



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE HOLY SPIRIT—A READY GUIDE

By Michael Wack

How does one end up at a hermitage nearly 2000 miles from their home? In our case, the Holy Spirit used several different means to get us there! My wife Denise and I are discerning to become Lay Cistercians ... the Cistercian charism of contemplative prayer is particularly appealing to us in this world of breakneck activities and information overload. As part of that discernment, we were hoping to take a silent retreat at the Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Kentucky, about a five-hour drive south from our house in Indiana. Unfortunately and understandably, the Abbey has been closed due to the coronavirus situation, so we couldn't go.

Time to look for Plan B! Because we both enjoy solitude and felt it is needed for silent retreats, I did what everyone does these days: I looked on the internet to see if I could find a suitable place. After typing "isolated Catholic retreat" (or something close to that) in the search engine, I stumbled upon a pretty good list of such places. After quickly discarding most of the choices, I was drawn to a place called Marymount Hermitage in Mesa, Idaho. The more I looked into it, the more it appealed to me.

After reading everything on the website and looking at the location on Google Maps, I called Denise into my office and asked, "What do you think?" She immediately said, "Let's do it!" We communicated with Sister Beverly the next day, sent in our application, and made our way to Mesa in May.

Never have two people been more excited for a retreat! Everything exceeded our expectations: the hermitage, the chapel, the fantastic library, the grounds, the awesome landscape and wildlife, and especially Sister Beverly! She is definitely a friend we had never met before, and we very much enjoyed speaking with her as well as spending most of the Sunday with her as we went into Boise for a special Mass with the bishop at the Cathedral of St. John's.

As Denise is a "Rosary fanatic," it was also great

for us to have the opportunity to purchase some handmade ones from the Gift Shop at Marymount.

Everything was so enjoyable, in fact, we have already made retreat reservations for next year. Marymount Hermitage is truly a holy place. Denise and I agreed it was well worth the trip and the improvement of our prayer life and spirituality. We are "spreading the word" among friends and family, and I'd love to get two of my brothers there ... one is a priest, the other is a bishop. (I joke that I'm the black sheep of the family.)

Among everything else wonderful about our experience, I do need to share one story. I was in the chapel at Marymount on Pentecost Sunday morning by myself, saying the Rosary. Being a Sunday, I was contemplating the Glorious Mysteries. When I finished the first two decades and began the third, saying, "The third Glorious Mystery, the descent of the Holy Spirit," a dove began cooing at that very moment ... right after I said "Holy Spirit!" It was sitting on the roof of the chapel! Now, I hadn't heard a dove the whole time we were there ... in fact, I didn't know if there were mourning doves in Idaho like there are in Indiana.

Denise happened to be walking at that exact moment from our hermitage to the chapel, and thought to herself how happy I would be if I had been able to hear the dove. Anyway, I was overwhelmed with a feeling that the Holy Spirit had indeed descended upon me, and on Pentecost Sunday nonetheless! Yes, the Holy Spirit guided us to Marymount

Hermitage, blessed us with a fruitful time there, brought us and Sr. Beverly together, and changed our lives for the better. May He guide you as well!

Denise Wack, Sister Beverly, and Mike Wack on May 22, 2021.



COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

RESIDENT PRIEST: Father Bill McCann from Las Cruces, NM, arrived on July 11, 2021 to take up residence at Marymount Hermitage. It has been eleven years since we had a priest living here and the privilege of daily Mass. July 11 is the feast of Saint Benedict. I thought it was an auspicious day for Father's arrival and asked St. Benedict to bless him.



WATER MYSTERY: The obvious water leak to the system seemed to have been resolving itself in ways that I could not understand, as last reported. Now however, the source of the leak has been manifested. This morning, I discovered a pool of water



across the road from the large pine tree half way between the chapel and Mercy House. Standing water in the heat of summer in the midst of a drought is a sure sign of a problem! Ray Groves of Council is here today, July 12, to begin the work. I will have a special Mass offered to honor Saint Joseph the Worker when the leak is successfully done.



The leak occurred in a coupling which went from the main water line along the road to the chapel. God is



good! I appreciate those of you who promised prayers for this resolution.

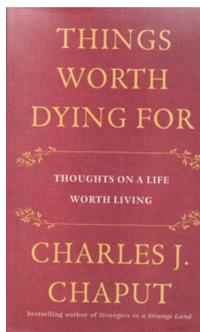
NEW CAR: A couple, who wish to remain anonymous, gave me money to buy a new car last month. They did not want me driving a car with such high mileage and recognized that the 2010 Toyota Matrix did



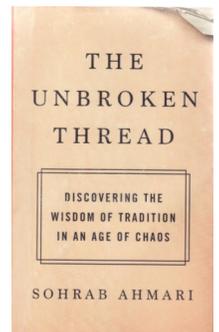
not have the necessary features that I need for winter such as 4WD and high clearance. So I am now the happy driver of a new 2021 Jeep Renegade, light silver with black trim. Please ask the Lord to bless all the benefactors of Marymount Hermitage. Thanks!

ANNIVERSARY: July 13, 1987 is the day Sister Rebecca Mary and I first made our vows as canonical hermits of the Diocese of Boise under Bishop Sylvester Treinen. I was able to renew my vows at Mass this morning July 13, 2021. God is faithful!

BOOK CORNER: I am currently reading two fascinating books. They are similar in some ways, though the authors are vastly different. Sohrab Ahmari is a Catholic convert and a citizen of the USA, formerly a Muslim Iranian. Sohrab's biography is a must-read also. Archbishop Charles Chaput, bishop emeritus of Philadelphia and a Native American, is well-known as a profound thinker, excellent writer, and courageous, articulate, disciple of Christ. Things Worth Dying For has the sub-title: Thoughts on a Life Worth Living. The Unbroken Thread has the sub-title: Discovering the Wisdom of Tradition in an Age of Chaos. Both authors have penned moving and memo-



orable reflections which will help people of good will navigate the confusing, conflicting and distressing aspects of current, secular American culture. I highly recommend both!



IN MEMORIAM
Bob and Mary Greger
by Pam Oliason, Eagle, ID

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!