



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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“I AM THERE”: Letter from Father Ed

By Father Ed White

January 28, 2019 Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I highly recommend spending time at Marymount Hermitage in Mesa, Idaho. I have had the privilege of staying three weeks in this extraordinary landscape flowing with silence and solitude. The sky "declares the glory of God" here on this high desert plateau surrounded by mountains. I have experienced rest like never before, especially since becoming a seminarian and ordination as a priest in 2005. It was a chance to pray in ways I don't get to in the busy parish where I serve. It was a chance also to read in a more leisurely way. There is a new library here filled with icons, a gas fireplace and the convenience of WiFi. (Coffee is also available!)

The landscape beckons hearty walks and snowshoeing. I feel refreshed and renewed. Thank you to Sister Beverly for holding down the fort of solitude for the Church here in the Northwest. We need solitude, especially if we think we are too busy to take time for it.

To my brother priests, remember that self-care should be up there with Sanctify, Teach and Govern as priorities for your life. As Mother Teresa's spiritual director insisted, "If you don't take care of yourselves, who will care for the poor?" "Come aside awhile and pray", says Our Lord. I say that you won't regret it. The hardest part is leaving. As Dr. Tom Curran says regarding adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, "Stay until you don't want to leave." I'm there. May many come to find Christ here in the desert of Marymount.

*Father Ed White is pastor of
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Renton, WA.*



*Father Ed on his way to
chapel for Mass....*



*...snowshoeing downhill from his
hermitage seen at top of hill.
(Photos by Lorie Vanderwalker)*



*A chore which Father Ed gladly
accepted was ringing the daily
Angelus before Mass and
before Vespers.*



*Before Mass each day we re-
ceived a short instruction on
"Preparing for Mass" from a
book by Romano Guardini.*

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“I AM THERE.” (Cont. from page one)



A priest, as a servant, is always in the business of caring for others. Father Ed was able to install tire chains for another retreatant who would not otherwise have been able to drive up Hermitage Lane from the highway.



Nelson Cintra, a seminarian for the Diocese of Boise who is on his pastoral year in the parish of St. Paul's, Nampa and who will be ordained a deacon in June, 2020, made a day of prayer on January 22, 2019. He says it will be first of many retreats for him, once he is ordained.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

“I AM THERE”: Father Ed White came on retreat for the first time to Marymount Hermitage 25 years ago. He was then a 35 year old layman, and an Episcopalian convert. His vocation discernment took several years and it included yearly retreats at Marymount. As a deep contemplative, Ed first considered a cloistered monastic life as a Trappist. He finally decided that God was calling him to be a priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Father Ed has now been ordained almost 13 years. I had the privilege of being present at his ordination and being a lector during Mass. At my request, he kindly wrote what he calls his “testimony” (see page one) with the hope that it will encourage others, especially priests, to make silent, solitary retreats at Marymount Hermitage.

SNOWED IN: I have been snowed in for three days as of 2/11. During this time, we received about 18+



Seen at right, Sister M. Beverly and Fr. Ed White.

(Photo by Nelson Cintra)

inches of new snow. High winds and significant drifting have been part of this weather event. I have missed Sunday Mass for two consecutive weeks. I made preparations, not only for being snow-bound, but also for power outages, which are very likely during snow storms like we are experiencing. The two retreatants during January, Father Ed White and Lorene Vanderwalker, and I endured a power outage during one day in January. The main point, besides not having electricity, is not having water either. The pump in the well is dependent on power. Father Ed had the fun of chopping kindling and using his woodstove for heat in his hermitage. Pioneer skills are alive and well in Mesa, Idaho!

INVENTORY WORK: Due to cataract surgery in my right eye and waiting for my glasses, I am about two months behind in creating items for the parish sales this year. Currently, I am making baby booties and real flower cards. Remember you can always purchase hand-made items from the website Gift Shop. Another thing I have been doing these months is filling mail orders. I am grateful to be able to earn my living and pay bills for Marymount Hermitage.



Mt. Council with new snow; log cabin in the foreground; woodstove fire in my house in the evenings during the winter months.

MEMORIAL

Marvin & Kathryn Breslauer

by Gwen B. Knowles

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!