



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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PILGRIMAGE

by Suzanne Sieker

For many years now the signs of spring, warmer longer days and purples and oranges unfolding from my garden, stir up a yearning in my soul for pilgrimage. Not a pilgrimage of great distance to a famous shrine, just a simple pilgrimage to a quiet little place, a place set apart on a hill for prayer and pilgrimage of the heart.

So, every spring I set apart a week, pack my Honda with a few necessities, some simple food, and a journal filled with blank pages. The first time I made this trek almost a decade ago I also brought a backpack full of spiritual reading; little did I know how unnecessary that extra weight was! The two hour drive winding through the hills begins the unwinding of my mind preparing me to come uncluttered, unplugged, uncovered, heart wide open to my Lord.

Once I turn left off Highway 95 onto Hermitage Lane, my heart skips a beat with the thrill of expectation of meeting my Lord and spending the week listening at His feet. My first stop at Marymount Hermitage is the beautiful chapel where I am always warmly greeted by dear Sister Mary Beverly. We enter there, kneel before the Lord, and Sister says a prayer for my retreat. Thus, it begins- this annual spiritual pilgrimage of my heart. My next stop is always the same...

Marymount's hidden treasure trove – the LIBRARY! From my very first pilgrimage to Marymount the library has delighted and directed my soul beyond what I ever could have imagined. Each year (now sometimes more than once a year!) the Lord leads me on a journey to different places, people and spiritual realms of mercy and truth according to my exact needs. I literally open the door of the library praying that the Holy Spirit would guide my eyes to the books that the Lord has chosen for me this retreat. And do you know what?

HE DOES! Prayerfully and reverently, I slowly walk



Mercy House: proposed new library

around the whole library pulling out the titles that draw my eye. They come from all different categories – Bible study, theology, history, biographies, prayer, art, devotional reading, fiction ... endless delights for the mind and spirit. Even though I end up with a stack of books that physically strains my body, my spirit soars with anticipation to learn and receive these gifts from the Lord's loving hand. Each year He has a way of bringing together these various books into a singular theme that is exactly what I need. One year it was inner healing through understanding how great is the Father's love for me and how He protects me and delights in me (see Zeph. 3:17). Another time it was the role of the Blessed Mother, another time St. Joseph; then it was, Mary, not just *the* Blessed Mother, but *my* own Dear Mother. Another time, the collection emphasized walking in unison with the Holy Spirit, then understanding and appreciating the angels, then the saints, then a specific saint, a specific spiritual discipline, and so on. But always the Lord leads, using Marymount's wonderful treasure of books both old and new, drawing me into deeper communion with Himself. He heals me. He loves me. He stretches me. He humbles me,

Cont. on page 2

PILGRIMAGE (Cont. from pg. 1)

amazes me, and calls me to follow Him in becoming bread and water for hungry people.

And so, though my pilgrimage geographically is always the same – Marymount Hermitage, Mesa, Idaho, my inner pilgrimage varies greatly as each spring the Lord escorts me through the vast Marymount library into His own Sacred Heart and onto the next gifts and tasks He has ordained for me back down in the valley of life.

I am eternally grateful for the gems I have only begun to mine out of Marymount's four thousand book library. Looking forward to continuing my own excavations for many years to come, I am also praying that countless pilgrims like me will be led to these voluminous riches which are not for sale, but are freely available for all who will come and READ!

RETREATANTS WRITE...

“My first time staying in this hermitage. Loved the view from the porch. As always, my stay at Marymount was a great blessing—a beautiful time of solitude to seek the presence of the Lord in the quiet surroundings of His beautiful creation.”

Father Bill M.

Las Cruces, NM

June 10-July 3, 2016

“In the quiet here, God reminded me how to let go and how better to focus on Him; deeply grateful for His blessings.”

Susan P.

Boise, ID

May 30-June 2, 2016

“The variety and wide stretch of what God calls you Hermit Sisters of Mary to do is amazing. He answers your living trust day by day—and hard work—with all the people and things you need to do more and more. Of God's own pleasure, I, out of 7 billion people, have this privilege to be your guest. May he reward you, Sister Beverly & Mary, for providing the beautiful set up, and for

starting to pray for me as soon as we made plans. His greatest gift was Father Bill [being here]. I thanked God as my husband and I received Benediction together at the start [of my retreat].”

Anne G.

Grangeville, ID

July 1-5, 2016

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

July 13 was the day we mailed out almost 3000 first class letters announcing the proposal to build Mercy House, our new library and hospitality house. Since then I have been writing daily thank you notes for the donations that come in. We now have about \$27,000 towards our goal of \$213,000. The gifts have been coming in with such enthusiasm and generosity that I am truly gratified, but we still have a long way to go. Please keep this effort in your prayers.

In the meanwhile, I have also been writing personal letters to every Catholic bishop in the United States and so far have covered the Western states. We have already received donations from four bishops. These gifts are a great blessing, representing episcopal good will and prayers for our project.

We were blessed with volunteer work from the Weiser Knights of Columbus who did weed whacking and mowing which provide needed protection from range fires. Thank you, Brian Compton, Steve Kiser, Doug Karel, John Oglevie and Virgil Leedy! So far we have not had an extremely hot summer and no fires close by, though we have been socked in with smoke because of fires burning east of Boise and to the west of us in Oregon. We trust protection from St. Michael.

Major work on our road was done this summer by locals, Al Duncan, Ray Groves and J.R. Balderson. The road from chapel to the top of the hill (to the west) will now be able to service the three hermitages up there more adequately. That section had never been graded or had rock installed, so the effect now feels like a paved road to us. Amazing!

Lastly, I want to thank Thomas Burdett of Cambridge, ID for the donation of his large theological library to Marymount Hermitage. Thanks also to his friend, Jeri Bemis, for facilitating this work. God bless you!

Cont. on page 3

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!

MEMORIALS

Donations were sent for Mercy House from these benefactors in memory of their deceased loved ones:

GEORGE and KAY CLARNO
by Steve and Mary Christensen

CHAD FREI
by Michael and Jana Frei

DR. CHARLES HARRIS
by Maria Elguezabal Harris

CHELSEA HAUS
by Jeanmarie Baumann

THERESA JEANNOT
by Sister Lorraine Marie Schneider, SFCC

MARGARET McSHANE
by Mary Calder

TROY SCHWARTZ
by Edith Schwartz

TED, ELAINE and TOM WELP
by The Dove Foundation

HONORS

Donations were sent for Mercy House from these benefactors to honor these individuals:

SISTER REBECCA MARY BONNELL, HSM
by Jim and Jeanne Rose

MICK and KATHY McCURREY
on their 50th wedding anniversary
by Mike and Colette Cowman

COMMUNITY NEWS (Cont. from pg. 2)

Mary Chamberlin, single-handedly, accomplished the prodigious job of stuffing, stamping and sealing almost 3,000 envelopes for the original Mercy House mailing. This is just one example of how hard working, generous and efficient Mary's assistance is to me. God sent me a gift when he sent her. On August 16, we will celebrate her second anniversary of coming to live at Marymount Hermitage as our first Lay Associate. August 15 is the day I am beginning my 50th Jubilee as a consecrated woman. To celebrate our anniversaries, Mary and I are travelling to the Mass for the Native American tribes of Idaho at the Cataldo Mission celebrated by Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Boise on August 15. It will be an historic day!



August sunset over Cuddy Mt. at Marymount Hermitage.



Sunflowers grace the brown hills during summer time.