



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE "SECOND SIP" OF COFFEE

By Michael Wack

Contrary to popular opinion, I tell people the second sip of coffee is always the best. The first sip is tentative. Will it be too hot or too cold? Too strong or too weak? Taste great or taste terrible? When everything is just right, that second sip is fantastic. That's why I lovingly tell my wife Denise that she's my "second sip of coffee"!

Well, coming back to Marymount Hermitage for the second time was also my "second sip". On our first retreat there (See Marymount Hermitage Newsletter Vol. 38, No. 7 -- <http://marymount-hermitage.org/monthly/2021-07.pdf>), Denise and I had no idea what to expect. Would the hermitage suit our tastes? Would we have a good spiritual experience? Would the hermit nun get along with us? After that wonderful first time, I couldn't wait for that second sip!

Now that we knew what to expect, we were eager to spend an entire week at Marymount in June of this year. We were particularly excited that Fr. Bill McCann was now in residence, meaning we could take advantage of daily Mass. While there, we certainly took advantage of those Masses as well as daily Lauds and Vespers with Sister Beverly.

Denise and I quickly picked up the same general routine as we did in our previous stay: I spent most of my time in Mercy House (more about that later), and Denise spent most of her time in the hermitage. During the retreat, Denise got a start on repairing/repainting the outdoor Stations of the Cross (they are starting to show the effects of many years in the weather), and I took a few walks down to the highway and back. We enjoyed seeing mule deer, many grouse, and several types of birds. I'd love to say we didn't see any snakes, but we did! They were all non-venomous, so it's all good. Just startled us a bit. And the scenery ... beautiful mountains with a little remaining snow, the hills and valleys, and seeing a rainstorm far off in the distance. Exquisite.



We also had the opportunity to accompany Sister Beverly to Boise, where we attended a diaconate ordination at St. John's Cathedral. Since I have a brother who is a priest and another who is a bishop, I have been to many such ordinations and always look forward to those joyous occasions. A bonus was seeing Bishop Peter Christensen and exchanging a few words with him again. What a holy and humble man ... a great leader for his diocese.

As I am on the Board of Directors for Marymount, I was able to attend the annual Board meeting while I was there. We had the meeting at Bill and Debbie Bader's house in Riggins, and had a wonderful time with them and the other Board members and friends. Denise and I were absolutely devastated to learn of Bill's accident and passing, just 19 days after we had met him. Bill and I had already begun to correspond, and Denise and I had instantly felt as if Debbie and Bill were long-time friends we'd try to see often. Sister Beverly will do him much more justice in this newsletter's memorial than I can ... suffice it to say we will miss him and say many prayers for his soul as well as peace for Debbie and his family.

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THE “SECOND SIP”... (Cont. from pg. 2)

Finally, a word about Mercy House. As I said, I spend most of my time there during the retreats. It is a quiet, comfortable, and spiritual place in which to pray and read and contemplate. The selection of books that Sister Beverly has collected and catalogued is astounding ... I felt like I was surrounded by knowledge! I let the Holy Spirit guide me to a few books I read while there, something I don't have the luxury of doing at home very much. I also limited myself (it was quite the struggle!) to one book I borrowed and will send back to Sister.



I've included a photo of my view while sitting in a nice chair in Mercy House ... truly awe-inspiring. How can someone not be motivated and blessed in such an environment? On the last day of my retreats, I always write down action items to put into practice... things I've realized while at Marymount. Mercy House was the perfect environment for me while

doing so!

So, to all those who are considering a retreat at Marymount Hermitage: I've already taken that first sip of coffee for you, and it's fantastic. Go and take that “second sip”!

BILL BADER: MAN OF FAITH AND PRAYER

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

When I first met Bill Bader of Riggins, Idaho, I did not know he was a national celebrity. I did not know he had a famous race track in Ohio. I assumed he was a local Idahoan, probably a rancher, farmer or tourist business owner in “Idaho's White Water Capital”, which is Riggins' motto. Since I am often asked how I met him, this memorial article gives me the opportunity to share how Bill Bader came to be such a good friend and why he leaves such a hole in my heart and life since his sudden and unexpected death on June 26, 2022.

It was Lent of 2016. My friend and Board member, Joanne Wood, was parish administrator of Our Lady of the Lake in McCall, Idaho. The mission church of St. Jerome in Riggins (to the west of McCall, along the Salmon River) was one of the two missions for which the parish was

responsible. Joanne and I were discussing what could be done for St. Jerome's for Lent and I offered to host a day retreat there for the congregation. As an old-time teacher, I was naturally interested in the details regarding teaching there, so I asked Joanne, “How many people do you expect would come to a day event like that?” With no hesitation, she answered, “Twelve.” When I did not respond immediately, thinking I was disappointed with the small number, Joanne said, “You realize that 12 people is 100% participation?!” and we both laughed. It was among these twelve people at St. Jerome's that I first met Bill and Debbie Bader. My focus in this article will be on Bill, but many of his great gifts and charisma could also be said of his beloved wife, Debbie.

Country people have a tendency to be rather shy and silent. Bill was anything, but...! He had his trade-mark wide smile, bright, black, laughing eyes, and a warm personality which made me feel I was his friend from the



Debbie and Bill Bader in Riggins on May 29, 2018.

moment I met him. He acted as host for the mission's retreat day and he was obviously a respected leader in that small church community. He was focused on and savvy about people and was a problem solver, always gracious, generous and considerate. I immediately felt that everything for the day would fall into place because Bill Bader was watching over me and us. It did. My offering that day was very gratefully received and the people all wanted me to return to give a retreat the next year, which I did.

When Bill and I began to plan the Lenten day retreat for St. Jerome's in year three, the new pastor in McCall said he had something planned and so I was not invited back. Bill knew that people would be disappointed, so he asked me what we could possibly do, given the restriction. By 2018, Mercy House, our new house of hospitality and library, had been built and was functioning, so I said to Bill, “This is a free country. Let me host a day retreat at Marymount Hermitage and everyone in Riggins and throughout our entire area will be welcome. So the first day retreat at Mercy House was planned and Bill and Debbie helped me host it. That was when I discovered for myself in charming detail what exquisite hosts they both were. Hospitality, along with willingness to work hard, was their gift! The day retreat was the first of what has become since then a new and fruitful tradition at Marymount.

There is one enlightening story I want to share for the sake of history, which shows you more about Bill Bader. I had made an outline of the proposed retreat day for Mary-

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BILL BADER... (Cont. from pg. 2)

mount and announced to Bill over the phone what I had in mind. With regard to the outline of the activities for the day, he was all in favor, but he objected to the title I had decided upon. I was calling the event "A Day of Prayer". Bill said, in his usual, forceful way, "That is not a good title." I could not even imagine why it was not good and asked him what he meant. He declared, "People like me are not going to show up because I cannot pray for a day. I do not know how to pray. Call it something else." So I said, "How about 'A Day of Pilgrimage'?" He agreed to that because, of course, everyone was traveling from somewhere to arrive in Mesa, south of Riggins about an hour and a half. In two years, we had two such retreat days for which I did all the teaching. Since then, we have expanded the offerings to three or four retreat days a year with other presenters, especially priests.

After seeing Marymount Hermitage for the first time, then later having a tour of all the buildings, and beginning to understand more about my life as a hermit and my work here offering a variety of kinds of retreat experiences, both Deb and Bill were all on board to help me in generous ways with infrastructure and maintenance of Marymount.

About three years ago, I noted the necessity of making some changes to the Board of Directors of Marymount Hermitage, Inc. I asked Bill if he would be willing to serve as both a Board



Bill Bader, Sister Michael Francine, SSMO (behind Bill), Sister Beverly and Michael Wack just before the Board meeting began at the Bader's ranch on June 7, 2022.
(Photo by Sister Krista, SSMO)

some special way to celebrate my Jubilee of religious vows on August 15. About three years ago, I asked Bill and Debbie Bader to join me in a pilgrimage to northern



Bishop Peter Christensen, Bishop of Boise, celebrated Mass for me at Marymount on August 15, 2020. Bill and Debbie Bader were able to join us for Mass that day.

member and as the treasurer of the non-profit corporation. He was able, willing and pleased to be nominated by me the President, and voted in by the Board for this job. Last year, the first one Bill attended, the annual Board meeting was at Marymount, but this year, on June 7, the Board meeting was held in Riggins, at the mountain-top ranch of the Baders. (See Marymount Hermitage Newsletter Vol. 38, No. 6--<http://marymount-hermitage.org/monthly/2021-06.pdf>)

Travelling with someone helps you to know them in new ways. I always plan

Idaho. We would travel on August 14, visit Sandpoint, Idaho's new church, St. Joseph's, and attend the public Mass Bishop Peter Christensen was offering for the Coeur D'Alene tribe at Sacred Mission church in Cataldo on August 15.



This trip is when I discovered something important about Bill. As

we walked into St. Joseph's church, we noticed that they were having Eucharistic Adoration at a side altar. So we agreed to spend some time in prayer before we left. I settled myself down in a pew facing the altar and, a short while later, Bill sat down in the same pew at the far end. I normally close my eyes during private prayer, but once, I opened my eyes and very briefly looked over to see how Bill was doing. In that one moment, I believe I saw his soul. The look on his face was totally unforgettable. It was the serious, open look of a child, eyes full of adoring love. He was totally immersed in Jesus present on the altar. I shut my eyes almost instantly, so as not to intrude on his intimate prayer, but I did say to myself: "So Mr. Bader, you said you did not know how to pray. Not true!" I think, in his humility, Bill really did not give himself credit for knowing how to pray, but I honestly think God had given him many graces along those lines. Perhaps he himself did not even realize it.

Bill was also a man of the Church. The details of the historic and dramatic Mass with the Coeur D'Alene tribe gave us lots to talk about on our way home that August 15th. Bill was knowledgeable about the Church, prayed about aspects in our modern world which disturbed him, and showed his deeply rooted attachment to and respect for the faith of his holy Lebanese mother. He said she always kept her faith and was a woman of deep prayer. He was quick to say that she prayed him out of the errors and excesses of his wayward youth, for which he will be eternally grateful. He hoped and prayed his own children would embrace the faith that was foundational for him. He often used the expression: "God, faith and family."

I had the privilege and joy of attending the funeral Mass for Bill Bader at his parish of St. Paul in Norwalk, Ohio on July 12. His former pastor there, now recently retired, Monsignor Kenneth Morman, tearfully gave the funeral homily and told many touching details about Bill. It was obvious how much he loved Bill and how much he would miss him. He said Bill always sat in the pew under the third Station of the Cross in the side aisle when he attended the daily 6:15 AM Mass, when he was home from Idaho. Bill was an active participant of the weekly men's Bible study with Monsignor Kenneth. Bill always told me how much he loved



St. Paul Parish Church, Norwalk, Ohio. There were about 400 people at Bill's funeral Mass.
(Photo by Sally Vaccaro)

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BILL BADER... (Cont. from pg. 3)

listening to his pastor teach about Scripture and Church history. Bill was proud of the fact that the priest had previously taught for years in the diocesan seminary. When I passed Bill's casket in the middle aisle of the church at communion time, I put my hand briefly on it to say interiorly, with tears, farewell to my friend.

When Monsignor Kenneth, after the blessing of the body at the end of Mass, finally said, "Rest is peace", I thought, "Bill, none of this 'resting in peace'! I do not believe in it. Now that you are with God in the communion of saints, I will ask you to help me with my projects at Marymount, just as you always did. Nope! You will have work to do...and thank you for that. I know how much you liked to work hard."

Bill died in an accident doing his usual, hard, physical labor at his Riggins ranch on his beloved mountain. It was about noon on June 26, 2022. He was 79. It was just 4 days after his birthday. To close, I want to share with you what Bill read in his devotional that morning. What is underlined here, he had highlighted in yellow: "Stay calmly conscious of Me today, no matter what. Remember that I go before you as well as with you into the day. Nothing takes Me by surprise. I will not allow circumstances to overwhelm you as long as you look to me. I will help you cope with whatever the moment presents. Collaborating with Me brings blessings that far outweigh all your troubles. Awareness of My Presence contains Joy that can endure all eventualities." (Taken from Ps. 23:1-4; 2 Cor. 4:16-17)

The morning after Bill's funeral, I was sitting in his recliner in his prayer corner in his Norwalk home. Karen, Debbie's friend, handed me Bill's devotional book and said, "Read the entry for June 26." I did and wept copiously, as you can well imagine. I will never forget the precious time I spent that morning, sitting in Bill's prayer chair, praying and reading what he had prayed the morning he died. It was a privilege to have known, even for a short time, such an extraordinary man. He was larger-than-life in many ways. Bill Bader: man of faith and prayer. "I will miss you, my friend. Pray for me and Marymount Hermitage. I know you can do it!"



Debbie Bader, Sister Beverly and Bill Bader at their mountain-top home above Riggins, Idaho on June 25, 2019.
[Photo by Peter Brophy]

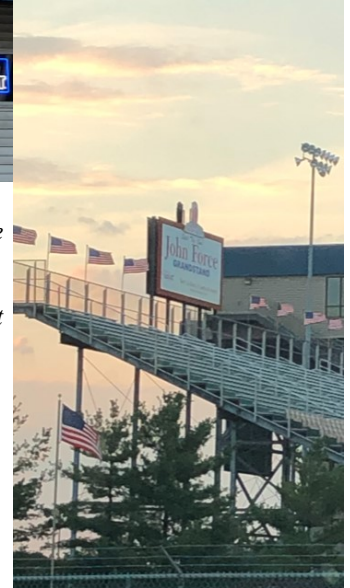


I was told that there were signs on many businesses all over Norwalk honoring Bill Bader, Sr. This is one sign (at left) I personally saw.

Denise Wack's brother, Bob Vicarro, and his wife, Sally, were kind enough to provide me with transportation from the Cleveland airport to Norwalk the night before the funeral Mass.

They showed me the sights, especially Summit Motorsports Park, the business for which Bill Bader, Sr. was famous. Honestly, when they first said "race track", I was envisioning horses not race cars!

[Three photos by Sally Vacarro]



This photo of the race track features the large tent, which was to house people for the memorial and meal, which lasted all afternoon, before the burial that evening in Norwalk's historic cemetery. There were over 1,300 people present for Bill's memorial event.

Epilogue: Those who wish to read more about Bill Bader's business will find information and very moving memorials online under **Summit Motorsports Park** in Norwalk, Ohio. You can read why the world rightly considers him not only a successful businessman, but a mentor to all, especially young adults.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Day of Pilgrimage on Oct. 15: Father Dominique, V.S., prior of Our Lady of Ephesus monastery in Boise will be the presenter for the last day retreat this year. The theme is "What should we learn from the two Mystical Doctors: St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux?" Registration will be limited to 30 people, so sign up early! Contact Sister Beverly by email at marymount@ctcweb.net or call (208) 256-4354. Detailed information is on the website: marymount-hermitage.org.

Open the *Calendar of Events*.

Hermitage Retreat: There continues to be a steady stream of retreatants seeking silence and solitude for the sake of prayer. Currently, there are openings for retreat reservations during September and October. Autumn is a beautiful, temperate season on the mesa. Consider a retreat before winter and Advent.

Construction and Maintenance Projects: There are several important projects in progress now. I will have more details and photos when each are completed. I ask for prayers to St. Joseph for the men who are working at Marymount, that they be safe and healthy, and their work will be successful and give glory to God. Any donations, large or small, are always appreciated and gladly acknowledged by mail.

Gift Shop: I rarely think to advertise this section of the website. I am in business to sell the handmade items made by me or for Marymount by a friend mentored years ago by Sister Rebecca Mary. Check out the variety of sale items on the website. Purchases can be requested by an email or phone message. After doing yearly sales in the Treasure Valley parishes and beyond for over 20 years, many people still remember their favorite items and order them.



Fire-breaks Mowed: This year, due to lack of available workmen, the large mowing was done very late, just about two weeks ago. We had already had a fire at Mesa and I was getting frantic. I thank Dan Walker accepting this important strategic work, especially during the extreme heat. Dan is a neighbor to Al Duncan, a friend of mine in Council. Dan was quick to say that, even though he had the equipment, "I am a truck driver and this is not my gig." God bless Dan for offering to do this work for me again next year, which is an extra bonus and relief to me!

The July 23 Day of Pilgrimage given by Father Bill McCann was well-attended and gratefully received by those who came. The theme was "Healing" given in



two hour-long presentations with time for questions and answers. Fr. Dennis Day (seated near back center) was available to hear confessions that morning.



There were two periods of private prayer during the day and Mass was celebrated at midday, followed by the catered lunch, which was essentially the only time for socializing. (Always a nice break!) The afternoon was like the morning schedule: presentation and private prayer. At the conclusion of the day, those who wanted to



do so were welcome to return to the library which I had transformed into the Gift Shop. It is one of the few ways people can see much (but not all) of the handmade items I have to sell.

God bless you and let us pray for each other daily.