



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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WINDOW MAN: Work Becomes Prayer

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Introduction: I met Kevin Kelso when I taught an RCIA class at Sacred Heart parish in Boise, ID several years ago. Kevin was coming into the Church at that time and was fascinated with my hermit life at Mesa. After class when we were talking and getting acquainted, I discovered that his line of business was professional window washing. He has a business in the Treasure Valley of Idaho as well as in Reno, NV. I had been looking unsuccessfully for months for a local person to wash windows at Marymount Hermitage. It was almost like the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "He is the one." When I asked if he would do me the honor of working for me, even though I did not live in the Boise area,



Kevin readily and graciously agreed.

With ten buildings, window washing is a two-day job for one person. I fully intended to pay Kevin for his work. Initially, I invited him to bring his wife, Suzanne, and make a nice weekend of it for both of them, which they did later that year. What I did not know is that Kevin never intended to take money from me. He has come once a year since that auspicious meeting and has become a friend and a benefactor. It also turns out that Kevin is a gifted writer. I asked his permission to share with you the letter he wrote after he worked here March 22-23, 2019.

Imagine...after donating work, he is thanking me!

Letter: *Sunday, March 24, 2019*
Sister Beverly,

It truly is my joy to come to Marymount and give a small amount of my time. I worked until nearly dark

on Friday and was so tired, I decided not to go to the library [that night]...I had a really great time with God in the morning before starting work. I loved the silence of Marymount, and my heart was at ease and in tune with my surroundings, enjoying God's creation and being thankful to Him.

When work was done [on Saturday afternoon], I spent about 30-40 minutes in the library, just praying and enjoying my time with God. The only thing I really missed was staying long enough so you and I could pray together upon my departure. I have been keeping your petitions to God in my prayers.

The future for Marymount is exciting. God has truly blessed the grounds and the air surrounding it.

Looking forward to next year.

Love in Christ,
Kevin

P.S. I was giving the Confirmation retreat for the youth of the parish in Nyssa, Oregon. I was not back by the time Kevin left Marymount Hermitage on



Kevin Kelso is washing the chapel windows on 8/12/2017. The tabernacle is seen inside giving a visual image of the Lord blessing the work of this good and generous man.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

EVENTS AT MERCY HOUSE: 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 including Mass at 11:30 AM followed by a catered lunch of authentic Mexican food. 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 or call me, if you are making a reservation or if you have any questions or concerns.

A second **Day of Pilgrimage at Marymount Hermitage is planned for May 31, 2019** entitled: “Our Lady of Fatima Speaks to Us”. Father Tom Loucks from Boise will be the presenter. This will be a day of study and prayer including Mass at 11:30 AM followed by a catered lunch from a local restaurant. See the Calendar of Events for further details.

HERMITAGE RETREATS: Now is the time to consider making a private retreat for the spring and 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 then plan accordingly.

EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION AT CHAPEL: The underground cable from the electrical meter to the chapel was damaged. With no power to the building, a retired, local electrician put in a temporary service, consisting of a large wire attached to the breaker box in my house, to the breaker box in chapel. This power can only service the lights and furnace, which is necessary while overnight temperatures are in the teens or twenties. The chapel currently has no hot water. Idaho Power will be installing a new transformer, new underground cable, and meter for the chapel. A local electrician will then finish the electrical installation outside and inside the chapel for the new service. Estimated cost for this project is \$10,000. Construction work will occur in early June. **MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE, INC.** is a non-profit corporation in the State of Idaho since 1983 and is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization recognized

by the federal government. Marymount does not receive support from the Catholic Church or the Diocese of Boise. Marymount is self-sufficient through the work of the Hermit Sisters, retreatants’ fees, and free-will donations from benefactors. As required by the State of Idaho and our Articles of Incorporation, Marymount is governed by a Board of Directors, which meets annually in the spring at Mesa.

The current Board consists of Joanne Wood of McCall, ID secretary, Michael Nourse of Boise (and Mesa), ID treasurer, and Sister Charlene Herinckx, SSMO from Beaverton, OR with Sister Beverly Greger, HSM, as the President. The Board

met this year on April 4 and one of the main points of business was to finalize the document which will be the By-Laws of the corporation. Ten pages of legal language is not easy to manage for four non-lawyers, but we did our valiant best and hope to have the By-Laws completed and approved by June 30, 2019.

On a related point, Hermitage Lane is a private road and Adams County does not do snow plowing in the winter time. In the month of February, when our area received most of the winter’s snow, the cost for snow plowing was over \$1,600. Your donations help with large and necessary bills like this and any construction projects like the one now for the chapel.



GUESTS: Sister Charlene likes to bring other Sisters with her to visit Marymount. This year she brought Sister Josephine (at left) and Sister Rita (at right in photo). Sr. Josephine has visited and made retreats here before, but this was a first visit for Sister Rita. It was wonderful to have Sisters to pray, talk and eat with, even during a short stay.

EASTER: This comes with a hope and a prayer that the high holy days are full of grace for you.



Sister Charlene, SSMO, Sr. Beverly, HSM, Joanne Wood, and Mike Nourse in the Mercy House library on April 4, 2019 after the meeting of the Board of Directors.

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. 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!