



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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YEAR of CONSECRATED LIFE: Part Two

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

In February, I wrote about The Year of Consecrated Life which Pope Francis designated for this year 2015. As this title suggests, I would like to share more about the celebration of this year of grace as it pertains to me and my life as a canonical hermit in the Diocese of Boise. I requested and was graciously granted by our Bishop the opportunity to visit with him at his office and to attend Mass at the Chancery Office on Thursday, Sept. 10. I wanted to introduce to our new bishop Mary Chamberlin as Marymount Hermitage's Lay Associate. Father Casey Bailey, OCSO, accompanied the two of us for the visit and Mass. It was a joy and a grace for all three of us just to have a leisurely, hour-long conversation with Bishop Peter F. Christensen. Mary and Father Casey each got to tell the major chapters of their lives and the Bishop listened deeply. Now we are awaiting the Bishop's visit to Marymount Hermitage which we hope, God willing, will happen yet this year before winter snows arrive.

Bishop Peter was scheduled to offer Mass for his Chancery staff at 11:30 AM that morning and I asked to renew my vows in his presence, which I did after Bishop's homily. This was my personal effort to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life in a way which was most meaningful to me. Bishop Peter, as my canonical superior, has his name in my vow formula and I wanted him to hear that. My vows are my bond with the Lord and the Church and are very important to me. Bishop prayed for me so beautifully and laid his hands on my head at the end to bless me. It was all very pastoral and moving. How blessed I felt!



Father Casey Bailey, OCSO, Mary Chamberlin, Hermit Sister M. Beverly, and Bishop Peter Christensen, Bishop of Boise, after Mass at the Chancery Office on September 10, 2015.

(Photo by Mike Brown, Editor of the [Idaho Catholic Register](http://www.idahocatholicregister.com))

As Divine Providence would have it, Bishop had designated Sunday, September 13, as the day the whole diocese would pray for men and women religious in the state of Idaho. Bishop sent us a personal invitation to attend Mass which he would offer for us at 10 AM in St. John's Cathedral in Boise. The spectacular architecture and artwork in the church are a prayer and a grace in itself! One feels so uplifted just to be in our cathedral. Mass was memorable and Bishop hosted us at the Treinen House for a luncheon and visit together. I will conclude this account with the prayer which the diocese has published and prayed for our sakes:

"O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through

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the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.” (USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations)

I would earnestly ask that you pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. God is calling young men and women and they need grace to be courageous and faithful in answering their calls. I am also asking you to pray for bishops, especially those in our country. In particular, I ask prayers for Bishop Peter as he celebrates today, September 14, the eighth anniversary of his episcopal ordination. God has blessed us with this good and gifted, holy and humble bishop and we thank God for his loving providence for such a good shepherd after the Heart of Jesus.

September 14 is the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross. Besides being Bishop Peter’s episcopal ordination anniversary, it is also Sister Rebecca Mary’s feast day. When she became a Hermit Sister, she said, “There is no saint Rebecca, so I will take for my feast day my favorite feast...the Exultation of the Cross.” It is a fitting day to celebrate because she has given her life and prayer for the salvation of souls, especially those who are dying today. At Mass today, we prayed for Sister Rebecca Mary. Thank you to those who continue to pray for her health and happiness at her residence at St. Mary of the Valley in Beaverton, Oregon. I will visit Sister there for her 83rd birthday which is September 30.

At the end of our 9/10 visit, we asked Bishop what his prayer intentions were and he told us. Bishop Peter then asked me, “And what shall I pray for you?” I replied, “That I be faithful to my way of life and not give in to mediocrity.” That is my sincere request to you readers also. Thank you and God bless you!



The photos on the wall behind Sister M. Beverly and Bishop Peter are of Bishop Treinen with Pope Paul VI and Pope St. John Paul II. I ask our beloved founding bishop, Bishop Sylvester W. Treinen, former Bishop of Boise, and our co-founding bishop, Bishop Thomas J. Connolly, former Bishop of Baker City, Oregon, to be like Aaron and Hur for our Bishop Peter Christensen.

(Photo by Mike Brown, Editor of the [Idaho Catholic Register](#))

HERMITAGE RETREAT
Schedule your Fall or Advent retreat
now
to take advantage of daily Mass
at Marymount Hermitage
while Father Casey is here
until December 15, 2015.
Call or E-mail Sister M. 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!