



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE 40TH JUBILEE YEAR

September, 2024

## A “CHAIRWAY” TO HEAVEN

*By Michael Wack*

Denise and I had the good fortune of making our fourth annual visit to Marymount Hermitage this past May. The pleasure of making a silent retreat there, though, has long since been supplanted by our desire to see our friend, Sister Beverly! She is truly a treasure, brought to a friendship with us by the Holy Spirit.



Being “old-timers” there, we have gotten into a nice routine. After morning Mass and/or Lauds with Sister, Denise likes to stay in the hermitage to pray and journal (with occasional trips to the chapel), while I like to go to the library.

When I describe Marymount to my friends and family, I keep going back to the fabulous library Sister has built. Its name is Mercy House. There are thousands of books on so many different topics: biographies, scripture, contemplative prayer, spirituality, etc. etc. etc. I tell myself, “Michael: you don’t need to read every book in this place!” I also tell myself to choose ONE book at the beginning of the week that I will take home with me to return later. Inevitably, though, I finish it in a few days and am then tasked with finding a different one. When

this happened the last time, I found out Denise and Sister had told each other they knew I’d finish that first book and not take it home. I’m pretty predictable, I guess.

This particular time, I took home “Particular Examen: How to Root Out Hidden Faults” by Father James F. McElhone, C.S.C. As two of my brothers are Holy Cross priests (C.S.C.), I thought it would be an interesting read. Although written in 1952, it is timeless in that it helps you to really root out your sins, much more than any handout sheet or mobile phone app you’d use before Reconciliation. The downside: I may be spending an inordinate amount of time in the confessional!

My favorite place in the library, and where I’m usually to be found, is pictured in the accompanying photograph. (*Below*) In this chair I can bask in the sunlight and, every now and then, glance over my book out the window at the beautiful scenery. It looks like a painting, doesn’t it? I may have even peacefully dozed off for a few minutes, but that’s our secret. My brother, Bishop Bill’s cathedras at the co-cathedrals in Pensacola and Tallahassee have nothing on this chair!

If you get to Marymount for a retreat (and I enthusiastically think you should), please visit the library and keep “my” chair warm for me! Truly a “chairway” to Heaven.



Cont. on pg. 2

## COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

**SEPTEMBER 2:** This was a sad day for us because Fr. Bill McCann, who has lived here semi-permanently for three years, departed from Marymount. Fr. Bill explained his decision by stating that he is called by God to return to New Mexico, to his home Diocese of Las Cruces. He is retired, which means he is not assigned to be a pastor, but he is committed to helping his bishop and the priests of the diocese by substituting for them when they need to be gone on vacation. He is also in demand to give parish missions, especially in Advent and Lent.

Even before he was in the seminary, Father Bill was associated with The Lord's Ranch, a lay community, in Vado, NM. Their ministry is an outreach in a variety of ways to the very poor in El Paso, TX and in Ciudad Juarez over the border in Mexico. Father Bill's main residence will be there from now on. Mailing address: 230 High Valley Rd. Vado, NM 88072.

Another aspect of Father Bill's ministry, which is new as of this year, is that he has been named by his bishop, Bishop Peter Baldachino, Bishop of Las Cruces, NM, as Postulator for the cause of Father Richard Thomas, S.J., who, about 40 years ago, was the founder of The Lord's Ranch. Father Bill will serve as the diocesan postulator for the cause of canonization and a Sister in Rome is serving as the Roman postulator. Working together, Father Bill and this Sister are responsible for submitting all the required documents to eventually begin the cause in Rome. This work, while inspiring, is also complicated, intensive and demanding. It can best be done living with the sponsoring community and near the designated bishop.

We will miss Father Bill very much, but he goes with our gratitude, prayers and blessings on this next phase of his priestly ministry. Please pray with us for him. Thanks!

**SALT & LIGHT RADIO PODCASTS:** On Mondays in September, my series of readings from He Gave Us So Much by Robert Cardinal Sarah about the spirituality of Pope Benedict XVI continues on Sept. 9, 16, 23 & 30. Join me for that!

**LOCAL COMMUNICATION:** The Record Reporter newspaper in Council, ID published an article with three photos about the new Jubilee Guest House on Aug. 28, 2024. You can read it online. I hope to publish the article and photos in other local newspapers, such as in Weiser and McCall, if possible. I remember our founding bishop, Bishop Sylvester W. Treinen, from the very beginning of our establishing a hermitage in Mesa, told us how important it is to tell people what we are doing, encouraging us to communicate well with the public. With that in mind, I have two 30-second public service messages broadcast daily on Salt & Light Radio to tell about Marymount and the construction of Jubilee House, requesting donations.

**JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE:** The framing crew, using a crane, installed the roof trusses on Aug. 27. Mass was offered for the safety of the workers and success in their work on Jubilee House. We trust in your prayers also!



**WEBSITE:** Please visit the section of the website now dedicated to details of construction progress for the Jubilee Guest House and the current report on fundraising success. We have asked Saint Joseph the Worker to intercede and help us with all aspects of this work. To God be the glory.



**HOLY FAMILY HOUSE:** I have had major exterior work done to the house I live in. The largest portion of this work is almost done with the installation of new windows. Work on the front siding and trim is still on-going. More photos & news when it's complete. This photo (L) shows you my "chairway to heaven" in my oratory where I pray hours a day and also at night.

MEMORIAL  
**ROBERT A. GREGER**  
by Virginia K. Arnold, Washington, IN

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!