

STJ  
500

V CENTENARY  
SAINT TERESA  
OF JESUS

# CCA Newsletter

Volume 36 Issue 1 October 2014

## *Teresa's Way*

### *Verse 1*

*Saint Teresa, friend of Jesus, woman of great faith  
Staff in hand your heart aflame You forged a way of life for us.  
Flowing still into our time your energy of love  
Ever guiding and inspiring seekers on the quest for God.*

*Pouring out your life in prayer  
In the service of God's whole creation  
Your example leading us to follow where you trod.*

### *Verse 2*

*Valiant woman, true disciple, Daughter of the Church  
Walking with determination ever on the path of Love.*

*Though the journey may be long  
You have led the way with holy daring  
With you we will sing God's mercies 'till the end of time,  
Until the end of time.*

*Lyrics and Music by Claire Sokol OCD © 2014, Carmel of Reno.*

BARRINGTON, RI

BALTIMORE, MD

BEACON, NY

BOSTON, MA

CLEVELAND, OH

CONCORD, NH

DANVILLE, PA

ELDRIDGE, IA

LATROBE, PA

OLDENBERG, IN

RENO, NV

SAN RAFAEL, CA

MEMBER CARMELS



Dear Sisters,

As summer comes to a close I write to you full of gratitude for the many wonderful things that I see happening within the Discalced Carmelite Order and CCA in particular.

### **Teresian 500<sup>th</sup> Year**

So many beautiful celebrations have and are unfolding for the celebration of St. Teresa's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday. *The Creative Spiritual Genius of St. Teresa of Avila Today* in San Jose at the end of August filled our cups to overflowing with the living spirit of Teresa among us today. Fr. Saverio opened the Extraordinary Definitory meeting in South Korea with the world-wide virtual choir of Carmelite Nuns singing *Nada Te Turbe*. Now on YouTube both the *Nada Te Turbe* and the *Salve, Regina* continue spreading to thousands across our world. Our CCA communities are making significant contributions to the Teresian year with speakers, artwork, publications and plays all planned for the coming year. And most of all, we have been renewed by our reflection on Teresa's own writings, stirring into flame the gift of her charism for our own and generations to come.

### **CCA 2016 Assembly**

Dates: April 17 – 23, 2016 (The 17<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> are travel dates)

Place: Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, MD.

We are happy to announce the presenter for our 2016 CCA meeting! Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, is founder and director of the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue which focusses on engaging impasse, transforming consciousness and exercising contemplative power. See <http://www.iccdinstitute.org>. In careful listening to the directives arising from our last assembly, our 2016 meeting will focus on leadership, approaching the topic through a contemplative lens, leading us deeper into the mystery of service in love.

### **CCA 'Interim' Meetings**

There are two interim meetings being planned which could help prepare us for our 2016 assembly:

1. Sr. Carol Sacshé (Reno) and Sr. Maria Fidelis (San Rafael) have recently extended an invitation to each of our communities for a **meeting for newer members of CCA** possibly taking place in September, 2015.
2. Sr. Susan Weber (Reno) and Sr. Judy Long (Baltimore) are collaborating in planning a **meeting for the CCA Prioresses** to be held at Bon Secours April 12 – 16, 2015.

'Wherever two or three are gathered'...we believe our Association will be enriched by these gatherings and we thank the sisters who have accepted the delegation for planning them!

### **CICSLAL Questionnaire**

Thank you to the communities who have already sent in their responses to the questionnaire. We will compile the responses from all our communities into a report, which we will share with you. We will also share with you any further information we receive on this topic.

May St. Teresa bless each of our communities with her spirit of love for Jesus and for one another!

Your sister,  
Claire



**Sr Claire Sokol, OCD**



**Sr. Maria Viatori, OCD**

## **Carmel of the Holy Family Cleveland Heights, Ohio**

CCA Newsletter from June 8, 2014 to October 6, 2014

“Wind blow free, move tenderly, source of our life and our being, gift from above, indwelling love, living stream flowing forever.” The lyrics and melody of Mary Lavin’s song, “Wind Blow Free,” carried us through our days of preparation and celebration for the Solemnity of Pentecost. Father Bernie McAniff, SJ, encouraged us to see Pentecost as a liberating future that God has promised and will give us, that for us as Church we are invited to stand free and hopeful in a world gone fearful. What a daring prospect for the Church to be dreaming! What a singular invitation for us as Carmelites as we stand on the shoulders of so many women who have gone before us in faith and as we celebrate the dynamism of our Holy Mother Saint Teresa in this Fifth Centenary of her birth!

It seemed as though we were being showered by God’s graces as we moved forward through the summer months. Father Marc Foley, OCD, facilitated our retreat and gave us conferences focusing on *The Life* by Holy Mother Teresa. Marc masterfully broadened and deepened our understanding of Teresa and the complexities that surrounded her as a woman of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We were given additional kernels of wisdom to take on our journey from Marc’s daily homilies. He gave us poignant survival instructions to place in our backpacks as we venture on the path of Carmel situated in the reality of the joys and sorrows of daily life. We were blessed to have such insightful input during this special time of celebration for our Order.

In June Mary K. Keklak travelled to Arlington Cemetery to attend a Memorial Mass for her brother Michael, who passed away in December. Her family came from all parts of the country to gather and celebrate her brother’s life. Michael had been a member of the U.S. Coast Guard in his earlier days and had recently resided in the V.A. Nursing Facility in Montrose, NY.

For those of you who remember our entries from past newsletters you may recall our problem with heavy rains and basement flooding. The day before retreat, the rains came, and the winds blew, and the basement flooded. We now know that Barb, Bernadette, Donna, and Maria could head up a disaster clean-up corporation! Thankfully, our reliable plumbing company solved the dilemma so we should not see flood waters for the next several years. Halleluia!

In the early part of summer, Bernadette and her group of steadfast volunteers began the hard work of preparing our four large vegetable plots for the growing season. Each day, progress was made and the various seeds and seedlings sprouted their vitality and promise for a rich harvest. As time passed, Bernadette noticed that our tomatoes were tantalizing treats for some four-legged bandits. Traps were set and several raccoons were caught in the act! The story continues, later on in the season Bernie discovered that the possums were feasting on the squash. Drat! Despite these events we are able to enjoy the bounty of our garden.



*Portion of our garden*

We had the pleasure of having Father Michael Woost celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with our worshipping community. His love and understanding of Carmelite spirituality is awe inspiring; he always gleans fresh perspectives from Scriptural and Carmelite texts.

With warm weather and blue skies came the opportunity to get major projects accomplished throughout the house and grounds. We learned a few new things and were amazed at the current technology that enabled us to see the precise whereabouts of blockages in drainage systems. The next major area of concern was the repair and resealing of the concrete and asphalt surfaces in the service court near our main garage and dock area. It is a relief to be able to drive on a smooth surface again. Although we are blessed to have a brick building, we still need to maintain all the exterior wooden windowsills and door frames. During September, our painters came and worked their magic, so everything is restored and gleams with a fresh new look.

Father Mark George, SJ, came to celebrate the Feast of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. His homily was beautifully crafted, and he paralleled the life of Edith with Holy Mother in their pursuit of the truth. Often we remark that we are so fortunate to have such fine men who come to celebrate Liturgy and who prayerfully and skillfully prepare homilies that inspire and challenge us to live deeply the way of Carmel.

During the summer months our Carmelite Guild women began preparations for the annual *Roses in November* gala. A boutique, luncheon, raffle and fashion show round out the autumn festivities. This year Donna is also putting her skills to work to help this good cause. You can barely hear the knitting needles fly during our recreation time at dinner. At some point during our conversation one of the sisters will say, "Donna, show us what you are up to tonight!" We get to see first hand the elegant scarves that she is crafting to sell at the "Nun's Table" at the boutique. We are also trying to come up with a catchy title for her display to attract customers to purchase these attractive wardrobe accessories. When we see Donna carrying the green tote bag into the refectory, we know that we are in for a treat!



*Donna & Sr. Pat O'Brien with Ursulines*

On August 1, Lola Tarasco, RN CDP, gave the community a presentation on dementia. Her power point presentation and discussion clarified many of our questions concerning this important health care concern. Lola is the Health Coordinator for the Ursuline Community and has provided loving attention and care to many of our sisters.

We were thrilled to wave good-bye to Barb as she made her retreat at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. Her two weeks seemed to fly like the wind, and she returned praising the beautiful environment and prayerful atmosphere that surrounded her hermitage.

Jean Marie and Pat O'Brien were overjoyed that they could travel to Latrobe Carmel and celebrate with Sister Tanya on the occasion of her Fiftieth Jubilee of Profession. They shared so many delightful stories on their return and expressed gratitude for the wonderful hospitality and graciousness of our sisters in Latrobe.

Sue C. Wahl, a dear friend of our community, died on August 23, 2014, and had her Memorial Mass at Carmel on September 15, 2014. Sue had entered Carmel the same time as Annamae Dannes and although she left, Sue remained a faithful friend to the community until her death. We believe that Annamae ushered Sue home to her eternal reward.

In the beginning of September the community gathered to discuss the questionnaire that was sent by the Sacred Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life. We had a fruitful session, and Barb collated our responses into an organized format. We were grateful to receive the input from Judy Murray and also the response from Sr. Hildegard Pleva, OSsR.

On September 28, the community attended a luncheon and gathering at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Pepper Pike, OH. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine, the Ursulines, and our community gathered to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the life-giving network that we share with one another. The Ursulines and our community have sisters who are receiving nursing care at Regina Health Center, a facility sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine.

On Wednesday, October 1, 2014, we had the closing Liturgy for the Novena to Saint Therese. This is the one novena celebration that we have as a Carmelite community, and those who have a devotion to Saint Therese come in overflowing numbers. Father Mark Hobson, pastor of Resurrection Parish, was celebrant and homilist for this Liturgy. His striking homily focused on real life stories that underscored the truth that it is the wounded, the vulnerable, the ordinary, and the simple who radiate the glory of God. He held up our Sister Therese as one who taught that the ordinary person could attain holiness. She allowed God's grace to flow through her so that what was inconceivable by human standards occurred in her life. Therese became a Doctor of the Church without a university degree. She became Patroness of the Missions without going to any foreign land. She lived her life in love in the ordinary reality of her environment.



*Sr. Bernadette with some friends at Therese Novena*



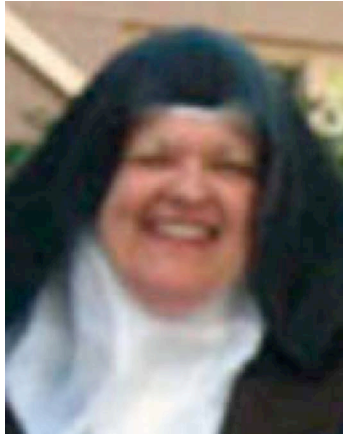
*A young friend of Therese at Novena*



*Donna & friends at Therese Novena*

We wish you all a wonderful celebration of Our Holy Mother Teresa. May she surround you with rich blessings as you continue to sing the mercies of the Lord!

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



***Sr. AnnaMarie Vanni, OCD***

Dearest Sisters of CCA,

We hope all of you had a Anniversary of our Holy Mother August, two of our Sisters went Jose and brought back a event, including the wonderful Virtual Choir pieces, composed Carmel. We enjoyed viewing the Mother.

wonderful beginning of the 500<sup>th</sup> St. Teresa on October 15<sup>th</sup>! In to the StJ 500 celebration in San wonderful DVD of the whole Mass, Music Concert and the by Sr. Claire of the Reno entire celebration of Holy

At the end of September, we had a wonderful Novena to St. Therese, given by Fr. Juan Elias Medina, OCD. So many of our friends attended and they were happy to receive their blessed roses on the last evening. We hope to have him come to give us some conferences in honor of the Centennial year. We hope to sign up Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD, as well.

A new Sister has come to us from the Congo. She is here on Medical leave and is enjoying all our Sisters from Kenya, as they all speak Swahili together. It is so nice to have an additional person in community.

Mother Dolores lost her sister, Mother Ellen Mary Berg, MMJC, on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Mother Ellen Mary started a new Order, the Marian Missionaries of Jesus Crucified, over 20 years ago. The Order has an Oratory in Vacaville, CA and also in Camp, Ireland. The members are made up of married couples, single people, religious and priests. They do parish work, counseling, give retreats and come together for prayer several times a week. Their charism is so needed today.

It is finally beginning to rain again on our very parched western states. We are so grateful that it is coming a little earlier than usual. And we earnestly pray that it will continue all throughout the winter months.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very blessed Advent Season.

Love and prayers from your Sisters in the San Rafael Carmel.



*Sr. Jean Alice McGoff, OCD*

## **Carmel of the Resurrection Oldenburg, Indiana**

We had our annual vacation week in August, which involves some sort of excursion. This year we drove back to Indianapolis to visit our old monastery and see the latest renovations that have made it more comfortable and user friendly for an expanding number of seminarians. The current number is forty-six, twice the number of Carmelites ever to inhabit this medieval looking dwelling at one time. They have added a beautiful dining room, complete with a large

fireplace. On the south end of the lower corridor there is an additional wing with ten double rooms and two for the seminary staff. The rector, Fr. Bob Robeson, made us feel very much at home as we checked out places that hold so many memories. His efforts to preserve the beauty of the original architecture are commendable.

Some twenty years ago we held a CCA meeting at the former Redemptorist monastery in upstate New York. On the free afternoon we drove to the Culinary Institute of America. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin is buried in the old cemetery there and that was the object of our visit. It was so moving to stand by his simple, unadorned grave. There was a beautiful Japanese maple tree in the cemetery with many little saplings sprouting up under it. We dug up one tiny tree, carried it home in a styrofoam cup and planted it in our courtyard. We called it our Teilhard tree. What a joy to see it standing tall and beautiful just where we placed it.

In early July, Archbishop Joseph Tobin came down to visit our Franciscan campus. We had breakfast with him and then he joined us for morning prayer. We were happily surprised when he got up from the table and poured the second round of coffee! He told us that he grew up with many sisters and he knew how to obey orders! He is truly a wise and humble person and deeply cares about the Archdiocese. We were glad when the spreading rumor that he would be taken from us to go to Chicago proved unfounded!



*Bishop Tobin serving coffee*

Marcie recovered well from a broken leg (early summer) and recently attended the national meeting of the Association of Contemplative Sisters in Belleville, IL. The theme was "The Wisdom Way," taking its title from a book written by the main speaker, Cynthia Bourgeault. This association is now forty-five years old and retains the same joyful, spiritual, energy that it had in the beginning. We have hosted several cluster meetings here in Oldenburg.



*Sr. Marcie Malone at the national meeting*



Helen's sister, Fidelis Wang, an Ursuline Sister from Taiwan, and her niece, Grace, also from Taiwan, spent a week with us. They arrived just in time to celebrate Helen's birthday on September 25. They were very impressed with the broad open spaces of southern Indiana. The available lands in Taiwan are heavily populated, quite a contrast to what they saw all the way along the freeway from Indianapolis and between here and Cincinnati. Grace said that when she was a child and read stories about a "little house in the woods," she was unable to imagine it! Helen keeps visual touch with them through skype, something we could not have believed was



*Sr. Helen and Sr. Fidelis and Grace*

We will be celebrating the feast of Our Holy Mother in the big Franciscan Chapel here in Oldenburg. We feel the energy of all that is happening to prepare for the Fifth Centenary next year. We thank Sr. Claire Sokol and all who prepared for the celebration in San Jose. We are especially grateful for the beautiful music composed for the occasion and now recorded on the CD from Reno, "Living Water."



**Community by plaque  
in the monastery**



## Carmel of the Assumption Latrobe, Pennsylvania



*Sr. Shirlely Ahern, OCD*

Sr. Marie Elizabeth attended the provincial meeting in Wisconsin on May 26th. Fr. Jude Peters, OCD was the celebrant for our Mass on the Provincial titular Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In his homily he talked about the many miracles and saints who are connected to our Province and the basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians at Holy Hill.

The last weekend of our annual 9 day retreat in preparation for Pentecost was somewhat disrupted by the presence of the Navy's The Blue Angels Precision Flying Team, which was in Latrobe for an Air Show which occurred June 7th and 8th with practice on the 5th and 6th. Our Monastery is directly in line with the main runway of the airport, when landing they come over our property at about tree top level. Of course the noise that accompanies their performance is not really conducive to prayer. But the stunts and formation flying are spectacular to watch.

On June 10th we had a combination Pentecost Recreation Day and 53rd Foundation Day celebration. Since it was Tuesday, our Mass was broadcast over WAOB allowing us to very publicly express our gratitude to all those in the area who have and continue to support us in our way of life. At Recreation the three sisters, who came on the foundation, shared stories about the early days here in Latrobe.

July 4th fell on First Friday this year so the community decided to have our picnic and celebration on the 3rd and offer our customary First Friday Exposition Day for the needs of our nation and a conversion back to reliance on God. We had many lay people join us for hours of adoration during the day.

For the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at our morning Mass, Fr. Aaron Buzzell, OSB ended his homily with a story about a miracle attributed to OLMC in 1894, which was recognized by the Church in 1895. None of us had ever heard the story, which I relate below:

*At the end of October 1894 in Palmi, Italy people began reporting strange eye movements and color changes on the face of the Statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. These changes continued for 17 days and on the evening of November 16th a procession was organized to carry the statue through the streets of city. When the procession reached the edge of the city a violent earthquake occurred which collapsed most of the houses in the area. Palmi had a population of about 15,000 people at the time but only nine were killed because nearly everyone participated in the procession. Each year on November 16 the statue of OLMC is carried through Palmi to commemorate this miracle.*

Sr. Mary Paul did some research and found out that Palmi is located on the "Toe of the Boot" of Italy and that her father had been born there.

Srs. Marie Elizabeth, Mary, Mary Paul and Shirley made a visit to our sisters in Danville on July 24th. It was a beautiful day for traveling, temperature in the 70's, sunshine, and a lovely breeze. We received a very warm welcome from our sisters. They had arranged for Srs. Therese and Anna to be transported from the extended care facility in time to join us for a late lunch in the cafeteria. Plans had been made to have Sr. Ann Marie also join us but that did not work out so we missed seeing her. During the afternoon we spent time catching up and sharing.

I have mentioned in past newsletters that we were assembling "relic cards" of Bl. Karl for Br. Nathan who is the US/Canadian delegate for his cause. We were shocked when, on July 30th at the end of Mass, our chaplain asked us to pray for Br. Nathan, who had passed away at 1:30 that morning from a burst aneurism in the stomach. He was only 57.

Fr. Jude returned on Wednesday, July 13th, to preside at our election. Sr. Mary Wild was elected prioress. We moved to the Chapel for the Confirmation Ceremony. Then, with Sr. Mary presiding we elected the councilors – 1st Sr. Joann, 2nd Sr. Marie Elizabeth, and 3rd Sr. Mary Paul. We returned to the Chapel for a community picture with Fr. Jude and pictures of the new Council. Following the elections, Fr. Jude was also our celebrant for our titular feast, the Solemnity of Mary's Assumption. We were able to surprise Sr. Marie Elizabeth with a special dinner to thank her for her service these past 3 years.



*Community with Father Jude Peters, Provincial*



*Council - Srs. Marie Elizabeth (2<sup>nd</sup>) Joann (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Mary (Prioress) Mary Paul (3<sup>rd</sup>)*

Sr. Joann has been attending the monthly meeting of the Greensburg Religious Vocation Council. The last meeting involved discussing Diocesan Parish involvement with the Greensburg Religious Congregations for the Year of Consecrated Life and finalizing work on the "Convent Crawl" which will occur the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup>. The "Convent Crawl" is an opportunity for single women ages 18 – 40 to visit with Catholic sisters of various congregations. During a 26-hour period, they will visit 4 communities where they will join the sisters for prayer, a brief presentation on the history and charism, a meal and a chance to meet the sisters and ask questions. At the third house they visit, there will also be a panel of sisters from 4 other congregations to explain their charism and answer questions. Our community will be the first house they visit.



*Sr. Tanya, Renewal of Vows*

Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> the Lord sent his gift of very pleasant weather to accompany Sr. Tanya's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration. At the Eucharist, Fr. Jacque Daley, OSB, the main celebrant and homilist, was assisted by 8 of his brother priests from St. Vincent's Archabbey. There were more than 100 people attending, including sister's brother Nick and his wife Peggy, her cousin Sergei and his wife Karen, and her cousin Masha; Srs. Jean Marie and Patricia O'Brien from Cleveland, who were driven down by one of their benefactors; two

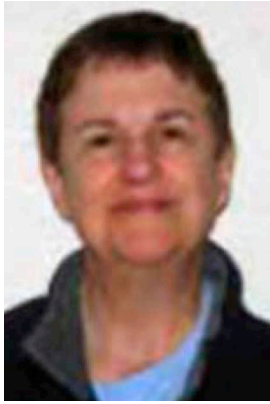
of her high school classmates from New Jersey; and many of our local friends and benefactors. A catered luncheon follow and every one seem to have a good time. We held our community celebration for her on Labor Day.



*Sr. Tanya's Family - Nick, Tanya, Sergei, Karen, Masha and Peggy took the picture*

We ask prayers for our Sr. Ann Sheridan who fell the morning of Sr. Tanya's Jubilee. She did not seem to have done any damage but a few days later Sr. Theodora took her to the hospital for another problem and an MRI revealed compression fractures in her backbone. Once these two issues were dealt with she was moved to St. Anne's home for the Elderly for rehabilitation. She developed an infection and was sent back to the hospital. As of this writing, she is back at St. Anne's but still in need of much healing.

Blessed Feast of Holy Mother to all.



*Sr. Hilary Case, OCD*

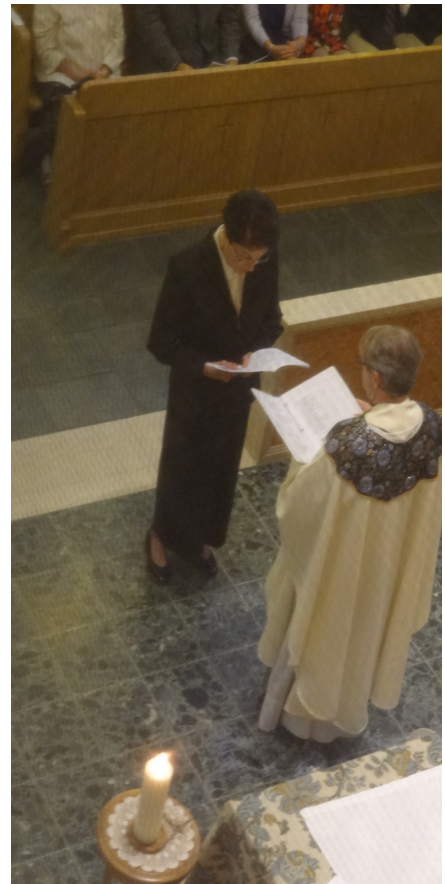
## **Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph Concord, New Hampshire**

*“How well I know the living spring that flows  
though it is night!”*

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, Sr. Claudette celebrated her completion of 50 years of profession in Carmel. St. John of the Cross set the theme of Sr. Claudette’s Golden Jubilee with his “Song of the Soul That Rejoices to Know God by Faith.” Sr. Claudette herself desired that her liturgy emphasize “the theme of ‘living water,’ the life of the Holy Spirit within us.”

Thus, the living spring, both in Scripture and in Carmelite literature, served as a powerful symbol for Sr. Claudette’s liturgy and celebration. The first and third readings, “Oh come to the water, all you who are thirsty,” (Isaiah, 55) and “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink,” (John 7) provided a framework for the reflections of the homily.

In his homily, Fr. Daniel Chowning, O.C.D. spoke profoundly of water as “one of St. Teresa’s preferred symbols to speak of God’s dynamic and creative life within us and our thirst for God.” He brought out the mutuality of our relationship with God: God thirsts for our love even more deeply than we can thirst for his; it is God’s loving thirst for us that is the source of the “living water” that he gives us; this living water is the life of the Holy Spirit, in which we share and for whom we thirst. 50 years of Carmelite life hold many ups and downs, many times of feeling dried up. Yet God does not abandon us but invites us every day to drink from the well of divine love who dwells within us, the Spirit of the living God. Fr. Daniel also reflected on the second reading from Romans: “So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” Carmelite life is a life of deep transformation of the whole person “from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”



*Sr. Claudette on her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee*

Moving to “the facts” of this celebration, Bishop Peter Libasci of Manchester was Presider; Fr. Daniel Chowning, OCD, was principal celebrant and homilist. Sr. Claudette’s designated concelebrants were Fr. Rene Gagnon, Fr. Paul Montminy, Fr. Marc Montminy, and Fr. Mark-Joseph De Velis, OCD; Fr. Kevin Culligan, OCD, and many other priests also concelebrated. We were so blessed by all of them and by Claudette’s family and the many friends of our community who attended—200 plus! Several sisters from the Carmels of Barrington and Baltimore also joined us. Although the weather was damp and windy, our hearts were not dampened at all. We partook of sandwiches and salads, Jubilee Cake, and hot coffee (cold pop and water if we did not feel the weather!) and we made a joyful noise. In the evening, the community hosted a catered dinner for Sr. Claudette and her extended family in our newly renovated refectory. Wonderful food—and no dishes! Carmelite-style Good-byes, with lots of hugs, closed out this special day. Congratulations, Sr. Claudette!

In other news, July held our Triduum for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Fr. John Sledziona, C.M., served as our celebrant and homilist. He is known to our neighborhood because he was pastor of St. Peter’s Church in downtown Concord for many years. At this time, he holds many leadership positions at the Chancery in Manchester. We were blessed by his wise homilies which connected Mary and the mystery of the Incarnation to our daily lives.

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Sr. Teresa Susan Dreyer, O.C.D. began a three-year process of discernment with us. She serves as organist, gardener, and refectorian.  
Welcome, Teresa Susan!

In August, Sr. Claudette attended the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Teresa’s birth in San Jose, CA. Before the celebration, she visited the Carmels of Santa Clara and Carmel. Then after the celebration, she spent more days at Santa Clara. We who stayed home really appreciated the live streaming of this celebration, which came through very clearly. We were moved, in fact awed, by the Virtual Choirs’ elegant and beautiful performances of “Nada Te Turbe” and the Salve Regina. The visual aspect, with its sisters from all over the world, was awesome too. Thank you, Sr. Claire, and we send thanks to everyone who helped with and participated in this celebration.

Finally, on September 21, Fr. Tom Frink, S.J. opened our community retreat. His conferences explored the inner journey to union with God according to St. John of the Cross and Our Holy Mother with reference to many other Carmelite saints and to St. Ignatius. He said at the beginning that his purpose was to inspire us, to light our fires or increase them. We certainly did find ourselves growing in inspiration and purpose. We are grateful to Fr. Tom.

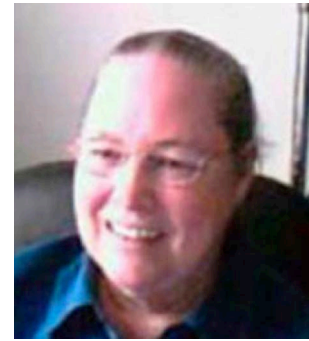
So we come to the end for now, in this special time between the Feast of St. Therese and the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila. We wish you all a very blessed and grace-filled Feast and fall season.



## Carmel of the Queen of Heaven Eldridge, Iowa

CCA Report Fall 2014

We had a delightful visit with Brother Joseph Francis and two of his close friends. One was an Episcopalian priest and the other was Fr. Tony Herold a priest of our diocese. Brother gifted us with many of the recent CDs books and ikons that he had, and also his ordination chalice and paten. Before becoming a Camaldolese hermit Brother, he had been an Episcopalian priest. Please remember him in your prayers as he is very ill with pancreatic cancer. We first connected with Brother by email and the friendship fostered an appreciation for both his hermit Benedictine vocation and our witness to the Carmelite charism in this area.



*Sr. Miriam Hogan, OCD*



*Sr. Carol with an ikon from Brother*



*Srs. Miriam, Carol and Lynn with Fr. Fortunatus*

Fr. Fortunatus is a new priest coming to say Mass. He is majoring in communications and the internet at St. Ambrose University. Hence, some of us are looking forward to both his homilies and his technical skills at sharing the love of the Gospel with the world.

Sr. JonFe has kept us supplied with the fruit of her labor or to be more exact the “veggies” of her labor. The star specimen this year is a 2.9 pound, or as the gardeners say a nearly 3 pound, tomato grown from heirloom seeds gifted to us by a friend. We are grateful to God for JonFe’s success and for the success of the local farmers in our area. This comes with the knowledge that other main farming areas in our country are experiencing severe drought and small crop yields.



*Sr. JonFe and the star specimen*

Concerning maintenance: WE WERE BUGGED! Literally...There were complaints from the various offices, that our phone line internet connection was sporadic. Then the next day, one of our phone lines went entirely dead. Thanks to a good phone tech from Texas, we discovered that the ants were trying to build a nest in the incoming station next to our tool shed. The first thought was to organically invite the ants to relocate. However, after surrounding their area with cayenne pepper and leaving it overnight. We observed them the next morning casually parading around on top of the pepper. So the next application to their territory was heavy duty Raid. Now the internet and the phone lines are working well. Other less interesting but more costly projects included replacing two air conditioners and a furnace. The roofers didn't have much to repair but they enjoyed putting new shingles on the mail box.

Returning to more serious matters, our prayers are for the Christians that are suffering and dying for their Faith in the Middle East and elsewhere. Also, we pray for those who are sick with Ebola and the virus affecting the children in the U.S. and for those working with the sick.

Finally, on a joyful note, Sr. Lynne mentions that people, not even Carmelite have been sending her links to the virtual choir. Claire's music was really lovely and it was a beautiful job of coordination that is appreciated not only by our Sisters but by many people.

Wishing all of our Sisters a Happy Feast of St. Teresa and looking forward to our community retreat after the celebration...

Peace and Love, Sr. Miriam



## Carmel of the Incarnation Beacon, New York



*Sr. Carolyn O'Hara, OCD*

We had our community retreat in June. We were fortunate to have Fr. Jack Welch, O.Carm. for five days, speaking on John of the Cross. The sessions with Jack included some good interchanges.

An interesting visitor at the end of July was Maureen Connell from England. She is a nurse who has lived and worked at the Carmel in Maryton Grange, Liverpool. She seems to have done charitable work all over the world and recently had been offered a post with the New York University School of Nursing, teaching nurses in Rwanda. She had to make a quick trip to New York City for some business before going to Rwanda and asked to visit us. After two days in the city, she spent three days with us, enjoying the beauty and quiet here. She is a charming and impressive woman. She has kept in touch, telling of her time in Rwanda.

In August four of us, Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marita and Mary Theresa (perhaps your name had to begin with an "M" to go) went to San Jose for the western region celebration of St. Teresa's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth. The celebration seems to have been an enormous success; they talked of nothing else for weeks after! Many of us enjoyed it vicariously with the DVD they brought home. Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marita and Rita had sent in tracks for the virtual choir singing Sr. Claire's "Nada Te Turbe". We have all found the virtual choirs very moving.

At the end of August we hosted the first Communion liturgy for a young cousin of our pastor, Fr. Richard Smith. Twelve year old Kaylie has Downs Syndrome and her family were grateful for a smaller, quieter place for her ceremony. She obviously adores her priest cousin, mimicking his stance and actions.



*Fr. Irenaeus and Sr. Monica*

Our other parish priest, Fr. Irenaeus Ikhane, brought a friend of his from Nigeria, Sr. Monica, to visit. She was traveling in this country with family, and came "to check up on him". She finds him, after almost eight years here, too Americanized and he quickly blamed us for that!

September 21 we hosted an afternoon of prayer and reflection for women. Sr. Carolyn spoke on Teresa and prayer, and after time for quiet prayer, then refreshments and sharing, Srs. Michaelene and Marjorie gave responses to Carolyn's talk. There was time for questions and the afternoon ended with Evening Prayer. This is the fourth year we have done this, and the groups who come are very attentive and grateful for the opportunity.



*Sr. Carolyn O'Hara Sep 21 2014*

October 1, as has become usual, we welcomed as main celebrant and homilist our former pastor, Fr. David Nolan, a great lover of Therese. Again, as usual, our small chapel and space beyond were filled to overflowing. We have often played Sr. Claire's "Therese's Canticle of Love" while distributing roses after Mass. This year, however, a friend of ours, Jennifer ...sang it.

Our Redemptoristine friends are currently awaiting the placement of a stained glass window depicting their foundress. The liturgical designer who worked with us on our chapel renovation seven years ago designed a space for this window in the auxiliary space of the chapel in such a way that it blends well with what we already have.

Please pray for our Sr. Jeannie. She is in the hospital with possibly yet another back fracture.

The beautiful Hudson Valley is putting on its fall splendor as we move toward the feast of Our Holy Mother. May this beginning of her quincentennial celebrations be especially blest for all of us.



*Sr. Margie Oct 1 2014*





*Sr. Monica Bies, OCD*

## Carmel of the Sacred Heart Baltimore, Maryland

### Faith-Sharing:

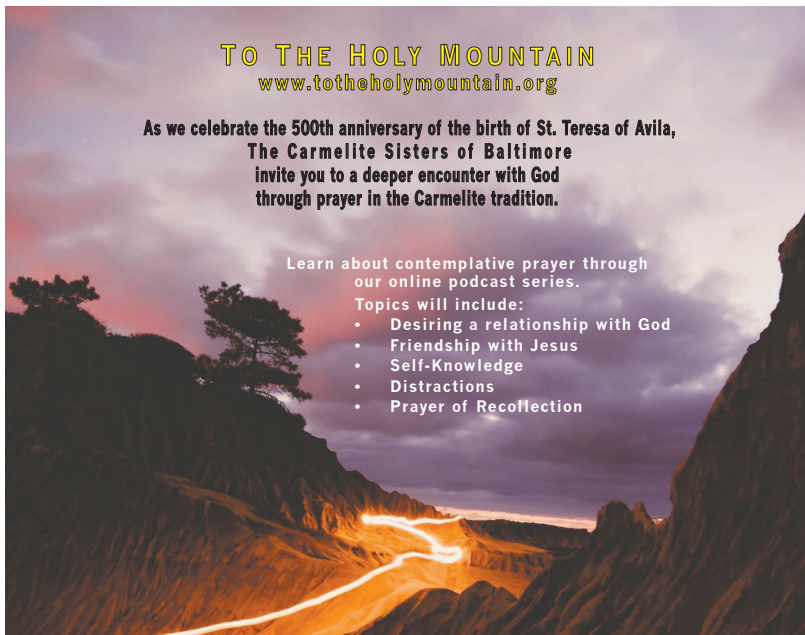
After having reflected on Pope Francis' thought provoking Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, we decided in light of the centenary year to shift our reflections to the *Spiritual Testimonies* of St. Teresa. They are now the focus of our Monday night faith-sharing. We have an assigned reading each week that is being supplemented by questions, prepared by one of our sisters. It has been a fruitful experience for us to share on a text that is so familiar and meaningful to many of us.

### To the Holy Mountain - a podcast and video series

We are happy to share with you our newest website:

<http://www.totheholymountain.org>

In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa and the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our community, we will be focusing on different topics specific to the teachings and writings of St. Teresa. *To the Holy Mountain* podcasts and videos are inspirational and instructional lessons on prayer as seen through the perspective of the Carmelite tradition. We will explore topics such as desire, friendship with Jesus, distractions and the prayer of recollection. You will find our first 2 podcasts posted under the podcast page and our videos on the Video/Resources page. Please share this website link with your family and friends.



*To the Holy Mountain*

### Formation

Sister Constance is teaching a class to our novices Olivia and Celia on St. Teresa's *The Book of Her Life*. They are doing a fabulous job in these classes, working with the text on a general level as well as writing touching personal reflections on the assigned reading relating it to their experience. Both Olivia and Celia are also very much involved in the preparation of our podcast and video series *To the Holy Mountain*.

### **Vocation**

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Sisters Monika, Olivia and Celia represented our community at the Clarksville Picnic with vocational and general information material. The picnic has a 136 year old tradition that is sponsored by the St. Louis Parish in Clarksville, Maryland. Many parishioners stopped by our booth to leave prayer requests and to engage in conversations about our Carmelite life and spirituality.

### **STJ 500**

Sisters Robin, Judy Long and Monika attended the STJ 500 festivities in San Jose, California to join in the celebration of *The Creative Spiritual Genius of St. Teresa of Avila Today*. The various talks, the paintings displayed in the art room, the three world premieres (Dolora Zajick's "Roads to Zion" and two virtual choirs Nada Te Turbe/Salve Regina) and last but not least the powerpoint presentation *Who Are the Daughters and Sisters of St. Teresa Today?* were a feast for the senses. It was such a treat for all of us who participated and we are grateful beyond words for all the passion and expertise that Sr. Claire and her community put into the success of this spectacular event. We were touched by the kindness of our Carmelite brothers in San Jose who let us stay in their Hermitage a couple of days before the event. We also had the privilege of staying with our sisters in Reno for a few days after the STJ 500 festivities and were deeply moved by their untiring hospitality.

### **Labor Day Picnic**

Our Labor Day Picnic continues to be a great way to come together as members of the Carmelite Family. OCD and OCarm. brothers from Washington, as well as members of the Secular Order and friends from our Sunday congregation added to the joyful atmosphere of this celebration!

### **Prayer Request**

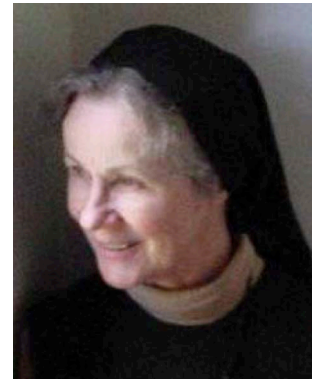
Sister Pat Scanlan fell and broke her hip on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>. She had a partial hip replacement and is now in rehab. Please pray for her good recovery.



*Celebrating Sister Anita's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday!*

# Carmel of Our Lady and St Joseph

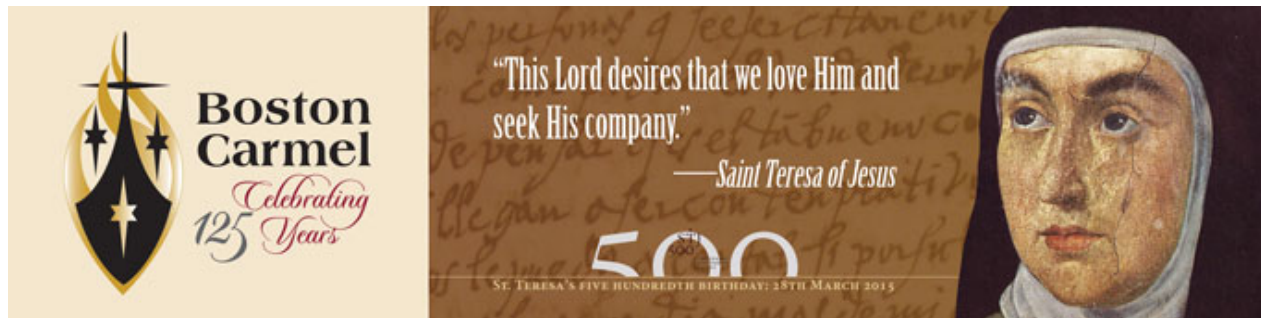
## Boston, Massachusetts



*Sr. Mary Clare Doherty, OCD*

### CELEBRATIONS

Once again our sisters in Barrington were the gracious hosts of our end-of-the-year formation party. Six of us were able to attend. And a little more than a week later four of us went south again for Sr. Patricia's jubilee celebration. Both gatherings were times of real enjoyment as well as gratitude that we have these opportunities to be with our sisters. In September, it was up north to Concord for Sr. Claudette's jubilee and another time of gratitude and celebration. We realize quite well how fortunate we are to be so closely situated to our sisters.



On August 27th, with a procession to the shrines on our grounds and a slide show of our monastery's history, among other things, we celebrated the 124th anniversary of the founding of Boston Carmel. Now our preparations for OHM's 500th anniversary also include preparations for our own 125th anniversary. Among the preparations is a newly created banner that commemorates the two occasions. Sr. Mary Grace of Terre Haute Carmel had designed a heading, for use in our website, which has both OHM's portrait and our logo on it. The logo, incidentally, was the design of Sr. Romain of Beacon Carmel. After adding a quote from OHM to the heading, we had it printed on a banner and hung outside our front door.

Long before global warming became a reality, the days of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's triduum always presented a challenge for our celebrant and those attending, -due to the heat and humidity. Folks have brought cases of cold bottled water to share, and made suggestions about air-conditioning. This past July we decided to experiment with renting air-conditioning for the three nights. It was quiet enough, if a bit imposing, but the effect left us disappointed. Our celebrant, Fr. Leonard Copeland OCD, and the people in the crowded chapel knew, at least, that we had tried.

It was cooler at the end of September, when Fr. Mark Joseph OCD celebrated the Mass in honor of St. Therese, also to a crowded chapel..

At the beginning of August we celebrated a memorial Mass for our Sr. Rose and welcomed twelve members of the Lopez family who joined us for it.

### ALTERATIONS

After having a room in our basement renovated and left looking quite bright and shiny, we discovered that one of our water heaters had sneakily leaked during the night, flooding part of the cellar, -including the new room. We got things back to normal fairly quickly and have had two sump pumps installed since.

Renovations of a more impressive kind include work being done in our choir, including a new floor, ceiling, and lights. All will be looking beautiful by Christmas, we expect. In the meantime, one of our parlors serves very well as a chapel. On the 3rd floor, a large room, used mostly for storage and other unclassified occupations, is being reconfigured into a prayer room and two workrooms. The remainder of the 3rd floor is being renovated, though not reconfigured. The workers are very impressive, showing up early and leaving late. They have even asked to come on Sundays. We said no.

## PRAYERS

Mary Teresa is preparing for a second knee replacement on the 27th of October and would appreciate an extra prayer.

Also we would be grateful if you would remember three of our dear friends and benefactors who died during the summer: Mary Burge who went home to God right after attending the morning Eucharist, Jean McKenny, whose husband Lee has been a willing help for very many of our needs, and Fr. Carney Gavin, an archaeologist and former curator of the Semitic museum at Harvard. All of them succumbed to cancer.

Sr. Gabriele Nguyen SCC's sister Yen died Sept. 24th in Virginia after two years of suffering from cancer also. I'm sure that Gabriel would appreciate your remembering her in your prayers.



*Sr. Marylith at the golden fish pond*

## HERE AND THERES

Our cherry tree outdid itself, producing buckets-full and buckets-full.

And speaking of fruit, our formation talks will begin on Oct 7th with Sr. Barbara Metz SNDdeN speaking on the Holy Spirit in the unfolding of creation.

Recently, Fr. Robert Daley, SJ shared with us a Eucharistic prayer that he has been working on and which will be in the January issue of WORSHIP. I'm quoting some of it here.

"...Mindful, then, of your loving gift,  
and in awesome praise of the chaos-beauty of the  
constant death-into-life  
of this your garden globe,  
and mindful too of your mandate to bless and keep it  
with the same loving care with which  
You bless and keep us, we pray:

Send down on us and on these gifts  
full portions of your Holy Spirit  
who with your Word and before all time  
brought forth the galaxies,  
breathed over the primal waters,  
came upon the prophets  
and hovered over Mary's womb.

Send on us now that same Spirit  
that we may know our place  
in this your universe,  
on this your earth,  
and in this your Church,  
so that in and through  
our living, dying, and rising with your Son  
we may learn to till and keep this earth  
With the same love with which  
you till and keep us....".

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



*Sr. Roseann Gillice, OCD*

May a shower of roses fall upon all on this day of Therese's feast!

Reading the notes jotted down since June for this newsletter is like reading ancient history.

On Pentecost Sunday one of our faithful Dominican priests from Providence College in his homily alluded to the many symbols the Church has for the Holy Spirit – fire, water, wind, breath. However, there is one that is not as familiar as the others or spoken of in general. Father referred to his Irish heritage in providing the other symbol – the goose. It is engraved in stone on the Church buildings. As he said, “When the goose honks you get out of the way.” Transfer this comment to the symbol. So when the Holy Spirit starts honking, get out of the way.

As to date, we are fortunate to celebrate daily Eucharist in our chapel. A Poor Clare friend mentioned that they lost their chaplain to illness and everything is turned upside down since their whole day rotated around the Eucharist. Because of the shortage of priests, they have found only two to come during the week. Please pray for them.

Fr. Paul Cabrita, a Marist and friend of the community who was ordained in our chapel over twenty-five years ago, stopped by while visiting his family in Rhode Island this past summer. His homilies are unique and filled with stories of his grand-mother. As a child, his sister stayed over the week-end with their grand-mother. The grand-mother taught her some night prayers. Before going to bed one night, passing by her room she heard the little one reverently praying the alphabet. When asked about it she told her grand-mother that she couldn't remember the prayers, so God could make them up with the letters she prayed.

Srs. Mary Davin, Patricia and Nora, our new candidate, drove to Concord, NH Carmel to participate in Sr. Claudette's Golden Jubilee in September. It is always good to see each other at these milestone events. Surprise visits give delight too – on Therese's feast, Srs. Gabriel, Louise Marie and Teresa Susan came to see Sr. Genevieve who had fallen in August. Gen is on the mend, but still limited in her activities. It was good to pray Evening Prayer together.

We celebrated Sr. Patricia's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Profession on June 21<sup>st</sup> with her relatives and many friends and our sisters from Boston and Concord. The presence of Sr. Emmanuel (of Patricia's vintage) after riding for 2 ½ to 3 hours from Concord, was a real gift to Patricia and us. Arthritis didn't have the last word! We said that she must come again. With a twinkle in her eye, Emmanuel commented that the next time we will take a swim in the Bay (a minute away from us). Revealing stories surface during occasions like Jubilees. Speaking together in preparation for the homily, Father Joe Escobar asked what happened to the suitor who proposed to and was refused by Patricia. With a wave of the hand she said he got over it!



*Sr. Mary Davin with Sr. Patricia renewing her Vows*

Relatives of sisters who have died keep in touch with the community. Recently, the niece of Mother Angela Teresa, one of the founders from New Orleans, LA to Newport, RI in 1930, called from Texas to set up a visit while in RI. She and her three daughters desired to come to see where their aunt and great-aunt lived and is buried. Sr. Marian acted as their guide. As one put it, they were delighted to have learnings about the family. Their joy and enthusiasm shone on their faces and affected us too. The brother of Mother Angela Teresa gave the statue of the Resurrection as well as the Crucifix in the cemetery.



*Anne Marie standing by the statue of the Resurrection*



*Anne Marie with her daughters in the visiting room with Sr. Susan who is sitting.*

As a community we worked on the questionnaire from CICLSAL. One thought fed another. We were able to incorporate the many into succinct and meaningful responses which we accepted as a chapter. Volumes could probably have been written on the different topics. We were grateful for the opportunity to speak about important things in our life. The notes from the Assembly of Carmelite Nuns in Italy were educational and enjoyable. We appreciated the communication.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> we were fortunate to have Fr. Brian McDermott, S.J. present the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the three year series on OHM in preparation for her 5<sup>th</sup> centenary of birth. The title was "St. Teresa and Christ-Consciousness". He is a great scholar and dear friend of Carmel. Two books of his are, "What Are They Saying About the Grace of Christ?" (Paulist Press) and "Word Become Flesh: Dimensions of Christology"

(Liturgical Press). There are three CD series for Now You Know Media, Inc. "Who Is Jesus?: An Introduction to Christology", "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola", and "The Dynamics of God's Grace". It is always so good to see and to hear truth in its fuller and realistic meaning. The death and resurrection of Christ are seen in their impact on the evolution of consciousness in Teresa and for that matter in us who like her are common and weak, yet called to live in the image and likeness of God.

Our Sr. Marian's brother-in-law John died in September after a long illness. Please pray for her sister Dorothy who cared for him with love and devotion.

Our Sr. Eileen's sister-in-law Anita died in September in Bethlehem, Holy Land. After a few strokes she went into a coma and died five days later. Her husband, Eileen's brother Yousef, died in November of last year.

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

This month has been especially feast of St. Therese and celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> centenary birth. For the 5<sup>th</sup> centenary, we Thanksgiving on St. Teresa's principal celebrant. Two close a special dinner will follow. We the next issue of the Newsletter.



*Sr. Angela Pikus, OCD*

joyful with the celebration of the preparations for an opening of Our Holy Mother St. Teresa's decided to begin with a Mass of solemnity, inviting our Bishop to be priest friends will concelebrate; and plan to share photos and details in

On the feast of St. Therese after the Mass, we had blessing and distribution of roses, the first time in our six years here at Maria Hall. With the roses we had ordered for the day, plus a large bouquet from friends, we decided to renew our practice held every year at the monastery of distributing blessed roses. The Sisters of Ss. Cyril and Methodius and the few lay people present at Mass were delighted. In the afternoon another friend sent a large bouquet of roses to our Sr. Anne. No doubt, Therese sent more to others in hidden ways. A Secular Carmelite e-mailed with excitement, that following her prayer to Therese to send her a rose and the waning of her hope that that would happen, she unexpectedly received a fresh bouquet of flowers with some roses in it from her brother. Her comment: "I know St. Therese heard my prayers; she was just looking for a messenger."

In late July four Sisters from Latrobe Carmel came for a visit of a few hours. We deeply appreciated the effort involved, nearly five hours travel one way. There is a closeness between our communities because their foundress, Mother Bernadette and our Sister Therese were sisters. Srs. Mary Wild, Marie Elizabeth, Tanya and Shirley came and we shared stories, new and old.



*Latrobe visit to Danville*



*Visit of Srs. Aletha and Rita*

A month later two of our Sisters from Beacon, Srs. Aletha and Rita, came for a few hours' visit. They were able to include a short stop at Emmanuel Center to visit our Sisters Therese and Ann Marie, and Anna at Nazareth Memory Center. We were very grateful for their coming, also.

The health of Srs. Therese, Ann Marie and Anna continues to be good, a sign of the excellent care they receive. Sr. Therese spends a lot of time reading and it is a challenge to keep her in books. She accepts only those on the life of Christ or Scripture studies! As to be expected, Sr. Anna has made friends among the residents of Nazareth Center, as well as retaining friends from the area, some of whom have visited. A bird feeder outside her window and a pair of binoculars to identify birds add to her interests. Sr. Ann Marie has a wonderful spontaneous humor, making staff members laugh and laughing at their comments. She feels loved and well cared for.

Summer brought more visitors: the annual visit of Sr. Frances' niece, Blanca, and the annual visit for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel by Deacon Michael Grella and his wife, friends of fifty years. Also, for the feast of Our Lady, Bishop William Waltersheid, our former vicar for religious and now auxiliary bishop in Pittsburgh, visited. God has blessed us, as He has all of our Carmels, will steadfast friends.



*Visit of Deacon and Mrs. Michael Grella on July 16*



*Srs. Margaret, Pat and Anna*



# Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains

## Reno, Nevada

Dear Sisters,

Since our Reno community was so involved with the August Teresian San Jose celebration, and I am the author, of necessity our newsletter input for this issue will be devoted to that topic. Stay tuned for future reports from Reno, more reflective of the great diversity of news items unfolding from our monastery in the desert!



*Sr. Claire Sokol, OCD*

Less than 2 months ago nearly 300 people gathered in San Jose, CA for *The Creative Spiritual Genius of St. Teresa Today*, a 2 ½ day celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Teresa's birth. The STJ500 planning committee planned this early celebration to



*Dress rehearsal, Roads to Zion with Dolora Zajick*

accommodate Dolora Zajick's schedule. Dolora is a world-renowned mezzo soprano, who lives in Reno and attends daily Mass at the monastery when she is not otherwise engaged in singing opera on the world's greatest stages, including over 200 performances with the NY Metropolitan Opera. A lover of St. Teresa and the Church's mystical tradition, Dolora volunteered her services to compose an opera scene in her honor called *Roads to Zion* and sang the part of Teresa in the concert presented as part of the San Jose celebration.

With Dolora's encouragement, over the past 2 years, I composed several new choral pieces for Carmel and Sr. Cloe added a piece for John of the Cross. All of these are part of a new CD, *Living Water*, available now from our monastery website. A magnificent concert was presented in the San Jose Cathedral Basilica on August 22<sup>nd</sup> which included several of these new works interspersed with readings from St. Teresa. A world-class group of musicians poured out their gifts of talent and soul, presenting an unforgettable 'evening of musical reflection' in which the Spirit was palpable among us.



*Dress rehearsal, Teresian Singers and Orchestra, St. James Cathedral, Seattle*

Again, it was Dolora who introduced me to *Lux Aurumque*, Eric Whitacre's virtual choir a few

years ago, and said to me afterwards, "Can you imagine a group of Carmelite nuns singing in a virtual choir?" a year later I brought this idea to the STJ500 planning committee who, to my great surprise, urged me to do everything possible to make it happen. With the support of Fr. Saverio and thanks to the extraordinary talents of Scott Haines, the producer, the generous funding of our friend, Lynn Bremer, a host of translators and the cooperation of each of you who sang (!), the miracle happened: *Nada Te Turbe* and *Salve Regina* Carmelite virtual choirs were born! What joy to see and hear so many Discalced Carmelites gathered into one choir from all over the world! Tears flowed in San Jose as we saw these virtual choirs for the first time. I know you would be as moved as I have been hearing the excitement of Carmelites all over the world - thrilled to be included in this project. The sisters from Croatia emailed me saying, "On behalf of all of us we thank you for the fellowship that you gave us by thinking of us - brothers and sisters of the Carmelites in the remote and small country of Croatia." And from our Sisters in Indonesia, "This is a Teresian brainwave!" My latest peek at Youtube shows over 200,000 hits on the *Nada Te Turbe* virtual choir alone. The internet is St. Teresa's new covered wagon!

Other highlights from the San Jose Teresian celebration included a beautiful Eucharistic liturgy and presentations by each branch of the Carmelite Order including a PowerPoint presentation about the Carmelite Nuns in the United States prepared by Sisters Marjorie (Beacon), Michael (Danvers), Teresita (Carmel by the Sea), Mary Clare (Terre Haute) and myself. It was a significant, collaborative project resulting in a deepening of friendship among all of us. Thank you to each of our communities who sent photos for this project! Thanks especially to Mary Fleig (Baltimore) who helped us pull it all together!

The entire San Jose concert, highlights of the 2 day celebration, the nuns PowerPoint and the *Nada Te Turbe* and *Salve Regina* virtual choirs are now available in DVD format on our monastery website. More information and photos from the celebration are available on the [www.STJ500westernus.com](http://www.STJ500westernus.com) website. From there you will also be able to download the excellent presentation given by our friend, Sr. Christine Morel, of France, entitled *St. Teresa's Prayer: An Adventure!* Our community used Sr. Christine's talk as a focus for our recent theological reflection. We highly recommend it!

Our Reno community opened the Teresian year by inviting our friends to a special vespers celebration at the monastery. I imagine that you have discovered what we have already: by opening our doors to share our Teresian heritage with others we are the first beneficiaries in rediscovering the riches that are ours in the Teresian Carmel.

Numbered among the unexpected events of the past year, our local PBS affiliate in Reno (KNPB) approached the STJ500 planning committee asking to produce a 30 minute documentary about the Teresian year of celebration; focusing on the Carmelite virtual choirs. Hearing about this project through others, they were fascinated with its potential message: unifying the world through the combination of music, spirituality and technology. As of this writing, PBS is aiming for a local airing on or around March 19<sup>th</sup>. National airing depends on other PBS affiliates picking up the program. You may be able to help by contacting your local stations. When the program is ready, we will let you know.

Despite the drought that plagues the Western USA, we feel drenched by the rivers of the Spirit that have already begun to flow so abundantly at the start of this Teresian year. May she bless us all now and in the coming year!