

MESSAGE FROM THE Prioress

by Sr. Kevin Hermsen



Returning “home” has a new meaning for the Sisters these days. After 19 months of apartment living we are now in our own space and are settling in. We have had a very busy two months of moving, first out of the apartments, then unpacking the many storage containers and garages that held our belongings while we were displaced. I can't say that we are totally moved because there still is a lot to unpack and situate in the proper place, but it is coming. Only with hard team work was it all accomplished so quickly! I told the Sisters that every dust rag they shook and every salt shaker they filled plus moving heavy objects to their places was a piece of the big puzzle.

In between we had the rededication of the monastery on May 30th. It was a wonderful day, very bright and sunny with a lot of our family members, close friends and Oblates here to celebrate. Archbishop Curtiss did a very nice job of rubbing the oils into the altar, situating the relics and all of the other rituals involved in reconsecrating the altar. It was probably one of his last acts as our Archbishop because his successor was named only two days later! Bishop George Lucas of the Springfield, Illinois diocese will be our new Archbishop. He will be installed on July 22nd.



The very next weekend we invited the general public to tour our new home and the retreat center space. We estimate that we had around 2,000 people here in the two days. Needless to say, we were all exhausted by the time Sunday came, but it felt good to have that part finished. We began our annual retreat that evening with Fr. Meinrad Miller from Atchison, Kansas as retreat master. It was a good time to reflect, catch our breath and in general enjoy all of the gifts we have received.

We pray and hope for a blessed and safe summer for all. We now begin our preparations to host the International Formators Meeting in September. We are anxious to show them our newly renovated home!



Sr. Kevin Hermsen, Prioress,
with her brother