



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

2150 Hermitage Lane Mesa, Idaho 83643-5005

Website: www.marymount-hermitage.org

Tel. (208) 256-4354

E-mail: SisterBeverly@marymount-hermitage.org

Volume 43, No. 8

August, 2026

THE DOORS OF LIFE

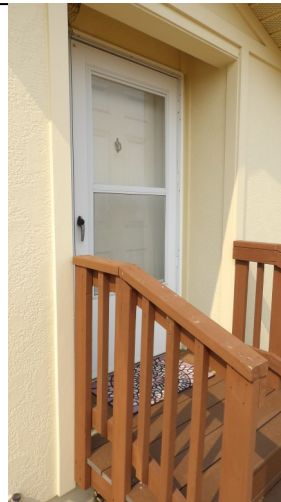
By Sister M. Beverly, HSM



DOOR above is that into Our Father's House, the chapel at Marymount Hermitage. [Photos 8-6-2026]

PRAYER: Recently, Bishop Peter Christensen said to me, "Do you think a door is a good image for prayer? It seems to me that for prayer, we not only need to open the door, but to step through it, to have a relationship with God."

I have given that good consideration since Bishop Peter said it to me. There is a very subtle principle being articulated in his words. The point is not that we open the door and then Jesus is invited in. In this image, we open the door and interiorly step "out", using our free will to have and to develop a good relationship through the grace of the Holy Spirit. I think it is wise to ponder our responsibility in being active in the work of grace which is prayer. God gives the grace, but we have to accept it. The emphasis then might be on the courage and trust we have to express in order to cooperate with grace. This meditation very much relies on the truths about grace taught by the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine of Hippo. (Being an Augustinian, Pope Leo would like this meditation, I think!) I will meditate on our efforts to invite Jesus IN in another section below, but here, the focus is on what it takes to move forward, to walk through the door. As St. Benedict writes in his Rule: "We must hasten to do now what will profit us for all eternity." (RB: Prologue)



DOOR to SMB's home named Holy Family House.

HOSPITALITY: "Let all who arrive be received as Christ." (RB:53) Receiving guests is a work of the hands, heart, and spirit. Hands clean and prepare rooms. Hearts extend warmth and joyful welcome. Spirits pray that the God guests are seeking will be found in the surrounding beauty of nature and the Word dwelling in Scripture and the tabernacle. Buildings that are prayerfully prepared contribute to the peace people find. Of course, I am thinking of Marymount and my work and of my volunteer friends for the sake of visitors and retreatants. However, you can apply this to yourself and your family and home. The saints who spontaneously come to mind are the "Bethany

Three", whose new feast day is on July 29. These are St. Martha, her sister, St. Mary, and their brother, St. Lazarus. More than one Gospel story tells us how much Jesus loved his three friends, enjoyed being in their home, and found consolation in their company. Many people knew Jesus from his ministry and he was something of a local celebrity in his time. However, even celebrities have to have time off and friends and a home in which to recuperate and be restored, humanly speaking. Pope Francis designated this new feast for the Blessed Three. There is much upon which we can meditate with regard to them.

Another saint, who exemplifies hospitality, is Mary of Nazareth. She is "Mother of God" because she was willing to host the Son of God in her womb to give him human life and nurturing. Because of that, she is also called "Mother of the Church", since being a mother to Jesus, she is also willing to be a spiritual mother to all his brothers and sisters, beginning with St. John under the cross. Mary's hospitality is universal. She helps to open for us the door of heaven, which is our true home and where Jesus and Mary are already in their resurrected human bodies. August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. She and Jesus promise us heaven can be ours!

Cont. on pg. 2

THE DOORS OF LIFE (Cont. from pg. 1)



DOOR to Mercy House which is mainly the library at Marymount.

STUDY: By reading books, we open the door to our minds with our memory, imagination, understanding and intellect. An inherent human feature is the desire to know. Look at the story of Adam and Eve. How did the devil tempt them? "...your eyes will be opened and you will *know* what is good and evil..." (Gen.3:5) What if they had said, "We do not want to know that?"

So we have a desire to know, but since the original sin, with which effects we inherited from our first parents, to practice virtue, we have to discern what this knowledge contains,

means, and is it good for us in the eternal sense? I mention this aspect of our humanity because, in our modern era, the lure of knowledge is massively overwhelming with regard to the kinds of digital technology and information available to us.

I am old-fashioned when it comes to the faith and spiritual formation. I deliberately offer real books...the kind you can hold in your hands and turn real pages, where black ink is printed on white paper. I once asked my computer guru neighbor (now deceased) this question: "Why is it when I read an article on the computer, I have trouble understanding it? If I print out the article, I can get it much easier and faster." He told me there is a science behind this. When I read a book, it is processed in one part of my brain. Since I have done it all my life, that is easy for me. It is a habit. When I read something on a screen, I am seeing light. Light is processed in another part of my brain. So reading like that is difficult for me.

I have learned the obvious reverse from articles written by current university professors. The most recent was a man teaching a literature class. He finds it nearly impossible now because students are not capable of reading books. This analysis and observation, especially by teachers and tutors, is wide-spread and unanimous. I believe it. Alas. At Marymount, there is an extensive, free, borrowing library of Catholic books, which many people find appealing and useful for their spiritual life. Visit Mercy



These decorative wooden DOORS open and close on a mirror hanging in Marymount's Mercy House. This gift is an antique from India.

House. All are welcome! **"MEMENTO MORI":** This Latin phrase means "Remember Death". I wanted to conclude this series of mini-meditations on the spiritual life with the image of death as a door. In our relationship with Jesus, who is leading us to the Father by the guidance of his Holy Spirit, we must want to be completely open and humble. It takes tremendous trust and courage to communicate the deepest part of ourselves to another person. This means the gift of our entire selves. With our fallen human nature, we often do not even know ourselves: who am I? what do I desire? what is the meaning of my life? where does it all end? Our secular culture is a complete failure in conveying the true answers to these perennial human questions. Evidence the pandemic of teen suicides in our country. A wise Indian priest in

Idaho (now deceased) once told me, "Young people are 'ripe for the Gospel'. They have tried all that the world offers and know that it does not make them happy."

We have to know ourselves to give ourselves, which is what it means to love completely. It seems to me that to invite Jesus into the depth of our being, is to learn from him who he is and how much he loves us and what he has promised to do for me in this life and the next. I am of the generation which grew up on the Baltimore Catechism. I will never forget Question #1: "Who made you?" and Question #2 "Why did God make you?" All my life I have thought that the memorized answers to these questions were the key to life. I have fervently wished that all children and teens were taught these truths.

To see myself as "made in the image and likeness of God" (Gen.1:27) means that I have inherited an infinite value as a person. When I learn that Jesus invites me to be his disciple, to live by His Spirit, not only by my own, means that my purpose in life is his and he will help me to accomplish it. What I want inside me is a mirror, so that when others see me, they see Jesus. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity has this startling prayer that she wanted "to be another humanity for Jesus". Let us pray to be the saints God the Father created us to be. It is true joy and peace in this life because holiness is doing God's will. When it is time to die, I can step peacefully through this last door into heaven for all eternity. There our family is awaiting us: God, Our Lady, all the angels and saints. Home.

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!