



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

2150 Hermitage Lane Mesa, Idaho 83643-5005

Website: www.marymount-hermitage.org

Tel. (208) 256-4354

NEW E-mail: SisterBeverly@marymount-hermitage.org

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IN MEMORIAM

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

Today is November 2, the day we pray for all the holy souls, all the faithful departed who have preceded us into eternity with God. In popular Mexican culture, this is the Day of the Dead. The older I get, the more the day has meaning for me as my list of those people I knew and loved, who have died, gets longer. Allow me to tell you the story of one remarkable man who died recently.

Late in the year 1995, I received a retreat application from a man named Tom Mahoney. He had a slight Irish brogue and all the Irish charm and wit, with an easy, contagious, joyful laughter. He said his business was owning rentals in San Diego. I could well imagine that he was a great landlord because he genuinely cared about people. Care and kindness were written on his face. He had a gentle spirit, but I also sensed he had a strong inner resilience. My intuition was accurate when I heard his life story.

As we sat in the old Common House drinking tea one day, and getting acquainted, I asked about his life. He frankly told me he was raised back East, (I do not remember the



Tom Mahoney in the foyer of chapel after Christmas Midnight Mass in 1995.

and managing properties. He seemed happy and obviously had many friends. Still I sensed that something important was missing from his story. I asked, "Were you ordained a priest?"

He looked at me, shocked, but also very sadly, and said humbly, "Yes, I was."

"You are a priest?"

"Yes...an inactive one."

"Did you never apply to a bishop to become a diocesan priest after you left religious life?"

"No, I just never had the courage."

I let it go at that, but increased my prayers, asking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for my new friend, Tom, who was really "Father Tom". From then on, he was forever anchored in my heart.

That is only the beginning of the story of what God, in his miraculous providence, did for Thomas F.

state), that he had entered religious life as a young man and been finally professed for years before a tragic circumstance caused him to leave religious life and return to life in the world. He never alluded to the nature of the suffering. He went to live in San Diego, CA and began a business there of buying homes



Sister M. Beverly, Tom Mahoney and Sister Rebecca Mary in the Common House for our Christmas party with neighbors and friends, 1995.



Tom Mahoney was on retreat from Dec. 18-28, 1995. These three photos were taken by him to show the scenery around his hermitage: St. Francis.

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Mahoney. Shortly after that day, in late December, we did not have Mass at Marymount Hermitage, so Sister Rebecca Mary and I were planning on going to the weekday Mass at the local mission church in Cambridge. I asked Tom if he wanted to go with us and he did.

When we arrived at Holy Rosary Church, I left the pew we had chosen, went into the sacristy, and told Father Xavier, an Idaho priest from India, that we had a retreatant with us and that he was an inactive priest. Father Xavier was very interested in that news and asked me, "Is there any canonical impediment to his offering Mass?" I answered that I did not think so, except that he was not under any bishop. Father Xavier said, "Tell him to come see me." So I did.

Imagine my surprise when both Father Xavier and Father Tom came out of the sacristy together, vested and ready to begin Mass. I was in a daze the whole time. Afterwards, when we talked, Father Tom said, with tears in his eyes, "Today is the anniversary of my priestly ordination." It was December 27, 1995.



Saying good-byes:

Father Tom's retreat ended on December 28, 1995. At L, he is giving his priestly blessing to Sister Rebecca Mary and a retreatant.

Our first cat, Josephine, was "Little Miss Hospitality". She delightfully met and welcomed everyone who came to Marymount Hermitage and faithfully said good-bye when they departed. Josie fell in love with Fr. Tom. While he was here, she moved from my hermitage to his until he left!

At R above, on the way to the Boise airport, we stopped to say good-bye to the pastor in Weiser, Father Xavier Aresseril, who also had the mission churches in Council and Cambridge.

That was not the end of the story, because Tom went home and eventually presented himself to the Bishop of San Diego. The bishop accepted him to become incardinated into that diocese. Father Tom was nearing retirement age, so was never assigned as



pastor of a parish, but he spent the rest of his life as a very active priest, helping out in parishes and especially visiting the sick in hospitals and saying Mass for cloistered nuns in the area. He was supremely happy and fulfilled.



Father Tom Mahoney came at least once or twice again to make a retreat at Marymount Hermitage. He loved us and our place so much, that we three actually

discussed seriously about his coming to be our chaplain. It never actually happened, but Father Tom expressed his love and support for us by telling others about the Hermit Sisters of Mary and suggesting they send donations, especially at Christmas time. Father Tom prayed for us daily and also sent money yearly at Christmas.

He always called here on December 27 to leave a phone message to wish us a "Merry Christmas" or, if I was so blessed, to talk to him for a short visit yearly. I knew recently that he was getting more frail and eventually moving to a care facility. I suspected he had died when no phone call came in last Christmas season. This was confirmed when I received a notice from his lawyer that Marymount Hermitage had been named as a beneficiary in his estate. He had died on Dec. 29, 2022 at the age of 87, having been a priest for 60 years.

In a few weeks now, Father Tom's brother informs me, we should receive a check for \$25,000. Michael Mahoney's phone call came on October 31, 2023, the fortieth anniversary of the legal founding of Marymount Hermitage, Inc. My heart is so deeply touched that we could support Father Tom Mahoney in his true priestly vocation and that he in turn supported us in every way in our hermit vocation

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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!

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in and for the Church. This is how the Body of Christ functions. God makes these miracles to remind us of these truths. Father Tom left quite a legacy of goodness and joy among his family, friends and acquaintances in the large, busy city of San Diego, CA and throughout the country, as Michael informed me. Fr. Tom also left a lasting legacy in the hearts of two Hermit Sisters in the remote reaches of Idaho.

Father Tom, I miss you. I thought you came back from the dead to speak to me on the phone because your brother sounds just exactly like you! Thank you for your generous gift. More importantly, thank you for loving and remembering us. Please continue to do so and to pray for us. I depend on you...until we meet happily in heaven.

R.I.P.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

IMPROVEMENTS: Thanks to the kindness of Kristin Koskella and her husband, Deacon Floyd Loomis, we now



have a way of indicating to guests where Hermitage Ln. is located off Hwy 95. The banner flags are installed for the Days of Pilgrimage.



The new hand rails (above) for the sanctuary of the chapel are the work of Ben Drury of Cambridge Metal Works. He also fabricated an exterior rail for the chapel porch.

He made and installed a metal rack in one storage room of the library, so that we can hang up the supply of folding chairs. Very sturdy and efficient with regard to space!

Speaking of the library, I want to thank Ceara Nourse again for working on the data base for our extensive collection of books, making corrections and updating it with new acquisitions. Little by little, I am learning the computer program too, so that at least two people in the world know how to be the librarian for Marymount Hermitage!

SALT & LIGHT VOLUNTEER WORK: I recorded two hour-long classes for broadcast.

The first class, "The Manna of the Messiah", was formatted into five segments, broadcast once a week on Weds. The second class, "The Bread of the Presence", was formatted into four segments for weekly broadcast also. Both were taken from the book by Dr. Brant Pitre, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. I received encouraging and grateful emails from friends, who heard my teachings, and apparently, Salt & Light has received notes of appreciation also. I love this work of evangelization, so if I can continue to teach on the radio, it will be a privilege and a joy.

On the website of Salt & Light Radio in Boise listen to these classes now as podcasts. Click on the top bar for the section "Morning Light". Then on the left side, click on "Podcasts". Dates for Class #1: Aug. 23 and 30, Sept. 6, skip to Sept. 20 & 27. The dates for Class #2 in four segments: Oct. 4, 11, 18, & 25. We pray that this last year of Eucharistic Revival in our country will be a time of grace, growth, enlightenment and greater knowledge of our faith.

IN UNION OF PRAYER: There seems to be so much need for prayer at this time of our lives, for the world, for peace, for our country, for our states and cities, and for those suffering and dying from natural disasters. Our Church too needs prayer, as always. We are all sinners trying to be converted, to become saints. Let us help each other to live by faith and not by fear. Our hope is in the Lord, God Almighty. God bless you and yours!

CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE: In early Dec., look for a postcard from me with a summary of the 2023 news and my Christmas greetings. Father Bill McCann is gone now to work in the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico until mid-March, 2024. His U.S. address is c/o The Lord's Ranch, 230 High Valley Rd., Vado, NM 88072.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert A. Greger

by Lucille A. Dungan

Rev. Thomas F. Mahoney

from his estate and

Michael Mahoney as executor