



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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NESTING IN THE SILENCE OF GOD

By Tina Patel Nold

This morning, as I woke to the warmth and light of the rising sun shining in through my window, I took a deep breath...and in the peaceful silence of a desert morning, I heard the cries of the baby birds nesting outside my hermitage, calling out to their mother in their hunger. As I listened to their cries, I reflected on the past ten days that I have spent here at Marymount Hermitage on retreat. My heart filled with joy as I thought of the time spent resting in peaceful silence with God, but also a sadness at it being my last day.

I've been hungering, like those birds, for my daily Bread. With our churches closed, the opportunity to attend Mass has become rare and can only be obtained via lottery. Who would have ever thought winning the lottery would one day mean you won a seat at Mass, six feet away from other members of this one Body of Christ? I have attended more Masses during my time of retreat here than in the past three months combined at home. I am reminded that our heavenly Father will always feed us. "Look at the birds in the sky...your Heavenly Father feeds them..." (Matt. 6:26)

Our world, like on sunless days, has a cool darkness in the air that leaves me longing for the Son, shining His warm light from the tabernacles, now hidden behind locked doors, for our adoration chapels, too, have closed their doors.

Tomorrow, I return to a place in which the freedom to sit before Him in the silence of a chapel and to breathe deeply of the fresh air have become rare gifts. How much I will miss breathing deeply of the fresh mountain air as I work among the irises and take my daily walks with



Mary. How much I have enjoyed the freedom to run to Him, ever present in the tabernacle, day or night. Sitting at His feet has been the source of my strength and peace each day.

"We must always have courage, and, if some spiritual languor comes upon us, let us run to the feet of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and let us place ourselves in the midst of the heavenly perfumes, and we will undoubtedly regain our strength." (St. Padre Pio)

I am ever grateful for Marymount Hermitage and to Sister Beverly for providing this place upon the mountain where God waits for us to come to Him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened; and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) If you are finding yourself hungering for God, during this time of COVID-19 quarantine and closed churches, come climb the mountain, take a deep breath and spend some time in His radiating warmth. "Realize above all that you are in God's presence. Empty yourself completely and sit waiting, content with the grace of God, like a chick that tastes nothing and eats nothing except what its mother gives it." (St. Romuald)



Tina, a mother of four, has been making her annual retreat at Marymount Hermitage since being received into the Catholic Church six years ago. Tina lives in Kirkland, WA.



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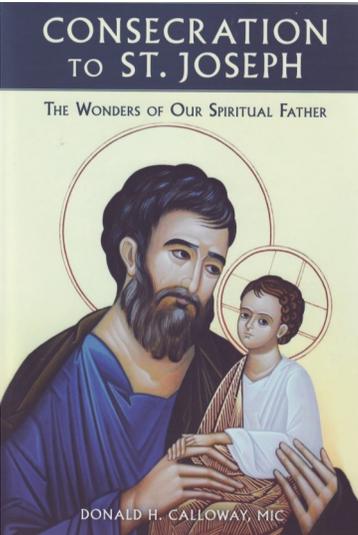
COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

GUESTS: Retreatants have been able to come since mid-May, I am happy to report. Many have expressed (like Tina in her article) the pleasant relief at the contrast of rural Idaho and the more severe COVID-19 restrictions in other states and larger cities. The distance between hermitages is like a built-in “quarantine” and the size of the chapel relative to the few of us using it is natural and normal “social distancing”. Consider making a reservation for a summer retreat during these months.

BOOK REVIEWS: I spend time each day reading and studying. Working in the library helps me to review new books to which I am attracted and are especially good spiritual reading. Perhaps since we are all suffering and confused with regard to many aspects of our lives currently, the theme which developed for me during these past few months is “fatherhood”. One book is on God the Father and the other is on St. Joseph, our spiritual father.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, has written another of his great books on consecration. This newest book is entitled, 33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John. Fr. Gaitley also has an addendum in the book on consecration to St. Joseph.



The second book, which I also highly recommend, is by Father Donald Calloway, MIC, entitled, Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. This book has two main sections: the reflection and prayers for 33 days taken from the Litany of St. Joseph, and theological and historical articles about St. Joseph taken from the writings of the Saints and Fathers of the Church.

St. Joseph is the chaste spouse of the Virgin Mother Mary, foster father of the Son of God, and universal patron of the Church. I have always taken St. Teresa of Avila’s advice to “Go to Joseph” and have found, like her, that he never fails me. I con-

sider him my “right hand man,” especially as regards personal intentions, but also for the guidance and maintenance of Marymount Hermitage. With 100 acres and 12 buildings, I will not run out of work any time soon! I need all the help I can get, both heavenly and earthly.

SUMMER WORK: I have new neighbors at Mesa. Tim and Lisa Moyer have been a blessing to me since they moved here from WA last fall. For three days this week, Tim has been doing the mowing and weed whacking, required for fire protection and safety. Retreatants and guests should not drive and park in areas, which have waist-high weeds and dry grass. A hot car motor can start a range fire, which is what happened last year along Highway 95 and morphed into the “Mesa Fire”, which burned a significant section of Mt. Council.

I am grateful to McCabe Roberts and his new business partner, Kody Williams, who are not only completing the renovation of the old Common House, but took time to do maintenance chores. One hermitage was vulnerable to invasion by mice, and it now seems like that problem has been permanently solved. I think these men are St. Joseph’s “agents”. Mouse-proofing will now make it possible to do some interior refurbishing of that building. More on that news later.

PRAYERS: I am a strong believer in asking the holy angels to accompany all those traveling. This rock slide on July 3 closed Hwy 95 just south of Riggins, ID. Some rocks are 20 ft. wide and have to be blasted to be removed. The slide is still active and dangerous. On the night of July 10 more enormous boulders fell. Our only north/south highway is closed indefinitely.



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**MEMORIALS for
ROBERT A. GREGER
Colette & Mike Cowman, Boise, ID
Diane & Dave Myklegard, Boise, ID**

**Masses offered by
Father Casey Bailey, OCSO, at the
Redwoods Monastery, Whitethorn, CA**

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!