

For the word of God is living and active... - Heb 4:12

Hello everyone! May the peace of Christ be with you!

It has been 7 1/2 months since I started my "School of Life" with the Little Sisters of the Lamb at our monastery in KCK- and I am *finally* writing to you! Please know that despite my radio silence you have been in my prayers!

The best way I can "sum up" my experience of these last few months is to quote Paul, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." These words are TRUE, and the deepest excitement and activity of my time here is to grow close to the word of God, to keep and ponder it in my heart like Mary, to "chew" on it through manducation (repetition), and to witness how the Lord changes my heart. The strongest moments of conversion have come when, with the grace of God, I can accept what the Gospel calls me to for that day.

Exteriorly and interiorly, I hit the ground running. It was nearly Lent when I arrived, so a time of deep retreat was followed by the glorious madness of Holy Week. We have many long offices during the day and night for almost 2 weeks leading into Easter, so nearly everything but liturgy, song practice and cooking came to a standstill so that we could closely follow Christ step by step on his journey to Jerusalem.

After Holy Week, the brothers and sisters put on a play at Bishop Ward high school, to share about the mystery of the Lamb and to give thanks for all our friends, neighbors and broader community have done to help with the project of the little brother's monastery! A simple tale of a young man sent on a journey by a monk showed how when we approach those who suffer, we can receive joy in sorrow, and that this mysterious change of sorrow into joy through the Cross is God's answer to evil in the world. I was a tourist, a trombonist, a choreographer/dancer, a mourner and a stage hand! Whew!

At the end of May, the Community and a group of young people went on a walking pilgrimage from Pleasanton, KS to Mound City, KS and the Sugar Creek Mission where St. Rose Philippine Duschene spent one year working with and praying for the Pottawatomie Indians. St. Philippine is a French religious sister and missionary who came to Missouri and Kansas, and so you can see why the community might connect to her! It was 27 miles of walking (split into two days) through fields, pastures, "woods" and gravel roads with lots of prayer and silence. It was an incredibly beautiful experience for me and I really received a zeal to "keep the word" during this weekend.

Now we are settling into a more or less "regular" monastic schedule which includes French lessons, an additional hour of French study, two hours of formation with a professed sister, an hour of gardening and lots of adoration, lectio divina and chores each week in addition to Mass and the offices. Right now I am learning to sew and helping build shelves in our

carpentry workshop.

And finally, I have good news! Another young woman (Morgan) and I will be **entering postulancy** on **Sunday, October 29th**! We will become postulants during Vespers (evening prayer) which will start at **5:30pm** and usually last around one hour. The simple ceremony is open to the public, and I would be so happy to see you there! Postulancy is not as important as receiving the habit or taking final vows, but since the community is international and there is a strong chance later steps will take place in Europe, this might be a good opportunity for you to continue to be a part of my journey. We will receive the cross of the Community of the Lamb and a blue outfit and enter into a more intense time of formation which typically lasts 1-2 years before we would enter the novitiate and receive the habit, if God wills it.

If you would like to come, please respond to this email or call the monastery at [913-621-1727](tel:913-621-1727) just so we have an idea of how many folks to prepare for.

Please continue to pray for me, and know of my prayers for you!

May the Lord give you His peace,
Amanda