



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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Volume 39, No. 7

July, 2022

RETREATANTS WRITE...

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

I am glad when there are "other voices" to speak to you about Marymount Hermitage and what it is like to be here. It has developed into a tradition that I publish some comments from the hermitages' guest books, so you can read the retreatants' reflections about their experiences. I also hope that it will give you a "window" into a solitary retreat and inspire you to make one yourself. At least, pray about it.



Our Father's House at sunset by April Agenbroad, June 2022

June 16-19, 2021

Dear Sister Mary Beverly,

What an amazing 4 days in Marymountaineer's Heaven on Earth! The neat, and clean, generously-appointed cabin was so inviting and the bed so comfortable and the hospitality is impeccable!! You have done a masterful job of transforming 100 acres of mountain into a blissful haven for those of us who enjoy peace, quiet, and then a bit of direction. You have created quite an oasis for God's Special Guests—He is so pleased.

Love, Prayers Always,

Carol A.

Weiser, ID

June 22-24, 2021

I'm confident it was Divine Providence that the only time I could take a 2-night retreat here was two and a half weeks before my wedding day. I needed this pause from the business and stress of my life, and was able to retreat into stillness, prayer, reflection, and rest. I'm determined to come back, hopefully together with my husband. Thank you, Sister M. Beverly, for helping arrange my retreat, and for all the beautiful work you do. You'll continue to be in my prayers. Love, Elise K. Eagle, ID
P.S. The library (Mercy House) is incredible. I greatly enjoyed the hours I spent there.



Library room inside Mercy House. "We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses..."

July 25, 2021

It is a blessing to see Father Bill [McCann] once again. Marymount Hermitage is a special place of holy reflection, contemplation and reverence.

To get away from the distractions of the world, to view God's handiwork, sets things in their proper order of importance.

Mike & Pawn S.

Las Cruces, NM

September 8-11, 2021

I just love this place! Even when the air is thick with smoke—but today's (overdue) rain fixed that. Even when Marymount's water pump quits and we're without water—of course its Friday night, so no quick fix there. But I just LOVE this place. It always feels like coming home.

When I tell people I'm coming up here for a silent retreat, they tend to say, "Oh, you can't talk." That's SO not the point! It's not about giving up something as much as it is being given a precious gift: SILENCE.

Thank you Lord and thank you, Sister

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RETREATANTS WRITE (Cont. from pg. 2)

Beverly!

Love & prayers always,

April A.

Meridian, ID

P.S. Later last night there seemed to be some hope that perhaps it isn't the pump, but perhaps a less expensive problem. I pray so!

September 10-12, 2021

Within the first 2 hours of quiet, I became aware of the presence of God. Two great days with Jesus and His creation. Thank you, Sister Beverly.

Paul B.

Boise, ID

September 8 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) to September 19, 2021

Thank you. Silence, Solitude & Prayer times. Five years is too long to be away, so I will (do) promise to return next year! "Come unto me and rest..." "...a voice shall sound in your ears: 'This is the way; walk in it!'"

Thank You, dear Lord, for the invitation to come, to be alone with You in this beautiful desert setting! Thank You for sunsets, near full moon, stars that fill our night sky, and sunrises that welcome each new day, new opportunity to praise You for Mercy and Love.

Marymount Hermitage is a station on "the earliest road", "the pathway of old" which is the way to good, walk it; and Yes!! find rest for your servant soul. (Jer. 6:16) Peace in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Sister Janyce B., SNJM
Spokane, WA

September 12-18, 2021

Such a blessing to enjoy the solitude and serenity of this desert hermitage! God speaks to us in silence; in silence, I am able to truly listen to Him.

Blessings to Sr. Beverly for her hospitality, and the joy of daily Vespers.

Shari Ann S.

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
Renton, WA



*Lupine with sage brush
in the background.*

October 8-13, 2021

It is such a blessing and so easy to feel God's presence here. My soul feels healed. Thank you, Sister Beverly, for providing such a place for silence and contemplation. Your and Father Bill's mission will be in my thoughts and prayers always.

With deep gratitude,

Susan W. Las Cruces, NM

October 15-16, 2021

Dear Sister Beverly,

Thank you for sharing this incredible place of solitude & peace with me and many others. Wow, what a giant gift this is! I am just beginning my silent retreat with my eight-month old daughter, Veronica, & it is already so enlightening & fruitful!

Love & Prayers,

Margaret L.

Grangeville, ID



Rare hybrid yellow Wyethia.

October 15-16, 2021

Thank you, Sister Beverly and Father Bill, for praying for us so personally while we were on retreat. When you pray for one person, you pray for the whole world.

Carol Y. (Margaret's mother)

Grangeville, ID

October 15-16, 2021

Thank you for this time of peace and tranquility to be alone & silent & to listen to God, rather than the world. The physical location feels next to the Heavens and the chapel, library & accommodations all lend themselves to a clearer encounter with the love of God. I am already hoping & planning to return!

Blessings to Sister Beverly & Father Bill!

Elizabeth B. (Margaret's aunt)

Grangeville, ID

October 22-24, 2021

Sister Beverly,

O how you have answered God's call in your life with the creation of Marymount Hermitage. What a blessing you offer to those in need of God's peace & stillness. The desert offers such grace & mercy to those open to receive it from your hospitality, Christ-like friendship & love.

Thanks for daily worship, driving us to Sunday Mass in Weiser, showing me Uniformity with God's Will. My retreat was to read Saint Alphonsus de Liguori's book and recalibrate my Uniformity with God's Will. At this stage in my life and living in a world undone, I so needed this and the Litany of Trust.

Many blessings,

Margo N.

Holy Apostles Parish

Meridian, ID

October 22-24, 2021

Thank you, Sister Beverly, for your ever gracious & beautiful hospitality. Welcome, Father Bill!!

I had to come to the desert to get out of the desert.

This weekend gave me respite from a long spiritual dryness. I'm very grateful that my Lord pre-

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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!

RETREATANTS WRITE (Cont. from pg. 2)

sented Himself so tangibly to me this weekend. If it's only for weekend, I'll accept it as a great & beautiful gift from the one who always loves me.

Lesley M.
Meridian, ID

October 22-24, 2021

Lovely weekend. Travelled with two other retreatants visiting happily. Then we turned onto the gravel road. It was like turning a page. I was reminded, in the quiet, of stumbling through long ago music lessons, as if a magnificent composer wanted me to focus on a "Theme". The most important part of the piece—repetitive, playing gently in my mind like a silent lullaby. Reflection brought me to a grace-filled moment as a little girl when hearing loss was restored. Why had I considered it unremarkable?

Part 2 of the detangling of this event came years later when a professor reading my assigned "spiritual autobiography" found a remarkable "variation" on the Theme. There had been a second unexplored/unrecognized miracle. I had almost forgotten—until this weekend. In the silence here, as I tried to focus on Christ as the central Theme woven in + (sadly, sometimes) out of my life...

Part 3 emerged—yet another grace-filled "variation" again unexplored/unrecognized + surprisingly simple like being hidden in plain blessed sight. In the world of "Themes and Variations" of music theory—the Theme is presented + the listener/performer is invited to explore, "re-hear" or "re-experience" it in different ways. The possibilities are limitless! The set aside silence helped me to listen to an inner symphony of the heart where even a joyful "interior" noise lifted in praise + surrender is warmly received by The Shepherd of our Souls!

Thank you.
Terry L.
Boise, ID

October 29-November 1, 2021

Theme of the weekend: humble trust in God...

*"Like a weaned child on its mother's lap,
so is my soul within me.
O Israel, hope in the Lord,
both now and forever." (Ps. 131)*

...and abandonment. Father, thy will be done.

I am grateful and blessed for this mini-retreat and this place and especially my dear Sister Mary Beverly and for Fr. Bill. Suzanne S.
Boise, ID



Photo from St. Helen's hermitage by Sister Krista.

October 28-30, 2021

It was wonderful to be at this hermitage [St. Helen's] again and to get to read my entry from October 2019. God is in the details; that's for sure!

I'm so grateful for what Marymount has been in my life.

God bless you, Sister Beverly and Father Bill.
Mary Beth H.
Meridian, ID

November 6-12, 2021

These past few days have been like a spiritual hospital — reviving, renewing and resting in my Lord's arms.

Nancy E.
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
Renton, WA

December 17-19, 2021

Sister Mary Beverly,

Thank you so much for the gift of this retreat. It has been my favorite wedding gift so far! Our time here has been filled with peace & rest, and fruitful conversations that have blessed our new marriage. What a joy to experience this beautiful space that I've heard so much about. I feel a new zeal to live each day in love, guided by the Holy Spirit. Know of our prayers and gratitude.

Love,
Riley S. (& baby!) [Editor's note: Leo Judah was born in late June, 2022]

December 17-19, 2021

Dear S.M.B.,

Thank you so much for welcoming us and praying for us and all the ways you care for us. It has been such a beautiful time of rest, peace, and silence.

Know we are all praying for you!

Love,
Bobby S.

March 25-26,
2022

*Que Dios les
pague?* Your overwhelming, joyous welcoming has truly touched our hearts and lives!

God bless you!
Love,
Bill & Sonia P.
Nampa, ID



*Father Bill McCann offering Sister Beverly the chalice before communion at Mass.
Photo by Sister Krista on June 7, 2022*

March 28-30, 2022

What a gift this stay at Marymount Hermitage has been. The solitude, the quiet, the peace...has been a balm for my frazzled soul. It is rare for me to have hours to be in communication with God, in prayer, in contemplation and in listening too. This time has

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RETREATANTS WRITE (Cont. from pg. 3)

allowed me to reflect on the blessings in my life in deep gratitude, the wonder of nature, and the ways I can express God's love in the "outer" world, in my life. I have also considered what needs paring...what can I prune away that is unnecessary distraction and busy-ness? Sister Beverly and I had a lovely discussion about technology, overwhelm, disconnection and connection to God.

Being here has increased a sense of spaciousness in my busy mind and has expanded my heart in ways I hope to carry forward out into my daily life. Mass with Father Bill and SMB and a few community members was beautiful and a lovely feeling of communion and community. This beautiful little peaceful cottage was perfect, cozy perch to watch the birds soar and dive in the ravine, the sun rise and set over the snow-dusted mountains and the green new grass glow in the early spring sunshine.

Simple foods, quiet contemplation, warm sunshine, fresh water, cozy bed, many books, beautiful views. This is a heaven on earth.

Thank you! And may God bless you!

Jessica M.
Boise, ID

April 25-27, 2022

As usual, such a blessing to be here. Thank you, Sister Beverly, for providing and making such a peace-filled, grace-filled place for retreat.

Father M. Uhlenkott
All Saints Parish
Lewiston, ID

May 15-19, 2022

Dear Sister Beverly,

Words cannot express the gratitude I have in my heart for you allowing me to experience the retreat (this being my first and only retreat) I've had with you. From the first moments here, when you greeted Charlotte and me, to these last moments, I felt your kindness and love. The tranquility and silence is something I have been yearning for, and I found it here. The mesa with this little hermitage is located so beautifully, that I couldn't stop taking pictures of all that God gave. The flowers, the valleys and mountains are breath-taking and I was happy to be a part with them.

Prayer, Mass and holy hours were wonderful. It was so nice to have Father Bill McCann with us too. His kind words and time were very much appreciated. May Our Lord Bless both of you and keep you in His Care!

Love & Prayers,
Mary K.
Kent, WA



Holy hour with Adoration during the Easter season at 3-4 PM, the Mercy hour.

May 16-19, 2022

"O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you." (Ps. 63)

In the silence, I felt His love and peace. I am so grateful for a taste of Marymount Hermitage. Thank you, Sister Beverly and Father Bill McCann, for your hospitality and love. I heard God call and I came. Never have I felt so at peace. I pray my next visit will be longer, God willing. Such a blessing to experience this mountain top oasis. May God bless you in your ministry.

Thank you for the multitude of blessings. The songs of the birds, the beauty of the sunrise, the beauty and peace of this Holy ground, the whispers of the wind, the opening up of new life in God's creation of green fields, the abundance of wildflowers, and the overflowing of God's merciful love. My heart is SO FULL!

Charlotte B.
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
Renton, WA



Mercy House and mountains to the east.

June 1-3, 2022

Thank you, Sr. Beverly and Father Bill, for this wonderful retreat in this magnificent landscape! Just what I needed — rest, silence & remembering God again. Too short a time though! I'll be back. Mil Gracias!

Kathleen E.
Boise, ID & Colorado Springs, CO

June 4-11, 2022

Another spectacular stay at Marymount Hermitage! God has certainly blessed us by connecting us with Sister Beverly! She has become one of our best friends. We both had a very productive retreat, and were able to go with her to a diaconate ordination in Boise. Father Bill's being here is a great bonus as well...what a kind and reverent priest!

We are counting the days until we can come back. Blessings to all who come here. You are on sacred ground!

In Christ,
Denise & Mike Wack Warsaw, IN

June 13-24, 2022

There are not enough words to express my heartfelt gratitude towards my stay here at a beautiful and peaceful place—St. Helen's [hermitage] at Marymount Hermitage.

Thank you, Sister Beverly and Father Bill.

Now I know why parishioners at St. Stephen the Martyr Church in Renton, WA come here every year.

The silence, the solitude is really a wonderful way to refresh spiritual life. Refreshing indeed to be able to live life at a different pace away from worldly distractions. God bless!

Lori I.
Renton, WA

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

TRAGIC NEWS: On Sunday, June 26, just 5 days after his 79th birthday, Bill Bader died in an accident on their ranch in Riggins, ID. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and for peace and consolation for his wife, Debbie Bader, and their family. Bill had been a member of the Board of Directors for Marymount Hermitage, Inc. for about two years and a dear, trusted and generous friend since the day I met him. I will write a memorial article for the August newsletter.



MASS: Mass is offered once a month at Marymount for our benefactors, neighbors, friends and relatives, both living and deceased. *Chapel at night.*
Photo by Sister Krista.

BUSINESS PASSED ON: I have been in the business of growing and selling aloe vera plants for about 25 years. I got a small sprout from a friend of Father Bill's in Hatch, NM, and brought it with me in real trepidation on the plane home to Mesa, ID. I survived the TSA and the "pup" grew to a large mama plant, which supplied endless sprouts for years. Just because I am no longer doing parish sales in the Treasure Valley, the aloe vera did not stop growing and reproducing. I finally decided that I was watering 30 over-crowded mama plants for no reason. But what to do? How do you get rid of "friends"? It finally came to me in prayer, as I believe, an inspiration from the Lord, as to an amicable solution.

Council High School has a very productive and active Ag. Department. I asked the teacher if she wanted to grow aloe vera and sell individual "pups" in the spring, when they annually sell flowers, herbs, and domestic plants. This sale contributes to the expenses of their Ag. Department. She was enthusiastic about my suggestion and donation. Besides the potted plants, I am also giving them extra containers and planting supplies.

So far, I have given one lesson to the teacher and two students, who will care for about 25 mama plants during the summer months when school is not in session. Plans are, that in the fall, I will take the last 5

SUPREME COURT DECISION: We thank God for the courage, wisdom and fidelity to our Constitution that the justices' decision to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* after almost 50 years has been accomplished. We join all Americans who are overjoyed and continue to pray that a "culture of life" will flourish in the USA. May Mary our Mother and St. Pope John Paul II intercede for us.

pots and teach another lesson for the whole class. This teaching will include growing, re-potting, and medicinal use of the aloe vera. I feel happy and gratified that my business has passed on to more hands, and will be very capable and productive again and into the future. *Photo of me and my mama plants in the high school greenhouse by Denise Wack.*



NEIGHBORING NON-

PROFIT: My good friend, Ellen Piper, and her husband Randy, founded, live on, and manage St. Isidore Catholic Worker Farm in Mesa, ID. I have always been inspired by the life, witness, and work of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin. I have been supportive of Ellen in all the various stages of her life, first in Boise and now at Mesa, in carrying out the Works of Mercy envisioned by the Catholic Worker spirituality.

It was Ellen who suggested that instead of a 7-8 PM holy hour, we have it from 3-4 PM because it is the Hour of Mercy. Now with Father Bill here, the Adoration time includes Benediction three days a week. I think this is emblematic of how Ellen and I have helped each other in our respective vocations.

Recently, Ellen invited me to be on the Board of Directors for their non-profit corporation. I am honored to be asked and to serve this worthy cause, with an eye to how we can help the poorest in our local area. I would also like to use this opportunity to publicly thank Ellen for being my editor and proof-reader for the monthly newsletters posted on the Marymount Hermitage web site. Her help and encouragement mean a lot to me.

NEW WEB MASTER: As of today, July 5, 2022, I have asked Gamaliel Masters to be my web master and computer guru. Gamaliel is the son-in-law of our dear friends, Craig and Sandy Sova, married to their daughter Kelly. They were all local until just recently, but now live in or near Moscow, ID. I ask prayers for this change in responsibility. I expect I have a lot to learn. I trust and respect Gamaliel's expertise and knowledge. God is always gracing us and building us up in new ways. Just this year, both Craig and Gamaliel were received into the Catholic Church. God is good! I also publicly thank Mike Nourse who, with his wife and daughter, built our website more than 20 years ago and has maintained it faithfully until now.

PRAYERS REQUESTED: We continue to ask prayers for Mike Nourse, who has melanoma in his left leg, lungs and brain. He is currently undergoing intensive treatments which, while not curative, will help him in various ways. Thank you sincerely!

DAY OF PILGRIMAGE July 23: Time to register!