



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

2150 Hermitage Lane Mesa, Idaho 83643-5005

Website: www.marymount-hermitage.org

Tel. (208) 256-4354

E-mail: marymount@ctcweb.net

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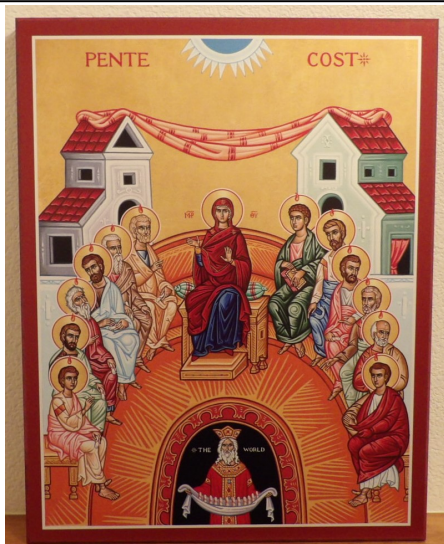
THE STORY OF A FEAST DAY

By Sister M. Beverly

This is the three part story of the feast day of Mary, Mother of the Church. This is an integral part of the spirituality and history of Marymount Hermitage. I am sharing it with you as a treasure of my heart.

PART I: During the deliberations of the world's bishops at Vatican II, they had a beautiful document on the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was clear, concise and well-written. There was no controversy about the contents of the doctrine in the document. The major question was only this: "Shall we have a separate decree on Our Lady or shall we include what we believe about Mary, the Mother of God, in the decree on the Church?"

One thing they did agree on, as a preliminary point, was that they would not give Mary another title. She already had many beautiful and profound titles as evidenced in the Litany of Loreto, which has been used by the faithful for centuries. After extensive work on the document on the Church, the bishops decided to include the document on Our Lady as the last chapter of the decree on the Church. At the end of all this work, Pope Paul VI surprisingly announced something to this effect: "My brother bishops, we agreed not to give Our Lady another title, but I am moved to request that we give her the title of 'Mother of the Church'. Do you agree?" The world's bishops applauded and stood as a body to acknowledge their approval. It was the kind of joyful



surprise that only the Holy Spirit could have orchestrated!

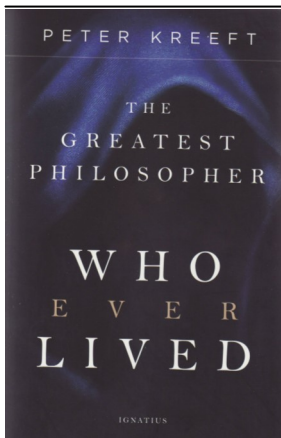
PART II: That was during the 1960's. When, in the 1980's, Sister Rebecca Mary and I were beginning our contemplative life at Marymount Hermitage, we prayerfully decided that we would have "Mary, Mother of the Church" as the title of Our Lady under which we dedicated our lives and our place. This title very much resonated with us as appropriate for our solitude and prayers, sacrifices and work for the good of the Church and the salvation of souls. We even have this title of Our Lady in our vow formula which we have prayed in this form for forty years now.

PART III: It was with real joy and gratitude that I noted that Pope Francis, in March 2018, instituted a new feast day for the liturgical calendar. Now the universal Church observes the first Monday after Pentecost Sunday as the feast day of Mary, Mother of the Church. This year the feast occurred on June 6. Father Bill McCann offered Mass that morning for Sister Rebecca Mary and me, for Marymount Hermitage, and for all of our neighbors, friends and benefactors, both living and deceased.

If you think of the Church as an institution, it would seem odd to say Mary is "mother" of the Church. Institutions do not have mothers. However, the Church is a mystery, which means it is such a profound reality that we cannot possibly know it completely. Why is this so? Because the Church is a living organism, both divine and human, a Body with a Head (in the words of St. Paul). If Mary is mother of the Head, who is Jesus, then she is mother of the Body, which is all the rest of us. A woman is a mother of the whole person, head and body. So Mary is mother of Jesus and of us, the Church. Her newest title is very profound and bears pondering. May we do so with great gratitude for the traditional belief of the Church from the time of Christ, which has been handed on to us anew in our day. It is a grace!

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

RECOMMENDED BOOK: I have been reading and savoring Peter Kreeft's profound and beautiful book on Mary. I will quote from the book cover, hopefully to entice you to read this new classic by a great man.

"This book is a one-of-a-kind study on Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus. If Jesus Christ is wisdom incarnate, and if Mary loved Him more than anyone else ever did, then it holds that Mary is

the greatest philosopher, the greatest wisdom-lover. With precision and humor, Kreeft not only unpacks the thought and spirit of Mary, as we know her through Scripture and Church doctrine, but offers a heartfelt crash course in the basics of philosophy...all through the lens of the Mother of God. Fans of Kreeft will find here another fine example of his characteristic freshness, creativity, depth and readability. But above all, those who are curious about the mother of Jesus, whether they are new to the Christian faith or simply hoping to discover it anew, will likely find themselves swept up in the tide of Mary's wise love for God." Book published by Ignatius Press.

RENOVATION: Because of time considerations, I divided the renovation of St. Francis hermitage (building #1) into two phases. Phase one, the interior, is complete. These two photos

show the left and right side of the main room: ceiling painted, walls taped and textured, new vinyl flooring. This

hermitage is currently occupied by Sister Josephine Pelster, SSMO, who is on retreat for a month. God willing, the exterior renovation, will be completed in August. This work will include a new brown metal roof and a new porch and entryway. This is the last of the oldest modulars to be renovated.



DAY OF PILGRIMAGE ON MAY 21: Iconographer, Nancy VanDyken, was the presenter for the retreat day with the theme, "Praying with Icons". Nancy taught us some basics about the history and theology of icons, which are "written to preserve the truth of the faith". Her focus was the 12 Festal Icons, which accompany the Orthodox liturgy throughout the year. They are images of the important events in the life of Christ and the Church. This was the third presentation Nancy has given us over the years and it was the first time she used a screen and projector for teaching about the images. Very interesting and edifying!



DAY OF PILGRIMAGE ON JULY 23: Father Bill McCann will be the presenter for the retreat day with the theme, "Healing for Ourselves and Our Families". Please see the *Calendar of Events* on this website for more details. The last Day of Pilgrimage for the year will be on October 15, 2022 with Father Dominique Faure, V.S. The *Calendar* has information about that group day retreat also.

RETREATS & WORK: Retreatants, who request work while they are here, do so for the balance that manual work brings to a day of prayer, solitude and silence. I am sure they are also motivated by the desire to be generous and help me with my work. As I often say, "With 100 acres and 12 buildings, I will not run out of work any time soon!" Shari Ann Snelling, from Renton, WA, did some work both in the Chapel, repairing one window frame, and at Mercy House, doing weeding around the front patio.



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!

COMMUNITY NEWS (Continued from page 2)

Michael and Denise Wack, from Warsaw, IN, have taken on the Stations of the Cross as their work project while they are annually on retreat. Denise repaired and re-painted

station #1. Mike repaired and caulked the wooden shrine, which houses that ceramic station. Pictured at right (from left to right): Michael Wack, Father Bill McCann, Sister M. Beverly, and Denise Wack on June 10.



BOARD MEETING: Michael Wack is the newest member of the Board of Directors for Marymount Hermitage, Inc. We met on June 7 at the Bader ranch in Riggins, Idaho.

Pictured at right (from L to R) are Bill Bader of Riggins, ID, Denise Wack, Sister M. Beverly, Sister Michael Francine, SSMO and Mike Wack. We are the members of the



Board, except for Denise, and that day we were missing, Joanne Wood, from McCall, ID.

(Above two photos by Sister Krista, SSMO.)

Pictured at right (from L to R), Debbie Bader, Sister Krista and Denise Wack. They got to visit and have fun, while we, the Board, did our "work" for two hours.



Just driving to the Bader ranch from the town along the Salmon River named Riggins is an adventure through awesome scenery. The elevation is above 4,000 ft. and the road up is steep and narrow.



These 3 photos look down on the Salmon River from the Bader's front yard. (These three photos by Sister Krista, SSMO.)

Normally, the Board meetings take place at Marymount in Mercy House, but this year I wanted to give our out-of-state guests a real Western adventure to thank them for the help they give me with the infrastructure of Marymount Hermitage. It is a work of charity, for sure! God bless you.



A donation has been made to Marymount Hermitage to honor
MICHAEL E. NOURSE
by Lisa and Tim Moyer of Mesa, ID

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Our neighbor and friend, Mike Nourse, last week received a diagnosis of stage 4 lung cancer. Please pray for healing and peace for Mike and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for him and his wife, Ceara, and the doctors.