



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE 40TH JUBILEE YEAR

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CORPUS CHRISTI

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

Today is Corpus Christi Sunday June 2, 2024. It is quite historic this year. Before the last revision of the liturgical calendar, besides this June Solemnity, we also had a Solemnity of the Precious Blood of Jesus celebrated on July 1. We had two feast days for celebrating our faith in the Blessed Sacrament: Corpus Christi and the Precious Blood. The revision combined these two and the new Solemnity was named in English, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Yet something of a linguistic “short-cut” still remains today. We often hear today’s feast still being called “Corpus Christi”.



I consider Corpus Christi historic this year because it is the last year of the 3 years dedicated to a Eucharistic revival in our country.

Secondly, these 3 years

will culminate in two extraordinary events, one of which is occurring now: the National Eucharistic Pilgrimages taking place in our entire country these days.

I would like to use an image to help you visualize this spiritual event. Imagine a father or mother putting a cross on the forehead of their child. This might take place before the son or daughter leaves the house for school or a trip. What does this Catholic/Christian family rite signify? That the parents want their child to be



protected and blessed while away from the home. It is a very simple, but powerful expression of faith, certainly from the father or mother, but also impressing the parental love and protection on the child.

In a sense, our U.S. Bishops, like the spiritual fathers that they are, are tracing the sign of the cross on the whole of our country: from the North, from the South, from the East and from the West. A large sign of the cross is being made on our country by the four National Eucharistic Pilgrimages where they are occurring these days. All four will converge on Indianapolis, Indiana by July 16, when the second important event will take place: the National



CORPUS CHRISTI (Continued from page one)

Eucharistic Congress.

Have you ever attended a National Eucharistic Congress? Not likely, since the last one in the U.S. was 83 years ago! I plan to attend from July 17-21, 2024 in Indy (as the city is affectionately called) along with possibly a million other people. My cousins there are hosting me.

Please pray for health and spiritual protection for the priests, seminarians, Sisters, Brothers, and young lay people, who are today about in the middle of their arduous National Eucharistic Pilgrimages. I keep referring to it as “historic” because it has never been done before in our country, and neither has it ever been done in any other country in the world. This is a first in human history and more awesome in that our country is one of the largest, geographically speaking, in the world. An amazing grace!

I had the privilege and joy to be in Fruitland, Idaho outside Corpus Christi church where we watched prayerfully as Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Boise, received the Blessed Sacrament displayed in a monstrance from the hands of Bishop Liam Carey, Bishop of Baker in Eastern Oregon. Bishop Carey was accompanied from Ontario, Oregon by Oregon pilgrims and the National pilgrims in a car convoy, which followed the float all decorated in white fabric and colorful flowers being pulled by a new white pick-up truck. I was moved to tears to see Bishop Carey kneeling on a prie-dieu in front of the monstrance on an



Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Boise (and the whole state of Idaho), leads us in adoration after receiving the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament from the hands of Bishop Liam Carey, Bishop of Baker City (in Eastern Oregon) on May 27, 2024. Corpus Christi church was beautifully decorated both exteriorly and interiorly for this National Pilgrimage and the coming Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ to be celebrated on June 2, 2024.

altar behind the cab of the truck. The convoy was going about 2 miles an hour and, even though Blessed Sacrament church in Ontario is not that far away from Corpus Christi in Fruitland, I wonder how many people on the streets saw this remarkable and unusual witness to our deeply held faith in the Real Presence of Christ? Hopefully, many graces of conversion and mercy were dispensed to the on-lookers as they saw Jesus pass by their city streets and over the bridge into Idaho. *Emmanuel: with us is God!*

These excellent and precious photos of the local event are by Helen Glidden from Fruitvale, Idaho. She was one of the many people who traveled even from the north of our large state to be here to greet Jesus as he officially came to us on his way through Idaho to Indianapolis, the center of the geographic “cross” over our country.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING: On May 29, 2024, the Board of Directors of the non-profit corporation which is Marymount Hermitage, Inc. met together in Mesa. They are Sister Michael Francine Duncan, SSMO from Beaverton, OR; Deacon Derrick O’Neill from Boise, ID; Joanne Wood from McCall, ID; and Michael Wack from Etna Green, IN. So much has happened during this last year that I had to work hard to cover all the relevant material in two hours, but they patiently persevered. I sincerely appreciate their love for me and Marymount and willingness to help me with decisions based on their faith, wisdom, life experiences and professional backgrounds. Mike is the one who suggested we take a photo of groundbreaking for the Jubilee Guest House since they were all present.

[Photo below by Jennifer Sergio, niece of the Wacks]

Seen from L to R are Mike Wack, Joanne Wood, Sister M. Beverly, Sister Michael Francine and Deacon Derrick O’Neill. The deep blue sky and fluffy white clouds are so typical of spring days in the desert.



Chapel and Mercy House are seen in the background.

FUND-RAISING: To date, I have almost enough money to pay for the cost of Stages One & Two of the Jubilee House to be done June through October. I am advertising this new facility in our diocesan newspaper and Salt & Light Radio, Boise. The first fundraising event at Marymount Hermitage is scheduled for Sept. 7. If you want to help, donations are very much appreciated. I sincerely seek your prayers for the success of this building project.

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!