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V CENTENARY
SAINT TERESA
OF JESUS

CCA Newsletter

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Member Carmels





PENTECOST, MAY 24, 2015

Dear Sisters,

After the long and snowy winter months, it is a delight to see and smell the spring flowers . The lilacs, especially are so fragrant, but even the pesky dandelions in the lawn bring a smile to our faces. Then the special message of the Easter Liturgy fills us with much joy and gratitude for the marvelous things our tender God is doing for us. The news from the General Chapter adds to our sense of gratitude. And it is in this spirit that I want to thank our editor Sr. Cecelia for her specially designed covers of the Newsletter during our 5th Centenary year. Thanks are also due to our Twelve Scribes who write about the significant events of each of the CCA communities.

This issue will highlight some of the ways we have celebrated St. Teresa's 500TH Birthday. We on the Leadership Team want to thank all of our Prioresses for the very fruitful meeting in April at Bon Secours and for your continued support to one another. We are looking forward to the Newer Members' Meeting of August 24-27 in Darien, IL. We thank Sr. Carol Sachse (Reno) and Sr. Maria Fidelis (San Rafael) for all of their hard work to bring this dream to reality.

In this season of graduations, we wanted you all to know that we sent greetings and flowers on your behalf to our dear friend, Stephanie Hauge, to celebrate the successful conclusion of her studies and her retirement from Seton Hall University on May 13th.

If you have followed Claire's General Chapter Blog, you already know the highlights of this historic gathering. Fr Saverio's re-election was most welcome news, as was the election of our brother, Daniel Chowning, to the Definitory. May God strengthen all the Friars for their next 6 years of service to our Order. Your Leadership Team will continue to keep you aware of our work with the other three US Associations. Above all we hope to strengthen the relationships among all the US Carmels and to extend our international relationships as well. Since the Holy Spirit is the special patron of CCA, we send good wishes and blessings to each one of you and to each of our twelve communities in this season of Pentecost. May the Spirit's Holy Wind and the Fire of God's love fill your hearts and homes!

We will have a team meeting in Darien August 19 -23 and begin the final preparations for our National Assembly in April, 2016. Sr. Nancy Sylvester IHM, our Presenter, will join us for one of these days of planning. We hope to welcome international guests at Bon Secours next April, and you can look forward to hearing the developments on the international scene.

With deep gratitude for your support of our Leadership Team and with our love,
Marian, Claire, Judy, and Hilary

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains Reno, Nevada

*O Spirita Sancta
soul to the Spirit wed,
dwell not upon Mt Sion
uncomforted.*



Sr. Joan Williams, OCD

These opening lines from Sister Miriam Powers' poem, "Spirita Sancta," speaks to the reality of our Pentecost retreat. Kathleen Pruitt, a Sister of the Western Region of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace, led us more deeply into the Spirit's presence by the conferences she shared during the first three days of our retreat. Authorized as a Zen Teacher, her training provided periods of welcome silent reflection as part of every conference. The penetrating insights she shared provided food for the journey during the rest of our retreat.



Sr. Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP

Provisionally, Sister Teresita Weind, the newly re-elected Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, was able to combine her personal retreat with our community retreat. Sister's presence gave a special grace note during our time together.

Retreat opened a door of time to view Elizabeth Johnson's online video lectures from the School of Theology and Ministry — the Jesuit's Boston College. The enthusiasm of our Sisters who had seen them inspired more of us to catch up with these valuable theological insights. Web access www.bc.edu/schools/stm/edevents/CampusEvents.html

Another enchanting site is the link to "Engaging Aging," the newsletter published by NRRO — the National Religious Retirement Office. The editor, Sister Sherryl White, CSJ, PH. D. writes on the positive aspects of aging based on the theory of gerotranscendence. Many of you will have seen the hard copy of Sister's article but in case you missed it the link is www.usccb.org/nrro Trust me, this is worth reading. For those of us with low vision such sites are a boon. Online text can be enlarged to match California's giant sequoias, well, almost.

Our present day news is filled with ISIS, Boko Haram and AL Qaeda but memory can powerfully evoke our past. A memorial held in our chapel brought the remembrance of World War II, the young who died and whose sacrifice prevailed in bringing peace. On May 4, surviving Crew members of the USS Morrison DD-5560 and their families gathered on the 70th Anniversary, the actual day of a Kamikaze attack, which sank the Destroyer. The young sailors, who survived, have gathered over the past seventy years to pay tribute to the 153 who died.



On Thursday, April 16, Fr. Bob Chorey, Sister Claire, Sister Maria and a young friend, Paige Depolo spoke to three senior Classes at our local Catholic high school. Basing our talks on “we are all called by Baptism” we told the stories which led us to Priesthood and consecrated religious life. Paige spoke from the perspective of someone who has attended a secular University and grew in her faith. For many of the students Paige’s talk was perhaps more relevant as a very high percentage are not attending a Catholic institution.



A Holy Family Sister with friends

Over the past few years there has been a continuing exodus of Religious from Northern Nevada, due to shrinking numbers and the needs of their Congregations elsewhere. So many Sisters have gone that our Monastery remains as the only group with a real property left in the diocese. With this perspective, we have truly welcomed a new group, the Holy Family Sisters of the Needy, a Religious Institute founded in the Catholic Archdiocese of Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria in 1983 for the alleviation of the hopeless human condition of the poor and needy of our society. Their apostolate has a fourfold purpose:

- Care of orphans, abandoned children; physically and mentally challenged children;
- Care of teenage unmarried pregnant girls and their babies, street and abused girls; girls in difficult situations.
- Care of poor homeless old men and women;
- Care of the destitute and the marginalized.

The spirituality of this Religious Order is modeled on that of St. Therese of Lisieux - the Little Way of St. Therese exemplified in love, simplicity of life and childlike confidence in God. They have come to Nevada to begin an apostolate to Families caring for people with Alzheimer’s disease.

On May 14, enroute to the General Chapter, Sister Claire Sokol began her Blog

*Dear Sisters,
Iberia Airlines is about to transport me to the country of St. Teresa! Remembering you in my prayers as I begin this journey. The plane is already boarding! If all goes well I will see a man on the other side of the custom's area in Madrid who will have a big sign reading CITEs! Stay tuned for more updates...
Thank you for your loving messages and prayers!
On the wings of the Spirit,
Sr. Claire*



Sr. Claire Sokol

A Long Journey...a giant step into the future of our Order!



Sr. Angela Pikus, OCD

Come South wind! And the flowers did appear, first with the pearl snowdrops camouflaged in the snow, then the crocuses, followed closely by the flowering fruit trees and the red cast on the hillsides gradually changing to full green leaves, a wonderful welcome after the winter cold.

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



We were very grateful and pleased to be able to follow the movements of the dialogs among the four Carmelite associations in connection with the nuns' representation at the General Chapter through reports from our leadership team. Thank you for your work and for the full coverage. Then, Sr. Claire's sharing from the Chapter itself with photos and text gave us a sense of inclusion, a wonderful experience thanks to technology and to the generous giving of her time and energy in communicating.

Warmer weather called for a wagon ride one sunny morning in May. Sandy McCloughan, one of the faithful grounds keeper, drove the tractor which pulled the six-seat wagon through the property. Sr. Joan Bourne and Sr. Anne enjoyed the ride on the farm road bordered



*Wagon ride Sandy McCloughan,
Sr. Joan to her right*



*Sr. Anne far left with
Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius*

by trees and fields, along with two other residents and two staff members. The air was cool, the sun shining through the trees; it was a perfect ride which called for an encore, an immediate repeat of the ride. Sr. Joan's comment: "It was delightful and lots of fun."

On March 26, we made the Holy Hour of World Prayer for Peace as requested by Father General from 10:30 a. m to 11:30 a. m. The reality of the whole of Carmel united in prayer for peace through the day was moving.

Sr. Angela attended the prioresses' meeting at Bon Secours retreat and conference center in Marriottsville in April, finding the days very helpful in the sharing of ideas, learning and broadening of understanding among the Sisters. The beautiful setting of the Center in Spring made it a time for some relaxation with long-time friends, too.

Annually the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius honor the jubilarians of the year and, as they always do, invite us to participate. Sr. Anne is celebrating her 60th year of profession, with a spirit as youthful as ever.



Jubilee Day: Sr. Angela, Sr. Anne (60th jubilee of profession), Sr. Mercedes, SSCM congratulating

The Secular Carmelite community continues to grow; one young woman received the Habit in May and another is set to receive the Habit in June. In ongoing formation the group completed study of OHM's "Soliloquies" and will begin a study of the history of the Order.

Loving wishes to all for continuing blessings during this special year of the 5th centenary of Our Holy Mother.



Sr. Anna Marie Vanni, OCD

Carmel of the Mother of God **San Rafael, California**

Dearest Sisters of CCA,

Greetings from very dry California! We hope that you all had a very joy-filled Easter Season!!

It has been difficult for all of us to watch all the rain-laden clouds move on over our heads, to some unknown destination and have everything here remain so dry. We continue our prayers for more rain, begging the Lord for this great gift during the month June, even though it usually never rains in June. All things are possible with God!!

We had a very inspiring Novena to St. Joseph from March 11th to the 19th, presented by Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD, of the California-Arizona Province.

Then, we had a splendid series of conferences on our Holy Mother by Fr. William Myers, entitled "Celebrating 500 years of Carmelite spirituality as lived by St. Teresa of Jesus", "Rooted In Love," "Surrender," "Holy and Beloved," "Love and the Cross," "The Greatest Commandment," and "Let Nothing Disturb You." The conferences were interspersed by hymns, some of which were written and performed by Father. We look forward to our next series of talks, at the end of this month, entitled "Holy Mother St. Teresa: Our Spiritual Mother."

Sr. Anna Marie enjoyed the Prioresses' meeting in Pennsylvania very much. It was so nice to share so many of our experiences with one another (our communities are so alike in so many ways) and also enjoy another Spring time! All the daffodils were in bloom again and the lilacs were just starting, along with the pink and white dogwoods! The allergies were in full swing, especially with all the pollen from the very long Black Oak tassels!

Our dear friend, Victoria Forrester lost her wonderful husband Alan on April 23rd, very suddenly. (Together they had been the Formators of our Secular Order Members). The family was in total shock, but came together in our Monastery Chapel to celebrate his life and very peaceful passing. We were so blessed to be able to part of it all. We continue to pray for the consolation of Ia, her son Chad and family.

Mother Dolores was able to celebrate her sister Eveleen's 90th Birthday with her. It was so great to see the two sisters together. Her sister is quite agile and quick on her feet for 90!!! It was so wonderful to be with her and her dear extended family.

On April 23rd, we were invited to attend monthly meeting of the Priests of the Marin County Deanery, St. Sebastian's Parish in Greenbrae and share with them about our life. The community thanked the Priests for all the Masses they offer in our Chapel and let them know how grateful we are for their prayerful support! We also spoke about the various ways that they can help us: by making their Parishioners aware that

we make up Liturgical Programs for all the Sacraments that are celebrated in their Churches. That they can help us with new vocations by putting out our Brochures in their Churches and Schools and that we would love to have the children and young adults in High School come to do their community service here, by helping us in our gardens, with our Novena mailings and some of our computer work. We were very warmly received and supported by our Priests. They also want to help us with our Jam Sale!!!

The Annual Fund Raiser Dinner that the Knights of Columbus sponsored to raise money for our community was very successful! We were invited and several of us attended and had a lovely evening and delicious dinner, with the Parishioners of St. Anthony Church and the Knights. We were given a very warm welcome by everyone and many donations were received!

We are now looking forward to our Annual Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, which will be given by our wonderful friend, Fr. Brian Costello, the Pastor of one of our local Parishes, Our Lady of Loretto. Father was a member of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart before becoming a Diocesan Priest. He has taken us as his new community now, making his annual Retreats in one of our Hermitages.

May you all have a very fine summer, with flourishing gardens and wonderful opportunities to continue to celebrate Our Holy Mother's 500th Anniversary!

Your loving Sisters in San Rafael

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

After joyful Easter and Pentecost celebrations, the Eldridge Sisters are now enjoying the quiet lush green days of springtime. Farmers in this region are two weeks ahead of the usual planting schedule and the fast growing crops all look good. We pray in thanksgiving for our own area while also remembering to ask St. Isidore to intercede for farmers in the West who are suffering from the severe draught and the Southerners who are flooded.



Sr. Miriam Hogan, OCD

Getting back to our own community, Sr. Lynne was able to attend the prioress meeting in April. She reported that it was a very nice sharing. Also in April our Sr. JonFe attended the seed savers grafting workshop in Decorah Iowa. We appreciate her interest and her gardening expertise. Now we are beginning to reap the benefits with an abundance of asparagus, lettuce and spinach. We've noticed a lot of different species of birds especially some interesting woodpeckers. (As one sister commented, they keep us from being bugged.) The squirrels and the rabbits however, who are also flourishing, are viewed less favorably by the gardeners.

Finally, concerning the garden, we had the blessing of the fields. This year Fr. Brian Micolot (a philosophy teacher at St. Ambrose University) led us in the blessing of the fields after Mass. This is a beautiful ceremony where we pray and bless with holy water the fields to the north, south, east and west of us. The local farmers have even expressed their gratitude. May we continue to serve them with prayer and encourage the new growth and life around us and within our Carmelite garden enclosed.



Blessings of the Fields: Fr. Brian Micolot, Srs. Carol and Joan



Srs. Lynne, Jeannette, Carol, Joan with Fr, Brian



Facing the East



View of neighbor's farm from the front of the Monastery

Carmel of the Holy Family

Cleveland Heights, Ohio



Sr. Maria Viatori, OCD

New opportunities and challenges surfaced rapidly for us in the initial months of 2015. The community was quite excited to read the communication sent by the Leadership team regarding the proposal for the establishment of an international commission of nuns. We gathered to discuss that question, and we were all on board to support such an effort. Even the exploration and the possibility of serious discussion of the topic were seen as coinciding with the goals of CCA. Our sisters agreed that it was a milestone event for women in Carmel. Our kudos go to Claire for representing the nuns of the United States at the General Chapter in Avila. We greatly appreciated her report and sensed that the Holy Spirit was working among all councils of the four associations. The first verse of "Sing a New Church" expresses our hope in the future: "Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity, gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity." There is great realization that collaboration of this caliber does not come just by good intention and wishful thinking, but rather by a commitment to claiming the essentials in our life and respecting the spectrum of expressions in Carmel. We send our prayerful support to all the members of our Leadership team for their dedication and hard work at this historic moment.

On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes we were privileged to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick within the Eucharistic Liturgy. Father Michael McCandless utilized Pope Francis' talk on World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The members of our daily worshipping community appreciated the opportunity of experiencing the reception of both sacraments.

We shall never forget the winter of 2015. The thermometer plummeted and took consistent dives in the sub-zero region. Our eyes almost leaped out of our sockets when we peered outside and saw the temperature register at -11°. Winter storms plagued us for weeks, and schools were closed for a record number of days because of severe cold and wind chill.

March took on a brighter note as several sisters participated in the lecture series, "Praise the Name of the Lord: Meditations on the Beautiful Names of God" given by Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald. One of the highlights that they experienced was the chanting of the Beautiful Names of God in Arabic. It was a source of enlightenment as we seek to foster greater understanding between diverse cultures and religions. All of the sisters celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with flair. We joined Patricia Conway and Patricia O'Brien in honoring the great saint of the isle. A Slovenian lassie (Bernadette) baked delicious Irish Soda bread while another colleen of Italian ancestry (Maria) cooked a robust corned beef and cabbage meal that could rival the best! We did not feel the cadence of thunderous Celtic drumming that day, but we did encounter some mighty surprising happenings on our property. Sixty-six feet of our enclosure wall collapsed sometime during the day. At evening liturgy we were amazed that we could see lights from our neighbor's windows as we peered through the large chapel window facing the meditation garden. Something in our environment had changed! The next morning we could see the damage. Because of the severe weather and shifting ground a portion of the wall came tumbling down. We were astonished that no one in the community heard noise from the incident. On the feast of Saint Joseph the insurance adjustor came to evaluate the situation and walked around the property. Along with the insurance adjustor came a group of deer to investigate unexplored territory burgeoning with new spring growth.



Collapsed Wall

On receiving the communication from Father Saverio, the community decided to hold our day of prayer for peace on Thursday, March 26. It was a gift and blessing for us to realize that Pope Francis was also participating in this Carmelite world-wide prayer initiative. Barb invited members of our worshipping community to join us for this time of communal silent prayer after our morning liturgy. It truly was an experience of solidarity as we united our prayer with all the members of the order and those who come to join us in our daily worship.

Father Michael Woost presided over our special liturgy in honoring Our Holy Mother on her birthday, March 28. We used the texts from the votive mass for Saint Teresa. The excerpt from the book of Wisdom exemplified Teresa's life as she prayed for wisdom in seeking out the ability to be God's friend. It was after her second conversion that she began to value her relationship with God above all else. Teresa invites us to join her in that venture to allow God to form and fashion us and to believe that all things are possible with God's help. In the *Meditations on the Song of Songs* (6.1), Teresa writes:

But our most sacred King has still much to give. He would never want to do anything else than give if He could find receivers. And as I have said often – I want you never to forget, daughters – the Lord is never content with giving us as little as we desire; I have seen it here.

Mike ended his homily by encouraging us not to put limits on God because there is still so much God wants to give us.

Germaine Corbin, CCVI, a long time friend of the community, traveled from San Antonio to make her retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma and added extra days for a long-awaited visit with our community. Germaine was with us for three years during the 70's and has remained a steadfast friend. She was grateful for her time here at the monastery and her visits with Anita, Mary, and Anne Joan at Regina Health Center. We were thrilled that Germaine was one of the readers of the Passion Narrative at our Palm Sunday Liturgy.



Germaine Corbin, CCVI with Mary Lavin & Anne Joan Boyle

Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald was our presider for the Sacred Triduum. It was a deeply moving experience to witness the mandatum as he washed the feet of those participating in the sacred ritual. He appreciated Bernadette's expertise in starting our Easter fire since we had to hold the preliminary rites in the front office of the monastery. The Archbishop had a resonant voice that sustained a solo chant of the Exultet. At a later date he told us that he enjoyed singing in an ecumenical choir near his mission in Jerusalem.

Father Don Cozzens was celebrant for our Easter Sunday Liturgy. He used the last stanza of the Benedictus to convey the Easter theme of life resurrecting from the darkness. We were truly

blessed to have such wonderful paschal celebrations.

During Eastertide, Don brought 20 students from John Carroll University to learn about contemplative life within the teresian charism. Barb had a good session with them and entertained many excellent questions concerning prayer and our life together in Carmel.



Barb Losh, speaking to students

On Monday, April 13, Barb received a call that Anita was being transported to Charity Hospital ER for an apparent intestinal blockage and heart difficulties. Anita was not eating well for several days and the staff was worried that something major was transpiring. After testing and some time in the ICU, it was determined that she should return to Regina Health Center and be placed in hospice care. Barb received a call from the nursing staff on Thursday indicating that Anita was not doing well. When we visited Anita, she was able to respond and talk so that we could actually hear her conversation. Anita's brother Robert, sister-in-law Kay, and nieces Julie and Lisa came on Friday, and we visited on Saturday. On Sunday morning Barb received a call that Anita was very low. We all returned to Regina Health Center on Sunday, surrounding Anita with prayer, recitation of Scripture, and song. On Sunday, April 19, at 6:22 pm Anita went peacefully home to her loving God.

One of the endearing titles that we used to describe Anita was, "The Evangelizer of Fairmount Boulevard." She had a loving, cheerful, hospitable nature that welcomed everyone so that many of our neighbors came to worship with us for Sunday Liturgy. That peace-filled, contented spirit endured as she became a resident of the Saint Angela Center at the Ursuline Motherhouse and then at Regina Health Center sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine. A lovely woman who had visited Anita weekly remarked that Anita had taught her so much during the two years of their friendship. Leslie stood by Anita's bedside for two days as we kept vigil. One of the staff at Regina (a 40 minute drive from the monastery) drove around the Cleveland Heights area for two hours attempting to find the monastery to attend the wake. When Debbie finally appeared, she exclaimed, "I had to come because I loved Sister Anita!" Anita kept evangelizing until her time to enter the glory of the Lord. What a treasured legacy we have been given.



Sr. Anita

Thomas Merton, Anita's Spiritual Director and friend of the Wasserman family, wrote to her on the occasion of her profession in Carmel:

I was happy to hear that your profession is to be on Ascension day. . . It teaches us to live in

heaven. Our desires must be where our true rest is found. . . And being in heaven does not mean escaping from our poor limitations and littleness: it means learning to find heaven with our own littleness. Jesus emptied Himself in order to teach us this. We do not have to be great but simply to be ourselves—the selves whom He loved. And so, when you make your vows, do not think you cease to be Ann. The closer we come to God, the more we begin to be the person we have always been. (May 8, 1954)

As spring came upon us, our Saint Ignatius Alumni Group manned the lawn movers, rakes, and clippers to help spruce up the place to get ready for the planting season. With such a harsh winter and the damage from ice melt, the slate floor in our Chapel needed to be cleaned and resealed. We celebrated Liturgy in our basement Guild Room during the restoration process. We enjoyed roughing it; however, we were grateful to get back to the Chapel.

On May 4, the Carmelite Guild had a special farewell for Father Lorn Snow, SJ. Lorn has been chaplain to the Guild for many years and was pastor of Gesu near John Carroll University. He has been assigned to Saint John's Parish at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.



Cleveland Community with Fr. Lorn Snow

On May 8, we received the Carmelite Communication regarding Father Saverio's re-election as Superior General. We all were grateful that he was willing to serve the Order in that capacity for six more years. We are thankful for his wise leadership, and we pledge our prayerful support as he continues his ministry. We thank Claire, Judy, and all of our sisters and brothers

who kept us abreast of the happenings at the General Chapter.

We ask your prayers for Madalen Losh, Barb's mother who entered into eternal glory on May 11. Mrs. Losh was having heart difficulties and after a short hospital stay was moved to Regina Health Center on March 28. As her illness progressed, hospice care was enlisted. Mrs. Losh was a WWII Veteran, Navy air evacuation flight nurse in the Pacific, an RN at Fairview Hospital and later at Ascension School. She went home to God living a full, rich life and being a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

It was time that we all experienced some reenergizing and quiet space. How fortunate that our retreat was planned starting on Ascension. Dianne Bergant, CSA, a dear friend to our community, came to give us a retreat focusing on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel." We were thrilled with the theme and were grateful that Dianne could explore this topic with us. This was a great way to prepare for the feast of Pentecost!

What joy it was to have Colette Ackerman from Baltimore Carmel here with us for a few days. Father Don Cozzens was celebrating his 50th Jubilee, and Colette came to stay with us to join the festivities. We are grateful for his friendship and priestly ministry to our worshipping community.

May the Holy Spirit enliven your hearts and bestow rich blessings upon you

Carmel of the Assumption

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

On February 19th, our heating boiler stopped working. The temperature outdoors was a record high of 8 degrees. This slight deprivation of heat for an hour and a half was an awakening to what poor people have to endure without heat all winter. That night we had in Latrobe a record low temperature of -7 degrees with a wind-chill factor of -28. We welcomed this Spring with much appreciation of milder weather.



Sr. Mary Paul Cutri, OCD

It has been a busy three months for our community with different Sisters involved with projects of repair and replacement: floors renewed, equipment updated, air-conditioners installed, carpeting replaced, etc. Then much outdoor work, after a severe winter, brought out the lawn mowers, tractors, spades and seeds, as we prepared for planting vegetables in our large garden plot. Truly we have been celebrating "Risen Life" in the Resurrection of Jesus and of all created life. It is a wonder to our eyes to behold the mysteries of faith visible in all that is!



Actress Audrey Ahern

Having received a phone call from Leonardo De Philippis of St. Luke's Productions, we were offered the opportunity in April to view a one-person performance of "Therese" by actress, Audrey Ahern. She and Dominique Lyons, the stage manager, presented us with a beautiful and very moving play on St. Therese. Audrey explained with delight afterward that she "only wanted to bring St. Therese's message to people", the conviction that our Carmelite Saint would "be love in the heart of the Church". With great joy Audrey portrayed so accurately and meaningfully the mission of St. Therese - a truly inspiring evening.



Audrey Ahern, Dominique Lyons and the community

Since the actual birthday of St. Teresa fell on the day before Palm Sunday, we had a subdued celebration that day. The community decided to celebrate Holy Mother's 500th birthday with a special day in April when we could "pull out all the stops". After a very special dinner we gathered together to share something of, or about, St. Teresa. This was a great opportunity to share the diversity of interest and talents among us. Some Sisters played musical scores or sang songs of St. Teresa, others read significant passages from her writings and still others provided remembrances of the delightful humor of Holy Mother. We appreciated this sharing with much joy and surprise.

We thank God for the re-election of Fr. Saverio as our General and for the election of Fr. Daniel Chowning as Definitor. This historic Carmelite Chapter wherein the Nuns have participated reveals our willingness to collaborate within our diversities. Our community extends heartfelt gratitude to the CCA leadership and especially to Sr. Claire who represented us. We eagerly availed ourselves of her correspondence through the blog she sent to keep us informed. What a moving experience at Alba de Tormes! How Holy Mother Teresa must have rejoiced also. Thank you from all of us here in Latrobe.



Srs. Joann and Ellen Jane

The retreat time from Ascension to Pentecost climaxed the beauty of the Liturgical seasons, as the Holy Spirit fills the ends of the earth with hope and new life.

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph Boston, Massachusetts

COMMUNITY In February, Sr. Marieleth received word that her mother, who had been sick but a few weeks, had been diagnosed with stage four cancer. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sister left for the Philippines and was able to care for her mother and be with her when she died. After seeing to her mother's business matters, Sister returned to Boston and a very warm welcome on May 13th, guided by Our Lady of Fatima. She brought gifts galore, including a beautiful set of vestments. Sister had chaperoned Gervie from the Philippines a lovely little Shih Tzu who had belonged to her mother and was now on its way to Chicago as a birthday gift for Sister's nephew. Gemma, Marieleth's sister, flew in from Chicago and took Gervie back with her the next day.

---Much to our joy, Sr. Mary Teresa came home from the rehab in New York on Valentine's Day and on Feb. 25th, Sr. Eileen Mary returned from Marian Manor's rehab. They had definitely been missed.

---To complete the group, Aileen Chua entered on March 12th. Aileen, - pronounced the same as Eileen, is from the Philippines. She had been working as a physical therapist before joining us. Needless to say, we are very happy that she is here. And we await the entrance of Alina in July.

--- Eileen Mary underwent yet another surgery to have three stents put into her veins. These are to aid blood circulation and reduce pain, which, gratefully, they have done.

---With Mary Teresa back in our midst, the community celebration of OHM's birthday centered on some beautiful liturgies. It also included great Cuban food, an extraordinary cake, and a very professional presentation of a flamenco, danced by Juanita.

LITURGY On the Sunday evenings of Lent we used a "communal examen" that Sr. Mary Teresa had come across during her rehab reading, It was done around our core values and we considered it a community evaluation

--- On Good Friday the parishioners and pastor of St. Patrick's joined us once again for the final Station on their Way of the Cross. The group seems to grow larger each year. A megaphone was used so all could hear, as the crowd overflowed down the street. There is a Scripture reading, assigned by the parish and read by a Sister, a homily on the reading by one of the Sisters, and a hymn chosen by the Sisters and sung by all present.

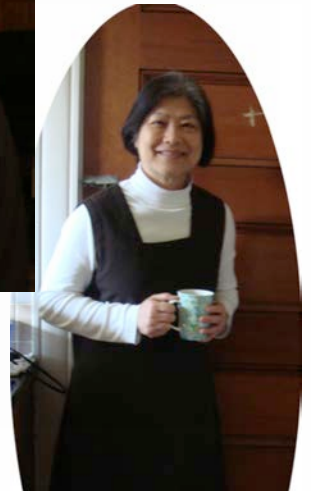
---Mark DeVelis OCD brought warmth and dignity to our celebration of the Easter Triduum, joining with us and our visitors in the closing dance.



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty, OCD



*Mary Teresa, and Marieleth,
-seated Eileen Mary*



Aileen Chua



*Our Paschal candle,
Juanita's work*

---We joined in the hour of prayer for peace on March 25th, in honor of OHM. Colleges, parishes, the archdiocesan center and newspaper were all notified of what was happening so that they might be a part of it.

--- On May 13th Fr. John Currie came for Mass bringing with him a group of young women from St. Joseph's parish in Holbrook, MA, and their instructor in liturgical dance, Gretchen Hawley, We could not help but remark on how prayerfully these young people danced the beautiful Communion meditation.

---Our choir, now complete, and glowing in its newness, was blessed by Bishop Hennessey and his friend from "The Pilot", Fr. Robert O'Grady. They stayed for lunch and a very lively and enjoyable visit. It was Bishop Hennessey's birthday, and the first time we'd seen him since his leaving for the northern vicariate.

--- Our Easter season came to a close with Kevin Culligan OCD, our dear friend and brother, joining us in the celebration of the Pentecost vigil.



OHM banner -at our front gate

FORMATION The ICFP lecturers this semester were all from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. One exception, however was Fr. Leonard Copeland OCD, who came from Brighton to bring our year to a close with some excellent talks on Mary. Fr. Richard Lennan, spoke on Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel," Richard Clifford SJ, on Qoheleth and 'God's Love in Deuteronomy.' Andre Brouillette SJ, on 'OHM and Salvation,' and Robert Daly SJ, on the liturgy. In an interesting note, Fr. Daly told us that there is an ancient Eucharistic rite used in eastern Syria and recognized by Rome, that does not have any words of consecration included in the Mass prayers. New to our roster of speakers was Nicholas King SJ, a professor at Oxford who's been visiting at BC, and who has done a translation of the entire Bible from the Greek. He spoke on the Gospel of Mark, giving it a new luster and giving us a perspective that heightened the role of Mark's Gospel significantly. Not least was his manner of presentation, which we thoroughly enjoyed. He

will, however, be leaving BC at the end of the semester as he's wanted back in Oxford. Andrew Davis, a layman teaching at BC, spoke on 'Isaiah in the Liturgy' and 'Women in Genesis.' He mentioned that the word 'Carmel' is very old, most probably from the Canaanite language. Though so many of the place names in Israel have been changed from one language to another and changed again, 'Carmel' has remained the same. (A book by Jo Robertson that is quite good on the subject is "Contested Land, Contested Memory: Israel's Jews and Arabs and the Ghosts of Catastrophe" .)

---A Jordanian woman whom we met through a friend, came to speak with us about the political situation in her country as she has experienced it. We were impressed by her very Christian spirit and grateful for her visit.

GIFTS Fr. Carney Gavin, who died recently, left behind many unique chalices, vestments, religious articles, and books which his friends brought to the monastery, offering us whatever we felt we could use. As it happened, there had been a fire in the village in South Sudan where our friend Richard, the seminarian, comes from and the parishes there have been left with little. We had some of Carney's chalices replated and were able to give them, as well as some vestments, to Richard for the parish churches of his village.

NEIGHBORHOOD After a lapse of some time, the Jesus Caritas group of priests, who live and work in the area, have started meeting at the monastery on a regular basis once again. ---And, as I'm sure you have all heard by now, we had nine feet, two inches of snow. In one neighborhood, a man built a 4-room igloo that was twelve feet in height. It's all gone now, the igloo and the snow. We finally gave up the parking-space fight and decided that next year we'd not shovel any of the street, but bring the cars of our Mass celebrants and workers inside. In front of the monastery we have a long stretch of sidewalk, three-fourths of which had been shoveled. Unfortunately we ended up being fined for the section that wasn't. The fine, however, turned out to be less than the cost of shoveling.

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



Sr. Hillary Case, OCD

Sumer is icumen in, as the medieval English poem goes... Concord still had a few piles of snow in early May, but we have finally been able to cast off our boots and down parkas. We are planting; we are admiring the flowering trees. We send love and special prayers as we celebrate the Solemnities of Pentecost, the Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi. We hope you are experiencing a glorious spring. We are looking forward to Boston Carmel's celebration of their 125th Anniversary on Saturday, June 13th, and we wish that community much joy.

Another event to be grateful for is the Friars' General Chapter and the nuns' increased participation in it. Sr. Claudette kindly downloaded Sr. Claire's blog, Fr. Saverio's messages, and Fr. Michael McGoldrick's letters, and we read these together during dinner. Today's technology really puts you right on the scene. Many, many thanks to Sr. Claire, whose pictures, descriptions, and explanations enabled us to share her experience and her thoughts so well. We also thank the Friars for their wonderful General Chapter Website, and we congratulate both Fr. Saverio and Fr. Daniel Chowning on their elections as Father General and Councilor/Definitor respectively. We have some good vocational news. On Sunday, June 7, Mary Francis Mure entered our community as a postulant. She is not absolutely new to Carmel, and some of you may remember her, as she spent a year with us and accompanied us to the 2010 Forum. She left us in October of that year to discern other forms of religious vocation. We are very pleased that her discernment has led her to return here. Please pray for her as she shares our life and re-enters our formation program.

This spring Sisters Claudette and Hilary have been working with Angie Raddin, Coordinator of Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish, and Katherine Pajor, Assistant Dean of Students at Northeast Catholic College, to open up "come and see" experiences for college students and other women who may feel called to discern a religious vocation. After an initial planning session in March, our community invited interested students from Northeast to share a pizza supper and Compline with us. They came on April 22nd. They shared their life of study and friendship with us just as much as we shared our contemplative community life, and all of us learned from each other. We will plan more events of this kind during the next school year.

On May 2nd, we held a Day with St. Teresa at the parish hall at St. John's Church in Concord. This was the first part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of St. Teresa's birth. Our program consisted of showings of St. Teresa and Her Daughters and the Virtual Choir singing Sr. Claire's "Nada Te Turbe," plus two conferences on St. Teresa's Journey of Prayer and Contemplation (and our own). Everyone brought a bag lunch, the OCDS group provided fruit and cookies, and we provided the coffee and

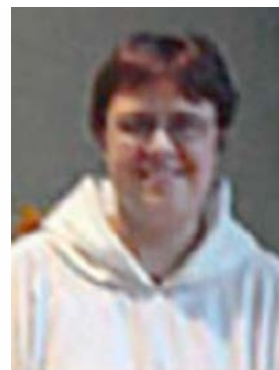
more cookies along with tea and water. The Holy Spirit provided the very special atmosphere of festivity and enhanced our sharing with each other. We finished this very full day with the Virtual Choir's performance of the "Salve Regina." We are so blessed by the Virtual Choir; it is hard to remember how we did without it!

In other news, Sr. Miryam Kathleen is revving up the website with the help of Daniel Stanley, Junior, known by us as "Danny," who is a professional photographer. He came in March to take pictures of our chapel windows. This is no small feat because of the hanging lights that tend to get in the way of anyone trying to photograph the windows. He and his helpers took out the two front pews on both sides of the aisle and used a "Genie," a scaffold on wheels that unfolds like an old-fashioned carpenter's ruler to raise a person to lofty heights. At this point, in early June, Danny and Miryam are preparing to set up special office space so that they can work together on our website.

Finally, on May 11th, Sr. Hilary visited St. Paul's School once again to work with the sixth form students (seniors) and the humanities department teachers on the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. O'Connor's fictional explorations of Teilhard de Chardin's conviction that "everything that rises must converge" kindled within us: teachers, searching students, and one sister, the desire for the holy fire of redemption to cleanse us and our violent world.

We wish you a very special summer.

Carmel of the Sacred Heart **Baltimore, Maryland**



Sr. Monika Bies, OCD

Visits

On February 9th we had the privilege and joy to welcome the cast and crew of the Opera *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, which was directed by Francesca Zambello at the Kennedy Center during this month. Dolora Zajick, whom many of us had met at the STJ 500 celebration last year, played Madame de Croissy, the Old Prioress. It was very special for us to have her and the other cast members in our chapel performing some of the most moving scenes from the Opera. We also had some wonderful conversations with them about our Carmelite life and spirituality. It was an afternoon filled with blessings that deeply touched both our hearts and theirs.



Dialogues of Carmelites Visit

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Bonnie Thurston staying with us during Holy Week. Dr. Bonnie Thurston gave us three inspiring talks in the beginning of the week on *The Raising of Lazarus*. Her talks which incorporated commentaries on the writing of two icons of the raising of Lazarus made the anticipation of the celebration of Easter so much more meaningful for all of us. Dr. Bonnie Thurston has a great and wonderful presence and we very much enjoyed her time with us.

Centenary Celebrations

We continued our celebration of the Centenary with an informative lecture on March 14th by Dr. Alison Parks Weber on *Discernment, Devil, Delight: Three Key Words in St. Teresa's Lexicon*. Dr. Alison Parks Weber has lectured and written widely in Spanish and English on Teresa of Avila, Mysticism, Women's Writings and many related topics. Most of you are probably familiar with her groundbreaking study, *Teresa of Avila and the Rhetoric of Femininity* (1990).

The next Centenary event took place on April 17th. Our dear friend Father Daniel Chowning, OCD, gave an insightful talk entitled *After the Ecstasy, the Pots and Pans: the Realism of Teresa's Prayer*. We were grateful that we had a full chapel for this wonderful event. It was

a treat to spend time with Father Daniel Chowning before and after the lecture. Both his and Dr. Alison Parks Weber's lecture can be viewed on www.carmelstream.org.



Fr. Daniel Chowning Lecture

Sister Marie Therese Brousseau

As you know by now our dear sister, Sr. Marie Therese Brousseau, peacefully returned home to God on Tuesday May 5th. Sr. Marie Therese was a gentle spirit whose good nature brought joy to all those around her. We cannot help imagining the many conversations she is having now with her friend Sr. Ignatius. In her deeply moving reflections during the Mass of Resurrection, Sr. Colette pointed out how much Sr. Marie Therese was concerned for the emotional and physical wellbeing of others:

“On Sunday, May 3rd, as our beloved sister, Marie Therese, lay dying at Stella Maris, we listened to the beautiful reading from Revelation, chapter 21, during our prayer service for Baltimore City. God says: *Now I am making all things new, the whole of creation new... I will give water from the well of life free to anyone who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious... I will be her God and she a daughter to me (Rev. 21: 5-8)*. These words hold the hope and beauty of Sr. Marie Therese's fidelity and the mission to which she was committed, heart and soul. She understood this promise as contemplative wisdom: her desire for God and God's desire for her and her passionate love for all God's people. Now in the Easter season of our 225th anniversary and during the birthday year of the great St. Teresa, she has made the journey to resurrected life and her God's eternal embrace. If we had ever suggested such a significant and favorable passage, Marie Therese would have responded with her droll chuckle and bright eyes. But she has left us in this anniversary year of foundation, joining a host of Baltimore Carmelites in heaven, becoming an “*agent of God's love*” in a new, creative way and, no doubt like her namesake St Therese of Lisieux, *will spend her heaven doing good upon earth*.



Srs. MT and LG

The changes that came with Vatican II were a challenge for her as were some of the changes inaugurated by the community. She kept to some traditions but, in other ways, like her friend, Sr. Ignatius she was ahead of her time, or, maybe, outside of time. Marie Therese had a heart that ached for the poor and she herself chose to live as simply as possible. But, alongside her prayer, she found ways to assist the disadvantaged, the marginalized and honor God's creation. She spent hours helping folks on the phone and those who came to the monastery door. She befriended and helped the family who then lived across the road, caretakers at the big Meadowcroft house, especially when one of the

young daughters became pregnant. She incorporated Al, a relatively homeless man, into our regular mealtimes. She gathered fruit from our exhausted apple trees and crabapple trees, turning it into homemade applesauce and jelly. Long before Pope Francis she understood the church as a “field hospital” and was impelled to care for God’s people and God’s earth in the most practical ways.”

- **LCWR New Leader Workshop**

Sr. Judy Long attended a LCWR New Leader Workshop in March. It was held at University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary Mundelein, Illinois. The program featured presentations that were tailored to the particular challenges of religious life leadership today.

- **Consecrated Life Retreat**

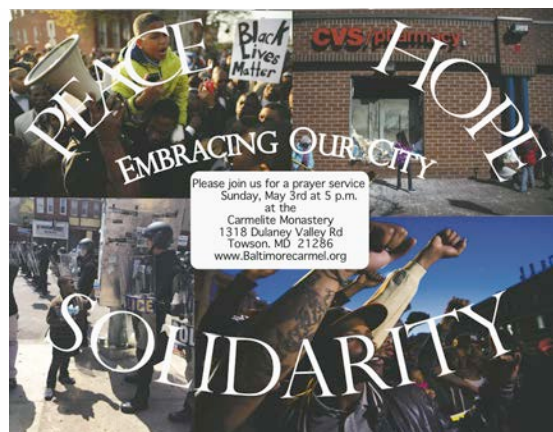
In April a couple of us attended a day of reflection and dialogue with Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, at Bon Secours Retreat Center (Marriottsville) on *Consecrated Life Today: A Prophetic Call to “Wake Up the World.”* It provided for an opportunity to explore questions such as: Where is your meaning, passion, joy and hope? What do you reflect to the world?

- **CCA Prioresses’ Meeting**

The prioresses of CCA had a weeklong meeting in April at Bon Secours Retreat Center (Marriottsville). This provided them with a wonderful opportunity to share their experiences and support one another. The beautiful setting enabled them to relax together and laugh together for renewal and refreshment.

Facebook Post April 28th by Sr. Mary

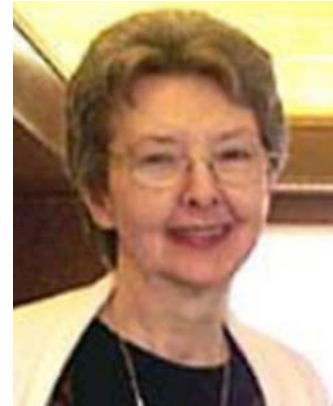
Our hearts are heavy as we stand with the people of our own city of Baltimore after a night of chaos and disruption. Please pray with us for the healing of our city; we must make it a place where all of our young people feel their lives matter. We especially pray for the family of Freddie Gray who had asked for cessation of protests on the day of his burial. Finally, we are proud of the members of the clergy who took to the streets in prayer in the middle of the chaos - this is the city we love.



Carmel of the Incarnation

Beacon, New York

Early February for us was a time of celebrating the year of consecrated life. On the third, Srs. Aletha and Carolyn participated in a Mass and dinner hosted by the Cabrini sisters at their facilities on the west bank of the Hudson a bit north of Beacon. (The west bank of the Hudson is home to quite a few religious communities. New York State would probably be rich if all those properties were taxable.) There were fourteen communities represented, including one of Episcopalian Benedictine monks, in keeping with Pope Francis' invitation to us to dialogue with religious in other traditions. At Mass each community brought up a symbol of its charism and laid it in front of the altar; it was quite a display. A festive dinner and even a raffle followed.



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara, OCD

February 8 saw our own celebration at Mass here, where we sang "Wake the World for the first time. Srs. Marjorie and Moira (the Redemptoristine prioress) spoke.

The National Religious Vocation Conference Region II has often met for a day of recollection here and did so again this March 10. Sr. Barbara O'Dea, DW, spoke on Pope Francis' letter to religious opening the year for consecrated life.

The spring meeting of the Archdiocesan Council of Women Religious occurred on March 12. Cardinal Dolan was our speaker. He spoke at length about the reconfiguring going on in the Archdiocese under the rubric, "Making All Things New". There has been a multitiered process of listening, consultation, recommendations and finally mergers and closings. The cardinal admitted that it is a neuralgic time and expressed his gratitude to women religious who, having been through similar processes in their own communities, have helped people in the parishes deal with the new realities.

An interesting factoid from the Cardinal: New York City is the most ethnically diverse city in the world. Buenos Aires being the second, the Holy Father should feel right at home here in September! Cardinal Dolan expressed some neuralgia himself when speaking of immigration viewed as a "problem". "Catholics should know better!" he roared, "Immigrants are not a *problem*; they are a *gift*!"



OHM's Birthday

*Srs. Marie Gertrude, Mary and Marjorie
with Fr. John Horan, O. Carm*

We joined all in the Order for the hour of prayer for peace on March 26, and were joined in it by some of our regular congregation. Then on the day itself, the 28th, we celebrated Our Holy Mother's birth with special Morning Prayer and Mass, celebrated by our good friend, Fr. John Horan, O.Carm.

For the Triduum this year, we were privileged to have Fr. Joseph Komonchak, the recognized authority in this country on the history and theology of Vatican II. Fr. Joe is a New York priest retired from teaching at Catholic University.

As one of our celebrations of St. Teresa's quincentenary, on April 19 we had a public lecture by Keith Egan, Ph.D., TOC, entitled "Teresa of Avila: Prayer is an Adventure in Love". Our chapel was filled to overflowing and all expressed great appreciation for Keith's words. Our own community had the pleasure of two more days of lectures by Keith on the life of Carmel, in which he wove together theologies of Eucharist, contemplation and community. We found his talks so inspiring that we asked him to return to preach our 2016 retreat!



Keith Egan Speaking

Another O.Carm. visit occurred on May 3 when Fr. John Horan brought an old friend of ours, Fr. Michael Driscoll to visit. Michael grew up in the Bronx near our former monastery, so sisters of the former Bronx community have known him just about all his life. Michael's being cured of a serious melanoma has been declared miraculous, and has been accepted by the Vatican as the miracle needed for the canonization of Titus Brandsma. Michael had had an icon of Titus written and brought it to show us.

Many of us have enjoyed following the General Chapter via their website and Sr. Claire's and Fr. Bonaventure's blogs. On to live streaming for 2021...!

As has become one of our holy customs, we enjoyed Vespers and a cookout with the O.Carm. novices in Middletown. Some of us will attend their profession June 8.

We have been getting very positive feedback for our new website. Srs. Marita and Marjorie put a great deal of time and effort into it, working with our consultant, Genevieve Cerasoli. If you have not yet done so, visit us at www.carmelitesbeacon.org.

With our prayer for a peaceful summer, united in celebrating this wonderful year.

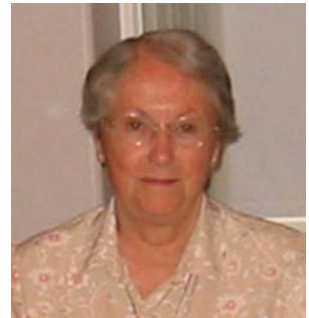


Carmelite Picnic

Carmel of the Resurrection

Oldenburg, Indiana

March was a blessing for us as far as weather was concerned. It was the end of a mild winter, in spite of bringing our first snowfalls since the end of 2014. It also contained some of the diminishments we have been experiencing since Rita's death last April and Ruth's in January. Terese had several trips to the hospital, one of which involved gallbladder surgery. She was home for Holy Week, but when Holy Thursday arrived we were just five around the table in contrast to seven last year.



Jean Alice McGoff, OCD



Amy (visitor), Helen, Anna Mary, Jean Alice, Terese

Holy Saturday began with the traditional egg hunt for the children of the area. Looking out our library window, you could think we were living in a park. The good weather brings so much life to the green space in the center of the campus. There are walkers, joggers, baby buggies, dogs, squirrels, and birds! The daffodils were out and the finches

put on their yellow coats. Easter was beautiful. Helen and Marcie played in the chime choir at liturgy and Terese and I sang in the choir. Every day is a day in the power of Christ's resurrection, but the annual celebration is always fresh and new and renewing.

The Prioress meeting in Baltimore was a serious sharing of the issues that affect our life, the creative ways we deal with them and the questions that remain. CCA began almost 45 years ago and all that we have been through together has fed a holy and loving energy field that is felt when we gather and when we are apart. There was much spontaneous laughter, which should be added to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

At the end of the month Helen moved to the OSF infirmary due to severe weakness and stroke-like symptoms. Although many tests showed no sign of a stroke, she has been getting physical and occupational therapy for the whole month. She came home for Trinity Sunday and we hope she will soon be out working in her beloved garden and enjoying its beauty.

We appreciate getting the current news from our Chapter and look forward to all that will be shared as time goes on. Daniel Chowning's election to the Definitory General was of special joy and interest to us. Daniel grew up in Indianapolis and even in high school belonged to our Secular Order. He is somewhat of a "son" to us.

On May 19 we hosted a meeting of ARC, an Association of Religious Communities in Indiana. The leadership of these communities meets in the spring and fall to pray and share our agendas, hopes, and current projects. We told them about this special year of celebrating OHM 500th birthday and built our prayer around some of her wisdom sayings. At the end we played the virtual choir singing Sr. Claire's "Nada Te Turbe" even though quite a few had already watched it on You-Tube.



Sr. Jean Alice with Indianapolis Secular Order. Reception of scapular and final promises.

May 23 the Louisville members of the Association of Contemplative Sisters hosted a Cluster meeting at Bellarmine University in Louisville. We joined some 300 people who came to celebrate the Centennial of the birth of Thomas Merton. Bellarmine houses hundreds of his manuscripts, drawings and artifacts. There have been speakers and exhibits there since January 31. The keynote lecture was "After Christendom," by Dr. Charles Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, McGill University, Montreal, and winner of the 2007 Templeton Prize. He spoke of a number of things that he felt would mark the future of Christianity as a religion, things that marked the life of Merton. Faith would be more of a journey, he said, rather than emphasis on dogma. Doubt would play a role, not threatening, but keeping one open to newness (or as Pope Francis would put it, the surprises of God). The defensive barriers between religions would increasingly give way to friendly sharing and encouragement. I thought of Teilhard de Chardin's saying that "All that rises will converge." We had dinner as a group. Our only disappointment was that Cynthia Bourgeault was a responder to this talk and was going to share with us at this time. Due to a last minute health emergency, she was unable to come.

For ongoing formation, we have finished a series of lectures by Fr. Richard Lennan, a Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College and an expert on Karl Rahner. His lectures were titled, "Karl Rahner, Theologian of Grace." These lectures left us each time in deep silence. The final lecture was on "Hope and Prayer." Its' essential message of trust in the mystery of God at the heart of life, is so helpful to our living in a world marked by so much violence, both in humans and in nature. "The community of hope," he said, "is able to engage creatively in the present while leaving the outcome of present endeavors to God."

Our next endeavor is a series of lectures by Sr. Kathleen Deignan, a board member of the American Teilhard Association. It is a retreat on "The Divine Milieu" that promises to nurture our cosmic contemplation and deepen our life with Christ.

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

A joyous feast of the Holy Trinity – our home forever!

With gratitude we send “Congratulations!” to Sr. Claire and to all our Sisters in our global village who participated in the General Chapter. May Mary, Beauty of Carmel, help us grow into a unity of love, a family of believers in Christ as brothers and sisters. The election of Fr. Saverio was joyful news!



Sr. Roseann Gillice, OCD

A son of a friend of ours came to help clean the grounds as his community service. Some companions arrived with him for the same purpose. In time we had a request from the sister of one of the boys. She needed 140 hours of service for credit for her Medieval History course. We invited her to help with library work – which never ends. Rachel, a 20 year-old Jewish woman, fit right in with the sisters; her presence in the cloister working in the library and at prayer with us for the Liturgy of the Hours – and her youth - created a peaceful, beautiful atmosphere. She herself commented that our community life-style made a great impression on her. She keeps in touch and mentioned that prayer has become part of her life. She puts aside time for quiet prayer, as well as continuing to pray the Hours. Rachel is so grateful for the time spent with us and hopes to return to visit.



St. Mary of Jesus Crucified

We were able to see our Sisters of Bethlehem Carmel on facebook as they gathered to say good-bye to their three sisters going to Rome for the canonization of Sr. Mary of Jesus Crucified. They were singing and dancing in a circle along with the people of Bethlehem who were traveling with them and the seminarians of the Betharram Fathers. The Betharram Fathers in southern France were chaplains for the Carmel of Pau. When Berthe de St. Cricq Dartigaux generously offered to build Bethlehem Carmel she bought a large property on a hill in Bethlehem. Alongside the Carmel another big convent was built for the Betharram Fathers so they could be chaplains for the nuns. On the Jerusalem Patriarchate web-site we saw Bishop Shomali and heard his words of joy. As I recall, he did not use the word saint, but spoke of Mariam as a righteous person - so scriptural and contemporary. Bishop Shomali's sister, May, lives in Baltimore, MD; she and Sr. Eileen went to the same school when growing up in Bethlehem.

Mother Alphonsine was canonized on the same day as Mary of Jesus Crucified; the two of them had met in life in Bethlehem. She had initially belonged to the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. Her Order, the Congregation of the Rosary, was started specifically for Arab women so they could remain in Palestine and serve; parents found it difficult for their children to leave for Europe. Now they are in many countries of the Arab world. It was only after her death that people discovered Alphonsine was the recipient of Mary's graces and the Foundress of the

order. Her blood sister, also a member of the order, was stunned to learn the truth and realized why Alphonsine was so full of the spirit of the order!



Panel of OCDS and us in the chapel

In April two of our Secular Order members and two of the Sisters gave a panel presentation on Consecrated Life, Carmel and Teresa's spirit. Another sister moderated. One member of the Secular Order clearly explained that one must have a vocation, a call to the Secular Order. Being a member isn't like being a Patriots' fan! They had their Community Day on Sunday, May 24th. The schedule is different that day and includes two conferences. The son of one of the members had taken some classes on Teresa at Boston

College by Fr. Andre Brouillette, S.J., and recommended him. He is from Canada. Excellent! We would like Father to come for our community some time. Our lunch, provided by the Secular Order, proved hearty and bountiful. We are blessed with their presence.

Like many Carmels we are in need of help to attend to many jobs in the house at this point. We have contacted the Office of Human Resources located at the Chancery in Providence. They have been exceptionally willing and helpful in contributing advice and offering to provide professional aid. They are dedicated Christians in the best sense of the Gospel. We are grateful, also, to our sisters in other monasteries who shared their own experiences with us.

Sr. Anne Marie suffered a fall and other complications in March. While in the hospital she had a heart attack. Luckily, a friend who was visiting informed the nurse and care was given. Anne's sister Joan died recently; please pray for her and all the family.

As you are aware, our Sr. Marian had a "moderate" (name given) stroke on April 25th and was in Rhode Island hospital rehab for about 3 ½ weeks of "acute" therapy. With the goal of gaining more independence Marian was transferred to Evergreen nursing center in East Providence on Wednesday, May 20th, where she continues to make steady progress in the hope of returning to community after her evaluation. With her lap top she has stayed in touch with the leadership team and participated in the two google hangouts that the team had. Marian is grateful for all the love and prayer support she has received from our Carmels. Happily and providentially, Sr. Ann Weber of Reno Carmel, a dear friend, was not far away and visited Marian. We enjoyed being with her for a couple of days too.



Srs. Ann and Beth in our refectory for the input about Marian

As a priest recently said in his homily on the visit of Mary and Elizabeth – trust in God and move forward. Love from us to you!

