

Dear Friends and Visitors

The Lord be with you—

Fr. Justin keeps working zealously on Our Lady's Garden, as he calls the array of flowers in our inner courtyard. There is a cluster of black-eyed susans at two corners of the square. A wild finch likes to hang out in them. When a monk comes out the bird's door, it flits off to the other bunch. If the monk walks toward the second bunch, the bird flies over the roof, only to return soon. The black and yellow colors make good camouflage.

We had a full house the week leading up to the feast of Mary's Assumption. Fr. Paul came for his regular week of living within our community every month. A few family brother candidates came the first part of the week to continue their formation under his direction.

The second part of the week had our Covenant Associates arrive. They were preparing to make, and/or renew their covenant promises. That is, how each Associate will try to live out his/her personal daily schedule of prayer and work. They made their promises at First Vespers of Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven.

Other Associates find they live and share in our contemplative spirituality with a more free-spirited approach?just going with the flow of God's Will in the present moment during the day.

It never rains, but what it pours. Word came on a Friday morning that Nancy Melton had cancer again. This time it is in her liver. That afternoon we heard that Joe Walsh had a heart attack while riding his bicycle to work. He was near one hospital, but kept pedaling till he got to a Catholic hospital emergency room. The doctor said, "Well, you got here in good time."

Bill Aiken, long time friend of our community died while Fr. Robert was serving his two months as chaplain with our Santa Rita, AZ Trappistines. Bill and Emmi had agreed on cremation, so time stood still until Fr. Robert returned to offer a funeral Mass. Larry Sorenson, Bridget's husband, had a freezing procedure done on the tumor in his one remaining kidney. The doctor said that there is a 99% rate of success for that treatment. We pray for all of these friends.

John Young is making his Observership with us now. He was with the men's branch of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity for some dozen years. He tried the Benedictines...and now is doing well here. We have been waiting and praying for decades for an African-American to enter our abbey. John is older and quite solid, so he should be good support for Dondi Porter, our second African-American, who is preparing to come next year.

We have a special icon for this monastery. It was done in needlework, a sampler, and given to us by Jill, our health worker/secretary. I call it Our Lady of the Assumption and the Seven Dwarfs. It pictures Snow White handing a piece of chocolate cake to Dopey, while the others stand around her in characteristic poses: Happy, Sleepy, Grumpy, Bashful, Doc, and Sneezy. Of course, Dopey is her favorite, so that may be how we were favored with the name Assumption Abbey.

Our whole Trappist-Cistercian Order is dedicated to Our Lady in this mystery. Our foundation here in the Ozarks began in 1950-the year when Pius XII proclaimed Mary's Assumption to be a dogma of faith. There is no clear proof-text in Scripture for this mystery and reality. It was a seed planted by the Apostolic tradition and it grew finally into a fully developed article of faith.

Cardinal Bea was a Jesuit and head of the Biblical Commission in Rome. He was noted for composing articles, which were a collection of quotations, but something new always emerged. Let us gather and weave a number of scripture passages, in the light of the Assumption and see if something new emerges.

Jesus on Calvary saw His mother and beloved disciple standing at the foot of the cross. He said, "Woman, behold your son."

Mary stayed weeping at the tomb. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? What do you seek?" She turned and saw him. Jesus said, "Do not keep holding Me. I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go and tell my brothers and sisters that I will ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."

I came forth from the Father into the world and now I am passing from the world to the Father. As I told the Jews, "I am going away and where I am going, you cannot come." Why can I not follow You? You cannot follow Me now, but you will follow Me later.

It is not for you to know the times or seasons, which the Father has set in His own authority. However, you remain in the city until you are clothed with Power from on high.

In My Father's house, there are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you. When I have prepared a place for you, I will come again and bring you to Me, so that where I am, you also may be.

Because I have told you that I am going away, your heart is sorrowful, but I will see you again

and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. When a woman is in labor, she has pain. When her child is born, she forgets her anguish for joy that a child is born into the world.

I tell you that it is expedient for you, that I go away. If I do not go, you cannot receive the Paraclete. However, if I go, I will send Him to you. When the Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth comes, he will bear witness to Me, and you will be My witness, since you have been with Me from the very beginning.

Then Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, "Father the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You. I have made Your name known to those You have given to Me, and I will make it known. Now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. I do not pray that You take them from the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.

I pray also for those who will believe through their word. The glory which You gave to Me, I have given to them, that all may be one...You in Me, and I in them, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and that You have loved them with the same love which You have for Me. Father, I will that where I am, they also shall be, to see the glory You have given Me in Your love for Me before the beginning of the world.

A great sign appeared in the heavens: a woman clothed in the sun, standing on the moon and crowned with twelve stars. She was crying in labor pains. A great red dragon was standing before her, ready to devour her child. But, her child was taken up to heaven, and the woman was carried away to a place prepared for her in the desert. The dragon, thrown down from heaven, was angry and went off to make war against the woman's other children, those who believe in Jesus and keep the commandments.

Who is she coming up from the desert, leaning on her beloved? Rising like the dawn, bright as the sun, fair as the moon, terrible as an army in battle array.

How can some of you say that there is no Resurrection? If there is no resurrection, then Christ has not risen. If we believe in Christ for this life only, we are the most pitiable of men. However, Christ has risen. Yet someone will say, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body do they have?" Don't you know that what is planted is a seed, which must die? Then God gives it a different form of body. If there are physical bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

I heard the voice of a great multitude in heaven saying, "Let us rejoice, for the marriage of the

Lamb has come. His bride has made herself ready, dressed in fine linen, bright and clean. Then I saw the holy city coming down from heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Then He Who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." Let those who hear say, "Come." Let those who thirst come. Whoever thirsts let them drink the water of life freely without cost.

In the Sacred Heart,

Fr Cyprian