

VERMONT CATHOLIC

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Professing solemn vows, two women reject worldly allurements, accept cowl of humility

Two women—one from Vietnam, and one from the state of Maine—celebrated their solemn profession and consecration at the Benedictine Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Westfield on May 18.

Sister Angelica Marie Pham from Saigon, Vietnam, and Sister Elizabeth Rose Hoering from Portland, Maine, professed their vows at a Sunday Holy Mass presided by Father Abbot Dom Philippe Dupont, OSB, abbot of the Abbaye St. Pierre de Solesmes in France and president of the Congregation of Solesmes.

“Christ guides us to the Father,” Dom Dupont said in his homily to the nuns and guests of the newly professed. “Let us remember we are on a road leading to the Father.”

He said Jesus’ mission was to communicate the knowledge of His Father, and he encouraged the Mass congregation “do not be afraid” as they journey to the Father.

Dom Dupont expressed his desire that the newly

professed nuns would live a monastic life “filled with His life and His joy.”

Sister Pham and Sister Hoering entered the chapel wearing a white veil, but during the Mass they received the black veil and ring signifying their solemn profession and consecration.

Much of the Mass and profession was celebrated in Latin, and the nuns responded to the abbot in Latin.

A program provided a translation for the guests at the monastic profession.

During the “interrogation,” the abbot questioned the two nuns: “Do you wish to persevere in your resolute will to keep holy virginity?” They

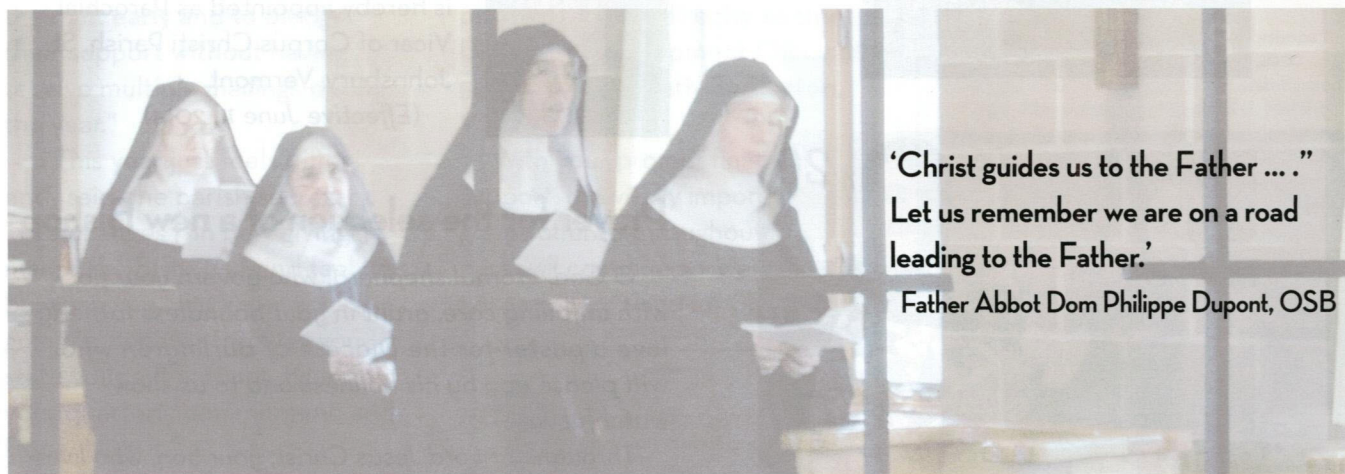
replied, “I do wish to persevere.”

They also vowed stability in the monastery, the conversion of their life, and obedience.

The newly professed read their profession and signed them on the altar. They then received from the abbot a black cowl symbolizing humility of heart



Sister Elizabeth Rose Hoering and Sister Angelica Marie Pham enter the chapel at the Benedictine Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Westfield for Holy Mass and their solemn profession and consecration.



**‘Christ guides us to the Father ...’
Let us remember we are on a road
leading to the Father.’**

Father Abbot Dom Philippe Dupont, OSB

Nuns at the cloistered Benedictine Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Westfield sing during the solemn profession and consecration of Sister Elizabeth Rose Hoering and Sister Angelica Marie Pham.

and withdrawal from the world. They sang, in Latin, "The kingdom of the world and all the allurements of this age I have despised for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, whom I have chosen as my love."

The professed sisters also prostrated together by the side of the altar as the Litany of Saints was sung.

Their fathers brought to the abbot the newly professed nuns' black veil, ring and book of the Divine Office.

The veil signifies their bond with God so that, according to the prayer with which they had been

blessed, "when the time comes for the eternal reward of the saints, [the nuns] may be found in readiness in the company of the wise virgins and may be escorted to [God] into the wedding feast of eternal joy."

The prayer over the rings asked God that those who wear them would be fortified

with strength from heaven and that their faith would remain intact and their fidelity pure "as brides of Christ may they guard their resolution of virginity and persevere in perpetual chastity."

After receiving their veils, rings, and books, Sister

Pham and Sister Hoering knelt before the prioress, Sister Laurence A.M. Couture, OSB. Placing her

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Sister Elizabeth Rose Hoering reads her profession chart. She and Sister Pham vowed to God "forever, stability, conversion of my life and obedience."



Sister Angelica Marie Pham signs her profession chart on the altar.



Sister Elizabeth Rose Hoering kneels before the prioress, Sister Laurence A.M. Couture, OSB, as Sister Angelica Marie Pham looks on. Both newly professed sisters offered the prioress a gesture of filial obedience, and the prioress gave each the kiss of peace.

(Photos by Cori Fugere Urban)

Consecration, profession of solemn vows

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joined hands between those of the prioress, each newly professed nun offered filial obedience, and the prioress gave each the kiss of peace.

The offertory gifts for the Holy Mass were carried by the newly professed and family members.

Sister Hoering, 30, attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where she was a geology major. She worked at Bigelow Laboratories for Ocean Sciences as a lab technician.

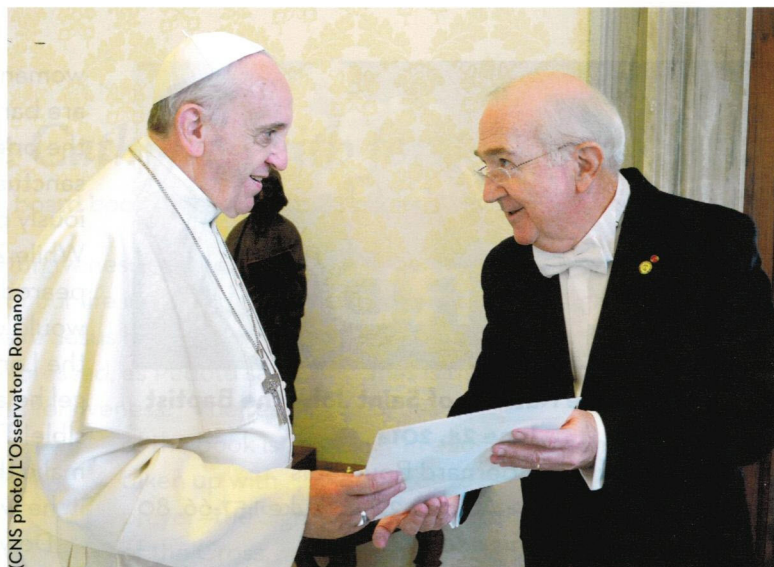
Sister Pham, 46, attended Florida A&M University where she received a master of architecture degree before working as an architecture drafter, putting together construction documents.

"I will live according to the rule written for monks by St. Benedict," she said. "To seek God alone, to live in the solitude and silence of a life separated from the world, in manual labor, in renunciation and obedience, in the heart of a community united by the bond of charity under the guidance of a prioress. A life of prayer which has its expression in the solemn celebration of the Divine Office."

Both she and Sister Hoering said God called them to the Westfield monastery. "I never would have chosen it on my own, at least initially," Sister Hoering said. "I wanted to be a missionary, and it was only gradually that I gained a better understanding of the contemplative life and how God had prepared me for it."

Her advice for those contemplating religious life: "Just pray: 'God, I want to be entirely yours and to do your will, show me where you want me.' And He will."

*Article written by Cori Fugere Urban,
Vermont Catholic staff writer*



(CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Pope Francis talks with Kenneth F. Hackett, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, during a meeting at the Vatican.

U.S. Embassy to Vatican in partnership with Talitha Kum Campaign

The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See is continuing its partnership with the Talitha Kum Campaign—an international network of women religious, who have made the fight to end human trafficking a central focus of their mission.

Worldwide, between 12 million and 27 million people live as victims of human traffickers. Women and girls account for roughly three quarters of all victims, more than half of whom are held in a state of sexual servitude, with 36 percent of victims being put to forced labor.

At a special conference for journalists at the Press Office of the Holy See on Tuesday morning, officers of Talitha Kum and representatives of the Campaign's partners, including the US mission to the Vatican, presented initiatives connected with raising public awareness and preventing the traffic in human persons—especially commerce in girls and young women for purposes of sexual slavery—at the upcoming World Cup in Brazil.

U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Kenneth Hackett, spoke to Vatican Radio about his regard for the work of Talitha Kum, "Little girl, arise!" in Aramaic, and alludes to the account, in the Gospel according to St. Mark, of Christ's raising a young girl from the dead. "The US mission to the Holy See has been collaborating with Talitha Kum and [Talitha Kum Coordinator] Sr. Estrella Castalone FMA, for a number of years now, because we see this as a very important issue—the whole issue of human trafficking and how it