same way as the Little Flower (St. Therese of Lisieux).”

Sister Reparata wrote the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration about her interest but was told to wait a bit longer in order to make sure the new convert was indeed serious about her calling.



Sister Joy Ann Wege (left) and Sister Reparata Hopp were honored for the anniversary of their monastic professions during a ceremony in March at the Tucson monastery of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

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So she enrolled in a Catholic college, underwent further education about the faith and made wonderful friends who shared her enthusiasm for religious life.

Her time was well-spent and cemented her calling. She entered the Benedictine Sisters in 1946 and made her first monastic profession in 1948.

Through the years she spent time at the congregation's communities in Clyde, Mo., Mundelein, Ill., and Kansas City, Mo. She has been at home at the Tucson monastery since 1993 where she answers prayer requests for the correspondence department and manages the subscription listings for the congregation's magazine, *Spirit&Life*.

"Even before entering the Catholic Church I had a desire to serve God," Sister Reparata said. "I was drawn to the Blessed Sacrament – the Real Presence – and felt this was the type of life I would like, the secluded life of prayer and work."

A home of prayer centered around the Divine Office and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was like a guiding star that led Sister Joy Ann Wege to the Benedictine Sisters decades ago. In the years since, monastic life has evolved and changed but there remains one constant for her.

"It has sometimes been challenging, sometimes affirming but always, always a gift," she said after celebrating her golden jubilee.

The St. Louis native had been attending a local college and working as a secretary in an optometrist's office when she first heard God's call to religious life. Having always been attracted to a vocation, she learned of the Benedictine Sisters through a brochure and was drawn to their contemplative life of prayer.

"The Eucharist is the center of our lives and the source of the deep fidelity of God's loving presence among us," Sister Joy Ann said.

She entered in 1955 and made her first monastic profession on March 13, 1958. The Congregation sent her to nursing school in St. Louis, and she worked in the health care facility for 17 years. Today she is at home in Tucson, serving as nurse to her fellow sisters and making liturgical vestments, one of the many important works offered by the Benedictine Sisters.

"To make the robes, altar cloths and other items of worship is a beautiful service to the Church," she said.

Unlike the rural setting of the sisters' motherhouse in Missouri, the Tucson community is amid the hustle of an urban city. Its location allows people opportunities to pray with the sisters. Also earning Sister Joy Ann's gratitude are the many sisters who have touched her life over the years.

"This is a beautiful way of life, if God calls you," she said. "It is full of such dedicated, loving people who are a joy to be with, to live with, to pray with and to share with."

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