



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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Volume 40, No. 10

October, 2023

PRAYER - WORK - STUDY

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM



Sister Beverly August, 2017

*(Photo by
Deacon Gene Fadness)*

When people meet me for the first time, they usually ask, "What community do you belong to?" There is no simple way to reply. I usually say, "I am a canonical hermit of the Diocese of Boise." Of course, they have no idea what that means.

I try to explain that I live a life of prayer, silence and solitude, under the Bishop of Boise, as my religious superior. When I tell about Marymount Hermitage, people inevitably say, "How many Sisters live there?" The answer is "None. I am a hermit. I live alone." It IS really perplexing to people.

One factor which is important to me and which I try to share with others is that I really do have a life! My day is structured and the week is formatted, so that it is

as ideal as can be for prayer, work, and study, which are basic components of my life...any life, really.

Prayer includes private and liturgical prayer, when there are opportunities for others to join me, or I to join others at a parish. St. Paul writes that if we want to eat, we should work, and I am definitely in favor of eating! My work is quite varied depending on the season of the year, but I am as busy as I can be, as us Baby Boomers tend to be. I never thought so when I was young, but I do really enjoy working hard, manually or intellectually.

Spiritual reading is important to sustain a life of faith, prayer and holiness. One type of book which I am almost always reading is an autobiography or biography of a saint. A lived life is the best way to learn how to become the saint God intends me to be when he created me. A type of reading, which is more along the lines of study, is

theological, Scriptural, or serious reading. Books like this might take me a long time to read. I especially love the encyclicals of Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Because my work can sometimes involve teaching, this is where I get the material for my notes and presentations. Teaching is the work I love best, then writing.

I have many intellectual interests and enjoy historical studies, an example of which is 1421 by Gavin Menzies, which my sister, Lucille Dungan, loaned me from her own library. On March 8 of that year, China sent out the largest fleet of ships the world has ever seen to explore all the lands of the earth and make diplomatic contact with people of other cultures and nations. The author proves that the maps they made were shared with Italian, Spanish and Portuguese scholars, which made possible European sailors' oceanic explorations 70 years later. This book of 659 pages actually reads like a novel with all the inherent drama.

I love observing nature and so have a small library in my house of books on animals, birds, trees, wildflowers and rocks, which I consult when I discover a new example of one of these creatures.

One question, which I am almost inevitably asked by people, is "Living alone, aren't you lonely." Nobody quite believes me, but the answer is "No." The truth is, I am not alone. I am never less alone than when I am in solitude for the sake of prayer. Most people kindly point out that since I am so talkative, how can I really be silent? That, of course, is to confuse a vocation with a personality. I am a hermit by vocation and an extrovert by personality, both given me as gifts by God.

Prayer, work and study. A way of life. A joy in the Lord!



Creative work can be making flower greeting cards, but I also learned to make flower bouquets in the community and love to do so on feast days for chapel, like for the Assumption.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL: My class on “The Bread of Presence” will be broadcast on October 4, 11, 18, and 25, Wednesdays, at 7:45 AM. If you cannot listen then, you can hear the 4 segments as podcasts. Access these on the Salt & Light Radio Boise website under the section Morning Light. The classes are listed by date. Dr. Brant Pitre’s book on Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist is very profound and enlightening. “The Bread of Presence” is a summary of Chapter 5. This is one way I am trying to contribute to the Eucharistic Revival, which our U.S. bishops have proposed for us for these three years.



The Revival will conclude with a National Eucharistic Congress to be held in Indianapolis, IN from July 17-21, 2024. I am excited to participate in this great celebration of our faith, a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. Join me, if you can.

At Marymount Hermitage, instead of having two days a week for Eucharistic adoration, we have added a third day to participate prayerfully in the Revival. From 3-4 PM on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, we

have a holy hour ending with Vespers. Retreatants and neighbors often join Father Bill McCann and me.

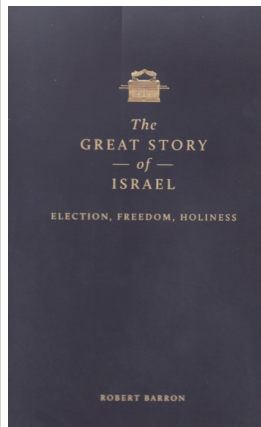
MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS: Twice in the last few years, I have had individuals fall down the outside chapel steps. I have spent these years last trying to find a metal worker, who could custom make an exterior hand-rail. I finally had a recommendation for Cambridge Metal Works. Ben Drury gave me an estimate of \$2,580 for one outside rail and two inside rails for the sanctuary step. I have paid him half the amount in advance, so he can order supplies. \$325 of the total will be for a metal rack in one storage room in Mercy House. This will enable us to hang up the folding chairs, so they are not standing around the perimeter of the library, looking rather untidy. Photos to follow when these projects are completed. In the meanwhile, prayers and donations are greatly appreciated.

The buildings on campus have hardiboard siding, which is basically a type of concrete. This was installed over the years, instead of the old wooden siding to prevent damage from grasshoppers and wood peckers. The siding is guaranteed for 50 years and has held up extremely well. What has not held up is the trim that was used, which is basically press board. It is subject to damage from the grasshoppers eating the boards and the missing paint then allows moisture to warp the boards. This is a detailed explanation about why most of the buildings will need upgrades. The plan is to install hardiboard trim and

re-paint as needed. My hope is to do one or two buildings a year, depending on funds, until they are all finished.

With Bishop Peter Christiansen’s permission and the approval of my non-profit Board, I propose to begin upgrades with my house, which is the last of the old buildings needing exterior renovation. The estimate for just the installation of 13 new windows is \$14,175. I received a donation of \$20,000 from a Boise non-profit, which paid for the new road and installation of new carpet in chapel. I have a little less than \$7,000 remaining to put towards the windows of my house. I am hoping this construction work can be done before winter sets in. Please prayerfully ponder if you can help me with this work. God bless you!

RECOMMENDED READING: The Great Story of Israel: Election, Freedom, Holiness by Bishop Robert

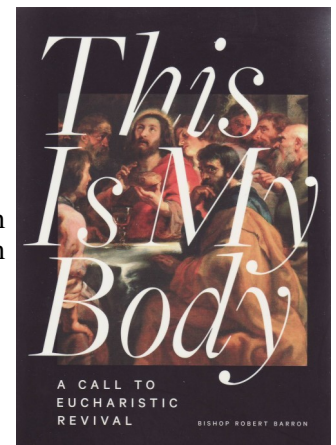


Barron is a book I love. I found it moving, inspiring and unforgettable. Bishop Barron’s new book is unusual in that it gives us a meditation on each book of the Old Testament to show the overarching themes, which develop as God relates to his people, revealing himself and offering us the gift of salvation. The Bible is a living book, a book of the Church. Rather than focusing on geography, history, dates, names and places, which is the usual approach, Bishop Barron shows how certain themes develop and

deepen in this spiritual saga. This 352 page book was published by Word on Fire in 2022. When I finished the book, I was sad because it was so beautiful that I did not want it to end. Now I await with eagerness Bishop Barron’s next book on the New Testament.

By God’s providence, I am also reading another book by Bishop Barron: This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival. It is very small in size and only 110 pages, published in 2023 by Word on Fire. It is meant to be, in a nutshell, the basics of what we believe about the Eucharist.

The chapters are The Preface: Source and Summit, The Eucharist as Sacred Meal, The Eucharist as Sacrifice, and finally, “If It’s a Symbol, to H___ with It!” which is a famous quote from Flannery O’Connor, a Catholic American author. Bishop Barron has such a clear and cogent style of writing, which is why it strikes both the mind and heart. Some parishes are offering this little treasure for free. Look for it.



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!