

STJ
500

V CENTENARY
SAINT TERESA
OF JESUS

CCA Newsletter

Volume 36 Issue 2 February 2015

BALTIMORE, MD

BARRINGTON, RI

BEACON, NY

BOSTON, MA

CLEVELAND, OH

CONCORD, NH

DANVILLE, PA

ELDRIDGE, IA

LATROBE, PA

OLDENBURG, IN

RENO, NV

SAN RAFAEL, CA

MEMBER CARMELS

If Soul,
Hidden in God,
What has it to desire
Save to love more and more,
And, in love all hidden,
Again and again to love You?

St. Teresa. Loving Colloquy





A Letter from the CCA Leadership Team

Dear Sisters,

First I want to say that we on the CCA Leadership Team are deeply saddened by the recent deaths of Sr. Ann Sheridan of Latrobe, Sr. Ruth Boyle of Oldenburg, and Sr. Ann Marie Cianci of Danville. Our hearts and our prayers go out to their communities and families. They are surely part of the spring of living water that is Carmel.

During this year of the Teresian celebrations, we encourage you to consult the official website sponsored by the Discalced Carmelite Order in the United States for the 5th Centenary: www.teresa-5th-centenary.org. There you will find a calendar of events, commemorative items, and pictures, many of which can be downloaded.

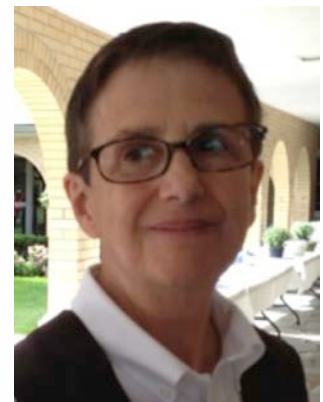
Among the events our CCA communities have planned for the next few months are: *The Interior Castle: A Musical Drama* commissioned by Boston Carmel and performed by Musica Aperta. This will take place on May 30th. Watch the PBS website for details on the premiere documentary of the Carmelite Virtual Choirs scheduled for March 26th. Baltimore Carmel will host a lecture by Alison Weber on March 14 and a lecture by Daniel Chowning on April 17. Latrobe is having a special Mass in honor of St. Teresa with the Greensburg Diocesan Religious. March 28th is the actual 5th centenary of St. Teresa's birth, and many of our communities are celebrating with a special festive Mass. However your community is celebrating, we invite you to join us all in prayer for this special day and for the growth of the Order in the United States.

We are also anticipating the Friars' General Chapter, May 2-24, 2015. We are delighted that Sr. Claire Sokol from Reno Carmel will be a representative for the English-speaking region. She will be serving with Sr. Lucia van Steensel from Holland. Please pray for Claire and Lucia as they prepare to represent us.

As the season of Lent begins, all of us on the Leadership Team wish you a grace-filled Lent and a happy, happy Easter.

With love and prayer,

Hilary



Sr. Hilary Case



Sr. Mary Paul Cutri

Carmel of the Assumption

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Death of Sr. Ann

Our last contribution to the CCA newsletter informed you of a fall our Sr. Ann Sheridan had which sent her to the hospital for surgery and then to St. Anne's Home in Greensburg for recuperation. Since then we have sent by email, to the members of ocdnorthamerica, the account of her last days with us on earth. Sr. Ann was dearly loved by many loyal friends from Pittsburgh who attended her funeral, some of whom were companions from her grade school/high school days. We had the joy of having two of our Carmelite Friars with us for the celebration of the Eucharist at her funeral: Fr. Jude Peters, OCD, our Provincial and Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzoles, OCD from the California Province who was here giving our community retreat at the time. We were happy to have our Sisters from the Baltimore Carmel represented by Sr. Robin and Sr. Luisa. Ann is buried on our grounds next to the four other Sisters who preceded her in death. Later Sisters Tanya and Mary Paul dug the hole and cemented the simple wooden Cross at her grave which will have Ann's name plate added to the cross-bar.

Remodeling

Several areas in our monastery required remodeling so we invested in new windows where needed and new flooring in our recreation room, the Sacristy and two adjacent rooms. What a beautiful "feel" there is in our recreation room with a lovely wood-pattern floor.

Retreat

As is our custom we have, for our annual community retreat, one week in silence and one week with a retreat master. This year we appreciated the talks by Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzoles, OCD. His stay overlapped with Ann's funeral and the following day of celebration with our Secular Carmelites; so for three days we had two Carmelite celebrants at our daily Eucharist.

OCDS

Honoring Our Holy Mother Teresa in this year of grace, we invited our Latrobe Secular Carmelites to join us in a day of celebration, November 9th. Fr. Marc Foley, OCD, was asked to give two conferences that day which focused on understanding Holy Mother Teresa through her life and works. We shared lunch together and delighted in conversing with our growing Secular Carmelite community.

Christmas

For our Christmas celebration this year, we decided to move the midnight Mass to an earlier hour, 9:00 p.m. Preceding this, we had our usual procession throughout the house singing carols with our Prioress, Sr. Mary carrying the statue of the Infant Jesus. When we reached the Chapel, we heard the proclamation of the birth of Jesus sung by Sr. Marie Elizabeth this year. We prayed Office of Readings then sang some carols before the Eucharistic celebration. Many of our friends appreciated this earlier Mass as much as we did.



Sr. Theodora and Sr. Shirley



Srs. Joanne and Mary

As we “picked” through our pieces to find the nut, Sr. Wanda discovered it. She had the portion which was represented by Holy Mother Teresa. What a blessing to have her as our community patron in 2015!

Epiphany

On Epiphany, we continue the custom of placing a nut within a cake that is baked to determine who will be our community patron Saint for the next year. The pieces are cut, one for each Sister, and each piece is designated by a Carmelite Saint.



Sr. Wanda discovering the nut

Convent Crawl

In our Diocese, the women religious have organized a weekend for potential aspirants to religious life. It is named Convent Crawl because those women who are interested visit three or four convents during that weekend to meet the Sisters and to learn of the way of life each community serves in the Church. Our community is a part of this project. The three women who participated were grateful for the experience and showed interest in future opportunities to talk with different Sisters about their way of life.

Year of Consecrated Life

In this year dedicated to Consecrated Life, the Catholic Accent, our diocesan newspaper, is featuring an article each month of one of the sisters, in different communities, telling of her vocation story. The January 15th issue had the account of an interview with Sr. Mary Paul, representing our Carmel.

Prayer request

On January 23rd, Sr. Shirley Marie had remedial surgery done on her foot which had been injured many years ago in a horse riding accident. She can put no weight on the foot for 8-10 weeks. We ask your prayer for her healing and complete recovery. Shirley uses a “scooter” to navigate the halls. It has a padded seat for her knee to rest on while she uses the good leg to “paddle”; there are hand brakes for safety. A great invention!

In November, Sr. Tanya had cataract surgery on both eyes. She recovered well and enjoys seeing everything “so bright”. She also discovered that she has wrinkles on her face!

Carmel of the Resurrection Oldenburg, Indiana

We began November with a ten-time for prayer and reading. We evening news, which is so much an were able to do our mid-term very little City Hall, one door away continue to pray for wisdom for healing of obvious antagonisms. has encouraged us to work for



Sr. Jean Alice McGoff

day hermit retreat, a feast of quiet and still had good attendance at the object of our praying and sharing. We voting just down the street at our from the local fire station. We our President and our Congress and a Our own modest leadership training win-win situations.

This month we celebrated Sr. Anna Mary's 96th birthday and the 60th anniversary of Sr. Rachel's Profession. Several of us sang in the choir for Thanksgiving. Little did we know that this was the last Thanksgiving that our Sr. Ruth would be with us. Soon after that she began to mention some symptoms she was having from her carcinoid cancer surgery in 2011.



Sr. Anna Mary on her 96th Birthday



Sr. Rachel, celebrating her 60th anniv. of Profession

Our current lecture series (via DVD) is based on the writings of Karl Rahner. The speaker is Fr. Richard Lennan, a Professor of Theology at Boston College. He is Australian with a very interesting accent! It is an exploration of Rahner's theology of grace, which lies at the heart of his works. Fr. Lennan presents this powerful theology as help in encountering God's active presence in history and our world today.

Sr. Rachel had a bad fall in December and moved over to the Franciscan Sisters infirmary. She had a broken elbow and some bruised bones! Although recovered, it was clear to her and to us that she needed to remain there. It is a bright place and she is getting the best of care. She is also just a few minutes away from us.

The whole Advent and Christmas season in Oldenburg, with the town customs and the beautiful liturgies in the Franciscan chapel are so inspiring. The town, chapel and convent decorations seem to be ever ancient and ever new! The Franciscan Sisters have a custom of inviting people to tour the convent after Christmas. They have many trees with a variety of decorations and the crowds really show up!



Community around the Christmas tree

In early January Ruth went up to University Hospital in Indianapolis to see her surgeon and to have a series of tests. By the ninth she had a diagnosis revealing the aggressiveness of the cancer and a prognosis of three months to a year to live. She did not have any real pain, just discomfort. She moved into the infirmary, mainly because a hospital bed was more comfortable at night. However, by the morning of the 28th, the head nurse believed Ruth was dying.

We were all with her when she was anointed by the chaplain. Terese and Jean Alice were with her later in the emergency area of Margaret Mary Hospital. She died shortly after 1:00. The other Sisters came and we were able to sit quietly around her body, praying and sharing.

We will soon send out an account of Ruth's life. We want to thank all of our dear Sisters for such a quick and loving response to the news of her death. We appreciate all the email messages, cards, phone calls, and the prayers and masses promised through them.



Sr. Ruth

Carmel of the Sacred Heart and of the Holy Face Danville, Pennsylvania

Amid the cold of winter, new life still comes forth. In mid-December, our Sister Ann Marie entered into the fullness of life, peacefully and, to us, unexpectedly. On Dec. 12th, she was taken to the hospital emergency room and admitted to the intensive care unit. Days earlier there had been no significant signs of illness, nor acute pain, so this was a surprise to us. Extensive surgery followed, revealing sepsis; and multiple organs began to fail. In mid-afternoon of Dec. 13th, she breathed her last with Sr. Patricia and our



Sr. Ann Marie Cianci

chaplain, Fr. Heintzelman, praying at her bedside. The funeral Mass was offered in our Chapel with three priests concelebrating and interment followed in the local, diocesan cemetery of All Saints. Sr. Aletha braved the winter weather and came for the Mass, making the round trip from and to Beacon in one day; we were so grateful for this generosity! Our Community has many happy memories of Sister Ann Marie: her devotion to the Sacred Heart, her acceptance of the limitations brought on by aging and her keen humor and many more.

On the solemnity of the Epiphany, our Kings' Cake gave us St. Teresa of Jesus as patron for the year. We were surprised and delighted, another gift for us during her 5th centenary of birth.



Sr. Angela Pikus

Sr. Anna's birthday and Sr. Anne's birthday occurred within six days of each other: January 30th and February 4th. Of course, there were two parties! Our friends in the women's Cursillo group of St. Joseph Church in Danville provided the cake/ice cream. Both Sisters are doing well at ages 88 and 91, respectively.

A staff writer for our diocesan newspaper, "The Catholic Witness", contacted us, asking what we are planning for the celebration of this Year of Consecrated Life. And, so we share with you, too. We began reading and reflecting on the Rule in Community and will begin the Constitutions this month, refreshing in our minds and internalizing more the points of these bases of our life. During Lent we will share together on the Gospels of the Lenten Sundays. We have also begun a 24 part DVD course on the Old Testament by Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University; this has proven to be a wonderful "find". There is a similar 24 part DVD course on the New Testament, which we will eventually view together. The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius have invited us to a monthly video lecture, in house, on themes of consecrated life. These are applicable to apostolic and contemplative religious.



*Sr. Anna on her 88th
Birthday*

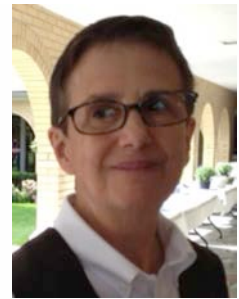


*Sr. Anne on her 91st Birthday
with Sr. Joan Lundy*

Lent and the sure-to-come Spring will bring us still more new life, in nature and in spirit. Thanks be to God for all! We send loving wishes for a fruitful Lent and a beauty full Spring to all our Sisters and Friars.

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph Concord, New Hampshire

Greetings to all of you, Sisters, from snowy New Hampshire. As I write, I am reminded of the wrath of the Goddess Juno in the *Aeneid* because Blizzard Juno is pouring down snow; it is a good morning to compose. Now that we have returned to Ordinary Time, we are busy planning events and discussions for 2015. In this edition of our Newsletter, though, I will share with you the highlights of our activities and some of our reflections during the final four months of 2014.



Sr. Hilary Case

Beginning September 21, Fr. Tom Frink, S.J. gave us a retreat on Mission. He shared deeply from his study of St. John of the Cross, to whom he has a special devotion, and from the thought of his own St. Ignatius of Loyola. At the beginning he told us that he wanted to spark the fires of our Carmelite commitment and increase our understanding of our own mission in the church. In these aims he truly succeeded, and we are grateful to him and to the Lord.

This fall we devoted some community meetings to discussion of the questionnaire sent out by the committee of CICLSAL charged with producing a new document on contemplative nuns (to replace *Sponsa Verbi*, 1999). It was good for us to reflect on enclosure, initial and ongoing formation, and autonomy; we are still discussing these issues now as we plan for the future. Beyond our own efforts, however, lay the reward of reading the responses of all of your communities in CCA, either online or in hard copy. We want to thank you all for your deliberations and the CCA web geniuses who posted all the results on the CCA website.

On the day before Thanksgiving a major snowstorm smashed through, dumping two feet of wet, heavy snow on southern New Hampshire. Most of the city of Concord lost power.



On generator power, we cooked our Thanksgiving Dinner with one stove, eating more simply than we might have. It was a day to pray for others not

blessed with a generator. On Friday we read with relief of various people's solutions to cooking the Dinner and of the shelters that were opened. Restaurants also opened their doors to people in need. Here at home, Sisters Miryam, Susan, and Hilary spent much of Thanksgiving afternoon helping trees and bushes out of the ice, sawing off broken



Sr. Miryam

branches, and hauling debris out of the way. Miryam made good use of our Excavator-in-Residence, with us for the winter and perhaps beyond. The pictures illustrate this storm's force.



We had a festive Christmas, followed by a celebration of Epiphany, on which we chose St. Teresa Benedicta as our patron for the second year in a row. Her picture remains in our refectory and something of her presence also as we share our common meals. On the Feast of the Baptism, we choose countries to pray for during the coming year. On this Feast, Sr. Miryam consulted a site called Open Doors U.S.A. (<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>).

This site tracks countries that persecute Christians, providing a sheet with a map, a description of the government, and an account of the intensity of persecution for each country. We have a firmer basis for our prayer plus a go-to site when we need to update our information. During Recreation we drew sheets, passed them around and shared.

Ahead of us lie choices about the Year of Consecrated Life and our celebrations of Our Holy Mother's 500th Birthday. Our STJ events include a workshop on St. Teresa in May by Sr. Hilary and a special triduum, October 13-15, evening Masses with Fr. Mark Joseph DeVelis, O.C.D. We will keep you informed about these and other events in coming issues. Blessings to all as winter continues.

Carmel of the Holy Family

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The last four months were jam packed with events and activities that filled our calendar to bursting. From celebrating Therese and Holy Mother to welcoming students as they used their muscles to rake leaves and haul them to our Olympic size compost heap, we were kept busy as our bees during the autumn season. We also experienced the joys, challenges, and sorrows of life in these months of letting go and accepting the stark beauty of winter.



Sr. Maria Viatory

In the beginning of October our Diocese was shaken by the death of our Delegate for Religious. Fr. Bill Wiethorn, a Capuchin friar, was a supportive friend and companion to the religious communities in our diocese. In mid-September he was diagnosed with pneumonia, and subsequent tests revealed he had untreatable cancer. He witnessed such confidence in God's tremendous love and was at peace in knowing that God would bring him home. Fr. Bill's journey was a profound lesson in how to approach and accept the realities of our human existence and come to a place of deep peace and surrender knowing we are embraced by the love of God.

On the coat tails of sorrow we were uplifted by many joyous events. On October 11, Vera Lea celebrated her 80th birthday. Patty Thornhill, her sister, came up from Columbus to celebrate with her. Patty treated the community to Thai cuisine from a local top notch restaurant and topped it out with napoleons that you would die for. Vera Lea was thrilled that she could enjoy her all-time favorites on this milestone occasion.

God provides in many ways that are surprising and unexpected. Those who schedule priests for Masses would enjoy this story. Our Sister Jean Marie is always on the lookout for priests to preside over liturgy. Fr. Don Cozzens, a frequent celebrant, suggested that Jean Marie contact Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald who is spending the academic year at John Carroll University. Archbishop Michael was named Nuncio of Egypt from 2006 until 2011. We have been blessed by his gracious spirit and wonderful pastoral presence. When we were in need during Christmas week, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries came to pinch hit for us. Bishop Gries has preached our Therese Novena Liturgy and is a steadfast friend to our community.

As a rule I take a pencil and several pieces of paper to liturgy when Father Michael Woost presides; the Feast of Holy Mother was no exception. Mike gave a tremendous homily focusing on how we can enter this year of celebration for the 5th centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. Mike made reference to Volume II of the Letters of Holy Mother, Letter # 449 article 4 written to Sister Leonor de la Misericordia: "I praise you, for interiorly you are advancing in the practice of virtue. Leave your soul to God; it is his spouse. He will be responsible for it and lead it to the place that most suits it." Fr. Mike's focus was to encourage us not only to grow in prayer and contemplation but also to strive to grow in virtue. If we do not, we run the risk of being spiritual dwarfs. Entrusting ourselves into God's care and allowing God to take us to a deeper place indeed cultivate the flowering of virtues in our lives.

One of the unforeseen maintenance projects that had to be addressed during this time was the reconstruction of our screened-in porch. We were informed by a carpenter who was performing some repair work around that monastery that on close examination the wood supports on the outside porch were rotting away. We were told that sisters could no longer sit on the porch because of the possibility of collapse. At the end of October carpenters came to shore up the structure until proper reconstruction could occur. They finished the job in November, so all is well in that department.

Bernadette is usually scurrying around with the tractor and mowers getting the yard in shape for the annual leaf rake. Students from Gilmour Academy and John Carroll University came to help her in this labor intensive adventure. We were all prepared to feed the crowds and work up a sweat when to our amazement 7 inches of snow fell. Bernadette had to cancel our 19th Annual Leaf Rake. We did have a lovely consolation prize that day: we shared lunch with Pat Giralt, a Secular Order member, and her children, who had driven up from Akron, only 20 miles away; they had no snow!



Bernadette, Mary K, Jean Marie, Pat O'Brien with friends

Our Carmelite Guild members did it again! On November 8th, they organized and put on another superb “Roses in November” gala event. Barb Losh and Donna Schultz attended the boutique, luncheon, and style show and came back to the community with a glowing report. We are very thankful to all the women of the Guild who support us in so many ways. On December 8th we

celebrated the installation of new members to the Guild at the Liturgy of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Edward Pevec, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Cleveland and a long time friend of our community and the members of the Guild, presided and gave the homily. We were quite upset to learn that a week later, the bishop unexpectedly died.



*Anita's Birthday
Front- Anne Joan, Anita, Mary K. Back- Donna, Pat O' Brien, Bernadette, Vera Lea, Pat Conway*

We definitely love to celebrate, so when birthdays roll around, we party with the best of them. We are grateful that Regina Health Center is very accommodating to our community when we celebrate

our sisters' birthdays. Anita and Anne Joan had terrific parties, and we were thrilled to be together to celebrate such joyous occasions. To our surprise Pat, Gabriel, and Edwardo Giralt came to visit while we were celebrating with Anne Joan. It was a rich blessing to celebrate and then pray vespers together on our titular feast of the Holy Family.

In early December Fr. Donald Brink, OCD came to visit our Secular Order members. Although he was on a tight schedule and had several other secular order groups to meet with, we did have a chance to enjoy his company before he had to journey to another location.

Each year we have a special after-Christmas gathering with our dear friends, Gene and Grace Carroll. The time is filled with story telling, singing, much laughter, and exchanging of gifts. We look forward to the creative inspirations that come from this father-daughter team. This year we enjoyed the contemporary song, "Carmelite Rap." It was a reprise from 2013, but we loved it so much that we begged for an encore. Long time friends of the community, Pat and Jose Espinoza, currently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, also visited with our sisters at Regina Health Center and then came to the monastery to have lunch and chat with rest of the sisters.

Dioceses throughout the country are engaged in various activities to promote the Year for Consecrated Life. Early in January, Barb Losh was asked to be part of a short media production that would focus on religious life in Cleveland. Fr. Ed Siebert, SJ of Loyola Productions came to interview Barb about Carmelite life. It will be exciting to see the final edition of this project.

We did not feel the effects of winter storm Juno; however, winter storm Linus packed a punch and delivered over a foot of snow to Cleveland Heights. We were blessed that Fr. Don Cozzens could navigate down Fairmount Blvd. to celebrate liturgy with us on Candlemas morning.

On this feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Donna Schultz was received into the novitiate. During our evening office we had a lovely ritual of welcoming Donna into this next phase of formation.

We ask your prayers for Donna as she continues her journey of discernment.

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to our sisters in Latrobe, Danville, and Oldenburg as they mourn the loss of their sisters. May Ann, Ann Marie, and Ruth experience the eternal embrace of God's love, and may they shower rich blessings upon their communities.

Peace and blessing to all!



Reception Day for Donna



Monastery Bells

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains Reno, Nevada

SPRING TURNS IN WINTER'S WOMB

*Winter is a mother
Big now with snow.
Her branches laden
Her rivers frozen
Her breath icy in the air.*

*Spring, the child she carries
In her womb
Grows day by day.
And when I am quiet
I hear this child
Sing a special song*

*Only bravest robins know.
See her in green blades
Beneath a sheltering log
And know
Spring turns in winter's womb
And in my heart as well.*

- Sr Joan



Sr. Joan Williams

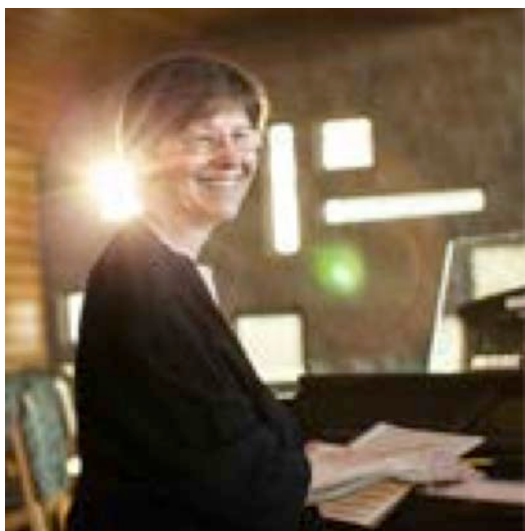
Sister Cecelia Kang became our special Songbird this January when she completed her three-year transfer and was welcomed as a permanent member of our community.

We celebrated Sister's transfer with our extended community at the four o'clock Saturday Mass offered by our chaplain, Bishop emeritus Straling. The festive spirit carried over to dinner where Sister's family and close friends joined us.

We are grateful to Sister's original Korean Carmel and to our Detroit Sisters who were such an important part of Cecelia's journey.



Sr. Cecelia



Sr. Claire

Our local PBS station (KNPB) caught wind of the Carmelite virtual choir project while Sr. Claire was working on it during the summer of 2014. They are in the process of creating a half-hour documentary which will be premiered in our local area on March 26, 2015, in time for the actual date of St. Teresa's 500th birthday, March 28th. They believe a production that combines music, technology and spirituality will be of interest to many people and so plan to market the documentary (no title yet) nationally and even internationally after its premiere. We are excited that several sisters from CCA and other US Associations (i.e. Carmel by the Sea) will be featured in this documentary highlighting the living legacy of the daughters of St. Teresa today!

This Advent we again welcomed our extended Reno community to a Christmas Concert — a space of prayerful tranquility in the midst of the seasons' busyness. Last year, the Concert was held for one night only, but the tremendous response led to two presentations this year. Early in December people began to ask hopefully, "Are you going to have a Christmas Concert?"

Guest artists, a violinist, harpist and the Bella Voce Women's Choir, joined our Sisters Claire and Cloe to recreate the magic of that first Holy Night. Sister Cecelia's liturgical dance provided a final grace note to the ensemble.

A discreet notice at the bottom of the Concert invitation read, "Admission is free. Donations cheerfully accepted for the Reno Family Homeless Shelter." A nice reminder of Mary and Joseph. People were very generous!



Sr. Cloe, at our Christmas Concert

We continue to look for ways to simplify our life. For instance, a professional now handles Medicare and Medicaid forms, an accountant works part time on our finances, the men who do our yard work also help in the house with heavy lifting, etc.

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Boston, Massachusetts



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty

Those who came: The Cardinal Carter Academy Singers from Toronto came on the evening of October 17th and gifted us, and all in attendance, with a magnificent concert in honor of OHM's birthday. They included a special rendering of Nada de Turbe by Jacques Berthier.

Victoria, a beautiful baby girl, the daughter of a man who has done work on our front gate, came to attend Mass with her parents who have asked Sr. Bernadette Therese to be her godmother. With the latest ruling on immigration law, the father will be able to get his green card, much to the relief of he and his wife.

Richard, who is originally from South Sudan, and who was a seminarian in Kenya, having Denis Geng OCD as his spiritual director, is now studying at John XXIII seminary for delayed vocations. During his times off he has been attending Mass at the monastery.

We had a young woman *from* Florida with us for a weekend, discerning about our life. And another who will be coming back at the end of February.

We are expecting Aileen Chua from the Philippines, but who has worked in California, to enter on March 12th, and Alina Lopez from Panama who has been working in Florida to join us within the next few months.

Friends of Fr. Carney Gavin, a long time friends of our community, came to visit and share about his last days. They gave us a beautiful photo of him taken while he was saying Mass, holding the host, just hours before his death

And we received generous food collections from two different groups at Thanksgiving this year so have been able to share with our parish pantry, as well as help a former neighbor who depends on our help.

The monastery: The work in our third floor, i.e. the new prayer room, sewing room, and copy room, is finished but for the adjusting of the shutters and laying of some carpet in the prayer room. The architect suggested " a blue or green rug, something cool." We had to tell him we had already chosen the color, "Bonfire." The work in the choir is quite another story, left untold for the present.

We have an archivist coming three days a week to work on our archives. She is a recent graduate working under the supervision of a more experienced woman who comes frequently to check how things are progressing.

Liturgy and Retreats: Our retreat in October was given by Fr. Frank Conroy, a diocesan priest whom we have know for some time. An excellent homilist, he is very insightful and practical.

And before her fall, Eileen Mary went down to Barrington for her retreat which she greatly appreciated, not knowing at the time what lay ahead.

A Korean friend of Sr. Agnes, who is studying at BC, Fr. Damian, OFM, and Fr. Francis SJ, a Filipino, studying here also, came to celebrate Mass with us. Fr. Bill Murphy, a spiritual director at John XIII seminary, has started to come regularly.

One day we had a call from a Fr. John Cappucci who asked if he could come for the feast of OHM. He did, bringing guests and two cases of wine. He said he was friendly with the sisters in Covington Carmel and would bring them wine on OHM's feast. However, when he returned for Mass in ordinary time he brought wine with him again. He told us of an incident that occurred while he was in Louisiana. He had been given the promise of two tickets to the '04 Superbowl game, and after some serious urging, he convinced a friend to fly down from Boston for the game, only to have the promise of tickets fall through. He 'desperately' needed two tickets and turned to his fiends at Covington Carmel who promised to start praying immediately. The following day someone from St. Louis gave him two free tickets. And the Patriots beat St. Louis in their first Superbowl.

Formation/education We continue our weekly sharing on OHM's letters, and our one on one meetings at Sunday lunch.

We postponed two of the Inter-community classes due to the weather and the fact that two of our community were still in rehabs.

Sr. Marian came up from Barrington for one day of class on the updated history of Carmel in Mexico and the US. She has promised to return. And on the day this report is due Randy Sachs SJ will be giving us input on the Incarnation.

Prayers Sr. Agnes' mother had a serious stroke. Sister went to Korea for a week in October and was able to give some assistance to her sister in visiting. Mrs. Ahn is coming on but prayer would be appreciated.

Sr. Marieleth's mother in the Philippines is also having serious health problems. Please pray for her.

On Nov. 22, during supper dishes, Eileen Mary tripped and fell. At first she believed she was OK, but when she experienced severe pain during the night she ended up in the hospital emergency room with Bernadette Therese. The blood thinner she was taking caused much blood to flow to the knee and complications followed. On Thanksgiving day the community went in two groups to be with Sister. After thanksgiving she went from the hospital to the rehab at Marian Manor. Just before Christmas she went back to the hospital where they removed the 'dead blood.' Three of us spent time with her on Christmas. She joined us for the day on Epiphany and then returned to Marian Manor. Our hopes -and hers, are to have her back with us during this month.

After her knee replacement, Mary Teresa went to the rehab in NY with which her sister's community is affiliated

Snow: Earlier in the winter we had a small snowfall and a youngster who was walking by stopped and looked up at the monastery then lay down at the front gate and made a snow angel before continuing on.

Later we had more snow, a goodly bit. Richard, the seminarian whom we mentioned above, when asked by one of the staff what he thought of the snow, said that it reminded him of insects swarming. We only wish it would all fly away.

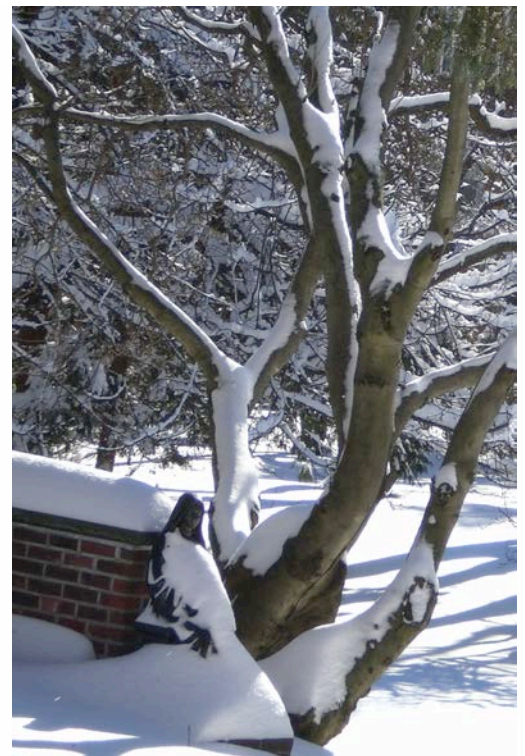
Having a place to park for those coming to the monastery each day becomes a challenge in the winter. We've toyed with several ideas, some more aggressive than others, to protect the spaces we had cleared from the marauding hordes (of new neighbors, young able fellows quite capable of shoveling out their own driveways). We have yet to solve the problem, but we intend to.



Fr. Randy Sachs, SJ, with Sr. Jeanne-Marie (inter-community class)



Sr. Juana looking out the window



The Statue of St Therese in the garden

Carmel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Therese Barrington, Rhode Island

Blessings of Teresa on you! What a gift she is giving to us for her birthday! Her daughters and sisters around the world will be united and present with the Friars, our brothers, in Rome at the General Chapter! (Someone told me once that the exclamation point is to be avoided in written texts; but, I think what is happening in Carmel's history now calls for it!!!)



Sr. Roseann Gillice

We continued our custom of celebrating OHM's feast with the parishioners of St. Teresa's. We pray the Office of Readings in English and Spanish. We are strengthened in our faith by the people's own faith. At the end of the Office we form a circle as we give each other the kiss of peace. This year it was a joy to meet the parents holding infants in their arms. The little ones never made their presence heard during the entire time.

Friends volunteer to drive the Sisters to Doctors' appointments. On a rainy day one of the men substituted for the regular driver who was in Florida (there are many snowbirds in R.I.). Not accustomed to the ritual of getting in and out of the car for this sister, her pocketbook was left on the roof of the car. On returning home they discovered it was lost. A day or two later, Sister received a phone call. A young man, having corroborated the information, related that he found the pocketbook while biking over the bridge. He was able to return all the valuable cards in good condition, even though it was obvious a car had ridden over it. Sister's joy was doubled by the fact that the man was a Greek Orthodox convert to Catholicism. This thrilled Sister because she prays for the Orthodox and longs for the unity of the Churches. Who could plan a day like that?

In November Sr. Chris Wood, O.P., from Grand Rapids, MI, visited us as a consultant from NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office) for a few days. This service of observation and advice while sharing the daily living of the community is connected to the possibility of receiving a grant from the organization for the community's needs. Sister fit right in. It reminded me of what one of the Dominican priests who comes to us for Mass remarked once: "Dominicans are close in spirit to the Carmelites."

The annual concert presented by the Cathedral Choir for our benefit was well attended. They are very generous with their time and talent. These past two years we changed the schedule from a late evening hour to the afternoon so people could avoid night driving. The chapel was full; everyone appreciates the beauty of the music and the enthusiasm and humor of Msgr. Anthony Mancini, the conductor.

Sr. Francesca's arrangement of the Christmas manger each year continues to evoke awe and delight in the people who come to the chapel. She does wonders with milk cases, boxes, cartons, used brown packing paper, garden moss, green branches, poinsettia plants, lights and statues. Inside the grounds, our friends decorated the statue of Our Lady of the Smile and some of the trees with colored lights. Outside, there were lights on the bushes along the chapel wall. These always add to the neighborhood's festive spirit – light in the darkness brings peace. We so enjoyed the two Christmas cards from Scotland forwarded to us by Sr. Judy Murray. Sr. Eileen played them on the TV for us. They created such beauty, prayer and peace. We guessed that it was Sr. Allain's voice for both; thank you for the treat, Sister.

Recently, work was done on our web page; beautiful and simple. Soon after an inquiry was made about our community by a Rhode Islander – of whom we have none! This was followed by another woman's request to

visit. Two from Rhode Island! Please keep them in prayer. Nora, who had come as a candidate last June, decided to leave. Pray for her too, please.



Sue and Mark's Visit

Since our Sr. Jean Elliott died in 2011, we have had the pleasure of visits from her sister's family: nieces Jean and Sue with her husband, Mark. Sue walked the Camino de Santiago a second time in the Fall. She has found many friends on The Way, but most of all direction in her life and how she can share it in service to and with other people.

Our Bishop Thomas Tobin celebrated Eucharist on the feast of the Epiphany in our chapel. Afterwards he and his secretary, Fr. Jeremy Rodriques joined us for a hearty breakfast. Toward the end of January our Diocese hosted an Hour of Prayer for Peace at the Cathedral, because of the prevalent violence, hate and disregard for life. The gathering included Catholics, Protestants, Baptists, Rabbis, Moslems, Fire Fighters, Police and anyone who wished to pray for peace. We joined in spirit with them from 7 to 8 P.M. while praying the Office of Readings and remaining in silent prayer.



*Bruch with Bishop Thomas Tobin
and Fr. Jeremy Rodriques*

As is our custom on the feast of the Epiphany, we cut the cake for our community patron. This is Therese's second year in a row. I know she will be good to us.

We read the Letters of Teresa on Worksheet 8 at our last community meeting. Reading the two to Rubeo made one feel like one was living through it. Because of the people involved and the opposition, the intensity of the situation fired up Teresa to respond as the genuine person she was, the Woman of the Beatitudes. We came up with a long list of characteristics that sparkled in her.

We are preparing a Panel with our OCDS –two of them and two of us, plus a moderator – to celebrate Teresa and Consecrated Life on March 22nd which is the OCDS regular meeting day. They agreed to open it to the public which will be an opportunity to try to help others to know and understand the life of Carmel.

Mother Nature wrapped us in her mantle of silence in late January and promises another visit this coming weekend. As the snow fell, amounting to two feet, the wind howled and blew drifts for the fun of it. It was beautiful to see, BUT it prevented the priests from coming for Eucharist a couple of days; we shared the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion. Our new "first woman" governor, Gina Raimondo, received praise even from the Republicans for her managing the clearance of the roads and the help and care given to the people. (There was a generous fine for anyone on the road.)

Let us stay united in prayer for Pope Francis, the Church and all creation. Love in Christ.

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

In early October we received an invitation from Mary Sue Forslund (Sr. Mary Jo's niece). Her parish the Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish in Leavenworth Kansas was part of a three-day Sesquicentennial Symposium Oct-23-25 celebrating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the first male Carmelite foundation in North America. The celebration featured liturgies, keynote presentations and special events.



Sr. Miriam Hogan

Sr. Miriam was able to accept the invitation to attend. It was a delightful experience from start to finish. Mary Sue's pastor Fr. David McEvoy O.Carm first came up with the idea and had a lot to do with the planning which took years. One of the remarks he made especially touched my heart and stayed with me. During the keynote address, he said that in Carmel we very often

celebrate death, and it is *important* that we take time to celebrate *life*.



The local newspaper indicated that "Carmel's Journey to the Frontiers" was a two-tier celebration. "We have Carmelite priests, brothers, and cloistered nuns who are coming for the celebration of our Carmelite community," said Fr. David. "But we also have events open to the general public and parishioners." One such public event featured a stagecoach with Carmelite Prior General Father Fernando Millan, O.Carm, and others leading the procession that started on the Missouri river, just as the sun was breaking

through the morning fog. In fact the sun seemed to shine brightly on all the activities, even on The Canticleers who performed in concert in the evening.

There were lots of stories and pictures of the early founders. One that I especially enjoyed was: "When the two German Carmelites (Fr. Cyril Knoll and Fr. Xavier Huber) first arrived in 1864, they mistook Bishop Miege for a workman, because they found the hearty prelate chopping firewood. It was a quick education in the ways of the American frontier: In Europe, bishops did not have to produce their own firewood." (umm...never mind what Pope Francis might have to say today!)





Finally, in addition to the wonderful parties, good food and inspiring talks we found it a special privilege to reconnect with our friends and to make new ones. This special report could go on and on, but God be praised for all of our Carmelite brothers and sisters. An epic anniversary was certainly celebrated with an epic celebration. Now, our prayers are united with all that are planning St. Teresa events.

On another subject, our gardener Sr. JonFe went to the Seed Savers Exchange where a seed savers conference was held in Decorah IA.

We are carefully hoarding the seeds away from our adopted Squirrel family who along with the chickadees and their companion birds keep us entertained during meals.



Sr. Lynne says that she just wants to brush the snow off this pic.



Sr. Lynne

So far the winter has been light and we have only lost power for about a half an hour. Our sympathy and prayers are for our Carmelites and for all the people living on the East and West Coast.

Peace and Love,
Sr. Miriam Hogan

Carmel of the Mother of God

San Rafael, California

Dearest Sisters of CCA,

We hope that you all had a very joyous and grace-filled Christmas Celebration! Here is our news from December. Starting at the beginning of December, the Lord blessed us with an abundance of rain, which is so badly needed on this parched west coast, after three of drought! Even though there was just another big storm and a lot of rain again this month, we keep up our prayers for more rain, for our crops, drinking water and our precious redwood trees.

Then Sr. Teresah Joseph had her lung cancer surgery on December 9th. It was so successful, that within a month afterwards, a whole new lobe of her lung had regrown. The power of prayer was overwhelming. We can't thank everyone enough for all their prayer, love and care. The surgical team and nursing team at Kaiser San Francisco was superb.



Sr. AnnaMarie Vanni

On December 10th, the community went to the Oakland Paramount Theater, to accompany our Sr. Maria Fideles as she was sworn in as a United States Citizen!!! It was a very moving ceremony, with many speakers giving us information and congratulating all 1,200 new citizens from 103 different countries. We also watched a very wonderful movie about what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America, representing every part of the U.S.

We had a very special celebration of Sr. Immaculate's First Profession of Vows on December 12th! Three Priests concelebrated the Mass: Fr. Thomas Kyallo from Kenya, Fr. Laurence Mutiso also from Kenya and Fr. Brian Costello, a long-time friend of our community. Many of our dear friends, Secular Members, and the Young Ladies Institute were in attendance. It was a very uplifting and joyous occasion.

Paul & Hong Vanni, Sr. Anna Marie's brother, came from Maui to be with the family. Their twin children are the cutest babies of all time. They had recently found out that together they are much stronger than on their own and can knock down any barriers in their way, so that they can go and get into all sorts of trouble. We had a delightful two days with them.

For our Christmas celebrations, Fr. Brian Costello offered our Christmas Eve Mass and Fr. Eli Salomon offered Mass for us on Christmas Day. The Chapel was filled on both days. It was so nice to have Sr. Teresah Joseph back with us the week before Christmas! We had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to bring in the New Year and Fr. Laurence Mutiso offered the Mass on our titular Feast Day, for the Mother of God.

On the 24th of January, the Walk for Life, West Coast was a big success, with over 50,000 people participating, along with the Nuncio for United States. We kept this wonderful event in our prayers for months ahead of time and all that day!

Sr. Anna Marie's niece, Rachael, came to visit, bringing her new two-month old daughter, Cloe to meet us! Rachael lives in the Lake Tahoe area of the Sierra Mountains and had to wait until Cloe was two months old to go over the 9,000 ft. Donner Pass. She too is the cutest baby around. It is fitting that Rachael, who was the first grandchild, have the first great grandchild in our family.

Our Jam Sale, which this year ran from October 15th until February 2nd, was a huge success. We are so grateful to all of our friends and family who bought our jam.

The Novena to St. Joseph will begin on March 11th and we are looking forward to having Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD, with us again to direct this special nine-days of prayer and reflection during Lent.

This is our Golden Jubilee Year of Foundation! Bishop John Wester will be celebrating it with us on Saturday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and join us for this landmark celebration, to thank the Lord, for his mercies endure forever!

We wish you all a very blessed Lenten Season and a glorious, joy-filled Easter!

Carmel of the Sacred Heart

Baltimore, Maryland

Concert by Kim and Reggie Harris

On October 11th 2014 we opened our celebration of St. Teresa's 5th centenary and our 225th anniversary with an evening concert by Kim and Reggie Harris. Consummate musicians and storytellers, Kim and Reggie are longtime friends of our community. They combine a strong folk and gospel legacy with a solid background in classical, rock, jazz and pop music. Kim and Reggie showed us again their gifts as songwriters, educators and leaders in prayer. Our opening liturgy took place the next day, Sunday October 12th. With Fr. Joseph Chalmers, OCarm., as our presider and homilist, and Kim and Reggie's musical



Sr. Monica Bies



Kim and Reggie Harris Concert

contributions (we used Kim's *Welcome Table: A Mass of Spirituals*) it was a festive celebration that did justice to the importance of the two anniversaries.

Carmelite Institute Lecture

A couple of us attended last year's Carmelite Institute Lecture "Reimagining Bernini's Ecstasy of Saint Teresa" by Christopher Wilson at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. In his excellent lecture Christopher Wilson sketched out how Arnold van Westerhout, Edmonia Lewis, Flannery O'Connor and Richard Wilbur reimagined Bernini's statue and Teresa herself.

Learning Festival

Instead of following our "traditional" Learning Festival format, with a focus on guest speakers, we did something different last year. Our 2014 Learning Festival was dedicated to work that needed to be done in the archives and in some other administrative areas. It was a focused and successful effort to spend time on very specific projects.

Loyola Blakefield Service Day

Our annual Service Day for Loyola Blakefield and St. Ignatius Loyola Academy 6th graders took place on November 7th 2014. We started by celebrating Eucharist together and afterwards the students went outside to rake leaves. At the end of their time with us they came back to the chapel for some conversation about our life. Probably the most intriguing question was: "I get the prayer stuff, but what is your ultimate goal?" Union with God...Transformation of the world...What is the ultimate goal?



All Saints/All Souls of the Order

A large number of us followed Fr. Greg Houck's, OCarm., kind invitation to celebrate All Saints/All Souls of the Order with the community at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, DC. It was a great way to commemorate together all the holy Carmelite women and men who have gone before us.

Lecture by Barbara Mujica

On November 15th 2014 Barbara Mujica gave a lecture in our chapel on *Teresa as Feminist*. Barbara Mujica is a novelist, essayist, short story writer and critic. She is a professor at Georgetown University and a specialist in early modern Spanish literature. In her lecture Dr. Mujica looked at what it meant to be a woman mystic in 16th century Spain and a contemplative in the midst of the Inquisition. We were grateful that we had a full chapel for this wonderful event. Barbara Mujica's lecture can be viewed on www.carmelstream.org.



Dr. Barbara Mujica and Sr. Constance

Carmelite Student Gathering at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, DC

Our novices began the New Year by attending the annual Carmelite Student Gathering (January 1-3) at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, DC. Fr. Craig Morrison, OCarm., gave several wonderful presentations on *Lectio Divina* and the students worked in groups to present creative projects where they used technology to spread the message of Carmel. For their project, Sisters Olivia and Celia presented their work on *To The Holy Mountain Project* (www.totheholymountain.org). Some of the OCarm. presentations can be found on www.carmelites.net. Most importantly, this gathering provided our novices with the opportunity to get to know and share ideas with their Carmelite brothers. Sisters Olivia and Celia are most grateful to the Carmelite Sisters who operate the Scrolli School in Washington, DC for their warm hospitality and fantastic cuisine.

January Community Retreat

We had two tracts of input for our 2015 January community retreat: "The Spirituality of Beauty" (presented by Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, Ph.D.) and "Teilhard de Chardin's Cosmic Christology and Christian Cosmology" (presented by Fr. Donald Goergen, OP, Ph.D.). The various talks were very inspiring and provided us with nourishing food for thoughts. The two series are available for purchase on Now You Know Media.

The Beauty of the Incarnation
Advent Candlelight Prayer
with Saint John of the Cross

25 YEARS
AND COUNTING

Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m.
Carmelite Monastery
1318 Dulaney Valley Rd
Baltimore, MD 21286
www.Baltimorecarmel.org
www.ToTheHolyMountain.org

Join us for a contemplative
evening with music,
reading
and prayer

Carmel of the Incarnation Beacon, New York



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

We had an unusually long and colorful fall in the Hudson Valley this year. I was often reminded of the first lines of Mary Oliver's poem "Mindfulness":

Every day
I see or hear
something
that more or less
kills me
with delight.

We are blessed to live amid such beauty.

We opened our celebrations of this fifth centenary of Our Holy Mother on her feast with liturgy presided over by retired bishop Frank Rodimer of Paterson, NJ . Bishop Rodimer is a secular order Carmelite and had been introduced to us by our chapel designer, Willy Malarcher, some years ago.

The same month, Sr. Jeanne Marie went from a hospital stay to Lourdes, the nursing home of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Connecticut, as a permanent resident. The



Srs. Lydia and Jeannie

Redemptoristine sisters who now share our building also have several sisters in Lourdes. Their Sr. Lydia and our Jeannie celebrated their birthdays together October 12.

November saw a visit from Brother Larry Lundin, SJ from the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. Bro. Larry and I worked on TRENDS, a program for making financial projections, and on looking at the functioning of our finance office with a view to eventually hiring lay help.

As more of us become somewhat hearing impaired, we have looked for ways to improve the acoustics of various areas. In the chapel, Marjorie now has a mike for the guitar, and we have installed acoustic panels in the refectory. These have proved somewhat helpful.



Bro. Larry, SJ

Our vicar for religious, Sr. Catherine Cleary, PBVM, gathered together members of four of the contemplative monasteries in the New York Archdiocese: ourselves, the Redemptoristines, Poor Clares and Sacramentines. The prioresses and councils met here and were challenged by her to look at our present realities and priorities, and to project five years into the future. There were no practical decisions made, but it was a sobering exercise.



Srs. Aletha, Miriam and Marie Gertrude in front of acoustic panel

In January we readied ourselves for the blizzard of the century... the worst storm in decades...which wasn't. A last minute shift twenty miles to the east spared us, if not our neighbors in New England or on Long Island. What had no preparation was the onset of flu and an enterovirus that was making the rounds. For a while, every community act was prefaced by looking around to see who was or was not there. About ten of us succumbed before the bugs left.

We were pleased to receive a positive response from Fr. Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm. who will celebrate the closing Eucharist of Our Holy Mother's fifth centenary on October 15 this year.

Prayers for a grace filled Lent and Easter.