

...there is a letter from our convent: it will be expected, longed for, and read with curiosity, pleasure, sympathy and respect. Reminiscences and nostalgia will rise.

Every year again, this sentence will accompany us for a while. Thinking of Christmas time, I remember the annual attune to The Holy Evening. The group „Communis Cantare“ joined us at 2 p.m. with very special and cordial songs and instrumental music and chimed us onto the Incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These young group will come again this year. On Saturday, January 4th, we invited families with small children to our cradle and singing around the cradle. Many families joined us. On December 27, 2014 at 4.30 p.m. you are invited again.

Every year again we increase our spiritual knowledge by religious exercises. P. Germar Neubert OSB accompanied the English exercises from January 12 to 18 and the German exercises in the week of carnival. Totally comforted and strengthened we could face the many demands of our spiritual and common life throughout the year.

Hard to believe, but I am always astonished and very thankful to our Lord: we all could join the choral prayers almost a 100 percent. Only who was really afar the convent or seriously ill stayed absent. Our Lord might bless us and our daily choral praying and singing to the honor of our Lord, and He might bless all of you.

All interested persons can join our daily chorus singing and praying. We had a flyer printed to inform all interested persons, since we often had the question „Could we join you?“ We are always pleased, when our guests join us and participate thus in our life. And those who cannot come know our praying schedule and can join us spiritually. In daily life our oblates thus find - among others - their personal relation to our community. Those who can manage will pray by the hour at the place they actually is situated. By praying and also good thoughts we are connected, to use the common language. This connection relates, supports and threnghens against solitude and isolation.

Every year again, even more often, we have the meetings of our oblates, which takes place at a weekend. Our oblates build a community in praying and they support us in many ways. On June 22nd Sister Anna Teresa Meier took her vow to the Community of our Sisters and Mr. Georg Betz, Br. Josef, was met with a warm reception in our community of oblates.

We cannot imagine being without our honorary helpers. This year we had even some new ones. We asked for help sometimes at the Pilgrims Round Table in Schlammersdorf, when it came to empty our Guest House „Edeltraud“ for the oncoming renovation. Spontaneously some do-it-yourselfer and an electrician came and sorted out all furniture, wall paper, lamps and wall sockets. Some guests were infected by their eagerness and changed their recovery time into working time.

Another larger mobilization of labour was the apple crop. The very many apple trees on our orchard meadows had to be shaken and the fallen fruits to be picked up. One of the helpers, Mr. Sawinsky from the Pilgrims Round Table very often marvelled in the good cooperation of all helpers. Among them our oblate Br. Josef, Mrs. Giehl, Mr. and Mrs. Stöcklein, Ingrid and some employees and our apprentice. More than 6000 litres of BIO-apple juice was the output and we sell the juice in our guest house, in the shop and also to resellers.

Anton, brother and Franz, cousin of M. Mechthild had adjusted some facilitation in the sanitary area, the lightning and the wall sockets. A door opener was installed. Our „motorized“ Sisters are very happy about it. The door opener is a present remaining from the Golden Jubilee of Sisters Lumen OSB and Redempta OSB.

Jacky, who came two years ago to help painting the vestry, the attics and some cells was not only helping in House „Edeltraud“ and the apple crop but was together with Sr. Nieves OSB out in the vegetable gardening. She is very grateful, because she had to take her duties somewhat easier - as consequence of her big operation in December last year. And that is really hard for her! But we are very grateful that she had recovered somehow. Last Christmas we were really concerned.

For all honorary helpers, our employees and oblates we had a great garden party in July. Leo, he calls himself „servant of the Abbess“ together with Franco and Sebastian were the barbecue chefs. We had excellent salads, coffee and fine bakery, and all the goodies necessary for a nice garden party. Our kitchen did, as usual, its very best. Philippine dancing and senior dancing was celebrated, accompanied by beautiful weather, in our laundry hall, which was nicely decorated for this event, and on the meadow beside. But out of a sudden the climate change was obvious by a heavy thunderstorm and white squall came up. We were busy to cling to our tent in order not to have a flying dragon around. Unfortunately the pavillion was broken by the storm. Mr. Overath had repaired the bars a hundred times. These bars resisted to the storm, better than those not yet broken or bent.

A new cooperation this year enrolled with the Academy for Biology in Bamberg. Mid February a group of mainly young agriculturists came to learn all about biologic farming. Some more courses and excursions with agriculturally interested persons followed up, meetings took place in the evening. Mr. Schwab, our works manager in the agricultural field, was asked several times and more often for assistance and advice with regard to strictly biological farming, procreate seeds etc. We are content with this years harvest, especially bookwheat and cress.

Vegetable gardening and chicken-yard had to be reduced because of lack of persons doing this. The so called Coburg Foxes, our special brown sheep, breded manyfold. Some of them will be slaughtered by our Benedictine Brothers in Plankstetten, the good bio-meat to be sold in their shop or eaten.

Two young ladies had valuably assisted in the agricultural farming while doing practical work. It was very encouraging for us to see their self-understanding and

enthusiasm to do real hard and dirty work. We are pleased to learn that there are still young people doing their utmost for their work.

As already mentioned our new guest house for pilgrims is under construction in the former House „Edeltraud“. From outside it looks already very splendid. There is already warming by long distance heating, now followed by inside works. From May 2015 we are already booked. On July 24th, 2015, our projects godfather, Archbishop Prof. Ludwig Schick, will celebrate the inauguration. We happily look forward to this day. For the renovation we received contributions and subsidies from the Archbishops financial department, from the Oberfranken Foundation, from LEADER, from the Saving Bank Foundation and from the Community of Zapfendorf. But, alas, this is far from being enough. We look for further sponsors or donators. To fulfill our own engagement we organized among others beneficiary concerts (twice the young organist Simon Schutte) and another on Solemnity of Christ the King and the occasion of the 25th jubilee of our organ, together with Prof. Shimura, Sr. Felizitas OSB, Mrs. Bettina Wagner-Pan, Mrs. Stefanie Schwörer and Mrs. Ann-Kathrin Bauer. Two flea markets brought some money too.

We never lacked of guests. There were the groups, coming every year, pilgrims, daily excursions from senior homes, many communion kids to fabricate their candles themselves, guidances of the Abbey as well as single guests to recover and to enjoy the peacefulness of our Abbey. We were pleased about the many guests of all around the world on the occasion of the Annual Catholic Day 2014 in Regensburg. The catholic countrymen assembly joined us with an English speaking group. The demand for quiet days with or without our guidance increased, as well as „Kloster auf Zeit“, monastic experience. This is where Mrs. Angela Knapp joined us for about four weeks to experience herself in enclosure. On October 1st, 2014, she entered and on October 2nd she was welcomed in our community as a postulant. Sr. Bernadette OSB is her spiritual leader. We are very glad about this increase in our community and do hope that our way of life will be right for her as well and that she will not stay alone.

Sr. Bernadette participated in the supervision meeting of Novice Leaders. Together with Sr. Hildelita OSB, Sr. Mary Hedwig OSB and Sr. Christine OSB she attended the ordination to the priesthood in Münsterschwarzach. These are only a few examples of the very vivid contact between us and other religious orders and communities. Mr. Hartmut Koschyk, Member of Parliament, invited us to visit the Order of Prämonstratenser in Speinshart. It was a very beautiful and interesting day!

Every year again... our Sisters needed medical assistance and some short stays in hospital were necessary. We are very grateful to our Lord, that actually none of our Sisters is really sick. This is not self-evident, as Sr. Bernadette OSB had to experience. Several times throughout the year she could go for a short while to her mother, until her beloved mother passed away on August 19, 2014. May she rest in peace in HIS mercy.

Every year again... we cannot thank to all of you: Sisters, our employees, the medecins and helpers, the many of you who assisted us when help was needed. And those who prayed for us, who accompany us constantly. From our deepest heart please accept our „Vergelt's Gott!“.

As every year... there is not enough place and not enough time to write down all the things, which happened throughout the year. Please bear and forbear! Our Lord knows about all of us and we are all in HIS hands. That will be enough. We lay back the things passed and lay them trustingly into HIS hands and pray for HIS blessing for the coming. Please let us always be related in our prayers, this is what we wish, not only during the Holy Night!

The Lord bless and guide you
this is our wish and prayer

M. Mechthild and Convent