



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 29, Issue 1, January 2007



From the Coordinator's Desk

Once again through the stories and news of our CCA Carmels we touch warmly the bonds we share in Carmel. We are thankful for all that 2006 has held – its joys and its sorrows, its challenges and its renewing moments. Above all we are thankful for one another and Christ's Love in which we are deeply united.

The eternal "now" embraces the past, the present and the future. We are taking the first steps of 2007 while at the same time we are in awe of the mystery of God which is beyond measure-able time.

And though there may truly be no "linear time," we celebrate with enthusiasm the 800th year of the Rule of St. Albert and the centenary of the death of our Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity. From our pondering of God's law day and night springs the fountain of our hearts' continual praise of God whose Love is beyond all imagining. May the fire of God's Love within us be a soothing balm of peace in our world.

I close my brief greeting with a few significant happenings.

Meetings and Gatherings:

➤ *CCA Coordinating Committee Meeting - January 9-13*

Our Sisters in the Carmel of the Incarnation (Beacon) were our gracious hosts. It was an especially poignant time as the CC meeting followed upon the heels of the celebration of the life and passing of Sr. Mary Salvatore. We are so grateful.

➤ *Continuing Collaboration among the OCD Nuns and OCD Friars - April 16-20*

Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, NJ

The OCD Provincials and Councils of the Washington, Oklahoma, and California-Arizona Provinces will meet with the Coordinators and Councils of CCA, Queen of Carmel, and St. Teresa's Association. Dialogue will focus on items related to ongoing collaborations and mutuality.

➤ *CCA National Assembly - May 29-June 4*

Theme - *Silence & Hope in our Changing World: Challenges and Dreams*

Campion Renewal Center, Weston, MA

Resource Persons: Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, Sr. Jean Alice McGoff (Indianapolis), Sr. Lynne Therese Elwinger (Eldridge), Sr. Claire Sokol (Reno), Sr. Leslie Lund (Carmelite Sisters of Mary), Sr. Agnes Ahn (Baltimore),

Sr. Eileen Nasser (Barrington), Sr. Christine Congtang (Alhambra)

➤ *Carmelite Institute Program - July 25-29*

Theme - *The Prophetic Dimension of our Carmelite Rule*

Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI (See the Institute's web site for details.)

Presenters: Kevin Culligan, OCD, Vilma Seelaus, OCD, John Sullivan, OCD, Andrew Bacevich, PhD, John Haight, PhD, Craig Morrison, O Carm, Michael Crosby, OFMCap, Peter Hinde, O Carm, Edward McCormack, PhD

Musical Evening - CCA Sisters Claire Sokol, Clorinda von Stockalper, Mary Margaret Yascolt

*With grateful prayer and in Christ's Love,
Mary Margaret*

"Mine Are The Heavens And Mine Is the Earth...."

(St. John of the Cross, Sayings of Light and Love)

Sister Mary Margaret Yascolt O.C.D.
Reno, Carmel

As I began to think about writing my reflections in relation to one of the topics for our CCA meeting in the spring, I spontaneously jotted down questions for myself.

- Why do sisters in CCA want to focus on the new cosmology, on transformation of consciousness?

- What does this have to do with the Carmelite life, with its tradition, its praxis?

- How does it relate to humility, to detachment, to losing one's self in Love?

- What is practical about it? What is the fruit?

- How does it relate to the Church?

- How does it relate to the signs of the times?

- Is it prophetic?

After allowing the above questions to surface (forgive their simplicity), I went to work creating notes from reference material and examples where I observed this consciousness played out in life.

Committing the writer's sin of relying too much on others' thoughts, as background I begin with some quotations:

Diarmuid O'Murchu: **Consecrated Religious Life: The Changing Paradigms**

"According to the new cosmology, creation is an alive organism in both its cosmic and planetary dimensions. Despite a foundational paradox of creative unfolding and cataclysmic destruction (birth-death-rebirth), creation continues to grow and develop in complexity under the creative urge of the divine Spirit. ... **For contemporary spiritual seekers, the new cosmology exerts what can best be described as an archetypal allurements. ... It feels like a primordial homecoming to**

something we have always known, to a place we should never have abandoned."¹

"A new wave of consciousness is arising in our time. How we name and appropriate it is one of the supreme spiritual challenges now facing us ..."²



Starry Night –Vincent van Gogh

"Small but growing movements are emerging from the so-called hard sciences, inviting us to view reality in more spiritual and mindful ways."³

"The study of consciousness commands the attention of several specialists in our time ... Leading the way are those who consider consciousness to be a distinctively human characteristic ... However, an alternative view also prevails, the one I want to highlight...as an issue **of acute relevance for Religious Life in the future.** This is the bold claim that consciousness belongs primarily to cosmic and planetary creation, human consciousness being one appropriation of what is **essentially a cosmic, global quality.**"⁴

Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ: *The Cosmos: An Astonishing Image of God*, Address of June 9, 1996 to the Catholic Theological Society of America.

"Theology is potentially the most comprehensive of fields. If there is only one God and if this God is the Creator of all that exists, then everything is encompassed in the scope of theology's interest. Traditionally this is expressed in the

idea that theology deals with three major areas: God, humanity and world, a meta-physical trinity, so to speak. Nor can these elements be separated for, as the history of theology makes evident, **every understanding of God corresponds to a particular understanding of the natural world and the human.**"⁵

"Contemporary science is discovering a natural world that is surprisingly dynamic, organic, self-organizing, indeterminate, chancy, boundless and open to the mystery of reality."⁶

"What, for example, is the proper relationship of spirit and matter if they are in effect the inside and outside of the same phenomena? And—a burning question—**what is humanity's place in the great scheme of things?**"⁷

"Human beings could not exist without these plants [green plants that take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen] that neither think nor move. They, on the other hand, get along fine without us. Wherein, then, lies superiority? In an interdependent system, no part is intrinsically higher or lower. ... **The challenge is to redesign the hierarchy of being into a circle of the community of life.**"⁸

"In addition to prodding us to **rethink basic categories**, the new cosmology also offers a new framework within which to consider typical theological questions. ... What does the book of nature in our day teach us about the mystery of God, the Creator of this magnifi-

cence, who continues to work creatively within its open and unpredictable systems? How to interpret the irreversible entrance of God into precisely this world through the incarnation of divine Wisdom and the transformation of this flesh in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? ... How to interpret the Spirit of the baptismal font as none other than the very Giver of life to all the creatures of the rain forest....? Whence evil in such a self-organizing universe and how does sin gain a foothold? ... How to conceive of the church, its mission and structures in an evolving universe? ... What paths of spirituality does the new cosmology suggest? ... How is moral decision making affected?"⁹

"Bringing cosmology into view, I am suggesting, shifts the axis of all theological questions, setting an agenda for years to come..."¹⁰

So let us [me!] return to our "Carmelite" life. How do we, as Carmelites, respond to this new cosmology, to this shift of the axis of all theological questions, to this transformation of consciousness which is permeating science, theology, spirituality, and Religious Life?

Since Vatican II we have been exhorted by the Church and by the Order to be conscious of the "signs of the times" and to discern what in our contemplative lifestyle is impacted (positively and negatively) by today's culture and what in our contemplative lifestyle can also impact (positively and negatively) the culture. Contemplative communities are like a beacon shining out on the world – bringing to light the truth that God is in our midst, that God is One, that God is Love, that God is All. They are bells ringing out and reminding society to remember that still place within where God resides and desires to transform all into God's own Love and Life and Light.

Since Vatican II, we have also been invited by the Order to share our contemplative life with those around us in ways that we discern to be appropriate to the contemplative lifestyle. Communities

have responded and there is a colorful array of meaningful engagements with the Church, with peoples in all walks of life, and with creation which we are witnessing in the uniqueness of each Carmelite college of Christ. Some of these engagements caught my attention this past year and they directly speak to the new cosmology, to a transformation of consciousness. From the extremely simple (a prayer

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– each person and all of creation –
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uttered or a word spoken) to the more involved (public liturgical ritual) they speak of the Spirit of God in our midst.

For example: We begin our weekly community meetings with a spoken prayer. Often the prayer is an invocation to the Spirit of God, acknowledging the Spirit's living presence among us and asking for Wisdom. At a recent meeting, the sister offering the prayer gave thanks for the Spirit's presence among us *and in the universe*. She voiced that what we were to do during the meeting would have its impact not only on the community and the Church and *but also* on the material world and on the entire cosmos. The prayer lit a flame of love within me.

Through the utterance of a few words the universe was in my and our consciousness. The "contemplative context" for our being in those moments was all of humankind, all of the planet earth, and all of the cosmos. God's healing power rippled through the world in the power of this prayer, in the power of this consciousness, in the Love manifest in the act of prayer. As we bring the universe–dy-

namic and constantly unfolding–into our prayer, is there not an explosion of hope and praise and awe and thanksgiving which bursts forth in abundant fruitfulness? Are we not uniting with the infinitely creating God in this simple awareness and does it not bear fruit?

Another example which caught my attention and deeply moved me was Baltimore Carmel's preparation for and celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel this past July. Those of you who receive their newsletter may well recall the images and the inspiring article describing their desire to be catalysts for stirring the imaginations and consciousness of their extended worshipping community to the needs and cries of the earth and world. The places of pilgrimage set up in the chapel where pilgrims could offer special prayer for the earth, for the universe, for animals and plants, for humankind along with the inspired description of the place of it all in Carmel's life struck a deep note within. As centers of prayer and contemplation, our Carmelite communities can be powerful witnesses of the inter-relatedness of suffering peoples and suffering earth. Our witness in and through prayer and ritual is vital today.

A third example was a simple grace prayed before an evening meal. It was a prayer of Jennie Frost Butler included in the book, **Earth Prayers From Around the World**. As each prayer was voiced, it was expanded to be more inclusive. When we prayed for peace and protection for those suffering from turmoil and unrest we also remembered endangered species. When we prayed for miracles for the sick we remembered, too, the planet earth [sick in so many areas]. When we prayed for the hungry we included all God's creatures.

Our communities can embody in a living way the interdependence of all of creation. We can, in concrete and practical ways, be "circles" of life where all – each person and all of creation – are revered and respected with an equality that acknowledges interdependence and

God's living presence in diversity. As we understand the dynamism in creation, we can be open to that same dynamic unfolding in our communities. What place does creativity have in our Carmels? Creation is constantly being made new. Are our communities images of that creative dynamism? Sr. Constance FitzGerald, in an interview published in LCWR's Occasional Papers (Summer 2006), said that her community has a "habit" of dreaming, a habit of asking "what if...?" Because they are rooted in their Carmelite identity they are also confident to dream.

Sr. Lynn Levo, CSJ is also interviewed in the LCWR Occasional Papers (Summer 2006). She said that two of her favorite questions are: "Who have we learned to be? Who are we called to be now?" Who we are called to be now is the transformative question.

I think that my favorite passage in all of John of the Cross' poetry and writing is from the Spiritual Cantic where in union with God we see all beauty as God's beauty. The new cosmology opens one vista of this truth – where God's divine and creative life is seen in all. As Religious and as Carmelites in a rapidly changing world, can we see with our "old" [traditional] mystical eyes and hearts and see, too, with our "new" [contemporary] mystical eyes and hearts as we interiorize the gifts of discovery and awareness in our times and share the fruits thereof? I believe we can and are and it is exciting. The passion for God which God has placed in our hearts is a transforming fire.

¹ Page 152, **Consecrated Religious Life: The Changing Paradigms** by Diarmuid O'Murchu. Copyright © 2005 by Claretian Publications. First published in North America by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0308. All Rights Reserved.

² Page 242, Ibid.

³ Page 243, Ibid.

⁴ Pages 243-244, Ibid.

⁵ Page 207, Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ "The Cosmos: An Astonishing Image of God." Address of June 9, 1996 to the Catholic Theological Society of America (as she concluded her term as CTSA President). Reprinted in *Origins*, Vol. 26: No. 13, September 12, 1996.

Catholic News Service web address: see reference links on main page.

Origins web address: see reference links on main page.

⁶ Page 208, Ibid.

⁷ Page 208, Ibid.

⁸ Page 208, Ibid.

⁹ Page 209, Ibid.

¹⁰ Page 209, Ibid.

Let us rejoice,
Beloved,
and let us
go forth
to behold
ourselves
in your beauty,
to the mountain
and
to the hill,
to where the
pure water flows,
and further,
deep
into the thicket.

- St. John of the Cross

CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Indianapolis, Indiana

Sr. Terese Borsig



Elections in September resulted in a second term for Jean Alice as prioress and Betty as first council Sister.

In spite of rain and wind, a new roof is being installed over the last wing of the monastery. It has meant thunderous pounding, soot, tar, and dust storms under our skylights, and an inability to use the choir for Mass or Office. However, all is progressing. The old roof is off and the new one should be installed soon if the weather cooperates.

The Indianapolis Fringe Festival brought many entertainers from far parts of the world to our city. Bijoy, an Indian folk dancer, came to the monastery to give us a private performance. We all enjoyed it very much. Bijoy explained the facial expressions of emotions portrayed in the stories choreographed and gave us a synopsis of the fables that were the subject matter of his dance.

The canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guerin was a big event for the church and particularly for us in Indiana. Jean Alice and Betty were invited to attend the formal celebration at Our Lady of the Woods in Terre Haute.

Our website continues to grow and expand. We won an honorable mention Webby this past year. Of course, none of us knew what a Webby was, but our ad agency informed us that it is quite prestigious and the competition was formidable. They now have initiated a Podcast to accompany the website. We have taped several topics: What Is Contemplative Life? Unanswered Prayers, Compassion and Politics, Isolation and Solitude. They tape for several hours and then edit the content to about 14 minutes. It has been an education since when we began, we had no idea what a podcast was!

This year we hosted an ACS cluster meeting. About fifty attended. The sub-

ject matter was one of Brian Swimme's tapes on the Powers of the Universe.

Marcie has prepared an interfaith Peace Service for the past twenty-three years. It is now incorporated into the Spirit and Peace Festival hosted by the city each year. This year there were over 250 in attendance.

As an aid to our written chronicles, we developed a pictorial history of the monastery from its founding to the present. We formatted it on a DVD so that it can be seen on our TV screen. It was a labor of love.

Winter wind has blown
Lacy patterns in the ice –
Capturing the sun.

COH

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Reno, Nevada

Sr. Patricia Kelly



Looking back on the months that have elapsed since the last CCA Newsletter is a good way to reflect on the gifts we have received and the changes that can take place quite suddenly.

Surely an example of "gift" for us are the opportunities to welcome and spend time with other members of our Carmelite family. In September Sr Joan Lundy from Elysburg was in Reno to visit her sister, Roberta. They both came to Vespers and supper one evening and we had a chance to catch up on much news. Our new dining room accommodates itself to guests and the atmosphere is very relaxing. We had a wonderful visit.

Fr. Jose Luis Ferroni from Redlands was here overnight in late October and Mother Dolores from San Rafael came for retreat and visit in November. Mother en-

joys our library and offered a lovely compliment when she observed how we organize our work and get things done efficiently. This never astounds me more than seeing how quickly we are able to clean up after a full course supper that may have had twenty or more at the table.

The day after Thanksgiving we said good bye to Sr Pauline Patterson from the Carmel of Wood Hall in England. Having been with us for a month meant we had gotten accustomed to her quiet presence and wit.



Pauline worked with Susan in the print shop and seemed to enjoy printing. Her sharing with us about the association in the UK was very insightful. We hope her experience in the States is all she hoped for.

It was a nice coincidence that our Father General: Fr Luis Arostegui



Gamboa, our Definitor General, Fr. Steve Watson, and Br. Roger Larre from Oakville came for a few days while Pauline was here. Obviously this was a major event for us. We had a delightful time with our three guests around the table, after which some of our sisters presented a prayerful musical reflection. We were aware that Fr. Luis is a poet and lover of music. A stunning Liturgy in our chapel was a climax to the day Fr. General spent at the Basque Study Center at UNR. Being Basque himself, it was a joy for him to connect with young and old members of our Reno Basque community. We had the Our Father and a closing hymn in this language. Great joy prevailed. Later in the

evening we came together for an informal conference and interchange in our community room. Truly we were impressed with the gifts and kindness our General exhibits.

For the second year Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales and two postulants from San Jose plan to visit in early Advent. "Plan to" is another way of saying "weather permitting." Though our Monastery is located at an elevation of 5000 feet, Reno itself is in a valley. Driving from Northern California means one must come over Donner Summit at an elevation of 7200 feet, a formidable task in severe winter weather. But snow may or may not fall in early December so we hope for the best!

Srs. Ann and Susan Weber's Mom, Ginny, her son, Jack, and her sister, Mary, were able to come in early October for a visit. We also anticipated Ginny's 90th birthday with a gala celebration and dinner. The whole family is fun to have and it is obvious they enjoy us too. Jack has traveled to many exotic and interesting countries and has an incredible slide show, which he was kind enough to share with us on two nights. The slide shows are more than "tourist." They are very educational. We benefited greatly. After this preliminary birthday celebration it was shocking that within a few weeks Ginny suffered a mild stroke. Fortunately she is making a good recovery, but it is hard to get her strength back.

Around this same time I went to Kentucky for my planned two-week retreat at Gethsemani. The night before I was to begin, my sister's husband became critically ill. Since my sister lives hours away in Tennessee, my retreat took another form. I was able to be with my family during this sacred time of preparing for and dealing with my brother-in-law's death. Another grace occurred when I was asked to lead the Memorial Service in the mortuary chapel since the parish church had suffered a fire and was not available for either funerals or weddings.

On November 20 we had a simple ceremony at Vespers to ritualize the be-

ginning of Sr. Mary Margaret Yascolt's three-year transfer to our community.

We also welcomed Sa Ra Lee as a postulant. We continue to welcome the visits of another woman from CA who is interested in our life.

Sr. Maria is a member of the Diocesan Seminary Advisory Board. Soon we will entertain those interested in religious life & priesthood along with Bishop Randolph Calvo and Vocations Director, Fr. Paul McCollum. This is a program in the diocese whereby individuals who are discerning have a chance to know different groups better in an informal setting. It is likewise a chance for others to get to know them better.

We had an entertaining time as a community with Sr. Fran Ferder in October. Every member of the community re-took the Myers-Briggs personality profile. We looked at the results (individually and communally) in two delightful sessions with Sr. Fran. The results for many sisters had changed from taking the same test years ago. There was a community profile (INFP) which showed the strengths and weaknesses to watch for as a group. Our very few T's and very few J's were encouraged to assert their important gifts and strengths. We were only ONE S! We found it a valuable experience and tool and recommend it to those daring and willing!



Sr. Fran Ferder

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND HOLY FACE

Elysburg, Pennsylvania

Sr. Joan Bourne



of these, you might possibly match or

First of all, our wishes for an eventful blessed 2007 to all! Many things kept us busy since our last report. One

again, get an inspiration to do something similar in your area. It is our LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) Advent Gift Giving Service. Thirteen ministers, an Anglican priest and his Bishop were gathered with us in our chapel on the first Sunday of Advent for the 15th annual Advent service.

Each year, early in November, the gender, size and age of the young children who are under the care of the Northumberland County Health and Human Services Office are given to LARC and individual area parishes to provide Christmas gifts of clothing and toys for them.

On December 3, we held as our Evening Praise a formal service of scripture readings, psalms and songs with a choir of members from the various churches who joined their clergy and many lay people to pray and sing together. The newly ordained bishop of the Anglican Harrisburg Diocese gave a homily. He was very emphatic in his approach stressing the dominant need for our culture today of family values.

More children than ever are under the care of HHW office, and so in the course of the service, a formal procession brought gifts of all sizes, shapes and wrappings which the donors placed at and around the altar—a most impressive symbol of the care and willingness to help of the Christians present within LARC.

Over the years, the local churches took to Carmel as a neutral center of prayer for all of them. They have been coming not only for this gift giving service but also for the Good Friday reading of the Passion together.

The Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sr. Anna Kalinauskas may also be an inspiration for another sister somewhere! **IN HER OWN WORDS:** “At my Silver Jubilee, I made a resolution: If I make it to the 50th, it is going to be different.

“Because I had not seen, in the interim, many of my cousins, high school and college friends, or local Duryea friends and members of St. Joseph's parish and choir, nor many of the people I met during my eighteen years as an ex-

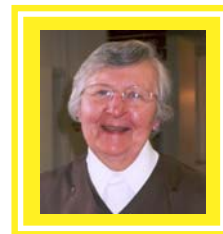
tern Sister, I invited all of them. As a result all I could do as I received them after the Jubilee Mass was to give each a hug, tell them how pleased I was to have them come and “God bless you...good-bye!” There were too many to have a private visit and they could not stay overnight.

“As my Golden Jubilee approached and this strong memory came to mind, I created a way to solve it. On the anniversary of my entrance into Carmel, I invited my mother's Polish Kulikowski family to a reunion to celebrate it. After Mass in our Chapel we went for a picnic outdoors. I met many ‘new’ cousins that I had acquired, with second and third generations added, at a catered meal with plenty of food and talk, laughs and beautiful weather.

“The following year, my Dad's Lithuanian Kalinauskas family was invited to a reunion and picnic to celebrate my Golden Anniversary of Clothing! After Mass we went to the “Lookout” for the picnic which, like the one the former year, closed with Evening Praise prayed by all present. Altogether, I have over 135 cousins including second and third generations.

“Finally, encouraged by the sisters, the Jubilee of my First Profession was a simple Mass with the sisters and the local daily participants present who had no idea of the reason for a visiting priest. I had asked Fr. Chet Snyder in his homily or remarks, “Please do not mention the reason for your being with us today,” and he, with great bravado *after* the Mass, spoke the word, ‘We're here to celebrate Sr. Anna's Jubilee and she was three years old when she entered!’ It was a joyous moment; Fr. Chet, the sisters and I had breakfast in our reception hall. It was an enjoyable visit—my celebrations are over, that is, until the 75th!”

Sr. Josephine's book on **Edith Stein, Philosopher and Mystic**, published by



Michael Glazier in 1990 and out of print for some ten years, will be brought out in an edited and expanded edition by the Scranton University Press to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of St. Edith's Beatification on May 1, 1987.

CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION
Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

Summer brought a host of new helpers and volunteers to our property, so that Srs. Tanya and Marie Elizabeth got a nice vacation from the tree-cutting job. Instead, Srs. Tanya and Shirley spent some free time refurbishing and re-clearing a sizeable path through the woods. Now there are plans for some wayside shrines along this trail.

August was given over to moving the furniture out of the rooms the elevator construction would take over and to finalizing plans for replacing the rooms we would lose. On September 1 the men arrived from the construction company that has done our buildings since we came here over 40 years ago. The dirt, confusion and noise gave us some empathy for the people who live in the war zones, and the cold we experienced from holes being made in the outside walls was good preparation for meditating on the experience of the Holy Family in the cave in Bethlehem. We were fascinated by the way the new rooms were constructed to avoid leaks to the rooms below. Pillars were inserted through the existing roof at the outside corners of the new construction and the roof to the new construction was built. After wrapping the three open sides in plastic, the existing roof was removed and the outside walls were framed.

The placement of the elevator shaft meant our bell and its cover would have to be moved. Since the bell is



now above all the rooflines it can be heard over a greater area of the neighborhood. The wife of one of the construction workers, who lives over a mile away, heard it the first time we rang it for Mass after it had been moved.

The extraordinarily warm winter has put the construction almost a month ahead of schedule, though the elevator assembly is over a month behind. We will be doing all the painting and staining ourselves, with a little help from our friends, and hope to be settled in by Easter.

In the midst of the construction we had our community retreat with Fr. Jude Peters, OCD. He shared his love of St. Bernadette and Lourdes with us in some inspiring conferences, ending with meditations on the Hail Mary.

In early October Srs. Mary Paul and Marie Elizabeth attended a vocation day at our local Catholic high school, where there are over 500 students. There were a dozen other religious groups there, and the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator said he turned away 20-25 others who wanted to come. There are plans to have several vocation days to accommodate everyone. At the end of October, Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth had a table at the large vocation fair at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. We were at a table next to Fr. Michael Berry, OCD and had the Benedictine Sisters from St. Emma in Greensburg on the other side. Across from us were the Apostles of the Sacred Heart from Clelian Heights School. There were almost 100 groups there, including the US Air Force! Some of the religious affiliated with Carmel were sending the young people to our table to get the Carmelite handouts we provided. The medals of St. Elijah proved to be very popular.

Between these two events we had an evening with a dozen young women and one young man from St Vincent College. Fr. Brian, their chaplain, and Katie, the campus minister, brought them over to clean up several trees that had been felled on the front lawn. After two hours of hard work, they enjoyed some pizza

and visiting with the community. Both groups agreed that our meeting was mutually beneficial and hope it can become a yearly event in the promotion of vocations.

October was a month of visitors. Our friend, Fr. Johannes, OSB was in this country with his Abbot, Benedikt, from the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem. They concelebrated the Eucharist and gave everyone in our chapel that morning an olive wood cross or other religious symbol to remind us to pray for their Peace Academy there, where they are promoting dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

Since we are a bit out of the way, having Carmelites visit us is a welcome and rare treat. This year we were blessed with a visit of our Father General, a first for our monastery, and a morning with some of the Sisters from St. Teresa Association. They were having their meeting at St. Emma Retreat House in Greensburg where Fr. General would be in attendance. On October 21 we welcomed Fr. General and Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD. We had a short visit in the recreation room, then council showed the Fathers the house and property. Father General is very energetic and took our outdoor area with great strides. Several times we thought he might plunge into the woods to investigate, and he made light of having to go through some swampy ground to see the cemetery. After a few memorable group photos and some encouraging words from Fr. Luis, the Fathers returned to St. Emma. At the end of their meeting, the delegates from Carmel, CA and Port Tobacco spent several hours here touring the monastery and visiting with us.

We lost all our bees over the winter of 2005 and repopulated the hives in early summer. The weather of late summer and fall was not conducive to nectar production in the flowers, so our honey harvest was meager, much to the disappointment of our clientele. Many commercial honey producers are losing large numbers of hives to some mysterious disease, according to our local newspaper that had a sizeable article on what might be killing the

honey bees in the northeast. The solution to this mystery is worthy of an important place in our prayers, as honey bees pollinate most of the crops and fruits we depend on for survival.

In spite of the construction, our Christmas celebration was as lovely as ever and we end this year with much to be thankful for. Among these are our Sisters who have so generously helped us in our need, along with our benefactors and the families around us who are dedicated to relieving our workload by their contributions of time and labor. May 2007 be grace-filled for all of us.

DOES ANYONE KNOW...

Where we might purchase more inexpensive medals of St. Elijah? What we had was a gift to us, and we think they may have come from Italy. Exploring the web has not been helpful in this area.

CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa

Sr. Miriam Hogan

In response to those who would like a little more news about topics concerning our spiritual lives, we decided in this newsletter report to share some of the things that we have been doing in the areas of **Technology and Prayer**.

Recently, a comedian reported that "Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that we should not make a 'God of Technology.' Of course, the Pope's message was being broadcast all over the world using the latest in communications equipment." So, while we try not to make technology an object of devotion, we do attempt to use it to enhance our prayer lives and to help us keep informed about what is happening in the Church.

One area in which we have found computers to be especially helpful is in preparing our daily liturgies. Over the last few months the *Creighton University*



web site: (see reference links on main page) has become a favorite resource for our daily reflections on the scriptures. The reflection, or part of the reflection, is often chosen to be used by the liturgist at our Office for Morning Prayer. One of the delights is that while the Sunday reflection is often written by one of the Jesuits, during the rest of the week the writers are usually lay men/women and single/married people that work at Creighton. In just the last few weeks there have been writings from the departments of theology, philosophy, psychology, medicine, nursing, molecular genetics, journalism and mass communication, in addition to the writings from the Center for Ignatian Spirituality. Thus, the same scripture readings that we have become very familiar with usually take on an enrichment and slightly different focus than we are used to when explored from another kind of life experience.

Another site that we have found especially helpful to use when planning our liturgies is the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* which gives the daily readings and can be easily accessed through the Creighton reflection page. Some of the monastic sites that we often refer to are: *The Monastery of Christ in the Desert* and *the Sunday Homily Reflections on the Sunday Gospels by Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B. and Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B.* Plus, we can refer to *The Center for Liturgy* (St. Louis) for help in choosing appropriate songs for Mass.

For those who appreciate art and pictures, we usually go into the *google.com* search engine and type in the feast day and hit on Images. The results can be a joy when we are trying to choose an image for our liturgy sheet and sometimes we even get referred back to an image published on our own web site!

Another area where we use technology to help us better focus on gratitude and prayer is in our use of the digital cameras. In fact, I think that photography may be especially helpful for some people in formation. It lets them focus on and appreciate/contemplate the beauty of nature where we live, and by taking pictures,

show that beauty to others. We are especially thankful to Sr. JonFe recently for

taking early morning pictures of the sun and late night



pictures of the moon, while some of us were sleeping.



Finally, concerning other news: the Eldridge community, and especially Sr. Mary Jo, thanks all of our CCA Sisters who prayed for the success of her recent heart procedures.

The Humility of Mary Sisters are back at their Center which has been repaired, though Sr. Nancy comes out on Sundays to help with the music. Sr. Susan Dreyer, O.S.B. was here for a visit and she is continuing to discern her vocation to Carmel.

CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Cleveland, Ohio

Sr. Vera Lea Virant

On November 21 Sr. Jean Marie of the Presentation celebrated not only her feast day but also the sixtieth anniversary of her profession. At the



festive meal in community the two parodies we sang reflected her lively energy and many interests. One melody was "Climb Every Mountain." The other was an old time gospel melody sung by Sister Rosemary in a humorous operatic style reminiscent of Madam Schumann-Heink. "Ere you left your room this morning" became "Ere you left your home that morning." This is Rosemary's trademark song, and she belted it out with gusto.

Have you read the new book, **Thérèse of Lisieux, God's Gentle Warrior**, by Thomas R. Nevin (Oxford University Press, 2006)? Its author is now at John Carroll University, down the road from us, and he has become a dear friend. Sr. Connie of Baltimore, quoted on the book jacket, finds his interpretation of Thérèse's dark night particularly valuable. Nevin's biography of Simone Weil was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. If it has the deep insight and beautiful prose style of his Thérèse book, one can understand why it received this honor.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, who teaches scripture at the Chicago Theological Union, gave the annual Mullen lecture at our diocesan seminary in November. The next day we were fortunate enough to have her come for lunch followed by a mini-workshop on wisdom literature. We have been blessed to have two retreats by Dianne in the past. Her feeling for and understanding of Carmelite spirituality shines.

Please don't think that we are name dropping, but we know that you would definitely want to know that the noted meteorologist, Augusta Wind, blew in to attend our Halloween party. Curious how she reminded us of our senior sister, Rosemary!

On the cold night before Thanksgiving a car broke down near our monastery, and we invited the passengers and their driver indoors while they waited for help to arrive. We felt like we were welcoming the Pilgrims because our guests were an Amish family. Their capes and dresses, they noticed, looked somewhat like the habit they saw in the photos in our showcase. With delight the family realized that we and they had much in common, all of us living a lifestyle on the margin.

"Who invented such a short Advent?" we heard a friend lament! We too felt disappointment and wondered what we could do about it. Ah! A few quiet days before the official season began helped to ready an atmosphere of peace and expectation.

Years ago a family gave us an outstandingly beautiful Steuben glass vase. Its many shaded layers of purple and blue

change with the light. Often in Advent we place it on a cloth in the center of the choir where, as we pray the Office, it reminds us of the openness and receptivity we hope to prepare in our hearts. How blessed we feel to have such an inspiring work of art!

CARMEL OF THE OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH Concord, New Hampshire Sr. Louise Marie Aylward



In preparation for the new road, Langley Parkway, which we have mentioned many times before, we

now have a new entrance driveway. The work got underway in early October and all went smoothly, more or less! During the work we had a chance to observe human behavior in a way we rarely do.



New entrance, above; old one, below.

We were astounded by people's response to signs that said "DO NOT ENTER," "NO PARKING" etc. Very often the signs were simply ignored. Barriers were tried, and often people merely moved them out of their way. In the instances when we questioned people, it was as though they had not even seen the signs or barriers!! Now that it is behind us we are able to

laugh about it, but at the time it was frustrating not only to us but to the workers as well.

While the driveway was under construction, Sr. Theresa mentioned that at Concord Hospital heated walkways were being installed to melt snow and ice, in order to avoid falls and threats of being sued. It sounded like such a good idea that we inquired and were able to install heating coils under our walkways to monastery and chapel. We will be ready if it should happen to snow again!! We have also installed a walkway amid landscaping in the area of the old driveway. It will be completed in the spring but is already an attractive addition.

The work on the Parkway itself is moving along rapidly with the assistance of the mild weather and lack of snow. Please pray for our elderly neighbors whose home is directly in the path of the road. Negotiations continue as to where the house will be relocated, but time and options are running out.

We were advised to have a tree removed,

which had been here since before the monastery was built and probably some fifty years before that. The tree was dis-



eased and posed a threat to the back of our building and the cloister walk. It was sad to see it go, but we marveled at the skill shown by the man who directed its removal. Some of the wood was used by our novice, Sr. Miryam Kathleen, who surprised us with a Christmas stable. We will treasure it because of its sentimental value.

We wish all of you a blessed, happy and healthy year.

Carmel of Our Lady of Confidence Carmel of Savannah

Sr. Teresa Margaret Brinkman



August brought many blessings in our annual community retreat. Fr. Stephen Sanchez,

OCD gave us two very full conferences each day, using the Complete Works of our Holy Mother together with Sacred Scripture and *Vita Consecrata*. Father is very gifted in explaining our Carmelite charism and these days were intense, inspiring and grace filled for us all. We finished this retreat with five more days of silence and prayer, which were needed to assimilate all the material Father had given us.



Left to right: Sr. Joann, Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Fr. Stephen Sanchez, OCD, Sr. Teresa Margaret, Sr. Carmela; front row, Blanca as postulant.

Early in November, we agreed to try a change in our choir arrangement. Whereas the benches had been continuous down the two sides of the choir, each long bench was composed of two same-size segments and a smaller seat in the middle. These parts are now arranged very nicely so that we face forward during the Mass and Divine Office, affording the sisters a more complete view of the tabernacle and altar. It is especially nice on the occasions when we have

adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the choir.

Tom Moran, a wonderful friend who is very talented, made this new lectern which matches our chapel altar.



Our postulant, Mary Wangari, arrived safely from Nairobi, Kenya on the night of December 18. She came to us via the London and Dallas-FortWorth airports to Savannah in a very long flight which was the first of her life!



Srs. Teresa Margaret, Carmela, Mary Elizabeth, Blanca Josefa, Joann and Mary.

We had made many Christmas preparations early this year in order to be ready for Mary's arrival and because of the short Advent. The tree was decorated, wreaths in place and outdoor lights graced the roof line of the chapel. The fruitcakes and Christmas bread were baked in the last days. Our dear Bishop Boland came for 9:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day and shared a brunch with the Sisters afterwards. He was very happy to meet the new Sisters! On December 31, the Feast of the Holy Family, we had Mass and dinner with Bishop Lessard. In the evening we closed the year with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during all our prayers.

Now we begin a whole new year with prayers for peace and justice throughout the world and in each person's heart. May God bless you, dear Sisters, with every grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

JOY

Sometimes
this is a bowl
but mostly
a jar.
Clear like glass.
I take it out
and look into
its very center.
Sometimes it is so full
I can hardly
lift it
without spilling some
over the top.
Other times I
bump it
then notice
there's hardly anything
at all
inside it.
Times like that
it's very silent
very still. Then
I listen.
When it is full, or
even filling,
it's making
gentle happy
sounds,
like laughter
and wind.
I keep
it somewhere
in there
with treasures and
secrets
and mysteries.
I don't think
I know of
anything
so there
when it's there
or so not there
when it isn't.

Sr. Marie Celeste Fadden

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
Baltimore, Maryland
Sr. Robin Stratton



Our annual “Festival of Learning” is a major source of on-going formation for the community. We commit an entire week to studying a topic of current interest. This year, as an outgrowth of our “Year of Prayer for the Healing of the Earth,” our lecturers were George Fisher, a geologist from Johns Hopkins University and John Haught, a theologian from Georgetown University. Dr. Fisher’s lectures highlighted God’s covenant with us in the gift of the land, lent to us and intended for the good of all peoples. We explored questions of sustainability: present needs vs those of future generations, human needs vs those of global ecosystems, and the expectations of wealthy nations vs the needs of the poor. Dr. Haught took us on a historical journey from Plato to Paul Tillich, with particular stress on Galileo and Einstein, and examined the ways science and religion relate to one another, the relatively recent estrangement between the two disciplines and the fallacy of expecting both to answer the same questions. A day was devoted to personal wellness, one to the practice of Tai Chi Cha, a discipline of gentle movements conducive to prayer, and a third to community business and the calendar for 2007.

For some time, there has been a desire among us to highlight the Feast of Saint John of the Cross, usually overshadowed by Advent liturgies and the “Celebration of Lessons and Carols.” This year we omitted “Lessons and Carols” and celebrated the vigil of Saint John of the Cross with an Advent Candlelight Prayer Service. The path to the chapel was lined with “luminaria” and the chapel glowed softly with more than 75 candles. A slide of our Christmas card was projected on the Tapestry wall with stunning results. We told the story of the Incarna-

tion with readings from the “Romances” of Our Holy Father and included either choral or congregational music between the readings. After the final reading we invited everyone to a 25-minute period of quiet personal prayer, followed by time for shared reflections. Each person was given a copy of the “Romances,” encouraged to pray with them during the remaining days of Advent and sent forth with a blessing. After the candles had been extinguished the community itself remained softly aglow with the beauty and wonder of the evening.

CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION
Beacon, New York
Sr. Marjorie Robinson



The Redemptoristine Nuns graciously extended an invitation to the Carmelites and Poor Clares to join their community for a one-day workshop on contemporary Christology given by Rev. Frank Jones, CSSR. Fr. Frank traced the historical development of Christology as well as raising questions about the human Jesus that perhaps we’ve not asked before, but which bring the Lord that much closer to us. Because of the close proximity of our contemplative monasteries, occasions such as this provide an opportunity to share resources and friendship.

On November 4 we hosted “An Afternoon on Elizabeth of the Trinity.” Srs. Carolyn and Ann gave excellent presentations on Elizabeth’s life and spirituality. Sr. Marjorie prepared a PowerPoint presentation to accompany the introduction to Sr. Carolyn’s talk. Sr. Ann’s presentation pointed out how Elizabeth of the Trinity remained intensely “at the Source” in loving union with God during her entire life, short as it was. Elizabeth knew that her mission—to prove by her experience that

the Holy Trinity dwells within the heaven of our souls—would continue after her death. The sisters’ reflections generated thoughtful questions and dialogue among the guests that filled the chapel.

Srs. Michaelene, Marita and Michael Ann attended a two-day program at Convent Station, NJ. The workshop, “Orientation for New Directors,” was sponsored by the Religious Formation Conference. The presenters were Br. Don Bisson, FMS, and Sr. Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC. Br. Don and Sr. Maryann have been giving this workshop for several years. Having known Br. Don for a number of years, the sisters knew they’d be blessed with valuable material—and their expectations were amply met!

NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference) offered a day’s workshop with Fr. Terence Moran, CSSR. Fr. Terry’s input centered on different models of discernment (other than Ignatian) and interviewing skills. Srs. Marita, Michael Ann, Michaelene and Marjorie attended the day at the Dominican Sisters Convent in Sparkill, NY.

Early in January the coordinating committee met at Beacon. It was a joy to welcome our sisters. Although we didn’t see very much of them—so hard at work were they—we enjoyed their company and sharing at meals and Liturgy. One evening at recreation Sr. Mary Margaret updated the community on all that CCA is involved in, including our upcoming meeting in Weston, MA. Such opportunities allow us to be in touch with the world of Carmel, both in our own country and internationally. We are most grateful to Mary Margaret and each member of the CC for their generous service to our association.

Our long-awaited chapel renovations began in earnest on January 2. The new roof was added in November and new skylight installed in mid-January. The stained-glass windows on the east chapel wall have been removed and will be relocated to where they will catch the afternoon sun that pours into the entrance area. In their place will be etched-glass

windows with designs of Carmelite symbols and saints. These windows will open when necessary to allow additional seating for guests. There will be new lighting, flooring, seating, a holy water font, a carved statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, a redesigned crucifix and new appointments. The target date for completion of the project is Easter. However, those with experience know how adjustable construction schedules can be!

In the meantime, we are using our recreation room for Mass and Office. The corridors are lined with portable bookshelves to hold choir books, music and hymnals from chapel. Since the chapel was not available for Sr. Mary's wake and funeral, we held her wake in our recreation room and funeral Mass at our local parish. The glow of the Christmas crib, tree, lights and poinsettias created a warm and intimate atmosphere both in the monastery and at St. Joachim's Church. Sr. Mary had a gift for decorating, which was one of her special contributions to community. Such an ambiance at her wake and funeral seemed fitting.

Our growing cloud of witnesses...



After a long and courageous battle with colon cancer, our Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Lucille Salvatore) died three minutes before midnight on New Year's Eve. How-

ever, the hospice nurse pronounced January 1 as the date of her death. Mary loved New Year's Eve and each year looked forward to spending the evening in prayer before heartily ringing in the New Year. She didn't quite make it till midnight this year, but as someone remarked: "Sr. Mary was given a better offer which she couldn't refuse." Having a feast of Our Lady as her official date of death speaks of the

gentle providence of God.

Sr. Aletha walked with Mary and supported her along the entire journey of her four-year illness, which Mary often referred to as her "dear malady." As the cancer progressed and her needs increased, Aletha provided loving, devoted care to Mary until the final moments of her life.

Thanks to all our nuns and friars for your prayers, expressions of sympathy and Masses offered for Mary. She won't forget you—nor will we.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THÉRÈSE Barrington, Rhode Island Sr. Marian Steffens

As we begin a New Year with our community patroness, Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, we are very mindful of the precious gifts of life and death. With the recent death of our dear ones, we know by experience the real pain of loss and grief. Mourning is a reality, which calls upon our deep faith in the Resurrection, giving us hope and comfort. We all thank you for the loving support of your prayer and kind words.

In November, we celebrated Blessed Elizabeth's Centenary by a special liturgy in her honor on the Sunday after her feast, so that more of our extended community would be able to attend. We displayed her books and pictures in our small book store. Sr. Eileen gave an inspiring talk at the end of Liturgy on Elizabeth's life and spirituality. It was well received by our secular order members and the local persons who joined us for this celebration. Like so many of our Carmels, we too are asking that Elizabeth be canonized during this centenary year.

The Christmas season with its wonderful celebrations and enriching liturgies



and homilies kept us aware of the powerful mystery of the Incarnation. We continue to rejoice that Jesus chose to be like us in all things save sin. Recently one of our diocesan priest celebrants spoke of the many lighthouses here on the East Coast. A lighthouse functions to guide a ship to safe waters by both its light and the sound of its "fog horn." Living here in the Ocean State (where there are 21 lighthouses!) and near to Narragansett Bay, we are quite close to Nayatt Point, which proudly boasts of having the oldest surviving keeper's dwelling in Rhode Island. Built in 1826, its 31-foot light was rebuilt in 1856 and guided mariners until 1868 when it was replaced by Conimicut Light across the channel. It has been a private dwelling for more than a 100 years. Some of our sisters from other Carmels, who made retreats here in Barrington, were able to visit this unique lighthouse. Although a few of our own sisters dislike the sound of the horns at night, there is a rich symbolism in the lighthouse, reminding us of our own call to be beacons of light for others, pointing the way to the true light.

Our newest member, Maureen Reynolds, who joined us on December 8,



just recently celebrated her 43rd birthday. Maureen has attended the intercommunity formation program at the Boston Carmel and enjoyed meeting the community there as well as the sisters from the Concord Carmel who attended these excellent lectures/classes.

This year we are looking forward to our CCA Meeting in Weston, MA and to the Carmelite Institute 2007 Conference, which will be held in Warwick RI, about 30 minutes from our monastery. Eileen will

be part of a panel at the former meeting and Vilma will be a presenter at the latter conference. These gatherings always bring special graces and the renewal of friendships. We look forward to seeing some of you, our sisters. 2007 is the official 800th anniversary of the giving of our Primitive Rule. We love hearing our Rule read at our Friday evening meal and appreciate the beauty of its simplicity and its fullness of Scripture. Perhaps most of our readers have seen the article in **Carmel in the World** (Vol. XLV, No.2) "Open Spaces in the Rule," a brief excerpt from one of the papers given in July 2005, when the INSTITUTUM CARMELITANUM held an international symposium of scholars. In the paper, Kees Waaijman, O. Carm., speaks about the Rule and how it impressed St. Teresa. Perhaps we in CCA might share through the newsletter how our Rule speaks to us today. A fitting way to celebrate our 800th anniversary?

This coming spring our Sr. Patricia will celebrate the 60th anniversary of her vows. She is delighted that the date, June 10th just happens to fall this year on Corpus Christi! Probably, if you asked her, she could relate how often this occurs and when it happened last. Patricia, now in her 87th year, has one of those unbelievable memories, besides many others gifts and talents.

May 24, 2007 marks the 50th jubilee of vows for Marian. She (I) is choosing to celebrate on the birthday of the Church, the Solemnity of Pentecost. The joke now is that we may have to have TV screens outside, as Marian's family alone might fill the chapel! If you are in the neighborhood, just stop by for a big party and a day of thanksgiving.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

ELDRIDGE CARMEL

Sr. Catherine Luth's brother, **Charles Luth**, passed away. We would like to include him and Sr. Catherine in your prayers.

SAVANNAH CARMEL

A very dear friend of our Savannah community, **Loretta Hoynes**, passed away on December 19. She was a volunteer answering the door and phone for about a quarter of a century and was a wonderful friend who could never do enough to help us. We are so grateful that we were able to have Loretta's Funeral Mass in our chapel with her relatives and friends in attendance. Please pray for Loretta who suffered from cancer that became very painful at the end.

BARRINGTON CARMEL

Sr. Genevieve's brother, **Martin Lawler**, December 1, 2006.

Sr. Mary Gehring's sister, **Dottie Yursik**, December 22, 2006.

Sr. Eileen's cousins, all three sisters, in one month. **Emily(80)**, **Jeannette(73)** and **Norma(63) Nasser**, and **George Nasser**, January 10, 2007, brother of Eileen.

Sr. Beth's mother, **Margaret Shainin**, January 12, 2007.

Sr. Anne Marie's sister-in-law, **Sandra McInnis**, January 24, 2007.

BOSTON CARMEL

Sr. Eileen Mary's father, **Charles Linden**, died on Thursday, January 4, 2007. Please remember sister's father and all the family in prayer.

*Contemplative communities
are like a beacon
shining out on the world—
bringing to light the truth
that God is in our midst,
that God is One,
that God is Love,
that God is All.*

Mary Margaret Yascolt

A gentle breeze ruffles
long soft fur of the muskrat,
puddling in the sun.

EMJ

Recipes

Great Sticky Buns

from Marie Elizabeth, Latrobe

(This recipe is of my own concocting. I have been making bread since I was 12 and go by look and feel, rather than by measurements, so I can't give exact measurements. I also work in large amounts, as you can see here.)

Dough:

1-gallon milk heated to scalding
(bubbles around edge of pot)
While heating add:
4 sticks of baking margarine
2 cups sugar
1 tsp. salt

Remove from heat and gradually add **potato flakes** until the mixture resembles a medium-heavy potato soup.
Allow to cool, or add ice cubes to where the liquid is very warm to touch.

Once the liquid is cool, add:

1 dozen eggs, beaten
5-6 packets yeast, dissolved until foamy and growing in 2 cups very warm water to which ¼ cup of sugar has been added.

Pour into a well made in about 20 lbs of flour in a large container and knead by hand until the dough is smooth and no longer sticky (or pour by batches into your favorite mixer with dough hook and add flour until the dough is no longer sticky).

Allow to rise in a warm place for about 1 ½ hours, covered by a damp cloth under a piece of plastic. Punch down and allow to rise again.

Prepare large pans with ¾ stick melted margarine, ¾ to 1 cup brown sugar, enough warm water to fill the pan to 1/8 full. Mix well and spread chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans) over bottom. Roll dough into a long strip and spread with soft margarine. Sprinkle liberally with cinnamon and roll the short way. Cut into 1"

rolls and arrange in pans. Let rise until doubled. Bake at 375 until browned on top. Turn out immediately on foil or a tray and scrape pan for remaining nuts and syrup.

Alternate topping: Prepare margarine, brown sugar and water as above. Lay slices of tart cooking apples in the sugar mixture and top with rolls. Allow to rise and bake the same as above.

This dough can also be used for raisin bread (I work the raisins in before I put it in the pans), cinnamon bread, hot-cross buns, or just plain cinnamon rolls without the sugar glaze on the bottom (I put some sugar in the center with the cinnamon and margarine before cutting.)

This amount usually provides us with rolls for the Christmas or Easter season. As a lazy cook, I like to do it once and have it done.

Thanksgiving morning –
Wild turkeys—not known for brains—
Stroll past our windows.

COH

Cranberry Salad

This delicious recipe is from
Sr. Mary Drzewiecki in Reno

*Chop (not too fine) 2 bags of
(uncooked) fresh cranberries
2 oranges—chopped and peeled
2 apples—chopped and peeled
4 stalks of celery—chopped
Orange peel—to taste
Orange extract—to taste
2 cups walnuts—chopped
2-3 cups sugar—to taste*

*Combine all of the above and
refrigerate overnight
or at least 4-6 hours*

Outside my window,
a Christmas Tree! all blue balls—
bluejays in the oak!

EMJ

One brown leaf tumbles
in whiteness with abandon.
The rest are snowed in.

- Rosemary Kluepfel

Angel Salad Dressing

This is a Korean recipe from
SaRa Lee in Reno

*This delicious dressing can be used on
any kind of salad—fruit or vegetable.
Blend all of the following ingredients
together in a blender
(adjusting amounts according to your
personal taste):*

*3 pieces of pineapple
1/3 of an apple
2/3 cup sugar
½ cup soy sauce
1 onion*

**Cut down on junk mail/
catalogues**

and save some trees.

**Two possibilities to add
to your list:**

1. Write up a short note with your name, address and the message "Please take me off your mailing list." Print out several dozen copies and pop each into an envelope along with the back page of the catalogue you want banned from your life. (The back page usually includes information such as your customer number. That number helps the merchant track down and eliminate you from its mailing lists. The back page also has the merchant's mailing address, which you'll need to address your envelope.)

2. Another, even simpler solution is to use (see reference links on main page.) For \$19.95 a year you can enter the catalogue name and your customer number and have the service take care of getting you off the lists.

We are impelled to hand on this tradition in a living way...



In Baltimore on a bright and beautiful October day, the feast of Saint Thérèse, Sr. Mary Rose of the Grace of God (Mary Fleig) made her first vows in the midst of the community and our Sunday congregation.



In Latrobe PA on November 11, Sr. Shirley Marie Ahern of the Holy Spirit and the Immaculate Heart made her profession of first vows for three years in the presence of her community, her family, five of our Benedictine Fathers and community friends. Everyone greeted her at the brunch that followed. Later the community and her family had a joyous dinner before her sister and parents started back for New Hampshire. We felt fortunate that her elderly parents were able to be here for the celebration.



In Savannah in October, our postulant Blanca became Sr. Blanca Josefa de la Sagrada Humanidad, OCD on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The ceremony was incorporated into Morning Prayer and was an occasion of peace, joy and grace for our whole community. A very dear friend of ours, Mrs. Sandee Jurgensen, prepared a wonderfully delicious and beautiful dinner in Sister's honor. Sister's radiant joy filled all our hearts with gratitude to God!



Our postulant, Mary Wangari, arrived safely from Nairobi, Kenya on the night of December 18. She came to us via the London and Dallas-FortWorth airports to Savannah in a very long flight, which was the first of her life! Of course, her first days were filled with much rest and sleep. Happily, Mary was well recovered for the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas. We all enjoyed a very joyous and merry Christmas with all three of our new sisters!