

NUNS & AMMO

Back in the Habit

Sister Theresa returns to Kosovo



Giving up shotguns for Lent • The Magnum Mass • Dum-Dums for Jesus • Convent Camo

Glock Be Praised!

One nun talks about her love of plastic pistols

"To me, they're an absolute gift from God," says Sister Assumpta, the 47 year old nun from the the Order of the Blessed Heart, as she cleans the bore of her much used and well-loved Glock 17. "When I think back to all the years I spent insisting that I'd never use anything other than a snub-nosed .38, well – it just makes me cringe!"

Sister Assumpta's conversion to the Austrian manufacturer came with a trip to the Austin GunFest, in 2002. "A few of us went down to the convention, thinking that it might be a chance to pick up some cheap ammunition. I wasn't really expecting to see anything unusual, but there was a salesman there who I recognised from some of the community projects the convent is involved in. We got to talking and he showed me my first Glock – the classic 17."

It wasn't exactly love at first sight, however. As with many shooters, Sister Assumpta found the plastic body of the handgun a radical departure from the norm. "I thought he'd handed me some kind of display model or kiddie's toy and when he told he it was the actual gun, well, I didn't know what to think. It didn't have that solid heft that I thought a gun should, but we went to the range and once I'd squeezed off a few rounds, well... let's just say I saw the light!"

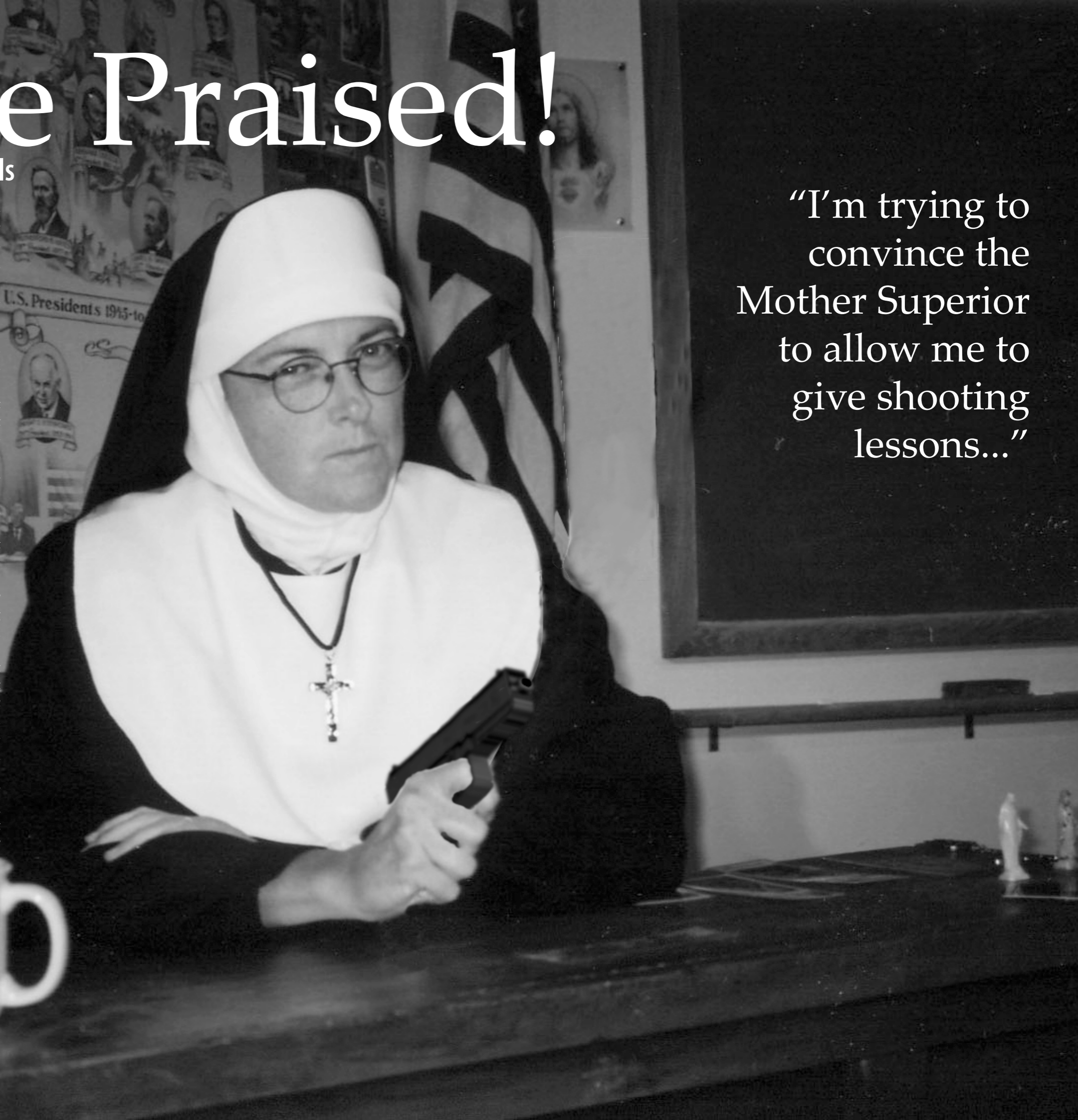
Taking this as a cue, we head over to the small range in the basement of the convent, where we see Sister Assumpta's full range of Glocks – a standard 17, a compact 19 and a subcompact 29. The jewel in her collection, however, is the selective-fire Glock 18. When asked how she came about such

a rare weapon – one commissioned for and used exclusively by Austria's EKO Cobra counter-terrorism unit – Sister Assumpta becomes uncharacteristically coy. "Let's just say it's thanks to an old friend... I wasn't always a nun, you know!"

Indeed, Sister Assumpta briefly considered a career in law enforcement before taking her vows. "I thought long and hard about it and eventually God told me that I could better serve Him by entering the convent. There was a little bit of doubt in my mind when I was undergoing my postulancy, but I was relieved when they told me about the firing range here. I'm here most days and since I got my interest in Glocks, it's really re-awakened my interest in shooting. I'm trying to convince the Mother Superior to let me give shooting lessons to the other nuns. She said she'll think about it."

But what about the other great advantage of Glocks – namely that their compact frame and plastic body allows them to be concealed easily. How about it, Sister Assumpta – ever worn a concealed Glock in church?

"That's between me and my maker," she says, but the smile on her face suggests that perhaps it would be best not to interrupt her during a service...



"I'm trying to convince the Mother Superior to allow me to give shooting lessons..."

And one of the elders saith unto me,
Weep not: behold...



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