



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Benito Monastery celebrates 25 years of Wyoming ministry

Dayton, Wyo. – On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration will celebrate 25 years of ministry in Wyoming with an 11 a.m. Eucharist followed by lunch at Holy Name Parish in Sheridan.

Five Benedictine Sisters arrived in Wyoming in 1983, sent from their motherhouse in Clyde, Mo to establish a new community after an invitation by then-Bishop Joseph Hart. The Sisters lived in Casper for two years before moving to Big Horn. In 1989, they purchased land in Dayton and opened San Benito Monastery.

“We have a beautiful environment here for our simple lifestyle, living at the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains,” Superior Josetta Grant, OSB said. “We have 38 acres, and the Little Tongue runs through our property. It is an ideal place for a contemplative community and to host retreats.”

San Benito is currently home to three sisters. They are members of the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which also has communities in Missouri and Arizona. They follow the Rule of St. Benedict and have a distinctive dedication to the Eucharist. As a Congregation, they are the largest religious producers of altar breads in the nation and also make liturgical vestments, handcrafted soaps, lotions and salves. The San Benito Monastery hosts Monastery Creations, a gift store that features many of these items.

“As Benedictines, our motto is *Ora et Labora*, which means work and pray, so our gift shop provides us work that helps to maintain our monastic life,” Sister Josetta said. “We make natural products that are mindful of the environment.”

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On Oct. 3, the Benedictine Sisters at San Benito Monastery will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their ministry in Wyoming. Pictured (from left) are Sister Hope Rodenborn, Sister Sarah Schwartzberg and Sister Josetta Grant.

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As the only Benedictine order in the state of Wyoming, which is home to less than a dozen women religious organizations total and just a handful of sisters, Sister Joretta understands the important task of providing hospitality and retreat space to those in need of a serene place to contemplate life.

“Those who come for retreat are invited to join us for our times of prayer, if they wish, or they may just want to be quiet and enjoy the beautiful environment. They can walk on our paths and sit by the river and pray,” Sister Joretta said.

While all of the members of the Benedictine Sisters are united by their Rule of St. Benedict and devotion to a life of contemplative prayer, the San Benito Monastery offers a different type of community than those in Missouri and Arizona.

The motherhouse, which is also located in a rural area in northwest Missouri, is much larger. Home to a majority of the Congregation’s 90 members, it is the largest of the monasteries and the site of their formation program. The Tucson community is located amidst the hustle of a large city and offers several faith-based programs to area residents.

San Benito’s charm lies in its residents: Sister Joretta, Sister Hope Rodenborn, OSB and Sister Sarah Schwartzberg, OSB. They attend Sunday Eucharist at St. Edmund’s in Ranchester and have many friends happy to extend a helping hand when needed.

“Our friends are very important to us,” Sister Joretta said. “We have many volunteers who help with maintaining our grounds and upkeep of the buildings.”

The Knights of Columbus visit every year to help with larger construction and repair projects such as building bridges over the Little Tongue for walking paths that are maintained by friends from Sheridan. San Benito also has a labyrinth that was built by a confirmation class from Holy Name Church in Sheridan.

“We are deeply grateful for the love and support that we receive from our parish community,” Sister Joretta said.

For more information about the celebration please call (307) 655-9013 or e-mail joretta@bspa.us.

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