



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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THE LONG LENT

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

“The Long Lent” was a phrase which began to be used in the recent past when the abuse of minors by clerics first hit the headlines in the Catholic press. Certainly, this Lent will qualify for such a phrase for the same reason. So much to pray about! We place our trust in the Holy Spirit, who is purifying the Church, so that She may be a witness in the world to truth and holiness, a means of salvation for all.

Purification begins with each of us, you and me. We understand that Lent is a sacred season for prayer, fasting and alms giving, undertaken for the sake of a renewed conversion to Christ. One Lenten practice I use is beginning some spiritual discipline, which I can continue for the rest of my life. There is always something new we can learn with regard to prayer, virtues and the spiritual life. A daily examination of conscience? Daily prayer with Scripture? Weekly adoration? A good life is slowly built by the development of good habits. I simply ask: “Jesus, how can I show you in a new way that I love you and want to be with you, to listen to your Word and grow in your Holy Spirit for the glory of God the Father?”

With regard to fasting, maybe I can’t fast. Maybe poor health, recuperating from surgery, or grieving the death of a loved one is in itself my penance this year. Then consciously make this circumstance accepted and offered to and with Jesus for the glory of God, a “fragrant offering to the Lord”, to use a Scriptural phrase referring to the temple sacrifices in the Old Testament. After Mass last Saturday night, a friend who recently lost her beloved husband told me that her granddaughter asked her what she was giving up for Lent. Carlene replied, “Papa...God can’t ask more of me than that.” I was very touched by this sentiment.

We can “fast” from something other than food. Fasting is meant to detach us from our own comforts, self-will, worldly attachments, negativity and to be strengthened spiritually in following Jesus as his disciple amidst the temptations present in every vocation.

Study and serious spiritual reading are natural companions to prayer. Maybe during Lent we can spend more time in reading. I have recently discovered a new book which is fascinating: [Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah](#) by Brant Pitre. With an eye to March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, I would like to share a new insight which I read from another source. Joseph knew of the holiness and purity of Mary and never doubted her. However, he thought he had failed to protect her from the transgressions of another man and so lost his right to marry her. The angel’s message “to take his wife Mary into his home” was an exoneration of both him and her. Beautiful! In heaven we will know these hidden, mystical events in greater detail.

This quote from St. Pope John Paul II summarizes what I hope is the focus and goal for all of us during this Lent 2019: **“Jesus alone fully satisfies your longing for truth, beauty and holiness.”** May we pray daily for each other during this “Long Lent” that it may not be “long” in the sense of suffering, but “long” in the sense of deep and fruitful, a season in time preparing us for eternity with God.



What started out as a mild winter turned into a serious winter beginning in Feb. In a week’s time, Council, ID received 4 ft. of snow. Seen here are Mt. Council and the frozen pond at MmH.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

WORK: A sale was scheduled for Feb. 23 & 24 at Holy Apostles parish in Meridian, ID. Because of predicted serious snow storms, I had to cancel the sale. This was a cause of consternation for many, including myself. Whether or not this parish sale can be re-scheduled is still being worked out and certainly will not be until late summer at the earliest.

Kevin Kelso of All Valley Window Cleaning in Boise will donate window washing for all the buildings at Marymount Hermitage again this year. I thank him in advance for this very generous service. If you live in the Treasure Valley, consider hiring Kevin. Contact him at windowman@gobigwest.com



Dawn light on Cuddy Mountain behind St. Helen's hermitage; winter view to the west from chapel. There is a tradition that the Indians of the area had a word for the first light to strike the tops of the mountains and it sounded like "idaho", and hence the name of the state. There is something breath-taking about this mystical morning light which to the human eye looks pink, but which my camera does not "see".

A Confirmation retreat for the youth of the Nyssa, Oregon parish will be March 23, 2019. I am honored to be the leader again this year, at the request of Sandra Meza, a youth teacher and leader there. I ask prayers for myself and for all young people during this season when so many are receiving sacraments.

PARISH RETREAT: At the invitation of Fr. Gabriel Morales, I will be giving the parish retreat at **St. Agnes in Weiser, Idaho on April 15 & 16, 2019.**

The theme of the retreat is the Holy Trinity, the three Divine Persons and how this relates to our interior life and prayer. The retreat will be held in the education building from 7-8:30 PM. All are welcome.

MERCY HOUSE: Corpus Christi parish in Fruitland, Idaho is planning a **Day of Pilgrimage at Marymount Hermitage on May 7, 2019.** The day consists of Mass offered by Father Camilo Garcia and a pot-luck lunch served afterwards in Mercy House. See Calendar of Events for more details.

A Day of Pilgrimage at Marymount Hermitage is planned for May 10, 2019 entitled: "An Iconographer Looks at Our Lady of Guadalupe". Nancy VanDyken will be the presenter. This will be a day of study and prayer with a catered hot lunch. See the Calendar of Events for more details. You can expand this time of prayer by reserving a hermitage for a private retreat either the days before and/or after May 10. Email Sister Beverly, if you are making a reservation or call, if you have any questions.

HERMITAGE RETREATS: Now is the time to consider making a private retreat for Lent and for the spring and early summer months. If you would like the privilege of daily Mass while at Marymount, let me know, and I will tell you when I have priest retreatants scheduled to be here. You can plan your own retreat accordingly.

MY "SABBATICAL" YEAR: In this Year of the Chapel, as I am calling it, I am taking something of a "sabbatical" with regard to my work outside the Hermitage. You may notice that I do not have many parish sales scheduled as in the past. This change of pace is due in part to medical issues. I had basal cell skin cancer removed from my face on March 4 and am recuperating from that. I will have the second cataract surgery on June 18 and prayers for that would be appreciated. Healing takes energy and recuperation takes time. Work in the chapel, library and infrastructure of Marymount Hermitage will be a necessary focus for me.

View to the NW; road just plowed again on Feb. 18. Old common house in foreground and House of His Name hermitage on the far right hill at Marymount..



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