

CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 29, Issue 3, OCTOBER 2007

FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Following our election to the CCA leadership team at our meeting in May, inspired by Sandra Schneider's excellent input on the role of the imagination, we have been re-imagining our roles in service of the Association. We are happy to report that this new model seems to be working well.

Our first meeting was in June in New Jersey. We lit the candle given to us at the Weston meeting and recalled the words of presentation: "We give you this candle which represents our CCA sisters and our Carmelite family. Light it at your leadership meetings. The wax is symbolic of Carmel, the wick is symbolic of the bond we have in Christ, and the flame is the love and presence of the Spirit within you to help you carry out the work ahead." You were and remain very present to us! Stephanie Hauge joined us for the first full day of dialogue. In the course of that meeting, we sorted out the responsibilities of each team member, talked through the various projects entrusted to us by the Association and brainstormed about our next meeting in 2009. Since then, our "conversations" have continued mostly through email. This has proved to be a surprisingly effective means of on-going dialogue. We each work simultaneously on different projects then "meet" via cyber-space for the suggestions and ideas of the other team members until we arrive at clarity. Our reflections have yielded new ideas which we will be sharing with you soon. We very much look forward to being together with our Indianapolis sisters at the end of October for our second team meeting.

Carolyn and Claire enjoyed meeting many of you again in July at the Carmelite Institute in Rhode Island; another graced event for our Carmelite family!

We pray for our communities and for those around the world affected by fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and war. May our presence to God and to each other in loving prayer and compassion strengthen our world with hope.

Claire Sokol

Maria Viatori

Carolyn O'Hara

Colette Ackerman

Claire

Maria

Carolyn

Colette



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

Our inter-community formation program, instead of a final exam, ended the year with a party in Barrington. No business was attached, so it was the pure enjoyment of being with, and enjoying the gracious hospitality of, our sisters “down south.”

Another wonderful day was had with our sisters to the “north.” Twelve mem-



on the Rule. While they were at the latter, we in Boston had a visit from Philip Thomas OCD and Steve Payne OCD before Fr. Steven’s return to Kenya. We also had a visit from Fr. Pius D’Souza, an Indian OCD, who is studying in Rome for his doctorate in scripture and taking courses at Harvard. He will be back in Cambridge next year with a promise to give us input on the psalms. And, just before the sisters’ return from Rhode Island, Fr. Steven Watson, whose visits we always enjoy, came by after he had attended the Congress. Since the CCA meeting we have begun to realize more and more how blessed we are to be situated near so many of our Carmelite family, particularly when we were able to have Fr. Matthias, now prior at Brighton, come to celebrate Mass on the feast of Edith Stein.

Sr. Juanita de la Madre Dolorosa took her first vows at Mass on August 15, much to the joy of her community and her family who were present. Sister’s dad, Armando, had died of cancer shortly after she entered Carmel, but he was certainly present in spirit. A framed photo of him stood in front



bers of the Danvers community visited us for what was surely a very special blessing of the Lord. Two of the sisters who went from Boston on the foundation to Danvers, Sr. Claire and Sr. Mary Therese, were in the group, but there was no denying a very tangible bond among us all.

In July we celebrated Our Lady’s feast with a triduum in her honor. Assisting us in the music area were two of our OCDS sisters, Julie DeScipio on the organ and Corinne Davis on the violin, two true gifts from Our Lady of the Place.

Some of the sisters were able to get to Beacon for Sr. Mercy’s jubilee, and some to Rhode Island for the Congress

of the altar during the Mass, and sister’s mom and sisters sang Mass parts and hymns which Mr. Kuilan, a musician, had written. One of his hymns, sung in Spanish, was recited in English by Juanita:



Sr. Eileen Mary receives Sr. Juanita’s vows

I want to make a pact with the God of the universe. I want to unite my life with the life of the Lord. I want to abandon myself into Your divine arms. Blessed be Your Name, O Lord, my Savior. You knocked on my door, O Lord, I have received You. I will give You thanks forever for having saved me from the paths of the world that lead to the abyss. I will give You thanks forever, O Lord, my Savior.

At the close of Vespers, in what has become a feast-of-the-Assumption tradition with us, we went into the courtyard and released helium balloons of many colors into the clear blue sky.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS
Reno, Nevada
Sr. Rosalind Bliss Forrest

You may have heard the phrase “the lazy, crazy days of summer.” Well, here in Reno our summer has not been lazy. Our packing room remodeling was completed barely in time for the orders our Christmas brochure mailing brings us. Oh yes, we have “little details” to work out still. Doesn’t any construction job? On the whole the area is so much lighter and “user friendly” and welcoming!

We just hosted our annual “Priests and Sisters” gathering on August 27 (pastoral ministers too). It takes a community to prepare hors d’ oeuvres, a meal and a prayer service for 50! As our diocese is geographically big and yet small in number of clergy and religious, this is a wonderful opportunity each month of the school year to support one another and our growing number of lay ministers. The Dominican Sisters plan to host April’s gathering in honor of the 100-year anniversary of Saint Mary’s Hospital. Usually parishes host the gathering as the other communities besides Carmel and the



Dominicans have only one to three sisters (or brothers) serving in our diocese. With 18 in community now, we constitute more than half of the women religious in the diocese of Reno!

In mid-August we invited our Turkish Muslim friends to join us for an inter-faith prayer service and meal. Four years ago they established the Sierra Foundation as a means to work for peace and harmony through inter-faith dialogue. Most of these men and women range in age from 19 to 39 and are here on student visas. Several are completing course work for their PhD in areas of science or math and others just beginning their course work. With all the studying and graduate assistant work that they have to do, it is inspiring to see how much time and energy they give to finding ways to promote understanding, tolerance and peace among peoples of different cultures and beliefs. I'd like to think that because we planned our prayer together, with mutual respect for common ground and differences, that this was the foundation for a dinnertime of relaxed and vibrant sharing together.

We do not have a public July novena in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel nor any other public novena. Our celebration is usually community only. This year, however, we anticipated the feast with a July 15 concert by our very own trio of Claire, Cloe (Clorinda) and Mary Margaret. We invited our friends and they invited family and friends. At 2:00 p.m. more than 145 people gathered to hear the beautiful music and inspiring text that had been prepared for the Carmelite Institute on the Rule later that month. This "dress rehearsal" deeply touched all who attended. People not only loved the musical selections and performance, they also appreciated how the text introduced them in a whole new way to Carmel and enhanced the music itself. We are so grateful for our sisters' labor of love and the gifts they share.

June was also a time of celebrating and giving thanks. With the jubilees of Rose (70), Joan (60), Carol (50), Claire, Cloe and Mary Margaret (25), we celebrated



Sr. Rose Holand came from Indianapolis in 1954 on the foundation, and Sr. Michael (in background) came two years later to help "for a year." It is 51 years later and we are certainly glad she came and stayed.

255 years on June 16. Each sister had prepared a reflection on her own Carmelite journey and shared after the scriptures were proclaimed. One was short and to the point; another had interwoven the scriptures with her story; some evoked tears then laughter; each was a precious jewel. A tribute came from one of our dear friends: "Maybe the sisters should prepare a homily once or twice a month. They have a gift!"

Another moving moment was when all of us sisters stood in a semi-circle before the congregation to renew our vows. How powerful it was when the entire congregation stretched out their hands while they prayed a blessing over us!

Now, back to the present. We so appreciate all of your prayers for Pat and for our community. Only God knows the time of Pat's passing from this life to the next. Our bishop stopped in this past week to see her and pray with her. We really knew that she had weakened when she made no attempt to get out of bed or even to sit up during his visit. The "old" Pat would have been asking him if he wanted a cup of coffee! By the time you read this, Hospice will be another support for Pat and for us.

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



On our property in an area hidden from the monastery is a hermitage with a kitchen unit and a half-bath. From spring to autumn (and once in a while in winter) a sister on her private two-week retreat gratefully and happily makes it her house of prayer. Since other sisters do her jobs, about the only thing she returns to the monastery for is Mass. Of course, you can imagine that it is a treasured time of the year with deeper solitude, a flexible schedule (no need for a watch), and elements of a refreshing vacation. At an announced time, a calendar appears on a table and, although a crushing rush does not ensue, we are eager for particular weeks. Mild weather with extra hours of daylight for walking or biking, harvest time when the garden offers its fresh vegetables, summer heat for those who come alive with it (yes, such people exist), or brisk days when you can keep the windows closed and soak in more silence—these are a few of the reasons for choosing a certain season.

On a recent weekend a woman interested in Carmel shared our life with us. We all felt much at home with her gentle ways and prayerful presence. Since her work prevents a longer stay at this time, she may come for other short periods. Also, we've had initial contact with another woman who is considering a return visit. Signs of new life certainly are invigorating.

Meanwhile we mourn the loss of Sister Barbara Rura who died peacefully on June 17 at age of 85. Barbara served as an extern sister for over 50 years before she was diagnosed with dementia. During her first decades, Barbara was companion to our "charter" extern Sr. Mercedes. They were a delightful pair: Mercedes actively out-going and Barbara gently gracious. At times Mercedes would write

plays and bring to life an engaging side of Barbara that refreshed us all when they entertained us from behind the grate in the parlor.

Barbara was known for her devotion to the rosary and for the probably *thousands* of rosaries she made. We can still see her sitting by the widow in the reception room quietly piecing together links and beads of crystal, wood, shamrocks, and dark or bright or pastel colors.

Before the Fourth of July we had our community retreat with Howard Gray, SJ, who was for a few years on loan to John Carroll University from his usual ministry in New England. Centering on ways we can renew and find God in everyday life, his rich conferences delved both into scripture and also the depth of the human person as she engages in labor, celebration, remembering, enjoyable activities, and relationships. After seven days with Fr. Gray we had a quiet week with meals in silence. We could take our meal trays to places other than the refectory if we liked.

But between the two parts of our retreat, we had a festive celebration of the Fourth. Good weather enabled Bernadette to build a fire where she grilled spareribs. A rare treat!

Already we've been nourished by a meal of vegetables all freshly picked from our garden. The tomatoes are just reaching their peak. What can compare to the flavor of homegrown tomatoes!

The prophetic aspect of our life is a special interest of Jean Marie, so she was eager to attend the Carmelite Institute's session this year. Pat O'Brien also benefited from the fine presentations and the always enjoyable and enriching sharing with the other Carmelites.

Morning's first question:
Do butterflies grow new wings?
I find one trying.

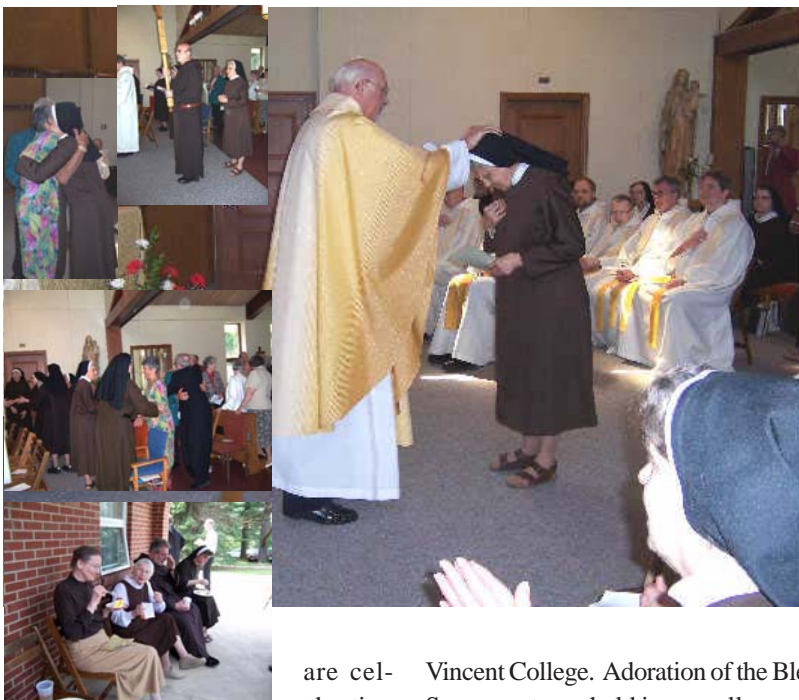
What attraction here?
Hummingbird in maple tree
Discovers sweet dew!

—Rosemary Kluepfel

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

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:

Sr. Mary Paul celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession on the very anniversary, May 3. Our Sisters from Barrington, Elysburg and Cleveland and Fr Jude Peters, OCD joined us for the celebration and the dinner afterward, along with many of Sister's friends and relatives. It was a double celebration as Sister's sister, Gerry and her brother-in-law, Archie renewed their wedding vows after Sister renewed her profession. Gerry & Archie



wedding anniversary this year. Father Ken Haberlein, a long-time friend of the Cutri family, presided with several of our Benedictine Fathers and Fr. Jude concelebrating. Relatives and friends came from as far as California and afforded a wonderful family reunion as a sideline to the double jubilee.

Several weeks later all of Sr. Mary's family joined her parents here in the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sr. Mary's parents live in Arizona so it was a good opportunity for a Wild family reunion. All the grandchildren had a part in the ceremony. Especially impressive were three granddaughters and their father who led the Prayers of the Faithful. One of the girls could barely see above the lectern.

Sr. Barbara is planning her Golden Jubilee celebration, which will be held on October 6.

VOCATION AWARENESS:

Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth attended a gathering of young people called Ultimate 4 JC, the brainchild of one of the Benedictine Fathers. This event features Christian Rock music and talks for the young people in a large tent, which was set up on a hill above the campus of St.

are celebrating their 50th

Vincent College. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held in a small open tent, and many young people could be seen sitting on the grass absorbed in prayer. Nearby were three tents for the Sacrament of Reconciliation staffed by various diocesan and religious priests. Many times there were lines of people waiting to avail themselves of this opportunity. The young attendees were given breaks from religious activities for various games. Vocation displays and a small religious goods store were in yet another tent. We spoke with many young men and women,

as did the six other religious groups who had displays.

While this was going on on the hill, the ordination of Fr. Sean Matthew Anderson, OSB was taking place at the Basilica



below us. Some of the people who attended the ordination also visited the Ultimate 4JC so we met quite a few people from out of state. Fr. Sean came up during a break in his festivities to spend some time celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the participants.

The amusing part of this event was the havoc the wind played with the vocation displays. Our tables were weighted with rocks gleaned from the nearby field and most of us ended up with liberal supplies of each other's literature, thanks to the stiff breeze. One young man picked up a scapular from a basket, looked at it and put it back, only to have it blow right back to him. "I guess Our Lady really wants me to have this!" he remarked. With the fervor and enthusiasm we witnessed at this event, one wonders why there are not more young people entering religious life.

CONSTRUCTION WOES

We are having some difficulty winding up our building project. First we discovered that the air conditioning unit had not been wired in, when flipping switches and adjusting thermostats had no results.

Once the air conditioner was functioning, we began to notice brown spots on the suspended ceiling tiles in the new lobby. Then water began dripping from various areas. After several visits from the air conditioning specialist and the air ducts installer, who put insulation on some of the ductwork, we were told that we had the wrong blower unit and a larger one would be ordered and installed. All ceiling tiles would be replaced. As of this writing, we are still waiting on the larger blower and still alert for wet tiles and floors. The elevator has been a great blessing, opening up the house to the whole community and making moving of heavy objects much easier, and for this we continue to thank God and all who helped us in this project.

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



The keynote address for the annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, (August 1-4, 2007, Kansas City, MO) given this year by a member of Generation X, set out some insightful directions on the future of religious life. It can be easily downloaded from the LCWR website. Sinsinawa Dominican Sister, Laurie Brink, OP an assistant professor of Biblical studies at CTU in Chicago, described 4 general directions in which religious congregations seem to be moving:

- death with dignity
- acquiescence to others' expectations
- sojourning in a new land,
- reconciliation for the sake of the mission

As Carmelite contemplatives, who received such powerful presentations on the transformation of consciousness from our theologian friend, Sandra Schneiders,

IHM at our recent CCA Meeting, we might look at how our small communities are doing as reconcilers in our areas of influence. So many persons turn to us for prayer in time of trouble. No longer only at "the turn" or the phone and door, but now also on our websites. A new avenue for prayer ministry and gospel encouragement? Responses to even brief e-mails are filled with gratitude that we are there with them in their concerns and struggles. How connected we are in our disconnected world!

The summer months here in Barrington Carmel were blessed with the presence of many visitors. Our annual July novena in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel had an evening Eucharistic Liturgy and homily celebrated by our Carmelite brother, Matthias Montgomery, OCD, prior at the Brighton, MA monastery. It was well attended despite a record heat wave here. As our Ocean State was the location for the fifth Carmelite Institute, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI, our community helped with transportation to and from the hotel. We had the opportunity to have visits from our sisters—Alhambra, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Concord, Covington, Elysburg and Reno. An added blessing was the visit of our brother Steve Payne, OCD all the way from his Nairobi community. Steve brought us up to date on our friars in Africa.

Many of us went to Warwick on Friday, July 27, to attend the evening of musical reflection given by our superb musicians Clorinda, Claire and Mary Margaret. The more-than-one standing ovation given to them must have been dear to their hearts, after so many hours of practice in preparation for this night.

Mary Margaret wrote reflections on our Carmelite Rule, which were read before each musical selection, tying in the points of the Rule with the choice of the musical piece. Clorinda designed a very moving PowerPoint presentation on our deceased brothers and sisters in Carmel's three orders, which was shown during the closing piece of music, Claire's beautiful *Canticle of Love*.



As we celebrate our sisters' birthdays in a unique way, it was nice to share this community custom with Miriam, Grace, Fides, (Covington Carmel), Judy and Pat (Baltimore), SaRa and Cloe (Reno). Our birthday sisters were Roseann (July 26 and Anne Marie (July 28). Sue, our Prioress, who selects a special gift and composes a toast/prayer for each of us, creatively honored the talents of both of these July stars! Sr. Grace



played after-dinner music on her flute in gratitude for our hospitality to all three Covington sisters. After the meal, we had another opportunity for musical reflection



in our chapel with Cloe and Grace lifting our hearts in prayer by the sharing of their musical talents. Sr. Miriam, Vilma's

younger sister, who stayed on for a longer visit, was also given a surprise birthday party with due honor and toasts. We learned a little of her vocation story and some beautiful memories of the family. What a blessing to have 3 Carmelites in the Seelaus family.

At our weekly community meetings, we have been reviewing some of the decisions made in the years of renewal and re-affirming our hearts' desire to be authentic "hermits in community". Many communities have an unstructured day to better enable the living of the daily horarium on the other six days. We decided to rename Thursday (up to now called a hermit day) to "FREE DAY." We are not quite satisfied with this name. What do other Carmels call their unstructured day?

The narrative and factual reports from the CCA Meeting captured the new moment we are now in as an Association. We in Barrington are grateful for our team leadership and the communications received from them thus far.

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



Our Sisters
Claudette,
Theresa, Myriam
Kathleen, and
postulant Hilary,

who participated in the CCA meeting, returned home renewed and uplifted by their experiences during those blessed days. Being relatively close to Weston, we had the joy of welcoming some of the sisters on their way to or from the meeting. Among these were Sr. Denise from Denville, Quebec, and Sr. Marie Louise from Reno. While the Sisters were away we were ably assisted by Sr. Patricia from Barrington Carmel, and we are grateful for the generosity of her community in loaning her to us.



On June 7 we had the great joy of bringing Sr. Thomas Aquinas home after a two-month absence due to her serious illness. Sister is very grateful to all those who prayed for her, and she attributes her recovery to the power of those prayers! It needs to be said, though, that Sr. Thomas Aquinas deserves much credit also. Once on the road to recovery, Sister gave herself totally to her rehabilitation program. She followed all the recommendations and suggestions given her and never faltered whether she felt up to it or not. We are delighted to have her back among us, and we consider her recovery a gift of God to our community.

DRIVEWAY PAVED

During the winter months it became evident to us that our driveway needed to be widened to accommodate snow. In July the final work was accomplished and we now have a wider, nicely paved driveway.

CONFERENCE ON THE RULE

Our community was represented at the Conference on the Rule held in Warwick, Rhode Island, by Sisters Claudette, Theresa, Myriam Kathleen, and postulant Hilary. They greatly appreciated the richness of the program offered. While they were away, Sr. Jeanne from Beacon Carmel came to assist us. We are grateful to the community of Beacon for their generosity on our behalf.

UPDATE ON LANGLEY PARKWAY AND NEIGHBOR LOVINGLY LAID TO REST

The work on the new road, Langley Parkway, has advanced greatly. Our neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Morton Tuttle, who had lived in the little house that now needed to be moved to make way for the road, both developed serious health problems. They moved to an assisted-living facility and were thus spared the sadness of seeing their house prepared to be moved. Ultimately, the house was moved via the new road and some of us were able to view the historic event. Sadly, Mrs. Tuttle died just days after the house was moved. Though the family was not of our faith, they asked if they could have her memorial service in our chapel. We were honored to be able to do that for our former neighbors of over fifty years.

In regard to the above-mentioned memorial service, it was beautiful and very touching to see everyone come together to pray for the repose of Mrs. Tuttle's soul. The long legal process could have made enemies of the City planners and the lawyer who represented the Tuttle's. All was seemingly forgotten and total peace and accord prevailed.

CLASS IN COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

At the request of Professor Jeff Pierce of St. Paul's summer school program for advanced students, Sr. Louise Marie and postulant, Hilary Case, hosted a class in Comparative Religions. Beginning with 19th century philosopher Nietzsche's attack on Christianity, "The Anti-Christ," which all the students had read, we had a lively discussion of Christian beliefs about morals, the priesthood, the afterlife and several other topics. Two hours later, Sr. Louise Marie and Hilary gratefully headed for lunch to refuel after an exciting and inspiring exchange. St. Paul's School's annual summer school serves incoming high school seniors from all over New Hampshire.

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Elected on August 14, 2007:

Sr. CLAUDETTE - PRIORESS, second term
Sr. EMMANUEL - FIRST COUNCIL SISTER
Sr. THERESA - SECOND COUNCIL SISTER
Sr. GABRIEL - THIRD COUNCIL SISTER

CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Indianapolis, Indiana Sr. Jean Alice McGoff

As Sr. Terese and I set off for the CCA Meeting in Weston in May, we were very aware that we had missed the meeting two years ago due to Sr. Joanne Dewald's death. It meant so much to see the little shrine at Campion Renewal Center with pictures of all of our sisters who had made the great Transitus since 2005. Our "crowd of witnesses" is steadily increasing. On the other hand, it was refreshing to meet many young women who are moving into Carmel as a life adventure. Their mark on the meeting was certainly felt.

Sr. Helen has a friend who is a master gardener, Teresa Shih. Teresa wanted to take on our courtyard as a project and she has managed to make it a brilliant cen-



terpiece in our network of cloister walks and corridors. From each window there is a view of the gardens, radiant with yarrow, petunias, hollyhocks, geraniums, giant hibiscus and cleome. Before the intense heat overtook the summer, we often prayed out there with our faithful canine Lucy at our feet and humming birds darting in and out of the trees.

We had some excellent input this summer from Kevin Culligan just before the Forum in June. He shared with us his paper on St. Teresa's "Meditation on the Song of Songs" and his workshop on Buddhist mindfulness and Carmelite rec-

ollection, as well as his paper for the Conference on the Rule in Warwick. Gregory D'Souza also spent several days with us. His sharing was on mysticism in general. We had never met him, and we experienced his simplicity, wisdom, and holiness.

Seven of us drove over to Terre Haute on July 18 for Mother Joseph McKenzie's funeral. Mother Joseph actually entered Carmel here in Indianapolis in the summer of 1947, but with the understanding that she was destined for the new foundation in Terre Haute. It was a true celebration of resurrection with a surprise ending. Mother Joseph had been a WAVE in WW II and qualified for a military funeral. Her casket was draped with a large American flag. An honor guard from the Veterans of Foreign Wars was there in the cemetery and delivered a 21-gun salute! A final prayer was said both by Archabbot Lambert Riley, osb, and the army chaplain.

Our neighborhood is changing. New apartments are being put up on the large property next door. Fortunately our monastery is centered on 18 acres and is reasonably buffered from noise. We have replaced our huge redwood gates with a chain-link gate easily opened by remote control. We are so pleased with this new luxury, which is fast becoming a necessity.

We are hoping to publish a book based on the "Pray the News" concept of our website. It is an interactive journal with events that keep recurring in history and our daily lives. Thanks to friends with very professional abilities, the design and layout is quite beautiful. The idea was theirs and they have an interested publisher. If it is to be, it will be.

As the Order celebrates the 800th anniversary of our Rule, and our foundation in **TERRE HAUTE IT'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE MARKING 75 YEARS IN INDIANAPOLIS.** We moved from New Albany in September of 1932. **OUR LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 23.**

**CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
AND HOLY FACE**

Elysburg, Pennsylvania

Sr. Joan Bourne



Ever since March 18 we have been on a merry-go-round!

COMMUNITY ELECTIONS came two days after Sr. Christine's funeral. **SRS. ANGELA, JOAN, JOAN + AND THERESE** were elected as prioress and council respectively on March 19.

During the months of early spring and summer we had a young seminarian doing yard work. A few girls from Bucknell University and on occasion a couple of young boys came to help with the grounds. Sr. Anna has transformed the courtyard with new birch trees, annuals and perennials, as well as a fresh bed of mulch around the thirty plus rose bushes. She had the help of a few strong men, too!

Sr. Sherryl White, CSJ of Pittsburgh has been helping us along the way with input on leadership and also on future direction as we discern our future.

HONORING SR. CHRISTINE

In July and August we had gatherings with our sisters from Baltimore and Beacon Carmels to celebrate a memorial service honoring Sr. Christine. We shared a picnic style meal with lively conversation, visited the grave site and concluded with Vespers, solemn and moving.

One of our local pastors and his pastoral staff came for a day of prayer together. The DVD from Baltimore Carmel, "The Well, the Woman and the Way," was used to assist them. The group left renewed and firmly committed to ongoing prayer in their lives.

For the triduum to Our Lady in July

Fr. Al Sceski, our Chaplain, conducted the evening service with Mass and homily on Our Lady. The turnout was very good.

In the spring and summer months we had a number of visitors: Fr. Stephen Watson came for Mass, lunch and a lengthy conversation; Fr. Ray Maher, O. Carm. came to consult with Sr. Pat on ICFP business; Gilbert Miller and his son, Steve, our Sr. Teresa's brother and nephew, traveled eight hours from Kentucky for a short evening and following morning visit; Sr. Marian Steffens and Peggy Mason stopped overnight en route to Sr. Mary Paul's Jubilee. Sr. Angela joined them in travel and all three shared the wonderful experience of the jubilee.

In late May, Srs. Joan, Pat and Joan+ traveled to Barrington for the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Marian. This was experienced as a glorious celebration. The three then traveled to Weston for the CCA meeting.

In late July Srs. Pat, Joan and Angela attended the Carmelite Institute program on the Rule of Carmel in Warwick, RI.

Sr. Joan + attended the picnic at Baltimore Carmel on July 4 and the Labor Day picnic with the extended Carmelite family, enjoying the gracious hospitality of our sisters and renewing friendships.

THE LAND TO BE CONSERVED

Our community is interested in possibly placing part of our large acreage in conservancy. In June we invited two representatives from the North-central Pennsylvania Conservancy Program based in Williamsport to explain conservancy and to "walk" the property. Their summary was that our forest area is healthy and functional, worth preserving. We need to consider issues involved and work out details since there is a clear desire in the community to preserve part of our property for wildlife, native flora and wetland.

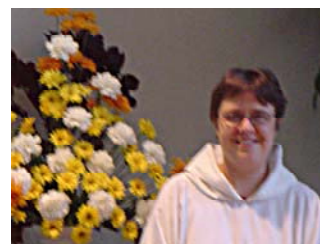
ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED

On September 9 **SR. MARGARET** quietly celebrated her 60th anniversary of clothing and on October 2 **SR. THERESE** will celebrate quietly her 75th anniversary of entrance. Join with us in gratitude!

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART

Baltimore, Maryland

Sr. Monika Bies



This year we again celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with a Triduum comprised of an evening of educational input, an evening of contemplative prayer and a special Sunday Eucharist. This year's Triduum was dedicated to the healing of the Chesapeake Bay, a topic chosen in light of the theme of our second year of prayer for the earth: "our place in the cosmos." We had already touched upon the ecology of the Bay during our weekly lenten contemplative prayer evenings; moreover, the concept of "place" has been central to our Order since its origins. As we explained to our Triduum attendees, a focus on place made a perfect fit with the celebration of our titular feast since the first lay hermits on Mount Carmel 800 years ago drew their strength, spirit, and identity from their physical location, and even named Mary "the Lady of the Place." We chose the Chesapeake Bay watershed for our reflection not only because it is our particular "place" but because it is in special need of environmental attention, healing and protection.

The three days included a lecture by an expert scientist on Friday night, guided contemplative prayer on Saturday evening, and a special Mass for Our Lady Of Mount Carmel on Sunday, in anticipation of Monday's feast day.

LECTURE

Our guest lecturer on Friday was Dr. Denise Breitburg, a Smithsonian Senior Scientist with a hands-on working relationship with the Bay. She made an engaging presentation on the links between ecological processes and human influ-

ence, with special attention to the complex issue of nutrient run-off and to the question of oyster health and replenishment. Dr. Breitburg gave us a significant amount of scientific material, and yet she managed to make all of it interesting and accessible. Though she herself is a top scientist, Dr. Breitburg certainly knew how to address the non-scientists in the audience without losing any of the depth of her material.



Many of us were especially intrigued by the poignant ethical questions that she posed: Is it acceptable to ask for an increase of federal and state government investments in conservation practices for the Chesapeake Bay if this implies a reduction of funds for soup kitchens in the inner city? Is the long-term survival of a particular species in the Chesapeake Bay of greater value than the immediate economical survival of the fisheries and the fishermen employed in it? Dr. Breitburg brought to the fore these moral dilemmas and the various environmental challenges that may endanger the survival of the Chesapeake's ecosystem. Nevertheless, she was very balanced in her approach, pointing out that there is still legitimate hope and that it is not too late to save the Bay.

We were grateful that Dr. Breitburg's input enabled us to understand better the complexity of the issues in all their dimensions, identifying many questions but no easy answers.

GUIDED CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

For our contemplative prayer evening, called AA Trip Up The Bay, we did a little creative restructuring and re-

modeling of the environment of our chapel. Our friend and artist Patrick Caughy gave some input and helped us



with the decoration of the Chapel windows, transforming them into bay scenes.

As it is difficult to put into words the deep transformation that our chapel went through those days, we have included some pictures in this newsletter to give you a better idea. Sea gulls were flying through our sanctuary, a wild bald eagle rested in



a nest that she had built in one of the corners of the arch candles—those of you who are familiar with our chapel know that she could not have chosen a better place to do so—and a large lighthouse took up residence in front of our Great Cross. The meditation chapel offered some relaxing moments at the beach and the conference room was designated as the place for lament. A long fishing net that hung across the back of the conference room symbolized the Chesapeake Wailing Net/Wall where people could leave their petitions on pieces of paper that were shaped in the form of shells. Many of the petitions that were left on the net focused on preserving our environment for future generations: God, our Father and Mother, forgive our generation its failures to preserve your land, sky, and sea. May we take better care of the Chesapeake Bay, so that our great-grandchildren can eat healthy oysters and swim in clean water.

After the people walked around the different stations and places in order to explore the treasures of the Chesapeake

Watershed, we all gathered for our contemplative prayer in the sanctuary. For this we followed the basic pattern of *lectio divina* that we have now used for many contemplative prayer evenings with the public: scripture and contemporary readings, followed by 25 minutes of silent prayer, then shared reflections and a concluding hymn and blessing. The scripture text for this evening was the gospel for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Mary at the foot of the cross). The contemporary reading was an excerpt from an article by Douglas Burton-Christie on ecology and the theology of place, interlineated with short phrases and passages from other relevant texts, including the Institution of the First Monks, John Smith's journal of his trip up the Chesapeake and an article on the Bay published in National Geographic, June 2005.

More than 100 people came for the prayer evening. We were deeply touched to experience so many people praying together in an intimate stillness for the entire 25 minute period of silence, without any indication of restlessness. Instead, a feeling of peace stole over the chapel. The shared reflections that followed showed very clearly that many of those present experienced deep prayer. It was also interesting to see that people seemed to own the texts in different ways. Some applied it to the healing of the Chesapeake, while others had very personal reflections. One person in our wider community whose mother is failing was reminded by the sights in our chapels of her own happy childhood vacations with her parents at the seaside.

As a token of this year's Triduum we gave all who came to celebrate with us a little wooden paddle fitted with our icon of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in miniature and a prayer card with the poem *Maryland Main* as shown in the box.

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

The Sunday liturgy shifted the Triduum's focus from the Chesapeake to Mary and the theology of place from a Carmelite perspective. Our Mass pro-

Maryland Main

Matapeake, Chesapeake, Kiptopeke, Fishing Creek;
 Pocomoke, Romancoke, Royal Oak, Nanticoke;
 Pungoteague, Wachapreague, Chincoteague, Assateague;
 Accomac, Mobjack, and Bodkin Point;
 Love Point, North Point, Point No Point;
 Crisfield, Tangier, and Rockawalkin;
 Choptank, Tilghman, and little waves talkin' ...
 Salt-flavored names, from Elk to James —
 Keep them alive, all you of tomorrow.
 Keep them aglow, free from dark sorrow.
 Hear their keen music, and heed their bold claims.
 Let them burn red, like sparks in the night.
 Keep them alive — shining and bright.

George Schaun, from *Chesapeake Memories*, 1957,
 Greenbury Publications: Annapolis.

gram cover (see picture) was intended to suggest Mary watching over the Chesapeake Bay, grieving for its ecological damage and praying for its healing.

Father Jack Welch, O.Carm., whom we were delighted to have as the Presider, developed with humor and wisdom his thoughts about the mythological history



of our origins and tied this history to the importance that the concept of place has for us Carmelites. He brought out the significance of the mythical stories of the first Carmelites meeting Mary on Mount Carmel and of our symbolic claim to Elijah as the founder of the Order. With a twinkle in his eye, Jack even raised the question whether Jonah might not have been the first Carmelite novice, a thought he promised to pick up for another homily.

For our music, we set off lively contemporary pieces such as Haugen's "All You Works Of God" with some of the traditional harmonized chants that are proper for this very special feast day. We also sang a choir rendition of "Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel" with a verse we had composed to reflect the Triduum's theme (see box).

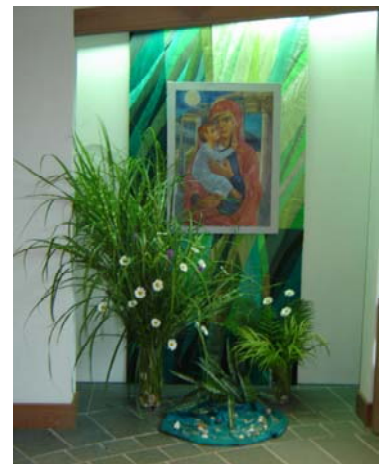
Many of the people who had been with us for Friday's and/or Saturday's component of the Triduum also celebrated Eucharist with us on Sunday, so

Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel

*Lady of the mystic mountain,
 You are Lady of the place,
 of the desert, bay and garden:
 All are signs of God's embrace.
 Every place speaks
 with its own voice,
 The whole world to Christ
 gives birth.
 Help us hear the Word,
 woven silently,
 in the fabric of the earth.*

(New Verse)

that a capacity crowd was present. This day was a wonderful climax, a very fitting celebration to honor Mary of Mount Carmel and our precious history and heritage.



PROFESSIONS:

We are happy to report the two following milestones in the life of our community:

SISTER AGNES AHN is making her first profession on September 9, 2007

SISTER MONIKA BIES is making her solemn profession on October 14, 2007

LIVE-IN:

SISTER GABRIELLE NGUYEN, SCC, will be with us for a six-week live-in beginning September 4, 2007.

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



In June Sr. Mercy's friends and family traveled from the north, south, east and west to celebrate her golden jubilee as a

Carmelite. Because of the number of expected guests, as well as the uncertainty of when the renovation of our chapel would be completed, Mercy's jubilee Mass was held at our parish church. Not one detail was overlooked by Sister's close friend, Fr. Arias, and the local Filipino community who lovingly gave of their time and talents to prepare for the big day. The Mass, planned with exquisite detail, beautiful singing from two choirs, floral decorations in abundance, the delicious luncheon in the school hall that included Filipino and American food selections, entertainment and the warmth and happiness experienced by all made it a day that will long be remembered. Sr. Mercy continues to radiate with love and joy the gift of her Carmelite vocation.



We returned to our transformed worship space in time for our Mt. Carmel Mass. Our visitors and the priests who serve us each day seem in awe of the simple beauty of the chapel. Although the space is the same, the transformation is striking. We



are planning special Masses on October 1, 15 and 21 when friends, families and benefactors will join us in thanksgiving as we celebrate the chapel's completion. Cardinal Egan graciously accepted the invitation to preside at Mass on October 15, at which time he will consecrate the altar and dedicate the chapel. Fr. Phillip Thomas, OCD will officiate at Mass on the 21st.

This year MACC (Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities) celebrates its 40th anniversary. In July sisters gathered in Esopus for a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. Following the anniversary Mass and luncheon, Sr. Helen Coldrick, RDC, New York Archdiocesan Vicar for Religious, gave an inspiring presentation on "Contemplative Life: Gift to the Church." Sr. Helen reminded us that as contemplatives we have something to say in today's world about prayer, community, peace, human solidarity, respect for all creation, seeking God "in the anguish of history," and witnessing to the asceticism of "that's enough." She challenged us to ask what we see today as the "signs of the times" for our communities, given the mission and charism of each tradition. This calls for ongoing collective discernment.

MACC has grown beyond the geographical boundaries of metropolitan New York and now includes contemplative communities in Upstate New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. From the first days of renewal, MACC has provided leadership, resources and support to member communities. It has made possible excellent and timely workshops for initial and ongoing formation

on every topic that affects our lives as contemplative religious women in the Church. The Church of New York has always taken seriously the presence of contemplative communities and has considered MACC to be a voice for the needs, concerns and contributions of our communities.



Left to right: Sr. Regina, Poor Clare, Sr. Helen Coldrick, RDC, Sr. Marjorie, Sr. Mary and Sr. Moria, Redemptoristine

Due to the snowstorm, we were prevented from attending Sr. Christine's funeral in March. And so, one day in August a number of us traveled to Elysburg to celebrate with our sisters the gift of Sr. Christine's life. We reminisced, looked at photos, visited her grave, shared dinner and prayed Evening Praise together. We remember Christine as a dear sister, special friend and mentor. We recalled her presence, leadership, example, wisdom, kindness and generosity, which were experienced not only by her sisters in Wheeling and Elysburg but by Carmelite friars and nuns throughout the USA and in other countries. Indeed, many of the friendships we share with sisters around the world today were initiated through Christine's untiring devotion to CCA.

Our community continues to lend its support and service to MACC and CCA, with sisters involved in various roles of leadership and service. At the CCA Meeting in Weston, Sr. Jeannie ended her term on the coordinating committee, and Sr. Carolyn accepted her role on the newly formed leadership team. The associations have been a source of renewal and enrichment for us. When one sister renders

service, the whole community benefits through her enthusiastic involvement.

We have initiated a community “Study Day” once a month, using Sr. Sandra Schneiders’ conferences from the CCA Meeting. Although we value the importance of the theological reflection project, there was dissatisfaction with our community’s manner of participating. We felt theological reflection would be just as valuable and enriching if we chose topics more relevant to our experience and a process that better fit our community.

Fr. Michael Berry, OCD, whose family lives in the area, visited us on August 24, which happens to be our community’s foundation day. Michael had recently completed language studies in Vermont in preparation for his year of study in Spain. It was special to celebrate Mass with Michael and to share a festive meal before he was to take off for Spain. Some of us were green with envy at the opportunities which await him in the land of our holy parents!

Our Sr. Maria of the Cross (Maria Root) had been in failing health during the summer. She was admitted to the hospital on September 5 and a biopsy revealed advanced, aggressive lymphoma. Sister was transferred to a local facility for palliative and comfort care. Her condition changed rapidly, and she died around 3:00 a.m. the morning of September 22, ten days after receiving the diagnosis. Her dying and death were a shock, but we are also grateful to God that Sr. Maria was spared much suffering and that her death came peacefully. Her funeral Mass and burial on September 27 were a fitting tribute to Sr. Maria, who loved her Carmelite vocation and lived it with grace and fidelity. She now sings God’s praises with the angels. Thank you for the many prayers, expressions of loving support and sympathy during Maria’s dying and following her death.



CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa Sr. Miriam Hogan



SOMETIMES, THE BEST PART OF A BOOK IS THE PREFACE.

In one of her books, Barbara Johnson talks about the time she was the speaker at a bookseller function. She decided to close the talk with a line from her latest book. To her surprise, it gained for her a standing ovation. Here is the line: “Life is not always what you want it to be, but it is what you have. So, stick a geranium in your hat and be happy.” We feel that every once in a while it is our task to encourage our readers to find a pretty weed, or just a colored leaf, to stick in their hats and to be happy. St. Teresa of Avila has many pages devoted to happiness and only a wee page or so devoted to gloom. As for finding a geranium, we prefer the friendly zinnias or the lovely purple coneflower that is native to our area. Some of our zinnias were taller than the median height of our community. This is due, of course, to the rains of the season—the sometimes too-abundant rains. St. Teresa wrote about the kind of prayer that falls like the rain from heaven. It is prayer that comes upon us through the quiet and gentle movement of God in the soul. As to over abundance, things now seem to be working out. As one of our farmers used to say, “The rains came, or stopped, one day before it was too late.”

WE CAN’T HELP GRAVITATING towards the out-of-doors in the summer and autumn. It is so much a part of our lives. Connected with this, we have the good fortune of being able to scurry outside to get pictures of the sun rising or setting. It is always a surprise to see how quickly the sun “seems” to rise or sink out of sight into another part of the world. One evening, one of our expert photo takers raced back inside the house, saying, “I can’t find the moon. All I see is corn!” Need we comment? This is Iowa. And then

there is the harvest moon. It is so faithful, calm and beautiful. We’re told that this kind of moon is called the harvest moon because farmers used to harvest by its light. It is so bright.

NO MATTER WHERE WE LOOK, we see that God is good. On September 8, Sr. JonFe Marie de Torres pronounced her first vows. On September 15, Sr. Susan Dreyer formally took part in the Rite of Initiation into Carmel, taking the name of Sr. Teresa Susan. The call to this life is so mysterious and so beautiful. With open hearts, we welcome you, dear Sisters JonFe and Teresa Susan. May both of you be embraced by God and supported by our prayers.

What lies behind and what lies ahead are tiny matters compared to what lies within. (Emerson/Thoreau)

—Excerpts from Eldridge’s Autumn Newsletter by Sr. Mary Jo Loebig.



Sr. JonFe Marie pronounced her first vows



Sr. Teresa Susan, initiated into Carmel

Recipes

Jamocha Rum & Butter Cake

1 box Devil's Food Cake Mix
1 tablespoon instant coffee powder

Bake Cake:

Mix the cake as instructed on the package, adding 1 tablespoon instant coffee powder. Pour cake mix into 9x13 pan and bake as directed.

Rum Sauce:

½ cup water
½ cup sugar
2 tablespoons butter
½ cup rum

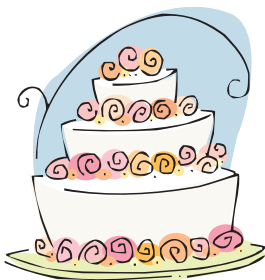
Just before the cake is done, combine water, sugar, butter and rum in small pan. Heat until the sugar is dissolved and butter melted. (Do not boil). As soon as the cake is taken from the oven, poke holes in the top and spoon the hot rum mixture over the hot cake very slowly until all the liquid is absorbed. Cool cake.

Whipped Cream Frosting:

2 cups whipping cream
¼ cup Hershey's chocolate milk powder
1 tablespoon instant coffee powder
1 chocolate bar (for shavings on top)

Combine the whipping cream and coffee powder in a mixing bowl. Chill for 15 minutes in the refrigerator. As you whip the cream, add the chocolate powder and beat to desired consistency. Top the cake with the whipped cream and garnish with the shaved chocolate bar over the top.

Claire, Reno Carmel



Flourless Chocolate Cake (French)

Yield: 12 servings

Ingredients:

7 oz (200 g) semisweet chocolate (45-50 % cocoa)
4/5 cup (200 g) butter
1 cup (200 g) sugar
4 eggs, separated

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (Gas mark 4 or 180 degrees C).
2. Line a 9-inch (23 cm) cake tin with greaseproof or other non-stick paper and grease the tin.
3. Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt it with butter over hot water.
4. Beat the egg yolks with half of the sugar.
5. Fold in the melted butter and chocolate mixture.
6. Beat egg whites until frothy by using an electric mixer; gradually add the remaining sugar, beating until stiff peaks form.
7. Fold in the beaten egg whites.
8. Bake at 350 degrees until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, approximately 40 minutes. Please note that cakes of this type will collapse and look like a pie because no flour is used.
9. Use a knife to separate the cake from the non-stick paper. Please observe that the cake is quite sticky!

The Flourless Chocolate Cake may be served warm or cold with whipped cream. The cream may be dusted with cocoa powder before serving, and the cake may be dusted with powdered sugar.

Rosalind, Reno Carmel

This year was a good one for zucchini, a vegetable you either love or you hate. Our former bishop of Latrobe, PA who did not like zucchini, called it "a gourd with hormone problems," since it grew and multiplied so fast—at least it seemed so. Actually there are loads of recipes for this versatile vegetable, from soup to dessert. We recently celebrated a feast with a wonderfully moist chocolate zucchini bundt cake.

This recipe, which we found on the web, makes zucchini a feast day vegetable and is not hard to make.

Zucchini Summer Casserole

(Feeds at least 12)

Heat oven to 350 degrees
6 lbs. sliced zucchini
¾ cup chopped onion

Place in boiling water and cook 5 minutes. Drain well.

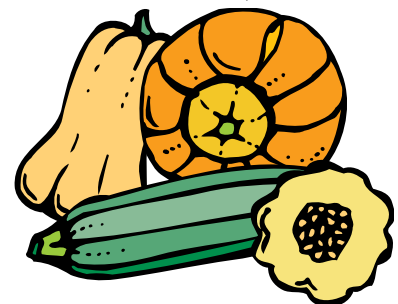
3 cans condensed Cream of Chicken Soup (can be low-fat and low-salt)
3 cups sour cream (low-fat acceptable)
3 cups grated raw carrots
Mix well and add zucchini and onion

3 sticks margarine, melted (this probably could be reduced with experimentation)
18 oz. chicken-flavored bread stuffing mix
Combine these two ingredients.

Place ½ of stuffing mix in bottom of ungreased baking pan(s).

Spoon zucchini mixture over the stuffing and top with the other half of the stuffing. Bake for 40-60 minutes until zucchini mix is bubbling and stuffing is golden brown.

Marie Elizabeth, Latrobe Carmel



PRAYERS FOR OUR SISTERS AND RELATIVES

BARRINGTON

We ask your prayer for GENEVIEVE'S DEAR BROTHER, FRANK LAWLER, who went home to God on July 19, 2007. Gen was able to have a wonderful visit with him in June.

ELYSBURG

Due to her physical condition, it has become necessary for our Sr. Ann Marie to receive assisted care with round-the-clock supervision. Our friends, the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville graciously welcomed her to their assisted-care unit at Maria Hall in Danville. Sr. Ann Marie is quite well inserted into the daily schedule of the unit. We bring her to the monastery for festive days and weekly community meetings, as well as visiting her once a week.

LATROBE

Please remember SR. MARY'S Father, WILLIAM WILD, in your prayers as he undergoes radiation and chemo treatments for cancer. SR. THEODORA'S 85-year-old mother is in fragile health and has a lot of worries to bear at this time.

RENO

Sr. Pat Kelley continues to be in our love and prayers, as well as all our sisters in Reno.

BEACON

We ask your continued prayers for: SR. MICHAEL ANN who had surgery in May for a hip fracture; SR. JEANNIE who had a knee replacement in August. Both sisters were able to have rehab in local facilities, followed by outpatient physical therapy.

BOSTON

The death of Sr. Therese Haffert on September 17, the feast of St. Albert. The community were all present praying the second Glorious Mystery of the rosary, the Ascension, when God took Sister home. It was a peaceful, graced passing.