

Fall Leaves

by Sr.Anne-Marguerite Potchen

The arrival of autumn with its falling leaves each year is as predictable as are some of the leaves of our Fall calendar. Like the season, though, there are also moments of the unexpected. We have experienced both this year.



Mother Mary Ruth looking over the gifts presented on her feast day.

Among those predictable delights, we celebrated the name day or as we refer to it, the feast day, of our superior, Mother Mary Ruth. Our Lady's Birthday, September 8, is Mother's choice of Marian feast because the genealogy of Our Lord is the gospel of the day. (You will recall that King David's grandmother, Ruth, is given honorable mention in the long list of Jesus' ancestors.) In honor of Mother's feast day, we have a day-and-a-half of recreation complete with flowers, songs, hand-made gifts and an entertainment. As always, we enjoyed the familial atmosphere that reigns on such occasions.

Mother Mary Ruth and the community on Mother's feast day.

Another annual Fall event is our Renovation Retreat which prepares us to devotionally renew our vows on November 21.



A sister renewing her vows in front of Fr. Graden.

DeSales Resources and Ministries offered us some golden leaves from the Salesian charism. Father's homilies and conferences were inspirational and thought-provoking; and, we look forward to future visits with him.



The community renewing vows on November 21, 2010

Like the varied colors of the season, some of our Fall events were large, public affairs such as the October 16 celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Order (see article on page 2) and some

were intimate, private moments such as our afternoon with George Weigel. It was exciting to meet such an important player in American Catholicism and to hear him describe the background surrounding his books on Pope John Paul II. We are indebted to our dear friend, Elizabeth Newman, for arranging Mr. Weigel's visit with us.



The interior of our Chapel on the public celebration of our 400th anniversary

By the time you read this newsletter, Autumn 2010 will be a thing of the past but the memory of the experiences of these months will long linger in our minds, much like the beautiful Fall vista of the Tyngham Valley.



George Weigel sharing a light-hearted moment with the Sisters in the Community Room.

The Heat is on!!!



At last! We have a new boiler to heat the Monastery this winter. From left to right: our old, worn-out boiler; the blessing of the boiler; the brand new boiler. Many heartfelt thanks to our patrons who made this possible.

Our Christmas Gift to You is a NOVENA OF MASSES

that will be offered at our monastery church for all our Relatives, Friends and Benefactors from our Christmas Midnight Mass to New Year's Day Mass.

God be praised!



You are invited to join us in our worship THE CEREMONY OF LESSONS & CAROLS 3:00 p.m., December 19, 2010

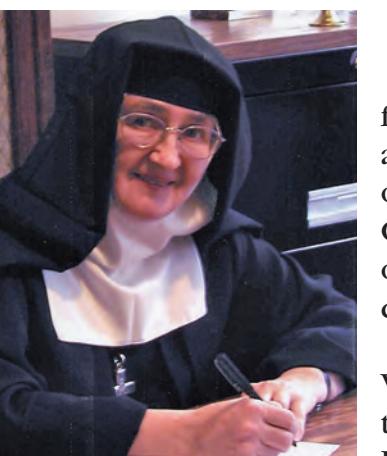
CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS (12:00 a.m.) preceded by Vigils at 11:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 9:30 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS 9:30 a.m.

We wish you much joy and many blessings for Christmas and the New Year 2011.



Living Spring

From The Desk Of Mother Mary Ruth



It doesn't seem possible that our celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the Order of the Visitation in Annecy, France by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal is fast coming to a close. Every monastery throughout the world has held celebrations within each monastery and also within Churches of the diocese as designated by the Bishop. It has really been a year of renewal for each individual Visitation Sister as each Sister deepened her commitment to the Order and to our all of our Sisters throughout the world.

We are grateful to everyone who was able to join us for one of our celebrations this year. We thank our Bishop, Bishop Timothy McDonnell, our Marian Fathers who are our chaplains, our priests of the Springfield Diocese and from other dioceses, Bishop Robert E. Mulvee, our former Bishop of Wilmington, and Father Humbert Oliviera, the Vicar for Religious, Sister Judith O'Connell, and our many friends from the various religious communities who came to celebrate with us, and, of course, our families and friends. We are particularly grateful to our families who came from quite a distance in order to spend the weekend here in the Berkshires so they could participate in the festivities planned for them. We also thank all of our friends who were not able to be present with us during this Anniversary Year, but who sent us their greetings and pledged their continued support.

As we look to the beginning of a new Church Year, and the beautiful Season of Advent, to the celebration of the Mystery of the Birth of Jesus, and to the ringing in of the New Year of our Lord, 2011, we want you to know that we pray for you, that we hold you in our hearts, and that we are most grateful for your love, your friendship, and your generosity to our Community.

And one last thing - we hope that those of you who live in the Berkshires will be able to join us for the Ceremony of Lessons and Carols to be held in our Chapel on Sunday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m.

A blessed Christmas and our gratitude for your love and friendship,
Mother Mary Ruth, VHM

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October Anniversary Weekend

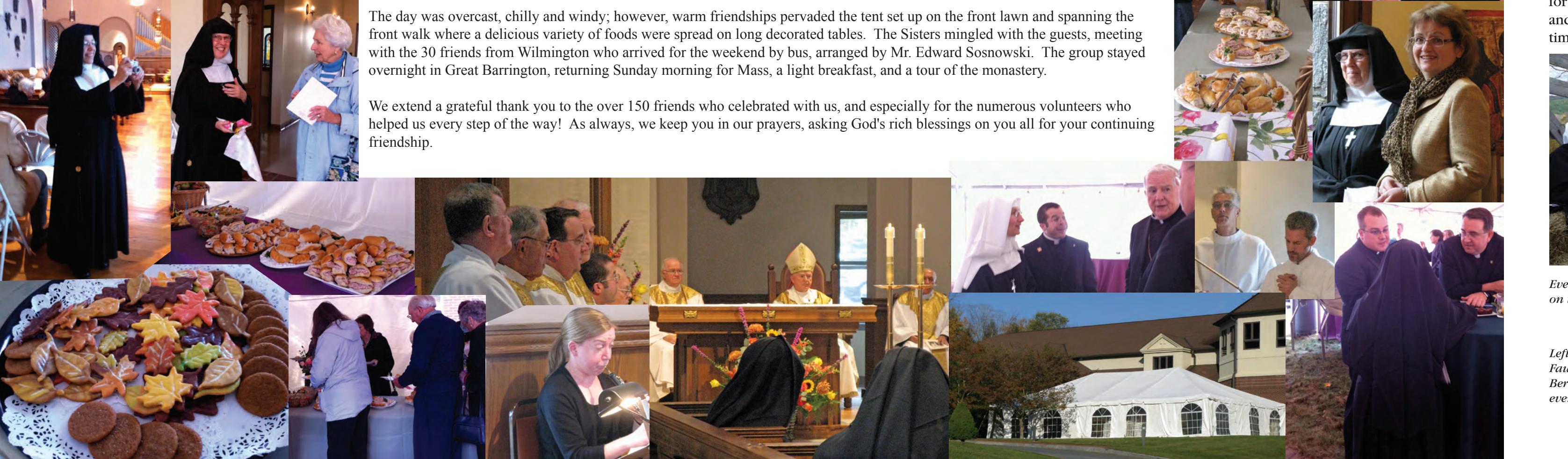
Fr. Miriam Rose Neithus

Miriam Rose Neithus

On the feast of St. Margaret Mary, October 16, we held our final public celebration of our 400th anniversary with a Mass and luncheon for many of our friends. Bishop Mulvee, formerly of Wilmington, Delaware, currently retired in Rhode Island, presided at Mass, with Fathers Richard Reece, OSFS; Gary Dailey; Walter Gurgul, MIC; Michael Hobson; Gerard Lafleur; James MacNew, OSFS; Humbert Oliviera; and Jonathan Reardon concelebrating. Mr. Edward Sosnowski, an affiliate of our community, and Mr. David Gauthier, monastery Facilities Manager, served the Mass. Bishop Robert Mulvee, an affiliate and a long-time friend of the community, spoke of us continuing to keep our eyes on the Lord, as He has lovingly kept His eyes on us for these 400 years.

The day was overcast, chilly and windy; however, warm friendships pervaded the tent set up on the front lawn and spanning the front walk where a delicious variety of foods were spread on long decorated tables. The Sisters mingled with the guests, meeting with the 30 friends from Wilmington who arrived for the weekend by bus, arranged by Mr. Edward Sosnowski. The group stayed overnight in Great Barrington, returning Sunday morning for Mass, a light breakfast, and a tour of the monastery.

We extend a grateful thank you to the over 150 friends who celebrated with us, and especially for the numerous volunteers who helped us every step of the way! As always, we keep you in our prayers, asking God's rich blessings on you all for your continuing friendship.



Let's Go For a Hayride!!

Sr. Bernadette Therese Lash



*er Mary Charles and Sister Ber-
ette Therese, our 2010 Epiphany
men, enjoying the beautiful fall day.*

You know how things just sort of happen before you know it? And do you know how something can turn out better than you ever imagined it would? That is what happened to us on Saturday, October 23.

remote sort of way, Saturday began in January with the designation of new Epiphany Queen, Sr. Bernadette Therese, who ordained that we would have four recreation days this year, one per season. The Spring Recreation wasn't so good; we forgot it. The Summer Recreation was much better, though; the next recreation was set with an Autumnal theme. The square dance was canceled due to concern about the wind. The square dance was postponed because the directions we obtained were too cryptic to figure out (so we must apply ourselves to study the subject a bit more). What was A HAYRIDE!

riginal idea was a modest one. Per-

small wagon pulled by a horse or two in the safety of our enclosed
. We asked our friend and maintenance man, Bill Tyer, if he could
about the availability of a hayride. He talked to Mike Curtain, who
snowplowing and, handily enough, Mike said that he gives hay-
the price? A donation to us! May he be rewarded in heaven!

had the right man for the right price. A tractor would have to suffice
horses, though. The Lord provided a magnificent Saturday morning
ten o'clock, we heard the haywagon coming up our road, right on



All aboard for a scenic ride!



*Trooper, our faithful dog, had a good time
on the hay ride.*

we were all ensconced with comfort on our couches of hay, a prayer was said to Our Lady of the Highways for a safe journey, and we were off and soon singing Pumpkin Carols. Andy followed us in his truck, presumably to pick up anyone who fell off.

oo soon, we disembarked with hearts full of laughter, and
s full of fresh air, and habits full of hay. Applause and cheers al-
nd for the men! We are so grateful to Mike and Andy who so
erously gave of their time, resources and themselves. We are so
lkful to live surrounded by bountiful beauty. The Almighty has
ly blessed our little hamlet, has He not?



*To right: Sister Bernadette Therese, Sister Anna Marie, Mother Mary Ruth, Sister Joan Adelitte: This may have to be an annual
!*