



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## A Storm in the Desert

*By Father Casey Bailey, O.C.S.O., on July 10, 2015*

Up until a few days ago, we have been experiencing record-breaking high temperatures for late June and early July here at Marymount. It's been quite the introduction to summer desert living for me! Particularly dramatic was the night of June twenty-eighth/ twenty-ninth. We experienced very high winds, no little thunder and lightning, and even a bit of light rain shortly before dawn, but with no break in the intense heat and humidity. I was certain we'd be over-run by a wild range fire at any moment, but it was all just dust being blown about by the wind, thanks be to God.

Then on Wednesday evening, July eighth, we received a reprieve with a REAL rain, as we were celebrating the Eucharist in honor of Blessed Eugenius III, the only Cistercian Pope, whom I am thanking for the no small gift of an at least temporarily more reasonable climate. May the real Desert Abbas (fathers) and Ammas (mothers) bring us all safely through July and August, as the temperatures presumably resume their inexorable climb. It's all making an excellent climatic background to my on-going reading of the Holy Father's encyclical, "Laudato Si': On the Care of our Common Home".

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*By Sister Mary Beverly, H.S.M., on July 11, 2015*

This summer has been dominated by exceptional events like the extreme weather which Father Casey mentioned above and the abundance of retreatants. I am grateful that so many are taking advantage of our having daily Mass this year. Mary Chamberlin's work has mainly been providing clean hermitages and linens for the retreatants. Major summer work



*July 4, 2015: Our con-celebrants offered Mass in honor of Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception which is the patronal feast of the United States of America. We have much about which to pray regarding our country and its moral needs at this time. Pictured above from left to right: Sister M. Beverly, HSM, Father Bill McCann, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, NM, and Father Casey Bailey, OCSO, a Trappist monk on sabbatical at Marymount.*

(Photo by Mike Nourse)

was done by the Knights of Columbus from Holy Apostles parish in Meridian, Idaho on June 27. The weed whacking and trimming was a necessary component for our fire protection this season and replacing the nylon screens with metal prevents their being eaten by grasshoppers. Our Mesa neighbor, Craig Sova did the large mowing with equipment loaned by Vince Brigante on July 5. My own work currently involves making the newest spring flowers into greeting cards for the sale at Sacred Heart parish in Boise on July 18 & 19. Mary, Fr. Casey, and some retreatants were gracious enough to help me with picking the wildflowers. It is a fun job, but hard and tiring too.

As I write this today on the Feast of St. Benedict, we pray for all Benedictine monks, nuns, oblates and hermits (like me) who live by the Rule of St. Benedict. God bless you and let's pray for each other daily.

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## FROM THE GUEST BOOK...

Dear Sister Beverly and Father Casey,

Thank you so much for your hospitality and prayer for Joe and our children and me. We really appreciate it and the opportunity to have been with you at Marymount.

Best regards,

Anne T.

Boise, ID

May 30-31, 2015

*When I consider all the works of your hand,*

*Who am I that you should love me?*

*God, O God, how glorious is your name,*

*Over all the earth and sky, you reign.*

(“When I Consider” Lystra’s Silence)

So often, during this retreat, this song played in my head. Who am I that I am able to come to Marymount and experience this beauty? Who am I that God loves me so much to bring me here, to spend this time with me? I feel so blessed and gifted to be here. O God, my dear, darling God, thank you so much!

Heidi G.

Idaho Falls, ID

June 13-17, 2015

My first but, Lord willing, not my last retreat here! What a blessing. God’s Spirit is tangible at Marymount. Blessed silence, prayer & sacrament, loving hospitality and nature’s bounty. AND a great library! Thank you, Sister Beverly, Father Casey, Mary [Chamberlin] and fellow retreatant, Heidi, for making these days such a blessing!

Love & prayers always,

April A.

Meridian, ID

June 14-17, 2015

What a blessing and joy to return here, to the stillness and solitude, after having to miss coming last year! This is the highlight of my year—and the remembrance and lingering fragrance of prayerful silence keeps me going for the next 12 months.

Everything, everywhere—every animal, plant, hillside—even the air—seemed richly saturated with

prayers & God’s grace this year (as always). The angels walk among us here. Thank you for this gift! God bless you!

Nancy V.

Bozeman, MT

June 22-28, 2015

Sister Mary Beverly and Father Casey,

Immense thanks for this time away. It has been spiritually refreshing and uplifting. We both look forward to returning (when it is not 107\*)...

God bless and keep you both.

Suzanne and Robert S.

Boise, ID

June 27-28, 2015

What a wonderful place of quiet, peace and reflection. I was here only a short time with my daughter but long enough to know I want to come back! Thank you so much for everything. The desert is a wonderful place to come when in a dry place in my life.

Freda M.

Nampa, ID

July 3-4, 2015

Another beautiful time of rest and prayer at Marymount. Just what the Doctor ordered!

Father Bill M.

Las Cruces, NM

June 30-July 4, 2015

*(Editor’s note: Father Bill has been here every year—or every other year—for 22 years, since the time he was a deacon. That’s some record!)*



*Mary Chamberlin joins us in the chapel foyer in a more casual photo by Mike Nourse on July 4, 2015.*

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. Any 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!