



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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PRAYING AND SEEKING PEACE

By Father Bill McCann

Saturday, October 9, 2021 was a special Day of Pilgrimage/retreat at Marymount Hermitage. Participants came from all directions, including two women, who made the journey from New Mexico. The day's agenda included times of individual prayer and communal prayer, the sacrament of reconciliation, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with benediction, and two reflection talks presented by myself.



*Father Bill McCann,
new resident at
Marymount Hermitage.
[Photos by Helen Glidden]*

The first talk was on mental prayer and the second talk was about maintaining peace in our troubled world. The talk on prayer was not so much about some of the classic presentations on prayer by the great saints, but was a synthesis of the Catholic tradition regarding mental prayer in a practical way that can be applied to anyone's daily life. It was not so much a talk about the techniques of prayer and stages of prayer, as it was about the dispositions of the heart that make our conversations with God fruitful. Everything depends on the grace of God and not on our techniques and human efforts.

We know from Scripture that God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud. It is through faith and humility that we can make our hearts receptive to the grace of God that makes prayer such a wonderful experience of the presence of God in our lives. Faithfulness and perseverance are so essential in our



commitment to daily prayer.

So often people become discouraged and give up regular daily prayer because they too often depend on feelings. In other words, if they don't "feel" the presence of God, they assume that their prayer is sterile and that God is not

listening. Sometimes too we might be tempted to think that due to our many personal faults, we are not worthy of God's love and concern. Unfortunately, due to these obstacles and others, people give up the practice of regular daily prayer. It is a shame because the great saints, who write about prayer, so often talk about the need for faithfulness and perseverance.

If we persevere in prayer, it transforms us. We take on the mind of Christ in our lives. We see reality through the eyes of God. And, most importantly, we grow deeper in a loving relationship with God. In a word, we grow in holiness to which all of us have been called. Faithful prayer also deeply impacts our relationships with other people. We grow in our capacity to love others.

With regard to the second talk about peace, I think all of us recognize that we are living in times of much anxiety. The pandemic, acrimony in the political realm, scandals and divisions in the Church are some of the reasons that people find it difficult to maintain a peaceful interior disposition. Jesus in



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PRAYING AND PEACE

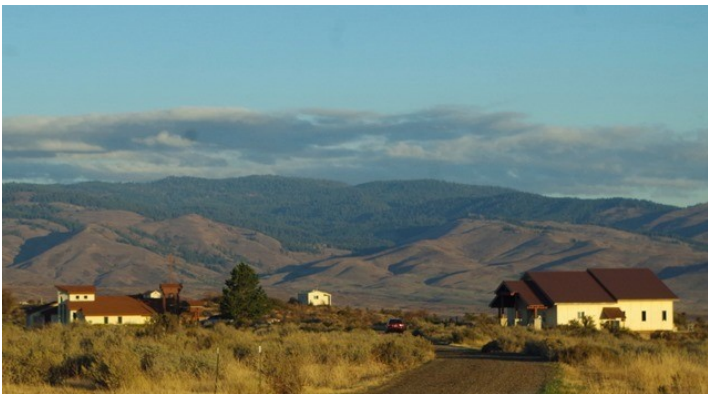
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John's Gospel tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (Jn. 14:27)

So, how do we maintain that gift of peace the Lord offers us? The short answer is trust. Nothing that is going on in the world around us prevents us from a loving relationship with Jesus. In Saint Paul's letter to the Romans, he assures us that nothing and nobody can separate us from the love of Christ. (See Rom. 8:35, 39)

Too often we can be filled with anxiety when we are depending on our own resources and we recognize that we do not possess the talents to solve every problem. Also in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches; if we abide in Him, we can bear much fruit, but apart from him we can do nothing. (Jn. 15:5) When we abide in him, we can be fruitful. In other words, we can truly be a light in the world and the salt of the earth. We do what we can and then we leave the rest up to God. We trust in Him. That is the source of our peace.

This is a short summary of the day's reflections. The beautiful natural setting of Marymount Hermitage provided the perfect atmosphere for prayer and reflection. The fall colors were on full display. The peaceful but glorious presence of the Lord was evident in the works of His creation that surround Marymount.



COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

PILGRIMAGES and RETREATS: Father Bill McCann and I feel very blessed with the success of the two Days of Pilgrimage during 2021. We hosted almost 40 in August and 30 in October. There was a lot of interest and we anticipate several such group mini-retreats in 2022. For future announcements, watch your parish bulletin and the [Idaho Catholic Register](#), if you live in Idaho.

There have been a record number of individuals scheduling private retreats this year and that perhaps will continue, thanks be to God, for a variety of reasons. Many monasteries and retreat houses in other states are still closed due to Covid, and those who do come to Marymount Hermitage tend to come again in the years that follow. All are welcome! Consider scheduling a solitary retreat to celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas this year. Email me for mutually agreeable dates for your reservation.

RELATED NEWS: Visit the Diocese of Boise's website to see photos and a short news article about the retreat Bishop Peter Christensen, Father Caleb Vogel, Vicar General, and the youngest eight Idaho priests made here from September 27-30. The news was published in the [ICR](#), Oct. 8, 2021 issue, page 3.

EUCCHARIST: Remain in Me: "On Oct. 17, the Diocese of Boise, along with dioceses throughout the United States, will launch the first year of a three-year period of Eucharistic renewal. The theme of the Eucharistic renewal in the Diocese of Boise will be 'Remain in Me'." ([ICR cover page, 10/8/2021 issue](#)) Let us all prayerfully consider how we can enter actively and spiritually into this much needed and welcomed process of renewal led by the US Bishops for the good of the Church and the salvation of souls. Growing in our faith and our relationship with the Lord can always be our goal and priority.

ROAD WORK: This major project is scheduled for early November. The projected cost is \$32,000, but with generous donations, small and large, only \$1,748 is needed for the goal. God bless you for considering this work of mercy.

ANNUAL MAILING: The Monday after Thanksgiving, I will mail out the Christmas post card. It is a summary of the 2021 news, the only contact I initiate with friends. It is especially for those who do not have access to the Internet or those who do not read the monthly newsletter. Blessings on you & yours!

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!