



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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LIGHT FROM LIGHT

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM



[Photo credit: Dana George]

Dear Family and Friends,

"Light from Light"

This phrase has been repeating itself in my mind and heart. It seems to summarize two recent events, which struck me so deeply. Allow me to share this meditation with you as my Christmas gift this year.

The BSU women's retreat was held here on October 24-26. After a dramatic, dark storm as Mass was ending on Saturday evening, the sky cleared and the most awesome golden light from the heavens shone on Marymount and the mesa. Everything from the soaring mountains to the smallest blade of grass was illuminated by this celestial light. Many of the women reported that they thought God was speaking to them personally in this storm and the glory cloud. It is very human and Scriptural to sense, in the lightning and thunder, bright light and peace, the Presence of God.

In the Nicene Creed, which we pray together at Mass every Sunday, the phrase "Light from Light" occurs in phrases describing the divinity of Jesus, the Son of God and Second Person of the Holy Trinity. The Council of Nicea in 325 AD, in what is modern-day Turkey, composed this Creed, which all Catholics have prayed for 1700 years. It is a prayer in faith, upon which all Christians can agree.



[Photo credit: Shelli Moreda]

Pope Leo XIV visited the modern day Turkish city of Iznik on Nov. 28, 2026. With the Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, who invited Pope Leo, they prayed and commemorated that foundational faith event in this very location near the ruins of the original basilica. "Nike" is the name of the ancient Greek goddess for "Victory". That is the root word in the city name of Iznik. But what I learned to my amazement is that it is also the root word in Nicea. Change the **c** to a **k** and you can see it too!

Light represents the victory of faith over fear, truth over lies, holiness over evil, life over death, the eternal over the temporal. The Light, which is Jesus, is our Victory over all that is not of Him. May Jesus enlighten your Christmas celebration and throughout the New Year!

With my prayers daily and my love always,
Sister M. Beverly Greger, HSM



BSU women retreatants
the morning of departure
October 26, 2025.

[Photo credit: Dana George]

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Above from left to right, Brian Howell, the main broadcasting host for S&L, Sister M. Beverly, HSM, and Keith Pettyjohn, President of the S&L Board. [Photo taken at the station in Boise.]

SALT & LIGHT RADIO SERIES: On the Mondays of December, I am teaching on "Mary as the New Ark of the Covenant". This is from the book by Dr. Brant Pitre entitled: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary, Chapter 3. The original broadcast is archived as a podcast and you can access each teaching at a time of your convenience. Please join me for this series in honor of Our Lady for the season of Advent. S&L is in the EWTN network.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: Sister Rebecca Mary Bonnell, HSM died on Dec. 20, 2024. Please remember her in your prayers for the repose of her soul. She had a great devotion to praying daily and often for the holy souls in purgatory. She would be the last person to ever say someone died and went straight to heaven. I am honoring her wishes by asking for your prayers, I am sure!



Snow storm on Mt. Council in early Dec. [Photo by Nikki White]

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!

WEATHER: Guests and retreatants are always asking when snow comes to the mesa. This year we have had virtually no snow yet. The weather has been warm and wet, very unusual for this time of year. I always think that the weather is one clear way that God has of showing us who actually orchestrates everything! Having been raised in the Midwest (in Illinois, like Pope Leo), I enjoy what we are having. I like the changes, the surprises, the challenges, and the beauty.

CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE: To date, I have sent a small post card to all those on the mailing list. It is the one way I use the USPS to reach out to everyone. If you did not receive it, please contact me and I will send it to you. The letter I composed for my family and friends, I reproduced for you on page one. **Light from Light** has been my meditation for some while now. Enjoy! Lastly, I consider it a joy to respond as soon as possible to those who send donations in their Christmas cards to me. I enclose a tax acknowledgement letter for those who request it and need it. Once in awhile the postal system loses pieces of mail, especially at this time of year. If you did not get a thank you note from me, please inform me and I will respond. I have Mass said once a month for the benefactors of Marymount Hermitage, both the living and the dead. Your charity and support are greatly appreciated and I always ask God to bless you for my sake. He does so graciously and abundantly, I am certain.

RETREATANTS: Jubilee Guest House has been operative since mid-August. The BSU women's retreat was the first group to use it in October. The BSU men's retreat group will be here in February, 2026. When considering a retreat at Marymount Hermitage, you now have the option of having a bedroom in the new Jubilee House or one of the five hermitages, as in the past. Please send me an email with the dates you are requesting and we will proceed from that point to make your reservation firm for the New Year. Detailed information is available on the website. Catholic priests get a free retreat in exchange for daily Mass while they are here.

DAY OF PILGRIMAGE: Now that the Jubilee House is finished, I am resurrecting the tradition of hosting Days of Pilgrimage during 2026. The first one is Saturday, March 7, as preparation for Lent and Easter. After Jan. 1, 2026, please see the Calendar of Events for more information about the first Day of Pilgrimage. It will be on Prayer, in general, and Contemplative Prayer, in particular. I will be teaching two sessions that day at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Father Jerry Funke is helping me with the day's program and will offer the noon Mass and hear confessions during the private prayer times during the day.

GIFT SHOP: Sister Rebecca Mary and I always enjoyed making gifts to sell. I no longer do the monthly sales in parishes, but I still have a large variety of items and continue sales through mail orders or in person.