



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

2150 Hermitage Lane Mesa, Idaho 83643-5005

Website: www.marymount-hermitage.org

Tel. (208) 256-4354

E-mail: SisterBeverly@marymount-hermitage.org

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JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

The Holy Spirit inspired Pope Francis to name 2025, this year in the regular cycle of jubilees every 25 years, as the “Year of Hope”. I believe this because when I consider what aspects of life afflict so many people, the remedy for all this suffering is the virtue of hope. When we suffer without hope, life is unbearable, a living hell.

These thoughts came to me this morning as I read the first reading and responsorial psalm for Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent. In the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 43, we read/hear: “...Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert, I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers...for I put water in the desert, and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.”

These joyous and hope-filled words directly contradict what one feels when one is in despair. One of the aspects of a loss of hope is the conviction that things will never change; that I will always have this suffering and distress. The word God addresses to us

is so vibrant: “See, I am doing something new!” As suffering is like an interior desert or wasteland, God promises living water to drink, abundant water as in a river. What is remarkable about all these words of life from the Lord is the reason: “...that [my people whom I have chosen] might announce my praise.” God will make all things new and give us hope of life, because praise will arise to give him honor and glory as the Lord of Life, now and forever in heaven.

Psalm 126:4-6 reinforces this image and hope with these words:

*“Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.*

*Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
they shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.”*

What is remarkable about this poetic image is what is implied: the tears that fall, when we are weeping, are the seeds which will produce sheaves of rejoicing. Tears are the seeds of future joy. Only God can do that, making all things new!

To conclude, let me quote the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2657: “The Holy Spirit, who instructs us to celebrate the liturgy in expectation of Christ’s return, teaches us to pray in hope. Conversely, the prayer of the Church and personal prayer nourish hope in us. The psalms especially, with their concrete and varied language, teach us to fix our hope in God: ‘I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.’ (Ps. 40:2) As St. Paul prayed: ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.’ (Rom. 15:13) Hope comes from God and we ask it of him in prayer. May you have all joy and peace in believing.

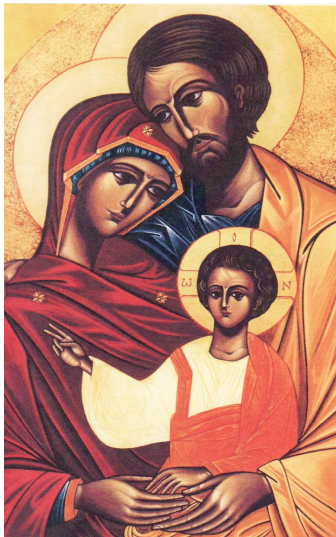


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COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE: When I met with Bishop Peter Christensen in February, he asked me a question. "Did you name the new guest house "Jubilee" because you knew Pope Francis was going to name 2025 as a Jubilee Year?" I explained that I have not even known about the designation back when I chose the name. Bishop reflected that maybe this indicated that the Holy Spirit had helped us to be in tune with the Universal Church in a remarkable way. The Guest House is named "Jubilee" because 2024 was the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Marymount Hermitage.



*40th Anniversary of
Marymount Hermitage
in Mesa, ID
celebrated at Mass
with Bishop Peter F. Christensen,
Bishop of Boise,
on October 12, 2024.
Please pray for us during
this Jubilee Year.*

Anniversary holy card from the icon hung in chapel over the tabernacle. This card commemorates our anniversary Mass.

MY RETREAT: I will be making my traditional, personal retreat near the Cathedral in Boise from Wednesday of Holy Week until Easter Monday. It will enable me to attend the services at the Cathedral each day and that is a grace and a joy. I ask for the charity of your prayers.

YOUR RETREAT? Is the Lord calling you to a retreat at Marymount Hermitage in silence and solitude during the coming months? April, May and June are ideal seasons due to the temperate weather and the beauties of spring in the mountains: green grass and wildflowers blooming, while snow is still gracing the nearby peaks. To apply for a retreat, please email me and ask if your proposed dates are available on the calendar. [The photo on page one was taken of the Mesa in the spring time at sunset.] Seek the Lord in awesome scenery like this.

WOMEN'S RETREAT IN RUPERT: Father Camilo Garcia Delgado, pastor of St. Nicholas parish, invited me to be part of the parish Lenten exercises and to give a women's retreat on Saturday, March 29. The ladies loved the topic of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the teaching on Lectio Divina. Father decorated an adoration chapel in a room on the first floor of the school, where the retreat was

held, which was a special blessing for all of us.

SALT & LIGHT RADIO: I will be giving a four-part series of teachings on the Mondays of May with the topic chosen from Dr. Brant Pitre's book, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother



of the Messiah. This first series of four segments are on Mary as the New Eve. The radio broadcast is live from 7:20-7:35 AM and then archived in their Morning Light podcasts which you can hear later. Join me there!

PRAYERS PLEASE: Jubilee Guest House is getting closer to being done. The sheet rock installation with tape and texturing is complete. The two tilers installing the slate tile in the main hallways will be done on April 8. Then the interior door frames and doors will be installed. The kitchen and bathroom cabinets are complete and are being stored until the time to install them. Interior painting and flooring to be finished come next.

St. Joseph is my go-to guy and has been a rock with regard to fundraising and construction progress. I always ask that the work of these men will give honor and glory to God and be a good for all who come on retreat. One way of honoring the Lord is that I do not allow work on Sunday. I also pray that the men are kept safe and healthy, free of all accidents or injuries. Please help me with your faith-filled prayers. God bless you!

FUNDRAISING: By now you should have received in the US mail a letter detailing the success of the fundraising efforts for the 2024-2025. The goal for construction has been reached, if there are no unexpected, additional costs. Construction may be done by early June, God willing. From now on, donations for Jubilee Guest House will be used to purchase furnishings and household supplies. The Matching Grant has been used, but God does not cease to bless you and your donations to Marymount Hermitage. Thank you sincerely from my heart.

MEMORIALS SISTER REBECCA MARY, HSM

by
Dr. Andrew and Mary Ann Peterson,
Fruitland, ID
Lorene Ivana Vanderwalker,
Cathlamet, WA

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