



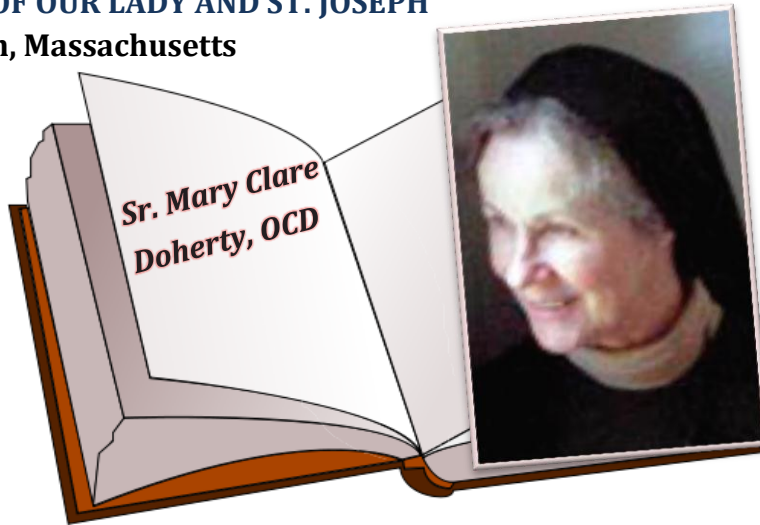
CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 33, Issue 1, June 2011

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Boston, Massachusetts



The snow and rain have finally stopped, giving a tree company the opportunity to chip up the fallen trees and branches that had succumbed to the winter. It was sad indeed to lose so many trees. Springtime and flowers have helped to diminish the loss.

Some radical repair and replacement of a large section of our garden wall has now begun the final section. Thank you Lord for the winter and thank you Lord for its passing.

We continue meeting for discussions on *The Way of Perfection* and also on the talks given by Fr. General in Oklahoma. We hope our conversation and reflection will deepen our insight

into the meaning of our vocational life.

Some of the speakers we've had for our ICFP this past year were:

- Russell Holmes, on dreams in revelation and religious practice
- Jim Keenan SJ on the meeting of moral theologians held in Trent
- PHEME PERKINS, from Boston College, on the Christ of John's Gospel
- Hilary OCD, from Concord, on self-knowledge according to Evagrius, Cassian, and the Desert Fathers; she was excellent, and will return by popular demand
- John Kerr, a Xaverian brother, on Mary in Luke;

- Nancy Keough RSCJ, about psychology and the spiritual life
- Chris Frechette SJ about depictions of God in the Bible
- Barbara Metz SND, on Religious Life
- Tom Stegman SJ, on the Acts of the Apostles
- Richard Lennan, whom we discovered had been the president of the Australian Theological Society, on hope.
- Our friars, Marc Foley, Daniel Chowning, Sal, Kevin, and John Sullivan, gave lectures about our Carmelite saints.

Three deaths of very dear and generous friends of the community occurred during a two-week period. Josephine Politano, who was also a neighbor, Diane Hayes, and Roland DelPico. The week following their deaths one of our Mass celebrants told us that he had been in the rectory of Mr. Del Pico's parish when he was sick. At supper one night the church chimes started to play Christmas carols, specifically *Angels We Have Heard on High* even though the Christmas tape was not set to play. It was September. The pastor explained it: "Mr. Del Pico," he said,

“must have died.” Sure enough, they discovered later that it was at that moment that he had gone Home. Perhaps the carol was for all three of our friends.

Our nativity scene this year was Jeanne-Marie's idea and David, our carpenter's, workmanship. It was very effective being a large stable made from branches.

Cardinal O'Malley who visited us during the Christmas season, wanted a photo of all of us for his website. He also included some nice photos of the chapel. We had a really pleasant time at lunch with him later.

Our regional Bishop Robert Hennessey, came for the Baptism of the grandchild of one of our volunteers. Olivia Maria Faustina entered the Christian community amid the rejoicing of her family and friends. Bishop stayed for lunch, and returned, not long after, for Mass and another visit and meal. Barbara Talcott, an ordained Episcopalian minister and chair of the Religious Department at St. Mark's, a preparatory school a bit to

the west of Boston, came to our monastery with the students enrolled in her class on the Death of God in Modern Society. They were a group of six young men, 17 and 18 years of age, all with some belief in God, and all with questions on the contemplative life. In the past, Barbara had visited Concord Carmel with her class from St. Paul's.

wrote recently to say that she is in the process of getting the play into a theatre for an extended run and asked prayers. She has found a village in France that she thinks would be a perfect setting for Edith Stein's story. Oradour-sur-Glane, destroyed by the Nazis during WWII, has been kept in a state of ruin as a memorial. Another village with the

same name was built to the north. Kate will be meeting with the mayor of that village to see if he can approve her plan. Oradour-sur-Glane can be *Googled* for more information.

Our dogs did not celebrate Christmas very well this past year. We probably will never really know what happened to 'set them off,' or why they

chose that particular moment, but early in the morning of the Feast they attacked each other and we had to call Animal Rescue. Having been separated from each other, they went quietly, bearing their wounds, like our fallen trees.



Our Nativity Scene

Middle-school girls visit to celebrate Eucharist with us on Marian feasts and perform liturgical dance during the liturgies.

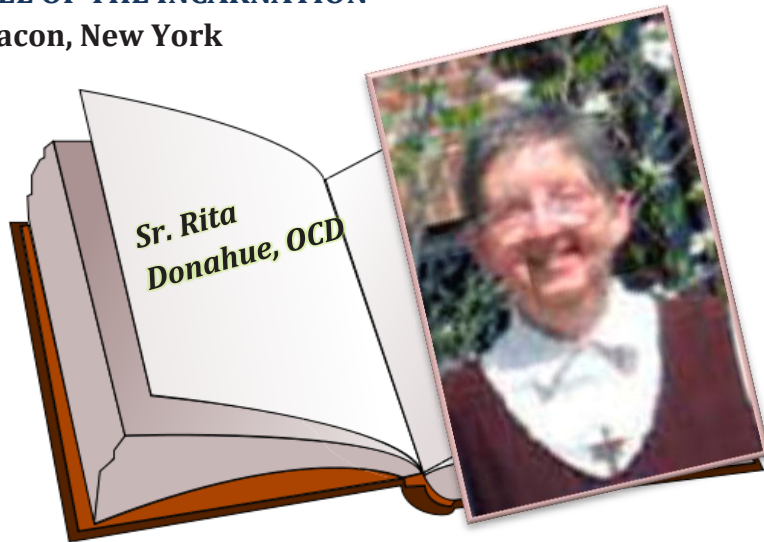
Some of you will remember Kate Green who directed the play about Edith Stein some years back. She



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CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York



The bean in our Epiphany cake in January gave us St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross as our patroness for this year. We are saying a prayer to her daily at the end of Vespers.

Srs. Marjorie, Carolyn and Michaelene found the Oklahoma Meeting held in March with Fr. Saverio fruitful and animating. They could not say enough about the hospitality of the nuns at Piedmont Carmel and the friars at Little Flower parish who hosted the group on two different days.



We began our Easter Vigil service outside our foyer door in pleasant weather without wind interference



this year. A young flutist with whom we've recently become acquainted was pleased to contribute two musical pieces to our Vigil liturgy.

Birthdays are important occasions to us. We celebrated Sr. Aletha's on May 14 in "Hats on to you!" attire. Can you guess the origin of these unusual hats?

Each year Cabrini Nursing Home, where our much loved Sr Thérèse Mary has been residing since Fall

2009, has a celebration honoring all Religious in residence. The May 10th celebration was a joyful and grateful tribute to the 28 Sisters currently living there. Sr. Marita wrote a biography of Sr. Thérèse and provided some of

her poems. She also provided an exquisite St. Joseph vestment which Thérèse had made in Saranac Lake, which was displayed in a place of prominence for all to see and admire.

The family spirit at Cabrini manifested itself as staff, residents, family and friends came together to sing, pray, and listen to the reflections of gratitude composed and shared by some of the sisters. Each sister was presented with a certificate citing the number of years of her religious commitment, prayerfulness and dedication to our

Lord, ranging from 30 to 78 years. After the Renewal of Vows all were amazed at how the Latin returned as we sang *O Salutaris* and *Tantum Ergo*. As Srs. Marie Gertrude and Marita looked at Sr. Thérèse in her geri-chair, she looked ecstatic. Refreshments for all followed the moving service.

Sr. Carolyn is en route home from Germany and Hungary today as I write this entry.

Sisters Michaelene, Marita and Marjorie attended a program sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference on April 2 in Latham New York. Sr. Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D spoke on *Where Challenge Meets Hope: Strengthening a Culture of Vocations*. Their sharing about the topic in community keeps us all abreast of contemporary thinking about "the vocation life."

The Canada geese that populate our lake and grounds, though beautiful, can be troublesome and messy. This year we have a few lifelike coyote predators on our grounds to deter them. The figures are in a stalking position and look ferocious. The goose population is down, though a few seem perceptive enough to

sometimes be unafraid. A visitor's dog decided to grab the fur-like tail of one and shake it.

On May 10, Sr. Lynn Levo CSJ, Ph.D gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation to the Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities (MACC) on *Technology*



Sr. Marjorie and Sr. Marita talk to Sr. Jean Tavin, SA

and the Contemplative Life. Considering internet use as neither good nor bad, Sr. Lynn cautioned that even the good can become unhealthy. She presented psychological well-being as necessary grounding for authentic living. One of her many slides showed the various choices available on the Internet, while another showed Internet use by age groups. Those of us who attended this presentation found it excellent and broadly informative.

"Keep our Carmelite life of prayer in the consciousness of modern-day people," is the objective for one of the Community Goals we recently compiled. This objective was a springboard for the following activities:

- ❖ During Advent we offered to the public an *Evening Of Prayer* in our chapel every Wednesday. Srs. Carolyn and Mary prepared these evenings.
- ❖ Each Sunday in Lent we opened our Vespers to those interested in attending.
- ❖ We held *An Afternoon Of Prayer and Reflection For Women: Sharing Carmelite Spirituality* on Sunday May 15. The program included presentations by Srs. Marita and Marjorie, quiet time and ended with Vespers.

We've watched three baby robins come to birth in a nest outside our laundry. A Springtime manifestation of God's creation to ponder anew in this Easter season.

Happy Feast of the Ascension and a Spirit-filled Pentecost to all.



CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

San Rafael, California



Easter Greetings to all our Sisters in CCA. We are united with all of you as we begin our Pentecost Retreat today.

We had a prayerful and grace-filled Lent. Our Novena to St. Joseph was inspirational. Father Warlito Namu based each afternoon's homily on St. Joseph and how he personifies the Beatitudes. We had a full chapel each afternoon of the Novena and enjoyed sharing Mass with Vespers with our congregation of friends.

The Easter Triduum was offered by Fr. Steven Lopes, Secretary to Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. Fr. Steven always brings us news of the Cardinal, and our good friends, Fr. Michael Monshau, O.P., who teaches at the Angelicum University, Fr. Charles Simbe, a diocesan priest

from Kenya, who is finishing his studies in Dogmatic Theology at the Gregorian University, to return and teach in the Nairobi Seminary, and Father John Schunk, a diocesan priest from San Francisco, who is studying at the North American College, who will be returning to the Archdiocese to teach as well.

On Easter Sunday, we began to use the African Breviaries, published in Nairobi in 2009, that Sr. Maria Fideles brought home with her from Kenya, in the Fall of last year. The



new, Revised Grail Psalter, by the Monks of Conception Abbey (2008), has been incorporated. We are enjoying this new translation and hope to be able to sing the Psalms with the new Gelineau Psalm tones, when the Monks complete them, later this summer.

Sr. Maria Fideles celebrated her Silver Jubilee this last year, by making a home visit to Nairobi,



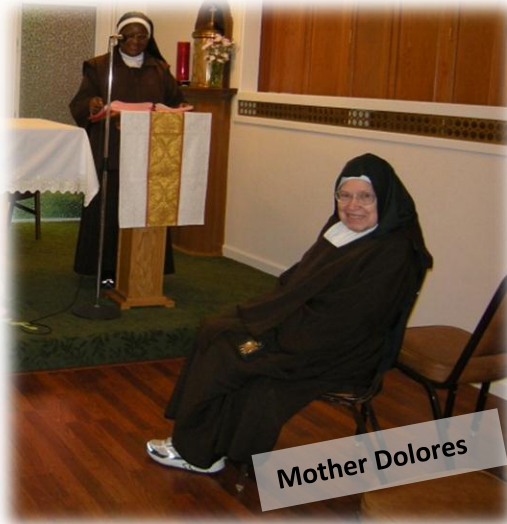
Kenya. She had a glorious celebration at her home Parish of Mutoma, with a children's choir of 300 and the Vicar General, Father Bede, as the Main celebrant, with 15 concelebrants, and a congregation of 2,000 friends and family, with many different religious taking part. She also had a good long visit with her Sisters in the Nairobi Carmel. When she returned home, we had a wonderful celebration in late November, with Bishop Daniel Walsh of the neighboring Diocese of Santa Rosa, with Fr. Dennis Geng, OCD, of the Nairobi Friars, Fr. Boniface Nzomo (also Kenyan and in the Diocese of Santa Rosa), Fr. Brian

Costello and Fr. Ken Westray of San Francisco. We held the reception for Sister and so many of our good friends in our Refectory, with the members of the YLI (Young Ladies Institute, St. Teresa Benedicta Chapter), helping to decorate, serve and clean up, allowing us to enjoy the celebration too.

Sr. Maria Fideles and I really enjoyed meeting the Father General and seeing many of you at the March meeting. It was definitely too short a time, but deeply memorable.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Mother Dolores, who has made an excellent recovery from her hip replacement surgery

last November 29th. Because she has SSI, (Supplemental Income) and MediCal, we have been able to employ a caregiver for her, Genet, who comes six days a week for 6 or 7 hours a day. She has been a God-



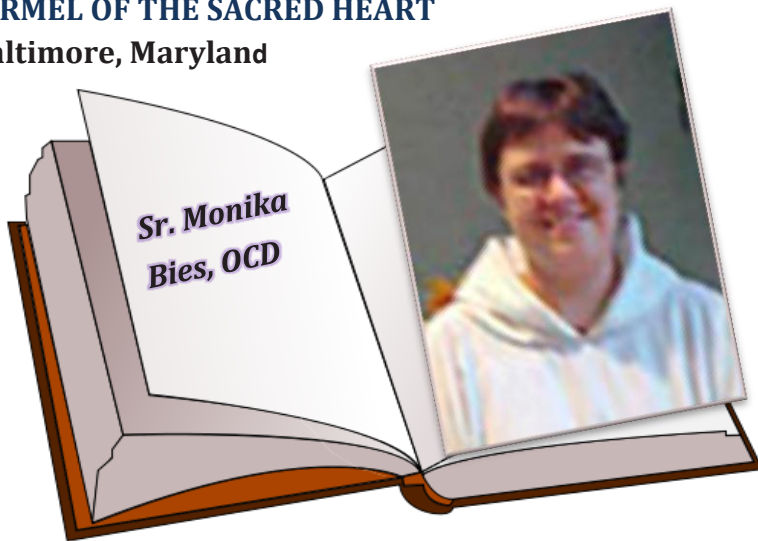
send, helping Mother with everything, especially her daily walks around the perimeter of the Monastery, where she stops to sit and water her gardens with her big sprayer, or turn on the water systems. How happy we are to see her back out in nature with her garden hat, glasses and gloves.

May the Holy Spirit fill each of your hearts with all the gifts and fruits you need the most and for which you have prepared, especially much Love, Peace & Joy!

Yours in the Risen Christ, Sr. Anna Marie & Sisters



**CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
Baltimore, Maryland**



Instead of following our “traditional” Learning Festival format, with a focus on guest speakers, we did something altogether different last year: Our 2010 Learning Festival was dedicated to our website development. This proved to serve

two purposes: the obvious one to continue the work on our website, but more importantly to have all the sisters involved in a project that is so crucial for the community and its future. The sisters divided up into small groups and were given a page of the website as their assignment. Towards the end of the Learning

Festival we came together to present our material. It turned out to be a unifying community project as well as a process which helped move the web work forward.

At the beginning of the year a local parish group had asked us if we would be willing to host a Lenten day of recollection for them. As members of our wider congregation had expressed a similar desire we decided to organize a day of recollection in our chapel. Three presentations were given: The first *Paying Attention*, focused on developing a contemplative disposition as part of the practice of Carmelite prayer. As an attentiveness exercise we asked the participants to practice a contemplative disposition by looking

at one of four natural arrangements in the chapel and to see how it “spoke” to them. They were then encouraged to do the same exercise “together with Jesus.” *Desire, Light and Darkness* was the second presentation with an emphasis on desire as the center and key to Carmelite prayer. Naming our

The response to this year’s Carmelite Institute lecture - “Edith Stein: Suffering for the Cross” by Dr. Sarah Borden (Wheaton College) - was given by Sister Fran Horner. In her response Sister Fran highlighted the central role of empathy in Stein’s understanding of suffering. She illustrated how the practice of

This is obvious, but it does not fully illustrate empathic community because Stein, after all, was Jewish: she did share a common ethnic bond with others who were taken. It is just preceding this scene where we find an example of a higher, harder, form of empathic suffering. Unfortunately it is a negative example, a failure of empathy. The soldiers appear at the door, and the prioress is called and told to surrender Sr. Teresa Benedicta. Sr. Colette says: ‘How did she do it? The prioress actually let her go.’ Today we can ask: what would empathic community demand? If Stein must be taken, then all the sisters go with her: all the sisters, those not implicated in the Nazi round-up, those whose backgrounds and perspectives are different. Their solidarity would affirm that notwithstanding their differences, and without pretending them away, these human persons are integrally interconnected. On the basic level of human dignity, they are one. In empathic community, each person would be willing even to die rather than to deny this basic truth. It didn’t happen. But just imagine if it had. I hope you can see why empathy involves suffering. Yet empathy is also suffering’s end, for therein lies the hope of changing our paradigm to recognize the sacredness of every human person, the interconnectedness of all creation, and the beauty of diversity. This hope is why empathy is transformational, redemptive, salvific. This hope is where suffering gains its meaning and dignity. And when empathic community extends throughout the world, our acts of



desires and developing them, as well as the concept of darkness in the Carmelite tradition (naming the experience Impasse) was the main content. The third *Seeing Jesus with the Help of Texts* dealt with taking the practice of paying attention in prayer with scripture texts. The emphasis was on reading and contemplating the scriptures. The progression of steps of Lectio Divina was explained and put into practice. The day came to a conclusion with First Vespers of the Fourth Sunday in Lent. In their evaluation various participants voiced their deep appreciation for this day and emphasized the way to make contemplation accessible to all.

empathy can result in suffering, but showed how this suffering can be transformational:

“I have a striking example that will explain how empathy and suffering relate. I owe this example to Colette Ackerman, currently our prioress in Baltimore Carmel. Remember that dramatic scene Sarah invoked, where the Nazi soldiers come to take Edith Stein from her monastery. Stein’s legendary words of leave-taking - Come, Rosa, let us go for our people - are so moving, so inspiring. Whether Stein actually said it or not, the statement expresses history’s understanding of Stein’s empathic embrace of those who were suffering from the Nazi persecution.

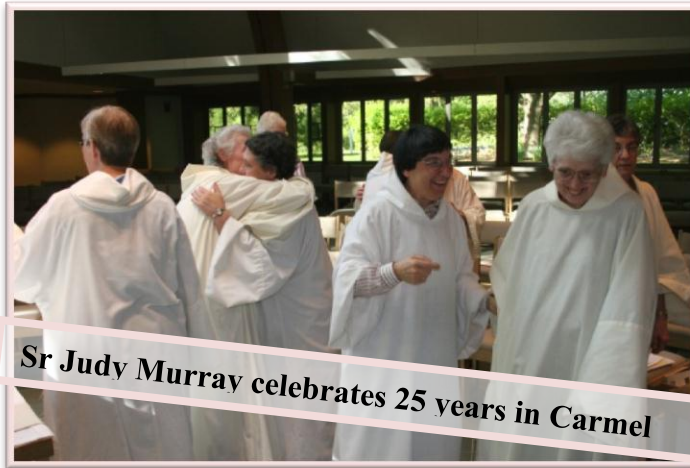
empathy will no longer cause us pain. For empathic community, fully established, will surely be heaven."

On the 14th of May Sister Connie FitzGerald was given an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters conferred by Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, recognizing her as author, educator, contemplative and critic, leader and scholar. In her acceptance she addressed the role of contemplative women:

"This degree does me a great honor. I accept it not only for myself, but for the contemplative women of this country, especially those in my own community, who have been laboring for more than forty years to read the 'signs of the times,' to be attentive to the voice of God in contemplative prayer, and by their lives and learning to bear witness in our broken, conflicted world to the reality of God's intimate relationship with each one of us and with the entire cosmos.

As we humans stand on the threshold of a new epoch, on the cusp of an evolutionary breakthrough, as some believe, we see around us a growing movement toward interiority in meditation groups of various

kinds, in Centering Prayer, Christian Meditation, and schools of spiritual direction. In a world of violence and revenge, oppression and revolution,



greed and hardship, natural disaster and devastating loss, it is no accident that this longing for contemplative depth arises alongside of- perhaps in proportion to - humanity's need for a radical transformation of consciousness. Your own contribution to this evolutionary transformation will depend not just on the service you give to others in the career for which your education has prepared you, but even more on your fidelity to (commitment to) times of quiet attentiveness to the God who is the very ground of your being. (A little thing?) Rooted in such a contemplative posture, your consciousness, your vision, your heart will be changed; you will become part of a critical mass that will lead humanity across the threshold before us. Do not be afraid to be contemplative!"

Sisters Colette Ackerman, Pat Scanlan and Robin Stratton were with her for this festive occasion.

On the 5th of May, Sister Judy Murray celebrated her 25th Jubilee. In her touching reflection, Sr. Judy expressed her gratitude towards her community:

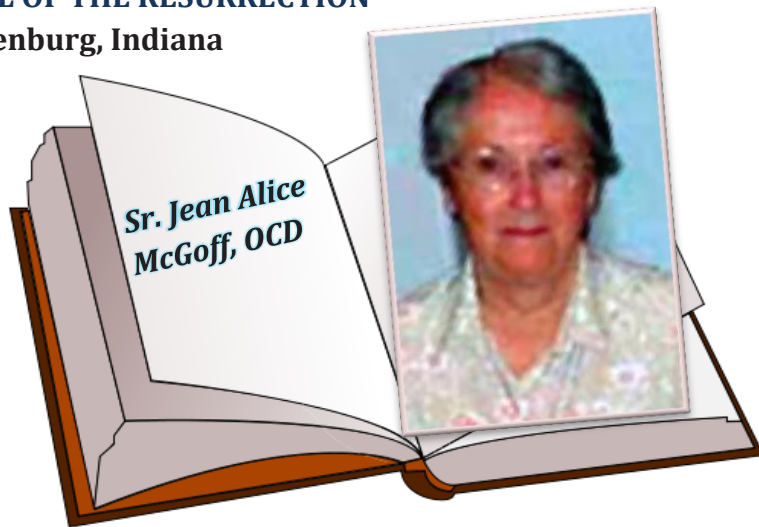
"Earlier we heard John of the Cross' exalted words about high prayer. I chose that text because it had inspired me when I first read it long ago and not because I have managed to get to the 9th rung of the ladder. No, far from it. It is only the prayers, strength, and love of my sisters that carry me along and prop me up, the horizontal dimension. I could never do this on my own. It is you who show me what God's love looks like. I am filled with gratitude to God for you and for this vocation. Thank you so much for all of your affection and for allowing me to share this "vanity of habitation" with you. I look forward to growing in holiness together with you as we continue the journey bringing Carmel into the future, where we shall sing forever that God delights immensely in us and always hears our little prayers."

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, and Reverend Adam J. Parker, Secretary to the Archbishop, joined us for Vespers and dinner on March 29. They enjoyed a tour of the archives and learning about our history as the first Carmel in the United States of America. The Archbishop is devoted to St. Thérèse.



CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana



We began the year with an open house for our Franciscan Sisters who live in the motherhouse across the street. Besides enjoying the sharing, they love to come here to Theresa Hall. It was built in 1930 as their postulancy and novitiate. It is truly a house of memories.

Sr. Helen and Sr. Jean Alice attended the meeting with Fr. Saverio Cannistra, Fr. John Grennan, and so many of our American Carmelite Sisters in Oklahoma City. It was a joyful and peaceful gathering and allowed a lot of dialogue, mostly informal, in a short time. All this was enhanced by our evening at the Piedmont Carmel and another at the Friars' monastery in the inner city. Sr. Helen was privileged to have a good amount of time with Fr. Saverio to discuss Carmel in China.

Sr. Marcie got to know the Poor Clares from Minneapolis very well when she participated in the Contemplative Study Program at St. Teresa College in Winona, MN, in 1969-70. At their invitation she

visited them in April to share our process of transition from Indianapolis to Oldenburg, a process which began some ten years ago.

On May 5, Terese and Jean Alice attended the semi-annual meeting of the leadership of the Religious Sisters with motherhouses in Indiana. This group dates back several decades. It has greatly strengthened bonds of support and friendship, and has been a well of spiritual and practical wisdom.

On May 7, we hosted a cluster meeting (Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Louisville) of the Association of Contemplative Sisters. We based our sharing on DVD lectures from the Center for Contemplation and Action: Jesus and the Buddha: Finding the Four Noble Truths in the Heart of the Gospel. We are fortunate in being centrally located and have a large sunlit room to hold a large group.

As a community, we continue to enjoy DVD lectures from The Teaching Company. Our current set is Classics of American Literature. In terms of spirituality we have had

lectures on "The Emerging Church" and now, "Saving Jesus." The latter features an all-star cast of theologians and scripture scholars. It proves that Jesus' question to us, "Who do you say that I am?" is still ringing down through the centuries.

On May 25 we had a visit from Srs. Teresa Irene and Barbara, members of the Episcopal Carmel of St. Teresa in Rising Sun, MD. We enjoyed their company so much, along with the PowerPoint presentation of their monastery and daily life. Dark skies, strong winds, and tornado warnings moved our sharing to the basement. We gradually realized that Sr. Barbara had visited and lived with us briefly back in the 1970s. Her journey to Carmel has been long and faithful.

Ruth has recovered so beautifully from serious cancer surgery. She spent more than a month in the bright infirmary of our Franciscan Sisters and could not have gotten better or more loving care. Her oncologist told her that her healing is "miraculous." Sr. Ruth thanks everyone for their prayers and cards. She often said that the prayer was palpable.

We look forward to a hermit retreat before Pentecost and to all those flowers that have not yet made their appearance. Loving greetings to all for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We will celebrate it in the motherhouse chapel with a close Jesuit friend from Cincinnati, Peter Carey, SJ, as president.

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND OF THE HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania



In the past four decades we have had four priests, native to the Harrisburg Diocese, named bishops. This is hardly an item for the *Guinness Book of Records*, but we're proud of the small towns and the cities of our Diocese. Most recently our Secretary for Consecrated Life, Fr. William Waltersheid, was named auxiliary to the Bishop of Pittsburgh. He hails from a village of about 40 families, Locust Gap, about 25 miles from Danville. The others, Bishop Rhoades, now of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Daley (deceased) and Cardinal Keeler have been friends of our Community for many years.

Each has had a great appreciation of our contemplative life.

In March we had Community elections and both Bishop McFadden, our Ordinary, and newly-named Bishop Waltersheid came for the event. It was a time of remembering and giving thanks. Sr. Angela was elected prioress, with Sisters Therese, Joan, and Anne as councilors.

Our monthly meetings for study and sharing on *The Way of Perfection* are rewarding. We start with a prayer day prior to the meeting for study and reflection; questions pertaining to the designated chapters help move us into dialog. Each meeting, without exception, has been satisfying to both mind and spirit, drawing out 'new' understandings and applications for our life.

As a Community we have been listening to tapes on Scripture and Liturgy. The series by Fr. John Jay Hughes on the parables has been exceptional. Currently we are listening together to a series on Mary by the mariologist, __Bertrand.

Our Secular Carmelites continue to grow in number and clearly in zeal, too. There are three in preparation for first promises and two preparing for final promises.

With a request from the local fire department Maria Hall was the scene of a "disaster drill." The fire department wanted a site which would be a challenge should a disaster strike [tornado, helicopter hitting the building, etc.] and Maria Hall with its four stories and 55 residents was selected. None of the Sisters, in fact, had to play a part and also only one wing on one floor was designated for "victims." Eight full, long fire trucks with extended ladder and giant water tanks came lumbering up the driveway, and six ambulances followed. As it happened most of the action was outside the building and rain ended the drill abruptly, but apparently the mission was completed.

Our loving wishes for blessings on the many liturgical feasts coming in June



Cross by Sr. Leah Hargis,
Baltimore Carmel



CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Reno, Nevada



Greetings from the monastery in the foothills of the Sierra.

Soon the Feast of Pentecost will be upon us. How this world is in need of the Paraclete, the Comforter. We all share in the heartaches of those who are experiencing life changing tragedies, not only here in the States but in the countries suffering from wars and natural disasters. There is so much need of prayer these days. On our own home-front we carry on with life holding all these peoples in our hearts.

We Had Elaine Park here for a weekend to give conferences to us and to our extended community Her theme was "Sabbath Rest."

There was a good turnout and it constantly reminds us of the thirst for spirituality among our people. In June we will be hosting a day of recollection for women and men who have been preparing to be Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the church for 4 ½ years. They are an inspiration to us.

On a practical level Sr. Barbara, SSJ, a consultant representing NRRO, came to work on the TRENDS analysis with us, which focuses on long-range financial planning. She was excellent and gave us enough material to work with toward our future. Sr. Barbara was stranded at airports en route to Reno because of tornados in the middle of the country. You wouldn't believe how perky she was in spite of having

no sleep the night before. The depth of her spirit and vocation were an inspiration to us all.



Sr. Barbara's input prepared us for our up-coming work with Susanne Terry this June. She will be facilitating our community sharing as we work with the TRENDS data and move forward with issues related to care for our elder community members.



As you know, our roof project is coming along so that we hope re-roofing will start in June. So many people

responded to our appeal for help. This was inspiring and humbling, especially during these hard economic times.

Included with our report is a photo of our Sister Rose, who is 91 and still works in the garden, and Sr. Michael who keeps our library in tip top shape and finds time to work in the



Sr. Michael

garden too. Our Sister Mary is pictured with Papa Sokol, Sr. Claire's father, who just celebrated his 96th birthday.

We are looking forward to having Fr. Don Cozzens with us for two days of input during our Pentecost retreat. One of the Sisters said, "Ask him if he would share

whatever is his passion." What more could we ask?

As we await a new Pentecost may we realize the words of Rudolf Otto in his book, *The Idea of the Holy*: "The Prophet corresponds in the religious sphere to the creative artist in that of art: he/she is the one in whom the Spirit shows itself alike as the power to hear the 'inner

voice' and the power of divination, and in each case appears as a creative force."

May we in the Spirit become ever more a creative force of prayer for all peoples.

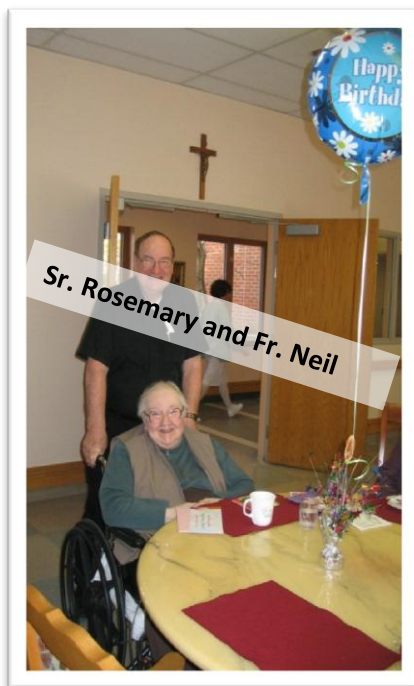
CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY Cleveland, Ohio



Life in our Carmel these past months has been simple and ordinary, flowing with the liturgical seasons and the life rhythms of each sister.

We find ourselves continually adapting to our changing needs and are kept quite busy maintaining our monastery and property.

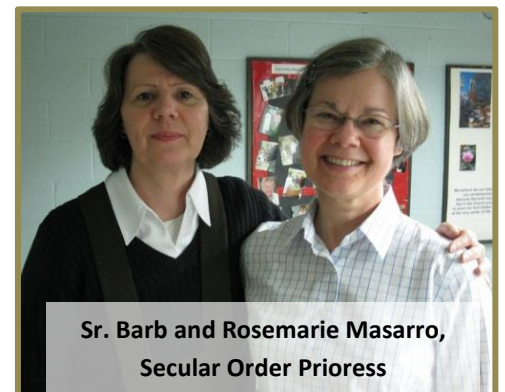
Our Rosemary spent twelve days in the hospital in late January with a mild heart attack, acute respiratory failure, and pneumonia. Not one to let a few pesky things like that get her down, Rosie was able to return to the Ursuline St. Angela Center, where she has resided for the past year, and has continued in stable condition. She celebrated her 88th birthday in March,



and almost all of us joined her there for a lovely luncheon and birthday party. In April Rosemary's sister, niece, and great niece came from Cincinnati for a weekend visit.

Sisters Mary, Jean Marie, and Vera Lea attended a four week Lenten lecture series at John Carroll University given by Fr. George Smiga. Eight paintings by Caravaggio, two each week, formed the backdrop for lectures on New Testament biblical themes. The artist's dramatic style and Fr. Smiga's stimulating insights provided much enrichment.

On May 1 our Secular Order members met at our monastery for a day of recollection given by Fr. Michael Woost, followed by a social with the sisters. Their community



has grown quite large and is flourishing, since having relocated to Akron, south of Cleveland, three years ago. They meet twice a year at Carmel. It is a joy to renew our friendship with so many of them and to meet new members.

Sisters Barb and Maria gave presentations to two freshmen religion classes from Beaumont High School at the beginning of May. The school is across the street from us, so the students can just walk over. The girls study monasticism as part of a Church History course, so we feature our Carmelite Saints and the origins of

Carmel; however, their curiosity sparks many questions about our life. My favorite is always, "Do you ever get bored?" Oh, for one hour of "boredom"!



The excessive spring rain we have received in the past three months surfaced several water-related maintenance problems. We have been dealing with basement

flooding, obstructed roof drains, and broken and clogged outside drains, which caused some inside flooding on the first floor. In addition we have had a malfunction of the

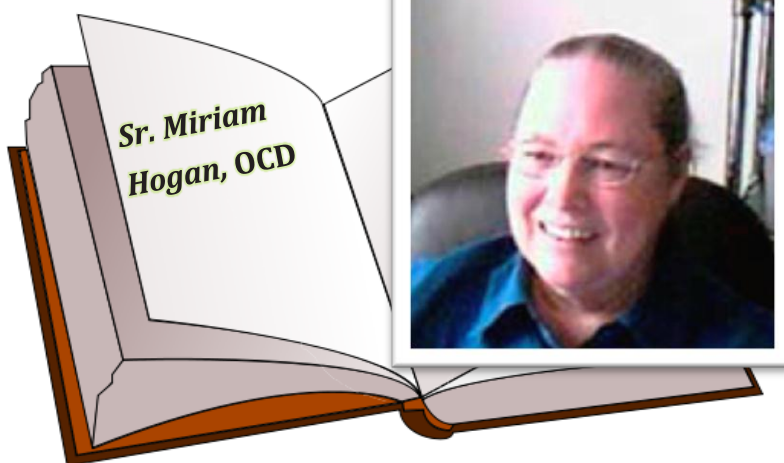
heating system in the chapel and choir, and a failed repair of the main sanitary sewer line from the front of the monastery out to the street. Several other repair/improvement projects are in the offing this year. So no, we do not get bored.

It has been much too wet to plant our garden so far, but we are hopeful. Everything: trees, grass, foliage is a lush green, and it seems all nature is rejoicing.

We too continue to rejoice in God's care for us, and wish everyone a beautiful summer.

CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa



"As The Sunshine in the heavens ... so, Lord art Thou to me.

"Sister Catherine Luth of the Holy Family said good-bye to us and went to God on March 5th. Without a doubt, we miss our Sister; her gift of encouragement is written on our hearts forever. Her sunshine smile and bright eyes convinced us that she will not forget us, as we will not forget her.



Some of us went up to Dubuque to see the *Women & Spirit Exhibit* at the *National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium*. We came back with a heightened appreciation for all that Catholic Sisters have contributed in shaping our American history, and all that they continue to do today. The stories of different communities were attractively presented with graphics, videos, and archival memorabilia. Beside the picture of Sister Clare Joseph Dickinson is noted: *"She came to the United States from Belgium with three American-born sisters who had left Maryland during a period of anti-Catholicism and had always dreamed of returning home. Together they established the Carmelite Nuns of Baltimore, the first community of women religious in the thirteen original states."*

Another exhibit that particularly caught our attention eloquently expressed the struggle of the

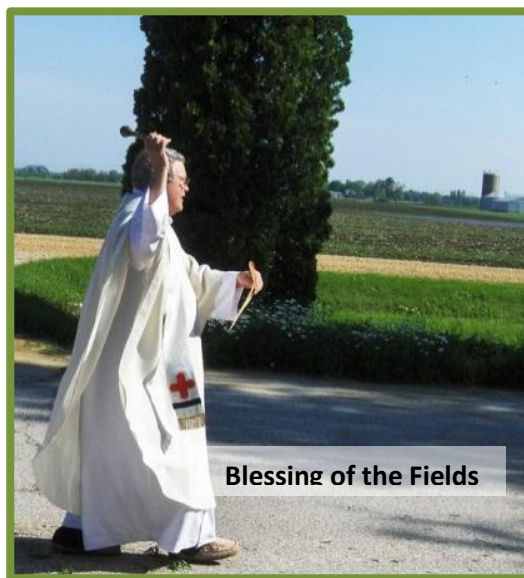
European sisters to adapt to American ways. The one for Mother Theodore Guérin quoted from her *Journal*: *"When dinnertime came, there was my washerwomen sitting down at table with us. I was so indiscreet as to say that it would be better*

for her not to take dinner with the Community. I wish you could have seen the change in the countenances of our American postulants! I had to compromise by telling the girl she might eat with the reader at the second table. The mere name of "servant" makes them revolt, and they throw down whatever they have in their hands and start off at once."

In addition to the wonderful presentation of the Sisters, we also saw the fish and grew in our knowledge of the Mississippi River. We remember fondly that our Eldridge Community was once known as ***Carmel on the***

Mississippi. Today, we pray for all who are suffering first-hand from the floods down river, as well as for all those affected by the recent tornados, and those who are trying to help.

Recently, after Mass we had the Blessing of the Fields. Fr. Miclot prayed with us and blessed the land to the North, South, East and West. This has been an Easter custom for our Carmel and seems especially appropriate as we are located in the midst of Midwestern farms and surrounded by crops on all four sides. We pray that the blessing extends to all our neighbors as



well as to our own garden. The blessing ends with the prayer, "May God, the source of every good, bless us and give

success to our work, so that we may receive the joy of God's gifts and praise God's name now and forever...Amen."

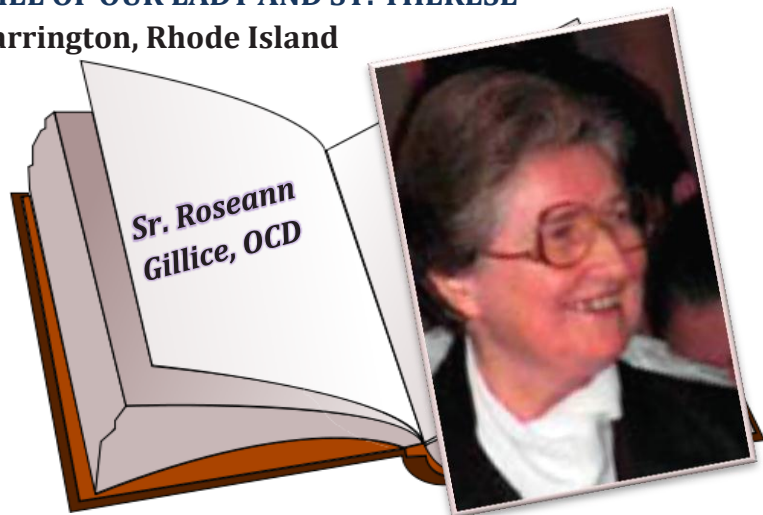
Wishing all of our sisters God's tender love and blessings.

Sr. Mary Jo Loebig & Sr. Miriam Hogan



CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THÉRÈSE

Barrington, Rhode Island



May Christ, our Hope of Glory, fill you with hope and joy in believing!

On September 18th, we celebrated our Sr. Jean's 60th anniversary of entrance into Carmel. It was a delightful time with community, family – relatives and a friend from Canada – and our daily Mass Community. Her nieces recalled stories of how Jean supported and enriched their lives in youth and older age in simple, human ways, how they trusted in her prayer for them. Sr. Eileen, with her first-time use of the camera, recorded all for Jean's older sister and her husband



in Vancouver. We composed verses (in Carmelite fashion) to *Angels We Have Heard on High*, highlighting the trip of Jean and her friend, Margaret to Europe after World War II. Sr. Jean requested that one of our daily Mass priests, because of his cheerfulness and good spirit,

constant care. Her smile and gracious presence continue with us.

In October Sr. Vilma attended the 60th jubilee of profession of her sister Miriam in Covington Carmel. The celebration was combined with that of Thérèse's feast. Before Mass, Sr. Grace and a friend gave a prayerful musical presentation. Exquisite! Special too, because the flute Grace played had been our late Sr. Mary Margaret's which was newly plated by our sisters of Reno Carmel. A gift from one great musician to another! Vilma's older sister Anne of Lafayette Carmel celebrated her 65th on October 15th. Though not able to be present on that day, Vilma, Anne and Miriam managed a visit of a few days together another time.



be the main celebrant for the Jubilee. Also, Jean asked him to preside at her funeral and apologized for not being able to set a date. The joy of those days strengthened us. May 14th Jean had a stroke, leaving her paralyzed on one side, bed-ridden, and in need of

Our retreat director in October was Dr. Dianne Traflet from Seton Hall University, New Jersey. She is the co-founder of the Institute for Christian Spirituality; her specialization is Edith Stein. It was an enriching time focused on two great lovers of Christ - Teresa and

Edith – comparing their journey and prayer. Dianne, a vibrant person, created an atmosphere of peace and joy with her love of Edith and the many stories portraying her as a wonderful human being.

I am sorry to say that Helen from Cameroon left us shortly before Christmas, after an extended time of discernment. We wish her the best and are grateful for having known her and for being introduced to a wonderfully rich culture.

Fr. Sal Scirba, our Provincial delegate and friend, came for our Visitation in January, 2011. We followed it with a community workshop by Patricia Kelly, Ph.D., who was recommended by our friends, the Trappists in Spencer, MA, as a foundation for our upcoming elections. Pat is a facilitator who provided community members an opportunity to explore those issues that might guide the discernment and call to leadership.

This year in the diocese of Providence we celebrated the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on February 14th, Valentine's Day. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary provided the place and a delicious meal for all gathered. We then had a conference and Evening Prayer. Many found this sharing a support and encouragement in their ministry. This year a Dominican priest shared his own experience in vocation. He asked us to consider the following questions: Am I consecrated to an idea or to a person? Whose needs are being met by my ministry? Where is Jesus

Christ in my life? Am I ministering in love and compassion? Am I becoming bitter or better? Is there any fruit of the Spirit evident in my life? In addition, he shared about a near-death experience that made him realize some simple lessons in life: confidence and trust in God and Jesus; the need to take care of one's body and soul; the benefits of deeper sharing with two or three persons; the importance of being of service to someone; and the need to always be aware of the One in whom we live and move and have our being, recognizing who we are and to whom we belong. He also reminded us that we are active and contemplative. To be only one way is like saying we should breathe in or out. Try only breathing in ... Be grateful for getting through the week.

Sr. Normagene started the Lenten season with a big bang. She fell and fractured her pelvis. I invited her to share her experience. *"Life In A Therapy/Nursing Home: Hello to all my sisters! Again I forgot my age and fell off my bicycle --- in a cemetery no less! One second to fall and 3 months to recover. I had a few breaks and received therapy for them. Now I am looking forward to going home. What have I learned?*

1) Stay off a bicycle, unless it is a stationary one and 2) have some patience and wisdom. Life in a nursing home is like the military – hurry up and wait.



I have been fortunate to be in a friendly, pleasant therapy home – only a 20 minute drive from the monastery. I have graduated from bed to wheelchair to walker. The walker will be with me for the summer – I think. The Barrington sisters have been very good in visiting me here. Two things I have especially missed – silence and solitude – both hard to find in a busy nursing home. I have a meeting in an hour to determine when I can return home – soon, I hope. Thanks for all the prayers and cards." Normagene will be 80 this year.

We delayed our elections, usually held on March 19th, until after the meeting of Fr. General Saverio and Fr. John Grennon with the U.S. sisters. Srs. Sue and Mary Davin were so grateful and pleased with the spirit of unity and peace that prevailed throughout the meeting. Sue was struck by Saverio's enthusiasm and conviction for our

Carmelite charism and the prayerful presence of Fr. Grennon. We hope to study Fr. Saverio's talk at our community meetings.

On March 25th Sr. Sue Lumb was postulated as Prioress. The newly elected Councilors are: 1st Sr. Mary Davin; 2nd Sr. Genevieve; 3rd Sr. Marian. Please pray for our

community as we continue to grow together in life.

We want to share the good news that Maureen O'Rourke will be starting her novitiate on the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. Please keep Maureen in prayer as she goes forward on her Carmelite journey.

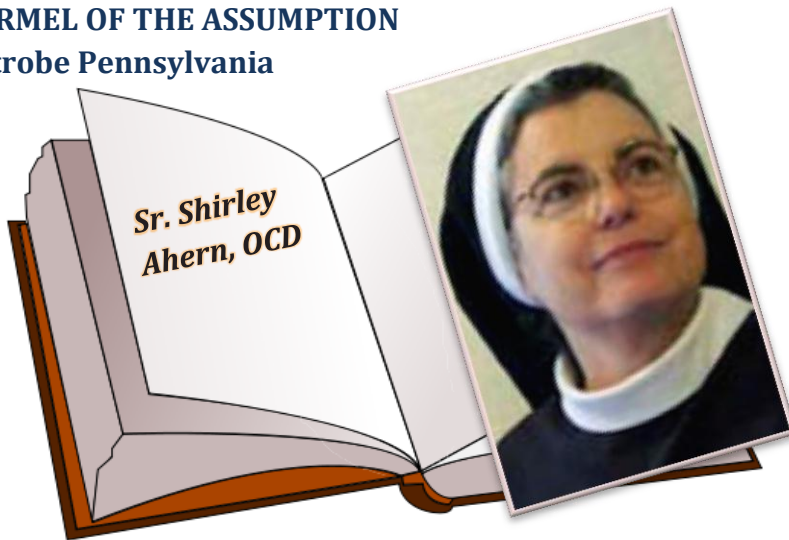
Our Secular Order meets here every month. In May they re-vamped

their meeting day to become a "Community Day" – a first for them. Sr. Sue gave a summary of the sisters' meeting with Fr. General, offering them a sense of his person, and dedication, service and love of Carmel. They appreciated her input.

*May we the Church, the Body of Christ,
"hunger for a whole new spring."
Come, Holy Spirit!*



CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION Latrobe Pennsylvania



The study of Holy Mother's *Way of Perfection* seems especially appropriate to us this year as we celebrate our 50th Jubilee Year of Foundation here in Latrobe. Two main celebrations will occur: 1) June 4th, a public mass with Bishop Lawrence Brandt as main celebrant and homilist, 2) June 21st, a mass of thanksgiving with the Priests and Religious of the Diocese celebrated by Msgr. Charnoki, who was present when the sisters first arrived in Latrobe. Besides the Calendar that we put out last fall, we decided to honor Our Lord this year by making some significant renovations to our Chapel. In order to increase the

seating capacity from 100 to 130, we replaced our pews and put new flooring under them. A benefactor provided us with a new sound system, which is especially helpful on Tuesday when a local Catholic radio station, records and plays our Morning Prayer, Mass and Evening Prayer. The three outside doors were replaced for greater energy efficiency and easier closing.

The supports for the porch over the main doors were replaced. And finally, the windows, along with those in the rest of the monastery, were recaulked, to cut down on drafts.

In the refectory, we have been listening to tapes Sr. Tanya made years ago with our Foundress Sr. Marie Bernadette Dugre, of her memories of Altoona and the move to Loretto. What a treasure. It has been a trip down Memory Lane for those sisters who were on the foundation and very enlightening for the newcomers. It has also made us aware of how important it is to re-capture our history in some way



before those who are the living holders of that history are no longer with us. We plan to add this practice to our priority list.

Srs. Mary Paul, Tanya, and Shirley Marie traveled to California in September to attend the Mary, Queen of Carmel Associations Ongoing Formation Seminar with Dr. Susan Muto. The topic was Teresa of Avila: Soul Mother of the Ages.

They all found it worthwhile. Sr. Mary attended the Prioresses meeting in Reno and will attend the Provincial Chapter in Wisconsin. She and Sr. Marie Elizabeth attended the Father General's meeting in Oklahoma. Sr. Mary will be replacing Sr. Marie Elizabeth on the Committee for Formator's Ongoing Formation.

In October, Srs. Mary Paul and Marie Elizabeth attended the Steubenville Vocation Day in Steubenville, Ohio. Fr. Michael Berry, OCD, representing the friars, and sisters from several other Carmels attended also. Fr. Michael came to Latrobe for a short joyful visit the following day. This spring, Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth attended the Diocesan Youth Day to share our vocation material. Father Nathan Munch, OSB again brought his religious class for an afternoon. Srs. Mary Paul and

Marie Elizabeth talked to the class about our life and history.

Sr. Tanya discovered a new way to spend the Christmas Octave. On the evening of the 26th she experienced very severe pain and ended up in the hospital. It was discovered she needed to have her gallbladder removed, which was done a few days later. She was able to return home by the New Year.



In February eight of our thirteen sisters were laid low by some kind of "flu". For two weeks we had unstructured days so that the sick would be able to get well. Then, after about a week of fairly good health five sisters suffered a relapse. Fortunately, they recovered quickly.

In addition to our monastery's jubilee, we will also be celebrating Sr. Marie Elizabeth's 50th anniversary of profession in August. She has already had her 30-day retreat in our hermitage and came back looking well rested. Srs. Joann and Shirley

were most happy to have her back since they had been filling in for her on the organ during the Office.

As with the rest of the country we have been experiencing some strange weather. We have been under a tornado watch numerous times and actually had a tornado set down and do major damage about ½ hour's distance from us. We had a hailstorm with hail mostly the size of

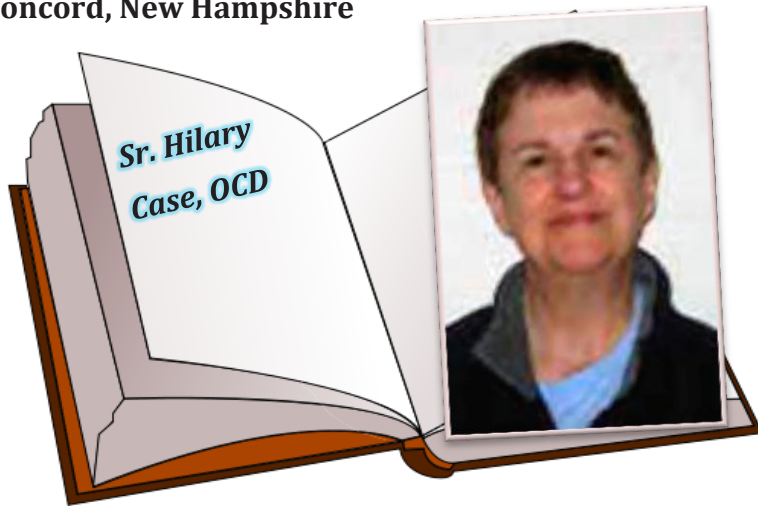
golf balls with a few baseballs thrown in for good measure. It was amazing to see the force with which the hailstones hit our roof and shatter into many pieces. As a result of this hailstorm, there is extensive damage to our new roof and some of our vinyl siding. We are hoping insurance will cover at least some of the needed repairs.

We join many others with prayers for the people of Japan, the people in our country who are suffering from the flooding and tornadoes, and all the people in the world who have been displaced by war, terrorism, and natural disasters. We ask prayers for Sr. Wanda's sister Mary and Sr. Mary Paul's Uncle Ed, who both passed away in February. We would also ask prayers for Sr. Mary's mother and father, both of whom are recovering from surgery at this time.



CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Concord, New Hampshire



Easter Greetings from all of us!

We have been busy learning and, we trust, growing in our community life. We are excited to share about our November 2010 retreat with Fr. Bonaventure Lussier, ocd, on *The Living Flame*. He inspired us, reaching us both through his talks and through his slides and photography. We thank him with all our hearts. Continuing our education, Fr. Leopold Gluckert, O .Carm. visited us from February 10 to February 12. He gave four talks on the hermits of Mount Carmel and on Albert's Rule. He returned the last weekend in May to give classes on the pre-Teresian reforms in Carmel and the origins of the communities of nuns. We appreciate his generosity, his clarity, and his depth of knowledge. We enjoy his sense of humor too.

At the end of February, Alice N'Kore, a young woman from Uganda, visited us for a week. She had just finished a graduate program in business administration in Houston, and she wanted to experience a contemplative community before

returning to Uganda. One thing led to another, and she found her way to us in Concord. Alice delighted us with her loving effervescence and energy. She shared Ugandan cooking as well as several DVDs of Ugandan liturgy and dance. We remember her with great joy, and pray for her as she returns to serve her country.

In March, Sr. Claudette attended Fr. General Saverio Cannistra's meeting with the prioresses in Oklahoma. As elected delegate, Sr. Louise accompanied her. On the way back, they stopped at the Baltimore Carmel. They learned much from Fr. General and his assistant, Fr. John Grennan, and they had much to share with us when they returned home. We felt that we had, in a sense, been there with them.

Also in March, Sr. Hilary gave two talks on *Self-Knowledge in the Desert Fathers and Mothers* to the sisters taking part in the New England Formation Program at Boston Carmel.

April was busy and productive indeed. During Lent, the

Congregational Church coordinated weekly evenings of prayer. On April 4, the group came here. Srs. Claudette and Louise led them in an evening of contemplative prayer. They expected six to ten people and twenty showed up for an exciting evening. On April 7th, Sr. Louise again acted as hostess, this time to a group of elementary school girls, aged six to ten. They asked good questions such as, "How do you know if you are called to Religious Life?" Nor was Sr. Louise done; on May 2, the members of a Lifelong Learning course came to learn more about the stained glass windows in our chapel. Louise is our resident expert on these beautiful windows.

For Easter, Fr. Paul Fohlin, OCD drove up from Brighton to preside at our Easter morning liturgy. We were glad to have him with us, and he preached an energizing Easter message.

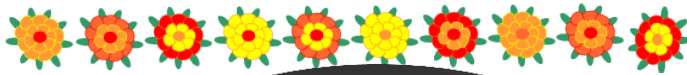
In May, we held our annual Mass for the Guild of our Carmel. On a day of pouring rain, 45 to 50 members of the Guild arrived. After Mass, all enjoyed beverages and homemade bread in our lobby. Guests especially enjoyed the raisin bread.

This month, the Knights of Columbus interfaced with Carmel. First, Sisters Miryam and Hilary attended the dinner of the annual Knights' Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. For the second time, we enjoyed plumes and swords, then dinner with three of the seminarians in New Hampshire. The following Saturday, on May 7, Sisters Miryam

and Hilary went to the Youth Fest at St. Anselm's College in Manchester. Although this event is not one of the Knights' projects, the Knight in charge of vocations asked us to be there as part of a vocational presence. The prayer style of the day was at the opposite end of the pole from our dignified, melodious style; we vibrated and shook to the electric guitars and the booming drums for sure. The 200 kids in attendance ranged from grades 7 to 12.

As life quiets down (?) we turn to our gardens. Sr. Miryam started the mowing season by getting a rock thrown into her eye. The pain was excruciating, and she had a 3 hour wait in the ER. Once the doctor treated her, she recovered enough to accompany Sisters Claudette and Theresa to the second session of Concord Hospital's 4-session program on Eldercare. Her healing was fast.

*And so, onward into summer.
We send our blessings and
our love until next time.*



*A Note From
Your Newsletter Editor*

My first attempt at the CCA newsletter was both challenging and enjoyable.

I forgot to ask you for submissions of poems and artwork. Please send whatever you like, and I will use it to fill "blank" spaces, and keep on file for future newsletters.

This time I chose to use a couple "older" photos that I had scanned a few years ago, and some of our sister Leah's artwork. She assisted my editing endeavor.

I am always happy for your input, comments, feedback and am comforted by your patience.

Much love,

Sister Mary Rose

mary@baltimorecarmel.org

