



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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Volume 31, No. 12

December, 2014

## Greetings from Mary

Greetings!

I have been living at Marymount for four months now and find that the solitude, my life of quiet and prayer, allows me a clearer path on my pilgrimage of faith. Opening my heart and listening to God makes my world a good one. To quote Sister M. Beverly, *“Little by little, occupation by occupation, day by day, year by year we are trying to deepen our spirit of prayer so that we do really, in fact, pray always. That is going to take a lifetime, if then, to complete.”*

My simple life is truly a blessing. Each day is lived in communion with God where the daily tasks are almost like a sacrament, whether it is doing laundry, shoveling snow, cleaning, cooking or scrubbing toilets – yes, even scrubbing toilets! With Jesus walking beside me, the Holy Spirit keeping me safe and God our Father telling me “all is well.” We are now ready for winter: firewood, lamps and reserve water – all is ready. (Photo below by Mary Chamberlin)



*Cuddy Mountain with the most snow to date: 12/9/2014.*

Wishing you...

the Peace of Advent,  
Joy during Christmas,  
Happiness in the New Year,  
Faith, Hope and Love always

*Mary Chamberlin,*

*Lay Associate of Marymount Hermitage*

## Greetings from Sister M. Beverly



“OPEN THE DOORS TO CHRIST!” These are the words of our new saint, Pope John Paul II. This beautiful Christmas wreath, which decorates the doors to our chapel, reminds me of these poignant and dramatic words. Yes, how do we open the doors of our hearts more to Jesus this Christmas? It is the gift he most desires from each of us. Let us pray for each other to obtain the grace to surrender more deeply to our Beloved that he may have joy in our love and we in his.

“We should occupy ourselves in looking upon Christ who is looking at us. Keep him company.

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**Greetings from Sister M. Beverly** *(continued from page 1)*

Talk with him. Pray to him. Humble ourselves before him. Delight in him. We must sometimes remain by his side with our minds hushed in silence.” (Saint Teresa of Avila from her Life.)

Scenes like this (at right) of the interior of the chapel are invitations to the Advent silence and prayer St. Teresa of Avila advocates. Many times the clouds on the horizon at sunset are an Advent purple or lavender. I have been trying to make this season one of more prayer and study for myself and have kept Nov. 30-Dec. 12 as a time of retreat. The Church knows how to help us enter with the right spirit into the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

**Calendar of Blessings**

These days have been so rich with grace. Just to mention them briefly:

**November 19** was the 30th anniversary of the dedication of Marymount Hermitage. We remember that date also as the birthday of our now deceased founding bishop, Bishop Sylvester W. Treinen.

**November 21** is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple. The spirit of prayer is essentially a Marian spirit, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Pray Mary’s Canticle and see. It is also Pro Orantibus Day, the day the Church prays for “those who pray for us,” that is, for contemplatives...hermits included.

**November 27** was Thanksgiving Day and after Mass in Council, Mary and I had the traditional dinner together. She made the meal and I made the dessert: pumpkin pie. We enjoy being together.

**November 30** was the First Sunday of Advent and we began a new practice of making a pilgrimage for Sunday Mass, in this case, to the Boise Cathedral.

**December 8**, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, is the patronal feast of our country. Our joy this day was being able to drive to McCall. The snow had melted and the road was dry and clear.

**December 12** is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is Empress of the Americas. We have a mother who very much wants to be a part of our lives. We anticipate going to Mass in Weiser that day and celebrating there with the large Hispanic community.

**Cards of Blessing**

God bless those who have sent or will send us



Christmas cards and gifts this sacred season. Mass is offered once a month for the benefactors of Marymount Hermitage. We hope our Christmas post card reached you by U.S. mail. If not, please send your correct mailing address and I will send it to you. We thank God for our friends, neighbors and family members. YOU are a blessing!

The New Year 2015 will be one of great blessings for us. We are anticipating having a priest here on sabbatical from May through December which means we will have daily Mass and holy hours with Benediction. After 5 years with no resident chaplain, it will be a joy and a privilege to be able to stay home for Mass and the sacraments and to travel less.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

*Hermit Sister Mary Beverly*



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!