



## News Release

October 8, 2007

### **Benedictine Sister found ‘everything’ she ever wanted**

**CLYDE, Mo.** - One innocent question changed her life forever.

On New Year’s Eve a priest asked her how she planned to spend the evening. She responded, “Right here, Father. Everything I want is right there on the altar.”

Fifty years later, Sister Mary Monica Sanders, OSB celebrated her Golden Jubilee of professed life and reflected on the priest’s query into her party plans that night so long ago.

Up to that point, Sister Monica had no calling to religious life. Her sister had entered a teaching order, but that did not appeal to the young woman who had never liked school.

So when she graduated high school she moved from her small Wisconsin town to the brighter lights of Milwaukee to work in a war plant, the only place the employment office would send her. It was World War II and America needed all the help she could get. When the war ended, Sister Monica found a job working second shift at a printery house.

“Many people didn’t like working those hours, but I liked it because it meant I could attend mass every morning,” she said.

Maybe that was a clue, fostered by her mother’s devotion to the Eucharist and an increased attendance at the cathedral two blocks from her home, that may have told her where her life was headed.

“The priest never talked about religious life with me until I made that comment about the Blessed Sacrament being all I needed,” Sister Monica said.

The priest sent her to visit a couple of local orders, neither of which appealed to her. Then, recalling a group he’d heard about during his university days, he wrote to them for information on Sister Monica’s behalf.

“They sent me a book about the exposition,” she said. “It was the beginning of the rest of my life.” The community that had spoken to her from the pages of a book was the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

<MORE>



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She professed on Oct. 5, 1957. As the years went by, she found herself at Osage+Monastery, the “little place in the woods.” She spent her days in prayer, walking through the 40 acres of timber outside Sand Springs, Okla. Her pathways eventually became the many trails people still walk today.

“That place changed me,” she said. “People asked me how it did that, and I could never put it into words. There was something in the silence that reached out and spoke to me.”

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