



MARYMOUNT HERMITAGE NEWSLETTER

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PRAYER IS FUNDAMENTAL

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

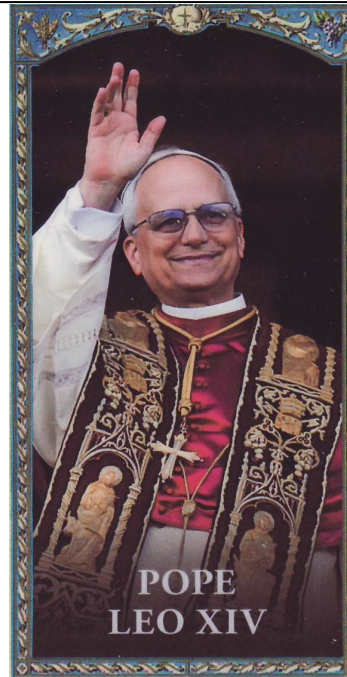
I wrote in the last newsletter about the books I am currently reading. I also read regularly from publications like papers and magazines. Since the time of the papacy of Pope Saint John Paul II, I have had a subscription to the Vatican newspaper, called *L'Osservatore Romano*, now a monthly magazine. There are other ways of reading what the Pope writes, says and does, but this is my way, since I like to read while I am eating my meals. I find the words of Pope Leo XIV to be simple but profound, basic but sublime, encouraging and even moving. He has such a great gift as a communicator!

His Holiness has been giving a series of weekly teachings on the documents of Vatican II. You can see clearly why he is doing so. These historic teachings from the Ecumenical Council sixty years ago are as timely today as when they were written and promulgated sixty, perhaps even more so now. I used a phrase from his words: "Prayer is fundamental," for the title of this reflection. I read this partial quote in a general audience given by Pope Leo on August 5, 2026. In this series, he is giving teachings on *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC) which is the Conciliar Constitution on the Liturgy.

"Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome! In this catechism today we will look at the ecclesial dimension of liturgical prayer. As the Apostle Paul suggests, it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to pray. From the day of Pentecost, the Spirit dwells in the Church, inspiring every one of her activities and, in particular, prayer. The life of the first community after the Pasch of Jesus, is life in the Spirit given by the risen Lord..."

"In our time, in contexts dominated by an efficiency-driven and consumerist mindset, prayer may seem pointless and trivial. In a world where science and technology claim to provide all the answers, praying may appear to be a form of escapism. Furthermore, even in many Christian families, the tradition of prayer is no longer passed on, whilst many people risk confusing it with just another technique, of a psychological nature, aimed at personal well-being. **Prayer, however, as a fundamental dimension of our humanity**, is worth re-discovering in its true form." I read that, paused, and just thought, "Wow!"

Our "Magnificent Humanity" is much in the thoughts,



teachings and writings of our Holy Father. For him to say that "prayer is fundamental to our humanity" really blew me away. Think how many people are NOT praying. This means they are not fulfilling an essential part of what it means to be a human being. This concept elevates not only prayer itself, representing our relationship with God, but the very core of our being as human persons. Saying this in another way: to be in relationship with God is the essence of being human. Awesome.

After the section I already quoted of Pope Leo XIV's Wednesday Audience teaching, this is the next segment

of what he said: "The Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* took this need seriously. This greatly pleased Pope Saint Paul VI, who, on promulgating this first document approved by the Second Vatican Council, stated: 'God comes first; prayer is our primary duty; the liturgy is the primary source of the divine life communicated to us, the primary school of our spiritual life.' (Address in St. Peter's Basilica, Dec. 4, 1963)"

Following this section of the Weds. Audience, the Holy Father spoke of the Eucharist, our liturgical prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours, which prayerfully prolongs throughout the day the "light" of Mass. He concluded: "Bound to the Eucharist, whose light it prolongs, the Liturgy of the Hours sanctifies the time of our daily lives: in the morning, we begin the day with faith and gratitude; at midday, we ask for the strength to remain faithful amidst our labors; in the evening, once our work is done, Vespers accompany the moment of sunset; at night, we fall asleep entrusting ourselves to God's peace. Each Hour is an act of hope: during our earthly pilgrimage, we keep watch, awaiting with the whole Church the glorious return of the Lord."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

By Sister Mary Beverly, HSM

RETREATANTS: Those seeking the Lord in silence and solitude have blessed me by being prayerfully and peacefully here these past few months. An Orthodox monk from a Skeet in PA was here for a two day retreat and loved the contrast of solitude and communal life. As a young man, he was strong and determined enough to chop firewood and store it in the hermitage shed, which was a gift to me. I still have the vase of dried flowers he collected from the mesa as a parting gift.



Six women who are part of a Cursillo 4th day group organized a retreat for themselves and used Jubilee House for a weekend. They were eager in their study of the faith and asked me to teach a class on Our Lady which I did for them on Saturday morning. They

were so joyous, faith-filled, loving and gracious that I told them, and I do believe it, that their spirits will continue to bless me and those who come on retreat here in the future.

Lastly, in the category of unusual retreatants, I had a young mother and the third of her small children with her on a two day retreat. Baby Theodore, age 6 months,



has his own way of being with the Lord. Ah, maybe this is what contemplation is all about! God's little one knows.

RETREAT RESERVATIONS: It is not too early to consider reserving time for a retreat in 2027. You have the option of a hermitage or the Jubilee Guest House, as an individual or as a small group. The cost is the same for a hermitage or a room in Jubilee House and the fees are the same as in the past. I have begun working on updating the website. Details for retreatants using the Jubilee House need to be included now both in the description sections and in the retreat applications.

MARYMOUNT'S LIBRARY: Processing books for the library is always a work in progress. Hopefully, I can give more time to this project in the winter months. My new system has been very favorably received. Often a book that is donated has already been given to the library and is processed and on the shelf. The question of how to dispose of good books I cannot keep for the library was a burning issue until this summer. I finally realized I could put these books in the shelves in all the rooms of the Jubi-

lee House and make a sign to tell people that these are free books. "Take one or more home and do me a favor!" I am happy to report that valuable books are finding a new owner and a home this way.



There are currently 4,000 books on the shelves in the Mercy House library!

"WATER WORKS": Installation of a new water delivery service for the entire campus began on August 27 and continues. At this stage, all the buildings now are connected to the new system. Workmen are back-filling trenches and then will repair the main road by bringing in more gravel for where trenches crossed it. Buildings still need to be buttoned up for the winter. I ask for prayers that this will be finished before the cold winter temperatures set in. We had an unusually warm and long autumn, so God has blessed us abundantly in this regard up until now. Only God can provide us with this protection.



Ray Groves, of Council, ID is doing the excavating for the new water system. It is one thing just to dig a 4 ft. deep trench, which is

over a mile long. It is quite another thing to avoid digging up the Idaho Power electrical line, the gas line or the CTC telephone line! My job each day was/is just to pray for health, safety and success for all the workmen.

CORRESPONDENCE: I am already planning for the coming Christmas season. If you would like a post card in the US mail to give you a short summary of the Marymount 2026 news, please send me your US mailing address before November 8. The annual post card is mailed to you the day after Thanksgiving to avoid getting lost in the Christmas mail rush.



THANKSGIVING: I will be especially asking God to bless my family, friends, neighbors and benefactors of Marymount Hermitage. God is good. I am so blessed!

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!