



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE PINE

By Michael Wack from Warsaw, IN

As a “seasoned veteran” of retreats at Marymount Hermitage, I’m amazed at the different experiences I have each time there. Even though Marymount is a self-contained place with perhaps a dozen buildings, I’ve taken away something different every year.

Denise and I had the joyful opportunity to travel to Mesa last month, an annual event to which we look forward for 51 weeks of the year. By the time June arrives, we both feel an incredible need to have a weeklong retreat in a quiet, holy place. As much so, we look forward to seeing our friends, Sister M. Beverly and Father Bill!



[Photo by Heidi Gainan]

I have attempted to forge a lasting relationship with the Holy Spirit the last several years ... like anything else, there is waxing and waning in that relationship. One positive result: I’ve learned to listen to the Holy Spirit when He speaks to me, which has resulted in many good things happening for me and others. I only wish I had done this several years ago!

When I was praying the Rosary in the Marymount chapel two years ago on Pentecost Sunday and a dove cooed exactly when I started the third Glorious Mystery (The Descent of the Holy Spirit), well ... that was life-changing. [See the July 2021 newsletter for details.]

Now, stay with me while I bring up a totally new topic. I promise I’ll tie them together.

For the first-time visitor, Sister Beverly will stop and point out a lone pine tree which stands quite near the chapel. Even in the faintest of breezes, it seems as if it is whispering as the wind rustles the needles and branches. It really is a unique sound! Denise and I have always stopped to listen to it when we



The Austrian pine tree near the chapel. [Photo by Mike Wack]

passed by it.

Last month, I really noticed it and stopped to listen several times on my way to the chapel, which was often as we attended Lauds, Mass, Vespers, Adoration, and of course our private time there. My stops gradually became more and more extended ... the peaceful “sighing” of the tree was the perfect way to calm my soul before I entered the chapel.

Of course, I’m now convinced the sound I am hearing is the Holy Spirit whispering encouragement to me! As you know, one depiction of the Holy Spirit is a rushing wind. (Acts 2:2) I know the Holy Spirit is around and in me all the time, but it is a comfort and encouragement to me to have a tangible aspect to it. (I’m writing this on the feast day of the Apostle Thomas, and am reminded of his need for a tangible sign.) Stop by to see and hear it for yourself!

Since I don’t believe that tree has a name (and this will come as a surprise to Sister Beverly as she reads this), I’m now calling it the “Paraclete Pine”. Maybe I can get Fr. Bill to bless it the next time I’m there? We’ll see!

Continued on page 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

NEW VIDEO: Tina Patel Nold has created a video memory of her annual retreat of 12 days this year in June. Please see the addition posted on the home page of this website under the video entitled: God's Eye View. The beauty of the scenery and the haunting song will move you to tears! "In the Silence of the Heart, You Speak" captures the spirituality of Marymount Hermitage and is an invitation to you.

BISHOP'S & THE BOARD'S APPROVAL: I had proposed to the Bishop of Boise and the Board of Directors of Marymount Hermitage, Inc. five maintenance projects which I was anticipating might take 4-5 years to accomplish. Both the Bishop and the Board approved the plan, but Bishop Peter Christensen urged me to complete the work as soon as possible. I am currently getting bids from contractors. I have a reasonable hope that the work on three of the five projects can be finished this year. The first job will be completed on July 17 and that is to install commercial grade rug in the chapel where currently the linoleum tile is in the body of the church. There will also be some minor repairs to the linoleum floor in #2 hermitage named Leslie Shannon. This work is being done by Carpet One in Ontario, OR.

Secondly, looking to the future, it is high time to build a road from hermitage #6, Mary's House, to hermitage #7, House of His Name. This will complete Hermitage Lane after 40 years and later the small driveways to the hermitages can be built. Ray Groves, a local contractor, will be hired for this job.

Thirdly, after 23 years, the house I live in needs some exterior renovation. Parker Wise, a local contractor, will install new windows, build new steps to the front door and a covered porch, and repair or replace any trim as needed with a new coat of paint.

The last two projects I will describe when they are in process next year, God willing.

I ask prayers for the safety and success of these three current projects and would welcome any contribution to the cost of work, if the Lord puts it on your heart to help. There is a Boise non-profit which will help with part of the projects. Their donation makes it possible to begin the work this year. Blessings!

TEACHING & RETREATS: I am writing to the pastors of the Treasure Valley, in particular, and throughout the Diocese of Boise that I am available to

teach, speak or conduct a retreat if a parish or organization invites me. My vocation is dedicated primarily to prayer and what contributes to that is spiritual reading and study. It is actually easy for me to translate topics for others to understand and that is what I enjoy most about teaching and retreat work. I ask prayers for this out-reach for the good of the Church.

DAY OF PILGRIMAGE: I hope to share with you the success of the Day of Pilgrimage on July 1 in the August newsletter. The last Day of Pilgrimage at Marymount this year will be on Sept. 2. The presenter will be Father Dominique, V.S. and the topic will be Understanding the Book of Revelation. More details are on the *Calendar of Events* on the website. I am taking registration for that and you are welcome to email or call me to sign up.

HERMITAGE RETREAT: Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is inviting you to a silent, solitary retreat this fall. The months of September, October and November are usually times of beautiful weather and the retreat calendar is open. Email or call to reserve a hermitage.

GIFT SHOP: When visitors ask to see the Gift Shop, they are surprised that I do not have a room where items on sale are displayed. The inventory is too large to have sufficient space for display. You can view items on the website



The hermitage #2 (at center left) across from Mercy House, is the only building in which I can accommodate a married couple for retreat.

and order from there. Those who are at Marymount can explain what they are interested in. I then get out the boxes to make a selection. I am in business to sell hand-made items in these two ways.

PRAYERS: As I write this on July 4, 2023, and as we celebrate the Independence Day of our beloved country, let us pray for the conversion of hearts we all need to know the one true God, and to follow him in truth and love, which will lead to true freedom.

IN MEMORIAM
Helen Kuklish Gaber
by Maryann Streeter

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!