



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Missouri 64432-8100 Phone: 660/944-2221

Find us on the Web at www.BenedictineSisters.org

Facebook (Fan and Group pages) & Twitter @BenedictineSis

News Release

Dec. 15, 2009

Benedictine Sister Elizabeth Mary Meyer passes

CLYDE, Mo.— Sister Elizabeth Mary Meyer, OSB, 91, entered into eternal life on Dec. 5, 2009, at Our Lady of Rickenbach in Clyde, Mo., immediately after receiving the Sacrament of Anointing.

She was born the fourth of seven children on Oct. 26, 1918, in Carlyle, Ill., to Henry Bernard Meyer and Catherine Mary Seiffert Meyer. She enjoyed the years growing up on her family's small farm, aware of God's presence in all things such as a stroll through the woods, a rainbow and the beauty of the wildflowers.

Betty, as she was called, enjoyed school, piano lessons and baby-sitting. She helped her mother care for the lawn, flower beds and bushes that decorated the home and learned fine stitching, embroidery and quilting. After high school, Betty became a nurse's aid at St. Mary's hospital in East St. Louis.

"Going to church for Mass and other devotions was the highlight of that time," she said. "I received divine energy from my faith, which made my life a joy and allowed me to see beauty all around me."

She heard the call to religious life when she was just 7 years old and recalled hearing God's voice around the table during the family meals and when she was alone. When she was older she looked at communities ranging from the Carmelites to foreign missions to nursing ministries. She regretted not being able to be a priest and felt that prayer for priests was a personal mission. She even considered the possibility of founding a new religious community with a cousin who was in the seminary at the time. The cousin left the seminary, and the idea for new community left as well.

It was through her sister (who had become Sister Mary Anselma Meyer) that she learned more about the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and their contemplative life.



<MORE>

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

Facebook (Fan and Group pages) & Twitter @BenedictineSis

She entered on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1939, and made her first profession of monastic vows on Feb. 8, 1941. She received the name Sister Mary Dymphna, but when Sisters were allowed to return to their baptismal names after Vatican II, she chose to return to Elizabeth Mary because Elizabeth meant "House of God."

In 1943, Sister Elizabeth Mary was one of the founding pioneers of the Sisters' Kansas City, Mo., monastery. She felt it was the answer to God's inspiration to be part of founding a new religious community. She returned to Clyde to prepare for her final profession of monastic vows, which she made on the Feast of St. Scholastica on Feb. 10, 1946. She returned to Kansas City and worked in the altar bread department and as an assistant in the sacristy.

In the ensuing years, she lived at the monastery in Mundelein, Ill., where she worked with many of the seminarians from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, fulfilling a lifelong dedication to praying for seminarians and for priests. In 1954, she was chosen to be a pioneer for the Sisters' new community in San Diego.

"It was my joy and delight to be one of the two who carried the living flame of the Clyde sanctuary light to San Diego," she said. "Only God knows what this tremendous experience meant in my life as an adorer of the Eucharist."

When the Sisters closed the Mundelein community, Sister Elizabeth Mary recalled, "This was truly a deep pain, a stretching, a letting go of our monastery where we found a deep, spiritual relationship and a spiritual, liturgical sharing with the priests and seminarians. For me, this letting go led me to enter more deeply into the awareness of God's obedient love." She would also spend time in the Sisters' St. Louis community.

Besides her years of work in the printery, altar bread department, sacristy and sewing room, Sister Elizabeth Mary served many years as portress, serving every guest as Christ. Serving as a Eucharistic minister was also one of her greatest joys, filling another of her desires for priesthood.

Of the changes in her life, Sister Elizabeth Mary said, "In all the transfers during my religious life I experienced a 'new beginning' even though it wasn't easy packing and moving away from the little monastic family I had come to know and love. Yet, I felt God was working in so many wonderful ways through these changes."

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Joe Meyer, Robert Meyer and Paul Meyer; and a sister-in-law, Dolores Meyer. Survivors include her monastic family; a brother, Fritz Meyer; three sisters-in-law, Marie Meyer, Guillermina Meyer and Mary Ann Meyer; and a niece, Rita Meyer.

###