



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 30, Issue 2, MAY 2008



FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Wednesday of the Octave of Easter our sisters began their journey to Germany. Sisters Carolyn and Colette represented CCA at the German Federation Meeting held at Edith-Stein-Haus in Weisendorf from March 31 to April 4. Sister Monika accompanied them as translator and expert guide. Carolyn and Colette gave a report outlining the history of CCA, our long-standing international connections, present areas of concern for CCA and future planning, including our 2009 meeting at Precious Blood Spiritual Center. During their trav-

els they had the opportunity to visit and experience the warm and gracious hospitality of several Carmelite communities as well as doing some sightseeing. It was a wonderful occasion to renew old friendships and forge stronger bonds of unity within the Carmelite family.

The front-page story in the **Indianapolis Star** on April 7, 2008 alerted readers of the relocation of the Carmel of the Resurrection. Robert King lauded the sisters and called the monastery a "citadel of the spirit" and "a fortress of prayer from which they have prayed for the world and their neighbors on Cold Spring Road." We are very conscious of our sisters and pray for them during this time of transition as they move to Oldenburg in southeastern Indiana on the property of the Sisters of St. Francis during the summer months. Their keen world vision, vibrant spirit and prayer-filled witness will continue on in this new phase of their lives.

May is not only replete with springtime flowers but also meetings are scattered throughout the country. On May 18 Sr. Carolyn will head for Mundelein, IL to participate in a day of dialogue and discussion as part of the 2008 Provincial Chapter of the Washington Province.

Sisters Susan Weber and Claire Sokol will be attending part of the California-Arizona Provincial Chapter on May 20-21, held in Redlands, CA. We are grateful for the opportunity to once again share and give input to our brothers as they deliberate and set goals for the future. We also will remember in our prayer our sisters of the Association of Mary, Queen of Carmel as they gather for their Assembly on May 19-26.

The Intra-Carmelite Formation Program will be held at Whitefriars in Washington, DC on August 7-10. We appreciate the hard work of Sr. Marie-Louise Bishop and Fr. Ray Maher in developing this year's program for our sisters and brothers in formation.

May the Spirit of God direct our actions and continue to guide us as we live out our days in quiet joy and peace.

Gratefully,

Maria

Sr. Maria Viatori, OCD

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



During the last week of January, we gathered as a community for a remote preparation for our elections. Fr. Salvatore Scieurba, OCD, Provincial Delegate for the Nuns of the Washington Province, facilitated the general sessions of our visitation and each sister had opportunity to reflect with him. Every three years we have this mutual assessment and it is always a blessing to receive feedback and encouragement. With the adjustment in the liturgical calendar, our election date was March 15, Solemnity of St. Joseph. Sr. Sue was re-elected for another triennium and we are presently awaiting new job assignments.

In February, we welcomed a group of Spanish-speaking women from Providence for a day of recollection here in our chapel. Fr. Raymond Tetreault, one of the inner-city pastors, had suggested this as a possible source of new vocations, as well as the opportunity to share our charism of prayer with these women who are interested in learning more about prayer and the contemplative life. The day started with our community Eucharist and ended in early afternoon. Pick-up breakfast and lunch were provided and there was opportunity for the women to pray in the chapel. We had Noon Prayer together in the chapel. During the morning and afternoon, Vilma and Roseann shared reflections on our life of prayer. Fr. Ray translated their words into Spanish. About 30 women came to the day. Some requested that we do this again, for more had wanted to attend.

We sent out an update letter on our capital campaign to our friends and benefactors and included some pictures of our recent work of renovation. We now have an eighth building on the property in ad-

dition to our two hermitages and five sheds. The next project is the renovation of our infirmary rooms.

Our Sister Eileen had the opportunity to visit her beloved Bethlehem after ten years in our country. Sister Roseann was invited to accompany her. Roseann has returned and continues to relate some of the highlights of this blessed visit, and we have a delightful picture of her on a camel! We look forward to Eileen coming back on the Feast of the Ascension,



just in time for our traditional novena in preparation for Pentecost.

Sr. Vilma has already participated in the diocesan celebration for this year's jubilarians. Vilma will be 60 years professed on August 22, 2008. Vilma has been invited to Scotland to give talks to the newly merged communities of Glasgow and Kirkintilloch. They have recently built a new monastery and are welcoming the opportunity for new beginnings. Vilma will leave for Scotland on May 12.

Our live-in, Deborah, who has been with us since March 19 has filled in graciously in so many ways, cleaning, gardening and cooking her first meal just last week. We hosted the intercommunity formation class on April 3. Fr. Thomas McCreesh, OP a scripture professor at Providence College, shared his insight of biblical themes with our community and those who joined us from Boston Carmel. Fr. Bonaventure Lussier, OCD from the Brighton monastery, came with their new postulant, Fred.

Periodically, I receive an order for the

reprinted volume of **Carmel in America**.

As you know, the text and updated charts of the U.S. foundations are now available on the CCA web pages. Sometime last fall I received an email order from a professor at Pitts Theology Library in Atlanta, GA. It was from Denise Hanusek, PhD. Many of you will remember Denise, a former member of our Cleveland Carmel. We, here in Barrington, still sing her musical composition of Psalm 89, "The Mercies of the Lord." Denise has received a grant and is presently working on a project to educate others on contemplation and the growth of Carmel in the United States. This summer she hopes to visit Carmels and conduct interviews. These will be videotaped. She hopes to convey to a wider public how the experience of Carmelites and their prayer apostolate touches us and our world. (Denise can be reached at 2001 Brian Way, Decatur, GA 30033-3818.) Her project and its possible effects on the vocation is-

sue came back to me again when our community viewed the DVD **Into Great Silence**, a film by Philip Groning. It is now on the big screen as well. A powerful depiction of life inside a famed Carthusian Monastery. As we have received an invitation from a journalist at the Providence Journal for a film-making project on our life in Carmel, we are confirmed in our belief that the contemplative life is of great interest, and persons growing in transformed consciousness are seeking a deeper spirituality.

WE ASK PRAYER FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS:

WARREN YURSICK brother in-law of Mary Gehring

MARIAN METZLER sister of Roseann, who went home to God on March 2nd

PAUL SEELAUS cousin of Vilma

CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Cleveland, Ohio
Sr. Vera Lea Virant, OCD

Spring brings the wonder of new life. New life comes for us in the person of Patricia Amrhein, who enters in early May. The weeks she spent with us earlier makes us eager to welcome her. Pat is a gifted writer, so I'll ask if she will share something of herself in the next newsletter.



For our Easter Vigil, Maria Viatori prepared a stunning PowerPoint presentation which she showed during the Genesis creation reading. Ninety images, projected onto a large white upper wall of our chapel, portrayed both magnificent and intimate views of our earth and the universe. This was a surprise to most of us from our creative choir coordinator.

Fr. Howard Gray, SJ presided during our Triduum and on Easter Sunday. You'll know how highly (and deeply) we think of him when I say that he's given us three retreats ("no more," he warns us). He's off to a new assignment now. From John Carroll University, less than two miles from us (a great blessing!), he goes to Georgetown.

Still in town is Judy Cannato, author of **Radical Amazement**. Her summary of the Creation Story began 13.7 billion years ago and carried us (at the speed of light?) to the present. Did the psalmist who wrote, "I see the wonders of your heaven," have any idea...?

*Isn't a tree
 full of flowers
 a vision
 from a fairy tale?*

The Catholic chaplain at Case Western Reserve University (three miles in the opposite direction of JCU) asked Mary Lavin if she could offer individual direc-

tion to a few students in a "Busy People's Retreat." She was able to work it into our schedule and was very impressed with the depth and desires of those who made time for learning on another level in their lives.

A group of women from a parish quite a ways from us came for an hour or so to learn something about Carmel. When we receive requests of this kind, usually one or two sisters volunteer. We are really grateful for their interest and eager to share a bit of our rich tradition. The notes we receive afterwards give evidence of the deep hunger that a taste of Carmel's contemplative spirit both touches and tantalizes.

Isn't a tree full of flowers a vision from a fairy tale? Happy spring and glorious summer!

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH
Boston, Massachusetts
Sr. Mary Clare Doherty, OCD



We share the sorrow of our sisters in Concord at the death of Sr. THOMAS AQUINAS. We will miss her *very* much and can imagine somewhat how they will miss her. We are counting on your help, Thomas.

JUDY LEWIS was received into the novitiate on Laetare Sunday and is now known as Sr. ELIZABETH THERESE OF THE BLESSED TRINITY. It was an event that has made us both grateful and very happy.

Sr. EILEEN MARY would be grateful for your prayers. She has been in and out of hospitals and rehab since April 2 when she went to have arthroscopy on a cyst behind her knee. She has been plagued

by the occurrence and reoccurrence of blood clots, swelling, and a great deal of pain since. At present she does not have the feeling back in her foot.

We were pleased to have Normagene come up with us for her retreat. Our hermitage has been completed and put to use since. We are not using it overnight, though it does have heat and all the necessary amenities.

As the friars in Brighton have received a new postulant, our ICFP also has a new member. We happily welcomed Andrew to the program. The presenters thus far have been: Tom Stegman, SJ from the Theological Union, with a day on the lenten gospels; Bonaventure, OCD from Brighton, with two days on The Rule; Tim Gallagher, OVM on discernment; and Thomas McCreesh, OP from Providence College, spoke to us at the Barrington Carmel. He took the scripture themes of the "way" and the "meal," with a focus on Proverbs.

A Cape Verdean woman from our area, who has lost two sons and three nephews to violence, came to the monastery to share something of her struggles and hopes. She is a woman of deep faith and a wonderful Christian witness, working tirelessly for peace in the neighborhood. In recognition of her contribution, Boston College granted her an honorary doctorate. As it is the year of St. Paul, we decided to share on the Epistle to the Ephesians during the Sunday evenings of lent. We are continuing our "one-on-one" conversations during Sunday lunch, and theological reflection on a weekly basis (almost weekly).

*Footprints in the sand,
 you are blessing in this hour
 for unsure hiker.*

-Rosemary Kluepfel

**CARMEL OF THE OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH
Concord, New Hampshire
Hilary Case, OCD**



As the death of Sr. Thomas Aquinas is a major spiritual milestone for our community,

we will share our experience of her passing in depth and report other events comparatively briefly.

**THE DEATH OF SR. THOMAS AQUINAS OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, OCD**



Sr. Thomas's struggle with a pneumonia brought on by pseudomonas began during Holy Week 2007. At that time she came close to dying in Concord Hospital. Yet her will to live was stronger than the disease, and she was able to move to the Pleasant View Rehabilitation Center, receive therapy, and return home last June. We are most grateful for the last six months she was with us—keeping the books, writing much of our correspondence, and gracing us with her presence. Nevertheless, in December, back in Pleasant View, Sr. Thomas again contracted pneumonia. Through the winter we saw her deteriorate, even as we saw flashes of her old spirit: "I'm not dead yet, you know," she once said. The Lord was work-

ing in her, though, gently bringing her to peace with her life and her imminent death. "I am full of Him, and I only want to be alone with him," she told us. On March 5 Sr. Thomas's condition worsened and the community gathered around her for support and prayer. Although she was losing the power of speech, she said individual goodbyes to each one of us. All of us remember her reaching out with the energy of her whole life of love. She was surely the Lord's good friend.

The following day, March 6, surrounded by the community and by a few other sisters and friends, Sr. Thomas died at 11:15 a.m. We held her viewing hours on March 12, her funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Paul Fohlin, OCD on March 13, with Fr. Michael Sevigny, OFM Cap as homilist. We feel that Sr. Thomas delighted in the many priests who concelebrated and the many friends who attended the Mass. We give special thanks to all our Carmelite sisters who visited us or sent consoling cards, prayers, Masses, and enrollments. We could see the Lord's ways, bringing new life in our relationships, even as we mourned Sr. Thomas's death. Alleluia!

VOCATION NEWS

The diocesan Sisters' Vocation Committee holds "Naomi Meals" monthly for women who are interested in religious life. Now the Naomi Meals travel as "meals on wheels" to college campuses in southern New England. First they went to Boston College, where Sr. Louise, our vocation director, talked with three women in their 20s who were excited about learning more about contemplative life.

Trudy Bantle, Outreach Coordinator for the Concord District of Catholic Charities, presented "Protecting God's Children," a course that brought us up to date on sexual abuse. Anyone who works with youth discerning a vocation must take this course, and we found it most valuable. We hope she will return to give us her presentation on Social Justice.

Margo Healy, a teacher's aide in Gilford, NH has returned home after living with us for three months. She gained

a better idea of our life and will continue to discern her path, joining us when she can for our monthly *lectio*. We miss her and wish her well, both with her summer mowing business and her discernment.

SECULAR ORDER AND GUILD NEWS

On Saturday, February 9, the Secular Order received Celeste Lussier of Hopkinton, NH as a novice at Mass in our chapel. At the same Mass, Nancy DeCesare of Newport, NH professed her temporary vows. Fr. Sal Sciurba, OCD presided and preached a homily reminding us to grow in our own consecration. After Mass the sisters joined the Secular Order for a festive and happy lunch of assorted salads, sandwiches, and desserts.

The Carmelite Guild joined us for Mass and homemade bread on April 27. Our celebrant, Fr. Paskey, SJ took Pope Benedict's reflections to priests and seminarians as the basis for his own reflections.

INITIAL AND ONGOING FORMATION

HILARY CASE entered the novitiate on January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. She continues her journey as **SR. HILARY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, joining **SR. KATHLEEN MONAHAN** in the novitiate.

We will soon resume our study of Sandra Schneiders's course on the Conversion of the Imagination, interrupted by Holy Week and Easter. She is an inspiring teacher, and we look forward to reflecting on what she has to say.

This has been a winter of snow! At the last official tally, Concord received 119 inches of it, not counting all the slush that fell toward the end. The health of our bulbs that emerged as the snow melted are a wonderful symbol of the Resurrection and the mystery of Carmelite life—old, yet ever new as we continue to grow toward union with Christ. We wish you all the blessings of the season and a great summer.

CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug, OCD

Loving greetings from the foothills of the Laurel Highlands where Easter ushered in a glorious spring. Our trees seem like they will break under the extravagance of blossoms.



The deacons and seminarians from St. Vincent led our Friday Stations of the Cross during lent. It is wonderful to hear the Passion of our Lord proclaimed in this way in many different accents, Polish and Haitian being two of them this year. This four o'clock service is well attended, with a surprising number of youngsters under 20.

We were praying Office of Readings together in choir on March 13 when a loud explosion rocked the chapel, shaking the windows and rattling our chairs. There was a strange five-minute silence in the neighborhood, making us think that it was a planned explosion and we were not notified. Then the siren of one of the five fire companies sounded for a short while. A phone call to one of our neighbors with an emergency scanner put the explosion at the steel mill, in the valley across the creek from us, where we could see a few fire trucks there from our recreation room windows. We later found out that someone emptying the slag from a melting furnace dropped a few lumps of molten slag into some water, causing it to explode and blow a hole through the roof. Latrobe Steel is one of the few operating steel mills in our area. They are building a new, large melting shop closer to the creek and to us. While they produce "white noise" occasionally, they are fairly good neighbors and provide work for many in our neighborhood. We are hoping they don't have any more accidents that produce explosions, as we were quite concerned over this last one.

On April 2 we celebrated Sr. Mary's 50th birthday with a special dinner and some entertainment. Since Sr. Mary told

us that she never went to pre-school, we decided to give her a taste of that important rite of passage. Srs. Shirley, Ellen Jane, Mary Paul and Marie Elizabeth became little Sam, Ellie, Paul and Lizzy, the pre-school pupils. Sr. Theodora was an excellent teacher as the quartet sang, mimed and danced to some kindergarten songs on CD, to the amusement of everyone. Sr. Mary was presented with a certificate of graduation at the end of the entertainment so that her education would be complete.

After many years of being discouraged in having a vegetable garden, we are trying again to establish a place near our berry bushes. The raccoons and woodchucks on the property have made it impossible to have anything come to maturity in a garden. This year we are burying the bottom of the fence to discourage them from tunneling under it and are thinking of ways to keep the raccoons out. The woodchucks here don't hesitate to climb our small fruit trees to eat the immature fruit, something many experienced gardeners never heard of. The constantly rising price of food and the deaths of many of our benefactors who would share their garden produce with us make the garden a necessity. The success we have had with the berry bushes being fenced and netted has been encouraging.

While we don't get any television channel that covered the visit of our Holy Father, we were able to view some of the events on the web via computer. Sr. Ann Marya was able to get to the computer room via the elevator on her electric cart and watch the various events. Those who weren't able to watch got a full report at recreation.

VOCATION PROMOTIONS

This past school year had little by way of opportunities for vocation promotions, but the second week of April was laden with vocation events. On Tuesday of that week, Sr. Marie Elizabeth spoke with four young women about Carmelite Life as they ate their evening meal in one of the dining rooms at St. Vincent College.

The women are part of a group that call themselves "Daughters of Jerusalem" and meet to discuss spirituality and prayer once a week during an evening meal.

On Thursday, Fr. Nathan Munsch, OSB brought his class of 20 young men and women to our Chapel for a talk on the historical aspects of contemplative life and Carmel in particular. This class had been visiting the other religious houses in the area and were full of questions about the difference between our lives and that of the Benedictine Sisters who run the retreat center in Greensburg. Those who didn't have to leave for other classes at St. Vincent stayed for Evening Prayer with us.

Sunday, April 13, was the 45th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. St. Vincent Archabbey sponsored an afternoon of worship for the young people in the area featuring the musical group 2097, which takes its "number name" from that article in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Religious groups in the area were invited to set up a display and information table in the back of the auditorium. Srs. TANYA AND MARIE ELIZABETH took on the event and spent from 12:30 to 6:30 inviting those attending to take information on Carmelite Life for both friars and nuns. The event itself began at 3:00 p.m. and, as at all musical events for young people, the music was LOUD. Sr. Marie Elizabeth brought a box of earplugs and gained instant popularity with the other religious that had displays there. About 200 people of all ages attended, and at one point, a little four-or-five-year-old girl proceeded to dance for the Lord near our table, with her index fingers in her ears and waving her elbows in time with the music. After some hymns and songs that were impressive in their lyrics, if the music was hard to appreciate, one of the musicians began to speak of the three young men who recognized that the idol of Nebuchadnezzar was not a real god and refused to worship it. He then spoke of how we have God really present in the Eucharist and is enthroned for adoration in the monstrance. At that point, one of

the Benedictine Fathers came slowly up the aisle carrying the monstrance, placing it on a small altar prepared in front of the stage. Everyone knelt for adoration and praise; the musicians played their guitars while kneeling. Father then invited all the people to come up around the altar, so those in the bleachers and those in chairs on the main floor gathered around and sang. Some of the young people prostrated before the Eucharist. After about half an hour of adoration, Father solemnly processed out carrying the monastrance. The group sang three or four more songs before dispersing. While an event of this type is tiring because of the noise, the contact with so many young people interested in their faith and sincerely seeking for God is ample reward for our efforts. Hopefully, some of these fervent people will recognize the call to become Carmelites.

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania Sr. Joan Bourne, OCD



This is a brief report on our life at Maria Hall in Danville. We have been graciously wel-

comed by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, as well as by the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de Ricci from Elkins Park, Philadelphia. The Dominicans came here six months before we even knew they too would reside here. We arrived the first part of February of this year.

The three communities share the same Eucharistic table and the same dining room. We live in private rooms on the second floor of Maria Hall. We have created a community room at the north end of the second floor where we can have our recreation and meetings. Midway down the hall, there is a loft above the

Chapel which we have made into the Choir where we gather for Office and prayer throughout the day.

On March 14, we had our community elections. SR. JOAN LUNDY WAS ELECTED Prioress. SRS. JOAN BOURE, ANGELA PIKUS AND THERESE DUGRE WERE ELECTED COUNCILORS.

The SSCM community also has St. Cyril Spiritual Center at the Motherhouse where preached retreats, prayer days and directed retreats are offered every month. Some of our sisters have opted to take advantage of this "ongoing formation" and input.

In February, Joan and Joan+ went to the Center for a lenten reflection day. In Holy Week Sr. Anna walked over every day for the preached retreat, "God's Mountain and My Mountain: Journey Toward Holiness," by Fr. John Kemper, SS.

In April there was a Jubilee Day for all jubilarians of 40, 50, 60, and 70 years. The celebration started with Mass during which each group of SSCMs, Dominicans, and Carmelites renewed their vows. Throughout the day there were festive meals and congratulations. This was possibly a first for our three communities. OUR SR. MARGARET CELEBRATED HER 60TH ANNIVERSARY AND SR. REGINA HER 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

During the months preceding our move to Maria Hall in Danville, we had three-day sessions processed by Sr. Sherryl White, CSJ, PhD of Pittsburgh, psychologist and process person, in February, 2006 followed by one in September of 2006 and a third in February, 2007, followed by our decision-making session in August, 2007. Sr. Sherryl enabled us to discern our new direction in this time of transition. These were intense and sometimes painful deliberations.

Interwoven during these months were our visits to the bishop's representative, our vicar for religious in Harrisburg, as well as visits to the monastery by buildings and property staff and a realtor about property (evaluation, possible uses for it, appraisal, etc.).

We also were in consultation with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Nature Conservancy. The desire to preserve our wooded areas, pond and wetlands and to prevent any development of housing projects near the monastery is our aim.

There are still some loose ends to pull together before the whole transaction will be completed.

We do feel the prayerful support of all you, our CCA sisters. Many thanks to each and all of you.

Our new Address is:

1 Maria Hall Drive
Danville PA 17821-1237

Phone: 570-275-4682
Fax: 570-275-4684

Our location is north of Elysburg and three miles south of I-80, Danville exit.

*Clouds. Cool, clear breezes.
Green growth to tickle your toes.
Walk and be healed.*

—Rosemary Kluepfel

CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Indianapolis, Indiana

Sr. Jean Alice McGoff, OCD

I ended our January contribution to this newsletter with our community's "yes" to all that 2008 would bring, not imagining that it would bring our last months in this beautiful monastery. Our archbishop, knowing that we had decided to move from here in the not-too-distant future, offered in January to buy the building for a seminary. The archdiocese has a large number of candidates for the priesthood who are completing their college education at Marian College, a mile down the road from us. It was our great hope that the monastery would continue to be a religious facility after we were gone, so there was much joy in this news, mixed with the shock of imminent loss.

We had decided months before to relocate eventually to the campus of the Franciscan Sisters in Oldenburg, IN (55 miles from Indianapolis). Now we are going back and forth to plan and to guide the needed renovations. Our foundress designed small windows for our cells and high enough to require standing to see out, so we are delighting in the large windows of our new home. Our Lady of Mount Carmel will reign on the first floor and Our Lady of Smiles will reign on the second floor. We will also have a "Lady of the Library" in the beautiful turn barrel that we removed from our sacristy about 1970!

We are sending our present supply of "The Companion to the Breviary" and other books to the Reno Carmel who will take over this business. We are ending our distribution of altar breads and will not continue our website or newsletter. Our secular order will have their last meeting here in June. There are many endings in our new



beginning. We will live our life in Oldenburg as we have lived it here and join the Franciscans for liturgy.

This is a good place to thank so many of you who have sent notes of prayer and empathy. I often refer to the wonderful support of friends and the grace of God that we have experienced as "eagles' wings."



Theresa Hall, Oldenburg, Indiana

CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York

Sr. Rita Donahue, OCD



Our new front entrance is now completed. The Carmelite Monastery sign, however, is not new

but dates back to 1920 when it hung on the newly founded monastery on Gunhill Road in the Bronx. It eventually went to Saranac Lake when that Carmel was founded in 1952. It had been kept in storage since our union in 2000, and now, attractively refinished, it suits our new en-



Sister Aletha, welcomes you to the new reception area.

trance perfectly, to our delight.

Visitors are now received into the new foyer, which has an entrance directly into the visiting room as well as one into the monastery proper, depending on the nature of the visit.

The statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel arrived on February 18, quite inconspicuously. Delivered by UPS, as are many packages, and laid lengthwise on the floor, only later were both the return



Sisters Marjorie and Josephine as we open the box containing the new statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of Beacon.

address "Italy" and the shape of the package noticed, with the realization that Our Lady had finally arrived! She now stands in her niche, giving the finishing touch to our renovated chapel. The statue is a Lindenwood sculpture with monotone finish done by the Italian sculptor Roman Stuffer of the Demetz Art Studio.

We continue to use the input of Sandra Scheneiders, IHM from the CCA meeting of last May for our study days. We usually listen to the tape in the morning, then have discussion in the afternoon. An especially animated discussion sprang from her presentation on violence, its prevalence in our world today, and its relationship to our God image.

Sisters Carolyn and Marjorie attended the meeting of the Carmelite Institute held in Washington, DC on March 8 and 9. Carolyn is a member of the Board

of Directors as Coordinator of CCA. Marjorie represented the OCD nuns as a member of the Executive Board. She also accepted to serve as secretary of the Institute for this term.

Stem Cell Research was the topic of a presentation given to us by Sr. Colette Mahoney, RSHM on March 12. Dr. Mahoney is a past President of Marymount Manhattan College in New York

In response to an invitation to the CCA leadership team to attend the meeting of the German Federation, Sisters Carolyn and Colette traveled to Germany on March 26 accompanied by Sr. Monika from Baltimore Carmel. Prior to the meeting, they stayed at Welden Carmel where Sr. Stephanie, who organized their trip, is prioress. Stephanie has attended two of our past CCA meetings where the bond of friendship was formed. One day they visited Dachau Carmel and the camp with Stephanie, and the next day visited Rödelmaier Carmel. The federation meeting was held March 31 to April 4. Sr. Monika was an excellent translator and overall help at the meeting. After the meeting the sisters visited the Carmels of Kirchgarten, Aachen, and Cologne. The time at Aachen included a trip to Louvain, Belgium, where Carolyn had studied before entering Carmel. After Cologne Colette and Monika went to Berlin and Carolyn went to visit Würzburg Carmel. Carolyn arrived home on April 11, tired but grateful for her trip and invigorated by the many and varied events of the experience. She said they received a very warm reception from all the sisters in Germany. She and Colette invited Sr. Hildegard, Federation president, to attend our next CCA Meeting.

Two consultants from the National Religious Retirement Office, Catherine Keevey and Sr. Hertha Longo, CSA were with us for two days in April for an Elder Care Consultation.

They met with the prioress and council, and individually with caregivers and with each sister who is receiving assistance or care. They also met with the nurse from the Elant Long-Term Home Health

Care Program who has been coming for different sisters for almost two years. Before leaving they met with the entire community to present their observations and recommendations. Our task now is to consider their recommendations.

SR. ANN LAFOREST had a knee replacement surgery on March 25 at Vassar Hospital. An allergic reaction caused her to be rushed from Wingate Nursing Home, where she had gone for rehab, to St. Luke's Emergency Department one night. After a few days' hospitalization, she then went to Helen Hayes Hospital for rehab. Following her marathon through this medical maze, we are happy that Ann is now home, continuing her recovery

Six of our community attended two of the papal Masses during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to New York in April. Sisters Marjorie, Gertrude, Michaelene and Rita attended the Mass for religious, priests and deacons at St. Patrick's Cathedral on April 19. Sisters Mary Theresa and Aletha attended the Mass at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, April 20. Each day was a memorable experience for the sisters who attended. We all watched some or all the TV coverage of the Pope's entire apostolic journey from his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base to his departure from Kennedy Airport. His agility was striking. His spirit and various messages at each event were spiritually nourishing and inspiring.

The Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities (MACC) sponsored a day on "The Spirituality of Aging" by Brother Don Bisson, FMS on April 23. He presented aging as a natural call to deepening our conversion of life. Don presented qualities needed to become fully human. He included the spirituality of limits and the need for humor and compassion in our communities. Those of us who attended found his presentation practical, down to earth, informative, and nuanced with sparks of hope and challenges to newness and energetic living into the future.



Sr. Josephine of the Incarnation, OCD

At this writing we are just beginning our adjustment to the loss of our dear Sr. Josephine Nolan. "Josie" loved community and could always be found doing one or another charitable or practical service. She was obviously failing in recent months and on April 11 was admitted to the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh. A one-story, home-like structure that accommodates eleven patients, it is only twenty minutes away from us. We were back and forth each day as Josie grew weaker, her severe pain managed by medication. She was aware of the Pope's expected visit. On April 16 when told "the Pope is here," she asked "What room is he in?" On Tuesday, April 22, a few sisters having recently left her, two hospice nurses were with her as she went peacefully to God at 6:20 p.m. Perhaps her essence is best captured by the slogan on a cup once given to her, which reads *VIP: Very Irish Person*. We greatly miss her presence among us even as we rejoice at her new presence to our Risen Lord.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS Reno, Nevada

Sr. Rosalind Bliss Forrest, OCD

Greetings from Rocking and Rolling Reno where seismologists at our local



university, UNR, are busy analyzing all the data from “swarms” of earthquakes that have been occurring less than four miles from us since the end of February. Most we did not notice until Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ arrived to give us three days of input on the theme of resurrection to begin our Pentecost retreat. As our second session ended, we reflected on how God IS at work in us now, transforming us, indeed transforming the earth. Then at 11:40 p.m. we experienced the awesome power of God’s creation as it roared and then moved beneath us: first a 3.4 and then seconds later a 4.7 earthquake. In a 24-hour period there were well over 100 measurable tremors. Most of us are pretty calm now about these “swarms” as unusual as they are. Thus far we have had no damage. And, we are prayerfully aware that many in the area of the epicenter are living with frayed nerves. Damages there are mounting daily (we had a 4.2 this morning, April 28). In the silence of our continuing retreat we have much to ponder.

NEWS

1. Building bonds: in the next several months two of our sisters will be going to help a Carmel in another association so that their delegates will be able to attend their association meeting and so others of their sisters can participate in the July formation program in Wichita. Our ongoing West Coast Gathering has definitely fostered increasing mutual respect, trust and a spirit of cooperation. What a gift!

2. We have been talking about ways to introduce younger women to our com-

munity, to share our contemplative life and to exchange ideas with young adults. On a recent Sunday afternoon about ten young women from the Newman Center at UNR joined us for prayer in our chapel, a brief tour of the monastery, informal sharing in our community room and refreshments. (As the Newman pastoral associate told us, “College students are always hungry.”) It was a mutually enriching experience. Now the challenge: what is our next step?

3. On the Friday before Pentecost we will



Our print shop tour for the UNR students. Our sister, Maria Ahearn, is in the foreground.

welcome our bishop, two of our diocesan priests, possibly one or two diocesan seminarians and several young men who are in our diocesan discernment group. They will join us for Evening Prayer and dinner. Then the men will gather in our guest area living room for their own sharing. This is the second year we have participated in this specific way of supporting vocations for the priesthood and have found it a wonderful way to get to know these men and to share our contemplative vision as well.

4. Creative ways of welcoming new members: Julia Abdala continues a discerning process with us. Although we voted to accept her as a postulant, circumstances in her life have precluded her from entering yet. She and Sa Ra, our novice, were in a discernment group together in the San Francisco Bay area several years ago. Last October Julia moved to Reno, at our suggestion, so that she could participate as much as possible in our life. At a recent gathering of priests and sisters, Julia described herself as a “pre-postulant.” She prays with us; participates in our theological reflections, in retreat conferences, in formation classes; eats with us; shares in cooking and other work throughout the monastery.



Our sisters with “Lyn” Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ. Sa Ra is standing far left and Julia is kneeling on the floor just below. Sa Ra painted the pictures in background. Of course Cinder had to be the center of “her pack.”

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
Baltimore, Maryland
Sr. Monika Bies, OCD



Participation in the Meeting of the German Federation of Discalced Carmelite Nuns

As CCA leadership team members, Sister Colette and Sister Carolyn were able to accept an invitation by the German Federation of Discalced Carmelite Nuns to attend their meeting in April. Sister Monika had the privilege of going with them to help with translations.

The warm welcome and the attentiveness shown by the different sisters we encountered touched us deeply. Everybody went out of their way to make us feel “at home,” and even language barriers seemed to tumble down. The well-used term “Carmelite family” surely felt appropriate!

Listening to the stories of the individual nuns and getting acquainted with the history of each Carmel was very touching. Deeply moving also were the accounts of witnesses of the liberation by the American soldiers at the end of WWII. The older nuns were eager to share these stories with us. Just one example: we were told in the Carmel in Welden, Bavaria, that one of their sisters was hanging her white veil on the church tower, so called “Theklaturm,” as a sign of peace and joy when she found out that the Americans were approaching their town. As a historical side note, the Carmel in Welden was housing at the time the Carmelite Sisters of Cologne who had been bombed out. As a group of older sisters had already been in Welden, they knew of the arrest of Sr. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) first hand.

Within this context we also deeply appreciated the conversation and the ex-



Refectory of Carmel in Dachau

change we had with the Carmelite Sisters of Dachau and Berlin. They experience their geographical proximity to the concentration camp and the Plötzensee Prison as a mission to keep alive the memory of those who died there. And at the same time, as it says in the brochure of the Carmel in Berlin, “to become sensitive for today’s injustices.” Both communities encounter in their very specific mission and calling peoples from all walks of life and welcome them for prayer.

It struck us too how similar joys and sorrows are within the federation “on the other side” of the ocean. A few German Carmels had quite a number of younger sisters; others had small communities and one community is planning their move to a healthcare facility next year. As a result

a main part of the input during the federation meeting in Weisendorf was built around the whole issue of the lack of time for prayer. The major talk entitled *The Last One Turns the Light On?* was given by Dr. Rosemarie Nürnberg, who is working with religious women in the Archdiocese of Cologne. It is the name of a study published by a German sister, Sr. Katharina Kluitmann, OSF on her research of motives for sisters leaving apostolic religious orders. (This catch phrase is a word play on the quote “The last one who leaves turns the light **Off!**” a sentence that was used ironically after the wall came down in Germany and people were leav-



Meeting in Weisendorf



Kirchgarten

ing the East to move towards the Western part of the country.)

Dr. Nürnberg based her talks on quotations from Pope Benedict XVI's new Encyclical "Spe Salvi" and on writings about prayer by Madeleine Delbrêl, a French "Dorothy Day."

Madeleine Delbrêl's teaching was very focused on using every moment of her life for prayer. In her essay, *We, the Ordinary People of the Streets*, she makes the following statement:

"It makes no difference what we do, whether we take in hand a broom or a pen. Whether we speak or keep silent. Whether we are sewing or holding a meeting, caring for a sick person or tapping away at the typewriter.

"Whatever it is, it's just the outer shell of an amazing inner reality: the soul's encounter, renewed at each moment, in which, at each moment, the soul grows in grace and becomes ever more beautiful for her God."

I would like to conclude this very brief report with the quote that Sr.



Sisters Carolyn and Colette
at Edith-Stein-Haus

Hildegard Grimme, OCD, president of the German federation, used as the conclusion of her opening address to the participants of the federation meeting. It seems to be a statement that we—in all likelihood—will resonate with:

"How is it going to continue with us, our communities, our federation?"

Drawing on Fr. Delp, Fr. Bertram Dickerhof, SJ, the Secretary of IMS, wrote in his preface to the Annual Report 2007: "Organization and structures are important, people are more important. Most

important is the listening to the call of God now and the personal response, which is grace and returning to God at the same time.... The moment of freedom, of acceptance, of listening and of taking responsibility for cannot be delegated. In reverse, the common listening to God and His call could lead to other answers and other structures."

NRRO

In order to assist communities in their planning efforts, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) has recently completed a manual and accompanying DVD titled, *A Future Full of Hope, Planning in Religious Institutes*. They hope these will be helpful tools for communities in discerning their path into the future. Our community has been privileged to be a participating community in the project, exemplifying one of the three strategic planning issues—new membership—developed in the excellent materials available from NRRO. After following the slow progression from the initial video interviews, we are gratified by the finished product. We hope the methodologies presented will give some assistance to our Carmelite communities in their planning efforts and discernment, even beyond the specific issues covered in the manual and DVD.

CARMELS OF ELYSBURG AND INDIANAPOLIS

As we have accompanied in our prayers the move of the Elysburg Carmel to Maria Hall in Danville, we continue to remember also our sisters of the Indianapolis Carmel who will be moving soon. We extend our deep-felt love and solidarity to both communities in these challenging times. Please know that we will continue to keep you close in our hearts and prayers.

UPDATE ON SISTER ROBIN STRATTON

Most of you probably know that our Sister Robin was supposed to have a knee replacement in February 2008. When the doctors found an infection during surgery,

they could not continue. Sr. Robin had a long treatment with antibiotics and is now scheduled for knee replacement on the 28th of May. Please keep her in your prayers! She has been remarkably accepting of her situation, and in the last couple of weeks has even "come to the rescue" when she was able, helping other sisters with their work. We are very grateful to Sister Robin for her positive attitude and her truly loving presence to all of us.

NRRO DVD

A Future Full of Hope Planning in Religious Institutes

*...tools for communities
in discerning their path
into the future...*

*Yellow marigolds
beneath swaying sunflowers:
gold rush, height of joy!*

—Rosemary Kluepfel

CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa

Sr. Miriam Hogan, OCD



Sr. JonFe recently shared a cultural incident that makes us smile: on her first

day in our Carmel she was alone in her room when an animal appeared in her win-



dow and looked in. She thought, “Oh, no, they have a lion here.” It wasn’t until late the next day that she found out that what she thought was a small lion was really Sr. Lynne’s curious cat Sunshine. She even wrote a letter to Lipa Carmel in the Philippines describing what happened, and they wrote back saying that there was laughing all during their meal when the letter was read. Now over a year later, we also laughed at our meal when we heard about the lion concern. Part of the joke is that Sunshine is such a “baby” cat. He arrived at our doorstep almost starved to death and Lynne nursed him back to health. We think that she did a pretty good job if he can scare new people!

Considering among other things environmental concerns, not to mention the price of gas, we have agreed to purchase a Toyota Prius hybrid to replace our greater-than- ten-year-old car. May Our Lady Queen of the Highways continue to bless and protect us.

Looking forward, we are expecting Stephanie Wong, a nineteen-year-old music student to come and assist us dur-

ing the summer. Although she is not ready to enter at this time, Stephanie is looking into religious life. Also in July, we expect Fr. Don Buggert, O.Carm. and his dog Rahner. I know that we will enjoy the input, but it may also be interesting to see how Sunshine and Rahner interact.

Finally, as I was writing this report, I was reminded of something one of my first novice directors once said. We live in silence and solitude and the most valuable part of our time in Carmel takes place within. “What are we going to write home about—the squirrels?!” Hopefully, the animals have not been too much of a distraction this time.

Know that we keep all of our sisters in our daily prayers and have been especially praying for our Elysburg/Danville and Indianapolis/Oldenburg Carmelite sisters during this their time of transitions to new locations and new beginnings.

Wishing all the peace and love of our Risen Christ.

We ask you to please keep SR. MARY JO’S BROTHER AL in your prayers. He has been given less than a month to live by the doctors that have been treating his cancer.

Indianapolis
Carmel’s
“The
Companion
to the
Breviary”
and
other books—
now at
Reno Carmel.

*Flower, tumbleweed!
Bright, spiny, tiny drifter,
today you stand firm.*

—Rosemary Kluepfel

SUGGESTED READING

SR. MARIAN STEFFENS OCD, BARRINGTON, RI

There is a good review by Fr. Greg Houck, O.Carm on Brother Joseph Schmidt's biography of St. Thérèse, **Everything Is A Grace**, in the winter issue of the **Carmelite Review**, published by the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Volume 47, Number 1, page 22.

We are selling a good number of these books here in our bookstore. Did you know there are 5000 (yes, thousands) biographies of Thérèse published and that Thérèse is the most quoted woman in the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

In a February issue of the **TABLET**, the International Catholic weekly published in England, there is an article by Daniel O'Leary that is well worth pondering. Fr. O'Leary is a priest of Leeds Diocese and is based at Our Lady of Grace in Yorkshire. He is the winner of the Irish Religious Book of the Year for his tenth book, **Already Within: Diving the Hidden Spring**. In the February 23 issue of the **TABLET**, he titles his essay *What's It To Be?*

He speaks about the choices we make in our everyday life and in our moments of great decision. "Magnanimous or pusillanimous, the right option seems self-evident." But as we read on in the article, we know from our own experience that the way of choice is rarely so easy or obvious. Anima magna (ST. THOMAS): the option for what is generous, tending toward overlooking, letting go—sounds so Carmelite does it not? Anima pusilla: the habit of meanness, tending toward what is closed, negative and judgmental. As Fr. O'Leary points out, "With God's power in us, we are all blessed with the grace of choosing our way of being in the world. We do not have to be victims of what happens to us." A great insight! As we continue the celebrations of the SOLEMNITY OF SOLEMNITIES in this springtime of the year, may we know the power of his risen life in all our choices, big and small.

SUGGESTED DVD—ONGOING FORMATION

SR. MARIA VIATORI, CLEVELAND, OH

Contact Your Local Library to access a copy

ADDICTION—Four DVD Disc Set

HBO Documentary Films

In association with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute of Drug Abuse. Produced by John Hoffman and Susan Froemke

Several of the nation's leading experts on drug and alcohol addiction, together with a group of accomplished filmmakers, have assembled to create **ADDICTION**, an unprecedented documentary aimed at helping Americans understand addiction as a treatable brain disease. It is a subject that touches all our lives. One in four Americans has a family member who is struggling with addiction. Currently, addiction affects over 22 million Americans, yet under 10 percent of those individuals are receiving treatment. The documentary addresses different aspects of the disease in order to shed light on the most current, promising developments in the field. Through personal stories from addicts and loved ones who struggle to help them find treatment, common misconceptions are replaced by insight into addiction's complexity.

RECIPE

This is the International Year of the lowly POTATO, so I am enclosing a recipe for a potato dish you might like to try this year! Potatoes' nutrients are skin deep. Low-cal cooking by Linda Sebelia, published in **Providence Journal Bulletin** Wednesday, November 18, 1993.

The potato is nutritious and relatively low in calories. Most potatoes are one of two types; waxy or starchy. Waxy potatoes, like round reds, are good for salads and casseroles because they don't fall apart while cooking. Starchy potatoes, like Maine and Idaho, are best for mashing and baking.

TWO-POTATO BAKE

4 cups thinly sliced red-skin potatoes
4 cups thinly sliced sweet potatoes
2 tablespoons minced fresh onion
3 tablespoon margarine melted
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
¾ cup skim milk
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
Parmesan cheese
Vegetable cooking spray

Coat an 11 x 7 x 2-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Layer 2 cups red potato in one half of dish.

Layer 2 cups red potato in other half of dish. Sprinkle with onion. Drizzle with 1 ½ tablespoons of margarine. Sprinkle with half the salt and pepper.

Repeat procedure with sweet potato, margarine, salt and pepper.

Bring milk to a boil in small saucepan; pour over mixture. Cover with foil, cut 8 one-inch slits in foil.

Bake at 425 for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes. Remove from oven sprinkle with parsley and cheese. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Yield 8 servings, about 172 calories each.

Submitted by Sr. Marian Steffens
Barrington, RI