

## **Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life**

### **Historical beginnings in Archdiocese of St. Louis**

#### Redemptoristine Foundation in Liguori, MO

On Dec. 30, 1959, Very Rev John McCormick, CSsR, Provincial of the St. Louis Province of Redemptorists, and his two consultants, Rev. Donald Miller and Rev. Raymond Schmidt, came to our Monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, requesting a foundation of their Redemptoristine Sisters in their Province. Our Council accepted this invitation. A letter was received from His Excellency Archbishop Ritter of St. Louis on Jan. 8, 1960, inviting the Redemptoristines of Barrie to make a foundation in Liguori, MO. On Jan. 25, 1960, His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan of the Archdiocese of Toronto granted his approval for the establishment of this Foundation at Liguori. At a Chapter meeting of the Community, 8 Sisters were named to the Foundation, 4 Canadians and 4 Americans.

On April 28, 1960, these 8 Sisters left the Barrie Monastery accompanied by Rev. Donald Miller and Rev. Norman Muckermann, Redemptorists, for Toronto Airport. For more than half of these Sisters, this was to be their first plane flight! Arriving in Chicago en route to St. Louis, the Sisters were greeted by many Redemptorists, family, and friends. Again airborne, this time for their final destination of St. Louis, MO. On arrival, the Sisters felt the joy and blessing of many Redemptorists from St. Louis, as well as Religious who greeted them and welcomed them to their new home, located on Liguori Publication's property, south of Arnold. Solemn Benediction was scheduled for our arrival, and dinner was served in our new home. The following morning there was a Solemn Mass with His Excellency Archbishop Ritter who presided and welcomed them with a direct appeal for prayer for all his people and their priests.

To our great surprise, Archbishop informed us that he would not impose the enclosure immediately, but urged us to meet some of the other Orders and Communities in the Archdiocese, especially the Contemplative Nuns. Thus began a round of visits to the various Sisters' Monasteries, Convents, Cathedral, Redemptorist Parishes and schools, over the next 2 months. The date of our official Enclosure in our temporary Monastery took place on June 19, 1960. We lived in the temporary monastery for 3 years while our new Monastery was being built on the same Liguori Publication property. Oct. 24 was the great day of moving into our present Monastery! On Oct. 28, 1962 the Corner Stone was blessed by Right Rev Monsignor Marschner, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Festus who was designated by Cardinal Ritter as his personal representative. At last on Dec. 29, 1962, His Eminence Cardinal Ritter blessed the whole Monastery and offered a Solemn Mass with 70 Priests attending. So we live on, happy as ever!