



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Missouri 64432-8100 Phone: 660/944-2221

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News Release

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Benedictine Sisters begin yearlong altar bread centennial

CLYDE, Mo.— The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration have spent 100 years helping people find Christ in the Eucharist.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi in June, the Sisters began a yearlong celebration to recognize the past, present and future of their altar bread ministry.

In Clyde, Mo., Conception Abbey Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB presided over a special Mass, recalling Christ's directive 2,000 years ago that his disciples feed the people.

"Two commands of Jesus are given us today: 'Give them some food yourselves,' and 'Do this in remembrance of me.' You have done both, and done both well—enabling others to feed, any desiring the risen body of the Lord, and daily you have celebrated these saving mysteries with devotion, reverence, hope and deep joy," Abbot Gregory said.

He congratulated the Sisters for following that tradition, of nourishing God's people with altar breads for a century.

"And now, as someone who stands outside this community, looking in at this centennial celebration, I am both inspired and awed to think of what you have done for these last 100 years," Abbot Gregory said. "You have fed so many people with the risen body of the Lord Jesus Christ. And here is where it speaks most loudly, because it is done with great love, loving without your knowing whom you are feeding, but feeding with love."

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Clyde Prioress Sister Sean Douglas, OSB (left) and Altar Bread Manager Sister Rita Clair Dohn, OSB laugh at memories shared during the kickoff luncheon for the yearlong centennial celebration of the Sisters' altar bread ministry. For more photos, click on <http://bit.ly/9C1uac>.

Contact – Kelley Baldwin, Director of Communications

Phone – 660/944-2221 ext. 180 * Mobile – 660/562-7433 * Fax – 660/944-2152

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The Mass was followed by a private luncheon at Our Lady of Rickenbach. As the Sisters' altar bread ministry is their main work, supporting their contemplative life, Sisters at the other two monasteries in Tucson, Ariz., and Dayton, Wyo. also shared in the day.

The Dayton Sisters said special prayers for the altar bread ministry, and the Tucson community, which once made a portion of the Congregation's altar breads years ago and later continued to sell the Sisters' breads, hosted a festive celebration.

"We asked the priest to incorporate the 100th anniversary of our altar bread ministry into the service, and he did a wonderful job," Tucson Prioress Sister Ramona Varela, OSB said.

The community also created a display in the vestibule, chronicling the Sisters' altar bread making throughout the years.

"How fitting for the Feast of Corpus Christi to be the day for us to celebrate 100 years of making altar breads," Clyde Prioress Sister Sean Douglas, OSB said. "As a monastic community dedicated to the adoration of Christ in the Eucharist, this has very special meaning for us. Truly, it is a privilege to do this work of our hands and our hearts for the Church.

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