



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE 40TH JUBILEE YEAR

April, 2024

JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

Hermit Vocation

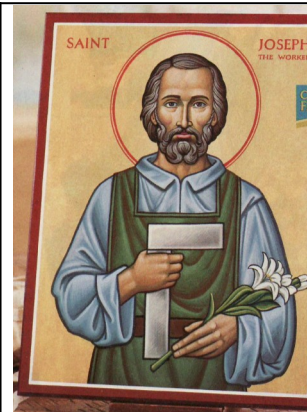
I live as a hermit. A “hermitage” is the home of a hermit. At Marymount Hermitage, like the Desert Fathers in the Egyptian and Palestinian deserts in the early centuries of the Church, visitors come. As St. Benedict says in his Rule, “Visitors to the monastery will not be lacking.” As I said in my remarks after my 50th Jubilee Mass, “If you go out into the desert to pray, people will join you.” Since I have been here on the mesa of central Idaho for 40 years, more people have come every year as visitors, retreatants, day guests or pilgrims. As the Gospel and the Rule (RB:53) commands, I try to receive all as Jesus. That is the heart of what hospitality is, as St. Martha so vividly shows us. (Jn. 12:2)

House of Hospitality

I really had no notion of building any more after the successful completion of the beautiful Mercy House, which is for hospitality, normally for day guests, and for the expansion of the library. However, based on concrete details in the current circumstances and future possibilities, the Lord really put it on my heart to build a Guest House.

The new building will have five bedrooms, which can accommodate individuals (the most common type of retreatant) or married couples (currently able to be housed in only one hermitage). All the bedrooms will have queen size beds and private bathrooms. I currently do not have accommodations for a group, so the new facility will be able to house 5 individuals or married couples, for instance. This building will have AC, which will be a blessing for those who want to make a reservation for retreat during the hot Mesa summer months. These aspects will be a needed improvement for the sake of guests.

I am calling the new building “Jubilee Guest House”, because this is the 40th Jubilee for Marymount Hermitage. Hopefully, the Jubilee House will



The Jubilee House is dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker. A cathedral-size icon like this will hang over the hearth in the living room.

be available for retreat reservations in 2025, which also happens to be a Jubilee Year for the Church, which is a lovely instance of the providence of God for Marymount dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church.

Fund-raising

Please pray for the success of the fund-raising for the building. To date, I have received \$55,000 which will enable us to begin construction of the first stage of Jubilee House, hopefully in June, 2024. God bless you for your spiritual and material gifts towards this new facility. Two letters, from Bishop Peter Christensen, Bishop of Boise, and me, and the floor plan for the building were sent in early March by U.S. mail to 3,000 people on the mailing list. If you did not receive this packet, you can email me with your U.S. mailing address and I will send it to you. You also can see the three pages on the Marymount Hermitage website under NEWS, specifically in the March newsletter. To make a donation, please make checks out to Marymount Hermitage. I will send you a personal thank you note to acknowledge your gift. A tax receipt is available for those who request it.

Questions about Jubilee Guest House

1. *Who will operate Marymount Hermitage when Sister M. Beverly can no longer do so?*

If and when there are no longer any Hermit Sisters at Marymount, according to the Articles of Incorporation for the non-profit, registered in the State of Idaho, Marymount Hermitage and its assets will be trans-

JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE

(Continued from page one)

ferred to the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. The mother house of the community is located in Beaverton, Oregon. This is the religious order from which Sister Rebecca Mary and I came. The Sisters are currently caring for Sister Rebecca Mary, age 93, in their infirmary. The question about what the Sisters will do with Marymount is entirely their discernment and decision. They and I cannot predict what the future holds and what the community might decide, but there are several realistic ministry options for them. A religious non-profit corporation can only be transferred to another one in the same category, according to Idaho law.

2. *Will the new guest house be the only way now to host retreatants?*

No, the five hermitages are still available. Father Bill McCann occupies one, but the other 4 hermitages will continue to be used for retreatants as in the past.

3. *Is Marymount Hermitage a retreat center?*

I do not use the term "retreat center" because typically such an institution is set up like a motel, with regard to rooms, and preached and/or directed retreats are scheduled throughout the year on a frequent basis. Immaculate Heart Retreat Center started by Msgr. Rosage in Spokane, WA would be an example of a retreat center.

Marymount Hermitage is my home, and those who come to pray and seek God with me in silence and solitude are my guests. Hence, the new building is a "guest house". A retreat center or monastery typically offers three meals a day to retreatants in a common dining room. At Marymount Hermitage, retreatants must bring their own food and cook for themselves. This will be the same expectation for those using the Jubilee House. Unlike St. Martha, I do not cook for guests!

4. *Isn't it expensive to build now?*

Yes, indeed! It is shocking to see how much construction costs have increased since the Mercy House was built 6 years ago. However, one of the reasons I am focused on building as quickly as possible is that it is only reasonable to suppose that costs will continue to rise in the years to come. Things never get cheaper.

5. *Who is doing the construction work?*

The general contractor for Jubilee House is Jack Roberts of PMR Inc. located in Council, ID. The

sub-contractors, whom Jack is hiring, will all be local men. I can affirm that, beginning with Jack, these are men I know and who have worked successfully for me in the past. I have great respect and trust in their professional competence. Please pray that the men will be safe from accidents or injuries and that their work will be done successfully and in a timely manner, for the glory of God and the good of our guests. St. Joseph the Worker, please intercede for us.

6. *If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to ask me in an email, phone message or letter. I will answer them in a personal note to you and in the May newsletter. God bless you!*

COMMUNITY NEWS

SALT & LIGHT RADIO TEACHINGS: April 5, 12 and 19 has had or will have teaching podcasts by me on Jesus the Bridegroom, a book by Dr. Brant Pitre. Listen in, if you have the time and desire to study Scriptural themes. Each segment is 15 minutes long.

CORRESPONDENCE: I spend as much as an hour a day writing thank you notes for the building fund donations. The real joy in this work is reading the sweet notes that people write to accompany their gifts.

RETREATANTS: There are still open dates for retreat reservations this spring and summer. Pray about it. Is the Lord inviting you into His Heart? Come, if you can.

IN MEMORIAM

Jovita Casillas Campos
by Juanita Campos,
Tucson, AZ

Dick & Louise St. Hilaire
by Father Kenneth St. Hilaire,
Colville, WA

Michael E. Nourse
by Patricia Larson-Ourada,
Boise, ID

Sarah Schwartz
by Sue & Rod Linjas,
Garden City, 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!