



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS



Holy Mary,
pray for us.
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of the Church,
Mother of mercy,
Mother of hope,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Mystical rose,
Ark of the covenant,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comfort of the afflicted,
Comfort of migrants,
Help of Christians,
Queen of angels,
Queen of all saints,
Queen of the rosary,
Queen of families,
Queen of peace,
pray for us.

Invocations from the Litany of Loreto

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is: "Do you really live all alone up there?" The second question is: "Aren't you lonely?" The two answers are "Yes" and "No". It has been almost ten years that I have lived alone at Marymount up here on the mesa. I often think I am the most un-lonely person in the whole world! After almost 40 years as a hermit, I have finally found a way to answer these questions with a vivid image in a way that, for people of faith, makes sense. The true answer is: "I am really NOT alone. I have God, Our Lady, all the holy angels and saints...it is down right crowded up here!"

When you walk into Mercy House: the new house of hospitality and library, you see the walls lined with icons of the Trinity, Jesus, Mary and the saints, ancient and modern. St. Paul writes that "we are sur-

rounded by a cloud of witnesses." (Heb. 12:1) This points to the fact that we live in the communion of saints, which we profess each Sunday in the Creed. The saints are with us, encouraging us, praying for us, showing us how to live in faith, fervently desiring that where they are, we will some day be forever. In the meanwhile, before death and eternity, we have heaven on earth. How is that? "All the way to heaven is heaven, because Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,'" wrote St. Catherine of Siena.

You might be wondering why I did not save this topic for November 1, when we annually celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. The reason is that the topic is very much on my mind since I began reading a new set of books. This four volume set was a gift which I received last year from a friend, but recently I felt inspired to begin reading. Elizabeth of the Trinity: The Unfolding of Her Message In the World and In Community, is Volume 1 by Joanne Mosley. It is very much the astonishing intuition by this young French Carmelite nun that since in Baptism the Holy Trinity dwells within our souls, and since heaven is living with God, then heaven begins on earth for a soul living in grace. The more you read the lives of the saints and understand their spirituality, the more these essential truths of the faith become clear and confirmed.

"All the way to heaven is heaven" may sound hollow in the face of so much uncertainty and fear, disease and death, violence and evil. These are very much realities of our world and our lives. These are the causes of so much suffering. No human being escapes the "shadow of death", which we say in Zechariah's canticle (Lk. 1:79) each morning at Lauds. I have been meditating on this seriously and want to address this aspect also. Ash Wednesday begins on Feb. 17. If you will forgive me the delay, I will save Part II of this meditation for the season of Lent.

Mary our Mother always kept a spirit of gratitude in her heart: "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit

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finds joy in God, my savior... God who is mighty has done great things for me; holy in his Name.” (Lk. 1:46-49) May Our Lady, who is “cause of our joy” because she gave us Jesus, help us in faith to find reasons for hope and joy in all the circumstances of life in this New Year in the Lord.

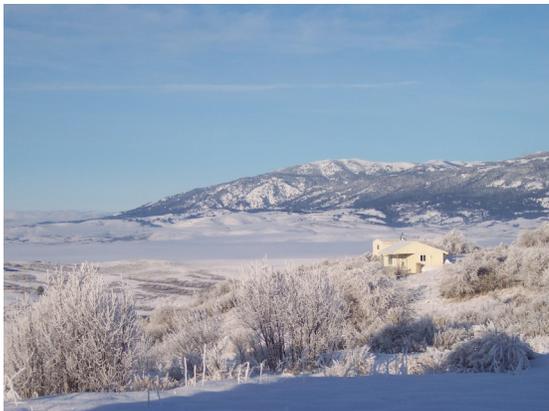
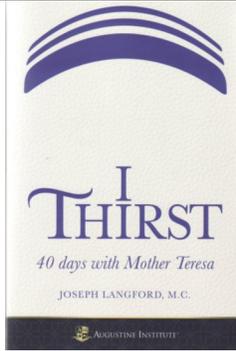
COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

READING: I have been praying with the little book on the spirituality of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. My retreat ends in three days. Father Langford, M.C. writes so succinctly and profoundly about Mother Teresa’s thoughts and words. You might say the whole book is built on understanding the nuances of Jesus’ “I Thirst” in 40 ways. Awesome and moving!

This struck me so deeply: “There [are] four ‘secrets of the kingdom’ which Jesus proclaimed: total gift, total trust, total love, total conversion.” (pages 74-75) May you be inspired to use and read this book yourself.

CORRESPONDENCE: I have about 40 more people to thank before I have finished my Christmas correspondence. Thank you and God bless you to the many Marymount friends who remembered me so generously this year! I send tax receipts for those who request them. Marymount Hermitage is a non-profit as stated in the publisher’s box of page 2 below.



Looking west to snow-covered Mt. Cuddy; Saint Helen’s hermitage in the center; hoarfrost decorates all the bushes and grasses, sparkling in the sunlight.

WINTER WORK: My Mesa neighbor, Tim Moyer, does the hand-shoveling for snow removal. Al Duncan of Tractor Works in Council, Idaho is responsible for

snow removal on the roadways. Winter has been mild, and the road has only been plowed once so far, though it is snowing today as I write this.

Since summer last year, I have been trying to solve what was apparently an electric leak at the old Common House, recently renovated. When I hired Danny Beachy from Council to diagnose the problem last week, he quickly discovered that I had a water leak which was drawing almost constantly on the well pump. Owen Beachy, his brother, came over the next afternoon to try to discover where the leak was on the campus...not easy underneath 6-8 inches of snow and frozen ground beneath. He determined that there must be a leak in the well itself because nothing else showed up in the campus underground pipes. So Dave of the Uhlenkott Co. from Grangeville, ID came yesterday to examine the pipes in the well, pulled the pump and check valve and found no problems. The pressure tank and valve there seem to be fine also. Result: there IS a leak, but no one...at least now in the winter time...can find where it is. Good News: I am not without water and the system actually works just fine. Prayers please in advance for spring/summer work still pending!

PRAYERS: In answer to the question of many, I am well, thanks be to God. I do ask prayers for my brother, Tom Greger, who had a heart attack yesterday and is currently in ICU at St. Vincent’s hospital in Beaverton, Oregon. Because of COVID only his wife can visit him, not his twins.

A donation to honor **BERRY L. SPIVEY** on his birthday, December 13, was sent to Marymount Hermitage by his wife, Dr. Jennifer Spivey

IN MEMORIAM
ROBERT A. GREGER
Donations were sent to Marymount Hermitage from Virginia Arnold, Washington, IN
Lucille A. Dungan, San Antonio, TX
Elaine Woodburn, Soldotna, AK

Thank you sincerely to you who support Marymount Hermitage and me, your Hermit Sister, with your generous gifts and powerful prayers. Blessings!

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!