



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## St. Joseph, the Worker

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

Since this post is late, you know I have been busy! My apologies for the delay, while I hasten to tell you what has been going on at Marymount Hermitage. From April 15-May 2, 2013, Dan and Berti Duke were camped out in their travel trailer behind Sister Rebecca Mary's old hermitage while they renovated that building. "Mary's House", as SRM named it, is almost 30 years old and nothing substantial has been done to it since the very early years of our life here on the mesa. Dan installed new windows, new exterior siding, new trim, repaired the attached wood shed and porch, and gave the entire building two new coats of paint. It looks like a new building and beautifully matches the chapel, Holy Family House, and the two other hermitages, which have been remodeled in the recent past.

That only tells you about half of the work! The Dukes completely remodeled the interior of Mary's House also. Dan went to the trouble of putting "mud" on the old, dingy, vinyl-covered sheet rock, did taping and texturing of the walls, repainted the ceiling and walls, installed new shelving throughout, and repaired a wiring problem, which had plagued the building for years. As you walk in, the first thing you notice is the new flooring. It is a wood-grain pattern and adds a touch of color and warmth to the otherwise simple, white interior. The next thing that catches your eye are the beautifully framed windows, which are a specialty with Dan. The white wooden window casings are a work of art, a huge step up from the deteriorated, vinyl-covered sheet rock. It really is a new building in every way. I am so proud of Mary's House now!

Sister Rebecca Mary and I were committed to liv-



*Statue of St. Joseph in the new church of St. Paul's in Nampa, ID. I attended the beautiful Dedication Mass there on April 21, 2013.*

ing very austere in our hermitages. As hermits, we welcomed the poverty. Now, the reality of the age and deterioration of the buildings require that we upgrade for the sake of retreatants and future years. This remodel cost \$9,155 and I was able to pay for it out of our savings account. I mention this for two reasons: to thank benefactors who have been generous in the past, making a savings account possible, and to ask if you want to contribute to this work. The help would be greatly appreciated. I always pray to St. Joseph, the worker, for all the needs of Marymount Hermitage, especially the maintenance. It was awesomely in God's providence that Dan finished the remodel on May 1, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

After paying Mr. & Mrs. Duke, I only have about \$2,000 left in the savings account. Since then, I have learned that termites are attacking a third building, the common house. I paid for termite extermination last year to protect three buildings: the chapel, the

house here, and St. Helen's hermitage. I was hoping we would not find any more hungry critters, but alas, we did. So I decided on an extermination plan for all the buildings on the campus. This will cost \$1,895 and will be done on May 20 by Terminix. I admit I gulped when I agreed to this new project, but it is essential and urgent. I just trust that the Lord will assist me with work I can do to bring in income for Marymount, and generous friends who want to support this ministry, making a place of prayer for people.

Usually I do one parish sale a month during the spring and summer months, but this year I have scheduled even more to keep up with expenses. I appreciate the invitations to do parish retreats and teachings, which also augment Hermitage income. It is hard to do all this and pick wildflowers too, but I have been doing whatever I can on that score. I have domestic flowers growing in planters in the dining room and kitchen in my house, which I harvest almost every day! Working with flowers is so refreshing to the spirit, their beauty sings. Today, it is cooler and is raining and I am grateful for that blessing. The spring has been hot, dry and very windy, and the wildflowers have been struggling. (Me too.) Hopefully, this refreshing change of weather will benefit them and therefore me!



*Dan Duke behind "Mary's House" during the remodel. This is the view towards the southwest from that building. The cloud of dust is a car driving along the graveled Goodrich Rd. In the photo to the right, you see the work in progress with Dan's truck, work trailer and their camp trailer parked out back.*



*Berti Duke did the myriad jobs that supported Dan's work, like masking in preparation for painting and cleaning up after him. They enjoyed their "retreat evenings" on the mesa and joined me for Lauds and Vespers each day.*

Visitors to Marymount Hermitage are supposed to ring the bell to announce that they are here and then I greet them in front of chapel, and pray with them there before we talk. I was quite surprised one day recently when a man knocked on the front door of Holy Family House. It was Jeff Fields from Weiser, who has been our plumber these last few years. Jeff is young, and when you ask him how long he has been a plumber (as I did when I first met him), he will say, "Since I was four years old." Jeff began "work" as a plumber by going with his grandfather to people's houses and to the shop at such a young age. Jeff was kind enough to bring his whole family for our Jubilee Mass and open house three years ago, even though they are not Catholic. So I was very touched by this unexpected visit from Jeff for the sole purpose of telling me that his grandfather had died and would I honor them by coming to his funeral later that week. I ask you to pray for the repose of our oldest plumber friend, Harold Young, and for consolation and peace for his family at his passing. We pray daily for all our benefactors and friends, both living and deceased.

Thank you for praying for me, for my life and my work. God is so good and these days have been beautiful, if busy. I pray for you with love and gratitude during these days as we await the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost.



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!