



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE

## NEWSLETTER

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### Walk by Faith

*By Heidi A. Gainan*

I seriously thought about bringing a flashlight for my autumn trip to Marymount Hermitage. The days are much shorter now and Lauds is quite early... I imagined it would be quite a dark little trek to the chapel. But the flashlight, as well as a shower cap and extra socks, never made it into the bag. Remember the expression, "It's always darkest before the dawn"? Well, now I can say that it is as true literally as it is figuratively. Very early, that first morning of retreat, October 11, 2015, I peered out into the pre-Lauds darkness. I squinted to find any kind of illumination... starlight, fading moon, anything! It was as dark as I can ever remember. Like when I visited the Lewis and Clark caverns and the guide turned off his flashlight to show us what "dark" really looked like. I clung onto the porch railing and tepidly stepped down into the abyss. How would I ever get the eighth of a mile to the chapel?

This is all the funnier by the fact that, in my real life, I am an Orientation and Mobility Specialist for blind and visually impaired folks. I could just imagine former clients and colleagues gathered, munching on popcorn, to watch this. "Let's see what you've got, Heidi... show us your stuff. Oh look! She's got one foot off the porch!" I gingerly fumbled my way to my car and rummaged around looking for a flashlight in there. I didn't find a flashlight, but found several white canes I use with the little kids I teach, and... what's this? My trekker pole! After walking into a few bushes, I found the road and hit my stride, using the trekker pole like a white cane. As the lights of the chapel grew closer, I heard Jesus assuring me, though thoroughly amused, "Trust me, Heidi dear. I will help you navigate through the dark and murky.



*Chapel is decorated in red for St. Callistus, pope and martyr, on Oct. 14, 2015. Fall decorations donated by Mary Thompson of Weiser, ID.*

You've got some sweet skills; together we will get there!"

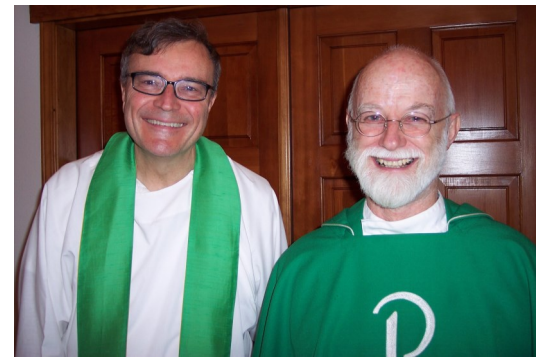
Sister M. Beverly asked me later why I didn't just drive my car down to Lauds. I had to admit it never occurred to me! It sure wouldn't have made any kind of story or lesson either! I guess I just have to take the hard way to really learn something.

*Idaho Falls, ID  
October 14, 2015*

*Cont. on page 2*



Father Bill Watson, S.J., was here on a visit from October 9-10, 2015. He and Father Casey Bailey, O.C.S.O., (at right above) have been friends since they were together in the Jesuit novitiate of the Oregon province. It is a privilege to have daily Mass but a con-celebrated Mass is that much more special.



## Readers Write...

One of the Sisters at the convent in Beaverton, Oregon prints off a copy of our newsletter so **Sister Rebecca Mary** can see it. After reading the account of her 50th Jubilee in the October newsletter, Sister wrote this to me: "...I miss seeing you and being at Marymount, but I know this is my place for now and I have lots of time for prayer which I love."

*In him we live and move and have our being.*

(Acts 17:28)

Dear Sister,

Just a quick note to say how much joy I felt during my stay at Marymount. My heart is lighter and my soul refreshed. I pray this will stay with me. My prayers are with you and your community...

Peace in His Name,

Steve Hall

Portland, Oregon

October 30, 2015

### **HERMITAGE RETREAT**

**Schedule your Advent retreat now to take advantage of daily Mass at Marymount Hermitage while Father Casey is here until December 15, 2015. Call or E-mail Sister M. Beverly.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM*

There were several times in late summer and fall that we had a "full house". By that I mean that all three hermitages currently available for retreatants were full. We are grateful that so many old and new friends have come on retreat while we have daily Mass and the availability of the sacraments. Father Casey had requests for both confession and the anointing of the sick.

Our maintenance man, Dan Duke, with able assistance from Mary Chamberlin, spent one day recently doing repairs to and winterizing for all the buildings. We feel all tucked in now and it is a good thing because, even though the autumn has been warm and dry, winter rain and cold is setting in. Today as I write this (11/10/15), we had snow come down the mountains overnight almost to our elevation.

In this month of November, we pray for our beloved dead and give thanks to God for His goodness.

### **R.I.P.**

Louise Buchanan of Indian Valley, ID  
 Bishop Thomas J. Connolly, bishop emeritus of Baker City, OR  
 Francis Cardinal George, OMI, bishop emeritus of Chicago, IL  
 Patricia & James Plumtree of Garden City, ID  
 Peg Wuelfing of Boise, ID  
 Please pray for the repose of the souls of these benefactors who died recently. God bless you!

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!