

THE VIEW

TRANSFIGURATION HERMITAGE, MAINE



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HERMITAGE

IS A TAX-EXEMPT NON-
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CHANGE

by Sr. Elizabeth Wagner

"The more things change, the more they stay the same," runs an old folk wisdom saying. This saying has never seemed so profoundly true as today. As a nation, we have a new president in the White House, and a new administration. While this new administration has begun radically changing many things here in the US; in light of thousands of years of political, military, and social changes and disruptions, it's merely a blip in the vastness of time and history. This long historical view may be a consolation to some who bitterly reject these changes, yet to those who are drastically impacted: the poor, the marginalized, and especially immigrants, there is not much room for consolation. To those not immediately impacted by these changes an historical perspective gives, if not consolation, at least an awareness that things may at some future date change back again.

It's a time when the seasons are changing also, at least here in Maine. The southern U.S. is probably already in summer, but here in the Northeast, until very recently, the weather has been unremittingly cold and wet. We had a sharp cold spell in February, which nearly cost us our lavenders—though I see a few signs of emerging velvety gray-green leaves. And while we haven't had a late frost, at least not yet, as I write this in late May there are few signs of a late spring warm up.

Transfiguration Hermitage needs your generosity and support for continued growth. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit TransfigurationHermitage.org. We are also building an endowment fund for future growth. Please consider remembering us in your bequests, legacies, trusts, transfers, or gifts.

Last but surely not least, we have lived through the death of Pope Francis, and the election and installation of a new Pope, Leo XIV. To the amazement of nearly everyone, he is an American—though he has lived and ministered for decades in Peru, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor, needy, and helpless.

Which brings me to the thought that there are some things that do not change: namely Jesus Christ, and his words, addressed to all of us, throughout all the centuries, as to how we are to live. There is a line from the Gospel of Matthew that keeps replaying in my head: “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.” (Matt 25:4). Although I try hard not to be critical, I find it even harder to reconcile these words with recent actions of the U.S. government in deporting tens of thousands of immigrants, without giving them the opportunity to object to their deportation. While I doubt that our country can currently support an unlimited amount of immigrants, particularly those who arrive here illegally, there is little doubt that they are human beings, and should have due

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TO ALL OF YOU, BROTHERS AND
SISTERS... OF THE WHOLE WORLD, WE
WANT TO BE A CHURCH OF THE
SYNOD, A CHURCH THAT WALKS, A
CHURCH THAT ALWAYS SEEKS PEACE,
THAT ALWAYS SEEKS CHARITY, THAT
ALWAYS SEEKS TO BE CLOSE,
ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO SUFFER.

POPE LEO XIV

HIS FIRST SPEECH ON MAY 8TH, 2025

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process under law. And perhaps it's important to remember that the vast majority of us are descendants of immigrants. The only exceptions might be native Americans.

But to return to the Gospel: there are things that don't change, and high among these imperishable realities is the need to treat one another with respect and care, remembering that each person is in some basic way, just by being human, a brother or sister of the Lord Jesus. This is so, even when a person is not a believer, or even rejects any sense of faith, religion, or common humanity.

Yesterday we went to a high school graduation, where the valedictorian was a young man who for four years faithfully took our dog Lina for a run twice a week. There were brief speeches by him and by a few others. The one that struck me most was from a young woman who was an honors scholar. What she said, in brief, was that whatever path we take in life, the most important thing is not prestige, nor how much money we make. The most important thing is that we are always kind.

Always kind. How very true, and how very important. It is so easy for me to worry about the future: will we have enough money to pay our bills; will our health hold up, will there be new vocations? Will our democracy stay the same? Things do change, things always change. But God's love and care endures forever. God's presence with us never falters. God's call to us, telling us how we are to live out our time here on earth, also does not change, at least not in essentials. The way we are to live out these essentials may change, but the basic truths do not. Be kind. Treat one another with respect. “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Seasons change, friends may come and go. “The grass withers, the flower wilts, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” Isaiah 40:8





BENEFACTORS FEBRUARY - APRIL 2025

A huge thank you to all of our generous benefactors! Without you we wouldn't be here! You are always in our prayers. And if we've forgotten to list you, or misspelled your name, please let us know!

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VOICE OF VOCATION

By Sr. Anastasia Scholastica Wibowo

"Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm." (Mk 4:39)

Recently one of our friends got diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In our conversation, she admitted that it hasn't been easy. The constant uncontrollable tremor makes her tire easily, preventing her from doing things that she used to enjoy. But then she said, "the Gospel when Jesus told the storm to be still and the storm quieted down; that is my Scripture right now."

What a courageous statement! What faith! Talk about living the Gospel!

It makes me realize that our daily readings and prayers are not just some 'to do' list for the day; perfunctory duties to attain salvation. Every day we are invited to sync our words and actions, just as our new Pope Leo XIV said, to be "a Church that walks, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close, especially to those who suffer."

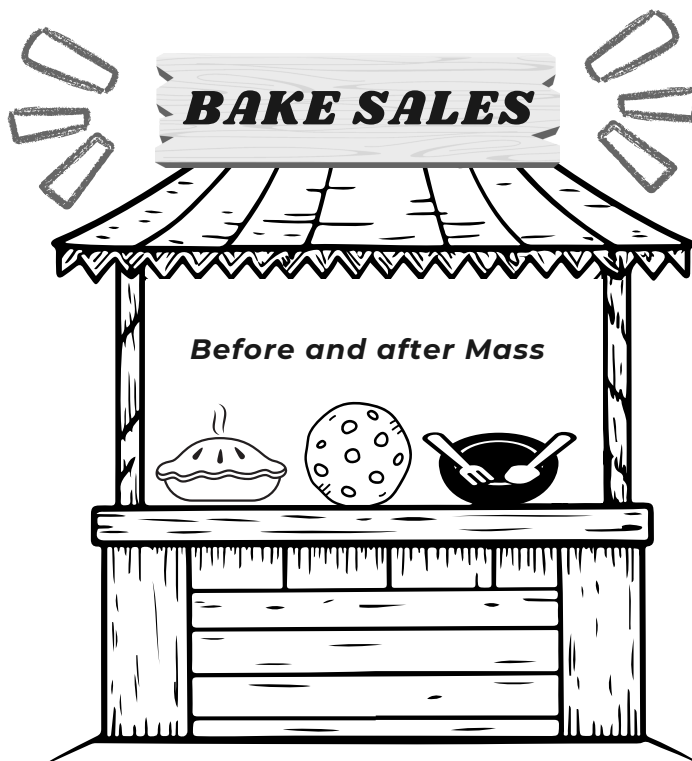


THE BEECH TREE SAGA CONTINUED

Some of you may remember that last autumn, we were fortunate to have a group from the Maine Forest Service here to inoculate one of our beech trees, to attempt to protect it from Beech Leaf Disease. Also through the auspices of the Maine Forest Service, we were able to purchase the systemic protection fluid polyphosphate, which we applied to our lovely copper beech as a soil drench.

This spring we are happy to say that our two beech trees are still alive! They are not flourishing, and they have fewer leaves, but at least they are alive. We hope to continue to treat them with polyphosphate again this year, and probably the next as well.

As I drive to and from errands, I've noticed beech trees that have not been treated, and they are very much struggling; with few leaves, and those leaves seem to be wilting and dying. I don't know where beech leaf disease originated; most likely in some country far from here...and most likely it traveled to the U.S. from some trading partner. No doubt we have 'shared' various diseases abroad, unwittingly, also through trade. While a global community has brought us many advantages, there is no doubt that diseases and other difficulties are the downside of our global village.



Aug 30-31: St. Bernard, Rockland

Sep 20-21: Our Lady of Good Hope, Camden

Oct 11-12: St. Francis, Belfast

Nov 1-2: St. Bernard, Rockland

RETREAT HOUSE

St. Moira's retreat house is open. Our lovely little retreat house has four **private rooms**, a full kitchen, and a sitting room. Our kitchen is stocked with all you need to make your own **breakfast**, and unless requested otherwise, we bring you **dinner** and **supper**. Our **chapel** is open 9 to 5 daily, and if you wish, you can join us at our morning and evening prayers. We also have a half mile **prayer trail**, an outdoor Stations of the Cross trail, and 68 acres of woods, stream, and field. For the hot and humid summer days, we have installed **air conditioning** units.

Take some time away to rest and recuperate in peace and solitude with the Lord., listening to His small still voice in the gentle summer breeze.



IN KIND GIFTS & VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for continuing gifts of stamps from **Gunner & Debbie**, for generous help from **Kelly McGlothlin**, **The Appels** for being the best neighbor, and last but not least **Quality Copy** to always be prompt with excellent quality printing. Thank you all so much!

BOOK REVIEW



Trees up Close: the beauty of bark, leaves, flowers, and seeds, by Nancy Ross Hugo, with photographs by Robert Llewellyn. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon 2014: 200 pp.

In keeping with an update on our beech trees, and indeed on all beech trees which are under severe stress from disease, I thought it hopeful to write a review that explores the beauty and importance of all trees. What would we do without trees! They provide beauty, shelter, food, they contribute to the earth's stability and bounty, give nesting places for birds, acorns and seeds for deer, squirrels, and all kinds of wildlife. Thanks to recent and new understandings of forests, we know they can communicate with each other. And in this time of climate change, many of them are under stress.

When I am at a loss for words or thoughts for prayer, I sit outdoors, sometimes with this book, but mostly just without anything, and give thanks for the beauty and wonder of God's creation, especially our native trees. This book, with its lovely close-up photos of the wonders of God's trees, will soothe and bring harmony to your life.

