

*By the Grace of God, Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB,
will make her Simple-Triennial Vows as a Nun of Saint Joseph's Monastery
during the 10:00 AM Mass today.*

Please keep Sister Bernadette in your special prayers.

“UPHOLD ME, O LORD, ACCORDING TO THY WORD ...”

1. Due to the Ceremony of the Vows of Sister Mary Bernadette during the 10:00 AM Mass today, there will be NO Catechism class this morning.
2. There WILL be the usual Sunday Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 PM this afternoon.
3. Thursday, February 2, 2006, is the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Blessing of Candles will take place before Mass.
4. Thursday, February 2, 2006, is also the first Thursday of February, with the usual Holy Hours and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey Church from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.
5. Friday, February 3, 2006, is the First Friday of February, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM, and all-day Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.
6. **Friday, February 3, 2006, is also the Feast of Saint Blaise, with the Blessing of Throats after both Masses. The Blessing of Throats will also take place after all Masses this coming Sunday (February 5, 2006).**
7. Saturday, February 4, 2006, is the First Saturday of February, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
8. *Our Sunday Bulletins are now available on our Website each week, usually by late Saturday evening. Simply click on the “Scriptorium” button, then click on “Our Sunday Bulletins,” then on the Bulletin of your choice.*
9. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world.
10. **MASSSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)**

SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY: Deceased Evella Tannheimer
TUESDAY: Special intention Joseph Fangmann
WEDNESDAY: Special intention Albert and Sara Schrader
THURSDAY: Special intention Solange Hertz
FRIDAY: Welfare Father Hector Bolduc
SATURDAY: Special intention Paul Roy Family

THE VOWS OF A BENEDICTINE MONASTIC

The taking of Religious Vows is a very serious matter and requires a firm decision to live a life under the strict requirements of total commitment. The monastic man or woman is bound by a decision, freely arrived at, to give totally of one's self to God. Nothing can be held back in this giving. The monastic man or woman promises to work and live entirely according to the pleasure of Jesus Christ. The promise made by a monastic is a promise made by a carefully premeditated and serious act of the will. The purpose of such a promise is to bring into subjection the inclinations that are usually governed by sinful human appetites – the appetites that were flung out of order by the fall of our first parents.

The Benedictine monk or nun in reality promises five Vows, though only three are specifically mentioned. The five Vows of the Benedictine monastic are: Obedience, Stability, Chastity, Poverty; and Conversion of Life (*Conversio*). The three Vows actually pronounced are: Obedience, Stability, and Conversion of Life.

Stability is a particularly Benedictine Vow, in that the monk or nun promises to remain in one specific location for the rest of his or her life. There is no moving around with the Benedictine. The monastery or convent of profession will be his or her home for as long as God gives life. The Vow of Conversion of Life is all embracing, in that it strives to bring into control every act that is harmful to the salvation of the individual. Obviously, the Vows of Poverty and Chastity are automatically included under the dictates of the Vow of Conversion of Life. The desire for earthly possessions is brought under control by the Vow of Poverty. The ever present urgings of the desires of the flesh are kept under control by the dictates of the Vow of Chastity and the careful admonitions of older heads.

Obedience – Holy Obedience – is the precious fabric upon which the very soul and foundation of monastic life is carefully embroidered. Without this fabric there is no embroidery. Without this fabric there is but a hopeless entanglement of knotted threads – beautiful though the threads themselves may be. Without the fabric of Holy Obedience – lived in the fullness of its **spirit** – life in a monastery or convent is an impossible entanglement of knotted threads meaning nothing. Obedience is the precious mother of the monastic life of both monk and nun.

This morning Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB, will pronounce the three Vows of Obedience, Stability, and Conversion of Life – a truly awesome thing on the part of this young lady. Please give her your very best prayers. At the same time, please do not forget those of us who have already taken this step – never easy – but absolutely wonderful!