



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pronunciation – Meyer: MY–er.

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Benedictine Sister Mary John Meyer celebrates 60th jubilee

CLYDE, Mo. - It's been 60 years since Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Mary John Meyer, OSB made her first monastic profession, and one word continues to come to mind.

"Gratitude," she said simply. "I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to God for calling me to this life and keeping me all these years."

As a young girl growing up on the family farm outside Baileyville, Kan., Laurene Marie felt blessed by the presence of her large family. One of 11 children born to Henry and Clara Meyer, she recalls those years during the Depression when times were tough.

"There were many nights when supper was bread and milk," she said. "I remember mother and father having to cut down the trees so the sheep would have leaves to eat and not starve."

Regardless of lean times, she recalls those memories with great fondness.

"There was a lot of love," she said. "Plus, I think it helped prepare me for life in the convent."

Sister Mary John always knew she was being called to religious life. She just didn't know where. Then she visited the Benedictine Sisters in Clyde when she was only 14.

"It was on the Feast of the Assumption, and the Sisters were praying the Office in Latin," she said. "I thought I was in heaven. I knew this was it."

She returned home, only to pray each night that God would lead her back to the Benedictine Sisters. At the age of 16, she packed up and left to enter in 1948.

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Benedictine Sister Mary John Meyer who enjoys working with Monastic Experience participants (below), recently celebrated her 60th jubilee.



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“My mom really needed me at home, but she let me go,” Sister Mary John said with a smile.

She made her first monastic profession on Sept. 17, 1949, and was given the name Sister Mary John. She spent the next few years working the Sisters’ farm, in the kitchen and in the infirmary. But it was in the sewing room where she really shined.

Today, she is still responsible for making the Sisters’ clothing, along with mending other items. One of her greatest joys is when the Sisters host Monastic Experiences, inviting college students and young women interested in learning more about religious life to spend a week or two with them. During their time at the monastery, they pray with the Sisters and help out with various works – including sewing.

“I just love young people,” Sister Mary John said. “I may look like an older woman, but my heart is young.”

The Clyde community held a celebration for her 60th jubilee in September. It included the Eucharist, “a great act of thanksgiving, beautiful beyond words,” she said.

Later, when Sister Mary John asked someone if she had seen the photograph from the jubilee, the person answered that she had and thought Sister looked very happy.

Sister Mary John laughed and answered, “Well, who wouldn’t be? This life has strengthened me. Adoration was my life, and it still is.”

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