



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woman takes next step to monastic life with Benedictine Sisters

CLYDE, Mo. - "I am going to be a nun when I grow up."

Mary Hastie wrote those words in her journal when she was barely a teenager. It may come as even more of a surprise since she was neither Catholic nor had ever met a nun.

Raised on a farm as the oldest of three children, Mary often attended services at a Protestant church and always had a hunger for Christianity.

When she was 12 she was suddenly struck with the conviction that the Catholic Church was what she'd been searching for and began hearing the call to religious life just one year later.

"I began reading every Catholic book I could get my hands on and watching Catholic television programs," Mary said. "I spent years in self-study on Catholicism and learning about the sacraments. I spoke with Catholics and grew in faith."

She began the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program and at the age of 16 was baptized, confirmed and received Holy Communion all in one night. It was at the Easter Vigil and one of the happiest moments of her life.

She soon became an altar server and began teaching faith formation to elementary students after graduating from Fremont-Mills High School in Tabor, Iowa.

The call to religious life was getting louder and she started researching different communities. After learning about the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration through the Internet, she chose to attend their Summer Monastic Experience to learn more. The program reaffirmed her desire to commit to religious life and spend it praying for others.

"I chose to enter here because I wanted a life of prayer and one devoted to the Eucharist," she said. "I wanted to live a contemplative life and for prayer to be my main focus in life."



Novice Mary Hastie

<MORE>

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Mary, who was working as a certified nursing assistant and attending college to earn a nursing degree, entered as a postulant in March 2008 during a ceremony at the Benedictine Sisters' Adoration Chapel in Clyde, Mo. During the next year, she participated in communal prayer, developed her personal prayer life, worked in the monastery and took classes to aid in her transition to monastic life.

The sight of Mary rollerblading around the monastery grounds wasn't unusual, and the spark she provided to those in community was very welcomed. She was accepted in the novitiate in September.

The novitiate is an intense period of spiritual formation lasting two years. Novice Mary will continue discerning her religious vocation through prayer, spiritual guidance, instruction and the lived experience of the Benedictine life.

"I love this opportunity to live with and grow with other women, all of whom have the same goals in life," Novice Mary said. "It's neat to live with sisters from several generations, to learn from them and share with them."

Novice Mary is quick to credit God for where life has taken her and encourages others to take time to listen when the heart is being called to whatever life has in store.

"Be open to what God is calling you to do," she said. "Seek His will because He has a plan for your life. His plan is of great value and will bring you the most fulfillment and be of most value to Him."

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