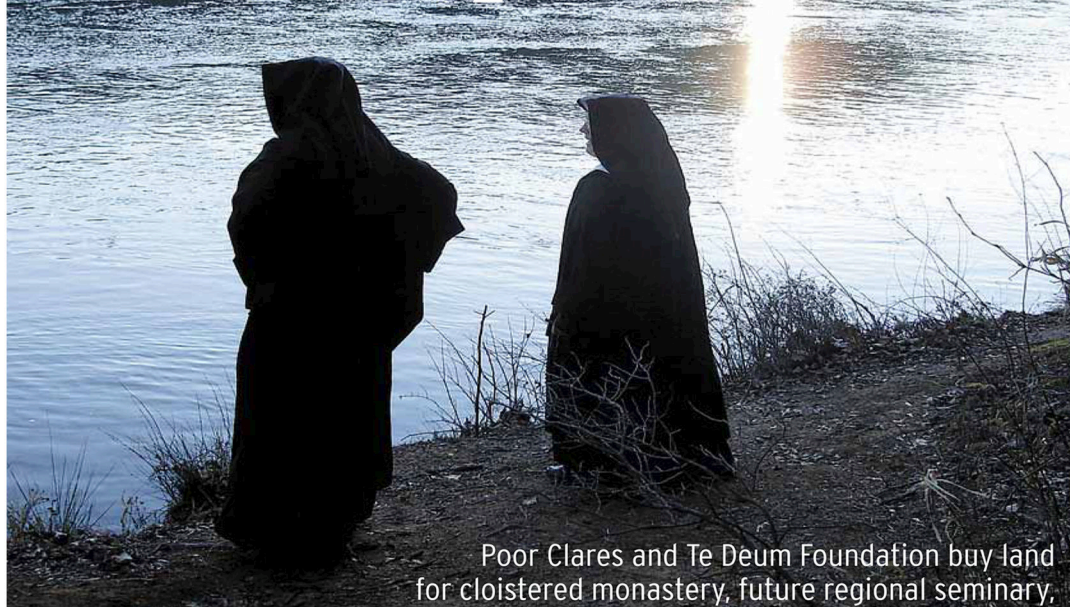


## On Holy Ground



Poor Clares and Te Deum Foundation buy land for cloistered monastery, future regional seminary.

(Pictured from left) Sister Marie Thérèse, PCPA, and Mother Dolores Marie, PCPA, admire the view from their newly-acquired property on the south side of the Broad River in Cleveland County, where they hope to build the monastery in which they will live their vocation of a hidden life of prayer for priests and in spiritual support of the Church.

## Poor Clares and Te Deum Foundation buy land for monastery, seminary

SUEANN HOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A community of cloistered nuns and the Te Deum Foundation have jointly acquired land in Cleveland County for a new monastery and a future seminary.

Mother Dolores Marie, PCPA, abbess of St. Joseph Monastery, and Wilhelmina (Billie) Mobley, president of the Te Deum Foundation, have announced the purchase of 484 acres in Mooresboro, about 60 miles west of Charlotte. The property is about 20 miles from St. Mary Church in Shelby. It is situated on the south side of the Broad River, adjacent to a county-protected greenway.

The land will be split between the Poor Clares, for a permanent monastery, and the Te Deum Foundation, for a future regional seminary.

The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, who moved their community to the Diocese of Charlotte from Ohio in 2010, have been living in a temporary monastery on the St. Ann Church campus on Willow Oak Road in Charlotte. They are now raising money to build a chapel and monastery on the 333 acres they will occupy. The Poor Clares are part of the religious order of famed EWTN founder Mother Angelica, located in Hanceville, Ala., at the monastery at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The other 151 acres are being set aside for a future regional seminary — a project being spearheaded by the Te Deum

### How can you help?

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about donating to the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration or to the Te Deum Foundation, go to [www.stjosephmonastery.com](http://www.stjosephmonastery.com) or [www.tedeumfoundation.org](http://www.tedeumfoundation.org), or call Billie Mobley at 336-765-1815.

Foundation, a non-profit organization which operates separately from the Diocese of Charlotte and which supports seminarians in their education.

The proposed seminary would be the only one in the Southern region of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Right now, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte attend schools in Maryland and Ohio; including Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg and The Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. Several also attend the Pontifical North American College in Rome. The Diocese of Charlotte has 17 seminarians currently training for the priesthood.

Both the Poor Clares and the Te Deum Foundation had been searching for land somewhere in the Diocese of Charlotte for some time, and Mother Dolores Marie and Mobley say they are thankful to have found

a mutually beneficial piece of property.

Through a combination of the generosity of the non-Catholic landowner and money from the Te Deum Foundation and the Poor Clares, they succeeded in acquiring the piece of property valued at \$2.9 million, Mobley said.

Mother Dolores Marie and Mobley met with Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis on March 1 to discuss the project and to show him a topographic map of the site.

The two also shared a video presentation of their complementary mission of assisting priests and seminarians through prayer and sacrifice. They are currently visiting parishes and groups, showing the video, and discussing how donations can be made to the Poor Clares and the Te Deum Foundation to further this work.

"It is great news that the sisters have been able to acquire the land for their monastery," Jugis said. "I pray that God continue to bless them as they move forward with their plans. Their witness of a life devoted to contemplative prayer is a great blessing for the Church in North Carolina."

The Poor Clares spend hours each day in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, praying and interceding for the whole world, with a particular charism of spiritual motherhood, especially for priests.

The Te Deum Foundation is also dedicated to prayer and the support of current and future priests in their educational needs.



SUEANN HOWELL | CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

(From left) Billie Mobley, Mother Dolores Marie, PCPA, and Bishop Peter J. Jugis look over a topography map of the newly-acquired property for the Te Deum Foundation and the Poor Clares on March 1.

## Future monastery awaits financing to become reality

SUEANN HOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Prayer is a powerful thing. The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, who just celebrated their second anniversary in the Diocese of Charlotte, can attest to that. In just two years their prayers for the acquisition of land to build a more suitable monastery to live their hidden life of service to God and His Church have been answered.

Now they need a permanent chapel and cloister to complete their dream.

Mother Dolores Marie, PCPA, abbess of St. Joseph Monastery, hopes it won't be much longer before they can break ground on the sacred space where she and eventually 20 other cloistered nuns will pray, work and live.

POOR CLARES, SEE PAGE 18

## Foundation prepares way for Southern seminary

SUEANN HOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — It has been more than eight years since the Te Deum Foundation was formed to support vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte. Specifically, the foundation provides for the material and spiritual needs of diocesan seminarians in formation for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Billie Mobley, president of the Te Deum Foundation, now hopes to expand the fostering of vocations in another way: by preparing the way to build a regional seminary which would address the educational and formational needs of seminarians who will be serving Catholics in the "Bible Belt."

Mobley was guided by Blessed John Paul II's 1992 apostolic exhortation "Pastores Dabo Vobis" ("I Will Give You Shepherds"), in which he elaborates on what a seminary should be.

TE DEUM, SEE PAGE 18



## POOR CLARES:

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"Our steps are to raise funds to do the site evaluation, civil engineering, etc., then roadwork so we can get people up to the monastery building site...then raise funds for the building," Mother Dolores Marie said.

The chapel will be the first building to be constructed.

"We figured if we put the Lord first, do His building first, He will provide for ours."

The chapel will feature a private side for the Poor Clares and a public side where people can attend daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

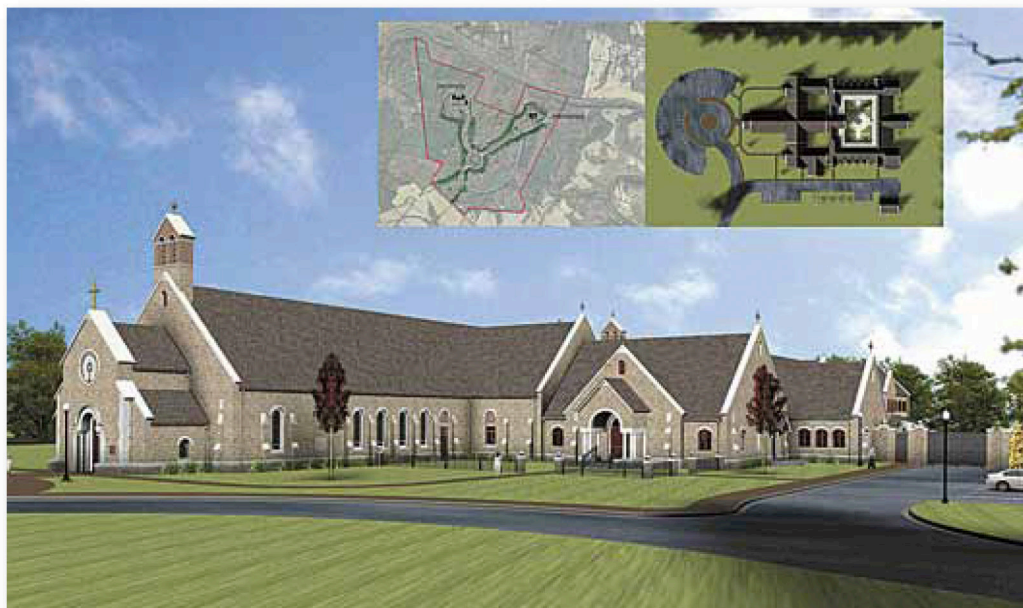
"It will be a nice place of quiet to get away, to listen to the Lord... Everyone needs that down time," Mother Dolores Marie said.

A small part of the cloister which will house the five nuns currently at St. Joseph Monastery in Charlotte will also be built during the initial phase of construction.

"I really want to be out there when the construction is going on. I'm hoping someone there has a place we can use during the construction so we can stay there while it is being built to oversee things," Mother Dolores Marie said.

The Poor Clares are also seeking a four-wheel drive vehicle they can use to navigate the rough terrain of their new property.

Eventually they hope to have a completely enclosed cloister of approximately 40,000 square feet, including the interior courtyard space, outdoor areas for recreation and prayer, an infirmary wing for the elderly sisters and



SKETCH PROVIDED BY THE POOR CLARES OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

This rendering of the future St. Joseph Monastery, designed by Scott R. Harper of Harper Macrae Architecture, illustrates the proposed chapel and monastery. Inset top left: An aerial view of the 484 acres owned by the Te Deum Foundation and the Poor Clares; inset top right: an aerial view of the St. Joseph monastery when all phases have been completed.

the sick, and a cemetery for the nuns.

All told, there will be three phases of construction to complete the monastery.

Mother Dolores Marie also hopes to someday have life-sized Stations of the Cross leading up to the monastery from the main road, allowing for people to pray outside on the property as well.

"Many priests have also asked us to have

a place where they can come to retreat, little hermitages or something," she added.

She said once there is a passable road onto the property, they hope to have Mass celebrated there and will invite people to come out and see the area. "Once the roads are done we can take people out there to show them the property. We'd love for people to see it. It's so beautiful!"

## TE DEUM

FROM PAGE 5

She feels that the recent land purchase in Cleveland County fits well with what the Holy Father would wish for a seminary.

"The Holy Father said that prayer is the basic foundation of the priesthood, that a seminary should be a place that is aside and away. This is a place of peace and flowing waters...it's very Scriptural," Mobley said.

She acknowledges that it is rare to build a new seminary in an age and country where vocations are not as strong as they once were, but she feels strongly that God is laying the foundation by bringing together the people, the resources and the many miracles that have brought the project to its

current point.

Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis commended Mobley and the foundation's work in a 2006 letter, stating, "The foundation's mission to provide for the material and spiritual needs of the men in formation for the Roman Catholic priesthood, as well as the foundation's special project to raise funds in order to purchase land for a seminary, are both praiseworthy endeavors in service of the Lord and His Church."

Mobley hopes that a group of bishops from around the Southeast will join efforts to support the seminary project, setting it up as a house of formation and place of solitude that will serve the entire region and its specific needs – namely, a rising Catholic population amidst a still Protestant majority culture.

Currently there are no seminaries in the

Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky or Mississippi.

The Diocese of Charlotte sends its seminarians to four seminaries; three in the U.S. (Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania); and one in Rome.

"The Southeast has totally different needs. The faith is growing, there is conversion (happening) among the Protestants and there is a need for evangelization here that is not present in heavily Catholic populated areas.

"Seminarians for Southern dioceses would be blessed if they could stay in their own area and receive not just the necessary academics and formation for the priesthood, but also learn how to face the everyday challenges of living in the 'Bible Belt'; learn about apologetics, learn how to open parishes and learn how to build churches," Mobley concluded.

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Come,  
Build Up  
My Church

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