



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE MIRACLE OF THE LIGHT

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM



I had finished an hour of deep prayer in chapel, concluding with Lauds. It was about 7:30 AM. I was walking around the chapel, turning down the thermostat, turning off the lights. As I walked past the east windows, I saw lights on in the Jubilee Guest House! My first thought was, "It looks like someone left the lights on in the building." (See bldg. at far R in photo above.)

My second thought was, "That's impossible! There are no light fixtures installed over there." My next thoughts were to analyze where exactly inside the building the light was. The light looked like it was shining on the two foremost front windows of Jubilee House. There was no light inside the building. The rooms were dark. But such a light!

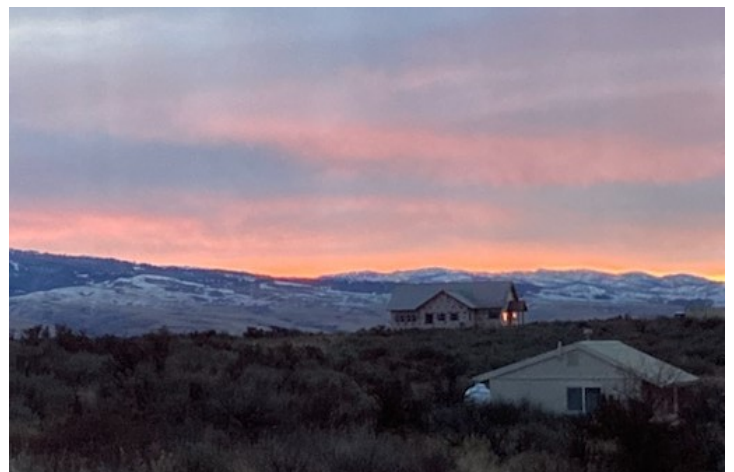
The light was radiant, brilliant, totally awesome. There was something overwhelmingly attractive about it. It was bright, but not a harsh light. I had been sad and discouraged, but the light made me feel joyful, knowing that God loves me. I am not alone. He is with me.

I finally prayed, "Lord, this light is from you, is it not? There is no good explanation for how it could be, and yet it is there. What does it mean? It's a sign from you. What are you telling me?" I cannot say I heard anything, but I was confident there was a

message in this for me.

Then I decided to get my cell phone and take a picture of the light. I was reluctant to leave chapel for fear the light would disappear. I went quickly to my house and was relieved that the light was still there when I got back to the chapel. The sky was getting brighter as the sun prepared to peak over the mountains. I took three photos from inside the chapel. I did not even bother to put on my coat and go outside, down the road, closer to the new building. The photos clearly show the light on the front of the new structure. I was somehow thinking, "As long as I have a photo, no one can say I was imagining this."

Now the next segment of this mysterious morning happened. A car was driving in. It was Jesse Bonzelet, my neighbor, who comes for a communion service occasionally, but the service was not planned for this morning. After our greeting and settling that somehow a mistake had been made, I asked, "Did you see the light on at the Jubilee House?" "Yes," he said, "I did." Jesse and I speculated that the sunlight was shining on the front two windows and, with that, he left. Now I had a witness to this event!



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MIRACLE OF THE LIGHT

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However, the more I pondered this, the more I realized this analysis was inadequate. The sun was not even up yet. Moreover, the light wasn't there before this morning, and it has never been there any day since then. I finally concluded that the light was not natural, but supernatural. In a word, the light was a miracle. I was still pondering the meaning of the miraculous light. I sensed the Lord did not want me to be sad and discouraged. I decided to send Bishop Peter Christensen the best of the three photos and just tell him briefly what had happened. This is what Bishop Peter wrote back to me:

"How beautiful, Sister. Our Lord is leaving the lights on for you. As you attested to in your note, the Lord is giving you a spark of hope. He will not leave you disappointed, for your dream has been His reality all along. Even the name, "Jubilee", was chosen by Him, since all will come to see His miracles in the house's creation and thus, rejoice with GREAT JOY, giving their quick response of Jubilation—beginning, as it already has, with you!"

The light appeared on the morning of November 30, 2024. It was the feast of St. Andrew, one of the 12 apostles, described as "a friend of Jesus". May St. Andrew pray for us and help us also to be friends of Jesus, who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Light."

Now here is great news for rejoicing as this awesome odyssey continues from **The Miracle of the Light to...**

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

I had been discouraged and sad through October and November. No work was being done on Jubilee House because I had no funds for it. I had forgotten to expect the grace and mystery of Christmas. So many people celebrated God becoming man, Love coming from heaven to earth, by sending generous gifts for Marymount Hermitage and the Jubilee Guest House. To date, \$634,132. has been donated for construction. That's a miracle!

Here is another part of my Christmas miracle: a small group of very generous friends are donating an amount for a "Matching Grant". The goal is to double every gift sent in now for the Jubilee Guest House beginning with the date January 10, 2025.

If you send \$100, it will make \$200.

If you send \$1,000, it will make \$2,000.

If you send \$10,000, it will make \$20,000.

The Matching Grant is guaranteed up to \$100,000. The goal is to have the total of \$837,265. needed to complete the construction of Jubilee Guest House. In late January, I will send in the US mail a letter to everyone on my mailing a letter with this article. In March, I will send a second letter to report on the progress and success of this year's fundraising effort.

The Lord desires to provide a place where people can seek him in prayer. He "already has the lights on," (as our Bishop Peter wrote) waiting for those who will accept his invitation to come on retreat. There has already been a lot of excitement from people wanting to make retreat reservations!

I entrust this project to your powerful and faith-filled prayers. Know that Mass is offered once a month for the benefactors of Marymount Hermitage. Tax receipts are available upon request. Please make out checks to Marymount Hermitage and send them in the US mail. It helps if you write on the memo line of the check: *Jubilee House*. All donations will be acknowledged by a personal note. God bless you with abundant grace in this New Year of Hope.

With my sincere love, daily prayers and gratitude in Jesus, The Light of the World, to each of you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

Sister Rebecca Mary Bonnell, HSM, co-founder of Marymount Hermitage, died on December 20, 2024. She was 92 years old. Her funeral and burial were at St. Mary of the Valley, the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, in Beaverton, OR on January 7, 2025. Obituary and more in the February, 2025 newsletter. **R.I.P.**

MEMORIALS

JOSEPH A. GREGER

by Ronald and Susan Greger, Decatur GA

ROBERT A. GREGER & THOMAS G. GREGER

by Virginia Arnold, Washington, IN

SHIRLEY WILKINS

by Richard Wilkins, Lakeside, CA

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