



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 33, Issue 4r June 2012

FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dear Sisters,

It seems as if it were only yesterday that we met for our national assembly in April at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, MD. The gathering left us with much promise and hope for the future of CCA. From the beginning, we have acknowledged our “unity in diversity” as a gift of the Spirit that all want to continue to cherish in the future. The exuberance of the assembly could still be felt when the new leadership team first met at Barrington Carmel in early June and so we made a firm commitment to keep that energy flowing through the next two years.

The work of CCA, as we know, is not done only by the leadership team. It is also supported by the generosity of our sisters who are able to accept delegations. One of the delegated responsibilities from the team is the compiling and editing of the CCA newsletter. An important way for us to remain connected and continue the bonds of Carmel growing among our communities and our broader Carmelite family is by sharing our newsletter. We extend much gratitude to Sr. Mary Rose Fleig from Baltimore Carmel for her service in this undertaking for the past two years. Sr. Mary sees the computer as having immense possibilities for creativity and connection. She has demonstrated that by her original and resourceful work in publishing our newsletter. We eagerly welcome Sr. Shirley Marie Ahern of Latrobe Carmel for being willing to take on this responsibility in the future. We are grateful to these two communities for their generosity in consenting to have their sisters share some of their time and energy in this service.

The beauty and splendor of summer is now upon us. Joyfully, we anticipate the many Carmelite celebrations summertime brings us: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Elijah, and Edith Stein, to name a few. As this new leadership team begins its term, we ask their intercession and your prayers as we serve CCA.

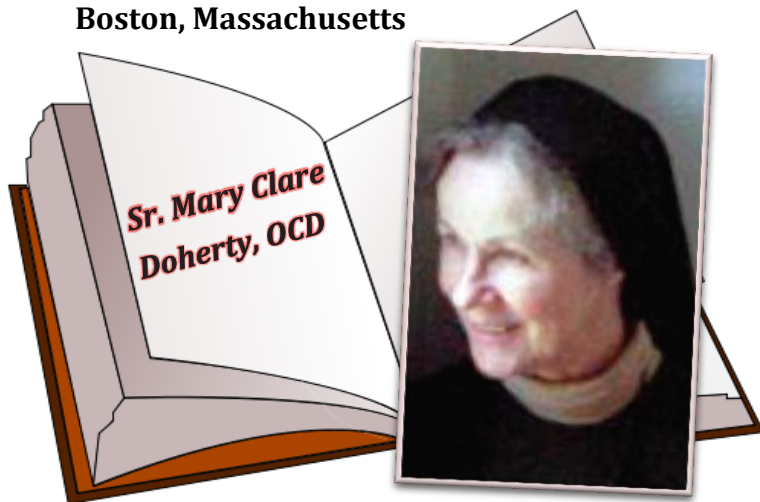
Joining with you in prayer for all of God’s people,

Your sister,

Judy

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Boston, Massachusetts



We are in the process of having a new elevator installed, and throughout the monastery we find ourselves coming across such warnings as "Protective Eyewear Required," "Hazardous Area/Tripping," "Not an Access Route," etc. It's a major project, and, as the reassurance goes, "it **will** be completed by mid-July." The workers arrive by seven each morning and are here until after four, Monday through Friday. To date it has not been



disruptive with the exception of one day without electricity.

Our crypt has been repainted and instead of having each sister's name painted on her tomb, we decided to have a small plaque attached, which would give more information regarding the one buried there.

Thirty-one nuns are presently buried in our crypt, going back to 1900 with the death of Sr. Alphonsus, one of our founders. We have a photo album with a short biography and photo of nearly all our deceased sisters.

Juanita, Marie, and Bernadette Therese attended the CCA meeting and returned full of enthusiasm and the news that Bernadette Therese would serve on the new leadership team. Our prayers are with them, and our cooperation in any way we are able to offer it.



Sr. Gabrielle of Our Lady of Sorrows

The group of diocesan priests who have been meeting here monthly for some years now, continues to come faithfully, finding the need for this support more crucial than ever.

For vocations, the archdiocese has been sponsoring an hour of adoration with exposition at different sites in the diocese. Two of these hours have been held here at our monastery.

We continue praying for the inmates of prisons throughout our State, reading names at each Mass, both of prisoners and of family members for whom they are concerned. We also remember at Mass, those being executed nationwide. The first of the year, Sr. Jeanne-Marie read out the names of people scheduled to be executed in 2012. We found hearing them all at one reading quite unnerving. Some of our sisters correspond with prisoners. The US has about 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's jailed population.

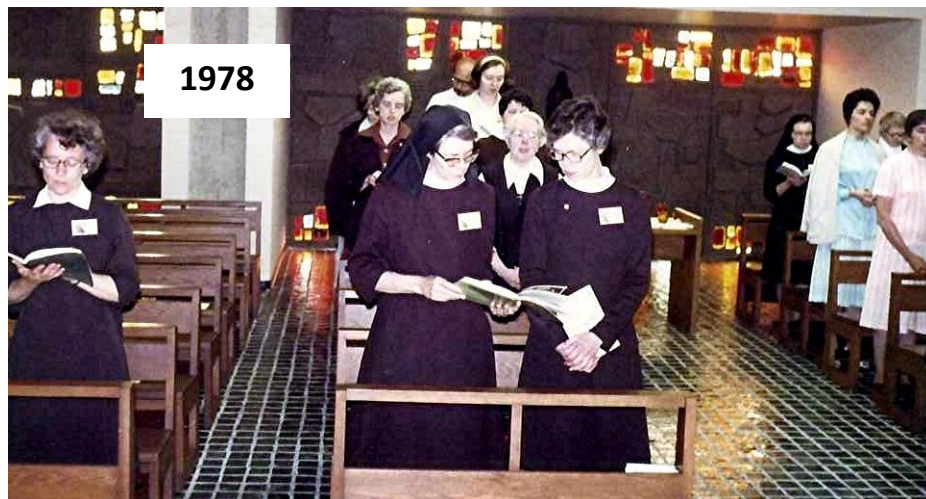
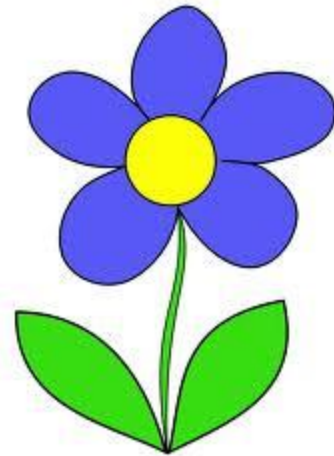
Despite suffering from destructive addiction, painful divorce, or serious illness, what we have noted in the many prayer requests we get daily, is that the most frequent request is for peace of mind and words of hope.

Our Easter vigil liturgy was quite beautiful, beginning with a perfect Easter fire in the courtyard and, in what has become a tradition, ending with dance. Sr. Juanita brought her love of astronomy to bear on the decorating of the paschal candle with the various galaxies depicted against a night sky lit up by the presence of the Risen Christ.

Our celebrant was Michael Boughton, SJ, who will be leaving for NY to lead the province's formation

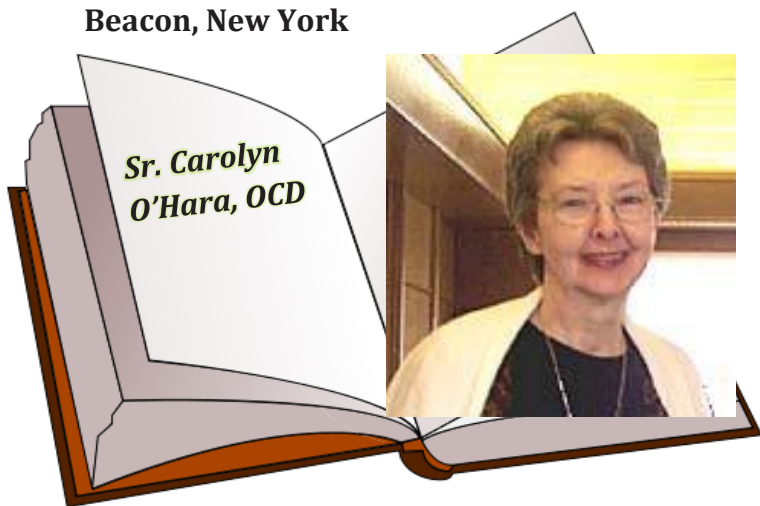
program. He came for a farewell visit. We had another farewell with Tom Massaro, SJ who has also been very generous in sharing his time and talents. He will be going to Berkley as dean of the School of Theology.

June is our month of birthdays. Bernadette Therese on the 5th, Jeanne-Marie, the 9th, and Eileen Mary on the 11th. We celebrate and celebrate and celebrate as we all grow in wisdom.



CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York



As part of our desire to be generative, over the last couple of years we have developed some strategies, one of which is to offer sabbatical time here for apostolic sisters. Our first experience last summer was with someone many of us already knew, Sr. Marie Rose Gibson, RSM (better known as Peachy). This January, Sr. Marie de Sales O'Dowd, SSND, newly retired as a physician's assistant, arrived for three months of her sabbatical. She soon became a quiet and welcome presence among us.



February saw Sr. Normagene from Barrington with us for her retreat. On the 25th Sisters Marie Gertrude and Marjorie attended a Morning Prayer service and luncheon at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The occasion was one of the archdiocesan celebrations, this one for Religious, of Archbishop Dolan's elevation to Cardinal.

The Ides of March proved to be a portentous day for us. A number of our sisters joined other local contemplatives in celebrating the 45th anniversary of

the Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities with a presentation on "Hope in Transition". That same morning, Srs. Marjorie and Carolyn drove to Baltimore/Washington for the meeting of the Carmelite Institute (also in transition). Unknown to any of us then was that our Sr. Jeannie had been in a terrible auto accident and suffered a broken neck. She had taken the county medical transport to physiotherapy, so we only learned of the accident in late afternoon when someone called for her from the hospital. She was only two days in the hospital, and has been at Lourdes Health Center in Wilton CT since. She still has a great deal before her. Please continue your prayer for her.

March 22nd, Sr. Michaelene and the council attended the meeting of the Archdiocesan Council of Women Religious. The theme discussed was "Planning for the Future: Alternatives to Reconfiguration: Options Beyond Mergers and Unions". The presenters, Fr. Daniel Ward, OSB and Ms. Donna Miller, Esq., came from RCRI. The growing consensus among religious seems to be that it is too late for amalgamations, but that smaller diminishing communities can enter into various types of covenant with larger ones who gradually take over their administration. Our own sisters in Oldenburg have done this.

At the March 24th NRVC Region II meeting, Br. Sean Sammon, FMS led a dialogue entitled, "Congregational Leaders and Vocation Promoters: Are We All on the Same Page?" Sisters Michaelene, Marjorie and Marita took part in this workshop.

Just before the CCA meeting in April, Sr. Michael Ann went to Lourdes, where Sr. Jeannie is, on a respite basis. Lourdes is a Medicaid approved nursing home run by the SSNDs in Wilton, CT. It is for women religious. Each has her own room, and there are Mass and Evening Prayer together every day. We hear that Michael Ann is now arranging the flowers for the dinner tables. At the same time, our Sr. Therese Mary entered the last stage of her long illness of seventeen years. It was hard leaving for the CCA meeting not knowing how many days she had to live. It seems that she waited for her birthday; she died at 2:45 a.m. April 25, only a couple of hours after turning 80. Sr. Marita,

who had been her staunch advocate at the nursing home for several years, was with her. Our sorrow at this definitive parting was tempered by the knowledge that the lovable, funny, singing Therese we had known was finally free. Her wake and funeral were May 1 and 2, after we had come home from the meeting.



Therese Mary

We had a wonderful time with some of the European guests to the CCA meeting. For several days before, we enjoyed the company of Srs. Christine and Marie Jo from France. Sr. Marie Jo speaks no English, so there were some amusing moments. She did manage to communicate, though, and picked up two or three English words. Coming home from the meeting, Sr. Marjorie and I brought Sr. Patricia of Ware Carmel in England. Marjorie could not help pointing out that most historical sites in our area have to do with the American Revolution...and of course, there was that misunderstanding in 1812. Some time later, I heard Patricia murmuring in the back seat, "What beautiful countryside...worth fighting for...!"

During our Ascension to Pentecost retreat, we welcomed four Redemptoristine nuns to stay with us for a while. Some of us have known the community for more than 40 years, so these were old friends. Their

monastery was in Esopus, NY, just about 45 minutes north of us. It was basically sold out from under them and as of this writing they have no permanent place to go. They have moved to temporary quarters on another large religious property that is up for sale. The four older sisters stayed with us for about ten days while the five younger packed and moved. The whole community joined us for Pentecost.



When we discuss Our Holy Mother's *Foundations*, we often think of them. I told them they should start praying to Teresa, or maybe even to the young man, Andrada (Ch.15). Our Holy Mother certainly knew what it was to look for a house.

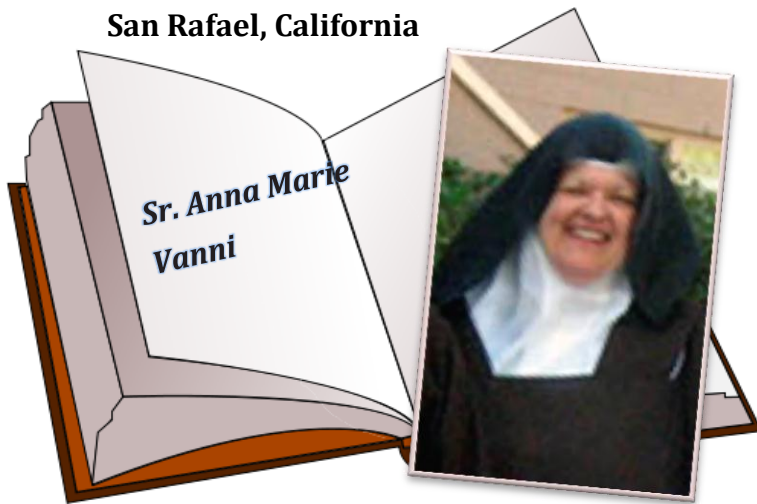
Memorial Day saw many of us, including our Redemptoristine guests, enjoying a picnic given by the Atonement sisters.

We wish you a blessed and comfortable summer.



CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

San Rafael, California



Greetings from San Rafael Carmel. We enjoyed meeting all of you at our first CCA meeting as actual members. We loved all the presentations, discussions, sharings with one another, the liturgies, the Bon Secour Retreat and Conference Center (one of the nicest places we have ever stayed) and, of course, best of all, being with all of you and meeting the International Sisters. We wish to congratulate the new Leadership Team and thank them for all the information they have sent us. We keep them specially in our prayers.

We then went to the *Carmelite Directors of Formation Program, in Wisconsin*, where we again met some of the CCA Sisters, along with our dear friends from the other two Associations. The input by Fathers Daniel

Chowning and Steven Payne was informative, helpful and challenging. To quote both Fathers: "We need to grow and be people of prayer, before we can form those in Formation." The *Redemptorist Retreat Center* was another beautiful meeting place, with many lakes, walking pathways, and wildlife.

As soon as we returned from the "Formator's" Meeting, we have had two live-ins, who were observers last year, Hannah and Amy. They are both finishing their studies. Amy is definitely coming back as a Postulant, when her studies are complete. We are looking forward to having several more observers in August and another live-in.

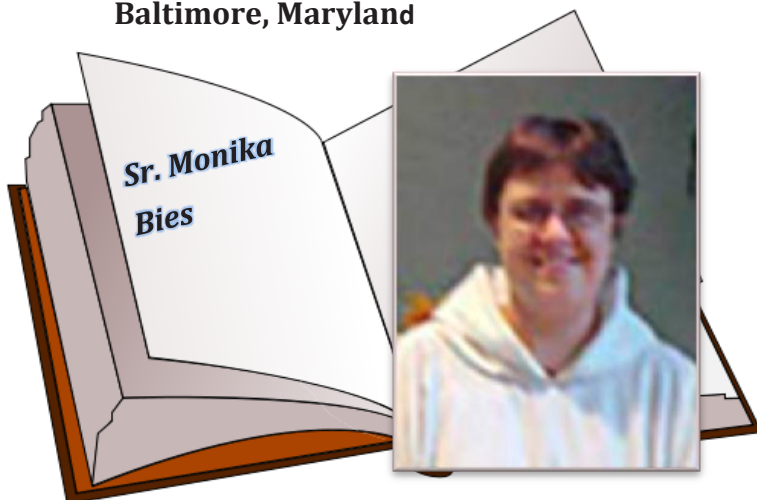
Next month, Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD, will be conducting our Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Father has been a friend of our Community for more than thirty years. He has been in Tucson, Arizona for many years, so, we are delighted to be able to renew our friendship and introduce him to our new members. Fr. Christopher La Rocca will be joining Fr. Bernard for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, which will make the day even more of a Carmelite family celebration.

May Our Lady continue to bless each of our communities with her grace, peace, joy and many fervent vocations. Happy Feast Day!



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART

Baltimore, Maryland



Vocation

Two young women who are discerning a possible call to our community stayed with us for Holy Week; one of them has asked to come back for a live-in. We would be grateful if you remember them in your prayers.

Formation Class

Sister Fran Horner teaches the class on *The Way of Perfection* now as an e-class on CarmelStream. It is available as a podcast on iTunes.

Holy Week

This year we made small changes to some of the rituals of Holy Week. For our Holy Thursday Mass we started the Mandatum the usual way by having some of us washing the feet of other sisters. The sisters then went out to congregants to wash their feet and then each of those washed the feet of another in the assembly. With the sister going into the congregational space and the congregants turning to somebody sitting next to them, it seemed that the Mandatum had a more inclusive dimension.

Our wider community also played a more active part in this year's Holy Week. In our Good Friday Service four congregants carried the Cross and placed it on the altar. Among them were three former YAP (Young Adult Prayer) members and the husband of one of them. The young couple had been married in our

chapel a few years ago. During our Easter Vigil the reading from Exodus was read in Hebrew by Joe Jensen, a biblical scholar and longtime friend of our community. It meant so much to our friends to participate in the liturgies in this new way.

CCA Meeting

As most of our international guests flew in to BWI (Baltimore/Washington International/Thurgood Marshall Airport) we were blessed to have many of them staying with us either before and/or after the meeting. It is always enriching to be with each other and to hear how our Carmelite Charism is lived in different countries. The openness in which these sharings took place made the bonds that we have with our international sisters even stronger.

Some of the CCA participants were also able to visit Baltimore Carmel on Saturday afternoon. Our sisters had prepared a luncheon and everybody cherished the

time spent together. Sr. Connie FitzGerald gave our guests a much appreciated tour of the archives, showing them various valuable documents and artifacts from our early history in America.

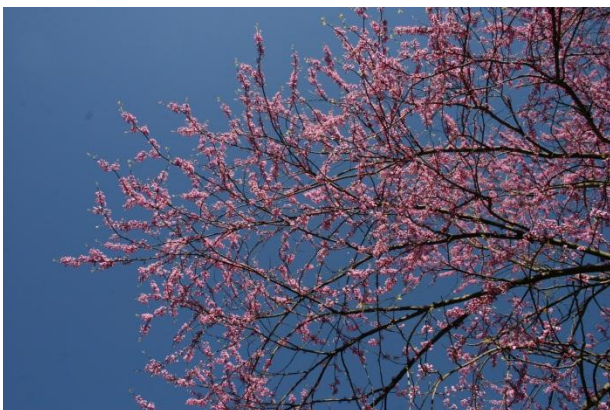
Thank you

As the host community for the CCA we would like to extend a special thanks to our dear

Brother Bryan Paquette, OCD. Bryan took two groups of international sisters to Washington, D.C. and gave informative tours of the city. A special highlight for both groups was to have supper at the Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and to see the publishing house of the Institute of Carmelite Studies (ICS publications) in our nation's capital.

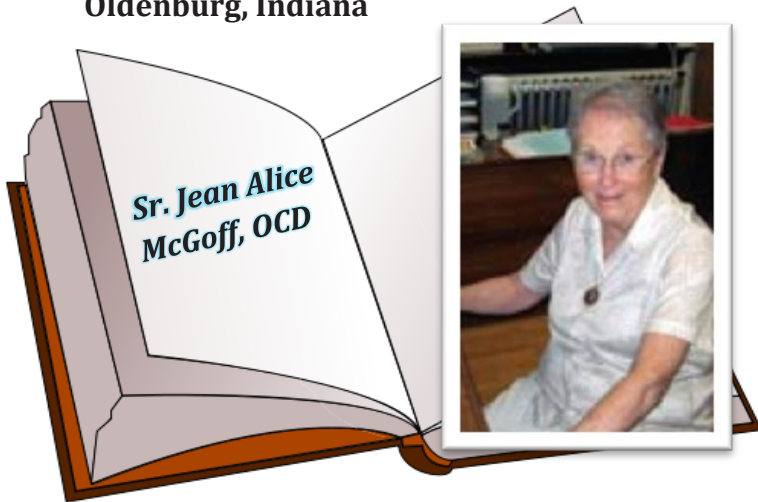


Our Community with Our Guests before the CCA Meeting



CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana



It is paradise season here in Oldenburg. In spite of little rain, everything is blooming and green. This history-conscious little town is celebrating 175 years of life and getting ready for its annual "Firemen's Parade." All the surrounding towns send their fire trucks and they move through the streets as if they were Mardi Gras floats,

dispensing candy to eager children.

Antique cars, motorcycles, flatbed trucks, and even a few horses enhance the parade. This is Southern Indiana culture, fun and heart-warming.

Speaking of

paradise, in the last six months we have sung, "May the angels lead you" to many family members: Ruth's mother, Arvila; Anna Mary's brother, John; Terese's sister, Joan; and my sister, Madelyn. As a community,

we are at that season when part of ourselves seems to be in another dimension with beloved family.

Helen, Ruth, and I participated in the CCA meeting in Mariottsville in April. It was a beautiful and meaningful location (the birthplace of our association) and a rich experience of our tradition seen through cosmic consciousness (the thrust of the talks).

Renewed relationships, national and international, the



gifts of our new leadership and the sense of the Spirit guiding us renewed our confidence in our future as an association.

The Association of Contemplative Sisters came into being shortly before CCA. We continue to host once a year a cluster meeting of members from Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Louisville. Our house is perfectly suited for this. We have a spacious room at either end of the first floor. Each has a bank of large windows opening out to a green campus or a forest of distant trees. ACS is trying, like CCA, to plan for the future, to simplify structures, and to unburden the leadership. This will be the main agenda at our national meeting in September. We will also have Ilia Delio as our main speaker.



We would like to recommend a movie that is both entertaining and spiritually enriching. It is "The Way," starring Martin Sheen. Martin plays the part of a doctor whose son has just died in a storm after starting a pilgrimage to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela. The father decides to make the journey in order to understand the motivation of his son. Several companions who undergo a kind of unexpected redemption by the journey's end join him. It is a great community film. A good friend of ours, Jeff Sparks, is the founder of the "Heartland Film Festival" in Indianapolis. He visits us from time to time and always brings a collection of films that enlarge the human spirit. "The Way" was the featured film for one of these festivals.

Sr. Janice Bader at NRRO and Dan Ward at RCRI invited us, along with the Oldenburg Franciscans, to make one of two videos which, with study guides, will be a tool for assisting institutes in making decisions about the future. We came here in the beginning as renters but this

developed into a Covenant relationship. This is the process that will be the substance of the video. Judy Zelinski, OSF, and her staff from NewGroup Media in South Bend, IN, were here June 11-12. They seemed pleased with the filming and enjoyed the local hospitality.

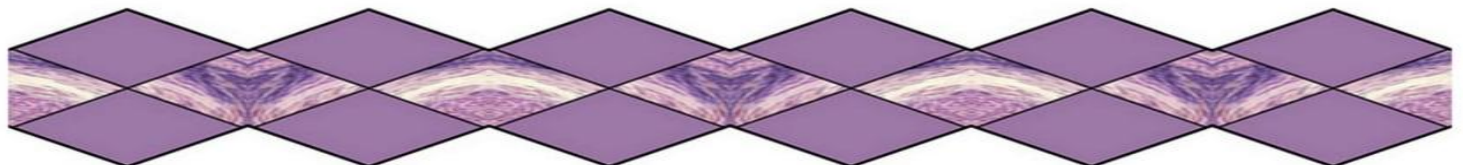
Our Carmelite Secular Order is doing well. They meet once a month at Fatima Retreat

House in Indianapolis. I was invited on May 6 to preside at the annual ritual of scapular reception and promises. They have appreciated so much the

emphasis that the Order placed a decade ago on a solid formation program. They are fortunate to have gifted members to plan and execute the directives and syllabus.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the motherhouse chapel, we will be sharing the liturgy with our Franciscan Sisters. After that we have arranged for a celebration

dinner as July marks the 90th year since our foundation began in New Albany, Indiana. We have so much to be grateful for.



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND OF THE HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania



This contribution to the newsletter is being written on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart and at the close of the annual prayer service at the outdoor, life-sized statue of the Sacred Heart on our grounds, not far from Maria Hall. This solemnity is holy time to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, an important day in their history and to us, since our former monastery was dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Sisters kindly invited us and the Dominican Sisters to this service.

Continuing backward in time, on the third Sunday in May, a quartet of male Gospel singers presented a concert of spiritual songs for all the residents of Maria Hall., Some of these songs were from their worship services with readings from Scripture. Our contact with the group is through one of the singers who was our dentist in Elysburg. The group has been together for 23 years and readily shares their spirit and song with us and with others.

We've viewed the *Catholicism* series by Fr. Robert Barron and appreciated it so much that we've played some of the segments a second time. We feel the series is an excellent review of our Catholic faith in a superb combination of script, cinematography and music.

From May 15th to 17th, Fr. Salvatore, O.C.D. was with us to present conferences on the Beatitudes and the great question of Jesus to His disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

It's always good to have the opportunity to experience the broader picture of the Order, the friars, and at other times, the secular Carmelites.



Sr. Joan Bourne on Jubilee Day



Sisters: Joan (Lundy), Angela, Margaret, Anne, Anna, and Joan Bourne (front row) on Jubilee Celebration Day

In April Fr. Paul Schenck, the director of the Diocesan Respect Life Office and a former Episcopalian priest gave us a presentation on ethical issues in the care of the terminally ill. Fr. Schenck shared his story of growing up in the Jewish faith, converting to Anglicanism and later, experiencing a need for something more which he found in Catholicism.

Sr. Joan and Sr. Angela with Sr. Pat attended the CCA meeting in Marriottsville from April 23 to the 30th. As always, it was a time of greater penetration of our Carmelite life and its future, a time of sharing with friends of many years and a meeting of newer members. It was exciting and a great joy to interact

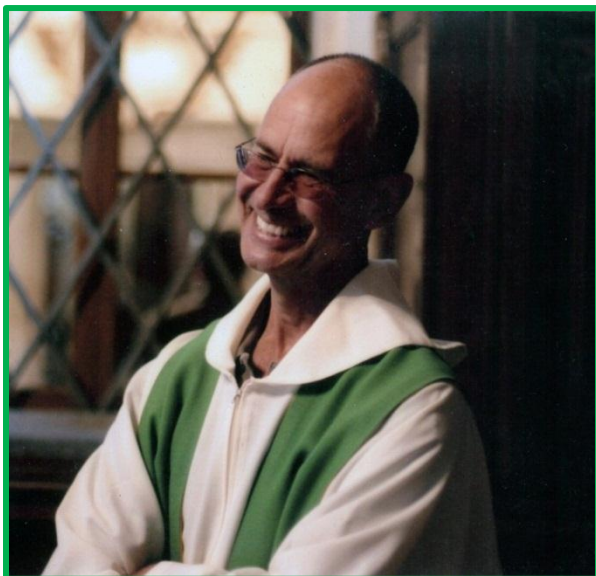
with our international Sisters, too. The encouragement Sr. Angela received from so many speeded up the healing of her fractured femur.

A happy summertime to all with special wishes for a blessed solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS Reno, Nevada



Greetings from the Sisters in the Carmel of Reno. It is Monday after the Feast of Pentecost and we hope and pray that the Spirit has fortified each of you with the Gifts and Fruits that you most need. Here in the High Sierra we have had some truly full months since our last newsletter.



Fr. Michael Fish, OSB CAM

In March, Fr. Michael Fish, a Camadolese monk from the New Camaldole hermitage in Big Sur California, gave us several very inspirational talks. For our extended community of lay-people who share our liturgies, he gave a night and a day of presentations. He was so well-received that we hope to have him back in the future. In one of his talks with us regarding vocations and aging, he said, we can either sit back and let life happen or we can live the resurrection. I am taking liberty with his words but that was the heart of

his talk, which was not only inspiring but also humorous.



Sr. Claire and Susan Terry

Shortly after he left we had our frequent facilitator from Vermont, Susan Terry, here to continue with us our discussion on the present and the future. It fit in with Fr. Michael's talks. Looking at our work, ages, finances, we

shared how we might be more creative in using our time and space. We are now getting outside help in our print shop, and with our finances, and with other tasks. We are grateful for this assistance. As one of

our cards expresses this, "Let the beauty we love be what we do," and, I add, "in how we live!"

Sister Cecelia's sister, Martha Kang and Joseph Park, and family came to visit us. Her nephew, John, had brought back from Korea, a lovely statue of Mary holding the Child Jesus. On Saturdays, we place the statue on our altar and sing the Salve around it. The Korean images are just so inspiring and beautiful. The Sisters of the Congregation of the Disciples of Jesus created and made the statue. And we had a delightful visit with Cecelia's family.

A couple of weeks later five members of our community attended the CCA meeting. They all came home with glowing reports. The presentations of Sister Ilia Delio, OSF on: Love, Evolution and the Power of the Future and Sister Frances Horner, OCD of the Baltimore Carmel on: Core, Culture & Holy Daring: Carmel's Challenge for the 21st Century were outstanding. These presentations gave the Assembly much food for thought and discussion. At home here we are already sharing in the fruits of these talks.

After the CCA meeting two of the international guests, Sister Christine from France and Sister Allain from Scotland, came to visit us here in Reno. Being with these Sisters was indeed a rich experience. We spent many hours sharing and listening and we learned so much about their Carmels. We were sorry to see them leave as we realize how quickly bonds are made when

we share what is most precious to us. Our hearts went with them yet we hope to see them again.

At this time Sister Claire's sister, Anne and her friend, Linda, are visiting us. They are professional violinists and they graciously played at Pentecost Mass along with Sisters Cloe at the piano and Claire at the cello. It was a stunning end to our Pentecost Mass. Later they went to the Atria, an assisted living facility where Sisters Ann and Susan's mother lives. They played for

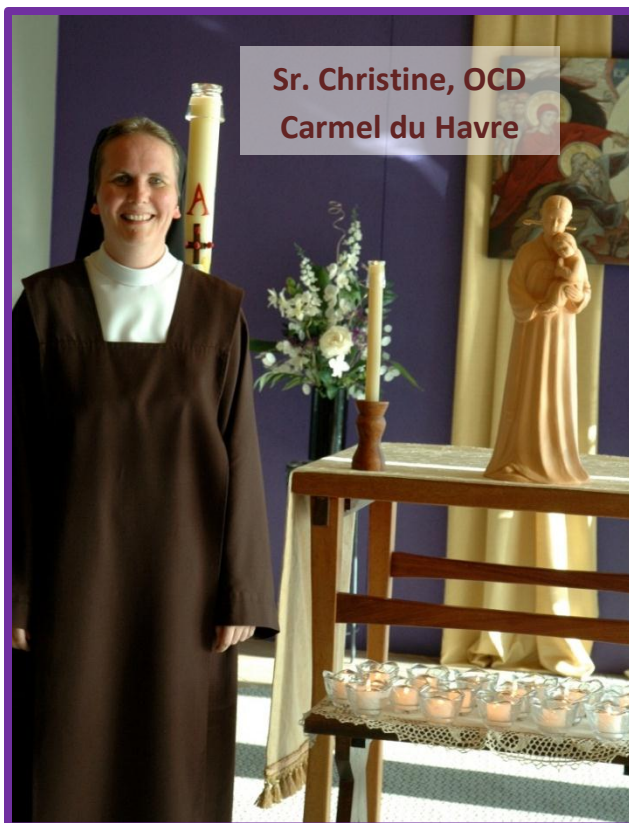
the people there and it really touched them. What a wonderful way to share one's gifts.

Like most Carmels, we spent two weeks of retreat before Pentecost. These were two wonderful weeks to reflect on God's intense love for us who have been "Born in the Desert (and) are still thirsty." It was also a time to dwell on Sr. Fran's other words, "Perhaps Carmel's only unchangeable essence lies in what we aspire to

be: the living witness of intimate union between God and the soul." What a tremendous gift! May we dare to live and share this gift.

Love to all,

Sister Carol



**Sr. Christine, OCD
Carmel du Havre**



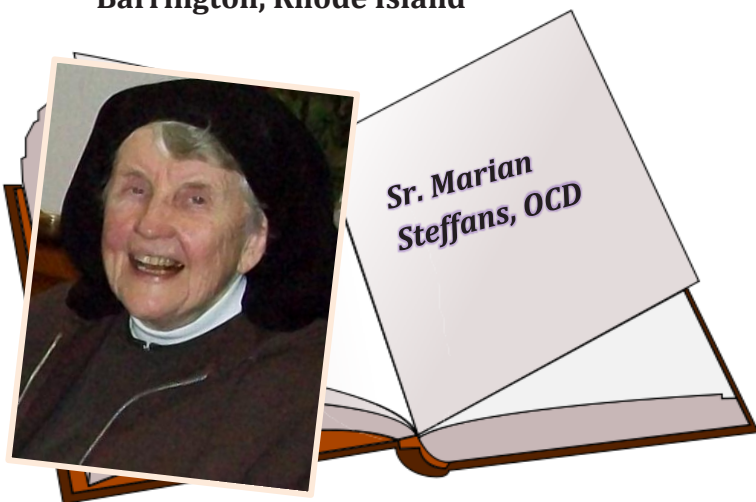
CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Cleveland, Ohio

Our sisters in Cleveland were unable to submit an article for the newsletter .
They remain with us in spirit and prayer.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THÉRÈSE

Barrington, Rhode Island



Spring is here and it is indeed a time for wonder. As Mary Oliver reminds us so well this delight is what we were born for: to look, to listen, and then to find that “inside this soft world” we seem to be instructed over and over. This certainly was our experience as we entered into the Lenten Season on February 22nd. The Beacon Carmel Community had welcomed our sister Normagene for her annual retreat and our sister Sue spent some time in Milwaukee in a Poustina, where no one knew her. Blessed Solitude that refreshes the soul of a third term Prioress.

Just one week before beginning the Church’s spring, with its emphasis on the great Paschal Mystery, we had celebrated the death and rising of our dear friend, Constantino Del Pozzo, here in our monastery chapel. Del, as we had always called him, had served us well as part-time maintenance man for over 25 years. He was a proud veteran of World War II and earned the Purple Heart while seeing action during the war in Japan. There was always something here for Del to do and his gifts outnumbered our daily jobs for him. He loved

Every day
I see or hear
something
that more or less
kills me
with delight,
that leaves me
like a needle
in the haystack
of light.

It was what I was born
for-
to look , to listen.
to loose myself
inside this soft world-
to instruct myself
over and over

Mary Oliver’s poem
Mindful

photography and sailing and he was indeed a member of our Barrington extended family.

As is our custom, we evaluated our Lenten practices and affirmed for this year of 2012, the custom of each sister signing up for a day of recollection. We talked about the Lenten Fast and again chose to have in each week of the Lenten Season an emphasis on one of the great themes of Lent-Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. We listed a private and a communal practice for each of the 6 weeks. Our attempt each year to simplify our one meal together always has exceptions (like our Rule

of St Albert, which wisely advises: if this is possible) Both Mary Gehring (her special 80th) and Mary Davin(64th) celebrate the anniversaries of their birth. With the Solemnities of Annunciation, Joseph and Patrick, we had some delicious feast day meals as well as tasty rice bowl suppers,



some in silence, others with the reading of the Rule. It was a good contrast to the Easter Season.

As we had received Vilma's newest and last book: *A Lenten Journey with Jesus Christ and with Blessed Elizabeth of The Trinity*, it was suggested by Eileen that reading from it might be an option from which the Hebdomedary of the week would choose a selection for the Office of Readings, which we pray together. As you know, Vilma, in this book, had the Gospel passages for each day and an appropriate selection from Blessed Elizabeth, adding her own original reflection on both texts and completing the day's choice with her own prayer. Several sisters chose this option, although some stayed with the powerful Lenten Readings of the Breviary which hold classic



Sr. Eileen Holding Vilma's New

texts rich in doctrine. We were well fed during Lent with this spiritual food for the journey. Vilma's book remained on the Lectern during the day and some of us read her meditations during our private times of prayer. Vilma's presence is very alive here.

At the invitation of our friends, Sisters of Mercy, two of our sisters attended a film showing of *The New Universe Story* at a nearby Mercy High School. Brian Swimme had some awesome pictures and facts. Anne Marie and Marian



Sr. Anne Marie in New Prayer Room / Novitiate Library

were indeed struck by the vastness of our universe and the greatness of our God, leaving us feeling quite small indeed. There was a sharing with the sisters and the implications of the Incarnation to this universe story was not lost on any of us.

In March, we had yet another surprise from our Loving God when our beloved Susan was taken to the hospital. Normagene also fell and was in the hospital, at least twice during Lent. Both have returned home to the monastery.

With the death and rising of our two sisters, Jean and Vilma, we found ourselves with four empty rooms. Our new part time maintenance man,

Raymond Zangari, was an important player in the re-naming of cells and work spaces. He and Sue became known as the R&S movers and Jean's work space is

now an exercise room, Vilma's work room is now the new Book-Keeper's Office. We have two new guest cells and Vilma's former cell is now a reading room and a place for the Novitiate library. Another change is the enclosure of our eight sister's graves with a newly painted white fence, setting this sacred space apart from the

area around our hermitage, Horeb. Our volunteers are so generous to us. We invite you all to ***Come and See.***

The celebration of the Easter Triduum is one of our liturgical highlights and each year we grow in appreciation of the beauty of these liturgies and the gift it is to celebrate with a community. We had an unusual guest during the week before Holy Week. A Tom Turkey lost its way from the “pack” and took up



residence in our garden. He followed the “observance,” waking us early with his unique calls, coming to the North side of our building when we were in choir and to the South side when we were in the kitchen. He is a beautiful creature to behold, but definitely not one to keep. During the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday, Tom let us know he was outside the Chapel windows. His interruption caused the celebrant to comment at the end of this solemn Liturgy: “We might say today at the sound of the Turkey, Peter, you will deny me three times” Tom is now part of our collective memory.

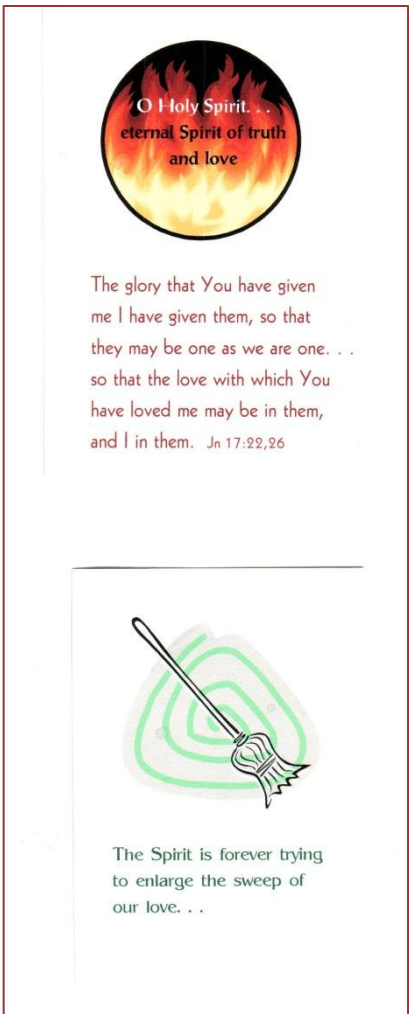
The Easter Season held its holy joys and there were opportunities for family visits for Genevieve, Sue and Patricia. Three sisters attended the 26th CCA meeting in Marriottsville, Maryland. Sr. Patricia McGee from Ware Carmel in Great Britain visited us for a few days after the meeting. She had a delightful time with our annual Derby celebration. Our sister Susan

comes from Kentucky; the first Saturday in May is her Day. Our guest from England had another unique experience with the Prioress, Sue, who took her grocery shopping at Sam’s Club. We welcomed with great joy our dear sister Aletha from Beacon Carmel, who had her long desired retreat with us during the Pentecost novena.

On the Solemnity of Pentecost, Mary Davin and Roseann left for the Formator’s workshop in Wisconsin, but we were all present at Morning Prayer to receive the special cards containing our Gifts of the Spirit. Each year the cards are different and we always await not only the GIFTS of the Spirit, but also Sue’s artistic cards. The fruits of the Spirit, we find in homemade cranberry muffins, wrapped in foil and

available for breakfast. This is a long-standing tradition using Vilma’s recipe from the days when our Carmel was in Newport. This year, we had a second Spirit card from our creative Prioress at our festive Pentecost dinner table.

Sister Maria Francesca, OCD, from the Carmel in Lucca, Italy had come for a visit with us in view of a possible transfer to our community. Her Carmel in Italy, where she entered 19 years ago, is facing possible closure. Maria Francesca is in her early 40’s and full of energy. She knew all of us by name when we greeted her on her arrival date of October 1, 2011. She quickly picked up some of the many colloquialisms of our difficult English language and soon began serious study with the help of a language instructor, Raymond Zangari, who volunteered his service. She needed to return to Italy in order to obtain the proper legal



documents for a return to our community to begin the transfer process. She is presently living in Florence, Italy (the city of her birth). Maria Francesca is in contact with Raymond by skype and continues her English language lessons. Our Sr. Eileen also keeps her up to date and some of our sisters e-mail her. We have just heard that Maria Francesca's legal paper work has been completed and we will now work on travel plans for her to come. Alleluia.

That about brings you up to date on this Carmel in the Ocean State, where we recently hosted the new Leadership Team of our Association and CCA's long standing friend and generous facilitator, Stephanie Hauge. The team worked diligently from Sunday through Wednesday and I would be surprised if you had not heard from one of them, asking you to "do something for your country" that is for CCA.

And to conclude I quote from another of Mary Oliver's poems, WHY I WAKE EARLY:

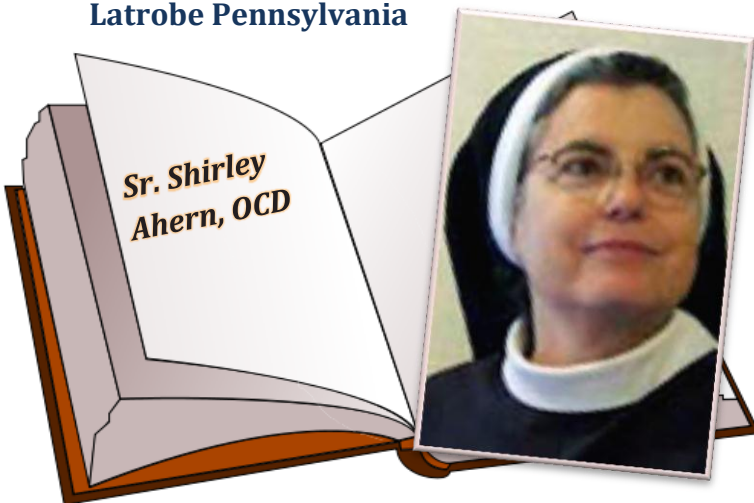
Oh good scholar,
I say to myself
how can you help
but grow wise
with such teachings-
as these-
the untrimmable light

of the world,
the ocean's shine,,
the prayers that are made
out of grass?



CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe Pennsylvania



On the first Friday in February, we had our annual Eucharistic Day with Exposition following Mass and Benediction from 7-8pm. Following Mass on February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick, as a community we received the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As with the blessing of our doors, mentioned in the last newsletter, we recognize how fortunate we are that our Benedictine Chaplains

are so willing to provide us with the opportunity to have these services in addition to our daily Masses.

For several years now Fr. Nathan Munch, OSB has been taking his History on Monasticism Class to visit the various religious orders in the area. Sisters Marie Elizabeth and Mary met with them in our chapel as usual, but reported to us at recreation that this class was quite different from previous ones. In the past, the students had few questions and mostly seemed to be fulfilling an obligation. This year, almost everyone had a question and seemed in no hurry to leave.

Toward the end of February we received news that Bl. Kateri Tekawitha would be canonized on October 21, 2012. This had deep meaning for us since Msgr. Lenz, the vice-postulator for her cause, is a cousin of Sr. Marie Elizabeth and had asked us years ago to pray for her canonization. He has kept us informed of his progress and we will be with him in spirit and pray he is able to attend the ceremonies in Rome.

Spring certainly was in a rush to push winter out of the way this year here in Latrobe. We had crocuses blooming before February ended, we did our first lawn mowing on March 26th and during April all the end-of-May flowers bloomed. We had our annual May crowning, as you can see in the pictures. Our usual June blooming azaleas are already past peak. What a strange year. All these blossoms came so early that the bees, who usually build up numbers during February and March to be ready for the April and May blooms, were not able to take full advantage of all the pollen and nectar. There were also a few frosty nights while the fruit tree and bushes were in bloom. We are not sure what effect this will have on our fruit and honey crops this year, but we are hoping for the best.

Lent brought us a new group of deacons from St. Vincent's for our Friday stations of the cross. One particularly memorable Friday we had as Cross Bearer, Br. Paulavang Vuong, OSB, who was born in Vietnam, and as the Presider Br. John Mary Lugewnwa, who was born in Uganda. After the stations were completed, we asked the deacons to tell the congregation a little about themselves so that we could pray for them as they continue on their journey toward the priesthood. Br. Paulavang joined the Benedictines in 1987 and made solemn vows in 1995 as an underground monk because the Communist government of Vietnam was not allowing any new vocations. He came to the US after his father and mother, who had been imprisoned by

the government for having worked for the US before 1975, were allowed to immigrate "by letter of the US government". Br. John Mary, told us that he came to the US to join his brother after his father was killed in Uganda. His brother was studying at a seminary in Richmond, VA. He then extemporaneously gave us a wonderful mini-homily on the need to think about and enter into the sufferings of Christ as we pray the stations.

It is a source of unending amazement how God weaves threads of occurrences into the whole fabric of His care for us. After a call from a company offering to do an assessment of our energy consumption, Sr. Marie

Elizabeth almost cancelled the meeting to which she had agreed. We found out the husband of one of our volunteers was an employee, and so we kept the appointment, only to find that the company was founded by a Catholic family man from Pittsburgh and was in the area frequently, caring for other

institutions' heating and cooling. They felt we fell under their "Heat for the Needy Program", a charitable work they do one Saturday a month. This resulted in a one-day full assessment of our needs, recommending some adjustments and replacements to make our utilities more efficient. When we tried to thank them for their work, they insisted we were the ones to be thanked for letting them help us. We learned later



Sr. Wanda passing Our Lady's crown to Sr. Tanya



that the wife of the owner had made a pilgrimage to Carmel asking God for a good husband, and shortly thereafter, met the owner. They have a large family and all are involved in "Heat for the Needy." They have proven to be both knowledgeable and reliable in their fields and a great and unexpected blessing.

After thirty years in our new monastery, the tile in the first-floor hallways is crumbling and needs to be replaced before winter. This will also include resurfacing the sub-flooring with stronger wood, so thirty-five doors and trim must be shortened to accommodate the new floors.

One of the priests from St. Vincent has been studying St. John of the Cross for many years and inquired if any of the sisters would be interested in meeting with him in a discussion group. Several of us were interested and we have had two meetings to date. In the first, he asked us to choose and be prepared to discuss which one of John's Sayings of Light and Love was our favorite and why. For the second class he asked us to choose and discuss the one that was most difficult for us and why. The assignment for the next class is to open the work and read until something strikes us and be ready to discuss that one. Those of us attending are enjoying his insights and our sharing.

Sisters Marie Elizabeth and Shirley Marie attended the recent CCA meeting in Mariottsville. Then a few weeks later Srs. Marie Elizabeth and Mary were off to the formator's meeting in Wisconsin. The participants

found both meetings to be thought-provoking and informative. We will soon be listening to the talks in the refectory.

We had a very interesting birthday party for our prioress last week. After a festive meal, Sr. Marie Elizabeth began to open her gifts from the community. She pulled the tissue paper out of the top of a bag to

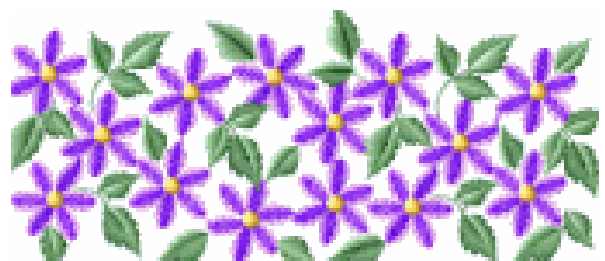
place it on the table near one of the candles. Suddenly Sr. Maria was standing up yelling "Fire." The first attempts to put out the fire only resulted in bigger flames. The paper was dropped on the floor to burn itself out, scattering ash everywhere. As an anticlimax,

the last thing sister found in her gift bag was a "used" toothbrush. We are not sure how it got there or what the significance was but it was a good tension reliever.

Finally we would ask your prayers for Sr. Marie Elizabeth's sister-in-law, Bernadette Krug, who went home to the Lord on June 5th after a long fight with cancer. Please also pray for the consolation of Sister's brother and his family.



Pentecost procession to retire Easter Candle. Srs. Barbara Maria, Mary Paul, Joann, Ellen Jane, Theodora, and Wanda. Sr. Theodora paints our Easter Candle each year, keeping the theme a surprise until the Easter Vigil. This year it was "Faith".



A Reflection:

Sr. Mary Paul Cutri, OCD – Latrobe Carmel

What is prayer?

- not merely my beautiful words,
- not anything I initiate in talking to God,
- not even my deepest affection for God.

It is entering lovingly into what God is doing in me, unknown to me.

How does one enter into what is unknown to us? In much the same way as you can enter into the beauty all around you. In the way you can participate in the goodness everywhere. In the way you are part of the truth of things. By believing they exist, by hoping in what they reveal and promise, by loving the True, the Good, the Beautiful who is God revealed, we begin to see anew. God manifests this to us when we seek to pray. We begin to see with the eyes of Christ's love within our hearts.

Entering into God and giving God our consent, we are open to the Spirit who prays in us, always, and even when it is unknown to us. Then, it is not I who pray? Yes and no. Though my mind and my heart yearn for God and attend to God I am not the inward initiator of prayer. The Spirit of God groans within me and prays in a manner only God knows. Though I speak words of love and offer my "yes" to God, the real prayer is when God enfolds my mind, heart and person within the mystery of His eternal love and I am left silent.

Prayer is less my doing than my undergoing what is done to me and in me. Faith is what brings me to know that something is going on in the unknown. My faith rests in a compassionate, merciful, self-giving God who pours out Himself to me in love. My prayer is a welcoming of God's action. God's pre-prayer is enabling me to welcome Him and God's actual prayer is effecting our union, His and mine.

When God and I are one is when prayer is consummated in love. In that consummation, the Lover (God) is transforming the beloved (us), by His Spirit, into the risen Christ.

Prayer is always "going on" from God's perspective, inviting us and always waiting for an opening on our part. God never ceases to yearn for our union with Him. That is why we can say: "enter into what God is doing in you, unknown to you; surrender yourself to that goodness and love which will transform you". Jesus' words: "Come and enter into my joy", are the ultimate invitation to that prayer which brings us one day to the eternal bliss of being with God forever. "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Concord, New Hampshire



As spring begins to yield to summer, we rejoice in the season's green spaces, and we send greetings. I write to you one-handed this time because on May 16, just before Mass, I fell on the flagstones outside our chapel and broke my left wrist. A visit to the Emergency Room followed and then surgery. Now recovering and wrapped in a removable cast, I slowly type our news.

We have faced several health-issues since our last letter. In March, Sr. Mercedes became ill and had to go to the hospital. When we visited her, we needed to don yellow hospital sanitation gowns and purple plastic gloves. It's a wonder that Sister Mercedes recognized us. She giggled cheerfully even though for a while, she was very sick. Once back home, she did fairly well, though she is weaker overall. Please pray for her. Currently, Hospice Aides and a Visiting Nurse come three times a week to help with her care. They are pleasant and competent; we are grateful.

March was not done with us, however, for Sr. Gabriel needed to have a damaged wire on her pacemaker replaced. During the surgery, the team nicked a lung, which collapsed. Sr. Gabriel needed to stay in the hospital for several days until her doctor could restore her breathing, during which time she developed a blood clot. On top of all this, it was Holy Week and Gabriel was sacristan.

In his letter of March 7, 2011, Fr. Saverio stressed the importance of our mission to bring our Teresian

Carmelite ways of prayer and community to others, even to cross new frontiers in order to do that. The "frontier" is a symbol which defines our need to let go of old securities and find new ways of doing things, responding to our changed world, and deepening our Carmelite life by renewed trust in Jesus, our Savior and brother. Accordingly, Sr. Miryam assumed the role of sacristan and gave us a beautiful chapel and choir for Holy Week and Easter. Sr. Theresa cooked for Sr. Gabriel, and Sr. Louise took on the care of Sr. Mercedes. Several of us filled in on the Turn, and we allowed the Lord to teach us once again that he really does provide for us and help us to grow in the virtues of charity, detachment, and humility at the same time. Last but not least, Sr. Gabriel is now fully recovered and with us once again.

Although these health-issues were challenging, they did not stop us. In April, Sisters Claudette, Miryam, and Hilary flew to Baltimore to attend the meeting of CCA. We had worked hard as a community, considering the proposals for the vision and better operation of CCA, and we were very pleased with the process and the results. We were energized by the presentations of Sr. Iliia Delio, OSF and Sr. Fran Horner, OCD—hearing the talks at home deepens the message, and now we have the DVDs from Reno so we can see the speakers and their graphics. At the end of the meeting, we spent two days at Baltimore Carmel. Sr. Miryam chauffeured the sisters from Germany and France to the Amish country, Sr. Claudette visited our Sr. Josepha at Stella Maris nursing home, and Sr. Hilary took walks and visited with the sisters at the monastery. Thank you, Baltimore community.

While we were gone, some of the people who attend our Masses filled in, reading and bringing up the gifts, and being part of our community in a new way. This was a positive development.

While we were at the meeting, Sr. Louise's mother died, and the wake and the funeral were in Pawtucket,

RI. No one from Concord was able to attend because there were no drivers, but several sisters from Barrington attended and were a Carmelite presence. This was another instance of going beyond frontiers. The following week Sr. Louise was able to attend the golden jubilee of her sister, Sister Mary Augustine, of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Finally, from May 27th to June 2nd, Sisters Claudette and Theresa attended the follow-up program for Carmelite Formators at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, WI. Father Stephen Payne gave a presentation on the history of the Teresain

Carmel envisioned by Our Holy Mother, and Fr. Daniel Chowning shared his study of prayer and reflection in the teaching of St. John of the Cross. Although the weather in Wisconsin was cold and damp, the sisters still came home excited and ready to teach all of us what they had learned.

In our plans for the summer we will continue consideration of our present situation as we go into a changing future, and some will attend the Carmelite Forum June 10th to 16th. We will tell you more about both of these projects in our next letter.

Blessings and love to all of you from all of us!



CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa



way back Sr. Miriam was able to briefly stop at our first daughter Carmel, now in Oldenburg.

Our sisters in Oldenburg had in their recreation room a webcam that was displaying a nest of eagles. Interesting, but looking closer I was able to see that the eagles were from *Davenport* the city next to Eldridge. So upon arriving home, we set up our own eagle cam and were able to watch them eat the fish that the mother was catching on the Mississippi River. In about a month, the eagles grew and tried their wings and

Three of us from Eldridge were able to attend the CCA meeting, Sisters Miriam, JonFe and Teresa Susan. We enjoyed both the meeting and the time to visit with friends, old and new. Sr. JonFe's family met her and Teresa Susan at the airport where they enjoyed a brief visit before the meeting.

As we continue to celebrate our Centennial year it was a unique joy to be able to visit our Mother Carmel in Baltimore on the free afternoon scheduled. Then on the

were able to fly on their own. Alas, they were fledged and mother eagle was alone. It gave us a whole new understanding of term "empty nest syndrome."





On a more serious note, those at home were able to visit with the sisters in Oldenburg via Skype. We are most grateful for their hospitality. Although the new technology required a bit of patience (first ringing in chapel and then giving fuzzy pictures as the iPad moved). It did enable us to share face-to-face and heart-to-heart with dear friends.

Finally, after Mass here, we had our annual Blessing of the Fields (North, South, East and West). So far, the local crops look good, but we continue our prayers for those suffering from adverse weather in the rest of the country, especially the fires in the West.



Eldridge Sisters and Fr. Ed O'Melia gathered for the Blessing of the Fields in Front of the Chapel

Peace and Love,

Sr. Miriam

