



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## THANK YOU

*By Sister M. Beverly, HSM*

“Gratitude is love received.” Our hearts are very full of gratitude and joy for the love expressed in the Christmas donations, kind gifts, promise of prayers and encouraging greetings we received from so many friends. Know that you are in our prayers daily. Mass is offered once a month for our benefactors, friends, neighbors and relatives, both living and deceased. May God reward you abundantly in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*By Sister M. Beverly, HSM*

Mary Chamberlin and I have been reading Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si*. I have recommended it to my friends and family members. It is eminently readable and very compelling. It is our Holy Father’s call to every human being to have a conversion of heart, so that together we may be able to care for our common home, this precious planet earth.

One news item which I was not able to cover in a newsletter during 2015 is that in September our maintenance man, Dan Duke, put new shingles on the roof of my current dwelling, which is located next to the chapel. This house is already 14 years old and the old, thin shingles needed to be replaced. Very strong



*Winter moods of Mt. Council to the northeast of Marymount Hermitage on January 10, 2016.*

*(Photo by Sister M. Beverly)*

winds on the top of this mesa are a normal occurrence, and I was always losing shingles in these weather events. I trust that the new shingles will last the thirty years for which they are guaranteed. As an added bonus, Dan was able to match the color of the shingles on the hallway and the chapel. The three structures



now look better than in the original installation. Nice!

To honor Dan Duke and his wife, Berti, for their prayers, friendship and loyal support, we invited them to Mass and brunch one Sunday. We were also thanking God for sparing Dan’s life when he was involved in a very serious logging accident in an isolated, remote forested, mountainous area of Idaho earlier in



*Cont. on page 2*

## COMMUNITY NEWS (Continued from p. 1)



*Sister Beverly, Dan and Berti Duke after Mass on November 8, 2015 in the foyer of chapel at Marymount Hermitage.*  
(Photo by Mary Chamberlin)

the summer of 2015. God is merciful!

I used to dream that in the winter time I would have all this quiet time to pray more and to get extra work done. Actually, after 32 years, I now realize that winter brings its own work. Mary has been busy doing snow removal and deep cleaning in the hermitages, getting the buildings ready for the next season of retreatants. I am taking care of end-of-year affairs like financial reports, setting up the schedule for parish sales for this year, and thanking all our very dear and generous benefactors.

We have also been meeting with Dan to discuss the renovation of St. Helen's hermitage which is planned for March or April, 2016. Unfortunately, we had a catastrophe in the common house. Frozen and broken pipes have necessitated turning off the water to that building and abandoning it, at least until spring. There was no flooding and the library was not affected. Very fortunately, the water pipe to the pressure tank (housed therein) was not damaged, so we still have a functional water system for all the other buildings. We have been coming to some realizations for the future through this major event. More on that in up-coming months. Prayers requested.

### READERS WRITE...

Dear Sister Beverly,

My father, John Ballard, came to Mesa with his family from South Dakota during the Depression. They were looking for work. That winter Dad's mother died of pneumonia, but the family lived there off and on through the years in the store and in the orchards. I was born in 1948 and have a baby picture

*Cont. in next column*

of me taken in a home near the orchards. My Dad, Mom and Aunt Lou Ann Ballard visited the Hermitage once or twice. Dad's sister, Florence Ballard Hart, raised her family in Council.

I wish you well as you work and pray at the Hermitage. All the world needs your prayers!

Blessings,  
Cheryl G.  
Boise, Idaho  
December, 2015

Sister Beverly and Hermit Sister Friends,  
I enjoy giving the flower print note cards I ordered from you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Praying for you,  
Janet McE.

Boardman, OH  
December 21, 2015

Dear Sister Beverly,

...I've never been to Idaho, and its unlikely I will get there...But these 20 years of contact with you has become a mainstay in my spiritual well-being. Over the years, when I've sent you little donations (and bought some products from you), I've tried to explain how deeply faith-confirming it is for me to know of your witness to (and *within*) the profound Mysteries that unite us a Catholic Christians. The well from which I draw has everything to do with the stability and constancy of what has now become your solitary vigil in the wilds of Idaho...

In the Lord's Sacred Name, Jesus,

John McC.

Croom, MD

Last Sunday of Advent, 2015



Moonset over Cuddy Mt.

(Photo by Mary Chamberlin)

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!