



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 33, Issue 2 Oct 2011



FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

October 2011

Dear Sisters,

The beautiful month of October is upon us. Creation begins to dress for Fall and in some places Winter has already arrived. Within our CCA communities, celebrations of life and death as well as the daily rhythm of our lives of prayer lead us to reflect on the seasons in our own souls.

Mark your calendars for our national assembly to be held April 24 - 30, 2012, which includes travel days. Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, MD is the location. It is a lovely, peaceful setting approximately 30 minutes from Baltimore. A ministry of the Sisters of Bon Secours, it is a state-of-the-art retreat and conference center. Its spacious pastures and woodlands include a labyrinth and peace grounds. To catch a sneak peek of the place, Google them - Bon Secours Spiritual Center. (We can't put a web address in the newsletter). Our speakers will be Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF and Sr. Fran Horner, OCD. Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS from the National Religious Retirement Office will also be a presenter. Since it has been three years since our last national meeting, we anticipate that many of you will be attending. Carmelites always enjoy being together. We hope to see you in April 2012.

Change continues to be a part of our world. Nations of the Middle East and North Africa struggle to achieve their freedom after years of oppression. Natural disasters including famines, floods, fires and earthquakes alter people's lives forever. Here in our own country the search persists for a solution to the economic woes of financial crisis and unemployment. We are with all in solidarity through our prayer. In Carmel, our prayer makes us present everywhere. Borders do not prevent us from being at the side of our suffering brothers and sisters.

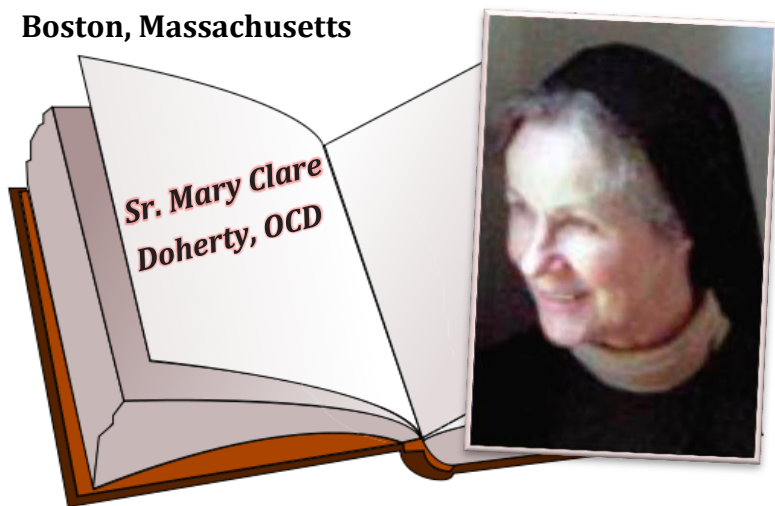
As we prepare for the feast of our Holy Mother Teresa, let us imitate her spirit and zeal in our quest for union with God as we continue our journey on the Mountain of Carmel.

Your sister,

Judy

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Boston, Massachusetts



At 1:40 AM on July 21st, at Marian Manor in South Boston, our Sr. Catherine of the Trinity "finished the race." Catherine had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for many years; the last four she spent in Marian Manor under the loving care of the Carmelites for the Aged and Infirm. We visited with her each week. Sisters Bernadette Therese and Mary Teresa had been to see her the day before she died.

Carlos Suarez, who had been Catherine's social worker before he entered the seminary, came to say Mass for us the day after her death. Sister was waked in our choir, one day for the community and the following day for the public. Her funeral on the 25th, was celebrated by Bishop Hennessey who was joined by a number of clergy. Kevin Culligan, OCD gave the homily.

Our sisters from Concord and Barrington joined us along with Sr. Catherine's many nieces, relatives, and friends, for a final send-off that gave every sign of Sr. Catherine, herself, being actively present. The last hymn, sung on our way to the crypt, was a rousing rendition of *When*

the Saints Go Marching In. Then we invited everyone to the garden for lunch where one of Sr. Catherine's young relatives, about six years of age, treated us to Irish step-dancing, a fitting farewell to one whose life was a celebration in God.

We had already bid another joyful and sorrowful farewell to dear Sr. Jeannie of Barrington, whose life was also characterized by joy. Some of us were able to get to her wake and others to her funeral the following day.

During the month of July, Sr. Jeanne-Marie had the opportunity to attend a workshop on vocational discernment given by Ray Carey in Chicago.

Fr. Tom Stegman SJ, from BC, preached our triduum in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to a full chapel, and we

were happy to note that at least half the congregation was Haitian, Cape Verdean, and Hispanic, reflecting the population of our neighborhood.

We were given an outdoor statue of the Holy Family by Bernadette Therese's sister Claire and brother-in-law Mark in honor of a friend of theirs who passed away.

The facial features of the

statue are beautiful and extremely delicate.

A member of the Secular Order, who belongs to a garden club and felt her grounds were in need of thinning, invited us to come and dig up any perennials we wanted. We very gratefully filled the van with an assortment of perennials. She assured us that this was a standing invitation.



On September 8th, we had a double cause for joy and gratitude, the feast of Mary's Nativity and the occasion of our Sr. Agnes of Jesus renewing her vows. Fr. Raymond Maher O.Carm came for Mass. He is presently working as a chaplain at the Veteran's Hospital in Brockton, here in Massachusetts and has agreed to give a class for our ICFP this coming year.

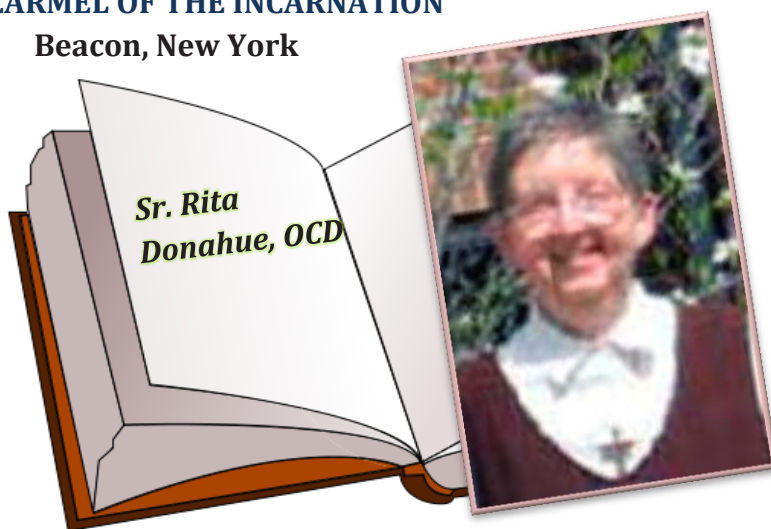
We recently watched a DVD, a segment of the book *A Privileged Planet*, which you might appreciate seeing if you have not already seen it. Also we found an article on Therese entitled "Prayer, Pain, and Priestly Privilege" by Steffen Losel in *The Journal of Religion*, July, 2008 issue interesting.

Our photos of the triduum in July were taken by John Souza, a friend and professional photographer.



CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York



Summer seems most remembered for its extraordinary weather pattern ranging from extreme heat and humidity to earthquake and hurricane. We survived tolerably well and hope all of you did as well.

Sisters Michaelene, Carolyn and Marjorie attended a workshop for musicians sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York on June 22 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scarsdale. They brought home a selection of music books with newly composed and revised settings to accommodate the upcoming new English translation of the Roman Missal.

Fr. Michael Berry OCD was our celebrant on July 16 for the Feast for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He creatively imaged the three Mass Readings as a triptych in his homily. Michael's parents who live in nearby Rockland County were among the many who attended the Mass.

Tremors from the earthquake in Virginia reached us the afternoon of August 23. Some of us felt the floor moving under a chair or under our feet, or felt a desk shake, or heard rumblings in a wall. Fortunately the building suffered no damage. We were on a break from a meeting with our facilitator Sr. Chris Partisano, CSJ. We immediately went to the TV where our suspicion of "earthquake" was confirmed.

Hurricane Irene visited us August 27 & 28 with ferocious winds and torrential rain. Our already fragile road washed out in a couple of places due to cascading water from the reservoir on Mount Beacon. New streams sprang up where the water met obstruction from debris etc., thus altering its usual course. The road has been repaired and reinforced but further work will be needed. We recently had to cancel visitors as the work was scheduled from 7:00 am until 12:00 Noon and the road could not be used. As you can guess, it is our only access for coming in and going out.

Several of us went to Graymoor on Friday August 26 to hear Sr. Sandra De Masi, SSJ and Rev. Msgr. Richard Gronki speak on The Implementation of The Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal, a workshop hosted by the Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities (MACC). Sr. Sandra is currently working toward a doctorate at Catholic University, Washington DC in liturgy and catechesis. Msgr. Gronki is the founding director of the Diocesan Worship Office in Newark, NJ which has served as a national model in many ways. They used a PowerPoint presentation to accompany their talk. Their love for the liturgy was evident as they conveyed their material from the perspective of many viewpoints. They answered questions, and welcomed discussion on this topic, so significant for us and for all the church.

Sr. Aletha marked her Golden Jubilee of Profession on Sept. 1st with a quiet community celebration, an "easy low key day" as she desired. Fr. Bob Langone, SA, was celebrant for Mass during which Aletha renewed her vows. At the end of Mass she gave a poignant reflection of her vocation to Carmel and its unfolding over the years. The day was special by its very nature and we all enjoyed it with her.



Michaelene receiving Aletha's vows

Sr. Roseann from Barrington Carmel made her retreat here in August, finishing so as to join us in celebrating Aletha's Jubilee. Roseann contributed a "Toast" to the festivities at the celebration's dinner.

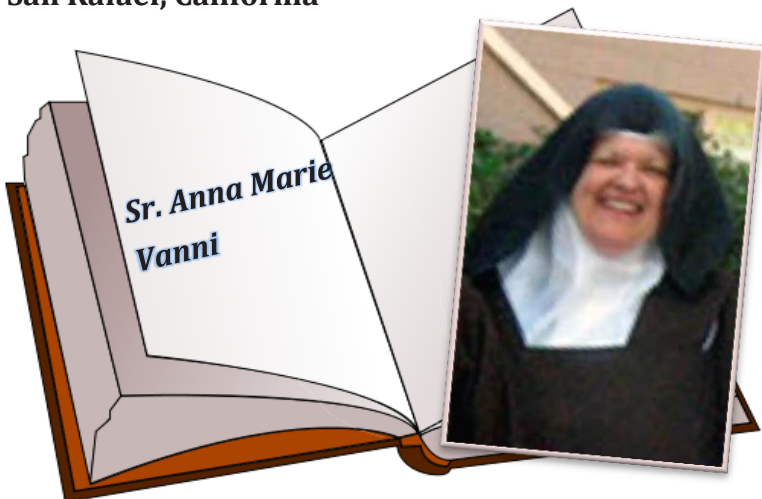
Brother Sean Sammon, FMS, a former superior general of the Marist brothers and former president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men is a Scholar in-Residence at nearby Marist College in Poughkeepsie. NY. He presented a conference for us September 6 and 7, on the topics of Religious Life in the Church Today, Human and Spiritual Growth, and Life in Community.

Charism was also one of the elements that Bro. Sean highlighted in relation to religious life. He left us with new insights for our reflection on the three topics he covered.

Happy October Feasts of St. Therese and Holy Mother St. Teresa, and have a pleasant fall season!



CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
San Rafael, California



Fall greetings to all our Sisters in CCA.

We just finished our Novena to St. Thérèse, which was very well attended by our friends from all over Marin and Sonoma Counties. Father James Pickett, a priest from the neighboring Diocese of Oakland, and a wonderful friend of the community, was the celebrant and homilist for all nine days. His homilies brought out a different aspect of St. Thérèse's life and the effect that she has on us today, with themes including: childhood nurturing, need for community, love, comfort, mercy, consolation, joy & peace, death & victory. Everyone who attended remarked on how peaceful the days were and the joyful feeling of St. Thérèse's presence to us all.

Thank you for your prayers for Mother Dolores. She came through her first cataract surgery very well and is awaiting her second surgery on October 24th. It will be good for her to have a new distance lens in both eyes. Right now, it is quite difficult for her

to read, but, she can manage quite well on the computer. Mother Dolores is thrilled with all the new bright colors she is able to see once again. Please continue the wonderful prayers.

We are coming down the home stretch in the preparations for our Fall Jam Sale. We have finished making the Sweet Pickles and Garlic Dill Pickles, Pear-Apple Sauce, Apricot Jam, Strawberry Jam, Plum-Pear Jam and have just one more batch of Bumbleberry Jam to finish. (It is made with every kind of berry we are given or have grown ourselves.) Father Ramiro Casale, OCD and the Carmelite Brothers from Mount St. Joseph Seminary in San Jose, will be coming to help us jam this week. They came this past summer to help us make 125 jars of Bumbleberry Jam in one afternoon. This will make a total of 1,200 jars for the sale.

We are also canning our tremendous crop of tomatoes. We make tomato (spaghetti) sauce for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, the resident raccoons helped themselves to all our pears, plums, pomegranates,



Kitchen Jamming Session with our Carmelite Brothers

figs and persimmons, breaking quite a few branches in the process. Oh well, we must continue to bless our beloved creatures as well.

Starting today, we are beginning our rainy season, a month earlier than usual. We are actually rejoicing, since we haven't had any rain since June. With all the wind storms and flooding happening on the East coast, our prayers have been with the Carmels that may have been affected. Our thoughts and prayers have been with all, that St. Joseph guide, protect and bless our Carmelite Sisters everywhere.

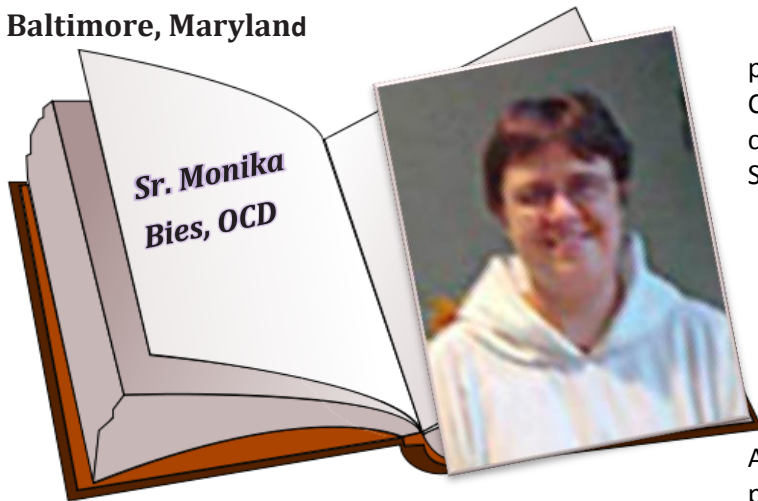


Sr. Anna Marie's Mother visiting with Mother Dolores

Much love, Sr. Anna Marie & Sisters



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART Baltimore, Maryland



We have spent much time and energy on the further development of our website; we hope to “go live” with our new site in mid-November. We resumed our Young Adult Prayer (YAP) program in September. As in the past we are inviting young adults age 18-35 to join us every other Thursday evening to learn contemplation in the Carmelite tradition.

It continues to be a great gift for us to be able to walk with them as they explore their deep seated desire for God and their love for God’s people.

We are happy to have a young woman living with us for a month of extended discernment. Over a week-end in September she was joined by two other women, who are also exploring a possible call to our community. One of them lives in Baltimore and has been a faithful participant of our YAP Program. The other young woman lives out of state, but has spent some weekends with us. All of them are participating, either in person or through Skype, in our weekly Saturday formation class on “The Way of Perfection.”

We would be grateful if you could keep them and us in your prayers, as we discern with these young women God’s call in their lives.

On August 31, 1961 the nuns of Baltimore Carmel moved from Caroline and Biddle Streets (Baltimore City) to our

present location, Dulaney Valley Road (Baltimore County). We celebrated the 50th anniversary of contemplative presence at this site with Sunday Mass on September 4.

Sisters Ignatius Reichert and Mary Eileen McNamara celebrated their 70th jubilee on June 18. The Mass was followed by a picnic for their extended families and friends. All who joined us for this very happy occasion were deeply moved by our sisters’ long lives of fidelity to their Carmelite vocations.

A joy-filled Sunday Mass, with Fr. Don Cozzens as our presider, marked another festive occasion: On August 14, Sr. Colette Ackerman celebrated her 50th jubilee with the wider community, her family and friends. A dinner for her family on Saturday evening and a reception after Mass marked this milestone. In her reflection at the end of Mass, Sr. Colette shared with us how she first felt drawn to solitude:

Time of thanksgiving...

I think I first discovered the allure of solitude when I was five years old and spent a summer living on Sullivan’s Island, off the coast of Charleston. That island is the first geographical place that shaped my inner life—roaming the jetties and the sandy swamps—surrounded by the ocean. I think I felt God’s presence filling a space within me; something happened that moved me beyond myself. I became aware of a bigger picture, a universe, which I knew was tethered to the small, every-day, unpretentious pieces of life. Later on when I discovered Carmelite saints and Carmelite texts, and understood better

the descriptions of intimacy with God, I somehow knew Carmel’s geography would be the ground connecting these worlds for me. “My beloved is the mountains, strange islands, sounding solitude.” These icons of mountain, cave, desert, garden have been formative for my soul and my life, the ground of my everyday being in prayer, connecting me to the pain and joy of this world.



Srs Ignatius & Mary Eileen
celebrate their 70th jubilee

Entering the monastery on Biddle Street, where I lived for just nine months before moving here to Dulaney Valley, the quotation on my monastic cell door was a familiar verse from the writings of St John of the Cross: In the evening of life you will be judged by love. I think of these words today because they are still a symbol of what encourages me. The profound call to solitude, prayer and rootedness in following Jesus is all for love.

One extravagant portion of God's love is, of course, human love. I have been blessed with family, friends, community beyond all measure. The reading from Ruth is one of my favorites because it shows true devotion, the cosmic force of staying with the other through thick and thin, for the long haul. And Jesus, in the gospel, returning, coming back to his friends and disciples after his death.

Thinking back to when I joined the community, many of the women I lived with had entered around the First World War. That means I have known sisters who span about 100 years of the community's life. What a blessing it has been to live this treasured life, chosen and cherished by generations of women who have gone before us and renewed in our own life here.

Many years ago I was tending a garden outside in the courtyard and went in to the belvedere, where I suddenly heard little chirps. There in a flower pot nest were four baby wrens with mouths wide open. For a moment I was transported to the garden of Eden. Or was it the garden of Carmel? Or a moment of knowing the



"really real?" It has remained for me an image and experience of God's extravagant, persuasive, intimate love... The yearning for something more we all know.

I am so happy to celebrate that love today with all of you. The scroll of Ruth, our first reading, "reminds us that nothing is more beautiful than friendship, that grace

begets grace, that blessing flourishes in the place between memory and hope" ... Even when we feel broken or in need of forgiveness.

Let us continue to celebrate this friendship.

On August 2, the Carmelite Community of the Word (Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA), their Associates and two close friends of their community (Little Sisters of Jesus) came to visit us. This year they are

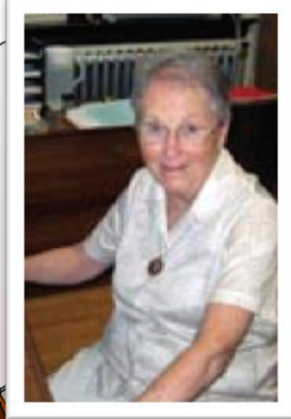
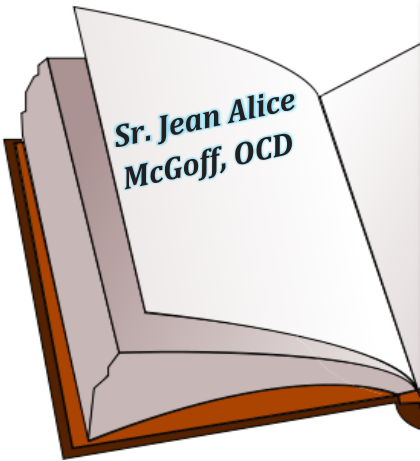
celebrating the 40th anniversary of their foundation and the 10th anniversary of their approval as a diocesan community. The Sisters and their Associates wanted to make a Carmelite pilgrimage in order to deepen their roots and knowledge of the Carmelite tradition. They visited Port Tobacco, then spent a night at a local retreat house before arriving at our monastery. We spent a grace filled day with them that started off with a picnic-style dinner. In the afternoon Sister Connie FitzGerald gave the Carmelite Sisters an extended tour of the archives, while our other visitors continued to enjoy the time with us and with each other.

The day concluded with Vespers in our chapel.



CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana



Sisters. Meg Funk, osb, shared her most interesting life story as a basis for the theme of the meeting, *Praying Life's Events*. She also shares this story in her recent book, *Out of the Depths*.



On July 10 Jean Alice presided at the yearly rituals (reception of scapular and promises) for the Carmelite Secular Order in Indianapolis.

Several of us went to Terre Haute for the funeral of Sr. Margaret Ann Smutzki who died very suddenly on July 8. As always, everything was beautifully done, including the catered meal that ended the afternoon. We will also attend the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Martha Hall on October 8.



In the context of morning liturgy on August 18, the community signed a legal and canonical covenant with the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg. When we are no longer able to administer our affairs, our assets will be taken over by the Sisters and they will care for us until we have made "the final move" to Heaven.

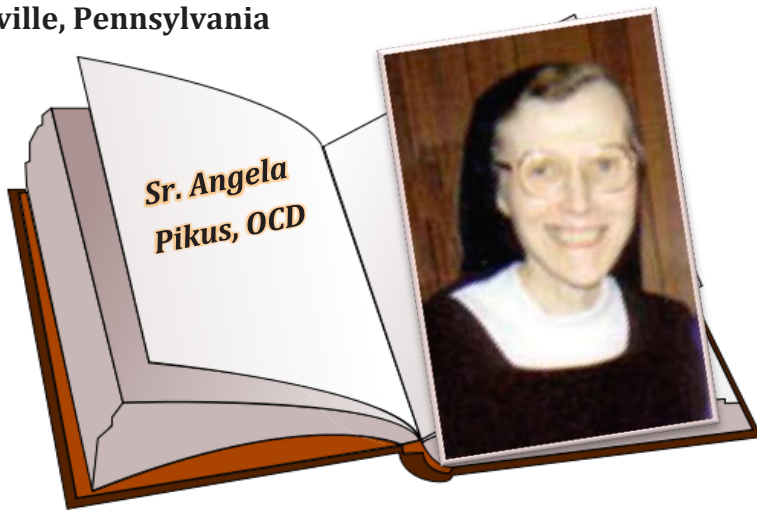
Marcie and Jean Alice drove to Maria Stein, Ohio, in mid-September to participate in the biennial meeting of the Central Region of the Association of Contemplative

Our very dry summer has been followed by lots of rain. It seems to come during the night and the daily sunshine and acres of turning trees are creating a beautiful fall. The marking of the Church year with seasons and feasts is enhanced for us by the various Franciscan celebrations and those of this quaint little town. Octoberfest is next.



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND OF THE HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania



*Lay all your cares about the future trustingly
in God's hands,
and let yourself be guided by the Lord
just like a little child.*

The words of St. Teresa Benedicta, Edith Stein, could be a summary of the development in Sister Josephine's own spiritual life as she lived decade after decade in Carmel. Through many years of prayer and service, Sr. Josephine came to a great simplicity of spirit, a childlike belief in God's care and a joy of heart that revealed itself plainly, particularly through the last days of her life.

Today we celebrate Sr. Josephine's life and vocation. We give thanks to God for His work of grace in her life, for the many talents He had given her, for the service that she gave to

the Church through her life of contemplative prayer and through her translations, making known St. Teresa Benedicta to the English-speaking world.

Reviewing Sr. Josephine's life of 90 years is an experience in inclusiveness. She counted two countries as home, Switzerland and America; she embraced the contemplative life, while her interests and her writings went far beyond the cloister wall; she was comfortable speaking with archbishops, superiors general, editors of journals, and performing the simple manual tasks of community life.

She organized a travel bureau before entering Carmel; and then entered the cloister of Carmel; during World War II she served in a USO in Indiantown Gap helping soldiers who were soon to be sent to the battle front in Europe. Praying for them was a prelude to her life of prayer.

She lived for six months in the beautiful, spacious Carmel in Cologne, Germany with its large choir and broad hallways, studying the Edith Stein archives. But her office in Elysburg Carmel was a tiny room where everything, she would proudly say, was within reach from her chair [not to exert energy uselessly!].

More importantly, she was inclusive of people and their needs, their sorrows, their joys. Her prayer was for all who asked; her smile was there for everyone; she made friends quickly.

The Koeppel family in Lebanon, Pennsylvania was close-knit; she spoke affectionately of Mom and Pop and was close to her one brother, Otto, four years her senior. The family was proud of their Swiss background, sang Swiss folk songs, faithfully attended Mass and devotions, and worked hard.

Even then, a mild Klara Koeppel showed signs of leadership. She loved to read and her brother loved to listen to her; so, on cleaning days, she would pick up a book and start reading, while Otto agreeably did the chores. She explained that she and Otto would move

from room to room, she continuing to read and he continuing to work.

Klara served as organist at St. Gertrude's Church in Lebanon, and at Mary, Gate of Heaven Church in Myerstown. When she spoke of these years, it was always with fond memories of the pastors and the faithful.

In 1948, Sr. Josephine entered the Carmel of Loretto, Pennsylvania, and a year after solemn profession became one of the founding members of the Monastery of the Sacred Heart and of the Holy Face in Elysburg.

Her name in religion, Josephine, was given to her in this way: the Carmel in Loretto had no sister named Joseph, and the Superior General of the Order, visiting at the time, commented that there ought to be a "Sister Joseph."

It is the custom in our Carmels to give a title following the name; so the General's title, "of St. Teresa" was given to her also. This name, Josephine pleased her and she fostered throughout her life a devotion to St. Joseph.

There was a 9 inch statue of St. Joseph in her work room, "forever" as they say. When she was critically ill we brought it to her bedside; she reached out for it, clutched it to herself with a big hug and smiled.

We knew that everything was well with her, more than well.

The Carmel in Loretto had helped the Carmel of Cologne during the difficult years of World War II and a bond between the two monasteries was formed. The Cologne prioress sent a copy of St. Edith Stein's book, *Life in a Jewish Family*, to the Loretto nuns. Sr. Josephine was the only one who could read it and she realized that it would

be good to make Edith known in America. It was that simply -- her work of translating began.

The first writing of Edith which Sr. Josephine translated was "The Mystery of Christmas", a short essay which revealed Edith's love for the mystery of the Incarnation, the coming of God in the Infant Jesus. Christmas was special to Josephine; she kept in her room, throughout the year a small, waxen statue of the Infant molded in such way as to be lying, curled up on the right side as a baby might sleep. To her this statue signified abandonment, safety, rest in the arms of the Father.

Translating Edith Stein's life, the letters and *The Science of the Cross*, and collaborating with Susan Batzdorff, Edith's niece in writing and translating, was a labor of love for her.

Often, Sr. Josephine would begin a conversation with the pronoun 'she', e. g. "when she was in Cologne Carmel." We instantly

knew to whom she was referring: that is how absorbed Sr. Josephine was in her work and in her personal prayer relationship with Edith Stein.

There is one comment which I would like to share. It was made by Edith's niece, Susan Batzdorff, upon hearing of Josephine's death.

"Her life was well lived and she has contributed a great deal to Edith Stein biography and scholarship which will survive her for a long time."

The contact between Sr. Josephine and Susan Batzdorff spanned 33 years. Over the years of collaboration, they became close friends, regarding each other as sister.

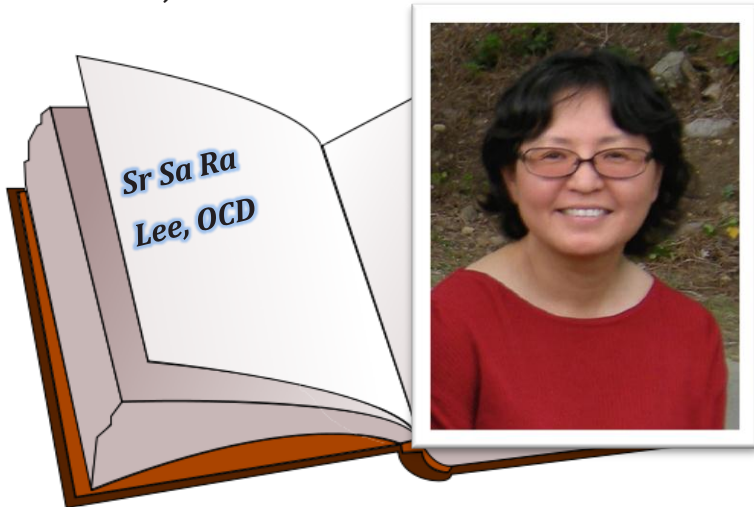
We have many blessed memories of Sr. Josephine, many happy memories and much gratitude to God for her life and His goodness revealed through her.

May she be rejoicing with Him and the saints forever. Amen.



CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Reno, Nevada



Greetings from Reno Carmel!

With the rhythm of the liturgical Season, our events and blessings have followed one after another. Time has flown quickly since spring. We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were having Fr. Don Cozzens for our retreat. He gave us a message of "Faith, Hope and Love." He has the gift of seeing life in fresh ways.

Susan Terry came in June and facilitated a discussion within our community regarding future changes. Under her guidance, we considered finance, eldercare, new membership and ministries. This workshop helped us to better understand how to manage our community life. Our sharing together provided us with some very creative processes and resources. We will have a follow up in October to ensure further progress in these areas.

Theological Reflection has been a graced time when we reflect on our faith through sharing on various subjects. On the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel we shared our thoughts about Mary. It was touching to hear of the depth of love for Mary that each Sister has. It is Mary's simplicity that is so attractive to us and though we live in ordinary

circumstances we, also, can become more aware of the Spirit in our daily lives.

This summer we experienced many blessings. Roof construction started in the midst of hot weather in July. We are thankful for the generosity and love of so many people who helped us to carry out this project even in these difficult economic

times. It was amazing to see how modern equipment and techniques can construct a new roof in a short time. We are so grateful to all the hard working laborers who took pride in their work.



In June, the men and women who were preparing to become Lay Ecclesial ministers gathered in our chapel for a day of recollection. They had as their theme, "Holy Spirit, Flame of love, help us to keep your fire burning." Several Sisters gave short talks. They appreciated the time and space we offered to them. They are quite an inspiring group of dedicated people.

In August we welcomed a group of High School students who were in a CCD class from a faraway parish. Some of our parishes in Nevada are in towns that can be as far away as a 6 hour drive. They traveled 2 ½ hours to our monastery. They had never met nuns



before. It was wonderful to introduce them to our way of life and to pray with them.

On August 6th, the death of our dear Sister Rose Holland was a great loss and a great joy at the same time. She was 91 years old and had lived 71 years in Carmel. She was ready for her God. What struck us was how silently death came for her. Rose's passion for flowers, her love of Karl Rahner, her interest in the poor and her childlike pure heart will long remain in our hearts. The Transfiguration was a perfect Feast for her to go where she longed to go for so long.

The following week Sr. Claire's father died. He was a conductor of the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra for many years and taught hundreds of students. Papa Sokol was a great story teller. He visited us often with his daughter Jenny, so we have many beautiful memories of

him. We will miss his passion for music, stories and humor at our dining table. Papa Sokol was a great, loving and holy man and will be deeply missed by so many.

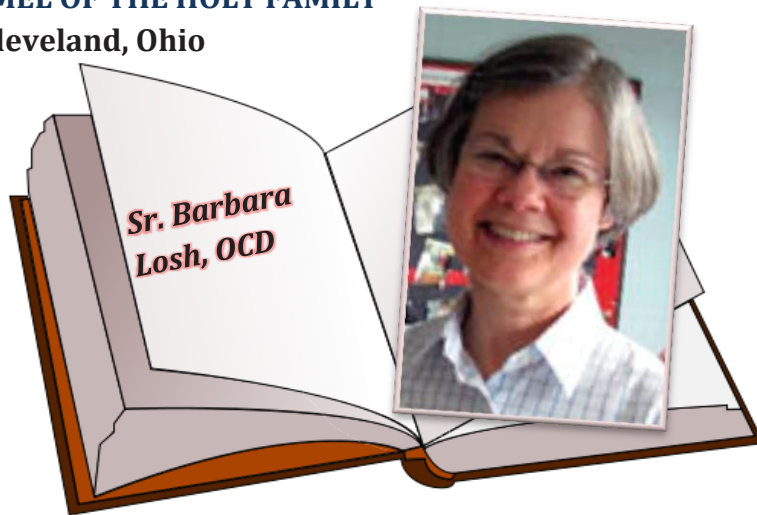
Now as the season changes, we are preparing for our Christmas card orders and we look forward with excitement to what the remainder of the year will bring.

*We wish you all a blessed
and bountiful autumn.*



CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Cleveland, Ohio



and tear. We also decided to replace curtains and purchase new chairs, so that the Guild Room will be an inviting place for them as well as other groups who come periodically. The Guild is taking care of the expense of this renovation, and we are forever grateful to them.

The week after Labor Day we welcomed our friend, Sister Dianne Bergant, CSA, professor of Sacred Scripture at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Dianne based her reflections with us on Second Isaiah, particularly the Suffering Servant Songs. She drew valuable insights from those

Perhaps in heaven we will understand why the days of summer pass so much more quickly than all the rest of the year. We have been blessed these months with ample rain, but no fires, floods, hurricanes or earthquakes. Our gardens, though wet, have produced good crops. We have been so very mindful of all in our country and our world who have been, and are, less fortunate than we.

This year our Carmelite Women's Guild is celebrating the 75th anniversary of their founding. Their basement meeting room sorely needed new flooring, due to repeated flooding through the years and regular wear



texts about the meaning of suffering, our commitment to religious life, openness to God's plans for us in the future, and our identification with Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection. It is a wonderful gift to be with Dianne, who understands Scripture so deeply and is able to help us uncover the meaning of God's Word in our own lives.

In early September we also celebrated Sister Anne Joan's "retirement" from the Workers' Compensation job our community held with the Diocese of Cleveland for thirty years. Many sisters participated in this work throughout those years, but Anne Joan was pretty much a constant presence, and became quite expert in her knowledge of the job. The Diocesan WC Office held a luncheon at the monastery to honor Anne Joan. Attending the celebration were the current Diocesan staff members, some of whom helped us get started with the work years ago.



Sr. Anne Joan with Jordan Ussai and Kathy Pierce

We were saddened by the unexpected death several weeks ago, of the president of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Sister Angelita Zawada, OSU. Angelita was a much loved woman, and a good friend to our community. She invited and welcomed our sister Rosemary into their infirmary when Rosie needed care, and had been a supportive and welcoming presence in all our lives ever since then. Angelita was only 68 years old, and died from complications of lymphoma.

In mid-September seven of our sisters from Latrobe came for a day's visit. We had a Golden Jubilee dinner, honoring both for the anniversary of their monastery and Sister Marie Elizabeth's jubilee. They gifted us with gorgeous sweet potatoes from their garden, and some of Sister Tanya's honey from contemplative bees. As a result we are all becoming sweeter. We had a wonderfully enjoyable time catching up with one another, and hope to return the visit next year.

We wish all of you much joy in the celebrations of our saints this month, and a grace-filled, peaceful fall.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THÉRÈSE Barrington, Rhode Island



It is challenging to recall the events and happenings in Barrington Carmel from Easter to the Fast of the Order. Reporting on these will be daunting. The name and picture are familiar. The John Deere tractor purchased in 1974 is a tale of detachment. Every season, the sisters would tell me it's time for us to purchase a new tractor and I would say it is still working, but this year was different. We now have a brand new tractor mower and the 212 model pictured with me, has moved on, perhaps to an antique shop, but not without my feelings of loss

Our community of 15 sisters celebrated with enthusiasm and joy the Paschal Mysteries this past April 22nd thru April 24th. Many of our faithful friends joined us for these liturgies.

Our sister, Jean Elliott, did not recover from her May 14th stroke. Her time in the hospital and in our infirmary gave all of us the opportunity to ponder anew the death and rising each of us has to welcome. Many nurses, health care personnel and friends assisted us in Jean's round the clock care. Jean's nieces, nephew and friends from her beloved Canada and here in the States were able to visit both in the hospital and in our infirmary. Although Jean was unable to speak, there was always her smile. You knew she was grateful to be so surrounded by our love. It was on June 17th that Jean's final breath came and we gathered at that sacred moment of passage to enter more fully into the new reality that we are now 14 here in Barrington and 7 in their eternal resting place. Her wake, prayer service and funeral liturgy bore witness to how dear Jean was to so many persons and the many lives she touched. Sisters from Beacon, Boston, Concord and Danville Carmels came to support us in this hour of loss and the bonds of CCA were once more strengthened by this sacrifice of their love. Jean's favorite football team did not go without mention at the wake and the New England Patriots now have a powerful intercessor on their side.

Maureen O'Rourke entered the Novitiate on July 2nd, feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The planned date of June 24th had to be changed because of Jean's funeral. We had a prayerful service to mark this entrance day for Maureen

included in our Morning Prayer. Both Sue, as Prioress and Mary Davin and Roseann as Formation Team spoke on behalf of the community explaining the significance of

this new step in Maureen's journey. Maureen received a Scapular medal and our Constitutions as well as a title. She will be known as Sr. Maureen of Our Lady of Grace.



Our annual summer novena in preparation for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was well attended. Fr. John Horan, O. Carm. preached excellent homilies at each of the nine evening Liturgies and the people loved his style and wanted him to come back next year. We experienced once again the hot and humid weather of these days but are happy to announce that we now have new fans in our chapel and new cooling units in our recreation room and choir. All of these are gracious gifts from our Secular Order members



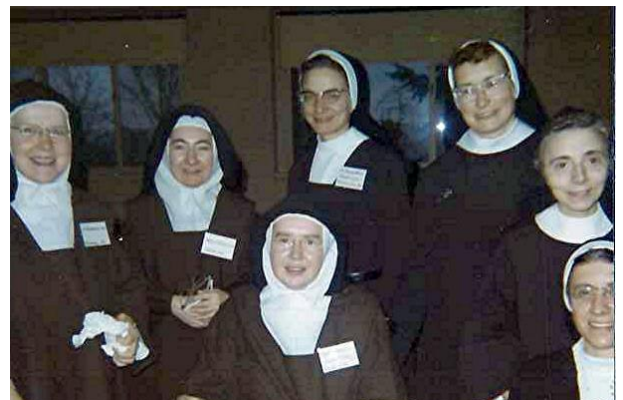
Our Sister Susan is a miracle worker of sorts, bringing to bloom orchids that seem half dead on arrival. Susan has her own special niche for sick plants and we marvel at the beauty she cultivates and provides to us to enjoy. Maureen is responsible for our large vegetable garden, which is so carefully planned that we see order and beauty, rotation of crops, a great variety

of shapes and colors and so we enjoy many good foods to nourish us. The summer months gave us reason to enjoy the beautiful view we have of Narragansett Bay. The



photo shows the mega house recently built on an adjoining property but also a look at the Bay during the experience of Hurricane, Irene). We invited the Little Sisters of the Poor, who staff a home for the elderly in Pawtucket, RI to come for a picnic lunch and a day of sharing stories Six sisters joined us and enjoyed their afternoon stay at Carmel. Sister Emily brought her delicious 7 layer salad for our feast. We had many laughs together in our recreation room. Our visitors returned to Pawtucket with gift bags for each of the sisters in their community.

Our weekly meetings have focused on Teresa's Way of Perfection and the conferences given by Father Saverio, when he met with the nuns in Oklahoma City. It seems to us that the Order is inviting us to a deep renewal of our charism in the Church and our particular call to contemplative and mystical prayer. Father Saverio points out that there is a sense of incompleteness in the text



that demands the ongoing attention of communities. We realize that we, who live the life now, need to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to our community in this new time and place. We have decided to devote one morning a month to the re-reading and pondering of the legislation. Our wise and gentle Susan Hannan said at a recent community meeting: "opening ourselves to God's Holy Spirit is not without pain."

We will have a public celebration of Therese and Teresa on October 9th and are looking forward to a time of retreat with Quinn Conors, O.Carm, starting October 12th

Lastly we have had some important learnings from hurricane Irene:

- never take electricity for granted
- the wonder and the noise of a generator
- the value of team work
- the beauty of wild winds
- the vulnerability of huge trees,
- detachment from favorite things (we had a sharing around candles about what we would take with us if we needed to evacuate the building)
- a curiosity on who invented candles sent Beth to Google and we learned that candles were used in China during the Qin Dynasty 221-206 BC

Prayer/Irene

Raging winds and water threaten

Giant Spruce splits

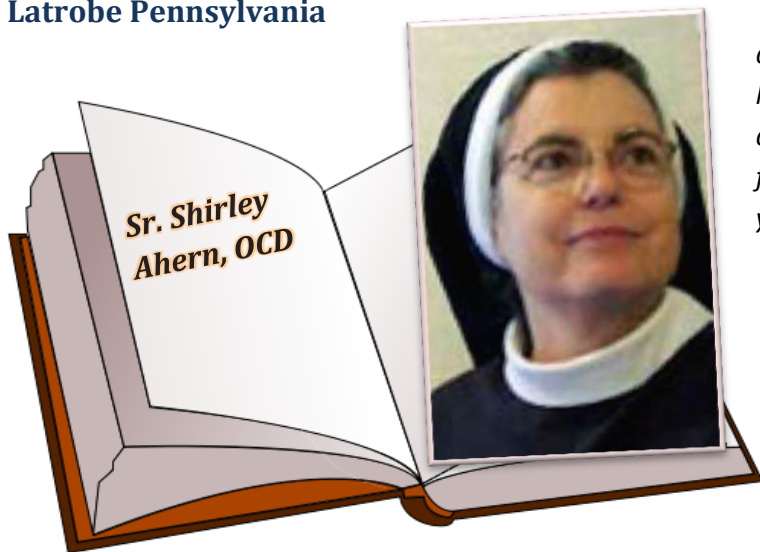
Evacuation looms

Dark Night precedes Gratitude in the Heart



CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe Pennsylvania



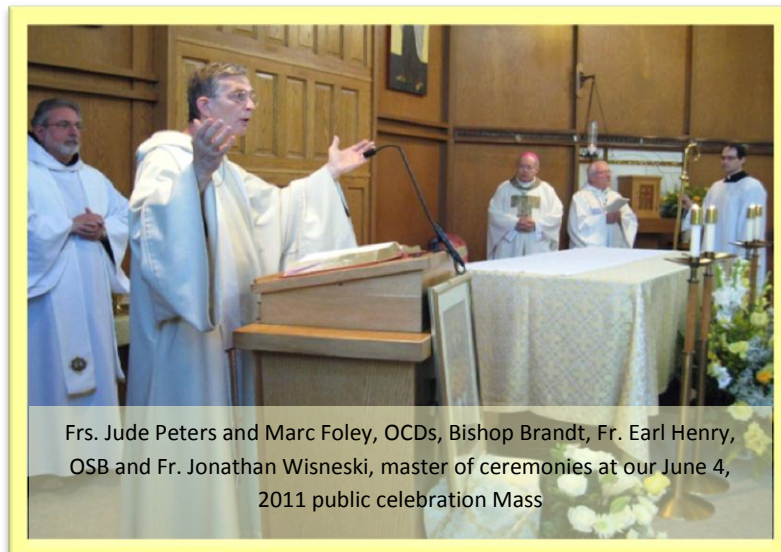
This summer of our 50th Jubilee Year has been one of prayer, work and joyous celebrations. To facilitate two of those celebrations, our 10 day Pentecost Retreat was split, running from May 29th to June 2nd and June 5th to June 9th. On June 4th, our public Jubilee Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Greensburg, The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, Frs. Marc Foley and Jude Peters, OCD representing our Friars and Fr. Earl Henry, OSB representing St Vincent's Archabbey were concelebrants. The chapel was beautifully decorated with roses and gladiolas in white and gold. Bishop Brandt welcomed the members of the OCDS, all our dear friends, and the listeners of Radio Station WOAB (We are One Body), since this Mass was being broadcast live. In his homily Bishop Brandt brought out many points about the purpose and effects of Carmel in the world today. In the final statement of his homily, he spoke of: "...those who are looking and seeking for guidance on how to live in an uncertain, fragile, and

dangerous world..." He thanked Carmel "...for being a lighthouse to protect our 'interior castles', for promoting deification and for being a sign that announces loudly from your silent witness that Christ is present among us yesterday, today and will be forever."

Unbeknownst to most of us in the Chapel, between the bishop's welcome and his homily there was a little drama going on in another part of the Monastery. The bishop's MC realized that the bishop did not have his glasses as he read his introductory remarks. He went to the room the bishop had left them in and found that the key they had been given did not work. He came back to the Chapel to tell Sr. Barbara, the sacristan of the problem. She immediately got Sr. Mary, the Prioress, who figured out that if that key wouldn't work, we had no idea where to find the key that would. They were

reminded the bishop could not read his homily without his glasses. Sr. Mary with assistance from our friend Sue Zyvith went outside, removed the air-conditioner unit from the window, climbed in, and retrieved the glasses. The MC was able to get them to the bishop just as Fr. Mark Foley completed reading the Gospel.

Moral: For a door which is seldom locked, check the key prior to giving it to anyone, especially the Bishop.



Frs. Jude Peters and Marc Foley, OCDs, Bishop Brandt, Fr. Earl Henry, OSB and Fr. Jonathan Wisneski, master of ceremonies at our June 4, 2011 public celebration Mass

After the Mass, we had a reception for all who came to celebrate with us. A beautiful gift of music performed by a concert violinist, the grandson of a friend, was given to us to enjoy.

We held our private community celebration on June 10th, our actual foundation day 50 years ago. We spent the day at a festive meal, a fun game of "Detachment" (with

wonderful prizes) and the sharing of stories by our three remaining “foundation” stones: Srs. Anne Marya, Mary Paul and Marie Elizabeth.



Mass of Thanksgiving on June 21, 2011.

On June 21st we had a Mass of Thanksgiving with the priests and religious of the Diocese. The main celebrant and homilist was Msgr. Charnoki, who was present at the first Mass when the sisters arrived from Loretto. We shared dinner after the Mass and no one seemed to be in a rush to leave.

During these public celebrations, we had the opportunity to become acquainted with Fr. James Hess, O.Carm, currently serving as pastor of a Byzantine parish not far from us. He gave a retreat for the OCDS community this year and they gifted us with the CDs of his talks. Having finally met him in person, we invited him to be the main celebrant for the Feast of Our Lady Mt. Carmel this year. He is grateful to have discovered a Carmel here and we are grateful to have found a brother.

August 6th found us celebrating once again, this time with Sr. Marie Elizabeth on her Golden Jubilee of Profession. About 125 family and friends attended. Two of her aunts, both in their 90's, IHM Sisters from

Scranton, PA made it to the celebration much to everyone's joy. Her cousin, Msgr. Paul Lenz from Washington, DC was the main celebrant. Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzalez, OCD was the homilist, and Frs. Marc Foley, OCD, Jude Peters, OCD, Phillip Kanfush, OSB, James Hess, OCarm and Dan Mahoney concelebrated. Although it rained lightly most of the day, it did not seem to dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of those participating in the joyous event. On August 8th, we had our community celebration with Sister Marie Elizabeth.

Our Sisters in Cleveland were unable to attend any of the celebrations here in Latrobe so they invited us to come to their monastery for a dual celebration of both our community's and Sr. Marie Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. On September 9th, seven sisters drove to Cleveland where they were treated like “royalty”. Sr. Marie Elizabeth was given a gold apron to wear (but not allowed to work). A wonderful meal and visit ended with Evening Prayer and the usual long Carmelite goodbyes.



Sr. Marie Elizabeth on her 50th Jubilee of profession, greeting her aunts. Above Sr. Romaine (97) and below Sr. Franceline (94)

Elections followed closely after our jubilee celebrations. Fr. Marc Foley presided. Sr. Marie Elizabeth was elected as prioress for the next triennium. Following her installation, we elected as councilors: Sr. Barbara (1st), Sr. Mary (2nd) and Sr. Mary Paul (3rd).

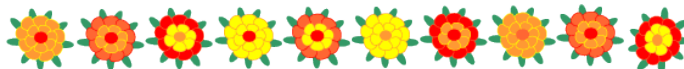
On Aug 25th we were able to pull off a surprise party for Sr. Mary to thank her for her 6 years of service to our community.

We have done a few things in the last few months besides party. Srs. Tanya and Marie Elizabeth worked hard to get our vegetable garden planted between the rains and the celebrations. We are now enjoying the fresh fruits of their labor and processing the extra to help with the food bills this winter.

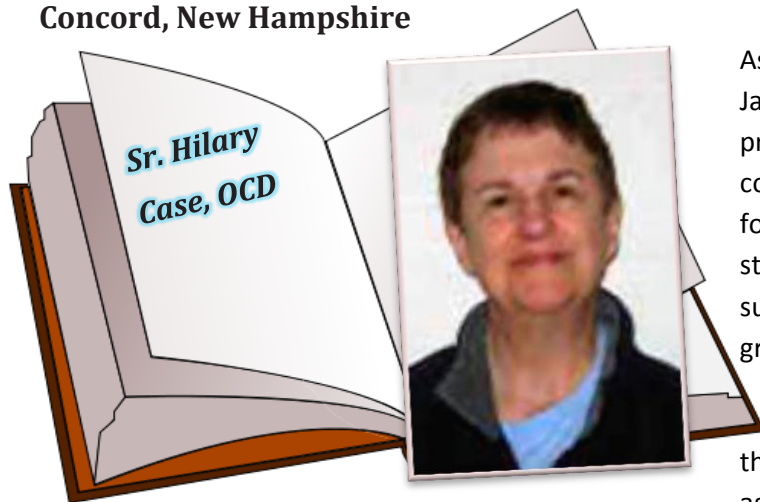
Our bees were extremely productive this spring. Sr. Tanya has already processed about 700-800 pounds of honey and we still have to extract the fall run.

After three nights of chasing a couple of bats around the monastery, we discovered: if it is hot outside and you have a bell tower with a pipe bringing the rope to the first floor, where there is air conditioning the bats will come in thinking it is the way outside. Plugging the pipe with a rag will solve the problem. We plan to tighten up our belfry.

Sr. Mary Paul was asked by the OCDS members to attend a meeting where they could discuss her book, *Sounding Solitude*. The community has used the book for personal study and found it fruitful.



CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH Concord, New Hampshire



We send loving greetings to you as October begins with the Solemnity of St. Therese and looks forward to the Solemnity of St. Teresa, Our Holy Mother. Our summer was both eventful and graced, and we want to share the highlights of it with you.

This summer, Fr. Roger Boucher presided and gave the homilies for our Triduum for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Fr. Roger is our "Wednesday chaplain." He spent many years as chaplain in the Navy and has traveled the world over. He always brings new information and insights to us. We felt very fortunate to have him for Our Lady's Feast.

As a community, we began a series of meetings with Janet O'Connell, the social worker who has helped us to process issues for several years. Janet is facilitating our consideration of our future, assisting us with the formulation of a plan of action so that we won't be stymied by adverse and unexpected events. Although such a process is not easy, we have felt strengthened and graced by our meetings thus far. We ask your prayers.

Our formation sisters, Miryam and Hilary, continue their program. You may recall that a year ago Sr. Miryam asked you for prayers for her mother, who had suffered a severe stroke. In June and July, Sr. Miryam went to Florida to help her parents move into The Cottages, an assisted living home recommended by Fr. Donald Jacques. Now, Sr. Miryam says, her parents are ensconced in a room where they enjoy "the life of teenagers." We are all pleased with this outcome. Sr. Miryam asks your continued prayers, though, for her own wisdom and for the welfare of her parents. At home, on July 21st, Sr. Hilary hosted a religion class from the Advanced Studies Program of St. Paul's School. In the morning, Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick, master teacher, Michael, her Intern, and twelve rising seniors from high schools all over New Hampshire arrived to ask their questions about Carmelite religious life. After the class,

they joined us for midday prayer and a few moments of chat afterward. We were impressed with the intelligence and maturity of these students, and we hope St. Paul's will continue to send classes our way.

In August, right on the tail of Hurricane Irene, Fr. John Sledziona, C.P. arrived to lead our yearly community retreat. His theme was Eucharist. Fr. John, who preached the homilies at the professions of both Sr. Miryam and Sr. Hilary, always does a wonderful job of relating Scripture and liturgy to religious life, and this retreat was no exception. We are very grateful to him for his reflections and his reflective spirit, which comes out of his own life of Christian and priestly service.

Sr. Claudette joined her family in Berlin, NH to celebrate the dedication of a plaque in honor of her paternal grandfather. She was able to visit and say good bye to her Aunt Estelle, who died just a few days later. We were grateful also to be able to share in Boston Carmel's funeral liturgy for Sr. Catherine, who had been a classmate of Sr. Emmanuel at Boston Girls' Latin School in the early '40s. Sr. Louise and Sr. Hilary accompanied her, and the day was blessed indeed.

On the light side, we have been hosting two families of wild turkeys. The little ones, born in June, travel our property twelve strong, accompanied by two mother turkeys and one nanny turkey. With twelve children, I

guess you need a nanny. We have enjoyed seeing them learn to fly. Landing on a branch caused some flailing and squawking, but now they are old hands, er, *wings*.

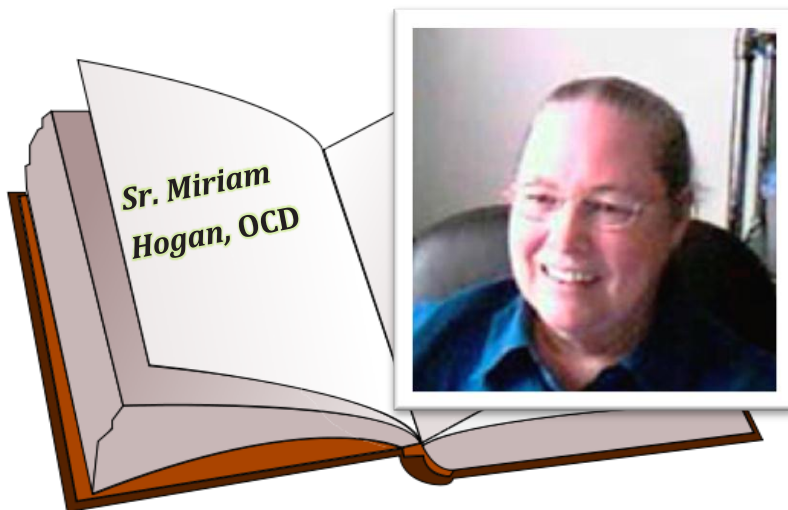
September has seen some hardship. Sr. Emmanuel fell on the sidewalk outside the chapel and gave herself a terrible shiner. Fortunately, no further damage was done, and she's almost back to normal as I write. On September 20th, Sr. Mercedes tripped over the threshold as she entered the chapel, alas, fracturing a hip. The pain was agonizing. The surgeon was able to fix her up with a pin and a plate, though, and now, she resides at Pleasant View Rehab Center, which is just down Pleasant Street from us. She is on the mend, and we give thanks to God. We also ask your prayers for her.

September has also seen a visit from the leadership team of the CCA. We welcomed Carolyn O'Hara and Marjorie Robinson from Beacon, Claire Sokol from Reno, and Judy Long from Baltimore as they assembled to plan the program for the summer of 2012. Busy as they were, they affirmed us in so many ways. Most important, they spent an evening with us, sharing their insights about the project of putting into practice the recommendations of Fr. Saverio's address in Oklahoma last spring. In addition, we all shared pizza and many other festive things to eat at our lunches and suppers in common. We were so glad they were with us.



CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa



In this report, we primarily desire to express our gratitude for everyday blessings. The weather has been especially good this year, and the local farmers are beginning to harvest the fruit of their labors. At the monastery, the sister's garden and orchard provided us, and a number of our special friends, with an abundance of interesting and delightful produce that added special flavor to our daily menus.

Now as Autumn approaches and the garden work is mainly taken care of, some of the sisters are taking time to watch the sunsets. In the quiet and beauty that only God can provide, they experience

the tenderness and radiance of new creation as they watch the light slowly fade from the sky, knowing that tomorrow will be a new day.



On a slightly different note, while we look to the sky, our cat Sunshine managed to cause us to rethink some things about fall....Yesterday, one of the sisters mentioned that he was examining as many leaves as he could on the lawn where they landed after falling off the tree in front of our refectory window... it was windy and he was really having a difficult time keeping up... we had to laugh and figure that even though this happens every year, it is still new

and a source of amazement to Sunshine and his audience.

Finally, in Oct. we are preparing for the feast of St. Teresa, Oct 15, and for Sr. Teresa Susan's Final Profession on Oct. 22. Then, on Oct 29, we will have a Mass of Thanksgiving to commemorate our Carmelite community's 100th anniversary of prayerful presence in the Davenport diocese. Hence, there will be more new events to include in our next report, but for now, we pause and celebrate the goodness of the present.



*Peace and Love to all our Sisters,
Miriam*

The Shack By William P. Young

Having been brought up on Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan, I was especially curious about this book. Pilgrim's Progress at times for an adolescent seemed ponderous, but I was captured by this book. It is light reading on one level, but has some serious lessons to put across. If you tend to be judgmental (like me) read chapter 11 "Here comes Da Judge." It is certain to make you think twice. Mackenzie Phillips (Mack) is the main character. I have read and re-read and re-read...etc..... this book. I especially liked the relationships of love within the Trinity I found there. And what a Trinity it is! When I spoke of this to my spiritual director, he said "remember it is not theology"! But I do not read it for theology – there are other books for that. For me, this book gives a sense of the nearness of God, the gentleness and tenderness of God and the sensitivity of God, as well as the justice and mercy of God. The emphasis on Redemption which was a major theme of the book also made me think about the disasters and evil around us.

I was both informed and fascinated by the way the tragedy was resolved and the many questions – some very angry questions – that Mack often asked Papa. (Papa was his wife's name for God the Father). Jesus is also drawn very well...both His humanness and His divinity come thru. The honesty between Mack and the different persons of the Trinity in the book was very real to me. Sarayu (representing the Holy Spirit). I still have to figure out.

I would be interested in hearing about your reactions to this book.

Sr. Normagene, ocd
Barrington, RI Carmel