



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 17, 2009**

### **Benedictine Sister Hope Rodenborn celebrates Golden Jubilee**

**Dayton, Wyo.** – As a young girl raised in a family of devout Catholics, it may not be surprising to learn Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Hope Rodenborn felt a love and dedication to the Eucharist at a tender age.

“In 1954 it was the Marian year and our parish had special devotions every Friday evening with Benediction at the end,” Sister Hope said. “My parents said we are going as a family every Friday night to this devotion. Little did I know then that my love for the Eucharist would grow into a life decision.”

When her sister, Sheryll, entered the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Sister Hope and her family visited the congregation’s motherhouse in Clyde, Mo., and something remarkable happened.

“The Adoration Chapel drew me with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, which the Sisters had day and night,” she said.

“Something happened within me in the chapel, and I knew in my heart this is where I belonged.”

So at just 15 years of age, she entered the Benedictine Sisters, a contemplative monastic community dedicated to the Eucharist.

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Benedictine Sister Hope Rodenborn (above) was honored for her Golden Jubilee of monastic profession. Standing with her (left) as she renews her vows are Dayton Superior Joretta Grant, Sister Hope, Prioress General Sister Pat Nyquist and Sister Sarah Schwartzberg.

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She took her first monastic profession on Sept. 12, 1959, and celebrated her golden jubilee on Aug. 8 at her San Benito community, surrounded by family and friends, with Father Tom Boedy, SJ, a friend of 35 years, as the celebrant.

“The call to prayer through the Divine Office continually enriches me. I love to sing the office and it fills me with awe and joy,” she said. “Through the years, I have had doubts, temptations and each decade had its challenge, so again and again I choose to remain,” Sister Hope said. “Prayer and reflection always brought me back to my first choice, and I’ve know within my heart of hearts that I was called. Contemplative life calls us to embrace the whole human family into our hearts and to place all into the heart of God, so all becomes redemptive for our world,” she said.

Sister Hope has lived in eight of the Benedictine Sisters’ communities over the years but has spent the longest time at San Benito Monastery in Dayton, Wyo. The property includes 38 acres at the base of the Big Horn Mountains. It has become a popular retreat spot and is also home to the Benedictine Sisters’ Monastery Creations gift shop.

“I am always in awe of the people of Wyoming. The whole state is the diocese,” she said. “There are 18 sisters in the entire state and about 40 active priests.”

Before she moved to San Benito, Sister Hope also worked in altar bread production and in the kitchens of the San Diego, Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis communities. She has been sacristan, a vocation director, novice director, sub-prioress in Tucson, Ariz., and in Kansas City, superior at San Benito and is now manager of Monastery Creations. However, it was her role as spiritual director that proved most surprising.

“This is a work I would never have chosen for myself,” Sister Hope said. “God has a delightful sense of humor because I never wanted to teach. The call is an amazing journey into the heart of God, which leads into the heart of God’s people and into the heart of the world.”

The Benedictine Sisters are members of the national Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which also includes houses in Missouri, Arizona and Oklahoma. The sisters lead a contemplative life devoted to prayer and celebration of the Eucharist and also manage Monastery Creations, a gift shop that features many products made by Benedictine Sisters.

For more information about Benedictine Sisters, log onto [www.benedictinesisters.org](http://www.benedictinesisters.org) or call (307) 655-9013.

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