



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 32, Issue 2, MAY 2010



FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Sisters,

The newness of life being manifest during this season of spring is an apt symbol for the good things quietly taking place in CCA, giving us many reasons for hope and joy.

We're very happy to share the news that Fr. Camilo Maccise has agreed to be a presenter at our next CCA meeting in 2012. We expect this meeting will take place after Pentecost, which falls at the end of May that year. We are already looking into possible sites for the meeting and will share more news with you as things develop.

Last month the San Rafael community received the official rescript from Rome finalizing their incorporation into CCA. We welcome them with open arms and are delighted that this issue marks their first contribution to our CCA newsletter. On behalf of the CCA leadership team, I had the privilege of visiting the San Rafael nuns in February to do a formal welcome and orientation to CCA. They were eager to hear about the history, goals and initiatives of CCA and receive copies of our **Charter of Life**. A few of the sisters have already joined our CCA interest groups. Our future collaboration will be a mutual blessing.

After a long interval of email contact, the four of us on the leadership team were happy to be together in Oklahoma City for the Meeting of the Association and Provincial Councils (April 26-30). We were fortunate to be joined by Fr. John Grennan, OCD, our English-speaking Definitor, whose time in the United States corresponded with this meeting. One evening was set aside for Mass and supper at our friars' Little Flower Church and another with our sisters in the Piedmont Carmel. We are so grateful for their wonderful hospitality, to say nothing of the feasts they prepared for us! Sr. Donna and the Piedmont community welcomed our leadership team to their monastery for our own meeting following the councils' meeting. They could not have been more gracious. Their kindness to us will always be remembered.

Asking God's blessing of hope for each of you and for our world.

With love,

Claire

CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana
Sr. Betty Meluch, OCD



While much of the country was battling unusual amounts of

snow, our challenge in January and February was ice. Finding entire areas covered with a sheet of ice was a new and unsettling experience. Happily we all made it through the season with no broken bones.

Members: However, Sr. Jean Alice had a hip replacement in February and is now relishing the joy of standing without pain.

Lent: February was a wild month. The Colts lost the Super Bowl, but given the past events in New Orleans, my guess is that even the Colts understood why the spirit of the country was with the Saints. The proximity of Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year's Day, and *Mardi Gras* left one eager for the respite of lent. We began with our usual mini-retreat from Ash Wednesday to the First Sunday of Lent.

CCA and Faith Sharing: Instead of our usual format for monthly faith sharing, we are listening to Ilia Delio's CD, "Christian Life, An Adventure in Love." In the presentation Ilia is as creative as ever, and listening to her brings back memories of the 2009 CCA meeting.

OCDS: "Sister Death," as the Franciscans say, visited our Secular Order in the passing of Linda Miller, a faithful member for many years. She died the day after treating Anna Mary to a visit to the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, where a mutual friend was privileged to show her collection of craft jewelry. How like Linda to be giving joy to others with her last breath.

Poor Clare Sisters: Most of our visitors come from Indianapolis, but during

Easter week we welcomed Poor Clare Sisters from Cincinnati. They are also a community of nine sisters and have a monastery on the grounds of the Franciscan friars. The ACS has held a Cluster Meeting at their facility, and the wooded area surrounding their building is beautiful.

Gerontology: Marcie, Helen and Jean Alice attended the April ACS Cluster Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Jane Thibault spoke on "Dedicated Suffering: transforming pain into positive energy for others." Jane is the president of the Secular Order of Carmelites in Louisville and holds a doctorate in Clinical Gerontology. She has developed a process of sharing that enables the elderly and others who have physical sufferings and a tendency to feel useless to get together and turn this suffering into energy to help specific people. She stresses with each group that they should not look for results but be grateful if there are any. It often has the effect of lessening the aches and pains of the participants because they do not feel so alone in their trials. She calls this "Dedicated Suffering."

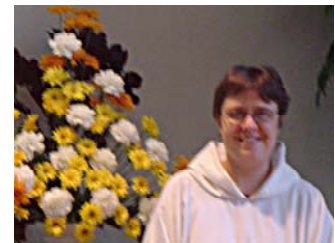
Jean Alice: "My response at the meeting was to tell the group that for several years the focus of ACS and CCA has been on "transformation of consciousness" and recognition of a world of energy available for this transformation. I think this is going on all over but under different labels. I told Jane that I think her process is one of them.

Transportation: Oldenburg offers no transportation services, and when we are short on drivers, we are hiring a Franciscan sister to drive us. This continues to be a happy answer to our need and to hers as she looks for a permanent job.

Easter: Easter Sunday was a double delight with the joy of the resurrection highlighted with a glorious sunny day. Spring is breaking out with the green leaves of Jean Alice's day lilies, and Helen is planting butterfly weed, zinnias, and cosmos from seed. With the church across the street chiming Easter hymns every evening, the season is in the air.

SR. BETTY MELUCH WAS CALLED HOME TO GOD ON MAY 16, 2010, BEFORE THIS ISSUE WAS PUBLISHED.

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
Baltimore, Maryland
Sr. Monika Bies, OCD



This edition of the CCA Newsletter finds us in between seasons, liturgically as well as communally. After having celebrated Holy Week and the Easter liturgies, we are getting closer to Pentecost; and between living our communal lives with its daily "ordinary time rhythm," we approach Sr. Mary Rose's Solemn Profession. The celebration will take place during our Sunday Liturgy on June 13, an occasion of thanksgiving for her and all of us, as well as her family and many friends.



Front of chapel, Baltimore

This year's guided retreat in February was entitled, "When Jesus Asks A Question." We were blessed to have Father Craig Morrison, O.Carm. for our retreat. He had us reflect on questions that we often overlook because we have "heard" them so often (e.g., "Do you know what I have done for you?" or "Do you want to be made well?")

Fr. Craig had to stay a day longer as we were experiencing our record-breaking snow storm.

* We'd like to share our great joy of having Sr. Luisa in our community—this time for good!!! Luisa arrived from the Carmel of Oviedo in Spain on January 31. Many of you have met her and cherished her presence at various CCA meetings or at our monastery. It seems that she has always been with us, and we surely enjoy her ability to enter into our communal life wholeheartedly. Her deep love for the Carmelite life and her sense of humor are definitely infectious; they have been a wonderful blessing for all of us.

* One weekend in May we had our last Senior YAP program before the

summer. We will resume our two programs for Young Adults (Junior and Senior) in the fall.

* After having her right knee replaced two years ago, Sr. Veronica had the same procedure done for her left knee. She is recuperating well and is doing outdoor work again.

* Sr. Leah continues to explore her art work. She has creatively designed various pictures which we have used for program covers or within the context of a liturgy. The picture that you can see in this newsletter edition was the cover she painted for the celebration of Sr. Colette's confirmation as prioress. The church pictured is St. Bernardine, Colette's home parish.

Right, Sr. Leah's drawing of St. Bernardine Church, Sr. Colette's home parish.



These are the seven women who have been coming for the SYAP prayer weekends. They worship with us frequently in the chapel, help out as lectors and have been supportive in many other ways.

The Challenges of Time

Meeting people was a joy;
when introductions were made,
my suitcase of friends increased.

Caught in the movement of time—
friends, family and niceties
take on a life of their own.

Time equalizes unprovoked dreams
and inflated egos; shrinks attachments;
puts perspective on reality;
reminds us of our mortality.

While time diminishes the body
and empties the Self, the Divine
nurtures peace and strength in us.

Time is that persistent presence
we live with but want to
hold at a distance.

Sr. Barbara Jean LaRochester, ocd
Baltimore Carmel

**CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH
Boston, Massachusetts
Sr. Mary Clare Doherty, OCD**



VISITORS

On Good Friday we had five different groups coming to the monastery, either as part of their “Stations” or to pray in the chapel. Many were Haitians (many of our parishioners are from Haiti) and were feeling the agony of their people at this time.

A sight-seeing trolley arrived at the monastery with a group of about thirty people, part of “Tour Roxbury,” which is now a part of “Tour Boston.” We’d been asked some time in advance to share with them about our life and the history of our Order.

We have a young woman visiting who has hopes of being able to join us.

FORMATION

Our inter-community meetings have included input and discussion from the following: Fr. Richard Lennan from Boston College on the theology of the Church; Tom Massaro on the social justice encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI; Sr. Vilma, OCD on mysticism and our Carmelite saints; Michael Boughton, SJ, director of the Ignatian Institute at BC, on Catholic novelists as a way to approach our faith; Fr. Kieran, OCD on our Holy Mother; Fr. Sal, OCD on Brother Lawrence; Fr. George Evans from the delayed vocations seminary (JohnXXIII) on grace and holiness; Fr. Marc Foley, OCD on St. Thérèse. We will close the year with Fr. Richard Lennan and Sr. Mary Johnson, SND.

The McCarthy Chair lecturer this year was Margaret Jennings, a Brooklyn native and a medievalist educated at, among other places, Oxford, Harvard, Notre Dame and Bryn Mawr. She spoke on inclusivity as seen in the Cathedral of St. Stephan (or St. Etienne) in Bourges,

France. We were not quite sure what to expect from the title, but the lecture proved fascinating and the speaker’s personality delightful. The artwork in the cathedral clearly depicted Judaism as integral to Christianity and salvation as being open to all at a time when it was often depicted as a Christian prerogative. I read later that St. Anthony spoke there during a council and as he finished, turned to the archbishop and soundly reprimanded him for his failings. The archbishop listened and wept.

Fr. Bonaventure, OCD came from the friars in Brighton and showed a wonderful program he has done on the Order’s presence on Mount Carmel. He had many shots of the “dig” that we had never seen and wonderful photos of the friars’ two monasteries there. It was a real pilgrimage.

PRAYERS

Our Sr. Rose Lopez is now in a nursing home in Lawrence, MA. Do keep her in your prayers as she has Alzheimer’s and it has progressed very rapidly.

AND...

On the night before Laetare Sunday, a great pine tree on our property was blown down. If it had fallen to the west, it would have smashed the hermitage; if it had fallen to the east, it would have come into Juanita’s room; if it had fallen to the south, it would have wrecked the grape arbor; and if it had fallen one foot to the right or left of where it fell, it would have collapsed our wall. But no, it fell right through a narrow opening in the wall without touching anything but the ground it landed on.

Also, a city water main broke leaving two million people forced by government edict to boil all our water for about four days. Accepting these events as significant, we have begun in earnest to clear out our basement.

**CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Eldridge, Iowa
Sr. Miriam Hogan, OCD**

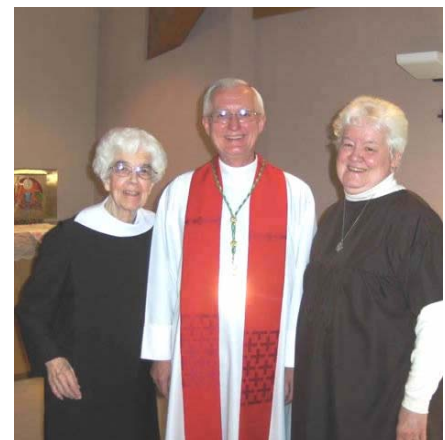


In our spring issue of *Journey and the Joy*, we included an article by Sr. Margaret Dorgan entitled,

From Rush To Hush. Now, as we begin this report on the various happenings of the last quarter, I am inclined to think that we seem to have experienced a lot of the Rush time lately, and we are longing for more of the Hush time. Nevertheless, events have been good, and we are very much looking forward to our Sr. JonFe’s Final Profession on June 26 at our local parish of St. Ann with Bishop Martin Amos as the main celebrant for Mass.

The bishop was also present for our community elections held on April 27. Sr. Lynne Elwinger was re-elected prioress and Sr. Mary Jo Loebig the subprioress.

The day after the elections, our well



Sr. Mary Jo Lobig, sub prioress, Bishop Martin Amos and Sr. Lynne Elwinger, prioress.

went out for a couple of days. Fortunately, we were able to collect rain water. In the process we grew to more deeply appreciate Holy Mother’s concern that her monasteries have a good supply of water. The following day the internet went down, and we experienced a different kind of break in our usual routine. Now, that things have

been repaired, we look at the garden with special interest in the promised harvest of strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

We now have a new dog that we call JinJi. He needs a bit of help adjusting to the nine cats in his life, including Sr.



New dog JinJi

Lynne's cat, Sunshine, who had a very disapproving look on his face while watching the dog walking underneath him on the porch. Time will tell.... We will continue

to seek for the Hush time in our lives.

Finally, our prayers are very much united with and for our sisters in Cleveland. May they continue to know the nearness of God in their hearts as they suffer the loss of dear, dear **Sr. ANNAMAE**.

Peace and Love.

CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION
Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Sr. Shirley Marie Ahern, OCD



The sisters in Latrobe hope everyone has had a very blessed and fruitful Easter Season. We would also like to send a sincere, but overdue "Welcome to CCA!" to our sisters of the San Rafael Carmel.

Did any of the rest of you feel like you had someone else's winter this year? Having only been in Latrobe for five years, the first four of which we had bare ground at least one or two days every week, I was a little surprised to have two New England-type snowstorms dump about 5 feet of snow on us in the space

of a week, which stayed around for several months. After the first storm some friends loaned us sleds, and Srs. Joann, Mary and Shirley took advantage of them.

Our study of Holy Mother's **Life** has



Srs. Shirley, Mary and Joann enjoying the snow

been going very well. Our reading and community discussions are bringing out many new insights and fresh interpretations. We are amazed at how much "new" information we find with each reading of St. Teresa's works.

On March 19, a new Catholic radio station with the call letters WAOB (We Are One Body) went on the air in this area. It is part of a trend occurring across the country, with Catholic broadcasters buying radio stations in order to increase the reach of the Church's message. The daily broadcast schedule will include the Mass, prayer and teaching programming. Our Tuesday Morning Prayer, Mass and Evening Prayer are being recorded and broadcast over this station. We are one of a number of religious groups that are being recorded.

On April 16 Srs. Mary and Theodora were in their cells when a tremendous wind (clocked at 86 mph at the Latrobe Airport) blew through our back yard and took down two very large pine trees. Actually, it didn't so much take them down as snap them off. They both recounted how as they watched from their window the first tree (about 35 feet tall) bent at a 90 degree angle about six feet off the ground and

snapped with the six feet of standing trunk splitting down the middle. The second tree, which was a little taller, bent at a 90 degree angle about eight feet off the ground. First about 15 feet of the top of the tree flew off and was deposited about 20 feet away and then the middle section snapped off. A third tree bent at a 90 degree angle but did not break.

Also in April we had a three-day visit from Rev. Xavier S. Devadass, OCD a Carmelite from India doing post-doctorial work in New York. In addition to giving us conferences and answering our questions about life, religion and Carmelites in India, he composed and dedicated a song to our Carmel. Besides teaching us to sing that song, he also sang an Offertory hymn and a Communion song in Hindu, which he composed. They were published and used in India.

On May 1 we had the joy of celebrating the 25th anniversary of profession of Sr. Mary of Jesus Crucified (Mary Wild). The jubilee Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jude Peters, OCD and the homily was given by Sister Mary's uncle, Fr. Robert Wild of Madonna House. There were eight Benedictine priests who also concelebrated. Sr. Mary's parents were overjoyed to have all their children and grandchildren together for the first time



Sr. Mary renewing her vows. Fr. Jude Peters presided at the Mass.

in several years. Many friends and relatives came from the Buffalo, NY area where she grew up as well as our friends and benefactors from this area. It was a beautiful day with even the weather cooperating.



Sr. Mary with her parents, brothers, nephew and nieces

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD CARMEL

Our Carmel was founded on November 24, 1965, from the Carmelite Monastery at Carmel-by-the-Sea. There were ten sisters who discerned the call for this venture several years before making the foundation. They were inspired by Mother Miriam of the Trinity, OCD, who received a supernatural call to found a Carmel specifically to respond to Our Lady of Fatima's message to pray for the conversion of sinners and for the Russian people.

Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken graciously invited this group of nuns to the Archdiocese of San Francisco and suggested a reliable contractor he knew to build a small monas-

were privileged to sing when two Jesuit priests of the Eastern Rite (Fr. Andrei Urusov, SJ, or Fr. Karl Patzelt, SJ, from the Russian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Fatima) presided.

In those early days, the community hoped and prayed that they would be able to make a foundation in Russia. However, even before that Fr. Louis Bouier, on a visit to the monastery, suggested that perhaps the sisters should make a foundation in Finland, since the Iron Curtain made Russia impossible. Mother Virginia and another sister felt strongly called to follow this suggestion. On November 7, 1988 a foundation in Finland was successfully established.

When the miracle of the downfall of Communism took place, two of our sisters opened a tiny foundation in Moscow...finally fulfilling the dream of a presence in Russia.

However, after several years it became apparent that this venture was im-

CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD San Rafael, California Sr. Paula Balog, OCD



Greetings to all from the Sisters in San Rafael! We are so delighted to be a

part of CCA. We thank Sr. Claire Sokol for the warm welcome she brought to our community during her visit in February. Thanks also to Sr. Claire for the pictures taken and posted on the CCA website. Now everyone can place our faces with our names. We come with open arms and hearts to offer our time and talents wherever they may be needed in the association.

For our first contribution to the CCA newsletter we would like to give a little history of our Carmel located in San Rafael, CA.



*Back row left to right: Srs. Paula, Dolores, Teresa Benedicta, Anna Marie.
Front Row left to right: Srs. Teresa Francis, Emmanuel, Maria Fidelis, Mary Colette*

tery for them. After some months of anticipation, the sisters finally arrived on a very rainy day and quickly moved in.

The next years were filled with great activity and enthusiasm. They continued to learn the Byzantine Liturgy, which they

practical, due to the impossibility of purchasing property in the countryside and of sending more sisters to Russia. The Divine Word Missionary Fathers purchased the apartment "monastery" and eventually also bought a nearby build-

ing, thus establishing St. Olga's Catholic Parish in downtown Moscow. We have been giving this "parish" our prayerful and practical support ever since.

At this time in our history, Our Lady's plea at Fatima is being answered by sharing our Russian roots with our sisters. Our present community consists of four American sisters, one sister from England, two sisters from Kenya, and one sister from Germany.

On the home front, we began very early in our presence here to plant redwood trees to create a place of peace and quiet. We now have a glorious forest of over 400 redwood trees. They provide a beautiful area for prayer and peaceful solitude for our enclosure. We have also developed a desktop printing enterprise, which has been very helpful as a means of support.

Our St. Joseph novena was a time of great grace and inspiring liturgies and homilies with a different number of priests presiding, although we were very happy and blessed to have Fr. Christopher LaRocca, OCD for the final three days. Father grew up in San Francisco and his family has been in the seafood business for many generations. So, on St. Joseph's feast day, the community was treated to a scrumptious meal, cooked by Father himself, of fresh halibut, shrimp, mussels and clams.

Soon we found ourselves fully immersed in Holy Week, the Easter Triduum and all the preparations for the great celebration of Our Lord's Paschal Mystery. Among other things, we prepared our traditional Russian Easter bread (Kulich) and cheese (Pascha).



Sr. Emmanuel

SR. EMMANUEL OF THE VIRGIN MOTHER will celebrate her 50th Jubilee. Many are expected to attend this



Sr. Maria Fidelis

event and celebration, which will be held at the monastery.

On November 20 and 21, **SR MARIA FIDELIS OF THE ANGELS** will celebrate her 25th Jubilee. In June, sister will make a trip home to Kenya to visit with her family and former community in Nairobi **SR. PAULA BALOG**

My Clothing Day will arrive on June 11, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I am very excited to reach this next stage in my journey!

We wish everyone abundant blessings of the Risen Jesus throughout this year. May we keep each other in prayer.

CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York

Sr. Rita Donahue, OCD



Snow wreaked havoc in our area in February. Our road was inaccessible for two days due to the many tree branches, some very large, which fell on top of 32 inches of snow. Despite such disruptions the snow lent its own beauty around our grounds. Strong wind and torrential rain wreaked more havoc in March. More branches fell



Sr. Marita on road near the tool barn

and our road barely escaped washout from the brooks and streams alongside of it and the run-off from the reservoir on Mount Beacon, which rushes down and under the road when it rains.

One of the area tragedies included Sr. Michaelene's cousin, Brendan McGrath, who was killed when a tree fell on his car. He and his wife Mary were visiting a daughter in Hartsdale, NY. Mary escaped injury. Please pray for Brendan and for Mary and the family.

JUBILEES

Sr. Romaine is our Diamond Jubilarian. She celebrated on May 7, her actual anniversary. After her renewal of vows during Mass, as her candle was being moved, the cut-glass holder broke on the floor. Fr. David Nolan, the celebrant, likened it to the alabaster jar of precious ointment in the gospel. For Sr. Romaine it brought to mind the devotion of Mother Aloysius of Concord Carmel, who counseled: break your alabaster box, give all-forever. Thus the accidental breaking of the glass on the chapel floor unexpectedly brought



Left to right: front, Srs. Michael Ann and Romaine; back, Srs. Ellen Mary and Mercy

into the liturgy a rich symbolism of Romaine's life of outpoured love.

This is Golden Jubilee Year for **SRS. MERCY, PATRICIA, MICHAEL ANN AND ELLEN MARY**. Srs. Mercy and Patricia already celebrated their jubilees of entrance. Sr. Michael Ann celebrated March 25, Feast of the Annunciation and Golden Jubilee of her Profession. Sr. Ellen's date is October 15.

PRAYERS

Sr. Ann had a hip replacement in March.

Speaking from her experience, Ann found hip replacement easier than the two knee replacements she has had.

Sr. Mercy had a severe allergy virus at Easter. A rash kept erupting on various parts of her body over a few weeks' time, accompanied by itching and great discomfort. Treatment continues and it is subsiding slowly. Mercy's good-natured patience remains constant.

An episode of pain took Sr. Michael Ann to the emergency room one evening in April, and a few days later the pain-causing culprit was removed—none other than her gallbladder. She is making a good recovery from the unexpected event.

FACILITATOR

Our facilitator, Sr. Chris Partisano, CSJ continues to work with us. Seeking a sense of direction for the next few years, we formulated one overriding rationale and three goals, each having objectives

the present. Time was given for questions and comments.

A priest of the Archdiocese of New York, Fr. Komonchak held the John and Gertrude Hubbard Chair of Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America until his recent retirement. His familiarity with the Council and his love for the Church was very evident to us.

In March Srs. Marita and Marjorie attended a gathering of religious sisters, priests and brothers who are in leadership and vocation ministries. The gathering, "Vocation Ministry after the CARA Study: Where Do We Go from Here?" was held in Latham, NY and sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference Region II. It provided opportunity to discuss the 2009 study on recent vocations to religious life and the study's implications.

After hearing Marita and Marjorie's excellent report of the day, we decided to add a vocation-related objective to our goal document when we worked with Sr. Chris Partisano in April. We continue our monthly sharing of reflections on Holy Mother's **Book of Her Life**. Our April meeting on the suggested sections of Chapter 27 seemed especially rewarding.

Basic insights were strengthened and new ones unfolded as we spoke, sometimes building on each other's reflections as we shared our own.

Srs. Marjorie and Carolyn attended the meeting of association and provincial councils held in Oklahoma April 26-30. They had a most enjoyable visit with our sisters in Piedmont before returning home.

Sr. Mary is busy arranging garden plots for thirty assorted rose bushes given by a friend. They are arriving in batches over a space of several weeks, allowing Mary some breathing space between batches. Look for the roses next time you visit us!

**CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
AND OF THE HOLY FACE
Danville, Pennsylvania
Sr. Angela Pikus, OCD**



Special news in the first quarter of this year is our welcoming of two sisters from the Carmel of Buea, Cameroon.

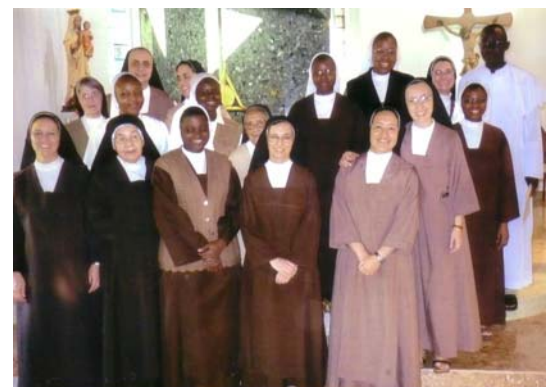
The prioress, Sr. Rosa, and Sr. Angelica arrived at Maria Hall on February 18 at 1:45 a.m. after a flight delay. We had prepared with excitement for their coming, but there were some things we couldn't prepare for. Sr. Angelica was in need of surgery and with the great generosity of one of our doctor friends at the Geisinger Medical Center, all arrangements were being made. But we didn't know the day and time of surgery or the length of stay; and their visas had a time limit. But God's Providence took over! Within ten hours



Sr. Chris Partisano, CSJ with, left to right: Srs. Carolyn, Michaelene, Marie Gertrude and Ellen Mary.

and strategies to which we will give our energies. We are pleased with our work and the perspective it gives us.

Several of us attended a day at Graymoor in April sponsored by the Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities (MACC). Fr. Joseph Komonchak spoke on "Vatican II, the Contemporary Debate." His presentation encompassed the years from the announcement of the Second Vatican Council in 1959 to its close in 1965 and on into



Buea Carmelites with Sr. Pat, second row, first on left

of thier arrival, Sr. Angelica had an appointment, which developed immediately into a pre-op set-up. The surgery was scheduled for three days later in the one surgical suite available. The surgery was successful and Angelica was discharged five days later to Maria Hall. It seemed every major step flowed easily, one after the other. We are still in amazement.

The sights and sounds of Buea Carmel, as well as the “flavor” of Africa, came into our community room via DVDs which Rosa brought. One, particularly impressive, was the solemn profession of Sr. Maria Teresa, a young sister from Italy, the one non-African sister among six others in formation. The celebration was in the cathedral with the Bishop of Buea as celebrant. The cathedral was packed with scores of Bueans in colorful African prints. There was music—drums, guitar and organ—with singing from every heart and soul.

God’s providence provided two beautiful snowfalls for our sisters so that the half dozen snowballs made earlier and frozen for a later display weren’t needed! This visit holds many wonderful, happy memories!

Our Pat returned to Maria Hall in April, grateful for the welcome, openness and love she experienced from the sisters in Buea, grateful for the understanding of the sacrifice of their lives to build Carmel in Africa. We keep contact with Rosa and the nuns and are blessed to have them as special sisters.

Annually, our Bishop recognizes and honors sisters who are celebrating jubilees during the year. The sisters at Maria Hall do likewise. So, Srs. Anne and Angela (55 years and 50 respectively) participated in the planned celebrations, both at the Diocesan Center



Jubilarians Srs. Anne (55 years) and Angela (50 years)

and at Maria Hall. It was wonderful to have a festive Mass, special meals and corsage two times!

Annually, too, we have a review of our accounts by Fr. Scott Wallenfels, our finance advisor, and Eileen O’Connell, consultant. They came on March 17 and shared the lightheartedness of the day.

Our Secular Carmelite group is in its 56th year, having been founded the first year after the sisters came to Mount Carmel from Loretto. The members are highly committed and participate actively in the monthly meetings. In March, a woman began her formation after one year as a guest; in April, another made her first promises while a prospective member came to observe. Three members of our group, with the formal approval and encouragement of the provincial delegate, began a “study group” in the Mansfield, PA area, near Danville. They have seven persons interested who attend the meetings regularly. The Secular Carmelite Order is growing!



Secular Third Order of Discalced Carmelites celebrates 56th year

CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Cleveland, Ohio
Sr. Barbara Losh, OCD



O u r
“quiet”
months of
winter and
e a r l y
s p r i n g

have been filled with activity of body, mind and spirit. We began by welcoming Fr. Michael Woost, a priest of our diocese, whose deep insight and knowledge of our Carmelite saints is a frequent blessing at our liturgies. We invited Mike to speak to us about St. Teresa’s **Life**. He chose to focus on Teresa’s growth in mystical understanding and self-knowledge from the time she wrote her **Life** to the writing of her **Interior Castle**. We are also viewing together a set of videos in Spanish (with subtitles) on the life of Teresa. These provide a good imaginative context for her experiences and help explain some of her opinions.

In March Deacon Joe Jensen, friend of Pat Amhrein and professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity College and Georgetown University, came for a mini-course on the Wisdom books of the Bible. What a wealth of knowledge and understanding he possesses, and what an interesting life he leads!

Closely following Joe’s week with us, we spent a weekend in the good company of Don Buggert, O.Carm. exploring the question, “Who is this man, Jesus?” Don, gifted teacher that he is, prepared us in a beautiful way for Holy Week and Easter. Our good friend, Howard Gray, SJ was the presider this year at our Triduum and Easter liturgies. Presently stationed at Georgetown, Howard has family in Cleveland. It is our joy to pray with him.

Repairs, improvements and maintenance are ever with us! In February we undertook needed kitchen renovation. We replaced sinks and countertops and

reconfigured some cupboard space to make room for a dishwasher. Confirmation of the latter decision came when a hitherto unknown benefactor came to the door to ask for a Mass and ended up writing a check to cover the cost of the dishwasher! We completed this project with



Sr. Rosemary enjoys the kitchen improvements

the application of 3M Scotchguard Ultra Durable Floor Finish to our existing tile and linoleum floors in the refectory, kitchen, hallway and provisory. We are fairly pleased with the final result, but if you ever consider doing this, call us first!

Water began seeping up between the slate tiles of our chapel floor in February. We discovered that damaged mortar in the brickwork outside the chapel was to blame. We continue to keep an eye out for any further wetness. Through the summer we will have painting, sewer work and a large window replacement done.

Through a grant from the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), we had two development consultants, Sisters of St. Joseph from Baden, PA for two days in late April. Srs. Madeline Franze and Mary McFadden were warm and easy to be with, yet also very professional. Their wide experience, the clarity and down-to-earth manner of their presentation to community, and their help in tailoring a development plan both specific to our needs and very doable were all outstanding.

Many of our sisters recently toured the beautiful retirement/healthcare facility of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, located about twenty

minutes from us. Their property includes a renovated motherhouse which has been turned into individual apartments for sisters, their congregational infirmary, a new nursing care facility, and an assisted living area, all of which are connected by indoor walkways. We enjoyed their hospitality and are grateful for their invitation to consider coming to them should the need arise among us.

We enjoyed a Sunday afternoon with our Secular Order group, who now only meet at the monastery twice a year. The group has grown considerably in the past two years, after moving to the Akron/Canton area and attracting new members there. We will see them again in the fall for their annual retreat with clothing and profession ceremonies.



Sr. Jean Marie chats with a Secular Order member

Right before I sent this, our **SISTER ANNAMAE** died, and we are now preparing to celebrate her new life. We count on your prayers and are so grateful for your love and support. Her love for CCA and all of you was so much a part of her life.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Concord, New Hampshire

Sr. Hilary Case, OCD



As we reflect on the past few months, we have quite a bit

to share with you.

On the Feast of the Baptism in January, Sr. Hilary Case made her first profession. The Baptism of Jesus served as a model for Sr. Hilary as she professed her vows and Sr. Claudette received them. For each professed sister, the feast was a call to renew vows and commitments. Fr. John Sledziona, CM was presider and homilist, and each sister in the community played a part in the liturgy. Four sisters from Boston Carmel joined us: Sr. Mary Clare, Sr. Juanita, Sr. Agnes and Sr. Gabriel. Brother Chuck represented the friars from Brighton. Several members of the Secular Order were present, and Annette Cuvellier, prioress, took all the pictures for us. We were also glad to see our friend and helpful social worker, Janet O'Connell. After the beautiful and powerful Mass, we all gathered in our two parlors to relax, enjoy catered sandwiches, and in general, have a party. It was a good day.



Sr. Hilary's profession day. Left to right: Srs. Teresa, Fr. John Sledziona, Srs. Hilary and Claudette

During lent, the sisters took a short but intense course in Theological Anthropology. Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM, professor of theology at Boston College, coordinated the course and presented "Theological Anthropology: Implications for Spirituality." Dr. Shawn Copeland, also professor of theology at Boston College, presented "Jesus: Model and Savior of Humanity." Dr. Mary K. Hines, professor of theology at Emmanuel College, presented "The Theological Anthropology of *Gaudium et Spes* and Women in the Church." We loved their challenging presentations, and we also shared the joys and woes of doing the homework, as each professor gave us a selection of articles to read in preparation for her class. As Mary Ann is president-elect of the Theological Society of America, we want to say a special thank you to her for taking the time to coordinate this course, and we also thank our Sr. Claudette for working with Mary Ann to make the course possible.

The Easter season was one of growth and change for us. In April, Sr. Normagene of Barrington Carmel spent a week with us to help Mary Frances, our new librarian, organize the books and work with the computer's library program. Of course, she also came to have fun with all of us, especially at supper where she regaled us with her ideas for the mystery she's writing. She was with us for our annual Mass and reception for the Carmelite Guild on Sunday, April 18. It was hard to let her go when Sr. Genevieve came to pick her up the next day!

This year, the Knights of Columbus began a new program to encourage vocations. Thus, on May 1, the Knights hosted Sr. Louise, our vocation directress, and the three sisters in initial formation, Sr. Miryam Kathleen, Sr. Hilary and Mary Frances, at their annual convention banquet at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, NH. To put it mildly, this was a new experience for us! The Knights and their families had assembled from all over New Hampshire, and we saw plumes and swords galore! On a deeper level, we were

struck by the warmth of their hospitality. As we sat at our table with three seminarians from the Diocese of Manchester, many Knights came over to greet us, and we found out that different groups of Knights had raised money to support our education. Their dedication to supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life was also deeply moving to us. The Knights implied (and we agreed) that the evening was actually the beginning of an ongoing relationship, not only with the Concord Knights, but with Councils of Knights all over the state of New Hampshire. All this took place just as Sr. Louise had begun working with Janet O'Connell and a committee of sisters to update our vocation publicity and brainstorm about vocations. The Knights certainly have encouraged us to continue this work.

I end this letter as I began, with a profession. On Saturday, May 8, Celeste Lussier, OCDS made her first promises in our chapel, and Annette Cuvellier received them. Afterwards, the Secular Order and the community gathered in our parlors and the outquarters kitchen to celebrate and eat a potluck lunch of lasagna, salads and scrumptious desserts. We are delighted to welcome Celeste to our Carmelite Family, and we are pleased that the Secular Order is growing and doing well.

As we head into our gardens to weed and plant for the season, we wish you much joy for the summer season.

**CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS
Reno, Nevada**

Sr. Rosalind Bliss Forrest, OCD



This will be a short entry due to a very busy time on many levels. As we look ahead to 2015 and the centenary celebration for St. Teresa, we've begun to think of ways that we can share with our extended community and the diocese of Reno. How might Teresa relate and speak to the people of Nevada today? That is one of our many questions.

We chose to begin our community retreat in preparation for Pentecost early this year and were fortunate enough to have Elaine Park come and share with us on "Women in the Gospel of John." Her enthusiasm, knowledge and love of scripture truly were inspiring. When she shared her reflections on the scriptures of the day at our Sunday liturgy, our extended community was extraordinarily attentive and their feedback echoes our own experience: we would love to have her come back! Next time for more than a weekend, if possible. As part of her input, Elaine suggested ways that we might continue to reflect during the solitude days of our retreat. She led us in several short exercises, one of which was to reflect for ten minutes on someone or something from the Wedding Feast of Cana and then write a short poem to be shared aloud, if willing. What a rich diversity came forth! Two of the sisters are willing to share their poems here.

Jesus at the Wedding

The Tables seem so full
Yet I sense a lack somewhere
Ah yes, the wine is getting low
But this is not the time.
Shall I sit in silence
in my fear of beginning?
Let the host figure something out
I am only a guest.
My mother knows and sees my fear
my wanting
to wait the time. She understands.
Will she begin my mission, my strong
mother?

Waiting

I am the Hour
not yet come.

I am the glass
half-filled.

I am the jar
of waiting water

I am the Mother, waiting,
watching her Son.

I am the Son,
beginning and end
of all waiting.

Elaine flew out Sunday evening. Claire flew out Monday morning to go to Oklahoma for the joint-council meeting of friars and nuns. Our retreat then had sounds of violent winds from midnight on, and then a crash around 6:30 a.m. Our beautiful old Blue Spruce was uprooted and all 57 feet of it fell not against our roof but in between a young Incense Cedar and two other trees. The very top landed on the railing of our small deck. The photo shows the handiwork of our friend, Steve, standing with Sr. Rose. That



Sr. Rose with Steve and one pile of three that was shredded from our noble tree.

was only one of three piles of shredding from our noble tree. Although we are still picking up after that storm, which had sustained winds of over 50 mph for many hours, we sustained no major damage, for which we give thanks.

Happy Summer and Ordinary Time!

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THÉRÈSE Barrington, Rhode Island Sr. Roseann Gillice, OCD



Greetings! May the joy of the Risen Christ brighten each

member of his Body!

As Sr. Marian announced to ocdnorthamerica, our dear friend and faithful extern helper, Ruth de Mello, returned home to God on February 2, 2010, feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Her father did landscaping at Carmel when the nuns lived in Newport.



Ruth de Mello

Since about age four, Ruth frequented Carmel with her father at work and her mother at Mass in the chapel. She lived a dedicated, personal life with God and never stinted in giving of herself. Ruth worked for years as our community extern. The most wonderful memory of those at the wake and funeral recalled Ruth's love, fairness, thoughtfulness and sensitivity in dealing with people of all ages. She is still present to us and watching over us: we have four women who volunteer to help us when possible.

Also on February 2, we celebrated **SR. EILEEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENTRANCE INTO THE CARMEL OF BETHLEHEM**, which is a short distance from her family home in Palestine. The translation of the Greek title of this feast seemed so appropriate for the happenings of this day, "Feast of the Meeting."

Please pray for the people of Rhode Island who still feel the destructive effects of the floods. Cars and dumpsters were everywhere in the streets; some people had four feet of water in their homes; two sewage treatment plants were damaged; small businesses without help were cleaning up on their own. One lady employed 25 people; she needed \$20,000 to clear the sludge and begin again. FEMA asked her to send the records of her past months' bills to determine the help available. She said, "They're floating!" **SR. PATRICIA AND SR. SUSAN** celebrated their birthdays on April 18. It was Patricia's 90th and Susan's 86th. A surprise visit was planned by Patricia's relatives who drove eight hours from Virginia and three to four from Maine and New Hampshire on the 17th. They arrived in time for a picnic party that evening with all the fixings! The surprise was that everyone kept the surprise! It was a delightful celebration.

Susan's nephew will be visiting soon, since he will be in the area on business. Susan's home was in Kentucky, and family members are settled mainly in the South. Though far away,



Sr. Patricia's SURPRISE 90th BIRTHDAY with family and community

distance is shortened by their love and devotion to her.

Fr. Martin is a priest friend of Helen, our candidate. Both are from Cameroon, but did not know each other until meeting in the States. He attends Cambridge College in Boston and is studying for his master's degree in psychology and counseling. His last visit happily coincided with our birthday celebrations, and he was the presider and homilist for the Sunday liturgy, a wonderful experience of "Do this in memory of me."

JUBILARIANS

Also on April 18 in the afternoon, the diocesan celebration for jubilarians was held. **Sr. Jean—60th** and **Sr. Anne Marie—50th** joined the many honored. Anne has chosen June 12, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for a public liturgy in our chapel.

Creation's weather performance on April 22, Earth Day, could have won an award. It was all a spring day could offer, then thunder sounded in the distance, lightning and thunder advanced followed by torrential rain with hailstones spread on the picnic tables. With the same suddenness, the sun reappeared with gorgeous weather but was followed by an encore of lightning, thunder and rain and a welcome return of the sun. Then came the finale, the rainbow, sign of God's covenant with the earth and us.

On April 26 an opportunity arose for Helen to connect with her Uncle Henry who had flown from Cameroon to Washington, DC on business. When one is so far from one's country, this was another chance for a taste of home. God is so good in providing for us! This allowed Helen to also meet our Baltimore sisters who welcomed her. The time, though

short, was mutually enriching.

We are in the throes of de-cluttering. We do it big by renting an extra large dumpster. It is really interesting to discover what was being saved, things we didn't even know we had! Sound familiar?

We were happy to hear from Father General at Easter. We found Fr. Saverio's brotherly letter to us to be identical with our own desires and have set aside meetings to ponder his message together. We are sending a letter of gratitude in appreciation and an invitation to visit us whenever possible.

Teresian Reflections Welcome!

Preparing for the Fifth Centenary
of the Birth of St. Teresa

Please send contributions to:

OCD Generalate Webpage
www.paravosnaci.com