

Norfolk, March 2, 2010



Shalom!

Dear Sisters around the globe,

This beautiful bulletin board shows so many of your loving greetings sent to the Norfolk Priory on the occasion of my installation as the 13th prioress of Norfolk. I want to express my deep gratitude for your prayer, love and support. I felt so much connected with all of you as I was sitting between the two pews during Vespers on Sunday evening. It was a very beautiful and touching ceremony. All the sisters from our houses already arrived on Saturday and stayed until Monday morning. What a

joy to have them all home in the motherhouse! My Benedictine friend Sr. Francis Schumacher from Watertown came with Sr. Eileen to join us in celebration. Also the prioress from Yankton, Sr. Jennifer and Sr. Jane Ranek came to join us as well the monks from Schuyler.

After Vespers with installation we all went to the sisters refectory for an international supper, well prepared by so many "busy bees". In the following program the sisters made a sketch about the history and the beginning of the Norfolk Priory that the novices prepared for the IFM in September. We closed this beautiful and meaningful day with Compline and "Te Deum" to give thanks to the Lord, our God and Creator!



I had a good and smooth flight and arrived safe on February 21 in Omaha after I traveled from rising of the sun in Rome at 7.30 am until its setting on the way from Omaha to Norfolk around 7.00 pm. A long day of more than 20 hours brought me to Norfolk where all the sisters were waiting for me after their desert day.

The first days in Norfolk I got a lot of information and orientation from Sr. Kevin and met people I need to know. We had meeting with the Priory Council and the house council before Sr. Kevin handed over all the duties and responsibilities to me. I will communicate about the meeting to the Norfolk sisters in an extra mail. I also had a chance to go with Sr. Kevin to the Royal vacation house. It seems for me as I would come from the bush of Tanzania to the bush and beauty of nature in Nebraska. The two creeks flowing through the country and meeting at our house are just gorgeous with all the many trees around. While there we saw at least 15 turkeys and some deers. Even a bold eagle passed through. The workers told us that some days ago they saw the greatest gold eagle they ever saw on our ground. The silence and beauty of the place and the well-done construction of the house is just inviting. Today Sr. Kevin left together with Sr. Monica as the first vacationer there to give the last touch

to make it even more homely. Now Sr. Kevin will stay there until the March 13th and starts her well deserved sabbatical beginning in Hildegard House. I would like to express here also my gratitude to Sr. Kevin who has done marvelous things in her eight years of office. She started to make her weekly notes and inform you about what was going on at this side of the world. I try to continue keeping in touch with you.

For today I say a big “Thank you” to all of you and promise my prayers.

Lovingly,
yours, Sr. Pia Portmann OSB



The two creeks coming together.