



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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GOIN' TO CHAPEL

By Michael Wack

This past May, Denise and I made our fifth consecutive yearly trip to Marymount Hermitage for a weeklong retreat. I was also there for the annual Board of Directors meeting for Marymount Hermitage, Inc. ... more about that later.

After our flight from South Bend, Indiana through Chicago to Boise, and our two-hour drive north to Mesa, we arrived to have Sister Beverly waiting for us. What a joy to finally see her in person! We have become good friends over the last several years, but texting and phone calls are not nearly the same as being with each other.

Anyway, after hugs and hellos were over, we went into the chapel for a quick prayer. As soon as we opened the door and took our first step inside ... well, that's the subject of this newsletter.

Denise and I actually stopped when we closed the door behind us, took a deep breath, and just stood there for a few seconds. "I feel like I'm home!" Denise whispered to me. I agreed with her. The chapel at Marymount is a very special place. Truly, if it were the only building outside of the hermitages, we'd be very fine with that.

The name of the chapel is "Our Father's House". It is quite an appropriate name, and reminds me of the of Jn.14:2-3: "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be."

As I explained in a previous newsletter, Denise and I have gotten into a good routine at Marymount. After morning Lauds, I'll spend some time in Mercy House (the



library), and Denise will bounce back and forth between our hermitage and the chapel. I'll also get over there at least once a day, and just sit and enjoy the quiet beauty. It's an easy place in which to pray ... as you can see in the photo, it balances the intimacy of a small place with a wonderful view of God's handiwork in the mesa and mountains.



Denise (a much better photographer than I am), captured the chapel's outside beauty in a sunset picture.

Additionally, the chapel looks like it is almost brand-new, even though it's been there for decades.

This picture of Denise reminds me of the chore she was assigned while we were there: ringing the bell for the Angelus. Two

or three times a day, she'd dutifully follow Sister Beverly's instructions, precisely counting and executing the required number of bell rings. She took her job quite seriously, although she enjoyed telling me – in her best Quasimodo impression – "My job is to ring the bells of Notre Dame!"

If you are at all considering a retreat at Marymount, I hope I've piqued your interest enough so that you make the journey. When we (reluctantly) said good-bye to Sister Beverly outside the chapel, I told her she "knocked it out of the park" when she designed and built it. I'm pretty sure it should be designated a shrine! (*I hope Bishop Peter Christensen is reading this!*)

We (the Board of Directors) had our annual meeting during our retreat, and got a tour of the new



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GOIN' TO CHAPEL (Cont. from page 1)

Jubilee House, the five-bedroom guesthouse that is nearly completed. It is absolutely fabulous! It's a physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through Sister Beverly, providing a welcoming place for a larger number of people now. A huge thank you, from me and the other Board members, to those of you who contributed to making this happen.

Now, Denise and I must be patient until our next visit to Marymount...

RETREATANTS WRITE... July 2024–June 2025

Introduction by Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

July is like a summer "writing vacation" for me. Instead of writing the newsletter about Marymount Hermitage, I let others do so. Retreatants have a very special perspective. I believe what they have to share spiritually of their experiences is an encouragement to others with regard to prayer and going on retreat. I trust it is so. What follows are the comments some retreatants wrote in the hermitages' guest books. Many people tell me they read what retreatants in the past have written in that same hermitage. The guest books span several years, so they are like lived history also. So enjoy and consult your heart. Is God inviting you to a silent, solitary retreat on the mesa in the high desert surrounded by mountains?

July 15-17, 2024

Our Mother's presence has enveloped me during my retreat here. It has been such a gift to retreat into the Immaculate Heart only days before I lay my life down in marriage.

"I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps. 27:13)

In Him,

Alicia Marie F. Bend, OR

August 15-18, 2024

"Flowers" by Samantha Ebert

"Lord, why do you bring me here?"

"My child, I'm planting seeds. I'm a good God and I have a good plan. So trust that I'm holding a watering can. And someday you'll see that flowers grow in the valley."

This has been a most excellent retreat. The silence, prayers, furry & feathered creatures, all contributed to an uplifting experience. I am convinced God is a good God and has a good plan. Thank you, Sister Beverly, for helping Him with his watering can!
Becky S. Boise, ID



August 22-26, 2024

All my thanks and gratitude to you, Sister Beverly, (and Father God) for sharing this amazing spot on the planet with me! By the front of the door, a decorative rock reads, "Come Away—rest awhile". I have done just that, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Blessings on you & this place!

Marie L.

Weiser, ID

September 21-22, 2024

The stay was far too short, but Our Lord's grace was swift and I am departing with my heart on fire and determined to return very soon. So thankful for Sister Mary Beverly!

+Father Nathan Dail, Chaplain at BSU

Boise, ID

September 20-22, 2024

Sister Beverly, I thank you so much for this God-ordained retreat! This is just what I needed! The beautiful mountain views were such an added blessing! In the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger... "I'll be back!"

May the Lord richly bless you and all those who help to make this retreat possible.

Ernie T.

Nampa, ID

October 25-27, 2024

God is omnipresent. Yet, to be able to seek Him without distractions is a special treat, a gift of grace. Thank you, Sister Beverly, for being His servant and for your role in making the Marymount Hermitage available!

Jeff M.

Nampa, ID

October 23-27, 2024

Jn. 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word & the Word was with God; & the Word was God...without Him was made nothing that has been made...in Him was Life...Light...light shines in darkness & the darkness grasped it not."

We definitely are seeing that now. What a respite to be out of the darkness of the world for a few days.

The Word also became flesh of which I was blessed to consume while here. Lord, let me take your Word become flesh to the dark world and shine a little more of your light to all I meet.

Thank you, Sister Mary Beverly, for your gracious hospitality.

God willing, I will be back in the Spring.

Lesley M.

Meridian, ID

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RETREATANTS WRITE...

(Cont. from page 2)

October 25-28, 2024

I've had a blessed stay, as always. The desert beauty here restores me, and always calls me back to the place where God and I hang out together. Thank you, Sister Beverly, for your hospitality and open arms.

Love & prayers,
Catherine W.
Meridian, ID



February 2-4, 2025

Staying here was such a gift! The beauty and the quiet made for a lovely retreat and a deeper encounter with God.

My biggest takeaway is that just being with God is enough.

Annalua C.

BSU Focus Missionary, Boise, ID

February 21-23, 2025

Dear Sister,

God has the most amazing graces upon you. Never have I confronted my life more than when I'm up here. I got closer with God in so many ways. You offered your very self for this place and your fruits are shown and are plentiful. You have such faith for the Lord. Thank you for all you have given. May the Lord shine brightly upon you till the end of your days.

Logun B. BSU student in Boise, ID

February 21-23, 2025

"We do not seek silence for its own sake; rather, for the space it makes in us."

Thomas, Lew, Ian & Weston

BSU students in Boise, ID

March 14-21, 2025

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (Jn. 14:27)

God's peace fills and surrounds Marymount Hermitage. What a blessing to seek and find Him in the silence of this holy place.

Shari Ann S.

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish

Renton, WA

March 19-21, 2025

Sister Beverly,

The peace here brings God so very close. Thank you for maintaining such Holiness. It's like an oasis in the chaotic world. God is definitely here—in both the silence and the wind. God bless you and your work as both are gifts to the world. Your joy shines with Christ's love in all you do. I hope to visit again soon. I will be praying for you.

Love,

Allison M.

Boise, ID

March 13-16, 2025

What a blissful and peaceful retreat. The library is especially amazing. Blessings on all who stay here.

Tarah W. Seattle, WA

March 30-31, 2025

Thank you so much for the opportunity to come up, Sister! Please keep me in your prayers. This brownie is amazing!

Caleb B. BSU Focus Missionary, Boise, ID

May 8-10, 2025

I've so enjoyed by brief stay, once again. Marymount showed off her amazing spring glory. I soaked in the wild beauty in golden and purple wildflowers, the gentle breeze and blue skies. I watched a few creatures, as they watched me! Thank you, Sister Beverly, for your warm hospitality, and for making this desert spot a homecoming place for so many spiritual wanderers.

Love and blessings,

Catherine W. Meridian, ID



May 12-14, 2025

Marymount Hermitage is truly a special place. I greatly enjoyed my time here for peace and reflection.

Love,

Leann S. Cottonwood, ID

May 25-30, 2025

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to find you here and for your patience with my anxious and cluttered mind. I have found much consolation in seeing you in this quiet time.

Father Peter M.

St. Mary's Parish, Marysville, WA

May 24-30, 2025

Denise and I had a fabulous retreat here at Marymount...our 5th consecutive year! We consider Leslie Shannon "our" hermitage! We are so fortunate to see the completion of Jubilee House...we know many people will be blessed to stay there. As always, Sister Beverly...a dear friend of ours...was a wonderful host and a joy to spend time with. She has done an incredible job here, making Marymount Hermitage into the holy place it is. We will, of course, be back next year. Until then, may peace and love come to all who read this!

Mike & Denise W.

Etna Green, IN

P.S. Creatures seen this trip: gray quail, female squirrel, gopher snake, racer (snake), and many types of birds.

June 2-8, 2025

On October 31, 1980, four of us were lost at sea, hundreds of miles offshore, after a storm had disabled all our electronic navigation equipment. It is a long story, but it was Mary who brought us safely to shore. It's

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RETREATANTS WRITE...

(Cont. from page 3)

lovely to be here in Mary's House, but I know, from experience, that Mary's house is Everywhere.

Kate S.
Pocatello, ID

June 6-14, 2025

From beginning to end, this has been an abundantly fruitful retreat! Starting out with confession with Fr. Bill, then Pentecost Sunday and the prayer from Divine Intimacy "O



Holy Spirit, substantial love of the Father and the Son, uncreated love dwelling in the souls of the just, come down upon me like a new Pentecost and bring me an abundance of your gift, of your fruits, and of your grace, unite yourself to me as the most sweet Spouse of my soul." (pg. 567) ...HE DID! I have been praying this whole prayer (that was only the first paragraph) all week along with many other readings especially

from St. John and other books—all of which the Holy Spirit has seamlessly woven to be exactly what I needed to instruct me, comfort me, correct me, inspire me, strengthen me, and commission me! What amazing graces!

Thanks you Father, Son and Holy Spirit! And thank you, Sister M. Beverly, my dear friend and faithful guide on "the Way"!

Love,
Suzanne S.
Boise, ID

GRATITUDE: Mass is offered once a month by an Idaho priest for the benefactors of Marymount Hermitage. I pray daily in thanksgiving for my friends, neighbors, family and supporters, both living and dead. May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones!

RETREAT RESERVATIONS: From now on, please specify whether you are requesting lodging in the Jubilee Guest House or in one of the hermitages. The cost is the same.

Single person: \$80/night for 1-3 nights
\$70/night for 4 or more nights

Married couple: \$120/night for 1-3 nights
\$110/night for 4 or more nights

Sweetheart Deal: For those couples celebrating their wedding anniversary with a retreat, if the dates of your reservation include your anniversary, you get that night free.

Call or email to request retreat reservation dates. Allow two weeks to complete the reservation process.



COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister M. Beverly, HSM

JUBILEE GUEST HOUSE: The month of July has been full of "moving in" chores at the new building. I am still on target to host the first retreatants who have reservations beginning on August 1. My life is suddenly full of people who want to see Jubilee House and I am gladly giving them the grand tour when they come. Anyone can come simply by calling or emailing me to set up a mutually agreeable day and time. I will also be hosting formal open houses once a month when furniture is all moved in and curtains and blinds installed. You should have received a post card the first week of July with an invitation to the 11 AM Mass which Bishop Peter Christensen is offering here on Oct. 11.



Afterwards we will process to the Jubilee House for its blessing. A light pick-up lunch will be offered at the conclusion.



WILDFLOWERS: There are many flowers, which are this rich golden color. Locals typically refer to all of them as "sunflowers". However, the above are arrowleaf balsam root and these below are indeed sunflowers. The sunflowers typically stand tall!

