



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARCH OF THE MONTHS

By Sister M. Beverly, H.S.M.

“The Month of March” might have been a more understandable title. However, the topic I want to share with you this month suggested this more mysterious title. “March” in this case is a play on words...“march” as in “to walk with a steady, measured pace.”

Early each year I call the Idaho parishes, especially in Boise, to ask for a mutually agreeable date for me to come and do a sale of our homemade gift items. I am so grateful to the pastors who graciously permit me this opportunity to earn my living and support Marymount Hermitage. It occurred to me that since most of our readers live in or near the Boise area, you might like to see the schedule for sales this year and plan accordingly.

SALE SCHEDULE 2013

March 2 & 3 Sacred Heart, Boise, ID
March 16 & 17 Holy Apostles, Meridian, ID
April 6 & 7 Our Lady of the Rosary, Boise, ID
April 27 & 28 Corpus Christi, Fruitland, ID
May 4 ICCW Convention in Ontario, OR
May 25 & 26 Our Lady of the Valley, Caldwell, ID
June 1 & 2 Risen Christ, Boise, ID
June 15 & 16 St. Mary's, Boise, ID
June 22 & 23 Sts. Peter & Paul, Grangeville, ID
July 6 & 7 Our Lady of the Lake, McCall, ID
July 14 St. Mary's, Cottonwood, ID (Sunday Mass only)
Aug. 3 & 4 Sacred Heart, Emmett, ID

I do ask for prayers that my efforts to support myself and the retreat and prayer ministry of Marymount Hermitage will be successful. Thank you!

If you have not seen me and my display at a parish sale, you might wonder what exactly am I selling? A good question! The two items most com-



monly associated with our sales are rosaries and flower cards, as well as flower book marks. However, we also have a CD of Sister Rebecca Mary's original Hebrew music for the psalms; her three children's books; baby booties; items for the Kitchen Corner: pot holders and dish cloths; religious medals and crucifixes, aloe vera plants and sometimes jade plants. My small car is packed like a traveling store. When I ask parishes to have available for my use 8-10 long tables, I often meet with incredulity, at least the first time. When people see the tables all set up, they often say: “Two Sisters made all this?!” Actually, yes, we make most of it. Sister Rebecca Mary still makes rosaries and flower book marks and I (with the help of a few friends) make all the rest. In theory, winter is the time to build up the inventories of sale items and spring, summer and fall are the months for the parish sales.

Like all poor people, I have essentially three part-time jobs, which threaten to become full time! Making things to sell and hosting parish sales is one

aspect of my work. I value daily manual work for the peace it gives for silence and prayer. Another aspect of my work is teaching and giving retreats. This is intellectual and spiritual work which I love. The Scripture classes I give at Nazareth Retreat House in Boise are based on primary research and involve hours of preparation for one hour of teaching. This year I am only giving four classes for the school year and that has worked out better than giving eight, as I have done for the past two years. I love this kind of Scripture study which involves prayer called *lectio divina*.



Sister Ronald, M.C., Sister Maria Conception, M.C., Father Kenny St. Hilaire, pastor of St. Patrick's parish in Spokane, WA, and Hermit Sister Mary Beverly.

I give retreats which are based on material from the Scripture studies classes and which I give either in a parish or retreat house setting. February 18-20, 2013, I gave a three day parish retreat in Spokane, WA. The theme of the three days was Water, Olive Oil and Light. These biblical images point to the sacrament of Baptism and thus are ideally suited to the Year of Faith proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. Baptism is "the door to faith". While in Spokane, I was privileged to stay in the convent of Mother Teresa's Sisters, the Missionaries of Charity. It was edifying to see the Sisters' life and work. Among other work in the parish and area, they offer a shelter for homeless women and I shared a meal with four women each evening.

The last aspect of my work is maintaining Marymount Hermitage. This supports the retreat ministry and my own hermit way of life. I have writ-

ten about aspects of this for January and February. Building maintenance, for instance, is always an ongoing project and effort, as are accounts and correspondence.

I will visit Sister Rebecca Mary and the Sisters at St. Mary of the Valley in Beaverton during Palm Sunday and the first part of Holy Week this year. I am looking forward to being back in community even for a short time. Then I will be making my own retreat from Holy Thursday until Easter at the Trappist Abbey in Lafayette, Oregon. My mother (now deceased for thirty years) always used to think a hermit going on retreat was amusing. "Isn't your whole life a retreat?" she would ask. But as you can see, my life might be primarily solitary and silent and certainly given over to prayer, but I work very hard, and even a hermit needs a break!

So that is my "March of the Months". I hope your Lent is spiritually fruitful. I wish you a grace-filled, joyful Easter. Let us pray for each other daily. Mass is offered monthly for you and all our benefactors. God bless you!



Sherry Moore is my reliable helper at parish sales. This photo by Mike Nourse was taken of us while we were at St. Mary's parish in Boise last year.

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 on 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!