



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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THE WORD OF GOD

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.”

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day’, and the darkness he called ‘night.’ Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.” (Gen. 1:1-5)

This dramatic description of the beginning of creation reminds us of the goodness of all creation, coming as it does from the hand of God, who is Goodness itself. But first of all, these opening lines of Scripture tell us, reveal to us, that God is three Divine Persons. The Holy Trinity is present in the first two sentences of the first book of the Bible. “God”, of course, refers to God the Father, the Creator of all the elements of the universe, including time itself. But where is the Son, the second Divine Person of the Trinity? When I ask this question in classes, people often respond that the “light” is the second Divine Person. We remember, of course that Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” (Jn. 8:12a) However, upon deeper thought, one can see that this is not the correct answer, because this is **created light**, and the second Person of the Trinity is not a material creature.

The second Divine Person appears in the creation account in the second sentence: “God **said**...” He is the **Word of God**! All revelation of the Father comes to us through Jesus. We know who God is through Jesus’ Person, his human face, voice, actions, attitudes, deeds, teachings and miracles while on earth. But Jesus also reveals God through the written word, which we call the Bible. Using human authors, writing over many hundreds of years, God the Word was directing what would be written down and recorded in understandable human words and images.

The Word of God is also present in Sacred Tradition, revealing the Father and his will, in human words, which were spoken by Jesus, but not written down. One example of what comes to us through Sacred Tradition is the Liturgy: the Mass and the sacraments. Instructions were not written down for the Apostles. Jesus taught them and

the Apostles handed down this oral teaching to the next generation of bishops and priests, down to our own era.

In the opening account in Genesis, where is the third, Divine Person of the Holy Trinity? The key word is “wind”. In Hebrew, this word can mean “spirit” or “breath”. Scripture tells us that creation was “over-shadowed”, so to speak, by the Spirit of God. Since God is good, creation is good. This Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Actually, that is the proper name for the third Person of the Trinity: “Holy Spirit”.

We note with interest that human beings from the earliest time were inscribing images and symbols on the rock walls in whatever area of the world in which they lived. Pictographs are a fascinating area of study. In the earliest advanced civilizations, we find there is a written language. Without mentioning the differences of what we would call “letters”, there is the amazing awareness that even the direction of writing was different. In the Chinese, it is from top to bottom. In the Hebrew, it is from right to left. In European languages, from which English is derived, the direction of lines is from left to right. In ancient Egyptian, if you can believe it, the lines were written “as the ox plows”, that is one line went from right to left and the next line went from left to right.

You might be wondering why I made this transition from The Word of God to human writing. Ten years ago at Marymount, when I proposed building a new library, I anticipated a certain amount of objections based on the idea that books were going out of style in a variety of significant ways. That is true. They are. However, since my life as a hermit is based on the inspiration of the earli-



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est Desert Fathers in northern Egypt only two centuries after Christ, and the life was further developed in following centuries throughout Asia and Europe in the monastic life, I am carrying on that tradition. The monks of the Middle Ages saved ancient texts from earlier civilizations by copying, not only the Bible, but other kinds of ancient writings, religious as well as scientific. So to come to the point, the library at Marymount continues to grow through donations of books. Even though the library is quite new, it was in need of internal expansion.



After much thought and prayer, I finally decided how and where to install new book cases. Mike Birky, a Menonite craftsman in Council, ID, (photo pg. 1) custom-made four new wooden book shelves, which are now installed along the right wall of the library foyer.

Little by little, with help of volunteers, I am moving all the library books. The goal is to have about 1/3 of each shelf free to give ample space for new books to be added. Hopefully, this work will open up lots of new shelf space. Then I can proceed with my usual winter work of giving new acquisitions their unique numbers. My librarian and neighbor, Ceara Nourse, does all the rest of the work to have the new books in the library database, inventory, and on the shelves available for retreatants and guests.

Jesus is "Light from Light", as we pray in the Creed each Sunday at Mass. In turn, Jesus says that we are to carry His light into the dark world. "No follower of mine shall ever walk in the darkness; no, he shall possess the light of life." (Jn. 8:12b) The library is full of books which tell us how this has historically been lived in the Church. There are writings of the Fathers of the Church, great theologians, apologists, papal encyclicals, and the writings and lives of the Saints to name only a few sources. Consider checking out books from this lending library.

Happily now, the first books to greet you in the foyer are books about Sacred Scripture...THE WORD OF GOD.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

THE TWO DAYS OF PILGRIMAGE: March 7, 2026, the first pilgrimage for this year has a full roster. I had the limit set at 30 participants, but for one reason or another have accepted 7 more people. I solved the problem of lack of seating in chapel by purchasing a set of ten new folding chairs, so now all should be well with adequate seating. I was grateful and encouraged that so many people signed up almost immediately when announcements first appeared in the parish bulletins. My discernment is that the topic of prayer and the chance for basically a day retreat at Marymount is welcome by many. Please pray for us.

May 2, 2026 is the date for the second Day of Pilgrimage this year. The general topic is prayer with a primary focus on praying with Scripture, particularly the psalms. I will teach the morning class and Father Jerry Funke will teach the afternoon class. Father will also be hearing confessions during the day and will celebrate a midday Mass.

BLESSING PRAYERS: I ask special blessing prayers for the BSU men students, who will be on retreat here with Father Nathan Dail, chaplain, and the FOCUS Missionaries from Feb. 20-23. This photo (at L) is of the Chaplaincy staff of St. Paul's when they made their own retreat on Jan. 23-25.

RETREAT RESERVATIONS: With the increase of retreatants, it is more necessary to plan a private retreat 2-3 months in advance of the dates you are requesting. The Jubilee Guest House can accommodate a small family or parish group with advance reservations. There is still the option of asking for lodging in the original hermitages. An email is the best way to start. **GIFT SHOP:** The library houses the Gift Shop and mail-orders are available from the website. Those participating in the Days of Pilgrimage have the opportunity to have the Gift Shop open for them at the end of the day. **Reilly's**, the Catholic supply store in Boise, also sells our rosaries. Visit there to see new rosaries for gifts for those receiving the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.

FLOWERS IN WINTER: Two plants are blossoming to my great joy: a jade plant in chapel and a gardenia plant on the window sill of my house



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