



# MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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## A HERMIT'S DAY

*By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM*

I am often asked what my day is like. It is a fair question, because most people cannot imagine what I do in silence and solitude as a way of life. Coming on retreat is an entirely different experience, since it is temporary. I will begin with an outline and add a few details.

- 5 AM** - Rise and eat my first breakfast; devotional reading while I eat
- 5:30 AM** - Prayer in my oratory: morning offering, Divine Mercy chaplet, personal prayer
- 6:30 AM** - Dress
- 7 AM** - Prayer in chapel; contemplative prayer/Jesus prayer
- 8 AM** - Lauds: if retreatants are present, they join me for this and a communion service, or Mass, if we have a priest on retreat
- 8:30 AM** - Office work, such as emails, Quicken account or correspondence
- 9 AM** - Second breakfast; serious reading while eating
- 9:15 AM** - In my oratory, Scriptural prayer/meditation, Office of Readings, spiritual reading and rosary
- 10 AM-12 noon** - Work period
- 12-2 PM** - Midday prayer; lunch, reading and siesta. I turn off my phone during this time period.
- 2-5 PM** - Work period: I drive out to get my mail daily. Mail does not come to Hermitage Lane, but to the rural post box in Mesa. I also drive to Council, if necessary, a few times a week. When the weather permits, I go for a 15-20 minute walk when I am at Mesa getting my mail. I always pray the rosary when I am walking or driving.
- 5 PM** - Vespers in my oratory, if there are no retreatants, or in chapel, if there are
- 5:15 PM** - Supper; serious reading while eating
- 6-7 PM** - Personal free time or work, when necessary
- 7-8 PM** - In my oratory, personal prayer, and Compline
- 8 PM** - Bed time; lighter reading before sleep, such as fiction, especially historical fiction, children's books or biographies.
- 1-2 hours of prayer in the middle of the night; not always at the same time; flexible with regard to length of time; not always the same kind of prayer; definitely by the Lord's leading

Holy hours are scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 3-4 PM and including Vespers, if there are retreatants to join me. Both neighbors and retreatants join me as they are able for these hours of Eucharist adoration.

Without a resident priest, I do not have the opportunity for daily Mass in this very rural part of Idaho. Normally, depending on weather, I can drive for the 5 PM Mass in McCall on Saturdays (other than in the winter time) and then attend 3:30 PM Mass in the nearby mission churches on Sundays. If I drive to Boise on a week day, that is an opportunity to go to the noon Mass at the Cathedral. Occasionally, for a special feast day, I drive to Weiser to Saint Agnes Church for the 9 AM Mass on Sunday. The pastor in Weiser serves the missions in Council and Cambridge.

As a general rule, I do grocery shopping in Council and visit the post office, bank, gas station, and recycle center when needed. Once or twice a month, I drive to Ontario or Boise for some specialty shopping or work, like recording at Salt & Light Radio station.

I would say in general that I pray for about 8 hours a day and work for about 4-5 hours (except on Sundays). Sunday "work" can be studying. Prayer is varied, as is the type of work. Sometimes work involves having a worker(s) here helping me, such as for cleaning. Solitude varies depending on seasons of the year, with less retreatants in the winter months. Most every day I live in silence. I am not in the habit of listening to music. I do not have a TV or a radio and use the computer primarily for work. I prefer the silence because it is so full of the Lord's presence and love.

If I am out driving somewhere, it is a time of prayer for me, which I love. By a happy coincidence, I go out for my Mesa mail about 3 PM and that is when Salt & Light/EWTN broadcast the sung version of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I am really glad to join in that when I can. It is very uplifting. I ask the Lord in my vow formula to grant me "the grace of unceasing prayer". I am very far from that yet, but a life of prayer is always a work in progress and only possible with God's superabundant grace.

I am not sure this will really answer questions about my day. Perhaps it will only create more questions! You are welcome to ask, and I will address those details when I can. Let us pray daily for each other. God bless you!

Cont. on pg. 2

# COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

**GIVING THANKS:** I sincerely appreciate the cards, notes, personal gifts, volunteer work, and donations which came in abundance during the Advent, Christmas and New Year seasons. I can thank you, but only God can bless you for your faith, charity and generosity. I try to diligently write thank you notes for all gifts received. If you did not get a response, please let me know. Some times items get lost in the mail. I sent tax acknowledgement letters for all donations of \$100 or more. If I somehow made a mistake in this regard, please let me know the amount for which you need this formal letter.

**DAY OF PILGRIMAGE:** Mark **March 7** on your calendar, if you are interested in this first event at Marymount Hermitage this year. I will be the presenter for the two teaching sessions and the topic is prayer, especially contemplative prayer. I have new specialty items in the Gift Shop for this presentation, but I am not going to spoil the surprise by telling you what exactly this religious item is! The day begins at 9 AM.

Please see the **Calendar of Events** on this website for more details. Registration is required and I am accepting only 30 participants. Early registration recommended!

**NEW VOLUNTEERS:** Fred and Cindy Mattivi have been helping me particularly with work in the Jubilee Guest House and my own house this past year. When I introduced them to Bishop Peter Christensen on Oct. 11, 2025 when Bishop was here, I said, "This is Fred and Cindy Mattivi. They think they recently moved here from Colorado, but actually I think they dropped here from heaven. They are my *angels*." Fred has lots of work experience and tons of tools with which to do repairs. Cindy is a retired nurse and likes cleaning. Their faith and joy are evident in all that they do and their support in maintenance is tremendous for me. In this photo, Fred just installed the



*Christ the Teacher icon held by Sister Mary Beverly, HSM. [7/6/2018]*

new memorial plaque under the St. Joseph icon in the great room of the Jubilee House.

**MEMORIAL PLAQUE:** My brother's son died at a very young age, and as an only child, he is deeply mourned by Ron and his wife, Susan. They donated the funds needed to install a "cathedral" size icon of St. Joseph in memory of their son, Joe Greger.



## MEMORIAL ROBERT A. GREGER by Virginia Arnold, Washington, IN

**MEMORIALS:** When people want to remember or honor a loved one, they can send a donation to Marymount Hermitage. Besides posting a box like the above in the newsletter, Mass for the living or the deceased person is offered by an Idaho priest.

**WINTER WEATHER:** This has been a most unusual winter season so far. If we get snow, it is melted in a day or two. Day time temperature highs are often well above freezing. I would describe this winter as wet and warm because of all the rain we have gotten, also very unusual. You can see in this morning's photo [1/11/2026] of Cuddy Mountain that the snow level is not down to the elevation of Mesa yet. No snow means less work here and less expense in having the roadways plowed, but a good snow pack in the mountains is essential for irrigation next summer and water needed for fire suppression efforts. We entrust all our needs to the hands of our Creator and Father.



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!