



CARMELETTE
COMMUNITIES
ASSOCIATED

CCA Newsletter

Volume 37 Issue 3 June 2016



RENO

BEACON

BOSTON

LATROBE

CONCORD

ELDRIDGE

DANVILLE

CLEVELAND

BALTIMORE

SAN RAFAEL

OLDENBERG

BARRINGTON

MEMBER CARMELS

Letter from the CCA Leadership Team

Dear Sisters,

It is hard to believe that it has not been that long ago since we met for our National Assembly in April at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center. At the time of the meeting there was an overwhelming feeling of gratitude and new beginnings. In conversations that I since have had with my own sisters and sisters from other CCA communities it seems that this feeling is prevailing. Such a grace-filled meeting would not have been possible without help both hidden and apparent. It is therefore only fitting to thank all who made the National Assembly in April such an uplifting experience.



Sr. Monika Bies

A very special word of gratitude goes to the former Leadership Team, Sisters Marian Steffens, Judy Murray, Hilary Case and Claire Sokol, who designed such a well put together program. There was a strong sense within the assembly that during the first two days, Nancy Sylvester, IHM, really did set the stage for the days that followed. Her presentation and the exercises we did, enabled us to enter into conversations with listening hearts and a readiness to hear and respond more fully. Within this spirit of listening to and hearing each other, the assembly entrusted the new Leadership Team with the work of the implementation of four goals.

We have been in touch with one another through e-mail, phone conversation and ZOOM regarding the partnership with MLC and the friendly visits. We are looking forward to deepening the relationships within our Carmelite family, both nationally and internationally. In our first in-person meeting in the Boston Carmel at the beginning of July these dreams will be further discussed.

Last but not least: A big thank you to all the sisters who expressed a willingness on their evaluation forms to serve CCA. We have already contacted some of you and will continue to do so in the months to come.

It seems appropriate that the CCA Newsletter is coming out so close to the feast of Pentecost. May the Holy Spirit, as it says so beautifully in the Pentecost Sequence by Ricky Manalo, CSP, "guide our searching minds toward your promise fulfilled."

With Love, your sister,

Monika



Carmel of the Assumption Latrobe, Pennsylvania

While we didn't have much of a winter, the cold weather and some minor amounts of snow kept coming back to harass the blooming flowers and blossoming trees. We had snowdrops and crocuses early in March and amazingly the daffodils and tulips were in bloom for early Easter.

Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

Our Triduum was special, as always, and we managed to sing all the psalms for all the readings at the Easter Vigil. Every year we think: Will we be able to

do this again next year? and each year we manage to do a respectable job with the solos and duets.

At our lunch after Sr. Ann Marya's funeral we reconnected with Fr. Vincent Crosby, OSB, whom we had not seen for many years. He is an expert at Liturgical Design and has designed vestments for several liturgical appointment catalogs. When he heard that our Monastery had not been designated to have Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, he invited us to come to St. Vincent Archabbey to gain the blessings of the special year, and he would show us around the Basilica (where he had great part in the recent renovations) and then would take us to the new mausoleum that the parish had built, which he designed. On Wednesday of Easter week, eight of us met him and one of our retired chaplains, Fr Justin Nolan, OSB. at the Holy Door of the Basilica and spent some time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel praying the prayers for the Jubilee indulgences. Father then took us around the Basilica and explained the changes that had been done after Vatican II and those that had taken place during the recent renovation to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the inauguration of St. Vincent Parish. Fr. Vincent has a great sense of prayerful appropriateness for worship coupled with an artist's eye for simple beauty. In his deep respect for tradition he tried to re-use all the things that were torn out of the Basilica's main church in other places in the building and in the new Mausoleum. In the original building process, aside from the metalwork and the marble used in the Basilica, everything was manufactured on the site by local craftsmen: the bricks were formed and fired on site, the pews and all the woodwork was made and carved in the workshop next to the nascent

Holy Door of Mercy



Fr. Vincent Crosby, OSB

church . Even the designs were chiseled on the capitols of the pillars after they were set in place. A surviving photo of the construction shows workers up several stories on primitive scaffolding of logs lashed together with ropes. The corpus on the Crucifix above the main altar was carved by an unknown monk when there was a school of Liturgical Arts at the Seminary. It was found in storage in the workshop, was polychromed and mounted on a Cross where it provides a serene focal point to the sanctuary.

Next, we went to the Mausoleum, which is a hymn in stone and glass to the Resurrection. The light-filled rotunda is dominated by a full-size replica of Michaelangelo's Pieta as the mausoleum is dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy. Off the rotunda are various halls for crypt burial, each named with a title of Our Lady. We were quick to find Our Lady of Mt. Carmel corridor. Behind the Pieta is a small chapel that might used for wakes and a small altar for the celebration of a funeral Mass, should it be desired. One just wanted to stay there in the light and meditate on the glory of being with the Lord.

After joining the seminarians for midday prayer, we were treated to a magnificent lunch in the Archabbot's dining room. Our last stop was Fr. Vincent's Liturgical Arts Studio. Father was busy working on a matching set of vestments for 20 for the first Mass of a newly-ordained priest. Each piece he creates is an original work of art. We returned to our Monastery thanking God for being part of, and associated with, so much of the history of the faith in Western Pennsylvania and the many graces we received through the kindness of our Benedictines.

Srs. Joann and Marie Elizabeth attended the Greensburg Diocese Youth Convocation at a parish hall in Greensburg on Mercy Sunday. Groups of young people come from all over the Diocese to hear inspirational speakers, enjoy some very loud (!) music, and participate in games to win prizes. Many of the religious in the diocese set up vocation tables and each participant had to visit all the tables and have their ticket stamped to be eligible for the grand prize.



May Crowning

On April 17, Srs. Marie Elizabeth and Shirley drove to Marriottsville, MD to participate in the biennial meeting of CCA. Sr. Shirley had prepared the registration folders for the meeting and Sr. Marie Elizabeth went equipped with keyboard and speaker to be the organist for the Liturgies. They returned home at the end of the week with enthusiastic reports of the programs they had participated in and the proposed leadership program that was approved by the assembly, not to mention the extra amenities of sharing meals with old and new friends and exchanging stories and practical information about our daily lives.

We honored Our Lady by our annual May Crowning on Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. Sr. Shirley drew the lot to crown her and Sr. Mary Paul made the crown. Usually we process outdoors and crown the statue of Our Lady of the Assumption, but because of impending rain, we had the ceremony in the Chapel at the statue of

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The Westmoreland County Air Show visited us again this year on the weekend of May 22. Much of the activity was curtailed by rain and we were told that the crowds, which can be as large as 10,000, were much lighter for the same reason. One large military jet, called a Raptor, managed to dodge the raindrops and get its practice and a show in on both the 21st and the 22nd. The Canadian Snow Birds, in much smaller planes, were not as fortunate, though they did get air time on both days. The noise level was much reduced from the visits of the Blue Angels or the Thunderbirds. The event benefits three of our local hospitals.

Our wooden cloister fence was showing signs of deterioration, so we decided to replace it with panels made from recycled material called Permastone. It is molded to look like stone and is virtually indestructible with normal wear. Best of all, it is maintenance-free. We have had fences of the same material around our mechanical units in the front of the Monastery for several years and the product has proven to weather well, and it looks quite elegant.



After our many trips to surgery last year, everyone is getting back to a semblance of normal. We have already been enjoying the fruits of our gardeners' labors in the form of asparagus, rhubarb and lettuce. Thanks to the help of our retired bee inspector, we have six hives started this year, all made from our one hive that survived the winter.

Please remember in your prayers Sr. Mary's parents who have health issues, and Sr. Theodora's mother and Sr. Shirley's father, both in their late 90's. May you all have a grace-filled summer.

Sr. Marie Elizabeth, OCD

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven Eldridge, Iowa

Srs. Miriam and JonFe were able to attend the CCA meeting this year. It was a grace both to connect with friends from previous meetings and to meet new ones from our Carmels in the United States and from other countries.



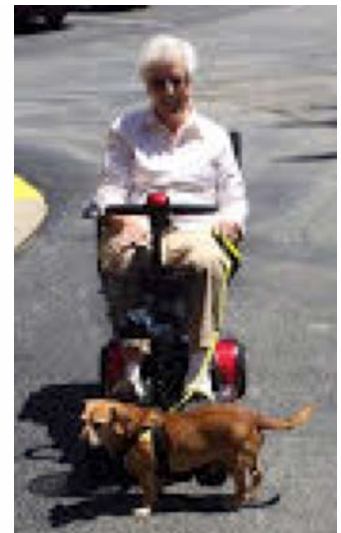
Sr. Miriam Hogan



Srs. Marian and Miriam

On a more somber note, we especially missed our Sisters from Cleveland this year. On the way home however, Sr. Miriam was able spend the night at Oldenburg Carmel and rejoice in sharing their company. Their new dog not only works to greet visitors but hooks a ride on Sr. Terese's

scooter. After having been rescued from a shelter, it is definitely living the good life, and doesn't seem to be at all worried about the "dog days of summer".



Sr. Terese and Sammy



Srs. Lynne and JonFe

Meanwhile, back in Eldridge, our Sr. Lynne is gradually recovering from hip surgery. We were all concerned for her, but none more so than her cat Sunshine. For the few days she was in the hospital, the cat wouldn't even meow and when she returned and he heard her voice, he jumped up on her bed and refused to move. Now gradually, things are getting back to normal, and we have a happy cat.

Keeping with our usual spring tradition, we had the **Blessing of the Fields** after morning Mass. The birds joined us in singing this year and after a rain, all looked especially bright and beautiful. We prayed that God would once again grant us *an abundant harvest*. At this time and throughout the year, we also pray for the safety of the local farmers. This prayer seems all the more appropriate to us, considering that we recently received a Mass request for a farmer named Marvin, who was killed in a farm accident. So, at another morning Mass, we joined with his family in celebrating his life and work and praying for the repose of his soul.

Finally, mindful of the many ecological concerns being expressed today, we look to our own land and take care to support and encourage what God has so richly blessed us with. Srs. JonFe and Teresa Susan are planting and caring for the garden outside. Inside, most of us enjoy the birds and beasts that come up to our refectory window to see what has been provided. They are all wild and free. Yet, Miriam favors the

chickadees, Lynne the sparrows and mourning doves and JonFe the blue bunting. The community is grateful to JonFe for bringing up the bird seed, which in the night also brings us visiting raccoons and possums. Thus, life, in this section of the country is both active and peaceful.

*"A Garden enclosed!" **Indeed...***



*Srs. Carol, Teresa Susan, JonFe, Jeannette
with Fr. Harness*

Wishing all of our Sisters the beauty of Spring & Summer 2016.

Peace and Love, Sr. Miriam



Carmel of Our Lady and St Joseph

Boston, Massachusetts

Nurturing faith

Our ICFP continued in February with Philip Dabney CSsR from the Redemptorist basilica speaking on the Jubilee Year. Margaret Guider OSF from Boston College spoke on religious life in the 21st century, and Jack Butler SJ, also at BC, spoke on obedience as 'dancing with God.' The three following speakers were all from BC as well; Andre Brouillette SJ on reconciliation, Ernesto Valiente, on theories of Redemption. It was Ernesto's first time with us. Originally from El Salvador, his area of study is Christology and Liberation Theology with particular interest in Sobrino. His delivery and content were extremely engaging. The year ended with excellent input from Fr. Richard Lennan on the "sensus fidei."



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty

Holy things that happened



Aileen at our Holy Door

In February, the entrance to our choir was blessed as a 'holy door' giving us the opportunity to acquire plenary indulgences and to become more aware, when using it, of our entering a holy space. Marieleth took scenes (mostly scriptural) depicting mercy and fashioned them to look like bronze panels on the door. It's beautiful.

A monstrance blessed by John Paul II travels around our archdiocese being used for an hour's exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the intention of vocations. It came here for the third time in March, accompanied by the archdiocesan vocation director.

On Good Friday, a very large crowd of parishioners arrived at the monastery, making their way, despite the rain, along the Stations of the Cross. Agnes gave the reflection eloquently and whole-heartedly and all joined in with the singing.

Some of the sisters were able to go to Barrington for Sr. Susan Hannan's funeral, and for a last farewell to one we had grown to love.

Good things

A young woman presently finishing up her studies at North Eastern Univ. is seriously discerning a vocation to our community.

Across the street from us a house had been undergoing renovations for sometime and we eventually came to find out that it is now being used as a refuge for women who have been 'battered.' It is nice to think that our neighborhood can be a haven for some who are in need of one.

A friend of Agnes' volunteered a young student to paint our paschal candle. We were more than delighted with the result. It pictured the Jesus of Mercy image with the addition of a sheep on his shoulder.

And Good gifts

A sourwood tree, given to us in memory of Sr. Mary Teresa's sister Dolores, has been planted next to our fish pond. We already have a sourwood that flaunts a glorious flame-colored foliage throughout the fall season (note the alliteration). Along with being a beautiful memorial, the new tree is also intended to shade the fish pond and slow the growth of algae.

An artist, who had painted a 6 ft picture of O.L. of Guadalupe, was downsizing and gave the painting to us. It is beautifully done and is now hanging at the front entrance to our chapel.

Visitors

It was our very good fortune to have Srs. Sally Rollo from Scotland, Rebecca Scanlan from Australia, and Nancy Casale from Washington, visit us for a few days.

Roseanne, Mary Gehring, and Eileen came up from Barrington bringing Sr. Alain Dockerty also from Scotland, for a day. All were able to join us for Fr. Brouillette's class.



Our visitors with some of the community and Fr. Brouillette

Prayer requests

Please pray for our Sr. Eileen Mary whom we hope, by the time you get this, will be much improved after a fall she took on the 23rd of May. We were out gardening when Sister tripped, coming down on the cement face first. They ruled out any breaks at the ER and sent her home looking terrible, her face swollen and discolored beyond recognition.

Helpers

At present we have a number of lay people whom we have engaged to help us on a limited basis and are realizing what a blessing they are. Areas that benefit are the gardens, housecleaning, some writing of bills, and the archives, and a carpenter willing to do whatever we ask. Among the volunteers are our faithful 'externs,' our grocery shoppers, and a mechanical engineer. They are all excellent workers and, for the most part come and go quietly.

And then there's the telephone workers from Verizon, Dictronic, Comcast...

Troubles and woes

Since March our phones have been suffering terribly from some undiagnosable disorder. The telephone people were very concerned. They would come and fix things and they would come and fix things and they would come and fix things. One expected to see them sitting on the cellar stairs crying at any moment. Now they have fixed things??

We are told that turkeys are moving back into the area. They were here during the time of the pilgrims you might remember, but as far as we know the area was less congested then. Now they congregate in the medical district, the Jesuit residence next to our friars in Brighton has swarms (?) of them, and we have one presently sitting on seven eggs. Apparently it's some form of crime to disturb them. If only they were smaller, and cuter, and flew higher.

Carmel of the Resurrection Oldenburg, Indiana

We were very sorry to have missed the CCA meeting in April but appreciate so much the communication that has allowed us to be so present in thought and imagination. The Narrative Report and Factual Report were very detailed and complete. The sessions we were able to watch on the computer rounded out the picture. We especially appreciated the big, beautiful card we received from the group, with all those messages and signatures! Loving thanks from each one of us. Our prayers are with the new leadership.



Sr. Jean McGoff

The Franciscan Sisters, on whose property we are living, were in Papua, New Guinea, for fifty years. During that time they helped establish a native community of Sisters, which is doing very well at this time. They also got acquainted with the Carmelites in that country. In late February, Sr. Lorraine, OSF, heard of the death of Sr. Eliane, one of the French Sisters who founded the Carmel. She was the last Carmelite professed by Mother Agnes, the sister of St. Therese. It's a small world.

For the past twenty years we have supported several young women in China who aspire to our way of life and have formed a Carmelite community. The idea was first proposed by a local Chinese bishop, and received encouragement from our then Father General Camilo Maccise. Despite China's control over religion, they managed to set up their hidden life by carefully following our 1991 Constitutions, observing the horarium, chanting the Divine Office, etc. They diligently studied OHM's teaching and worked towards building a loving community. They long for canonical acceptance by our Order and have been encouraged to seek further formation in an established Carmel – which means going abroad – not a simple matter in their situation. Thanks to Mother Anne of the Terre Haute Carmel and the community, who have succeeded in obtaining the necessary visa for Sr. Mary and Sr. Joanne to spend two years with them. They arrived shortly after Easter and recently paid us a visit.



Community, Sr. Mary from China, Mother Anne

In May, an old friend, Fr. Joe Moriarity dropped in to see us. He was making a retreat at Olivia Hall, next door. He has been connected with the seminary now housed in our former monastery, and has just been appointed as the new rector. The young men who come there desire to be priests, but need to finish their college education before they go on to the main seminary in St. Meinrad, IN. Marian University is just down the road from the monastery. Joe told us that they are expecting 50 seminarians in the fall from about eight different dioceses. OHM would be pleased.

May 17, Terese and I participated in a meeting of ARC (Association of Religious Communities of Indiana). One of the features of this meeting is the sharing of news and agendas. It was very interesting to hear what some of the groups are doing with their land that is no longer needed. The Victory Noll Sisters from Donaldson are selling land to a trust that would save it from development. There is more about this on



Sr. Terese and Sammy

Global Sisters Report. The Providence Sisters near Terre Haute are renting out 35 acres for solar energy. One group is considering the sale of 145 acres to a group that is trying to preserve land that borders a major river in our state.

There is also change in the air for us as a result of the consultation initiated by our Franciscan Sisters and supported by a grant from NRRO. The retreat house next door will be closed by the end of November and will probably become a place of residence for retired seniors. If the buyers decide to include our building in the purchase, we will need to relocate, probably to the motherhouse. Part of the latter is being renovated for day lectures and retreats, which means that there is much shifting of rooms and offices. The Sisters have a large organic farm across the main road in Oldenburg, which may be taken over (not purchased) by a teaching organization. Their courage in the face of an uncertain future continues to inspire us.

We have currently had an “apparition”! Our very first. Someone walked into the empty bedroom that our Sr. Ruth used and looked at the crucifix on the wall. The right hand of Jesus was extended tenderly out to the beholder! On closer inspection we noticed that the arm was broken. What a lovely accident!

Being true daughters of Teresa, who saw such great mysteries in nature, “even in a thing so small as an ant”, we find new scientific discoveries a stimulus for the interior life and the gift of wonder. The scientists that have reported the arrival of “gravitational waves” from the origin of the universe say that this discovery is like being given new eyes to see the world. In our Easter letter we wrote that the celebration of the Resurrection, in the words of Teilhard de Chadin, “expands to a recognition of Christ as the power of love in an evolutionary universe.” The energy of this power is far greater than gravitational waves when it comes to “eyes to see.”



Our Apparition!

May the summer be a peaceful one for all.

Sr. Jean Alice

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

Before celebrating liturgically the glorious Paschal Mystery from the Sacred Triduum till Easter Sunday, we entered the reality of the mystery and accompanied our dear Sister Susan of the Blessed Sacrament on the last lap of her earthly journey, realizing once again that for all of us who follow Jesus, at death life is changed not taken away.

Susan at 92 had been failing but on that 10th day of March we all had the sensation that her final days took us by surprise. It was as if Susan wanted to cause us no extra trouble but arranged it all and as always loved to put others before her own needs. Susan entered our community in 1953 when we lived in our first monastery in Newport. She was an RN and soon was working in the infirmary caring for our foundress and especially our beloved Sister Margaret (Mother Cyril). Susan's friendship of and care for Margaret spanned over 40 years and was untiring. After Margaret's death Susan was always present to us "faithful to all our community activities and in her gentle way became a beacon of wisdom for all of us.



Sr. Marian Steffens



A Collage of Sr. Susan's Death

She was a devoted reader of all the papers coming from the General and always urging us to read and study the words of Father Severio.

Her presence at our dinner table the night before she died mirrored her desire to be present and interested to the end. Her face lit up with joy in spring at the sight of the tiniest flower blooming in our garden beds. Susan found God everywhere.

When her pain increased the evening of March 9th she knew it was time to call 911 and the end was near. Susan had served us with her joy in living here in this beautiful spot where she daily praised God for the majestic Narragansett Bay she daily watched out her cell window in our infirmary.

Susan's family living in Chicago and Kansas were notified and became part of our planning for her celebration and funeral. Her two brothers, Eddie and David, had instilled in their sons and daughters a great love for Aunt Susan and Susan in turn kept up with her nieces and nephews always sharing her family and pictures with all of us.

We loved seeing their care for one another. Last year we were very much a part of the engagement of Tim's daughter Lauren and her soon to be husband Ben. The Hannan family wedding is in July.

Susan's wake on the 16th brought many friends and benefactors here to Carmel and we heard stories of how deeply they were helped by Susan's quiet presence and powerful prayer. The prayer service and liturgy reflected Susan's love for all creation and her devotion to the Eucharist. There were nine priests to concelebrate her funeral Mass and our Carmelite Provincial Father Jude Peters OCD was the main celebrant and homilist. We knew synchronicity in that Susan died on a Thursday, her funeral liturgy was on Thursday her burial on Holy Thursday and even the urn chosen for her ashes had the symbol of the Eucharist, the title given her in 1954.

We hold these memories dear and are so grateful to all our Carmels and many other friends who sent us cards and loving messages. The outpouring of love and promise of Masses to be celebrated were a great source of consolation and we experienced the loving support of all our extended community. The bonds of Carmel are strong!

On the first Saturday of May it had been our Barrington custom to watch the Kentucky Derby and celebrate with our Susan, who grew up in Paducah and had a family tradition of going to Churchill Downs for the yearly event. This year was not the same without Susan's gracious Southern hospitality offering us her delightful version of mint juleps! However as a tribute to her roots we did stand and sing *My Old Kentucky Home* and enjoyed Kentucky Fried Chicken.

We welcomed Susan's nephew Michael and his wife Amy for a visit in May and showed them the wonderful collage of pictures that was on display for Susan's celebration in March. Amy and Michael visited Susan's grave in our cemetery before heading back to Kansas. We all talked about the family and were happy to learn news of the next big event in the Hannan family, which will gather the children of Eddie and Rosemary, David and Mary Frances.



Srs. Marian and Allain

After the very full experience at Bon Secours in April we welcomed to Barrington the President of the Association of Great Britain, Sister Allain Docherty. Allain first met our Sister Marian in 1993 when Christine and Marian were visiting in England and Scotland. At that time the Barrington community had come to a decision to welcome Allain for a come and see visit. That never came to be but we gave it our best twenty-three years later and Allain confessed she felt right at home with us. The feeling was mutual.

In May four of our sisters from Boston Carmel came for a visit bringing with them Srs. Sally Rollo from Dysart Carmel and Rebecca Scanlan from Australia who had spent some days in Roxbury. The group was driven to Newport and rejoined all of us for the evening meal. Laughter and good

stories enhanced our sharing with our international guests and we all knew the bonds of sisterly support.

At the invitation of our OCDS community which meets here monthly we had a picnic lunch which they provided with our sisters and brothers of the Secular Order on Sunday. The exchange was life giving and we witnessed the love, devotion and deep connection we have with the fastest growing part of the order. Our Barrington chapter has been very helpful to us in so many ways.

We share the joys and sorrows of one another's family and are happy to report that Sister Sue's grandniece Ellie Waterhouse so near to death many times is doing well and growing stronger. We celebrated Sister Patricia's 96th birthday with her niece and other members of her family at a brunch held after our Sunday liturgy on April 17th.



Srs. Nancy Casal, Mary Guehring, Roseann and a friend Dorothy Buck.

Mary Davin's niece, Brianna Murphy, will be married to Michael Durken this month. Anne Marie's sister Mary has moved back to the New England area after many years in Arizona. Mary Gehring has had wonderful visits from Joe, her sister Dottie's son. Joe has gifted Mary with a very beautiful ceramic coffee mug (among other gifts.) Mary takes very special care of her mug and reminds us more than once to be very careful of it as well. Mary is a delight and a very peaceful presence among us at 84. It is great to have her for our chanted Office with her strong sure voice.

We count on your continued prayers for healing for all of us in our aging process and from 96 to 47 we are all in need of your intercession.

Happy Summer

Carmel of the Sacred Heart Baltimore, Maryland

Greetings from steamy Baltimore!

These last few months have been wonderfully balanced with silence, prayer, old friends and new friends, beautiful liturgies and an extraordinary First Profession! You'll probably notice quite a few exclamation points during this entry of our association newsletter because we have all had so many opportunities for "leaning in" and participating in many ways.



Sr. Leah Hargis

Of course after the Christmas Season we settled into a very few weeks of Ordinary Time and had a wonderful retreat. This year we listened to a series of lectures by Peter Phan and enjoyed the winter silence, interrupted by a blizzard and thirty inches of snow, when not shoveling we hibernated. We began the early Lenten Season in mid-February. Every year we focus on a different theme of readings which accompany our Sacrificial Meal on Fridays. This year we listened to an on-going interview of Pope Francis about the Year of Mercy.

As March arrived we switched gears toward an early Easter by increasing the number of choir practices with our guest choir members. We were astounded by the diversity of sounds and the relevant lyrics of each choir piece. Our liturgy committee worked overtime to select new music and resurrect some older melodies along the way. The liturgies of the Triduum were so very meaningful and enhanced as we added cello, flute, timpani as well as a guest vocal soloist. For the Easter Vigil we were delighted to host Kim and Reggie Harris who transformed the Creation reading into a wonderful narrative. For the Exodus reading Reggie led us with *Go Down, Moses* and our dancer Meghan brought in the Easter water with *Wade In The Water*. What a celebration!

April was truly a whirlwind of preparation for and participation in the CCA National meeting held at Marriotsville. We were so very excited to welcome guests from our association as well as sisters from Australia/New Zealand, Kenya, United Kingdom (especially Scotland) and Germany. We are also honored to welcome members from the other US associations. Our energy-filled travel coordinators and some of our congregants blazed new trails to commute from BWI to Bon Secours. Every time our Carmelite sisters gather from around the world it seems we all experience a "booster shot" in our individual experiences of community and



Bon Secours

of God's work in us. We were also privileged to host the members of the Newer/Younger committee and their pre-meeting. Their energy was contagious!

The weather was still chilly as May began. We said goodbye to our last visitors and had some lovely days of retreat before Pentecost. Of course all of us were looking forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit as we joined with a large congregation to witness and celebrate the First Profession of Vows of Sr. Cecelia of the Cosmic Christ. Sr. Colette gave an inspiring and prayerful reflection. From start to finish everyone felt privileged to be a member of the Body of Christ and to pray together for Celia's perseverance in our Carmelite life.



Sr. Celia's First Profession

May ended with guests—again special ones—as Mother Seton Academy graduating students spent two days (one for the girls and another for boys) on day-long retreats here. The weather was dodgy but both groups of students experienced a break from the inner city and saw vast amounts of green and blossoms. Their time here is also provides safe place and sacred time to tell their stories and receive much-needed support. As May ended we welcomed 3 OCDS members from Williamsburg, Virginia. Our four sisters who travelled on the Carmelite Institute's pilgrimage to Spain in 2015 had met these three women and had encouraged them to visit. We were very happy they could join us for Trinity Sunday!

Finally, we were treated to a wonderful vocal concert by a young woman, Katerina Butler, who is a music student at nearby Towson State University. Our dear friend Jackie Stokes accompanied Katerina. We always feel so very fortunate to be surrounded by such generous and gifted people.

Prayers and Peace,

Sr. Leah

Carmel of the Incarnation Beacon, New York



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

February began for us with no little drama: a call Feb. 3 from Oslo, Norway that Sr. Mary had fallen and broken her hip. She had flown to Norway to visit her brother, who had married a Norwegian woman and was now in a nursing home in Norway, unable to travel. Mary had made it only as far as the SAS terminal in Oslo when she fell. There ensued two weeks of hospitalization for her, and for me, two weeks of

hours on the phone daily with the insurance company, with her heroic sister-in-law who managed affairs on the Norwegian end, and with people in the hospital who mercifully spoke English. You can imagine how relieved we were to have her back here for rehab. Please continue to pray for her. She is progressing well.

Mitch Albom may have had Tuesdays with Morrie, but we have Mondays with Richard. Our pastor, Fr. Richard Smith, a recent Ph.D., has been very generous in sharing his theological knowledge. In February we began another series with him, this one on Augustine's Confessions.



Sr. Mary back on US soil

The highlight of April was of course the CCA meeting. Four of us, Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marita and I were able to attend. We were happy to be able to persuade Michaelene and Marita to leave their names on the nomination list, and to see Michaelene elected to the leadership team. We felt that CCA has made important progress, both among ourselves and with other associations. Two of the visitors from Scotland, Srs. Johann MacLeod and Marie Helen Mills, came home with us for a delightful visit. One of their days here, they enjoyed a whirlwind tour of Manhattan which included time at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, now open.



Jubilarians with Card. Dolan

It is a custom in our archdiocese that once a year the Cardinal invites religious jubilarians to a Mass at St. Patrick's and a meal at his residence. Trinity Sunday was the day this year, and two from here attended: our Sr. Michaelene for her 50th of profession and Redemptoristine Sr. Moira for her 25th.

May 19 we had a smaller celebration here at

home for Marjorie's "graduation" from a spiritual direction course. It had consisted of four five day residential intensives which included input, prayer, supervision, etc., spaced over nine months, with reading between times. She found it very life giving.

We recently had a small renovation in our chapel to solve some lighting problems. As a result, the lovely statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, carved for us by the DeMetz studios in Italy (with much back and forth from us!), has a new look. We removed some misplaced accent lights that lit her from the back and replaced the accent light in front. With a darker alcove behind her and the light in front, her features are more visible.



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

I have mentioned before that our Sr. Jeannie is now a permanent resident of Lourdes Health Care Center, the infirmary of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Wilton, CT. This facility was built initially for their own sisters, but as their peak need passed, was

opened to other communities. Designed for women religious, it has an atmosphere that cannot be found in other nursing homes. As well as being provided good skilled care, each sister has a private room with Eucharist and Vespers together every day. Unfortunately, Lourdes will have to close in a few years, since the SSNDs will be selling the complex of which it is part. The leaders of the seven or eight communities who have sisters there have committed themselves to working collaboratively to search for alternatives. Please keep this initiative in your prayer.

With our prayer for a peaceful and blessed summer.



Sr. Maria Viatori

Carmel of the Holy Family Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Her Life was a Homily

Father Lou Papes, in his homily at our Sister Mary Lavin’s funeral liturgy, proclaimed, “Mary was an inspiration to her Carmelite community and to all who knew her and treasured both her contemplative spirit rooted in the Sacred Scriptures as well as her willing embrace of the challenges of the Second Vatican Council in the life of the Church. Her life was a homily.” Several weeks after Mary’s liturgy, Father Lou initiated Women and the Word, a weekly gathering of people coming together to listen to and reflect on Sunday’s Liturgy of the Word and a homily given by a woman, dedicated to the memory of Mary. The goal of Woman and the Word is “to create a welcoming and supportive environment for the preaching of the Sunday Lectionary from a woman’s perspective.” – *Mission Statement*

Father Lou in collaboration with our community has hosted several Wednesday evenings in our Chapel to celebrate the reading and preaching of the Word for the following Sunday. You can click on to the website www.sabbathretreats.org to learn more about this initiative. What a beautiful way of honoring our Sister Mary.

Companioning Our Sisters in Nairobi Carmel

We were all saddened by the news of Sister Jean Scheller’s death on February 8. Having stayed with us on several occasions, Jean and her natural sister Mary, both of Nairobi Carmel, had a strong bond to our community. Pat Conway had lived many years with them during her time in that Carmel. They radiated such joy and happiness when they were here on furlough. The cooks were thrilled because Jean and Mary both performed miracles in our kitchen. They had an artistic sense that brought elegance to everything they touched. For many years, we all looked forward to the letters and e-mails they sent and enjoyed listening to their news during dinner. We continue to pray for our dear sisters in Nairobi Carmel.



Srs. Pat Conway & Bendina

The Continuing Maintenance Saga

On the day of Mary’s wake service in February, Barb noticed that the choir was chilly. Upon investigation she found that the water pressure in the boiler was below normal. Luckily, the chapel, choir, and library are heated by a radiant heating system that is separate from the rest of the house. Several years ago we had a similar leak in the chapel, and a section of the floor had to be jack hammered so that a section of pipe could be replaced. Our heating experts were initially stumped in locating the source of the present

problem. However, on the second attempt, the infra-red camera showed the leak to be at the entrance to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. While this was happening, we had no heat in the chapel and choir, so we held Liturgy and Lauds in our basement Guild Room for several weeks. The former worker's compensation room was turned into our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We were blessed to have warm weather during the Triduum so that we could ascend from the catacombs and return to the chapel. While the jack hammering was going on, Barb wisely had the area sealed off in plastic sheeting so that dust would not infiltrate the rest of the chapel to prevent another massive clean-up job. The leak has been repaired, and we await the restoration of our Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Sister Bendina Has Arrived

We were overjoyed at the prospect of Sr. Bendina coming to visit us during her time in the USA while participating in the CCA National Assembly. Pat Conway was Bendina's novice mistress and had lived with her for many years in Nairobi Carmel. It was a wonderful reunion for Pat, Bendina, and the rest of us who



Vestment given to us by Nairobi Carmel

finally met her. We had a terrific time catching up on all the news, and our dinner recreation included some pretty sharp drumming and dancing. At the close of our celebration Bendina presented our community with a beautiful chasuble and stole that was handcrafted in Kenya. What a beautiful gift from our dear sisters from the Nairobi Carmel.

Thank You

We want to thank all the sisters who participated in the CCA National Assembly for sending us your greetings and promise of prayers. Thank you to Claire, Marian, Judy, and Hilary for their outstanding work on the team. We are grateful for the willingness and expertise of Claire, Hilary, Michaeline, and Monika who will serve on our next leadership team.

May you all have a blessed and peace-filled summer.



Srs. Pat O'Brien, Bernadette, Vera Lea visit with Wen & Clair Geiger from China. Joe Geiger is proud grandfather

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains Reno, Nevada

Coming in the next few months will be a completely revised and updated website for Carmel of Reno. (www.carmelofreno.com) Our community had set up a website committee (sisters Cecelia, Claire, Cloe and Marie-Louise) to work in conjunction with a professional designer, Kristin Larsen, with the support of a dear friend and benefactor of the community on the project. We wanted not only to update the look and content but also to take advantage of developments in the technology. It is a massive undertaking but we think you will be pleased with the results. Stay turned!



Sr. Marie-Louise



*Srs. Teresa Benedicta &
Johanna from Germany*

Before and after our CCA meeting in April we shared wonderful visits with the international sisters who came to the meeting. Before going to Bon Secours, Sisters Jennifer and Rebecca were with us from Australia, Marie Helen and Johann from Scotland. After the meeting Sisters Teresa Benedicta and Johanna from Germany came, followed by Sr. Bendina from Nairobi. It was marvelous to see and hear about their Carmels and associations and the unique gifts and challenges their individual situations provide. We found our sharing and exchanges enormously rich. We hope that exposing them to the uniqueness of living Carmel in the western mountains and desert was the same for them. We certainly enjoyed visiting together Pyramid Lake on the Paiute Indian reservation, Virginia City with its wild west history of mining, timber, and gambling in the mountains not far from Reno, and the beauty of Lake Tahoe on the

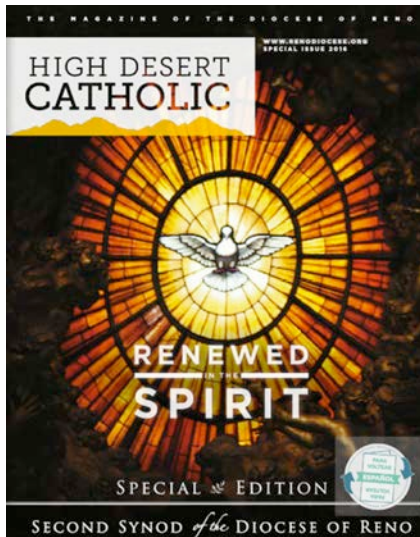
Nevada/California border.

Also in April the students from the University of Nevada Newman Center had their annual retreat in our chapel and at various areas around our grounds. They are inspiring young people, some of them also participate in our young adult prayer group. They were full of enthusiasm and joy about their faith and overflowing with energy. What hope there is for the future of the church!



Newman Center Group

May brought our community retreat with Michael Fish, O.S.B. Cam. This year's theme was Celtic Spirituality. We alternated input sessions with quiet time. With a combination of art, poetry, readings, historical background, questions for personal reflection, and time for dialogue, we had a treasure trove of grace to unpack at leisure. The community found it a very fruitful experience and an impetus for personal and community growth.



Our Reno Diocese, comprising the northern half of the state of Nevada, recently completed a major milestone with the conclusion of our Diocesan Synod. Announced at Pentecost in 2013 it began with a process for a Preparatory Commission, on which our Sr. Maria heroically served throughout three years. (Our Carmel is considered a “parish” for the purpose of the Synod as we are a spiritual hub for the diocese and also the primary worshipping community for about 150+ people at our weekend liturgies.) This broad consultation across the diocese surfaced eight themes the people most wanted to discuss: clergy, community, diversity, education/formation, family, mission, prayer/spirituality, and youth. Delegates were chosen by parish councils or appointed in accord with canon law. They reflected on the above themes in numerous working sessions preparing for the Synod. Sr. Susan was our delegate for the synod. In December 2015

the 276 delegates all over northern Nevada gathered in working groups to discern directions, pastoral initiatives and concrete and measurable outcomes going forward on each of the eight identified themes. In an amazing show of solidarity agreement from 93-99% appeared in balloting. On diversity an interventions was required and with the work of the Bishop and a committee this too was approved by the Synod assembly. On Pentecost 2016 at a special closing mass, the Synod concluded with the formal acceptance of the Synod's initiatives and the signing of the decree for the implementation

There are a couple of the outcomes among the many that might be of particular interest to all of you.

1. It was decided that within three years the Bishop is to restore the order of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist in that order) to allow youth to participate in the fullness of their faith.
2. The diocese is to plan, develop and establish a diocesan conference center to facilitate retreats, recollections, and missions. A plan is to be forthcoming in a year and realized within three years! (P.S. There is no retreat center in the entire state which is why so many come to Carmel for our events.)

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Concord, New Hampshire

Greetings from Concord, where spring is struggling to become summer with highs only in the 50s and low 60s this week! If only we could import this weather during our celebrations for Our Lady of Mount Carmel in mid-July!



Sr. Hilary Case

We were so graced by the CCA National Meeting in April. Four of us were able to be there, and we got a lot out of Nancy Sylvester's contemplative process. It seemed as though Stephanie's process, as she led us through our business and our goal-setting, followed naturally and easily from the contemplative space to which Nancy had led us. We look forward to further developments of the MLC project as well. Finally, we enjoyed connecting with our international guests: sharing common concerns and camaraderie during breaks and evenings.

After the CCA Meeting, in early May, we had a visit from one of our international guests, Sr. Sally Rollo from Scotland. Although the weather was not great, we all had a good sharing inside, over lunch, and Sally spent the day with us. This day was a great follow-up to the CCA Meeting, and we were happy to be able to build friendships in this way.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we hosted a special celebration for the churches of Concord which highlighted God's graciousness and mercy. During our year of the designation of our chapel as the Holy Door, many groups on pilgrimage as well as individuals, have come to our chapel to enter through the Holy Door. We are glad that we can provide a place of prayer for our neighbors.

In regard to vocations, Sisters Claudette and Hilary have been working with Katherine Pajor, Assistant Dean of Students at Northeast Catholic College in Warner, NH. One foggy, icy night in late February, Claudette and Hilary visited Northeast's campus. We attended Mass, then spoke at the Sodality of the women students on our first experiences of God's call. The students asked good questions, which put us at ease. After this session, Debby Harnes, wife of the president of Northeast, served supper for everyone. It was a lively session, and we plan to continue visits to campus when school resumes in the fall.

Have a blessed summer, and we'll connect again in the fall.

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

Carmel of the Mother of God
San Rafael, California

will share their news next issue.