



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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News Release

Aug. 24, 2009

Benedictine Sister Jean Cecile Ostertag Passes

CLYDE, Mo. – Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Jean Cecile Ostertag passed away Monday, Aug. 24, 2009, at Our Lady of Rickenbach healthcare facility in Clyde.

Elizabeth Jean Ostertag was born Dec. 11, 1927, in Louisville, Ky, one of six children born to Charles and Nellie Gray Ostertag. Elizabeth was the second oldest and attended St. Boniface church and school, the same parish her family had attended for many generations.

Before entering the monastery, she did secretarial and clerical work for an insurance firm and for The American Tobacco Co. Elizabeth also had a great love for classical music, the symphony and the opera. She frequently spent weekends driving to Cincinnati with a friend to attend the opera there. Elizabeth was very active in her parish choir and was a member of the Archdiocesan Choral Club, which gave four large concerts a year. She also took part in many archdiocesan celebrations and activities sponsored by the choral club.

After leaving work, she would frequently make a holy hour from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Cathedral. It was there she learned about the Benedictine Sisters at Clyde from a prayer leaflet she found in the pew.

“I was seeking a contemplative life, and I had a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,” she once said. “This holy hour that I tried to make almost daily was before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.”

Elizabeth entered the Benedictine Sisters on April 22, 1949, and was invested as a novice on Feb. 16, 1950. On her profession day on May 20, 1951, she was given the name Sister Mary Stephen but changed her name to Jean Cecile in 1971. Her perpetual vows took place on May 27, 1956. Over the years she lived in communities in Clyde, Mundelein, Ill., Tucson, Ariz., and Kansas City, Mo. Her works included printery typesetting, making collariums, altar bread department bookkeeping, portress, kitchen and sacristan. Sister Jean Cecile was noted for her beautiful soprano voice and was always happy to sing in schola or take her turn at chanting duties. She had a great love of the water, enjoyed swimming very much and also loved to hike. True to her Louisville roots, she watched the Kentucky Derby every year on television. When she lived in Kansas City, it was often a whole community celebration complete with mint juleps.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place Tuesday, Aug. 25, in the Adoration Chapel, Clyde. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Clyde. Memorials can be sent in care of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432-8100.

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**Sister Jean Cecile
Ostertag**

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