



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM



View from the chapel porch of Mt. Council with early December snowfall.

Prologue: For Christmas 2005, my brother, Ron Greger, gave me a large, boxed, hardback set of books by C. S. Lewis, *The Narnia Tales*. My old, small, paperback set was quite worn and pages were beginning to fall out. You might wonder why I read books so often that I have them nearly memorized. I have a confession to make. (Not the public confession associated with sin, because this is not.) I have a passion for children's books. I do not have children or grandchildren, but maybe being an old teacher is a good enough reason. There are classic children's books which I regularly read, some every year, some every other year or so. *The Narnia Tales* is one such set. I am reading these 7 books these days.

That is a rather long introduction to an inspiration I had this morning when I was praying the Office of Readings for the First Sunday of Advent. Here are the psalm antiphons for just this one liturgical hour of the day:

Invitatory Antiphon: *Come, let us worship the Lord, the King who is to come.*

Ant. 1: *This is our heavenly King; he comes with power and might to save the nations, alleluia.*

Ant. 2: *Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad; your King will come to you. Zion, do not fear; your Savior hastens on his way.*

Ant. 3: *Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay.*

What one word jumps out in each antiphon? KING! Of course in Narnia, the great King is Aslan the Lion, the Son of the great Emperor from over-the-Sea. In the Narnia tales, the name of Aslan conjures up great reverence and awe. The Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve, and all the Talking Animals and other Narnians, exhibit a



profound love and desire for his person and presence. In contrast, those who are enemies feel great fear and trepidation at the very name of Aslan. In the milieu which Lewis has created, the word "king" has deep meaning and provides an image which ultimately points to God.

It was very clear to me in my morning meditation that, as an American, I do not usually resonate as I should with the word "king", which comes up often in the psalms. I will say that watching the enormous and adoring crowds at the time of Queen Elizabeth's funeral processions and rites gave me a better understanding of the meaning of royalty, which people from countries with monarchs, know from experience and history. The emotion and gratitude I felt for the Queen were like a

Continued on page 2

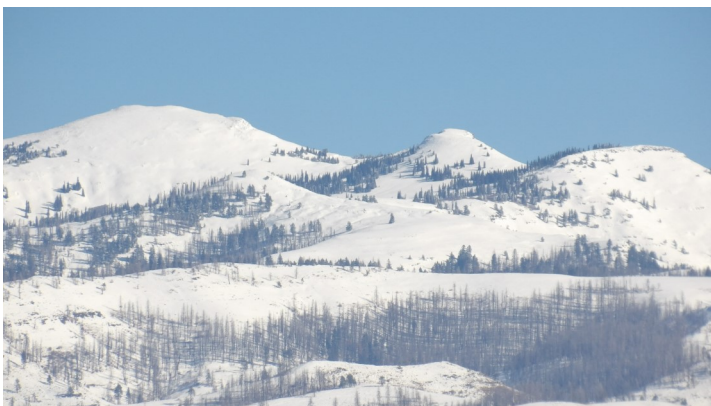
O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

(Continued from page 1)

conversion for me. I have had to ask myself if I really honor and respect Jesus Christ as my King? Is he really my King with a capital K?

The antiphons for this early morning's prayer for the First Sunday of Advent have inherent descriptions of who and how a king is. Words such as "power, might, great, is coming, will save" give reality and depth to who a king is, how he acts, what his role is. The next cluster of words in the antiphons tells me how I should be: "worshipping, rejoicing, glad, not fearful, cleansed, ready, waiting, welcoming".

This is really the essence of Advent: to prepare for the coming of the King. The Church has traditionally given us three fundamental ways to prepare: fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Part of my meditation this morning was to apply these three spiritual practices to my life in ways that are renewing. Let us pray for each other as we make this spiritual preparation for the King, who is Lord of our hearts and lives, whom we adore now and forever. *Jesus is Lord.* That is the shortest expression of the Creed and the earliest in Church history. "O Come Let Us Adore Him!"



Close-up of Mt. Council. This is the scene from our logo on the masthead. See?

Epilogue: I received a homemade post card last Christmas from three sisters, who are my young friends. They each wrote me a note on the back. On the front, were the words I have used as the title of this article and concluded with above. You will get my Christmas post card in the U.S. mail with a reproduction of Lorena Meza's original calligraphy and art work. If you did not get the Marymount Hermitage post card, please send me your U.S. mailing address and I will promptly send you one. God bless you!

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

BENEFACTORS: We are deeply grateful to all our friends, neighbors, relatives, workers, both paid and volunteer, who pray for us and for Marymount Hermitage, who support us with their good will, best wishes, greetings and donations. Mass is offered at least once a month here for you and your intentions and also for those who have preceded us into eternity.

MEMORIALS

for

MICHAEL E. NOURSE

by

Charlotte Balza of Renton, WA

Heidi Gainan of Boise, ID

Lorene Ivana Vanderwalker

of Cathlamet, WA

and for

CHARLES S. YOCHUM

by

Carolyn Yochum of Boise, ID

WORK: Before and after Christmas, my work every day is correspondence, enjoying the cards and greetings sent, writing thank you notes, and getting out my personal cards and notes to my family. It is the one time of year I turn on music while I work. I have several beautiful CD's with traditional Christmas carols and hymns. This creates a really heavenly atmosphere, given all the graces of the season.

RETREAT: I was able to make a personal, private retreat Dec. 1-12 here at Marymount Hermitage. Whenever I make a retreat, I always remember how amused and confused my own mother was. "Why does a hermit need a retreat? You live a life of prayer, don't you?" All I can say is that everyone needs a break, even hermits. It has been a time of great intensity in prayer, with longer hours, deeper conversion, two confessions (!), and more joy and peace. I trust all the grace-filled best for you at Christmas and throughout the New Year for you and your loved ones. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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!