

This story was originally printed in the March 2011 issue of New Earth, the newspaper for the Diocese of Fargo.

Provisions for, prayers from the monastery

If the nuns at Carmel of Mary are asked by someone from the outside whether they need anything, they readily make it known. They are most grateful to the surrounding communities for supplying their needs.

Maryann Althoff, a retired teacher from Breckenridge, learned this early on in her association with the Carmelites, which began sometime in the 1950s.

At a gathering following Sister Veronica's profession of solemn vows, Althoff recounted some of her memories of the Carmelites' earlier days. Back then, they were operating out of an abandoned hospital in Wahpeton, given to them by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minn. "I was there in 1955 for the closure, the sealing of the convent," she said.

In return for all they receive from others, and through God, the Carmelites spend much of their days praying for those in the communities that sustain them, as well as the diocese and the whole world.

Althoff was able to bring a guest to the Feb. 2 event, and chose her friend Marlys Haiby, also of Breckenridge. "I'm probably the only Lutheran here," Haiby said, noting that the Carmelites have prayed for her and her family numerous times through the years. "I've had two major surgeries and I know I came through them because of all the prayers of the Sisters."

To present the Carmelites with your prayer requests, call (701) 642-2360, email CarmelofMary@carmelnet.org or write to: Cloistered Carmelite Nuns, Carmel of Mary, 177 78th St. S.E., Wahpeton, ND 58075-9310. You can also visit the Carmel of Mary website www.fargodiocese.org/vocations/carmelmary.