

Common Letter #28
Norfolk Priory
August 24, 2011

Shalom!



Dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Norfolk and from our Korean Sisters in LA. Here you see Sr. Maria Petro, Superior and Sr. Pachomia at the Hunington Library and Park.

First of all I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the good wishes and prayers on my Nameday last Sunday. I enjoyed the day and to hear from so many around the World. Thank you – Asante sana – Vergelt's Gott!

On August 4th Sr. Gabrielle Marie and Sr. Fidelis Marie traveled with me to Omaha. From there all of us departed in different directions. The two sisters for homeleave in Michigan and Florida and I as already mentioned to LA. I had really four joyful days with Verena Roosli. The Benedictine Prioresses meeting ended with a supper in Glendora, CA at St. Lucy's Priory. The LCWR Meeting was a huge event with 650 sisters from all over the States.

The two keynote speakers were excellent. S. Barbara Reid, OP gave a biblical reflection – “Embodying Holy Mystery” on three aspects of Holy Mystery that women religious embody and into which they lead others:

- The mystery of God revealed in Creation
- The mystery of God beyond gender
- The mystery of God of death as birth pangs of hope.

The second speaker was Sr. Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB. The day before the Benedictines gave her a reception to encourage her and to bless her. Her topic was “...If you believe you will see the glory of God”. She focused that in the midst of poverty, violence, impunity, death and shortcomings of all institutions – tempted as we are to meaninglessness and discouragement – we, as women religious, are called to discipleship and challenged to live with profound faith that will bring forth new life. She explored some of the ways we have experienced death and dying:

- Within our congregations, and to discover together those time when we have been able to bring forth new life out of dying.
- Within the broader context of Church and society, and to discover together where our responsibility lies and how we can respond as followers of Christ.

She gave her talk in Spanish and her prioress Sr. Patricia Henry translated it simultaneously.

After the conference I stayed for two days with our Korean Sisters in LA. On Saturday August 13 their Superior, Sr. Maria Petro Park renewed her vows and celebrated her Silver Jubilee.

While there I also got an email from Sr. Abraham Kang, Prioress of Seoul, informing that the health of Sr. Dionysia is not good and that the council decided not to send her to Norfolk on Mission again. She had last year a brain surgery (tumor), now she broke her arm. Please, pray for Sr. Dionysia who wanted to come back to Norfolk.

At home many things happened too.

When coming home from the airport Sr. Carole Ann sprained her ankle and is moving around the long hallways with the electrical wheelchair.

Sr. Michael Marie returned for one day before she departed for Nairobi. It was good to have her home for some times.

Sr. Elizabeth Uhing and Sr. Leah Ann went for one week vacation to Graceville with Sr. Pia Rottinghaus. Sr. Elizabeth just returned at time to celebrate her 70th birthday.

Sr. Jania left for homeleave on August 11 and Sr. Margaret the following day.

Sr. Kevin returned home from the Hospital and also was released from the infirmary. She is doing well and continues with Physiotherapy.

Sr. Frances fell in the cornfield at Winnebago and came on August 12 to Norfolk with a fracture on her right leg.

On Friday August 19 Sr. Paula returned home from the nursing home. All the three rooms in the infirmary are occupied.

Sr. Veronica Prieto started on August 16 working on three afternoons in the Parish Office in the Hispanic/Latino Ministry. She will be also involved in the CCD classes for the Spanish speaking parents and children.

Sr. Celine and Sr. Gabrielle Marie went to Atchison from August 18-21 for the Bi-annual American Benedictine Retreat Center Conference. While there they had strong storm and hail and reported about the damage made in Conception Abbey and Clyde. Just today we got some updates from Abbot Gregory that I will send you as attachment too.

I will go for one week vacation to House Hildegard next week.

Loving greetings and the promise of my prayers,

Yours,

Sr. Pia Postlman OSA