

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundress of Intercessors of the Lamb resigns

Archbishop Lucas appoints priest to oversee operation of religious organization

October 4, 2010 (OMAHA, NE) – On Thursday, September 30, Archbishop George Lucas accepted the resignation of Mother Nadine Brown, foundress and general director of the Association of the Hermit Intercessors of the Lamb. Lucas appointed the Rev. Gregory P. Baxter trustee of the association. Baxter is charged with governing, managing, and guiding the association.

Located at 11811 Calhoun Road, the Intercessors of the Lamb is a contemplative, intercessory, and mixed (lay men, women, and clerics) association of hermits. Founded by Brown, a former member of the Sisters of the Cross (now the Contemplatives of the Good Shepherd) in St. Paul, Minnesota, it was originally recognized by Archbishop Daniel Sheehan as a private association of the Christian faithful in 1992. Its juridical status changed in 1998 when Archbishop Elden Curtiss erected the group as a public association of the Christian faithful.

In May, Archbishop George J. Lucas retained the services of a canon lawyer to act as his delegate in conducting a canonical visitation of the Association of the Hermit Intercessors of the Lamb. The Rev. James J. Conn, SJ, JD, JCD, a canon law professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, conducted the first phase of the canonical visitation last summer before returning to Rome. Conn examined the association's governance structure, in addition to reviewing the doctrinal, spiritual, moral, and financial aspects of the association. The visitation was conducted in accord with the Intercessors' statutes and in accord with the *Code of Canon Law*.

Lucas said Conn's visitation has helped him better understand the unique structure, mission and purpose of the Intercessors. "Father Conn's preliminary findings, as well as Father Baxter's appointment as trustee, will help chart a course forward for the community," Lucas said. "I'm grateful for Father Conn's good work, and I have full confidence in Father Baxter's ability to guide the visitation to a successful conclusion."

(more)

Baxter's appointment as trustee took effect September 30. The appointment is for an indefinite period of time. Lucas and Baxter met with association members October 1 to discuss Baxter's responsibilities as trustee and take questions from community members.

Baxter, who has an advanced degree in spirituality from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, will remain pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish. He has held key archdiocesan leadership positions, including moderator of the curia, chancellor, and director of vocations.

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Founded as a diocese in 1885, the Archdiocese of Omaha serves spiritual and human needs in a 23-county area of Northeast Nebraska. Through its 147 parishes and missions, the archdiocese reaches out to 225,000 Nebraska Catholics. With two Catholic universities, 57 elementary schools, 18 high schools and a parish-based religious education program within its boundaries, Catholic education enriches the lives of some 58,000 young people. The Archdiocese of Omaha is one of the largest private social service providers in the region. Catholic Charities and the Family Life Office lead a network that ministers to the broadest and most fundamental needs of our community. Generous support to the Annual Appeal is symbolic of the collective faith that allows the Archdiocese of Omaha to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. www.archomaha.org