

Presentation of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Monastery
Report to the 2009 Diocesan Assembly

Master, bless!

September 20, 2008, was a monumental day in the monastery's history, for we celebrated our 10th Anniversary of Official Founding with the Consecration of the newly completed Chapel by His Eminence Archbishop Job, together with the tonsuring and installation of the monastery's first abbess.

We were honored by the presence of His Eminence, together with our Chancellor, the Very Rev. John Zdinak; our Dean, the Very Rev. Timothy Sawchak; the Rev. Andrew Moore, the Rev. Moses Berry; and the Rev. Deacon Joseph Matusiak; together with parishioners who traveled from as far away as Pennsylvania to share in this joyful occasion.

Within a few months, we returned to fund-raising and subsequent building to complete the fourth quarter of our residence. Work is approaching completion of this project, which has created three new cells, together with a handicapped-accessible bathroom, utility room, storage, work space, and a reception area.

After moving to Missouri, our first two years were necessarily dedicated to the building of the chapel and development of our monastic residence. With Sister Alexandra's expertise in landscaping, we were able to devote considerable time this summer to planting flowers and ornamental trees and making the property more park like.

Making occasional journeys to distant parishes of other jurisdictions, we are able to increase awareness that there is a monastery in this region of the country. As a result, increasing numbers of individuals and groups are visiting. It is especially heartening to see parents bring their young children with the expressed purpose of making them aware of the prayerful life of the monastery as a future possibility for their lives.

As this report is being written, we are preparing for our Annual Founder's Day Celebration, Saturday, September 19th.

We are most grateful to all who have assisted us through their prayers and gifts.

We ask that you would, please, keep both our diocesan monasteries in your prayers, and help us by letting the members of your parish know that our monastery is here as a center for prayer, peace, spiritual growth, and uplifting. We hope that both you and they will be able to visit in the near future.

In Christ Our Lord,

Mother Sergia