



St. Joseph Shadow of the Father
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Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert Abiquiú, New Mexico, Pentecost 2007

Through the intercession of St. Joseph we thank God for our “Journey of Trust” Campaign. We pray for all the petitions that were requested and ask St. Joseph, Shadow of the Father, to intercede for you. Thank you St. Joseph, for your continuing help and guidance. Novena Masses to St. Joseph were offered the first part of May.

From the prioress

***As for me, the Lord will be a stronghold; my God will be the rock where I take refuge.
(Ps93/94:22)***

Dear Friends,

Our search for a new home has taken us far and wide across the miles via e-mail, phone calls, letters and yes, journeys to prospective sites. We began our search in Abiquiú, then to Oklahoma. In our Christmas newsletter I shared our exploration of a possible move to San Fidel. From San Fidel we explored two possible sites in southern New Mexico. Even though these sites were not suitable for a contemplative monastery we met many generous, loving people, each one a hidden treasure of God’s goodness in our world! Their support and love has helped us to understand what it is we need in a location to live our Benedictine monastic way of life.

In January 2007, we decided to entrust our search for a new home to St Joseph as our protector and guide in our Journey of Trust. Thank you all for your generous responses to our efforts to raise the funds necessary for the first year of our move. We held each of you in prayer during our second Novena to St Joseph, the Worker and we continue to keep you in our daily prayers. It seems that St. Joseph has answered our Novena.

(Continued on Page 2...)

The picture to the right shows Mother Mary Benedicta standing near a natural holy water rock fount at the property in Gobernador, New Mexico.





From the Prioress (Continued...)

During Lent Mr. and Mrs. Jose Florez offered us 40 acres in Gobernador, east of Chama, New Mexico, two and a half hours from Christ in the Desert, on Hwy 64, Mile Marker 104. On Saturday, April 21, we went to Gobernador to meet the Florez Family at a fun picnic at the property site. We are pursuing all the necessary land preparations and are currently looking into possible temporary housing in the Gobernador area to be close to the construction site. This site will allow us to continue to be a witness to God's love and to the Benedictine life of prayer and work. Please keep us in your prayers.

We join our prayers with yours, for all those in our world who suffer from violence in particular those who have died in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the young people recently killed at Virginia Tech.

May the Spirit who dwells within us rise up like a mighty wind and renew the face of the earth!



Shown above are Mr. and Mrs. Jose Florez at a picnic April 21.

Peace and Blessings,

Mother Mary Benedicta Serna, OSB



Sister Martina poses for a picture on top of the mesa property in Gobernador.



Overlooking the mountains in the above picture, Sr. Theresa dares to sit on a rock edge!

Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert

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Current News

❖ Most of our sisters are pictured with Sr. Elizabeth Funder, Prioress and Sr. Hilda Scott from our Mother-house in Jamberoo, Australia. We were delighted with their visit in April. During our recreations together we shared with tears and laughter our remembrances of our dearly beloved Abbess, Mother Benedicta Philips, who died August 24th of last year.



❖ February - Mother Mary Benedicta and Sr. Theresa Nguyen went to Queen of Peace Monastery, Florida, for a few days. Sr. Theresa taught the sisters how to sew habits, while Mother Mary Benedicta visited with Sr. Gertrude Gillette, foundress of this new community.

❖ March - Sr. Martina Huynh had a short visit with her family in San Gabriel, California, to welcome her brother, Peter, who came home from working overseas.

❖ Plans are underway for Sr. Kateri to attend an intensive course of study on the Rule of St. Benedict in Rome. She has nearly reached her financial goal. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this trip possible! The course will be taught January 2 to February 28, 2008, by Sr. Aquinata Bockmann, OSB, PhD, one of the most respected scholars on the Rule of St. Benedict for today.

❖ April - Mother Julianne went to Our Lady Queen Monastery, Tickfaw, Louisiana, to assist the community while their Superior, Sr. Mary Elizabeth attended the meeting of the American/Mexican Superiors of the English Province, held at the Monasterio de La Soledad in Mexico. Our Sr. Hilda Tuyuc, Sub-Prioress, attended this meeting in place of Mother Mary Benedicta. Sr. Francis Nguyen has been accepted to begin her second stage of probation for transfer to Our Lady of the Desert from the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in Vietnam.

❖ Please pray for Rosalie and Monica who may be joining us this summer to begin Postulant Formation.



❖ Our gratitude to Julie Robinson, owner of Alphagraphics, Santa Fe and Jerry Castellini, Production Printing Executive from Xerox Corporation (shown on the left with Sr. Kateri and Mother Mary Benedicta), for the gift of a Xerox 6650 Printer. This will make it possible for us to print our own newsletters, brochures, candle labels and note cards. We are excited about the possibilities to widen our scope of income-producing crafts. Thank you Julie and Jerry!

Our Journey of Trust Campaign

We thank you all for your very generous contributions to our beginning efforts to raise the necessary funds to relocate our monastery. We have raised \$29,493.00, nearly half way to our goal of \$75,000.

One important source of funding is selling arts and crafts made by the sisters. This month we are promoting prayer ropes and rosaries.



18" Knotted Rosaries \$12

Black ITEM RB

White ITEM RW

Light Blue ITEM RLB

Light Blue ITEM RLB

Wine ITEM RN

Green ITEM RG



Select from three sizes of Prayer Knots

33 Knots \$15 ITEM P33

50 Knots \$25 ITEM P50

100 Knots \$35 ITEM P100



Brown wood beaded
Rosary
\$12 ITEM BR



Cream wood beaded
Rosary
\$12 ITEM CR



Small decade Rosary **\$6**
ITEM SW6 (shown on the left)
ITEM SW8

Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert ORDER FORM

(Your order will be shipped to the address below)

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____

Item #	Description	Qty.	Price Each	Total Price
P33	33 Knots-Prayer Rope		\$15	\$
P50	50 Knots-Prayer Rope		\$25	\$
P100	100 Knots-Prayer Rope		\$35	\$
RB	Black Knotted Rosary		\$12	\$
RW	White Knotted Rosary		\$12	\$
RLB	Light Blue Knotted Rosary		\$12	\$
RN	Wine Knotted Rosary		\$12	\$
RG	Green Knotted Rosary		\$12	\$
BR	Brown wood beaded Rosary		\$12	\$
CR	Cream wood beaded Rosary		\$12	\$
SW6	Small decade Rosary-Brown		\$ 6	\$
SW8	Small decade Rosary-Brown w/Red		\$ 6	\$

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

SHIPPING AND HANDLING. \$ 6.00

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PAYMENT

Please make check payable to the *Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert, PO Box 1040, Abiquiu, NM 87510-1040 USA*

Thank you for your order!

The Spirit that proceeds from the Father, Alleluia; will make all things clear, Alleluia, Alleluia.

John 15:26; 16:14; 17:1,5



From a Sermon by Saint Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 271:

...So then, my fellow members of Christ's body, you are the fruits of unity and the children of peace. Keep this day with joy, celebrate it in freedom of spirit, for in you is fulfilled what was foreshadowed in those days when the Holy Spirit spoke in many languages, individual though he was... You yourselves are established in that unity you have the Holy Spirit among you, and nothing can separate you from the Church of Christ which speaks in the languages of every nation of the world.

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