



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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Volume 31, No. 4

April, 2014

WITH CHRIST TOWARDS THE CROSS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

“The season of Lent, as a journey with Christ towards the Cross and Resurrection, always reawakens our sense of brotherhood with those living in the Holy Places. It was there that the Apostles first heard the voice of the Lord Jesus, were made partakers by grace in the Mystery, and then began to announce it with the witness of their lives. Around them the first Christian communities began to blossom, beginning from Jerusalem...From that Land, in obedience to the word of Christ, the Gospel has been carried to the four corners of the globe. Consequently, there, also, at her roots the Church must ever discover the ‘great hope’ that the Name of Jesus brings.”

These are the opening lines of the letter sent to all bishops of the world by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, to promote the collection which is traditionally taken up in Catholic churches on Good Friday for the support of suffering Christians in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East. The words beautifully capture the sense of how much we owe to the Holy Land and these first Christians for preserving the beginnings of the mystery of our faith. The lines are also background for the explanation of something new at Marymount Hermitage beginning this Lent.

Since the current chapel was built almost twenty years ago, Sister Rebecca Mary and I were wanting to install Stations of the Cross. We prayed, hoped and waited, not really finding a set which was small enough for our chapel, artistically beautiful, and ones we could afford. So we waited patiently and did without, until recently. In the meanwhile, in May 2011, Sister Rebecca Mary moved to St. Mary of the Valley in Beaverton, Oregon and was not here



**STATION
III
Jesus falls
the first time**

to see the completion of her desire and the fulfillment of her prayers.

In Beaverton, at their extensive campus near the motherhouse, the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon vacated a beautiful convent which had been built for and used by the Sisters who were nurses at the nursing home there. The Superior General, Sister Charlene Herinckx, offered to give me for Marymount Hermitage the Stations of the Cross from St. Theresa's convent chapel. I brought them home last year and this year before Lent, Dan and Berti Duke, my maintenance man and his wife, installed the Stations for me.

If you are asking yourself what the Stations of the Cross are, this is a short explanation taken from my favorite Stations prayer booklet: “During the Turkish occupation of the Holy Land in the late Mid-

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dle Ages, when pilgrims were prevented from visiting its sacred sites, the custom arose of making replicas of those holy places, where the faithful might come to pray. One of the most popular of these devotions was the 'Stations of the Way of the Cross', which were imitations of the 'stations', or stopping places of prayer on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. By the late sixteenth century the fourteen stations, as we know them today, were erected in almost all Catholic churches."



Stations I to IV around the left side of the chapel.

In the words of St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1761, this is the reason for making the Stations: "The pious exercise of the Way of the Cross represents the sorrowful journey that Jesus Christ made with the cross on His shoulders, to die on Calvary for the love of us. We should, therefore, practice this devotion with the greatest possible fervor, placing ourselves in spirit beside our Savior as He walked this sorrowful way, uniting our tears with His, and offering to Him both our compassion and our gratitude."

It has been a great joy for me to be able to make the Stations of the Cross this Lent around the perimeter of the chapel. It is an added joy to realize that this is another tangible sign of the connection that we have with our former community, the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. The Stations booklet I use has the prayers of St. Alphonsus Liguori, so full of fervor and affection, anointed by the Holy Spirit, like the words of the great saints. Here is a phrase that he repeats often and which I will use to close this reflection: "I love you, Jesus, my Love; I repent of ever

having offended You. Never let me offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will."



Stations V to X around the back of the chapel.

May our journey this Lent with Christ towards the Cross be the grace and means for living more deeply and fully the joy and peace of the Resurrection this Easter. Please pray for peace in the world, in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, and especially now in the Ukraine and Russia. God bless you!



Stations XI to XIV around the right side of the chapel.

PS: If you are interested in obtaining the Stations prayer booklet which I use and have quoted in this article, I will mail it to you for a donation. I usually sell this booklet for \$2 at the parish sales and I have plenty available. The Way of the Cross is published by Barton Cotton and uses the prayers of St. Alphonsus Liguori. I recommend it for your private devotions.

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The MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER is published by Marymount Hermitage, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation in the State of Idaho. The Hermit Sisters of Mary are a canonically approved, Catholic community of women hermits, following the Rule of St. Benedict. The newsletter is published each month by the 15th on our website only. The purpose of the newsletter is to share the spirituality and material progress of Marymount Hermitage. Please pray that we may be faithful to our way of life in prayer and penance, solitude and silence for the sake of the Church and the world. Any donations are sincerely appreciated and are tax-deductible. Thank you in advance to those who have remembered Marymount Hermitage in their wills. God bless you!

SILENT RETREAT
at NAZARETH RETREAT CENTER
in BOISE, IDAHO

MAY 9, 10, & 11, 2014

Presented by Father Brad Neely, pastor of
All Saints Parish in Lewiston, Idaho and
Sister M. Beverly, HSM from

Marymount Hermitage in Mesa, Idaho

Theme: the Biblical Images of the Church
as presented in Lumen Gentium, the
Vatican II document on the Church

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