

Char. Observer
Monastery
March 6-25
Is Dedicated

GREENVILLE, S. C., March 5 (AP)—The new monastery of St. Clare on the outskirts of Greenville was dedicated at semi-private services today.

The Very Rev. Celsus R. Wheeler, provincial of the Order of Friars Minor in the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, dedicated the \$250,000 monastery.

Tomorrow, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D., J.U.D., Titular Archbishop of Laodicea and Apostolic Delegate to the United States, will be the celebrant for a solemn Pontifical high mass, the final step in the dedication.

After today's dedication ceremonies, the Most Rev. John J. Russell, bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, was celebrant for the first public mass in the chapel of the monastery.

The 10 Poor Clare nuns who are to spend cloistered lives of prayer and penance in the monastery observed the mass from their private chapel, separated from the outer chapel by a grillwork.

Mass will be celebrated every day in the public chapel, with the cloistered nuns taking part in their private chapel.

A solemn pontifical high mass is one that is sung by a bishop or an archbishop, assisted by five priests. The Very Rev. Charles J. Baum, V.F., pastor of St. Mary's here, will be assistant priest for the mass. Father Wheeler will preach and Archbishop Cicognani will give the history of the Poor Clare nuns.

After today's service, the nuns consented to pose for pictures. Sister Rose, an extern nun, one of the two who will conduct the monastery's business with the outside world, told a reporter, "We like being here very much, and hope you people will like us."

**SC TRAPPIST MONASTERY
TO BE ABBEY DEC. 15**

MONCK'S CORNER, Nov. 4 (AP)—The Trappist Monastery near here will become an abbey December 15.

The decision was made at a meeting in France of Trappist abbots.

The monastery is that of Our Lady of Mepkin.

To become an abbey it must be self-sustaining. The Monks operate a bakery, chicken farm, dairy and nursery.

The Rev. M. Anthony Chassagne has been named abbot by members of the monastery community. He will be blessed in Dec. 15 ceremonies at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston.

State - Nov. 5, 1955

PLANTATION DONATED

Monastery Planned In S. C.

KINGSTREE, July 16—Springbank Plantation near Kingstree has been given to the Dominicans, a Catholic order, by Mrs. Howard S. Hadden and will become state missionary headquarters for South Carolina.

The 100-acre estate, one of the oldest in Williamsburg County, was deeded to the Dominicans this month and is now being transferred into a religious community. Former state headquarters were in Columbia.

Father Patrick Walsh, O. P., is in charge. Father George Westwater, O. P., of Washington, D. C., and four seminarians are now at the former plantation.

Father Walsh says that in time the estate will become a complete religious community for men who

will observe monastic schedules and conduct missionary activity.

Negotiations are being carried out with the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O. P., Provincial of the Dominicans; Bishop John J. Russell of Charleston, and with Rome to bring about official establishment of the new religious foundation.

The Dominicans are missionary priests. The order was founded by Saint Dominic in 1216.

Mrs. Hadden, widow of H. S. Hadden, New York architect and advertising executive who bought Springbank in 1931, will reside in one of the cottages on the grounds. Mr. Hadden died in 1950 and is buried on the place.

Springbank Plantation has long been recognized as one of the loveliest spots in South Carolina.

The plantation derived its name from a small branch within a stone's throw of the house that was known to run almost dry by day, springing up and flowing during the night.

The colonial house now standing was built less than 10 years ago, after a windy March morning fire destroyed the original plantation house. The present

house is said to have been built as much like the old as possible and on the same site.

The Charlotte Observer
Sunday, July 17, 1955

**'Do-It-Yourself' Not New
To Silent Trappist Monks
In Big S. C. Monastery**

Charlotte Observer, September 1, 1957

**They Make Their Clothes,
Farm, Cut Trees And Pray**

By EARL HEFFNER
Observer Telegraph Editor

TRAPPIST ABBEY, MONCK'S CORNER, S. C. — The men of mystery live here.

Men who the people from the outside world rarely see and then only briefly in flowing robes and cowled heads.

They call themselves the unknown soldiers of the cloister, and aptly so for whether one is the son of a millionaire or just another ex-GI, he's an anonymous Trappist monk.



HEFFNER shadows of another age still move about, wrapped in profound silence.

It seems strange to believe that men should rise regularly at 2 a.m., abstain from all flesh meat, fast the greater part of the year, and spend their lives in almost total silence.

And it is strange.

That's why I visited this monastery on the banks of the Cooper River.

On 3,000-Acre Plantation

Abbot M. Anthony gave me special permission to spend a day with the monks, to go beyond the visitation limits usually granted guests, to see at close hand how

a Trappist monk lives.

The guided tour was conducted by the abbot and by the guestmaster of Our Lady of Mepkin, Father Malachy.

I found the sprawling, 3,000-acre monastery plantation at the end of a winding, dirt road about 10 miles from Moncks Corner.

And it was like driving from the modern world into the Old South.

Giant oaks, festooned with Spanish moss gave the road a heart-of-Dixie beauty. And when I rang the bell at the monastery gate, I was almost prepared for Scarlet O'Hara or Rhett Butler to answer the ring.

Instead it was Trappist Father Malachy.

He took me inside to a land of silence.

Their Tasks Are Plentiful

These Trappist monks — more correctly known as monks of the Order of Cisterians of the Strict Observance—are the original do-it-yourselfers.

The monks do everything from making their own clothes to felling giant oaks—and trying to help atone for the sins of all mankind as they lead lives of prayer, study, labor, and penance.

Trying to keep up with these monks for even one day taxes the endurance of a man from the outside world.

They rise at 2 a.m., have prayers and meditations until 4:15 a.m., when private Masses are said, then a very light breakfast, followed by another period of prayer and of study.

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