



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE 40TH JUBILEE YEAR

January, 2024

## JOURNAL OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

*By Sister M. Beverly, HSM*

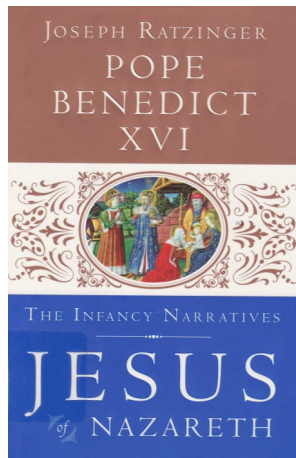
**December 21-25, 2023:** I was privileged to make a short pre-Christmas retreat staying in the diocesan guest house near the Cathedral of St. John's in Boise.

I took as my main spiritual reading Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives by Pope Benedict XVI. It was rich and moving for prayer and meditation and to date, I am still using it for inspiration. I was able to walk to daily Mass at the Cathedral and for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Masses of Bishop Peter Christensen.

Just being inside our beautiful Cathedral, newly renovated, is a spiritually uplifting experience. Truly heavenly!

**December 25-30, 2023:** I flew to Denver, CO on Christmas afternoon to visit my sister and her family. The special reason and joy was meeting, for the first time, my great niece, Evelyn Agnes, known as Evie, who is 2 years old. Unfortunately, by the afternoon of Dec. 26, I was coming down sick with something respiratory. We assumed at first it was only altitude sickness, but even with emergency supplemental oxygen, I was not getting better. Lucille decided to fly me home early to get me to a lower elevation, at the very least, to give me a better chance to recover.

**December 30, 2023-January 4, 2024:** Generous and compassionate friends in Boise cared for me while I was too sick to drive home. A visit from 5-11 AM on Dec. 31 for urgent care at the ER at St. Al's Hospital in Boise confirmed a diagnosis of bacterial pneumonia and bronchitis. I did not have a fever, but I had no energy. My brain was not functioning very well either and it was hard to pray. To while away the long hours every day, I sat in front of their living room fireplace and read (re-read for the



nth time!) The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis. I know the stories by heart, but it was just fun to go interiorly some place simple and happy, when I was suffering so much physically.

**January 5, 2024:** This day I felt well enough to drive as far as Payette; then Weiser friends met me there for her to drive me and my car to Marymount. They unpacked the car for me and, though I was exhausted, it felt so good to be home after such a long time away. A Mesa neighbor bought fresh groceries for me in Council and so I was settled into my own nest. Ahhhh.



*Holy Family House where I live next to chapel. The double windows show the living room/oratory where I spend much of the day in prayer and spiritual reading. The Christmas wreath is still on the front door.*

**January 6-10, 2024:** There was no question of going out for Mass last weekend, but Father Jerry Funke, our pastor in Weiser, came to the Marymount chapel after the Sunday afternoon Mass in Council and gave me the Anointing of the Sick. The power of the sacrament is so great and peaceful! By Sunday, Jan. 7, I really felt I was beginning to be well again. Meanwhile, on Monday, Jan. 8, a Pacific storm is bringing heavy snow and high winds and continues as I write. I measured 7 inches of snow. The storm is set to last until Sunday, Jan. 14. I am not going anywhere, so I am

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willing to wait to have the road plowed when the snow and high winds abate, perhaps by Monday. **January 11, 2024:** This week I have had enough strength and energy to get some light housework done and work in my office. This time of year, most of my responsibilities keep me in my office. I am working on year-end accounts and reports, which are submitted annually to the Bishop of Boise and the Board of Directors for the non-profit, which is Marymount Hermitage, Inc.

One important occupation is writing thank you notes for donations. This will take me weeks to complete because I can only hand-write a limited number of notes each day. Obviously, I have much for which to be grateful for generous and thoughtful friends and benefactors! Mass is offered for you once a month to ask the Lord's blessings on you and your loved ones.

I do feel sad every year when the Christmas season ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is so short! I feel especially sad this year since I missed so much of the season, without Masses especially. I will do what I often do and that is privately celebrate Christmas until Feb. 2. I will play Christmas music while I write notes to friends and enjoy both!

**IN MEMORIAM**

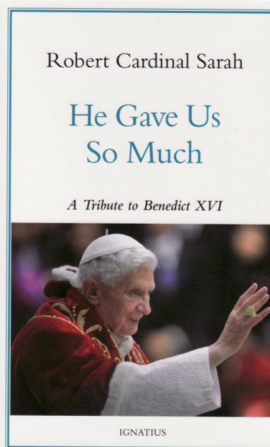
**SKINNER & JOAN ANDERSON**  
by Mary & Joseph Wax,  
Meridian, ID

**RICHARD CORNISH**  
by Sylvia Cornish, Kennewick, WA

**WILLIAM HAMILTON**  
by Susan Hamilton, Nampa, ID

**MICHAEL E. NOURSE**  
by Ceara M. Nourse, Mesa, ID

**HERBERT RUETH**  
by Kathleen Rueth, Parma, ID



**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** He Gave Us So Much: A Tribute to Benedict XVI by Robert Cardinal Sarah has just been published by Ignatius Press. I received it for Christmas and am very moved and inspired by the tone and details of the book. Cardinal Sarah himself is a saint and he shows how much of a saint and mystic Pope Benedict was. I can use this for teaching on Salt & Light Radio. I highly recommend this.

**SALT & LIGHT RADIO:** I have been gratified by the many comments from friends, who have listened, even multiple times, to my teachings on the air and archived as podcasts at the Boise station. I am preparing a teaching to be used during Lent. Prayers please as I record in February. Ash Wednesday this year is February 14.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A friend in Grangeville, ID wrote in her Christmas card that, since I am getting so much work done at the Hermitage, I must have "hordes of people helping me." I did laugh out loud at that! I do not live among "hordes of people", but I agree, I have some very valuable help from locals. At the risk of embarrassing my generous friends, I would like to publicly thank these individuals for the work they **\*donated:**

\***Kevin Kelso** of *All Valley Window Cleaning* in Boise, ID for washing all the windows, as he has done annually.

\***Douglas Crowell** for thawing out the pipe to the pressure tank, which had prevented the water system from working in the coldest weather. This was on an emergency basis after he had worked all day in McCall.

\***Leonard Messersmith** from Weiser, ID. He was so experienced as a locksmith, that he could repair the lock to the antique tabernacle. The amazing fact is that his last name in German means "locksmith". Even as a Nazarene, Leonard wanted to donate his time, because, as he said, "It is a joy and a privilege to work on something so sacred."

I have two local workers, who are invaluable, but I insist on paying them and they humbly accept: **Tim Moyer** of Mesa, who is my maintenance man, and **Sherry Moore**, of Weiser, ID, who cleans better and faster than I do! She worked for me for about 30 years, beginning when she and her large family lived at Mesa, and continuing after they moved to Weiser, until about 6 years ago. She is now healthy and available to help again and this is an answer to my fervent prayers and a huge relief to me. God is good!

Local workmen, who have blessed me recently, are **Mark Sandberg**, for snow plowing, and **John Balderson, Jr.** and his crew of two for road work. God bless you all!

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!