



# Angel Whispers

Benedictine Oblate Sisters of Clear Creek

Winter 2011

*“O God, Who didst will that this day blessed Mary ever virgin, dwelling-place of the Holy Ghost, should be presented in the temple: grant, we beseech Thee, that through her intercession, we may be worthy to be presented in the temple of Thy glory.”*

Dear Friends of the Clear Creek Sisters,

The above quotation is from the Collect of the Mass of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 21st. This feast follows the feast of Our Lady’s Nativity, September 8th and four days later the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, September 12th. These three feasts of the Blessed Virgin mirror the three feasts of Our Lord: His Nativity, December 25th, the giving of His Name, Jesus, January 2nd, and His Presentation in the temple, February 2nd.

The feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is founded on a pious tradition that at the age of three Mary was brought to the temple of Jerusalem where she lived with other young girls under the care and tutelage of holy women. There the little girls learned to pray the psalms and to wait in hopeful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. This feast of Our Lady’s Presentation is a timely and appropriate preparation for the season of Advent. The child Mary was led to the temple to prepare in retirement, humility and love for her incomparable destiny. St. Bernardine of Siena referred to this period in Mary’s life as *“...the happy completion of all the waiting and supplication for the coming of the Son of God; in her, as in their culminating-point, all the desires of the saints who had preceded her found their consummation and their term.”*

This feast of the Presentation of Our Lady is particularly special to those who live a life of silent contemplation. As Dom Gueranger, OSB said in *The Liturgical Year*: *“The world, unknown to itself, is ruled by the secret prayers of the just; and the Queen of saints, in her hidden mysteries, wrought far more powerfully than the so-called great men whose noisy achievements fill the annals of the human race.”* With our heavenly Mother and Queen we live a hidden life of seclusion and silence, praying and offering our daily sacrifices in a hidden life in the cloister for the salvation and sanctification of souls, especially those of priests.

Thus it was most fitting that our new postulant, Miss Maria Wainwright, was officially received into the contemplative community of the Benedictine Oblate Sisters of Clear Creek on this “contemplative” feast of the Presentation of Our Blessed Mother. Our Father Abbot, Dom Philip Anderson, OSB blessed the Benedictine medal and Maria’s postulant veil in a simple ceremony in our oratory. From there we attended Vespers, thanking God for blessing our community with another member in our Benedictine family.

The past months brought many special graces to us. In October we were honored with the presence of our beloved Fathers Abbot – Dom Antione Forgeot, OSB and Dom Philip Anderson, OSB – and a visiting monk from Fontgombault, Dom Jean-Claude Perrachon, OSB. We had a wonderful visit in our parlor, and Miss Elizabeth Lademan entertained all of us by playing the violin, the octave viola (which has the same pitch as a cello) and the harp. We were blessed with an afternoon of warm fellowship. As in past visits, we had the joy of Father Abbot Forgeot saying Mass for us our oratory.



*Our latest pestulant knocking on our door...*



*...to be gladly received.*

Several weeks later His Excellency, Bishop Basil Meeking, Bishop Emeritus of Christchurch, New Zealand was in Clear Creek for the annual Retreat and the monks' renewal of vows on Monday, November 21 – a most fitting day for contemplatives to renew their vows. During the week Bishop Meeking slipped over to our convent early one morning to celebrate Mass in our oratory. After a beautiful Mass, His Excellency shared about his experiences, especially during the recent devastating earthquakes in Christchurch.

Speaking of earthquakes, you have either experienced or heard about the very unusual (for Oklahoma) earthquakes we had in recent weeks. The monks in their well-insulated abbey, friends around Clear Creek and in the Tulsa area both heard and felt the quakes. On the other hand, we little sisters of Queen of Angels neither heard nor felt anything. It wasn't until some concerned friends who called about our welfare that we learned there had been some major tremors in this area. Some people attribute that to the fact that we must be sitting on solid rock. Perhaps so – but we prefer to think that Our Heavenly Mother protects us with Her hosts of angels. After all, our convent is named "Queen of Angels Convent!" Also, we have the privilege of having in our oratory a five-foot statue of Our Lady of Poonbato, which in the Philippines' language of Tagalog, means "rock." So, we are indeed firmly supported by "rock!"

Once again the beginning of the Liturgical year, Advent, is upon us. We are blessed this year to have four full weeks in which to anticipate and prepare spiritually for the coming of our Savior. Our holy mother the Church brings before our eyes during this period the ancestors of Jesus, in the readings of the Divine Office. We read about Jacob, Judah, Moses, David, Michael, Jeremias... down to St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, and the Virgin Mary who sums up in herself all Messianic hopes, seeing that their fulfillment hung on her Fiat: "Be it done to me according to Thy word."



*Sister Maria during the ceremony of her being received as a postulant.*



*Sister Bernadette-Marie greets Bishop Meeking after breakfast at the convent.*

As we follow the Masses and the Divine Office of Advent, we are impressed by the urgent and pressing appeals to the Messiah: "Come, Lord, tarry no longer;" "Come, Lord, and save us;" "The Lord is nigh, come, let us adore Him;" "O Wisdom, come and teach us the way of Prudence" and the other "O" antiphons all beg the Savior to come soon. The longed for Messiah is the Son of God Himself, Who is to conquer Satan and reign over His people for ever, whom all nations should serve.

Let us all spend these four weeks in preparing our souls to welcome our God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who deigns to become Man in order to open to us the gates of Paradise and to show us the way back to our Heavenly Father.

Please be assured of our grateful prayers for your continued spiritual and material support of us. We have started our Christmas Novena (from the Feast of St. Andrew until Christmas) for our family, friends and benefactors; and we will offer our Midnight Mass for each of you. May you have a very holy Advent and a blessed Christmas and New Year.

In Conspectu Angelorum,

*Sr. Annuntiata, Superior*

Sister Annuntiata, Superior

**We are a community of contemplative women, who live according to the Rule of St. Benedict, as Oblate Sisters of Clear Creek Abbey. Our vocation is to consecrate ourselves to God alone, by means of constant prayer and joyful penance, in solitude and silence, all for the greater glory of God and for the salvation of souls and the sanctification of our brother monks and all priests.**



*Bishop Meeking celebrating Holy Mass for us.*



*A busy Christmas boutique day. Sister Annuntiata greets happy customers.*



*Many goodies for sale at our annual boutique.*



*Busy shoppers with arms full.*



BENEDICTINE OBLATE SISTERS  
OF CLEAR CREEK

Please pray for the following intentions:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Yes, I want to help the Mary Queen of Angels Convent grow!*

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a monthly supporter. I will make arrangements with my bank to deposit

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ directly to:

Mary, Queen of Angels Convent  
9582 N. 387 Road  
Hulbert, OK 74441