



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## INTO THE DEEP

*By Heidi Gainan*

“After he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.’” (Luke 5:4)

I finally heard a similar call and plunged in deeper myself. After my two previous retreats at Marymount Hermitage, where I spent hours gazing down into the ravine, I finally heard the call to go deeper and hike into the ravine myself. I had been perfectly content before to watch, from the lovely porches of my hermitages. I had watched the deer grazing down in the ravine, and admired the foliage, but I enjoyed it from afar...from my porch. I didn't feel a need to “go deep.”

This time, however, I wondered what all was down there. I saw what seemed to be a line along the bottom. What's that about? I climbed down the draw. It was steep and sort of like praying in a labyrinth. The whole picture looks difficult, but by taking one step at a time, it is very do-able. Unlike the labyrinth though, where the next step is very clear, the next step climbing down the draw isn't always so clear. One must scout around a bit to find the best way to go. Once I got down to the “line” at the bottom, it seemed to me to be a very skinny creek bed or place where water collected and ran down. Sister Beverly told me later it is a deer trail, which makes perfect sense. I began to climb up the other side, the ridge. It was amazing to stop and see how far I had come from my hermitage porch!

As I climbed up the other side, I began to see a similarity between this climb and the spiritual life. We may spend significant time sitting on the porch, admiring a deeper spiritual life, but we are a bit afraid to actually climb in and see what it's really about.



*A mule deer doe watches intently from the brush.  
Photo by Maria Ressler, who was on retreat  
at Marymount Hermitage in September.*

We get a nice view from the porch, after all. But, Jesus said to go deep. Jesus beckons us into a deeper spiritual life; a life that we can't just admire from afar, we need to actually live. A deeper spiritual life may look hard as a whole, but, taken one step at a time, could be very do-able. And we can look back on our spiritual growth and enjoy seeing how far we've come, just like looking back to the hermitage porch.

Once I accepted the challenge of the hike into the ravine, I also wanted to plunge deeper into relationship with Jesus. I took another walk later (an easier walk down the road) and I prayed. “What will this deeper spirituality look like in my life, Jesus? What will I have to do? What will I have to change? I don't want to end up too weird, you know!” I felt a quiet assurance. Jesus used a line from a favorite movie, *The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*. “All

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## INTO THE DEEP (Cont. from pg. 1)

will be revealed, Bebe.” Just take one step at a time. It may seem like a big change over all, but just take one step at a time and it will be easy.

Since I’ve been home, I see subtle changes... little changes, like not turning the TV on for company or background noise. The silence is quite beautiful. I spend a bit more time on Scripture readings and journaling. I’m enjoying a book I borrowed from Marymount and will send back when finished. I’m realizing that this closer relationship with Jesus makes a difference in my relationships with others, too. I’m very aware of wanting to be kinder and gentler with others. In other words, the retreat is lingering a bit longer for me this time. And that is a beautiful thing.

Heidi Gainan  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
September 28, 21014

## READERS RESPOND

“We are so thankful that Mary has moved in now. She is such a dear—and I’m comforted that you are not totally alone!”

Laurene Houghton  
Cambridge, Idaho  
Note on September 12, 2014

“Great to read your newsletter! I can tell already that I like Mary...Just for the record, I haven't been one of those fretting about you being at Marymount ‘alone’. I could tell you were at peace and I always thought of your description of how crowded it was at prayer time, with Mary, all the angels and saints... BUT having said that, I must admit that I REALLY like my mental picture of you and Mary Chamberlin there together now with that heavenly crowd! :-) God is good!”

April Agenbroad  
Boise, Idaho  
E-mail on September 18, 2014



*The roof which my Dad had built in 1984 was blown over by a wind storm, as reported in the last newsletter. Here Craig Sova works on dismantling the roof. Another Mesa neighbor, Jake Freeman, helped also and took the materials to reassemble it at his place. That’s real recycling!  
Photo by Maria Ressler.*

“My prayers are united with yours for Sister Rebecca Mary. Very special prayers for you, Sister Beverly, as you suffer and pray for your beloved friend and Sister. May the Good Lord hold you and comfort your heart. I pray the Lord gives your body strength to continue this amazing work for Him, bringing comfort & peace and welcoming all He sends your way.

Please, Lord, bless these beautiful women, Mary and Sister Beverly. Bring them peace and consolation when they are weary & saddened. Give them the strength & health to match the beauty of their faith & bless the work, this place for many generations to come. Amen.”

Maria Ressler  
Boise, Idaho  
Retreatant from September 12-14, 2014



Our Father’s House with grouse on chapel tower at left; photo by Maria Ressler.

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