



*Herman Omstedt*

## ST. JOSEPH'S MONASTERY

### *Lannavaara*

The sisters of the 'lambs of Mary' praise and thank God for all that has happened in 2013/2014.

We have been able to purchase the old school in Lannavaara in the most northern part of Sweden thanks to generous sponsors. Exactly on midsummer day we held the inauguration of the new little monastery. More than a hundred people came from our village and from the villages all around. The days and nights before the inauguration were filled with cleaning, scrubbing, moving, carrying and throwing out an abundance of things in order to make it habitable, and most of all to make it into a house of prayer.

Now it is more than a year since we arrived and the house has a temporary chapel, furniture and three guest rooms. Even though we live in this 'simple' way, we have already had individual retreats for about 10 people of 1-3 at the time and welcomed other passers-by, who came and stayed because they were curious- and have had many, many day visitors. We have also had two priests who each stayed 6 months.

In this way it seems it is only right to make this school into a 'real' monastery. We want to maintain the structure of the old building, whilst changing and adding only that which is necessary, so as to make it both functional and beautiful. God's providence has not been lacking in helping us to welcome an architect from the UK (Philip Dinkel of London) who has done the drawings for the rebuilding of the school. The papers were given over to the municipality and we have now received the authorization to begin the building project.

The E.U. "Leader project", Norrbotten, has helped us with 90.000 SKR so that we could prepare and make the necessary installations for the chapel; such as an altar, benches and stalls. The altar also has an inlay of a local refined stone, given by Agne Söderström,. Kristallen AB.

Our production of herbal oils and soap has been widely appreciated, as well as Sr. Karla's wood carving. People from all around and churches of different denominations are ordering from her. They have asked us for a 'homepage' so we have begun [www. Mariaslamm.se](http://www.Mariaslamm.se), where every week we seek to share a meditation on the Sunday Gospel- as yet only in Swedish.



*Teckning av St. Josefs kloster*

We live a life of silence, prayer, solitude and manual work- all for the glory of God and for the good of souls. Our main charisma is to pray for the Scandinavian countries and for their conversion to Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

We ask for continuous support so as to be able to build this monastery; the first Catholic monastery ever in the very north and in Lapponia.

Our gratitude is our prayers for you. You are most welcome to be with us here and experience for yourself the Lord's presence in this awesome silence and beauty, as well as in Jesus' Sacramental Presence and joyful living of the lambs of Mary.

Sr. Amada