



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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SILENCE: LOVE'S VOICE

By Heidi Gainan

"...but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave." (1 Kgs. 19:12-13)

I can easily relate to this reading today since I just returned from four days standing at "the entrance of the cave," like Elijah. I was sitting on the porch of my own little hermitage, however, at Marymount Hermitage. I heard the sound of sheer silence; I could hear the sound of my own heart beating at times! It was (and always is) a profoundly beautiful experience.

What does God say, you may wonder, in all that time sitting on the porch? God says the same thing God always says, "I love you." God says it all the time, no matter where I happen to be, but I tend to hear it better at the hermitage, in the sheer silence. It is the song the birds sing, the crickets chirp. The tiny little lizard sits in the sun with me on the porch and his little eyes blink the message to me: "God loves you." It's in the dance of the sage grouse, the male chasing the female down the road bellowing his crazy "Come on now!" Everything there is relaying this message of love to me, and I just bask in it.

This message of love is so needed in our world today, but we need to hear it and then pass it on. So I'm passing it on here. God loves us more than we can ever imagine. God is with us in these days of difficulty and struggle. God props us up and gives us what we need to do the work. But, sometimes, it is good for us to just be alone with God and take in that message of love for ourselves.

One of the books I read on retreat was "A Tree Full of Angels", by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, who just recently passed into eternal life. She wrote a little poem, part of which is transcribed here:

"Alone
All-one
Alone with God
All-one with God
Now I understand
why Jesus went out
to the desert hills so often
alone..."

Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, "A Tree Full of Angels"



Spring scene looking west past Our Father's House and the only real tree at Marymount Hermitage, an Austrian pine "in the desert hills".

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Gratitude: Thank you sincerely to all who wrote such kind notes of sympathy at the death of my father on April 18, 2020. I appreciate those who sent memorial donations and priests who have offered Mass for my dad. Your responses to the May newsletter were really heart-warming. God bless you!

Covid-19: The State of Idaho and the Diocese of Boise are moving into Stage 4 of open-

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COMMUNITY NEWS (Cont. from pg. 1)

ing and returning to normal. Since mid-May, I have been hosting retreatants. It was a privilege to have Father Kenny St. Hilaire from the Diocese of Spokane here for two weeks. Father had been live-streaming daily Mass for his parishioners and asked if it would be possible to broadcast from Marymount. I agreed and was surprised how unobtrusive



the whole set-up was. An open music stand in the left center aisle held the laptop, which recorded and sent the video of Mass to Immaculate Conception parish in Colville, WA.

The only real difference was that Father Kenny spoke briefly to his people at the beginning of Mass, so we really felt they were with us in spirit, if not in body.



Now Marymount Hermitage has officially entered the 21st century!

Visitors have come from Weiser and Boise, ID to see the new Mercy House: house of hospitality and library. Consider coming to Marymount as a day visitor or retreatant, now that the campus is up and running again. The Gift Shop is open also.

Work: My friends from McCall, ID, Suzanne and Steve Fowles, generously gave a day of labor and really re-vamped my garage. They did high dusting, swept the floor, washed the shelves, and most importantly, created a new, very creative “stop” for the car, so that I do not crash into the interior front wall. Steve also beefed up the supports for the overhead garage door opener. The dynamic duo promised to come again and I hope they do!

McCabe Roberts has been working almost daily, when it is not raining, on the renovation of the old Common House. It is the last of the old moduls to get concrete siding, and it will be the first of the them to have a dark brown roof to match chapel and Mer-

cy House. Little by little, the old roofs need to be replaced and that project will stretch over the next three years. Old Common House shown to the right with new siding being installed.



Weather: Joe Spivey, one of our oldest friends and neighbor at Mesa, now deceased, used to say, “Mesa has only two seasons: winter and the 4th of July.” One year it snowed on the 4th of July and he said, “Well, there goes my joke!”

This is an introduction to telling you that it snowed here on June 8th. To be more precise, the snow came down just about to our elevation. Mt. Council was covered to “eye-level” for us on the mesa. Three photos in this column taken from in front of chapel.



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We have had record breaking rain storms this month and I am grateful for the extra mois-

ture. It has kept the tall grass and weeds green longer and that gives me more time to get the summer mowing done, which I trust will be accomplished soon.



**MEMORIALS for
ROBERT A. GREGER
Joanne & Mark Wood, McCall, ID
Laurene & Ernie Houghton,
Cambridge, ID**

**Mass offered by
Father Kenny St. Hilaire,
Colville, WA**

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!