



# Angel Whispers

*Benedictine Sisters of Clear Creek*

*Summer 2015*

Dear Family and Friends of the Clear Creek Sisters,

We trust you are having a blessed summer. The following is a chronology of events since our last newsletter.

As always just as our Spring Newsletter went to press, we had the annual Clear Creek Work Day, on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Again, we were blessed with many volunteers from Texas, Nebraska and all over the state of Oklahoma. A lot was accomplished both for the monks and for the Sisters. We are most thankful for all the hard work that went into their endeavors.

Also in March a group of students from Purdue University, guided by the Director of the Newman Center, spent a week experiencing monastic life – the young men with the monks, the young women with the nuns. They prayed and worked with us, following our daily schedule with enthusiasm.

In April a group of Catholic Charities personnel came to Clear Creek for a day's retreat. The Sisters with the help of two loyal friends, Maria and Janet, came to prepare and serve lunch to a large group of women. It was a cold, damp day, so they appreciated dining in the warmth of the log cabin and being served by the Sisters and two close friends. We particularly enjoyed being able to do a little something for all the good that Catholic Charities does for the Diocese Tulsa.

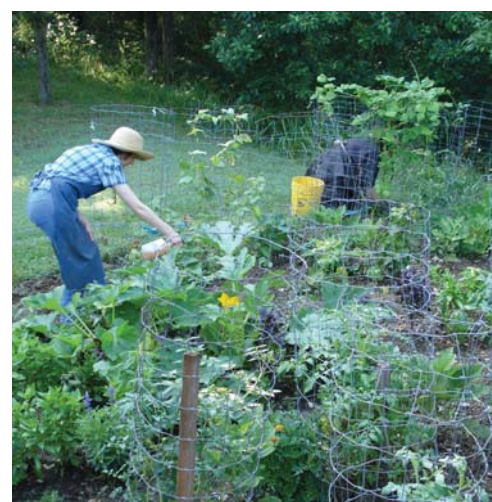


*Maria and Janet helping the Sisters prepare and serve lunch to retreatants*

*Halina and Nick planting our garden*



That same week a very energetic couple from Father Rick Jones' Parish in Branson, Missouri tackled our garden. They planted several kinds of squash, tomatoes, beans, kale, spinach, cucumbers, all sorts of herbs – all in neat rows and labeled carefully. They even planted flowers throughout the yard. They got done in one day what would have taken us weeks. May God bless them for all their efforts.



*Guests harvesting the results*

May 13th – the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima – is the anniversary of our Inauguration. Father Abbot blessed the day by saying Holy Mass in our Oratory.

The month of June brought torrential rains. We were in a somewhat drought situation so we were praying hard for relief. God answered our prayers with so many downpours that we are now thanking God and asking Him to send all that water to the states that need it so badly. Despite the wet weather, Bishop Conley and six seminarians from Lincoln visited Clear Creek. Father Abbot surprised us by bringing Bishop Conley to our Priory for a delightful parlor. The next day we were privileged to attend Bishop Conley's Solemn Pontifical High Mass at the Abbey.



***“Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, in Thy blood, out of every tribe and tongue, and people and nation and hast made us to our God a kingdom.”***

*(Introit from the Mass of the Precious Blood)*

July brings with it many special feast days. The month of July traditionally is the month of the Precious Blood, and the feast itself is still celebrated on July 1st in many places. Dom Gueranger tells us: “...this feast is a monument of one of the most brilliant victories of holy church in our own age. Pius IX had been driven from Rome in 1848 by the triumphant revolution; but the following year...his power was re-established.” In gratitude Pius IX instituted the feast of the Precious Blood.



*our visitors from Australia*

As we celebrate the Fourth of July we recall the words from Galatians 5:31: “So then, brethren, we are not the children of the bondwoman but of the free: by the freedom wherewith Christ has made us free.” We need to ask ourselves are we truly “free?” With the latest Supreme Court decisions, have we been made “children of the bondwoman?” But we know that Christ has redeemed us with His Precious Blood, which flowed out of His side on Calvary. As citizens of the United States of America we have Constitutional rights that are supposed to guarantee our freedom of religion, of speech, etc. As citizens we need to pray fervently that our God-given freedom is preserved in our country.

July 11th brings the great feast of our Blessed Father, St. Benedict. As Benedictines we celebrate with great joy the feast of the Solemnity of St. Benedict on July 11 every year. As many of you know, St. Benedict is the “father of Western Monasticism.” At every turning point of history God raises up great saints in order to strengthen souls. The Roman Empire had crumbled, and the Barbarians had invaded the whole of Europe.

Then appeared Benedict, who was born in Nursia, Italy in 480. He was sent to Rome for his studies, but he soon saw the corruption going on at that time. So, he fled to the solitude of a cave in Subiaco. Before long many who were attracted by his life of virtue came flocking to him. As a result, he founded many monasteries, establishing “schools for the Lord’s service.” St. Benedict wrote a Rule whereby, under the direction of an Abbot, monks learn by the exercise of public prayer, the “opus Dei” (the “Work of God,” i.e., the Divine Office), private prayer, study, and manual labor, to forget self and to live solely for God in a community of other brother monks. St. Benedict, in the Holy Rule, orders the examination of novices to make sure “they truly seek God, show eagerness for the Work of God, for obedience and for humiliations.” (Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 58) In the Holy Rule, St. Benedict exhorts his followers to “prefer nothing to the love of Christ,” and also to “let nothing come before the Work of God,” that is, the praying of the Divine Office. St. Benedict has left a legacy of many popes, bishops, doctors and holy men and women – all who followed his simple rule of the school for the Lord’s service, of *ora et labora*, prayer and work.

As we Benedictine Sisters of Clear Creek go about our day of *ora et labora*, we carry each of you and your intentions in our hearts. We pray in thanksgiving each day for your generosity to us. May God reward you, and may Our Lady keep you close to Her Immaculate Heart and the Sacred Heart of Her Son.



*our little Mary's Garden*

In Conspectu Angelorum,

*Sister Annuntiata, prioress*

Sister Annuntiata, Prioress



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