



Flos Carmeli

CCA Newsletter

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Baltimore, MD
Barrington, RI
Beacon, NY
Boston, MA

Cleveland, OH
Concord, NH
Danville, PA
Eldridge, IA

Latrobe, PA
Oldenburg, IN
Reno, NV
San Rafael, CA



Dear Sisters,

It has only been a few weeks since we left the beautiful Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center and already there is much news to share, but first we must acknowledge the great job the last team did in preparing such an exceptionally fine meeting. At our 2012 meeting Sr. Ilia Delio explained to us how evolutionary development permeates every aspect of the physical universe. In the 2014 meeting Fr. Saverio tentatively explored some possible evolutionary developments for us nuns.

It was particularly gratifying that Frs. Saverio Cannistra and Rafal Wilkowski, Srs. Christine Morel and Anne Bauer of the French Federation, as well as the councils of two of the other U.S. associations, could all join together with us in this assembly. We look forward to building an ongoing spirit of collaboration and evolution with them as we journey with one another on the pilgrim road that is Carmel.

As we all know, CCA is a grassroots organization that both depends upon and treasures the participation and support of its many members. Thus we must thank the Baltimore Carmel for being the host community. We especially want to thank Sr. Mary Fleig for the indefatigable job she did shuttling the participants to and from the airport. Gracias!

Many things great and small happen at our national meeting. We come together to learn new things, meet old friends, make new friends, to pray together, and to plan for our future. The meeting also affords us the opportunity to network about areas of interest. It was in this context that I took the opportunity to speak with Fr. Saverio, the OCD prior general, about the very much deteriorated condition of the historic ruins of the first monastery at the wadi on Mt. Carmel. During that conversation I expressed my concern about this historic site.

Subsequently, Fr. Saverio has written this: "Yesterday we had a meeting with OCarm Definitory. We are planning to have a special day for the restoration project of the first carmelite monastery on Sunday October 12th, in the context of the celebration of the anniversary of Saint Albert's death. It will be a wonderful occasion for promoting our project. The two Generals will write a letter for that." Having a collaborative team with O Carms and OCDs working together on rebuilding the site will be an important development in terms of continuing to foster relationships of trust and cooperation with one another.

In conclusion I assure you that your Leadership Team has already been meeting by Google Hangouts and has been emailing each other assiduously. We will meet in person in the latter part of this month. When we are gathered in Baltimore, we will enter into a contemplative process of reflecting together on the talks Fr. Saverio presented to CCA. And on a more practical level, we will begin to discuss the many items on our 'to do' list. We feel your fire and the fire of the Holy Spirit for this organization and want to carry the energy of our meeting forward. Through the intercession of our 'summer saints' may we carry the beauty of Carmel into the future.

Your sister, Judy M.

St. Roseann Gillice, ocd



Peace of our Risen Christ and the Holy Spirit! All creation is made new!

We had the joy of the presence of Fathers Saverio, Rafal and Anthony for a visit after the CCA meeting in May. While they sojourned in New England, Anthony drove them from Brighton, MA, to Barrington to celebrate Eucharist at 11 A.M. so our daily worshippers and

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THERÈSE

Barrington, Rhode Island



Fr Saverio greeting OCDS members after Mass



*Above: At table 'reading the cup' with Friars Rafal and Anthony
Below: The community with Fr Saverio*

any OCDS members could be present for the Liturgy. Before Mass we gathered to welcome them. After Eucharist there was a short tour while last minute preparations were made for our hearty brunch which ended with the Middle East touch of Arabic coffee and a "reading" of the cup. We had such a good time feasting together; not a sea between us, but enjoying the beauty of the day, time and closeness of brothers and sisters in Carmel. After cleaning up dishes, pots and pans, we met in the recreation room for sharing, questions and answers. It was a day of joy, friendship and peace.

This past winter wore white much of the time, but it didn't stop our travelers from Beacon, NY. Sisters Aletha and Paula, Redemptoristine, arrived bringing Marjorie for her retreat at the beginning of Lent. Because of being more active in the early days of the Association of Contemplative Sisters (ACS), some of our sisters and Paula were old friends who had not seen each



other for years. So bonds were remembered and renewed. We are grateful for the prayerful presence of our sisters who come for retreat.

Colds went the rounds of the community, but we survived. Sr. Marian coped with a bigger limitation. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes she had a knee replacement which fortunately has kept to the expected schedule of the healing process due to her careful therapy and perseverance.

As aid to the sacristan, Sr. Maria Francesca creates an atmosphere of beauty and prayer in the chapel. The artful entrance into Lent cannot be fully appreciated in the picture shown. Each week a meaningful word from the Sunday Scripture was placed in the sand leading up to the desert scene. Some of the priests referred to it in their homilies which created a unity in the Lenten message.



The Lenten scene created by Sr. Maria Francesca

Raymond, our maintenance man and his wife, recently became foster parents of a toddler, Abdiel. At the Foot Washing on Holy Thursday, Abdiel was our youngest participant ever at 17 months old. He paid attention not making a sound as the priest took his tiny foot and poured water over it. He was comfortably

embraced on his mother's lap and was content about all.

On April 5th some of us traveled to Boston Carmel for the lecture by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. He concentrated on The Way of Perfection. It was heartening to hear him pick up on community as grasped by Teresa and her living out the Gospel as "hermits in community". Boston has his talk on their website.

On April 18th Sr. Susan turned 90 and Sr. Patricia climbed up to 94. Today Susan celebrates her 61st year in Carmel and Patricia will "jubilee" for her 70th year of profession on June 21st.

Our OCDS held their Community Day on May 26th. The Secular Order has been encouraged to build community within their Chapters. They are community. Our Community's belated Christmas gift to them was to provide a priest who would celebrate the Eucharist for their intentions as well as give them two talks. Fr. Chris Murphy spoke on "Redemptive Suffering in Teresa and Therese". He was a good choice; they were in sync with each other. Box lunches were available for everyone. Wendy, our ex-president, buys from a local deli in MA where she lives. Delicious and bountiful!

After a live-in experience, Nora has requested to return to enter as a new candidate. St. John the Baptist's feast, the 24th will be her entrance date. Please pray for her and all her intentions.

Our sisters from Boston and Concord are expected for the annual intra-Formation Party here on June 10th. Whether the weather is sunny or cloudy, we will still have a good time.

At our CCA meeting in May our Sr. Mary Gehring fell and broke her ankle. For the past two weeks she has been in a nursing home to help the healing; however, it's a struggle not to walk even when you can't walk! Please keep her seated in your prayer!

We are grateful to the Leadership Team for our past National Meeting. May the Holy Spirit guide and buoy up the new Team; our prayer is with them.

We have so many ancient writers and current writers proclaiming the gift of the Holy Spirit. May our lives proclaim the riches and freedom of the children of God in our time and the joy of living in the truth. May the whole world know a new Pentecost.

Sr. Mary Clare Doherty, ocd



COMMUNITY

On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sr. Eileen Mary underwent surgery on her spine, an operation which was doubly risky due to her propensity to blood clots. Sister came through the surgery successfully, much to our relief, but about two weeks later clots did form in her leg. These slowly dissolved and with Lent she started to improve, returning to us on Apr. 2nd. Presently Sister is continuing with physical therapy here at home and is very grateful for all the prayers that were said, and for the relief from pain that she is now experiencing.

On Apr. 8th Sr. Marieleth arrived from the Carmel of Angeles in the Philippines. We are very, very grateful that she and her community generously responded to our request in allowing Sister to be with us for three years.

FORMATION

A Paulist priest, Fr. Frank Desiderio gave us a day on “the spirituality of forgiveness.” Unfortunately, snow kept our New Hampshire and Rhode Island sisters from coming. Fr. Carlos Piedrahita, a priest from Columbia, spoke on “the humanity of Christ in Teresa,” which had been the subject of his dissertation. Prayer and Community: Cassian and OHM was the subject of Sr. Hillary’s talks, and Jim Keenan SJ, from BC, spoke on virtue ethics and also the place of women in decision making roles in the Church. Mark De Velis OCD gave input on the Dark Night of John of the Cross as seen in Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, and Tom Stegman SJ spoke on the Christology of Hebrews. Our last class of the year was on John of the Cross and Asceticism, which was presented by Fr. George Nixon. A priest stationed in Rhode Island, who frequently visits the Barrington Carmel for Mass and some quiet time. His talk will be on Carmelstream and on our own website, carmelitesofboston.org.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Boston, Massachusetts

Before his wonderful talk on OHM, which is now on our website, Bishop Rowan Williams joined us for lunch and, following his talk, he was with us for supper. He also joined us for Midday Office and Vespers, and gave the homily at our Mass the following day, Sunday, before leaving us with memories of a warm and gracious presence.



*Rowan Williams with the community
and our live-ins, Alina and Aileen*

During the Sunday evenings of Lent, we watched a series on the Paschal Mystery given by Randy Sachs SJ and followed each segment with discussion.

MAINTENANCE

In the organizing and cataloging of our library, we have had the very able assistance of a sister of Notre Dame de Namur. Actually, it would be more exact to say we were assisting Sr. Marie Prefontaine, a tireless worker and a lovely person.

One of our Secular Carmelites, who works here as an extern, has continued to organize a group of her friends and acquaintances to help with the clean-up of our gardens in the Autumn and Spring and of course this makes garden work for us that much more inviting.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Mount Pleasant Ave. has always been shady, in the arboricultural sense of the word, but of late some of the trees have had to be cut down. We assume this is the reason that new trees have been planted along the sidewalk across the street. Next Spring we'll discover if they are magnolias, or weeping cherries, or red woods. At present they're just cute.

On Good Friday, a very large group, growing larger with each passing year, came for the Stations of the Cross. Eileen Mary gave the homily and was able to share the joy of her being free from pain, relatively. At appropriate intervals in her talk, Sister had the congregation sing the chorus of "The Mercies of the Lord" from Cleveland Carmel's The Lord is My Song.

During Lent, Mary Teresa had put up our cross of two big logs at the front entrance. One day after the mailman had left, the woman answering our phones noticed him kneeling before the cross, praying. At Easter a large wooden cutout of the Good Shepherd replaces the cross, and someone in the neighborhood placed two packages of scented incense at his feet.

CELEBRATIONS

Alina, with us for three months to discern a vocation, is studying classical guitar and on OHM's birthday she played for us, and for OHM, a truly beautiful piece that she had composed. Following this, Aileen, our other 'live-in,' read one of OHM's poems accompanied by Alina on the guitar.

And, sometime later, upon finishing our study of OHM's CASTLE, we came together with each sister presenting one of the mansions in a manner of her own choosing. After experiencing these presentations we concluded that we had really hit on a great idea. We are eight in community and therefore were a mansion short, so Bernadette Therese made and served frappachinos to complete the celebration.

We were happy and pleased to have Fr. Kevin OCD with us to celebrate the Holy Week Triduum this year. He brought a friend to each of the services, Debby Little Wyman, an Anglican priest who ministers to the homeless here in Boston. Along with celebrating Mass in the Public Gardens at the center of downtown, she has founded Ecclesia Ministries, as an extension of her work. You can see this online. She involves young adults in her ministry while educating them in the problem of homelessness.

On May 1st we welcomed a new group of

dancers from St. Joseph's Parish in Holbrook, MA who did a very beautiful Communion meditation at Mass. It's quite remarkable how prayerful and graceful these young middle school girls are when dancing.

Our final celebration was framed in sadness. Fr. Paul Lucey SJ, a long time and loving friend of the community, as well as spiritual director for two of the sisters, died on the first Saturday of May. Bernadette Therese and Mary Clare attended his funeral at the Jesuit retreat center in Weston, Mass where the Jesuits of the province are buried.

FATHER GENERAL

Fathers Saverio, and Rafal were with us for the day on May 22nd. We found it invitingly easy both to readily agree with and respectfully argue with Father General. Sr. Mary Teresa was able to converse some in Polish with Fr. Rafal who apparently has a wealth of knowledge at his fingertips in English as well. Both of our visitors were a delight and a blessing to have with us.



Frs. Saverio and Rafal in our garden

WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT

And sure that the Spirit is already with us, we began our Pentecost retreat the night of the Ascension, and will come out after our vigil on the eve of the feast.

St. Monica Bies, ocd



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART

Baltimore, Maryland

CCA Meeting

We had the great privilege of having our Father General Saverio Cannistra and Father Rafal Wilkowski, Secretary for the OCD Nuns, stay with us before the CCA meeting.

A festive supper on Saturday evening was followed by a beautiful Sunday mass at which Father Saverio presided. Our congregation was very happy to meet him and felt grateful that they are a part of our big Carmelite family. After brunch we had the opportunity to get together with Father Saverio to hear his perspective on the state of the order and to share our own thoughts and feelings. It was a very blessed meeting in which we truly encountered each other as brother and sisters.

As the host community we also had the privilege of having many sisters stay with us before and after the CCA meeting. We thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with our Sister Christine Morel and meeting Sister Anne Bauer. The bond between our sisters from the French Federation and us felt nearly tangible and we have been very grateful for this

experience. We were also able to provide hospitality for our sisters from Jackson and for some of the sisters of our own Association. On the free day of the CCA meeting a couple of the sisters came over to visit our monastery and to enjoy a conversation over a light afternoon snack. These encounters always reinforce the realization that “we are together in this” and that we hopefully can put this realization more and more into action.

Entrance into the Novitiate

On May 25th Celia Ashton and Olivia Steback entered into the novitiate. It was such a special day for the community, filled with hope and a deep gratitude to God and to their willingness to respond to God’s call. The following text is the beautiful reflection which Sister Judy Long gave on this very joyous occasion:



Celia and Olivia on their entrance day

“In a few moments you, Celia and Olivia, will become

canonical members of our Carmelite community. You are already one of us in our hearts, but by asking to enter the novitiate, you are stating that you freely choose to enter more deeply into the Carmelite life of prayer, silence and solitude. It is another step as you climb the Mountain of Carmel. This is a commitment on your part to join more fully into community life. Your commitment is mirrored by the commitment of the rest of your sisters who will continue to love, support and sometimes challenge you as we journey together.

As I reflected on the readings you chose for today, they immediately reminded me of other scriptures passages and texts that are foundational to us as Carmelites.



Group picture in our refectory with Father General Saverio Cannistra, Father Rafal Wilkowski and our other guests

In the reading from Colossians the primacy of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. "Give thanks to God, who made us fit for the holy community of light and rescued us from darkness, bringing us into the realm of the beloved Son.... Before anything came to be, Christ was, and the universe is held together by Christ." In this beautiful text, I recall the beginning of our Rule which calls us to "live a life of allegiance to Jesus Christ." We desire to live a life of fidelity to Jesus because we have been seized by a mad, mad love for him. I dare say, you have been seized by a mad, mad, love for Jesus as well. Living your life for Jesus, who is the cohesive heart of the universe, is a call you hear deep within your heart. It is a profound passion for the Absolute. May it come to be the only thing that will satisfy you.

In the reading from Teresa's Way of Perfection I was drawn by the line "All one need do is go into solitude and look at Him within oneself...." Teresa is calling us to embrace Jesus who is the treasure within, to be with him, to serve him who comes to eat, live, work and recreate with us. God sometimes is not found in the extraordinary, but often in the ordinary. Elijah did not find God in the strong wind, earthquake or the fire but in a tiny whispering sound of a gentle breeze. God is found here in the silence of our interior prayer life, not for our own benefit, but so that we can serve our sisters whom we see and at the same time to be in solidarity and communion with our brothers and sisters some of whom we will never see.

Olivia and Celia, today as we experience with you the joy, hope, love, energy, excitement and the anticipation of what the future will bring, may you know the deep love God has for you, the delight God takes in your very being and that we will love and support you always as your sisters in Carmel."

Sister Pat Scanlan wrote very moving petitions for them based on the creation story: "In the beginning it was difficult to fathom where God's call was leading them. Gradually the Light led them to the outskirts of a mountain name Carmel, beautiful garden, ... a mountain inhabited by prophets and known to mystics... a mountain watered by the spring of Elijah, ... for centuries the spiritual landscape for all who aspire to union with God. For Carmel-Let us give thanks: Alleluia!"

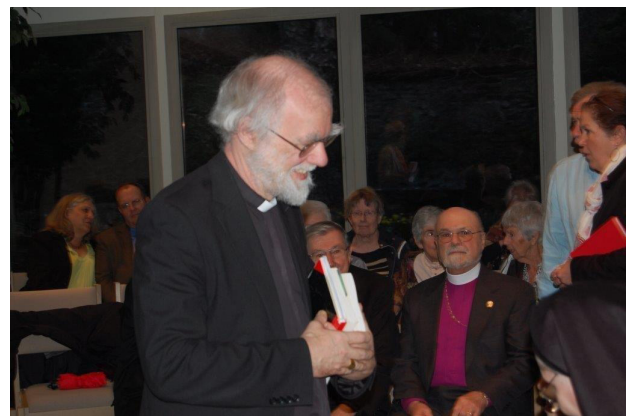
She concluded with the following petition: "Then God Said: Come. There is yet further to go. It is time for a new beginning." And Olivia and Celia responded: Yes, we are coming. And the community

said: Yes. We will go with you. Together-Let us give thanks: Alleluia!

Please keep Celia and Olivia in your prayers as we continue to discern with them their call to our community.

Centenary of the Birth of St. Teresa of Avila

We started our celebration of St. Teresa's birth on April 4th with a lecture by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. His insights on "Marginality and mindfulness: Teresa and the experience of powerlessness" touched the hearts of the many people who came to hear him. All of us who have been studying the life and works of our Holy Mother for years felt that he graced us with a different perspective to examine her life.



The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams talking to people in the audience.

A Nuns' Life

If you missed the podcast Ask Sister-Motherhouse Road Trip with the Carmelite Nuns of Baltimore google "Ask Sister."



Celebrating Connie's 80th birthday!



CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York

For some time now, our parish has had priests from Nigeria as assistant pastors. In mid-February we had to say good-bye to one

of them who had been here over seven years, had celebrated each week with us, and had secured a large place in our hearts. The farewell party was memorable!

As a preliminary to St. Patrick's Day celebrations (this is New York, after all...), we had a visit from young Irish step dancers. There is a school nearby and some of the older children have been, and placed, in competition. They had danced for us last year in the recreation room, but we did not want to subject the new cork floor there to those shoes, so asked them to dance in the refectory. They were delightful and looked quite professional. (The refectory floor, on the other hand, looked in need of some refurbishment!)

Later in March, we had a visit from eighteen twelve year olds, the seventh grade class of Mount Carmel school in Middletown, NY. This is an O.Carm. parish school, and Fr. John Horan, the pastor, wanted them to meet Carmelite women. We began in the chapel with an introduction explaining (as far as possible!) our lifestyle, then moved, with refreshments, to the recreation room. The group impressed us with their religious formation and interest in us – and their questions were all you might imagine from intelligent twelve year olds, and then some! We received thank you notes from all of them afterward, most including the hope of returning sometime.

The day after Easter, we began a course in the psalms given by our pastor, Fr. Richard Smith. We greatly appreciated the course on the Fathers of the Church which he gave last year. He is a good teacher, and his enthusiasm is contagious. It did amuse us, though, when he said that we didn't know how much it meant to him that all of us were chanting the psalms the day he was born. Too true! And now, many of us are praying the psalms with new eyes.

Plans for our celebration of Our Holy Mother's fifth centenary are not complete yet, but we will be having a lecture by Keith Egan, a concert by Kim and Reggie Harris, who live not too far away, and are working with the St. Elias province of O.Carm. friars to bring to this area the musical drama, the Interior Castle, commissioned by the Boston nuns.

A highlight of this spring was of course the CCA meeting at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, MD in May. Srs. Marjorie, Marie Gertrude, Mary Theresa and Carolyn attended. It was as always wonderful to see old friends and some new. All who stayed at home watched



Some Irish step dancers entertained us for St Patrick's Day



the live streaming of Father General's talks and were impressed both by the content of his talks and by the technology involved. Sr. Aletha, our techie, had worked hard with Sr. Marie Louise et al. to enable this.

The icing on this cake was Fr. Saverio's and Fr. Rafal's visit to our community right after the meeting. We who had been there hurried home, only to find that their plane had been delayed. Frs. Saverio and Rafal arrived here only in time for an eight o'clock supper. We did have time with them the next morning and it was precious. We appreciated his generosity in visiting so many of our Carmels.

May you all enjoy summer after this long cold winter, and have a blessed feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Fr. Richard Smith discussing the Psalms



Frs. Saverio and Rafal with the Community



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND OF THE HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania

Here in north central Pennsylvania the strawberry harvest is delayed two weeks due to the prolonged cold

weather this spring. Although we didn't experience the heavy snowfalls that the eastern and western parts

of the State had, low temperatures visited us on into May. Now we're having those wonderfully balmy days interspersed with soft rains, reminiscent of the lines: "I saw God wash the world last night / With his sweet showers on high / And then, when morning came, I saw/ Him hang it out to dry."

[Wm. Stidger]

During Lent at the request of the director of social services at Emmanuel Center, Sr. Angela led a faith

sharing and reflection period, once a week for an hour, with our Sisters, Therese, Ann Marie and Anna at Emmanuel Center, along with three other Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius as participants. We shared on the Gospel accounts of the Our Father, the Good Shepherd, Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper, Martha and Mary, appreciating the insights of one another.

On Holy Thursday the Liturgy included the washing of the feet, procession and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:00 p. m. After a beautiful Liturgy on Easter Sunday, we had the blessing of food and a festive breakfast of Easter bread (paska), egg cheese, grated red beets and other traditional Slovak

foods.

Fr. Salvatore, OCD visited in April for conferences on the images of God in Scripture and on the life and personalities of Zelig and Louis Martin. We appreciate his visits for a day of reflection and sharing of the spirit of our Order.

Our Sisters at home enjoyed the live streaming from the CCA meeting of the presentations by Fr. General. Attendance by arm chair viewing is wonderful! We appreciated the wisdom in his defining of contemplative life, the directness in naming challenges of our present situations and the



*Sisters enjoying a break at the CCA meeting
[Srs. Sue Lumb, Angela Pikus, Helen Wang]*

pastoral concern for the ongoing human and spiritual growth of the nuns.

Sr. Therese reached a milestone on May 21st: her eightieth anniversary of profession. We are so proud of her and she has expressed much gratitude to God, saying He has done everything. She and Srs. Ann Marie and Anna came to Maria Hall for our simple, private celebration: dinner, followed by recreation with us in our Community room. The Jubilee cake was actually two small ice cream cakes, one with the inscription "Happy 80th Jubilee" and the other "Vive la Canada". [Sr. Therese was born in St. Boniface, province of Quebec, Canada and holds



Sr. Therese Dugre on her 80th anniversary of profession



*Sr. Anne Mika and Sr. Joan Lundy
at the 80th Jubilee dinner*

happy memories of her childhood years there.] Our Sisters in Sugarloaf remembered the anniversary and sent red roses; a dear friend of 35 years provided a corsage of white roses and baby breath with fern; she also searched the Internet and found a small flag of Canada and one for the province of Quebec. Sr. Margaret composed a humorous song about Therese's coming to Loretto Carmel at age 16, where two of her sisters were already professed, adding verses about her early years there. Sr. Therese, thankfully, is in good health and will celebrate her 98th birthday in mid-

June.

The following day we had a violent hail storm; hail the size of golf balls rained down like bullets, damaging our window screens with 3-4 inch gouges. Locally, roofs, homes with aluminum siding and scores of cars were severely damaged. One of the sisters half in jest, possibly half in earnest, thought the end of the world was near!

We continue to enjoy studying the Letters of Our Holy Mother this year in Community, reading expressions of her love, friendship, firmness, gentle persuasion, humor, bluntness, tact, etc. Noting that there are hundreds of her letters extant, it is noteworthy that Teresa found letter writing a task. In a letter to her sister, Dona Juana de Ahumada, [February 4, 1572] after mentioning all the physical ailments she suffered upon returning to the Monastery of the Incarnation - the fevers, sore throat, quartan fever, nausea and chills - she continues with optimism:

“Everything else is going well, with so many duties and troubles that I wonder how I'm able to bear them all. The biggest burden is letter-writing. “ How honest, how real!

Please remember in your prayers our Sr. Joan of the Cross' brother, James Bourne, who died peacefully on Easter Sunday. He had suffered a stroke, an amputation and gradually weakened. He was one year younger than Joan and lived in Chestertown, MD.

Sr Hilary Case, ocd



CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST.

JOSEPH

Concord, New Hampshire

As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we feel that our own spirits have been newly awakened by Father Saverio's talks at the CCA meeting and his subsequent visit to our community on May

21. We are so grateful to Father Saverio for inviting and challenging us to join the church in the search for new forms of outreach to others, a search that will flow from our deepening contemplative life. We also want to thank the outgoing Leadership Team of CCA for streaming Father Saverio's talks so that everyone in our community could both see and hear him. Many thanks to all who worked to enabled this fuller participation in the meeting.

Several of us attended the May CCA meeting in person: Sisters Claudette, Susan, Miryam, and Hilary. As most of you know, Father Saverio gave three talks on the contemplative life of Carmel: its meaning, our experience of it in these days of cultural complexity and change, and its mission in our world. He spoke with honesty and strength, encouraging each community to face its condition head-on and make good decisions about its future. We took in this message, and we also loved his sense of humor and his presence to us as our brother in a common effort. Our discussion groups furthered his message by breaking it down into sub-topics: the viability of a community, the vitality of the sisters, and initial formation. We felt the Holy Spirit's love for Carmel and the call to embrace our challenges.

On May 21, Fr. Paul Fohlin brought Fr. Saverio and his secretary, Fr. Rafal, from Brighton to Concord to spend the day with our community. He celebrated and preached an 11 a.m. Mass attended by the sisters and a few of our neighbors. He then stayed for lunch and an afternoon discussion with all the sisters. We talked about the challenges Carmel faces these days and about the need to imagine and experiment with new ways of sharing contemplative prayer as well as the values of a Teresian Carmelite vocation in our world and time. When these Fathers left in the late afternoon, we felt as if we had new friends, brothers, and we had new energy to envision our contribution to Carmel and the whole church.

We now go back in time to April, a month of continuing winter, which yielded only gradually to spring. On April 8, Sr. Hilary gave two talks for the Intercommunity Formation Program at Boston Carmel. In these talks she set Cassian's Institutes side by side with St. Teresa's Way of Perfection. This topic is not yet finished; Part 2 will take place next fall. Thanks to Boston Carmel for providing ice water and encouragement!

On May 3, the Knights of Columbus from various locations in New Hampshire, invited Sr. Louise, our Vocation Director, and Katherine Prenovost, our postulant, to their annual banquet at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. They talked with several seminarians and ate a special steak dinner. For several years the Knights have taken on as a project the encouragement of religious vocations. The annual banquet is only one aspect of their kindness and generosity. We also receive financial donations, help with our grounds in the fall, and visits from the Wives of the Knights, who bring goodies and supplies and introduce us to some of their dogs. We think all of this attention from the Knights and their Wives is very special.

On April 27, a Sunday afternoon, Reverend Richard Greenleaf, Head Chaplain at St. Paul's School, brought a member of his confirmation class to see us. Most of us came to visit with them. They asked questions about life at Carmel, and we asked some about life at St. Paul's. It is good to get to know their community a little, as some of them get to know us. This month also saw a visit from a group of women from Canterbury, New Hampshire. They came to ask Sr. Louise about Carmelite life and to see the stained glass windows in our chapel.

A week later, on May 4, Father Maurice, our chaplain, celebrated Mass for the Carmelite Guild and their friends at 3 p.m. As always, coffee, tea, and homemade bread were served after Mass in our lobby. The weather cooperated.

Finally, we have a Home Improvement to mention. Some very saggy inlay (linoleum) has been replaced by two kinds of very spiffy tile. One does not always realize how much better life is when the floor is solid and clean. Our Holy Mother always recommended good foundations, and this recommendation holds good in all areas of life.

On this note, we send blessings for the summer.

CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

San Rafael, California

Sr. Anna Marie Vanni, ocd



*Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Alleluia!*

We wish you every grace and blessing from the Holy Spirit on today's Solemnity of Pentecost!! To backtrack a little, we had very

grace-filled Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Fr. Bob Benjamin started Holy Week with a beautiful Palm Sunday Liturgy. Then, Father Jim Pickett led us, with much devotion, through the rest of the Holy Triduum and Easter Sunday! Our very dear friends helped us tremendously with preparations and lively participation in these holy days. Sr. Immaculate was also an excellent Sacristan for her first Holy Week with us. The Chapel was beautifully prepared for each liturgy.

We were very happy to welcome one of our very good priest friends, Fr. Brian Costello, who made his Retreat during Easter Week. It was his second stay in our Priest Hermitage. During the time he was here we were able to fit in a couple of visits with him to find out what he has been doing these past few years.

At the same time, Sr. Anna Marie's brother Paul and his family came to be with us for the Baptism of his twin babies, William and Isabel. Paul and Hong and their family live on the island of Maui. So, it was a real treat to have so many visits with them. Fr. Jack O'Neill performed the Baptism with great Easter joy! The two babies were mesmerized by Father's deep voice and watched him most closely, without a murmur, even with all the water being poured over them, oil to anoint them and light from their candles dancing before their eyes. It turned out to be a great family celebration! We enjoyed every minute we had with Paul and found it hard to finally say Aloha (Goodbye)!

Then, on the same morning that Paul and family left, Sr. Teresa Francis and Sr. Anna Marie flew back to the Midwest to attend the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Mary Claire of the Terra Haute Carmel in Indiana. Sr. Mary Claire was the first English Sister to join the Terre Haute Carmel from Chichester, England. Then Sr. Teresa Francis and Sr. Mary Helen arrived a few years later. This gave our Sr. Teresa Francis another opportunity to be with her English Sisters and also with Sr. Mary Claire's family members from England and a

very special priest friend, Fr. Laurence Quinmorris, also from England, whose current ministry is in Canada. It was a special time for the San Rafael Sisters to be with the entire community of Terre Haute. We were warmly welcomed and given excellent hospitality! The Jubilee liturgical celebration was exquisite! All the Sisters worked very hard on preparing their Chapel and Choir with lovely floral arrangements, beautifully printed Mass programs and very lovely singing. The Principal celebrant, Bishop Christopher Coyne, Auxiliary Bishop of the Indianapolis Archdiocese, gave a moving homily, offering Sr. Mary Claire his gratitude for her 50 years of faithful religious life. We did our best to add to the joy of this holy event. How surprised and happy we were to see Sr. Jean Alice and Sr. Teresa from the Oldenburg community, also present! After a few days of festivities, the Sisters returned to San Rafael, happy to be home!

We've had perfect springtime weather and have been able to plant a lot of vegetables and flower seeds in three different garden beds. We have already picked buckets of cherries and now apricots, even our first zucchini!

On May 31st, 14 Seminarians were ordained Permanent Deacons for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and 4 transitional Deacons were ordained Priests on June 7th! We will be meeting some of these new Priests and Deacons soon, as they begin their new ministries on July 1st, in some of the local Parishes.

During our Pentecost Retreat, we took a day off on June 4, to have another giant jamming session with 8 of our Carmelite Fathers and Brothers. They helped us bottle 178 jars of strawberry jam for our Jam Sale!! Afterwards, we had a delightful picnic lunch together and then off they went for a nice long two-hour hike up into the hills!!! When they returned, we prayed Vespers, and had a recreation dinner together before they returned home to Mt. St. Joseph's Novitiate in San Jose. All the Brothers have been here before, except the new Postulant, Timothy Joseph. It was such a pleasure to meet him and hear his vocation story.

We are now preparing for our annual Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, to be conducted by Father Thomas Kohler, OCD, who is an Associate Pastor of Santa Cruz Parish in Tucson, Arizona.

*Summer greetings to all of you and
Happy Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,
Sr. Anna Marie & Sisters*



CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

February began with a series of ice and snowstorms, which at times were very beautiful but were also very treacherous. There were several days when we were concerned about our Benedictine chaplain being able to make the 5-minute drive down and up the hills between our monastery and theirs, but they made it each morning. Much to our surprise, some of our lay faithful also braved the bad weather to attend Mass. One particularly bad morning the first person to arrive was using a cane and the second was using a walker. This shows how important they feel it is to attend daily Mass.

Sr. Tanya is celebrating her Golden Jubilee this year and one of the “Jubilarians’ perks” is to be allowed a one week visit to a brother or sister. Sister decided to visit her sister in Phoenix in the middle of February and all except one of her siblings were able to visit with her while she was there. She returned with lots of beautiful rosary making materials from a local Gem and Mineral Show. Another thing she seemed to bring back was about 5 days of beautiful sunny 60-degree weather. Sr. Mary, who left to visit her parents in Arizona the day Sr. Tanya returned,



*Sr Tanya on her Feast Day
The Annunciation*

came back from her visit a week later on the coldest day on record (minus one degree) for February in Pittsburgh with a snow storm about to arrive.

As Lent began, we listened to

a series of CD’s by Sr. Camille D’Arienzo, RSM on “Forgiveness”. She related many stories showing the effects of forgiveness not so much on those who are forgiven but mainly on those who do the forgiving. Interestingly, during the time we were listening to these in the refectory, one of our chaplains gave us a very challenging homily on Jesus’ statement in the Gospel “if you do not forgive your brother or sister from the heart, neither will the Father forgive your sins.



*Sr. Marie Theodora on her Feast Day
St. Joseph the Worker*

Our Lent was again graced by the seminarians from St. Vincent’s coming to lead our Stations of the Cross each Friday afternoon. After completing the stations they share a little about themselves and their schedule for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood so the laity, who fill our chapel for the service, and we can keep them in our prayers. This year we had young men from the dioceses of Patterson, NJ; Erie, OH; and Covington, KY. We also had a seminarian from Brazil and one who is a monk at St. Vincent’s here in Latrobe.

During Holy Week, our Benedictine Chaplains really gave us much food for thought. Fr. Tom Hart in his homily on Palm Sunday stressed that in Matthew’s Gospel Jesus promised to be with us always and

then he asked “are we with Him always?” On Holy Thursday Fr. Matthias Martiniez emphasized Jesus gift of the priesthood and the need for charity and humility. Good Friday Fr. Anthony Grossi pointed out that even with all the tragic news about wars, missing planes, capsized boats, stabbings, shootings, fires, mudslides and the commemoration of the death of Our Lord – it is good to know that our salvation for eternity was made possible because our Lord’s death overcame death itself. He also pointed out that with the end of the Good Friday Service we entered a time of “loneliness” and waiting until we could celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection. At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Fr. Phillip Kanfush, after his beautiful Exultet, gave a homily stressed how the forgiveness that God gives is complete and should cause in us an awareness of freedom from continuing to feel guilty once we have confessed. Fr. Anthony Grossi was back Easter Sunday and told us that our watching and waiting had reached fulfillment. The weather on Easter Sunday was magnificent and we had a joyous celebration made possible by many generous benefactors.

After Easter we had many family and friends visit us. Sr. Marie Elizabeth’s cousin Eugene arrived bringing us lots of good things to eat. Sr. Maria’s sister, Lola, from California had a meeting for teachers in Pittsburg and came with one of her colleagues to spend a day and night with us. Then, 17 members of Sr. Mary’s family arrived to celebrate her father’s 80th birthday. Sr. Mary Paul had a friend visit from Georgia, who was here when two of our large trees came down in a windstorm. She was very impressed with Sr. Tanya’s tree removal skills using the chain saw and tractor, she commented “I didn’t know nuns did that”. At the end of April, Sr. Shirley Marie’s father and sister arrived to visit her while on their trip home from Florida to New Hampshire.

February 1st, Srs. Mary and Tanya represented us at the annual Diocesan Celebration for Religious Life. At the end of March Srs. Mary and Joann attended the Diocesan Youth Convention. Then at the beginning of April, Sr. Joann attended the first meeting of Vocation Directors of the Women Religious of the Diocese. This was a meeting organized by the sisters themselves because there was no diocesan structure in place to help religious attract vocations, all vocation efforts had been directed toward diocesan priests. At this meeting many suggestions were made and at subsequent meetings concrete plans were put in place

for attempting to attract vocations during the coming Year for Consecrated Life.



Sr. Maria working in her garden

than outside, so that all our sisters could participate. Sr. Tanya, because she is celebrating her Golden Jubilee this year, was selected to do the crowning and Sr. Shirley Marie won the drawing for the privilege of preparing the crown. We used the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima that Msgr. Lenz gave us a few years ago.



*Srs. Tanya and Shirley Marie
May Crowning*

Four members of our community, Srs. Marie Elizabeth, Mary, Mary Paul, and Joann were able to attend the CCA Meeting. Those of us left at home were very happy to be able to watch Fr. Savario’s talks during the live streaming. We are very grateful to the outgoing Leadership team for giving us this opportunity.

In closing we would ask your prayers for Sr. Marie Elizabeth’s Aunt Sr. Franceline, IHM and Sr. Ann Marya brother Edwin and nephew Vincent who passed away this spring.

With the the cold weather this spring it was not until our Pentecost Retreat that the sisters were able to get outside and begin to work on their gardens.

As Mary’s month of May was coming to a close we held our Annual May Crowning in the Chapel, rather

Sr Jenn Alice McGoff, OCSM



CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana

Winter here was uneventful, but it was exceptional in the challenge of dealing

with the unusual amount of snow and ice. It made it prudent to stay inside, viewing nature from our large windows. Fortunately we have a television that connects with the Franciscan chapel and enables us to participate in the liturgy electronically. Of course, we made the most of the usual feasts: Valentines Day, St. Bridget, Shrove Tuesday, and St. Patrick's Day!

On February 11 we heard of the death of Shirley Temple Black who had been a part of most of our childhoods. To our surprise Helen told us that it was the same for her in China! Her earliest movies were Shirley Temple, Laurel and Hardy, and Charlie Chaplan. The world gets smaller all the time.

We celebrated the birthday of our Sr. Rita Howard on Shrove Tuesday, bringing her over from the infirmary to our home. She was 88 years old and still in good health, in spite of her memory disability. Little did we know that this was the last time she would be with us in this way. The effects of her stroke on March 26 progressively led to her death on April 30. All through her year's stay in the OSF infirmary, Rita had wanted

to be home "with my sisters." She got far more than she hoped for! Her funeral was a real celebration of friendship and reconnection. Friends came from Indianapolis and Cincinnati. A special joy was the presence of our Carmelite Sisters from Terre Haute. At the center of our little cemetery, adjacent to that of the Franciscans', is the burial place of our foundress, Mother Theresa Seelbach. It is marked by a large, black, wrought iron cross. At the center of the cross is a copper insert with her name and dates. Fortunately, we had just had both refurbished. After the burial, the Franciscans treated everyone to a delicious chicken dinner. We especially wish to thank all our Carmelite sisters and brothers for their prayers for Rita and loving word of support.

So many things have changed for us in the past ten years, but a new event in Indianapolis



Pictures of Rita posted for the funeral liturgy



*Ruth in our cemetery showing
the cross I mentioned*

of time. A beautiful spring and early summer have emerged from the perils of winter. As these quiet days unfold, we are enjoying the extra space and the beauty of creation.

Helen and Jean Alice represented the community at the May CCA meeting in Mariottsville. This retreat house is a place of such special memories. When we gathered here for the first time almost 45 years ago, we did not yet take on the Federation structure, but simply clarified our goals and what we wanted to achieve together. It was the right beginning for all that CCA has become and is yet to be.

June 14 we are hosting a cluster meeting of members of the Association of Contemplative Sisters from Louisville, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. We will begin the day entering into the spirit of the V Centenary celebration of St. Teresa with a prayerful meditation on passages from the Interior Castle. The beautiful, contemplative spirit of this group bears witness to the many ways contemplation is spreading far beyond the cloister. Yet our monasteries remain a beacon of light and a supportive and encouraging presence in this adventure.

marked the end of a precious era. When our Sisters arrived in Indianapolis in 1932 from New Albany, they were befriended and helped through needs and difficulties by the Daughters of Charity who ran St. Vincent's Hospital. Their hospitals are now part of a huge health system called Ascension Health. The Daughters are leaving the system and closing twelve convents around the country. These Sisters now plan to live in small groups and do hands-on ministry. Our last Daughter friend has now moved to Evansville, Indiana.

As I write this we have begun our pre-Pentecost retreat. With our participation in the vocal choir here, we have been singing invitations to the Holy Spirit way ahead



Helen and Jean Alice at Mariottsville meeting

Sr Joan Williams, ocd



Preparations for the STJ500 celebration in San Jose are in their final stages. At this writing 165 vocal tracks

from 15 nations have already been received by Scott Haines, producer of the Carmelite virtual choirs. Most contributors are the OCD Nuns. Thank you, sisters! It will be thrilling to see it all come together in August!

The nun's panel, which will open the San Jose celebration with a PowerPoint on 'Who are the Daughters and Sisters of St Teresa Today?', gave us a sneak preview of their presentation at our CCA meeting. It was a great preview and a valuable learning experience! With the help of excellent feedback from the sisters it will be shorter and even better by August! The plan is to make the PowerPoint available for download from the STJ500westernus.com website as well as in DVD format for those who can spare a few shekels for production and mailing costs. Most of the work the nun's panel has done has been by computer via Google Hangouts. We can all see and hear each other as if we're in the same room. It's a great way to save time and money!

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Reno, Nevada

Sisters Claire and Cloe are hard at work with final preparations for a CD, which will include 12 new, original vocal pieces for Carmel including Dolora Zajick's opera scene to be premiered in San Jose entitled 'Roads to Zion.' Our hope is that the CD will be ready and available for sale by August both at San Jose and on our website.

Our local Sisters' Council is a small but important voice here in our Reno diocese. If ever needed the Council provides the means of a unified response. Our Bishop Calvo was happy to endorse anything that would simplify his communication with the nuns!



Two Sisters from Africa, and a third soon to arrive, bring the group to about twenty-two nuns. With fourteen in our community we are happy to share Vespers followed

by dinner and time for the prayerful sharing of each sister's journey, of her ideas, concerns and news.

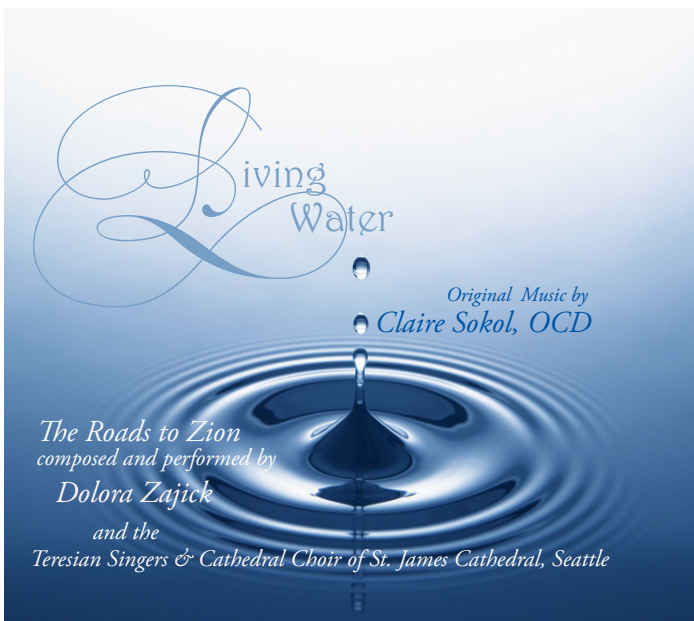
Our Sister Susan keeps notes and a calendar for these meetings, sending out invitations when due.

The 80+ CLUB OF THE CARMELITE NUNS

The Carmelite 80+ Club is based on friendship and prayer for one another. The one requirement for membership is the age of 80+.

Our inaugural meeting was held in April of 2014 at the San Diego Carmel. Several of us celebrated our age and the privilege of having been formed in the old tradition and successfully migrated into renewal.

Our motto, "Not just meds ((medicines) but roses too!" is based the the1912 women's movement,



“Bread and Roses.” Their spirit evokes our own “Zelo Zelatus Sum.” Science suggests that a relationship such as ours enhances the existing neurological connections between prayer, friendship and beauty.

Welcome to our growing ranks!



NATIONAL CCA MEETING



With six of us present at our recent National Meeting our table conversation has a new energy. “Did you see, hear, notice, or talk with....” What an experience — a sort of air balloon ride where the sky’s the limit. We all became. “agents of the imagination.”

PENTECOST RETREAT

Our annual retreat for Pentecost usually begins with conferences by scripture scholars such as Dr Elaine Park or other theologians with whom we are familiar. This year, Father Michael Fish, a Camaldolese monk was free only in early May, so we enter this year’s June retreat to ponder his dynamic, inspiring thoughts and words.

Fr Michael transferred from the Redemptorists in South Africa to become a member of the New Camaldoi in California. In 2009 his community gave

him permission to give retreats around the country. The fact that only in two years can we schedule a



return visit tells something of the well-deserved popularity of this charismatic monk.

Remember, as Fr. Michael said, “The road begins where you are standing.”

All the joy and grace of Paschal tide





Carmel of the Holy Family *Cleveland Heights, Ohio*

During the early part of February the world was poised to cheer on the athletes of the Sochi Winter Olympics. Many of the sisters enjoyed watching the various sporting events and with baited breath marveled at the skill, dedication, and courageous attitude of the fearless Olympic contenders. In Cleveland Carmel, we raised shouts of joy for a different “golden” achievement. Our Bernadette Kamin celebrated her fiftieth anniversary of religious profession on February 13th. The community celebrated with prayer, song and a festive meal. We all rejoiced in great thanksgiving for Bernadette’s life of gracious hospitality, generous service, and faithfulness to the Carmelite charism.

The winter months were unpredictable with severe cold and shifts in weather patterns. Day after day we experienced below zero temperatures. Some of us felt that our blue RAV should have dual registration as both a car and bobsled. We slipped and skidded along and joked that we could join Team USA as we navigated our cars through treacherous snowy streets and icy interstate roads.

Bernadette not only cooks for our community but also concocts tasty suet blocks for our feathered friends during the frigid season. She devotedly fills the birdfeeders along the awning of our kitchen and refectory. Many was the time that our dinner conversation halted to a complete stop as someone pointed to the windows and exclaimed, “Everyone look, there’s a _____!” We all felt that the birds knew that this Carmel provided gourmet treats for their dining pleasure during the frosty weather. One notable challenge that we had to face was the longstanding battle of deflecting the squirrel population from consuming what was intended for our hungry flocks.

As we moved into the Lenten Season we began the transition with our Ash Wednesday celebration. Fr. Lorn Snow, SJ, was director for the Carmelite Guild’s morning of recollection and presider at noon

liturgy. He led the group toward an understanding that prayer is essential and that it must be life –giving. For homework he encouraged us to view the film classic Auntie Mame and seek the profound truth to “live, live, live!”

Also during Lent we try to have a community “clean-out day.” It is our attempt to reduce our individual and communal clutter. Sometimes our hopes for greater simplicity and detachment actually happen. We are committed to recycling and have wonderful contacts with people who can utilize those items that we no longer need. In addition during this sacred season we agreed to maintain a quieter atmosphere and be more mindful of the richness of the divine office and Eucharistic celebrations.

We were fortunate to have Fr. David Novak for



*Bernadette, Fr. Gary Chmura and Donna
Lighting Paschal candle*

our Triduum celebration. Preparing for the Holy Days can be fraught with details and extra work; however, we experienced a great sense of peace as we moved through the days of the Paschal Triduum. Donna

masterfully navigated the particulars of the sacristy and managed as if she had been doing it for years. It is always a thrilling moment for us to hear the strains of the Exultet and witness the lighting of the beautiful candle, handmade, hand carved, and painted by Bernadette.

In the beginning of May we celebrated Mary Lavin's 85th birthday. She came for Sunday liturgy accompanied by her family and enjoyed a festive meal with the community. Mary was thrilled that she could mark this special occasion with her family, friends, community, and the members of the Sunday congregation. Pat O'Brien celebrated her 86th birthday on May 16th which also is our foundation day (1923).

Maria Viatori and Barb Losh were delegates to the CCA assembly. Maria was a full-time participant while Barb coordinated the "at-home live streaming" then traveled to Bon Secours to participate in the business portion of the meeting. All of the sisters appreciated the hard work and effort it took to synchronize the technological components so that home communities could listen to Father Saverio in live time. We thank

Bernadette Therese, Marian, Marie Louise and Judy for their self-sacrifice and service to the membership and we ask God to bless Claire, Judy Murray, Marian, and Hilary as they begin this new season of leadership for CCA.

While Barb and Maria were at the CCA meeting the sisters back home had adventures of their own. Once again, Cleveland experienced torrential rains, the sewers backed up, and water flooded into the basement. Bob Carr, our new maintenance coordinator, Bernadette and Donna Schultz handled the

situation with promptness and competence. At the same time Pat Conway and Anne Joan Boyle had driven out to see Anita and Mary at Regina Health Center. They were met with tornado warnings, immediately reversed their direction, and headed for home. We always say that it is exciting to live in Cleveland!

On Memorial Day our friend Fr. Donald Cozzens gave a poignant homily encouraging us to think of how Christians should view war and conflict. He asked us to ponder the whole question of "the enemy" and envision what Christ would have us do. At the same time we were aware of Pope Francis and his pilgrimage to the Holy Land and his efforts to be an ambassador for peace in a troubled land. The image that Fr. Saverio gave us seems to tie this season of grace together as we approach the wonderful Feast of Pentecost. Let us pray that we might be open to crossing the frontiers of our own interior landscapes and that of our communities, and nations so that the love of Christ may shine brightly in this world.



Pat O'Brien, Jean Marie and Barb chat with Fr. Don Cozzens & friends after Memorial Day Liturgy.

Sr Miriam Hogan, ocd



CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa

In Eldridge, we are seeing a wonderful start to summer. So far, the rain has been sufficient and the crops are growing rapidly. After

last year that was so dry and difficult for the local farmers, it is especially delightful to look forward to a good yield in this area of the country. So many people across the world depend on the food that is grown here. Fr. Deo (from Africa) reminds us that a crop crisis here is a devastating crisis in Africa literally meaning the difference between people having enough to eat or going hungry. This is especially true this year with the drought having severe effects in most of California. So we cannot help but praise the Lord as we look out our windows and see the fields of green surrounding us. Of course there are also the weeds, but even they didn't do very well last year.

Looking out at our own garden we see Sr. JonFe working diligently. She has already provided the community with the best possible asparagus and now some great strawberries. Of course like all gardeners, we hear complaints about how much the

birds eat. They just take tiny pecks out of the berries and whatever else might be provided. While this is seen as a small tragedy by the serious gardeners, those people like me, who work inside the house on computers, are especially fond of the scripture passage from Matthew.

Behold the birds of the air, for they neither sow, nor do they reap, nor gather into barns: and yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are you not of much more value than they? Matt 6:26-34

Another bright note is that a new bug spray has been developed in our diocese at Columbus Junction. It is made up of all natural ingredients and is flying off the shelves. Good for us, bad for the bugs! Yet, nevertheless, when going outside, Sister dresses in protective clothing.

Finally, when writing about the garden, we cannot help but remember our dear Sr. Mary Jo who spent many hours working outside. We miss her dearly, but at the same time are keenly aware of her spiritual presence among us.

Concerning other matters, Sr. Maria's sister Oda passed away June 3 at home, surrounded by her family. Maria was able to be with her in Belvedere, CA, and to attend the funeral services.

Sr. Miriam went to the CCA meeting and enjoyed both the input and the time to reconnect and share with friends. This time the meeting was all the more special however, because the community here at home was able to view the talks via live streaming. What a wonderful gift ... redounding to the good of all our CCA sisters!!! We hope and pray that this it is just the beginning of a new practice for the future.

Our customary community retreat was from the Ascension to Pentecost. It seems too short a time and as everyday life continues, we recall the words of Sr. Margaret Dorgan "Throughout my day, remind me that You are within me, O Blessed Three-in-One."

Peace and Love, Sr. Miriam



JonFe the Gardener