


Creating with One Another

Brother Richard

*The hope we share on this journey is simple and pure.
God's grace given freely will fill our hearts. ¹*

 In this pilgrimage of our monastic life, so many friends have come our way, offering gifts that have blessed and enhanced our life and witness. And it is a deep mystery that unfolds at the very right moment. This is always such a grace! The friendship and joy of the “collaboration” that Sister Laura recounts in these pages has been a gift in our community life and in the sharing of our most recent music—the witness of our faith and search for God’s reign.

The very word “collaboration” is so expressive of meaning and descriptive import. Its Latin roots mean “working together” and evoke images of moving in harmony, laboring with one another in the creative act of giving birth.

Such “collaboration” involves not merely an efficient work-relationship, but a life-enhancing movement with one another that abandons needy self-interest and enters freely into a new relationship of freedom and self-gifting. When we truly have a gift, the spirit of offering evokes joy and is not dependent on how the gift will be received. Spirit touches spirit and is enfleshed in the “let it be” of entering into the mystery of journeying with one another.

This mystery unfolds in complementary gifts of music, as the brothers “collaborate” with our sister Laura. She truly has a variety of musical gifts. She has brought her



Sister Laura Bufano with brother Richard on a recent visit to the priory.

enthusiasm and skills to help us incarnate the poetic cadences and faith-filled melodies born from our prayer. For this gift we are deeply grateful.

Sister Laura's gifts, that have so blessed our life, have been recognized over the years in her ministries to her Congregation, in her ministry of liturgical formation on diocesan and parish levels. But most especially, she has recently been elected to the Congregational Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as Congregational Director. Even though, in this ministry, she presently lives in St. Louis, her friendship and generosity continue to grace our life and song.

As we sang together on the recording, *Pilgrimage of the Heart*, "There is a way ... faithful to the calling of our heart." There is always a way as we share the journey and respond to God's grace given so freely. With Sister Laura we have experienced these words which express the spirit of the recording:

*With hearts and voices,
we join you in the adventure
of being God's friends and lovers,
called to redeem our times! ²*



¹ From the song "Pilgrimage of the Heart," from the recording *Pilgrimage of the Heart*, ©2007 The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.

² From the songbook accompanying the recording *Pilgrimage of the Heart*, ©2007 The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.

