



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

2150 Hermitage Lane Mesa, Idaho 83643-5005

Website: www.marymount-hermitage.org

Tel. (208) 256-4354

E-mail: marymount@ctcweb.net

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WINDOW INTO WINTER

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

JANUARY

One of my joys (and jobs) for January is writing thank you notes to those who sent gifts and donations. I hope you received your post card from Marymount Hermitage before Christmas. We sent out almost 3,000! You see how God has blessed us with many good friends and supporters. The post card summarized the news from 2014, mainly for those who do not have access to a computer or Internet and thus to this monthly newsletter. Thank you for your Christmas greetings and for praying for Marymount and for our needs here.

THANKSGIVING

I especially appreciate that many of you wrote to or referred to Mary Chamberlin who now lives here as our first Lay Associate. Thank you for including her in your prayers and good wishes. Mary would be the first to say that she is happy. Through her initiative, we have begun sharing a home-cooked meal and recreation once a month. We began on Thanksgiving Day with the traditional meal, all of which Mary cooked, except for the pumpkin pie which I made. This month we discovered that we both enjoy Scrabble and plan to include that in our fun times together.



Sister Charlene Herinckx, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, with Sister M. Beverly at the Boise airport on December 16, 2014. Sister Charlene travelled from Beaverton, Oregon to welcome Bishop Peter to NABRS (acronym pronounced "neighbors"). The Bishop of Boise belongs to Region XI1 which means that Bishop Peter Christensen will now belong to NABRS: Northwest Association of Bishops and Religious Superiors, a close-knit group which meets regularly. (Photo by Mary Chamberlin)

BISHOP'S INSTALLATION

Mary and I travelled to Boise on December 16, 2014 and I had the joy of picking up my friend, Sister Charlene Herinckx, SSMO, at the airport when she arrived that afternoon. The three of us had the privilege of attending the official Welcome for our new bishop, Bishop Peter Christensen, and Vespers at the Cathedral. We were able to introduce ourselves to Bishop Peter at the reception afterwards and that was an unexpected blessing. We also attended the Installation Mass on December 17, 2014. You may view the video which is archived at the website of the Diocese of Boise. EWTN also broadcasted it. People have told me they saw me at Mass: my claim to fame! Please pray for our Bishop Peter. We are so grateful to God for the gift that he is to us in the diocese.

Mary preparing to slice the turkey at Holy Family House on Thanksgiving Day.



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FAMILY VISITS

From Dec. 20 until Jan. 3, both Mary and I travelled to be with our families, she to Seattle, WA and I to San Antonio, TX. My Dad turns 92 in February and has made the decision to move himself and his wife to a nursing home. I ask prayers for them for this new and difficult transition. As of January 4, 2015, we are back at Marymount Hermitage and happy and grateful to be able to pray and work in the silence and solitude that characterizes our life.



Winter scene after days of frozen fog which we are having now in January this year. (Photo by Geoff Cole)

WINTER WORK

Much of Mary's work in the winter time is snow removal and deep cleaning of the hermitages while we do not have many retreatants. She has also begun major work in the library which ought to occupy her for at least a life-time! My manual work is building up the inventories for my crafts like flower cards, rosaries, and baby booties to name just a few categories of sale items. The first parish sale will be at Holy Apostles in Meridian, Idaho on March 21 & 22, 2015. My intellectual work involves the study and writing necessary to prepare for the Silent Weekend Retreat which I will give at Nazareth Retreat Center in Boise. Father Brad Neely, pastor of All Saints Parish in Lewiston, ID will help me with the retreat entitled "Praying with Mother Teresa". The retreat is scheduled for Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, 2015.

Contact the office at Nazareth for details and registration information:

www.nazarethretreatcenter.org

E-mail: nazareth@rcdb.org



Joe and Lucille Dungan and Sister M. Beverly at dinner after Christmas in San Antonio, TX. Lucille is my sister.

(Photo by James Dungan, my nephew)

RECOMMENDED READING

I am constantly reading but once in awhile I discover new books which I highly recommend. Such is the case with these two books and authors:

Not God's Type by Holly Ordway

Something Other than God by Jennifer Fulwiler

Both of these women are highly intelligent and articulate. They each tell the compelling story of how they turned from being atheists to, not only Christians, but Catholics. The books are both page-turners and written in highly engaging and persuasive ways. Jennifer's wry humor will have you chuckling often.

God bless you during this New Year and may your work, prayer and reading be fruitful in the Lord. Let's pray for each other daily. Thank you!



Herd of elk in the foreground bedded down for the night near chapel. Mike Nourse, our neighbor, took this photo when he was driving to Lauds one morning about five years ago. Elk do migrate through our area but are not often seen like this...a real treat!

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!