



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE 40TH JUBILEE YEAR

March, 2024

“GO TO JOSEPH”

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

In the book of Genesis, there is the famous story of Joseph being sold into slavery by his ten older brothers who wanted to get rid of him out of jealousy. The account of Joseph in Egypt as a slave has a recurring phrase that bodes well for the end of the story, in spite of all the sufferings he had: “The Lord was with him and brought him success in whatever he did.” (Gen. 39:3) When at last, by stages, the Lord brought him into favor of the Pharaoh, Joseph was finally placed in charge of all the granaries of the land. When the seven years of plenty were followed by the seven years of famine, which Joseph had predicted, the whole country and indeed the neighboring countries came to Egypt for grain to feed their starving families. To all of them, Pharaoh said, “Go to Joseph.”

In the wisdom and devotion of the new People of God, there developed the same phrase in reference to St. Joseph, the Universal Patron of the Church: “Go to Joseph.” His feast day is March 19. St. Teresa of Avila is one of the many saints who recommended

prayers to and trust in St. Joseph. She promoted the Memorare of St. Joseph and asserted that she never turned to him without getting his help. When people ask me who my favorite saint is, I hesitate to say for fear of slighting my other heavenly friends, but honestly, St. Joseph is my go-to-guy. I can attest that he is a powerful intercessor.

When you consider that God the Father selected him to be the husband and guardian of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of the Son of God, one would assume God has a lot of confidence and trust in this humble but silent man. The little which we have in Scripture about him says a lot. He was a “just” man (Matt. 1:19) and he always obeyed God unquestioningly when asked to assume a special work or role. That is holiness of the highest order!

The novena to St. Joseph begins on March 11. I will put the text here so you can use this prayer daily for nine days, if you feel moved to do so. You can also add the Litany of St. Joseph to your prayer to this intercessor. His titles are meditations in themselves. I have entrusted to St. Joseph a special project for Marymount Hermitage, which I will introduce in the following pages. Please pray with me. Thank you.

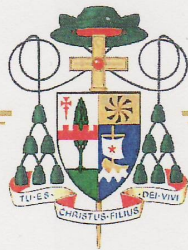
MEMORARE TO SAINT JOSEPH

Remember, O most pure spouse
of the Virgin Mary,
Saint Joseph, my beloved patron,
that never has it been heard
that anyone invoked your patronage
and sought your aid
without being comforted.
Inspired by this confidence, I come to you
and fervently commend myself to you.
Behold my petition,
dear foster Father of our Redeemer,
and accept it graciously.
Amen.



*St. Joseph and
the Child Jesus
Painting by Sr. Protasia
Schindler, OSB
(1870-1959)
Benedictine Sisters
of Mt. Angel, OR*

COMMUNITY NEWS



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear friends of Marymount Hermitage,

February 6, 2024

Greetings and blessings on your Lenten journey. As you will notice, enclosed is a letter from Sr. Beverly letting us know of her plans to build a new guest house that will accommodate more retreatants in a single structure. This will include sleeping accommodations, a common-space kitchen, dining and living room. It is my honor to encourage you to join me in supporting this project. As you are well-aware, Marymount Hermitage counts on the generosity of its benefactors to include them in the growth of needed expansion in order to fulfill its mission. Since your prayers and donations are an integral part of the success of Marymount, Sister Mary Beverly and I thank you for your dedication and assistance in the life of prayer, work, study and hospitality which is being offered therewithin.

I trust we all agree, that a place suited for prayer and relaxation—a place of peace and beauty are all at a premium today. I know you experience these benefits in your own life as you visit the Hermitage. Please join me in prayer and support of this much needed addition to Marymount's mission.

As I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Peter F. Christensen', is written over the typed name.

Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of the Diocese of Boise

DIOCESE OF BOISE

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE
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February 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus! This year marks the 40th Jubilee of Marymount Hermitage. We will celebrate with a public Mass later this fall with Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Boise. This has been 40 years, not only of my life as a canonical hermit of the Diocese of Boise, but years of grace and growth for Marymount. I have discovered that if one goes out into the desert to seek God, others will join you. Many people have come on retreat at Marymount Hermitage over these years and more are coming as time goes on.

Seven years ago, when Mercy House: library and house of hospitality was built, I thought that this would be the last building needed for the use of retreatants. Now, it has become clear to me, in prayer and through concrete details, that there is a need for new lodging. This year, I propose to build a 4,000 sq. ft. building named the Jubilee Guest House under the patronage of St. Joseph. I truly believe that, if this is God's will, sufficient funds will be donated as needed for construction.

I have not yet been able to work with the architect and so do not have a 3-D sketch of what the building will look like. In the absence of an image of the exterior, I am enclosing a floor plan, which I drew to scale for the purpose of my first consultation with the architect. This will, of course, be refined by his professional expertise, but this draft at least gives you a general idea of what I envision for this house.

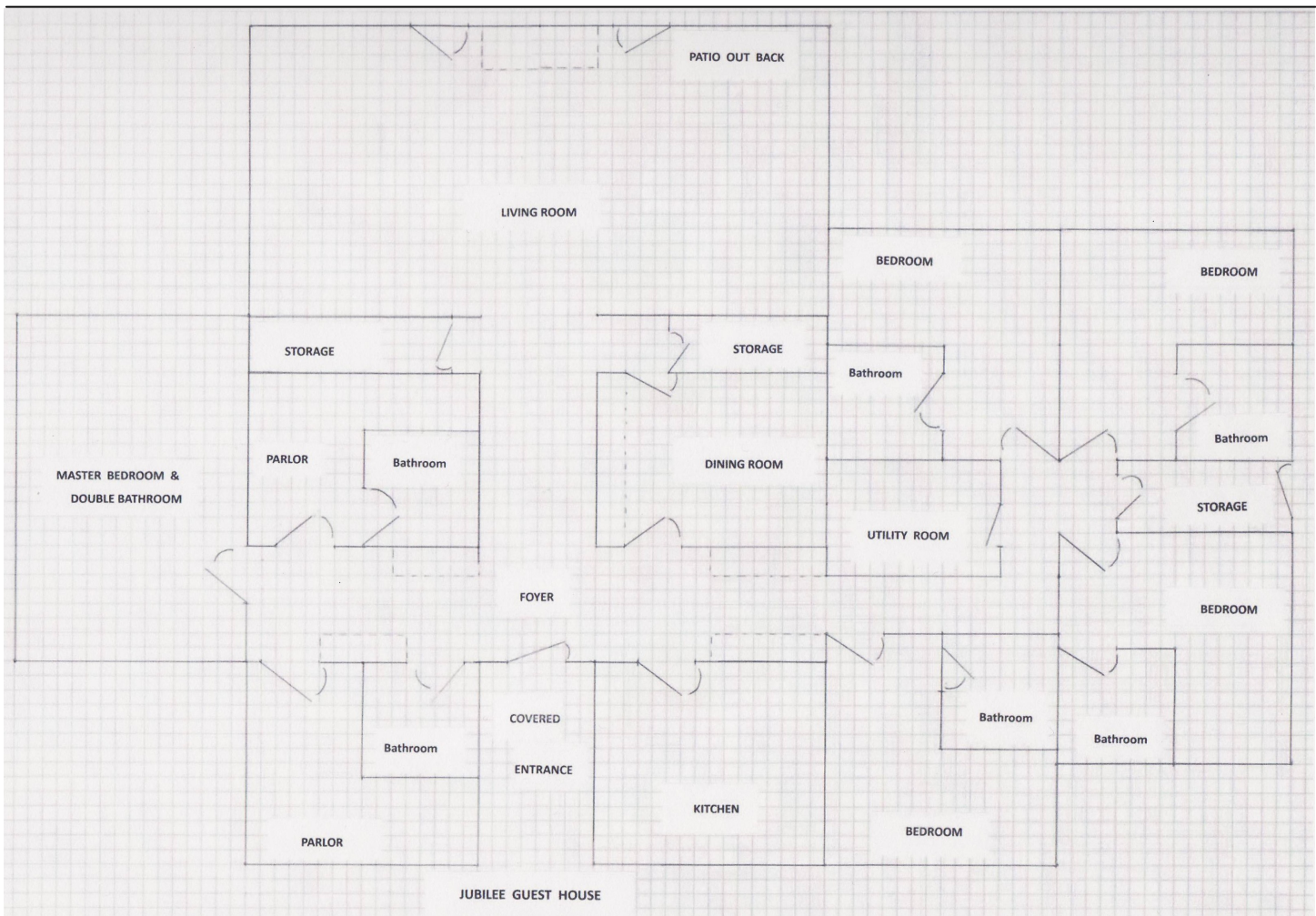
Bishop Peter Christensen has kindly written a letter to accompany mine (PREVIOUS PAGE) to ask for your support for Jubilee Guest House. Additional costs will include furnishing the rooms, as time and funds permit. Please visit the website where updates will be posted during the fund-raising and building process. We hope to begin construction in the summer of 2024, God willing.

Please pray for us here at Marymount Hermitage and prayerfully consider whether God is inviting you to donate to the new Jubilee Guest House. No gift is too small, and all will be acknowledged by a personal note of thanks. Please make checks out to Marymount Hermitage. Tax receipts will be provided, if requested. Both prayer and donations are gifts of love. I thank you in advance for your charity. As benefactors of Marymount Hermitage, you are prayed for daily and have Mass offered for you once a month. God bless you!

With love and prayers in Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Sister M. Beverly

Sister Mary Beverly Greger, H.S.M.
Superior of Marymount Hermitage



FLOOR PLAN FOR JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE

Preliminary draft drawn to scale by Sister M. Beverly

MAILING: Letters from Bishop Peter Christensen, myself, Sister M. Beverly, and this floor plan were sent by U.S. mail to everyone currently on the Marymount Hermitage mailing list. If you would like to receive this three page packet, please send me your mailing address and I will be glad to do so.

SALT & LIGHT RADIO BOISE: I am continuing my weekly teachings on Fridays. This month the broadcasts are on March 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 7:45-8:00 A.M. and then archived as podcasts. There will not be a teaching during Holy Week. The theme currently is "Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told", based on the book by Dr. Brant Pitre. Join me for this dynamic Scripture study.

WINTER WEATHER: We have had very strong winds this past week and have sustained minor damage to the roofs of three buildings and my wood rack. When friends send funds "for whatever is needed", this is an example of how I spend it. Fortunately, we have had qualified tradesmen move into the area and it is a relief to be able to call one or the other when I need help.

RETREAT RESERVATIONS: Is the Lord calling you to make a private, solitary retreat? If you discern this is for you, do not delay. Reservations increase during spring, summer and fall. Email me as early as possible to get the dates that are best for your schedule. Father Bill McCann will return to Marymount Hermitage on March 8, so we will have the privilege of daily Mass most of the time.

JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE: If the new building is begun this summer, I do not anticipate that this will be a distraction to those who are on retreat. The five hermitages are at a distance from the construction site. I do hope and pray the guest house can be finished in a timely way because the need for more accommodations at Marymount Hermitage has been manifested more as years have gone on. I recommend this intention to your prayers. Thank you very much!

Continued on page 5

COMMUNITY NEWS

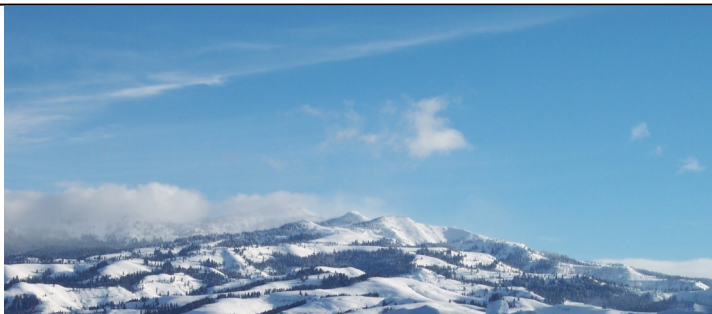
(Continued from page four)

DAYS OF PILGRIMAGE: As announced in the February newsletter, I will not be hosting the Days of Pilgrimage during 2024 with the work focus mainly on building the new Guest House. However, I hope to resume these retreat days in 2025. The teachings will still be in the Mercy House library. However, the plan will be to host the catered lunches in the Jubilee Guest House as an open house for visitors.

RECOMMENDED BOOK: “With his customary combination of deep erudition and clarity of expression, Brant Pitre sheds light on a central theme of the New Testament: Jesus as the incarnation of the God who wants to marry his people. In the course of elaborating this motif, Pitre offers wonderfully fresh readings of the Wedding Feast of Cana, the Woman at the Well, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion.

His interpretation of the Passion as the consummation of the spousal relationship between Jesus and his people is simply stunning. This is a book that will appeal to both the scholar and the ordinary believer, indeed to anyone interested in understanding Jesus Christ more profoundly.” Bishop Robert Barron

I recommend this book at any time, but it is especially relevant during Lent and during this Year of Eucharistic Revival. I hope my teaching from this book will help you to want to read and know more, to pray with Scripture and to love Jesus more deeply.



Mt. Council winter scene. The living room windows in the new Jubilee Guest House will feature seasonal views like this. It is a way of bringing the natural beauty inside!

IN MEMORIAM

Theresa DeWalt

by Father Philip J. Wells, Anderson, CA

Patricia Robbins

by Linda Moffet, Lubbock, TX

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!