



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## TRIDUUM & EASTER RETREAT

*By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM*

When my mother was still alive, she used to think that hermits leaving the Hermitage to make a retreat sounded funny, as in “incomprehensible”. At first glance, I agree with that estimation. However, as I experience it, everyone needs a break, especially a spiritual break. Being on retreat means that I am not at home, not on my daily schedule, not able to find any usual distractions, no pressing work to do, out of my comfort zone, and more focused on prayer and reading, listening to the Lord and receiving his graces and love in greater silence and solitude.

Sister Rebecca Mary and I used to make our annual week-long retreat at the Trappist Abbey in Oregon in the early fall. That is where I learned, after years of practice, to get up at 4 AM to attend the first choral office, which they call Vigils. Not an easy habit to develop, to say the least! Ten years ago, Sister left Marymount Hermitage to reside at the convent of St. Mary of the Valley in Beaverton, Oregon with the community from which we came. That is when I began also making a Triduum and Easter retreat at the Trappist Abbey, with extra days to visit Sister Rebecca Mary, the community, and my family in Beaverton. Easter seems to call for a special community celebration, and it was always a joyous time for me.

Now for the past two years, because of Covid-19 restrictions, which were especially tight in Oregon, I have not been able to carry on my new tradition. Both the convent and the monastery were closed to guests. Instead, last year and this, I made my Triduum and Easter retreat at Nazareth Retreat Center in Boise, ID. The biggest bonus with this is that I was able to attend the services offered by Bishop Peter F. Christensen at the Cathedral. The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist looks like a European basilica and is stunningly beautiful. Just being in that building for the special Masses is awesome beyond words. For music at the Easter Vigil, there is a full mixed choir and organ with an orchestra featuring trumpets

and tympani. It’s enough to make you think you died and went to heaven!

Without adequate equipment, it is impossible to take photos inside the Cathedral. I did the best I could, under the circumstances, with my trusty little Kodak camera. These photos are just some highlights for each day of the Triduum and Easter to give you a window into my retreat this year.



### **HOLY THURSDAY:**

*The tabernacle at the high altar is empty and the doors are open. The interior of the church is stark with no flowers or decorations. After the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, there is a procession to the crypt chapel and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. The basement chapel is full of Easter lilies and other flowers, which will decorate the main altar three days later.*

*Bishop Peter Christensen (R) joins the procession for the start of the Holy Thursday Mass. Carter Bushee, an Idaho seminarian, is one of the servers.*

*New brass-relief mural on the exterior of the front porch of the Cathedral shows Jesus washing the feet of his apostles. This is done at Mass too.*



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# TRIDUUM & EASTER RETREAT

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## GOOD FRIDAY:

Fittingly, the Good Friday service begins at 3 PM. The procession and entrance rite are silent and solemn. Bishop Peter Christensen (L) comes last wearing red vestments to signify the Blood of Christ. The Gospel, which was the Passion account from St. John, included a narrator, voice, Jesus, and us, the crowd. Bishop did the part of Jesus which was very moving to hear.

The service has three parts. For the second segment, men of the parish carry in the cross to be venerated by the faithful. The last part is communion. On this day, Mass is not offered, which adds to the austerity and starkness of the ritual. Music is minimal.



Last year this cross was new and introduced in a special way. Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, from Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon, gave a relic of the true cross to the Diocese of Boise. This beautiful wooden cross was crafted to house this precious treasure. In the center of the cross is the round reliquary. Kissing the



cross was very emotional for me!



## EASTER VIGIL MASS ON SAT. :

The Vigil Mass begins outside with the blessing of the new fire. After blessing the Paschal candle, the flame from the fire lights the candle. This is carried in procession with three ritual stops and antiphons. Each of us gets a flame from the Easter candle for our small candles. Bishop honored me by bringing the flame to me personally. Sitting in the back is an advantage!



As always, Bishop's homily was inspired, profound and memorable. He cautioned the 33 new Catholics, soon to be baptized, confirmed and recipients of first holy communion, that this is the most special and elaborate Mass of the year. He said the Church pulls out all stops! Indeed.

Seen at right, the tabernacle doors are closed after Mass because now the Blessed Sacrament is there.



The church was full of lilies and flowers, which added beauty and fragrances to the interior. Seen at left, is the "cathedra", which is the Latin term for the Bishop's chair. We might think of it as a "throne", but more properly, it is the chair of a "magister", a teacher, one of the three main roles of a bishop in the Catholic Church. The circle is the coat of arms for Bishop Peter, symbolic of the Diocese of Boise.

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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!

# TRIDUUM & EASTER RETREAT

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## **EASTER SUNDAY:**

*This is another of the new brass-relief murals which grace the front of the Cathedral porch and steps. Peter and John are running to the open tomb that Sunday morning after hearing the accounts by the women who told them Jesus' body was not there anymore. Some women saw angels and heard a message. Mary Magdalene saw the Risen Jesus himself, who gave her a message for the disciples to meet him in Galilee.*

*In the mural, the Risen Lord Jesus is seen above, anticipating his Ascension into heaven 40 days later.*

The question which has haunted humanity since the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth is this: **Is Jesus the Son of God?** Is he who he said he is? Is he divine, sent by the Father to take on a human nature? If Jesus IS divine, then the sacrifice which he offered on the cross has infinite merit. It could indeed make up for all the sins of mankind since the time of our first parents, Adam and Eve, who originally disobeyed God. Jesus' death and resurrection are the source of all our hope: sins can be forgiven, God loves us no matter how we treat him, Jesus rose from his tomb by his own power and promises to resurrect us so that we can follow him alive, body and soul, into heaven for all eternity, Heaven is our real home where we will dwell forever with God, who is Love, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus raised Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, he asked Martha, if she believed in him as "the resurrection and the life". She said, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God: he who is to come into the world."

(See Jn. 11:17-27) So like the faithful disciples and holy women, with our Mother Mary, who actually saw and touched, talked to and ate with Jesus, we can say to our Savior, like the centurion of Capernaum, "I do believe, Lord, help my unbelief!" (See Lk. 7:1-10)

All lovers have an intuitive sense that love is eternal. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God proves that only Love has the last word. We cannot kill God. What did Jesus say on the cross? "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Lk. 23:34) This is a profound example for us about ultimate love: forgiveness. It is love in action. It is transcendental. Let us each use prayer time to sit silently and just be open to God who is love. Then filled with His Spirit, who is Love, we can be love and forgiveness for our brothers and sisters in a world, so full of suffering and

evil, dying and despair. We Christians have THE Word of hope for which the world so greatly longs.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM*

**PRAYERS ANSWERED:** My Dad's first death anniversary is April 18, so after a year of necessary but painful delay, we are finally able to schedule his funeral at St. Clare's parish in Portland, Oregon. The date will be August 7, 2021. The funeral Mass will also be for my brother, Tom Greger, who will be buried in the vault with my parents, Bob and Vera. Thank you sincerely to the many who prayed for the repose of their souls and for peace and consolation for me and all my siblings and extended family members.

**RETREATANTS:** I am happy to report that there have been a large number of people making retreat here during the early spring months. Some of my guests are from out-of-state, since many monasteries and retreat centers are still closed due to Covid-19 in other states. It is lovely to meet and make new friends! Some weeks are completely full, so if you are anticipating making a retreat, email me with possible dates ASAP to reserve the days that are best for your schedule. All are welcome!

**Days of Pilgrimage:** I have been frequently asked when I will be hosting days of prayer with presentations by guest speakers and teaching my own classes at Mercy House again. Out of an abundance of caution, I am not planning any gatherings for groups this year. Let us pray that life in the US will be back to normal by next spring, so that it is easy and safe to schedule these events once again. I have guest speakers with their own topics prepared and waiting in the wings to do so, God willing.

**MAJOR REPAIR TO HERMITAGE LANE:** As announced previously, one big maintenance project for this summer or fall, will be major work on the road from Highway 95 to the chapel. I sincerely appreciate your prayers that the details of this work will be successfully organized and that funds needed will be forth-coming. Please remember that donations to Marymount Hermitage are tax deductible. As benefactors, Mass is offered for you once a month by an Idaho priest. God bless you and yours!

### MEMORIAL

A donation was made to  
Marymount Hermitage in memory of

**Robert A. Greger and  
Thomas G. Greger**

by James J. Rosean, Streamwood, IL