



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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PRAYER FOR THIS DAY AND TIME

By Bishop Peter F. Christensen

Lord, I do not know where these days, these times are heading, but I do trust that you are the One who always leads to the fullness of life. Therefore, I ask that your presence be ever more apparent, so that understanding your care for me, I may also know of your deep and abiding love for others.

O Lord, I will do my best to surrender to your loving Providence at this time, in order that I may be obedient in doing whatever it is that you ask of me; for I desire to entrust my life more fully to you, as in response I offer myself more fully to the care of my brothers and sisters.

Please, Lord Jesus Christ, may your Blessings be upon the World, this Nation and my Neighbors, as by your grace and goodness shown to each one of us, we may desire together to follow your lead to wherever you head this new day and every new day of our lives.
Amen.

**Prayer by Bishop Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of Boise
Feast of St. Patrick - March 17, 2020**

Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Boise, after the ordination of Father John Mosier (at left) on June 6, 2019 outside the front of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.



(Photo by Sister M. Beverly, HSM)

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Bishop Peter Christensen emailed this prayer to me the morning of March 18. How comforting it was to read it and pray with it as much as I could yesterday. We were to have the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. John's in Boise last night, but Bishop recommended that I not attend. He wrote he would be more at peace if I was safe at home and praying for them there instead. I had promised him to be obedient to his recommendation and so I stayed home.

It was really the concrete beginning of what it means for all of us to be living through these unprecedented times. Foundational things, normal routines of everyday life are being changed daily. It is all very overwhelming and frightening. I needed to pray about this world-wide medical emergency, but could not even formulate coherent words from my heart to do so. I felt paralyzed.

These words from the heart of a holy, Spirit-led Shepherd were exactly what I wanted and needed. I wrote to thank him and told him that he was doing what we always need him to do and that is to lead us in prayer. I believe that the Bishop's prayer itself is simple and touching. Yet it also manifests a hidden profundity. I recognize in this prayer the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, whom Bishop Peter has chosen as his spiritual and episcopal mentor.

Here is a quote I read from St. Francis de Sales just yesterday under the title of **The Love of God:**

We must try to keep our hearts continually, unshakably at peace throughout the unexpected changes of life. Even though our life changes around us, we must remain steady—always looking, striving, and aspiring toward God. No matter what the course the ship takes, no matter whether it sails to the east, west, north, or south, no matter what winds drive it on, the mariner's needle never points in any direction except toward the polar star.

Everything may be tossed about, but whatever the

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case may be, whether we be sad or content, full of sweetness or bitterness, at peace or disturbed, filled with light or darkness, troubled or at rest, delighted or disgusted, experiencing aridity or consolation, scorched by the sun or refreshed by the dew—for all that, the fine point of our heart, our compass, must ever look and tend toward the love of God, its Creator, its Savior, its sole and sovereign good.

“Whether we live or whether we die,” says the Apostle Paul, “if we belong to God, who shall separate us from the love of God?”

As I reflected this morning, March 19 the feast of St. Joseph, the universal patron of the Church, husband of the Virgin Mary, and the foster father of Jesus, I see that nothing in life has really changed. Nothing that is really important. It never does. Faith in God is the foundation of my life. Prayer is my response to Him from whom I receive all that I need. For the Office of Readings this morning, we had the passage from Heb. 11:1-6 *the faith of the ancients*. It was wonderful re-reading this short account of how the saints of the Old Testament held to their faith in God in times of trial. It reminded me that you and I can fortify our faith with the perennial well-springs of Scripture and the writings and lives of the saints. The important things never change. That in itself is reassuring.

I was also thanking God for giving us this unprecedented time when communication is so easy and efficient. I have received emails and phone calls asking if I was okay. (The answer is “Yes”.) Even though we might be home alone and not able to go out for anything but essential chores, the charity of others can still reach out to us. It got me on the track of trying to be grateful for what we do have. For faithful Catholics, the cancellation of public Masses, the closing of Adoration chapels, and the prohibition of gathering in any numbers, even for prayer is quite daunting. I do believe that the strength of our faith, our willingness to be humble, obedient and sacrificial, will be a hidden but powerful witness in our secular world. God can and will use our spiritual offerings to give the great gift of faith to the many, many who are starving for it. God will not be outdone in generosity.

As we continue our Lenten meditations, the cross of Jesus, his death and burial, will lead us to the conclusion that we cannot kill Love. Easter will come!

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Mission Work: I was invited to give the parish mission at St. Anne’s in Medical Lake, WA, from March 12-16. I gave 6 presentations on the Holy Trinity and Prayer. We had a daily attendance of about 30 people, which, for a small parish, is great. They served lunch daily. Such hospitality! I was warmly and generously received and it was a blessing and a joy for me.

Diocese of Boise: On the way to the parish mission, I was able to attend the Rite of Election at All Saints in Lewiston, ID. It is always good to hear Bishop Peter’s homily. It was an opportunity to see him briefly and to visit with Fr. Brad Neely and Fr. Nathan Dail.



Bishop Peter Christensen greeting me after the Rite of Election at All Saints church on March 9, 2020.

(Photo by Father Brad Neely)

Since I was not able to travel for the Chrism Mass in Boise, this Lewiston liturgy was the last one I was able to attend before the cancellation of all public Masses in Idaho from March 21 to April 5. We are still waiting to know if we will be able to have Holy Week and Easter services in the diocese this year.

Prayer Requested: Last month, I requested prayers for my brother, Tom Greger. After a successful 9 hour surgery and now an anticipated 2 months recuperation, my brother seems to be free of cancer and is healing well but slowly. God bless you for remembering him.

Recommended New Books: 33 Days to Greater Glory: Consecration to the Father by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC; Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. Donald Callo-way, MIC; I Thirst by Father Joseph Langford, MC on the spirituality of Mother now St. Teresa of Calcutta.

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. 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!