



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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MY NEW JOY & MY NEW JOB

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

What is my new joy? This awareness has been growing on me over the last month or so. I realized that I was experiencing a joy which was new and I had to pray about the actual cause of it. It was a surprise to find out that my joy was coming from the new Jubilee House!

The word "jubilee" means "joy". In English, we recognize the similarity of "jubilee" to the words "jubilant" or "jubilation". The Hebrew word "yobel" refers to a ram's horn, which was blown to announce the beginning of the jubilee year, celebrated every 50 years. In the Catholic Church, it has become customary to celebrate a jubilee year every 25 years, but a pope can announce a jubilee out of the normal sequence for special reasons. This year 2025 is the Jubilee of Hope, which Pope Francis named last year and Pope Leo is now completing. Hope certainly is a reason for rejoicing, for a jubilation.

However, the joy I am experiencing within this ecclesial context is very specific. I find great joy in the Jubilee House itself. I have had to meditate on how this can be and why it would be so. It is so totally unexpected. I like to look at it, both from the exterior and from the interior. I love just being in there. I like walking around the hallways and opening the doors to the rooms to see them. Most of the furniture has been moved in now and the bedding, curtains, and views from the windows are all unique and lovely. I like working over there: cleaning, arranging wall décor, and bringing in household supplies and staple foods needed for the building and the use of guests.

I realize that I expected to take care of the new building like all the other jobs I have had cleaning in the past: at home, in the convent, at Nazareth Retreat Center in Boise from 1981-1984, and, of course, with all the buildings at Marymount. Certainly cleaning has never been on my list of things I especially enjoy doing! (This is my public confession.)

As my meditation progressed, I discovered that it is the building itself which gives me joy. It is beautiful, even magnificent. It is full of peace and tranquility. A friend recently said, "It is filled with love." It is easy to find God there because He is Goodness and Love to an infinite degree and this building is full of His Presence. To put it in simple terms, the hand of the Lord is on this structure

and has been from the beginning. Blessed be he.

What is my new job? By now, you will be thinking this is already apparent, that my new job is cleaning the new building. However, there is really NEW work, which truthfully I did not fully anticipate, and that is how much time I spend now giving tours of Jubilee Guest House. The "short tour" takes 30 minutes and a "grand tour" takes an hour, depending on the questions and special interests which people have when they see the details of the building. Already I have been showing it to people several times a week. The best example of this was the lovely pilgrimage a small group from the parish of St. Paul in Nampa made on August 6, 2025. Besides the tour of Jubilee House, they spent time in private prayer, walking, reading, shopping for religious medals in my gift shop and a communal hour of adoration in chapel. It was a graced afternoon for me and for them. I share here some comments they expressed at



the end of their time at Marymount Hermitage: "Thank you so much for this holy space. It's a wonderful place to slow down and just 'be'." "Perfect place to find peace & speak to God! Very clean, neat & inspiring facility! Surprised at how the area is so well designed for a private retreat."

"Very inviting & open."

"Quiet & peaceful."

"Thank you for sharing this most holy place with us."

"A peaceful, holy place and a gift to me/us to be here today. Thank you, Sister Beverly."

"Beautiful surroundings. A piece of heaven right here in Idaho."

"The beautiful iconic pictures (in chapel) & of course, the lovely Jubilee Guest House, and the huge library."

"Thank you, Sister Beverly, for allowing us to visit this holy place. May the Lord bless you and your mission, as it will give many to His Holy Presence."

I will begin hosting monthly Open House

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MY NEW JOY & JOB (Cont. from page 1)

days so that locals especially, most of whom are not Catholic, can come and either see Marymount Hermitage for the first time, or tour just the Jubilee Guest House. You can call or email to request a private tour for you and your spouse or friends. Lastly, please read the *Idaho Catholic Register* for August 8-21, 2025. The front page article is about the Jubilee Guest House being open and operative. To read it, please use this link: <https://www.idahocatholicregister.org/post/marymount-hermitage-to-celebrate-opening-of-new-jubilee-house>

Now retreatants can choose between a hermitage or a



private room in the Jubilee Guest House. Here are some interior photos to give you a pre-view:
Master Bedroom



Small Bedroom #2 (of 4)



Living Room



Kitchen

Prayerfully consider scheduling a retreat this fall.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

BISHOP'S VISIT: Our Bishop Peter Christensen will be here on October 11 to offer Mass at 11 AM and will then bless the Jubilee Guest House. Afterwards there will be pick-up food for a light lunch. All are welcome!

In order to give people an opportunity to tour the new building that day, I will not accept reservations for retreatants from Oct. 9-14. The five hermitages are already reserved for out-of-state guests for Oct. 11-12, so the hermitages are closed then also. Anyone hoping to stay at Marymount is asked to consider reserving lodging with local businesses. There are two B&B's close by (Elkhorn is across the highway) and the motel in Cambridge is giving discounts to any of my guests, if you tell them you are visiting Marymount Hermitage on Oct. 11. Mark your calendar and, if you cannot join us in person, please join us in prayer and thanksgiving to God for the miracle of the Jubilee Guest House and blessings on all generous, faith-filled benefactors and future retreatants.

MAINTENANCE FUND: I paid the last bill for Jubilee House to the general contractor last week. Now I actually have money left over from the capital campaign and will put it in a CD to be a newly established maintenance fund for Jubilee House and all the major repairs needed for the buildings and roads of Marymount Hermitage.

NEW CHAPEL FURNACE: Speaking of major repairs, the chapel needs a new furnace. It is the original and is slowly going out. The installation will be done this fall before winter sets in, so as not to be without heat when it is most needed. Daryn Young, the owner of Comfort Zone Heating and Cooling in Weiser, ID, is in a position to donate the new furnace needed. Daryn's company has the maintenance contract for all the furnaces in the various buildings of the campus and installed the two new furnaces in the Jubilee House and will maintain those now also.

MASSES OFFERED: I have so much for which to be grateful, and so many intentions are entrusted to my daily prayers, that I often have about 10 Masses a month said for my intentions. When I say you are prayed for, I mean it! God bless you and yours.

MEMORIAL

Sister Rebecca Mary, HSM

by Tom and Barbara English, Portland, OR

The MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER is published by Marymount Hermitage, Inc., a 501(c)3 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!