



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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SISTER REBECCA MARY'S 50TH JUBILEE

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

"I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart." (Hos. 2:16) This is the invitation to which Sister Rebecca Mary responded over 30 years ago. As co-foundress of Marymount Hermitage, Sister began her life of prayer as a canonical hermit of the Diocese of Boise in 1984 in the high desert of Mesa, Idaho. She had been a Sister of St. Mary of Oregon for 20 years before that. Hence, this year, 2015, is Sister Rebecca Mary's Golden Jubilee of Consecration. The Lord Jesus, as Bridegroom of the Church, calls some women as "brides of Christ" to give public witness to the transcendent reality that all of the baptized are called to union with God.

To celebrate her 50th Jubilee, Sister Rebecca Mary was able to travel by car to Marymount Hermitage on Oct. 1 and her Jubilee Mass was Sunday, Oct. 4. All of us who participated in this special celebration agreed that it was a grace from God and as perfect as it could be. With the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, it is a special grace for Sister Rebecca Mary to have had fairly stable health since February of this year. This circumstance gave us the hope that the trip to Mesa would not be too hard on Sister and that she could actually enjoy herself here.

In her letter to me afterwards, Sister Rebecca Mary wrote: "Thank you so much for the wonderful Jubilee celebration. It was hard to leave, but it's good to be back [at the convent in Beaverton, Oregon], knowing this is where I belong for now. Thank you for all your careful, thoughtful planning... Everything was done with so much love." I consider the thank you as addressed to those who helped me plan



Sister M. Beverly, HSM, and Sister Rebecca Mary, HSM, after the 50th Jubilee Mass on October 4, 2015.

(Photo by Mary Chamberlin)

the details of Sister's visit to Marymount and who were here for part of her stay as well as the day of the Jubilee Mass and meal: Sherry and Ron Moore, Joanne Wood, Mike Nourse and Karen Lockwood. Mary Chamberlin was invaluable in helping with the cleaning and details ahead of time and providing Sister with the trip back to Beaverton on Monday, October 5. At Mass on Sunday, Fr. Casey Bailey, OCSO, did a beautiful job of praying for Sister and speaking to her and us during his memorable homily. Other guests for Mass included Fr. Tom Keller (as concelebrant), Vince Brigante and Eberle Umbach. I personally would like to thank all who regularly pray for Sister Rebecca Mary. Her visit and Jubilee celebration truly were an experience of being lifted up in

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prayer. The atmosphere was supernaturally peaceful and joyful in the Lord's love. God is good; He is faithful!

If any of you would like to write to Sister Rebecca Mary to congratulate her, the mailing address is St. Mary of the Valley 4440 S.W. 148th Ave. Beaverton, OR 97078. Sister would enjoy hearing from you. When she arrived back at the convent, the Sisters had a basket full of gifts and cards for her. I spoke with Sister Rebecca Mary the evening of Sunday, Oct. 11, and she was still fondly remembering her time at Marymount Hermitage and thankful to the Lord that it was possible.



Sister Rebecca Mary renews her hermit vows with Sister M. Beverly at Mass. (Photo by Mary Chamberlin)

My Road Trip with SRM

By Mary Chamberlin, Lay Associate of Marymount Hermitage

Sister Rebecca Mary and I left for Beaverton on Monday morning, October 5; neither of us knowing what to expect as we have never traveled nor had we spent so much time together. First stop: Weiser for coffee and gas. We got our coffees and headed out of town chatting away, but had to go back because I forgot to get the gas (fortunately we had only driven a few miles). We both laughed and were wondering whether we would ever leave Weiser. We took the peaceful drive on Hwy 201 along the Snake river and spotted a flock of pelicans. This relaxing drive was over way too soon as we approached I-84 and the roar of semi trucks barreling along, but we quickly settled into the 75mph pace. Quick lunch in La Grande and back on the road - yes, more coffee for me! and dessert was chocolate chip cookies baked by our neighbor, Mike Nourse. Time was zipping by because we had some really great conversations and good music to accompany us. Before we knew it, we were approaching The Dalles and thought it was probably time for ice cream. We found a little place that served Tillamook ice cream (SRM's favorite)! As the 5:00 o'clock hour was approaching, we arrived at St. Mary of the Valley - and all this in just under 9 hours. Beautiful weather, great company, good music and an OK car make for a memorable day on our road trip.

Note from Joanne Wood

(Joanne is a member of the Board of Directors of Marymount Hermitage, Inc. and has been our friend for years.)

"Indeed it is good news about Sister Rebecca Mary's trip. I am so happy how it all turned out for her. I think it was as perfect as we could expect. It was such a nice weekend."

Note from Mike Nourse

(Mike is also a member of the Board of Directors of Marymount Hermitage Inc. and has been our friend for years, as he relates.)

"My wife, Ceara, and I have lived next door to Marymount Hermitage for over 20 years. When Sister Rebecca needed to move back to Oregon, it tore a hole in our heart. To see her once again "in full uniform" and on the mesa was a wonderful sight indeed. We went out for a big breakfast after Mass on Sunday morning and had a great time. Sister Rebecca has a great sense of humor. She laughs at all my jokes. She is my best audience! May God grant her many more happy years and I look forward to seeing her again at Marymount Hermitage, God willing."

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!