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Benedictine Sister honored for life-saving gesture

MARYVILLE, Mo. – Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Wilmarie Ehrhardt, OSB has been honored by the Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City for her devotion to donating the gift of life.

Last week during an awards ceremony, she was honored for reaching the 20 gallon-mark and was inducted into the Century Society for those who have made more than 100 blood donations (photo on right).

In addition to Sister Wilmarie's accomplishments, several other local groups were also honored. They included West Nodaway High School FFA (Achievement Award), the Maryville (Mo.) community (Outstanding Community) and Northwest Missouri State University (Largest Blood Drive).

"As a member of a contemplative, monastic community, many social and civic opportunities are not available to me," Sister Wilmarie said. "However, donating blood is an activity that expands my prayer into a do-able action for my fellow citizens, shows awareness of the wider local community, helps assure a safe blood supply for patients in need, takes very little time and for me is a civic responsibility. I thank all of my past and present prioresses who gave the permission to donate regularly. I also thank God for the health and ability to continue."

Sister Wilmarie is delighted that so many in the Maryville and Nodaway County communities are also committed to this life-saving gesture, including fellow Benedictine Sisters, students and residents.

"I would encourage any of us who are in good health to consider and re-consider donating blood," she said.

To learn more about donating blood, please visit the Community Blood Center at http://www.savealifenow.org/.

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