



# CCA Newsletter

Volume 38 Issue 1 October 2016

“One sole desire makes my heart beat,  
and it is the love I shall receive  
and the love I shall be able to give.”

RENO

BEACON

BOSTON

LATROBE

CONCORD

ELDRIDGE

DANVILLE

CLEVELAND

BALTIMORE

SAN RAFAEL

OLDENBURG

BARRINGTON



## Letter from the CCA Leadership Team

Dear Sisters,

As I begin writing this letter to you, we are preparing for the feast of Our Holy Mother. It's always a special time as we are also preparing for the celebration of St Thérèse and this year – for the canonization of Elizabeth of the Trinity. Surely a lot for us to thank God for in one short month!

Special thanks to Sr Cecelia of the Reno Carmel as she has given us a new LOGO for CCA which is making its debut in this newsletter. It has a real simplicity about it and expresses our reliance on the Holy Spirit, patron of our Association. Cecelia's artistic gifts are much in evidence and when I expressed my understanding of the symbolism, Cecelia agreed it had been her hope that it would convey: "...life, hope and ever young, ever new Spirit!"



*Sr. Michaelene Devine*

This lovely LOGO will also grace our new and updated website which Sr Jeanne-Marie has been developing. Some of you know what a labor-intensive project this is, but I'm new to it and I'm in awe of all the bits and pieces that are part of it, especially the need for great attention to detail. You may have tried recently to access the website and noticed that it is still under construction. As with all great works, it takes time, talent and lots of patience – but it "will surely, surely come". We expect the new website to be up and running early in 2017 and we know that you will be pleased with the results. Through all this, Jeanne-Marie remains calm, deliberate and very competent. God has blessed us with wonderful sisters on earth as well as in heaven!

As you probably remember, after our last CCA meeting, your evaluations were so positive about Bon Secours Conference Center that the Leadership Team went ahead and reserved it for our next CCA meeting which will be **April 15-21, 2018**. (mark those dates!) Hoping to continue the theme of Journey and Contemplative Listening that we appreciated so much with Sr Nancy Sylvester, we have asked Fr. Michael Fish, a Camaldolese hermit, to be with us for the first few days of our meeting. The Leadership Team spoke with him at our recent ZOOM meeting and we are confident that he is an answer to our desires for continuity. We think you will agree! You can check him out for yourself at his website: [www.hermitfish.org](http://www.hermitfish.org)

Last but certainly not least, is the Apostolic Constitution (*Vultum Dei Quaerere*). This document proves to be inspiring and challenging as so many of Pope Francis' documents are. It is a reminder to us of the grandeur and blessings of our vocation and calls us to greater fidelity and authenticity in our living of it. There is acknowledgment of the part we play in designing our future and the hope that we really will be empowered to forge that future.

As Sr Claire, in her letter to Archbishop Carballo, put it: "*Vultum Dei Quaerere* inspires us to give an ever more radical witness to the living God. As daughters of St Teresa we embrace this challenge and pledge to work in communion with the whole Carmelite family and the Church to draw people of all faiths and no faith to seek the face of the living God."

Finally, in our prayer, we share the burden and distress of our suffering world – those in war-torn areas, those fleeing from war, oppression and natural disasters, and the painful situation in our own country as we count down the days until our national elections.

May God's Spirit breathe through us and bring us the peace we so long for.  
Many blessings to you and those you love! Michaelene

# Carmel of Our Lady and St Joseph

## Boston, Massachusetts



*Sr. Mary Clare Doherty*

**PEOPLE** We invited Dr. Robert Jonas to give us a day on "mindfulness." He is an author, musician, retreat director, and the founder of the Empty Bell, a retreat center here in MA, that has a focus on Christian-Buddhist dialogue. Dr. Jonas brought along his three thousand dollar bamboo flute and invited us into its exquisite sounds.

Earlier in the summer, a woman approached us about being part of a film she was producing on 'growing up in Roxbury.' We accepted her invitation, and she came with her crew of technicians to interview four of the sisters. Apparently the monastery had played an important role in the lives of just about everyone she had interviewed.

And at the end of Sept. we will start our ICFP with Fr. Norbert Litoing SJ from Cameroon. He'll speak on Islam with which he is quite familiar. The morning meeting will give insights into Islam and also deal with Islamism. The afternoon will look at Muslim-Christian dialog and how the Church's regard of Islam has evolved.



*Aileen and Fr. Norbert at ICF meeting*

**ART** One of our regular Mass celebrants is also an MD and heads the HIV/AIDS unit at Boston Medical Ctr. Someone had given him an original painting of St Aloysius Gonzaga, done on wood.

Aloysius, a Jesuit, is the patron of those with AIDS, so on his feast, Jon Fuller, a Jesuit, brought the painting and left it with us, temporarily.

Another painting was "loaned" to us for a while by our carpenter, a wonderful work of Klimt which he had found discarded and which he framed fittingly.

**CARMELITES** In June we were in Barrington bringing our ICF classes to a close with a party that was warmly and superbly hosted by our sisters. It was so very good to be with them.

In July, Monica, Claire, Michaelene, and Hilary were here doing CCA-leadership-team work. We enjoyed their presence during Mass and meals. Otherwise they were quietly at work.

**CELEBRATIONS** Our archdiocese is trying something new. Bishops are being appointed pastors of individual parishes while retaining their other assigned ministries.

The celebration of our Reform, August 24th, occurred on the same day that two new bishops were ordained for our archdiocese. One, being a good friend of the community, wanted us all present at the ordination. A

car was sent for those able to attend and front row seats were reserved for what proved a joyful and inspiring event.

We celebrated our own foundation day on August 27th with prayers and hymns and a special remembrance of our deceased sisters and benefactors while processing to the shrines in our garden. Included was a stop at our 'centennial tree' to share memories and express gratitude for all that has been. We were happy to note how the tree, an American rosebud, has sprouted up during the past year.

**PRAYER** Jeanne-Marie had the opportunity to spend some retreat time with Nancy and Leslie in Washington. She appreciated their goodness and the beauty of their life.

Please pray for Jeanne-Marie's mother Mrs. Jeanne Graham, who has had surgery. Mrs. Graham is also blind. And keep in your prayers Sr. Margaret, Bernadette Therese's sister, who went to God.

Also, a prayer would be appreciated for Alina who left us to return to her work in Florida, after carefully discerning what God was asking of her.



*Alina, Aileen, & Juanita at the Barrington party.*

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD** It appears that our resident turkey has found more attractive accommodations. We can, however, boast of having close to 20 raccoons visiting who definitely appreciate the gardens. The expense of trapping them has been cut by getting our own traps and baiting them, but the relocation process is still quite costly.

If you get cut off during a phone conversation with us, don't think that it's because we just decided we had better things to do and hung up. The problem of our phones remains unsolved.

Big machines moved in and dug up our street during the entire month of August. It was a risky challenge for those obliged to drive down it. Some walked, some backed up the one-way street, our pastor just drove over the orange cones. However, the workers and the police have been very nice in their own obstructionist ways. And who knows, this may all be focused on fixing our phone lines!!



*Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug*

## **Carmel of the Assumption Latrobe, Pennsylvania**

As we launched in to summer, our hearts went out to those who were suffering from the many severities of nature that we were aware of all across the country. We prayed much for those in the paths of the fires in the west, the floods and tornados in the south, even in southern Pennsylvania. Aside from some days of oppressive heat and a short drought in the middle of the growing season, our little parcel remained fairly untouched by anything extreme, though we are again in need of rain.

Our enclosure wall has been finished and some of our friends have been inquiring where they might obtain the same type of fence. It certainly adds to the beauty of our property.

On Sunday, June 26, our Bishop called us to say that our friend of many years, Archbishop Giuseppe deAndrea was not doing well. On June 30 the Bishop called again to tell us had passed away in Rome. In 1958, Fr. deAndrea came to our Diocese from Italy and served here for about 23 years as pastor of five parishes, headmaster of the minor seminary, professor of Theology at Seton Hill College and Vicar for Religious. In this capacity we got to know him very well and to appreciate all the skills and personal gifts that made him excellent in this job. He went on to be attache at the permanent observer mission of the Holy See to the UN, then back to Rome where he became an apostolic delegate and an Archbishop. He and his brother, also an Archbishop, served the Holy See in the Arabian Peninsula comprising Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain and Qatar, a delicate and dangerous mission. Our Bishop visited him on his latest trip to Rome and found him fragile, but a gracious and entertaining host.

At the end of July, the Bishop scheduled a memorial Mass for the Archbishop at the Cathedral and invited us to attend. Sr. Marie Elizabeth represented the community and was one of the gift-bearers in the Offertory procession, along with an Italian Sister whose congregation gave primary education to the deAndrea brothers in Italy. Our retired Bishop Lawrence Brant gave the homily. He knew both of the Archbishops deAndrea very well and had served the Holy See in the Arabian peninsula as they had. He told us that every morning there, one reminded oneself that this was the day one might be martyred. Many of Archbishop deAndrea's former parishioners from around the diocese also attended the memorial Mass and shared memories of his service to them.

From August 17-19, we had our canonical visitation with Fr. Jude Peters, OCD, our provincial. He gave us some helpful suggestions and much encouragement in living our daily life in Carmel.

When some of the work we had covered year after year seemed a bit much for us, we contacted the area chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Their retired members have responded generously, giving us Tuesday mornings for outdoor work and some indoor repairs that have made a difference in our daily living.

We are grateful and enthused about the canonization of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity. She is our community patroness for this year, so we plan a day of celebration and sharing on her works. Sr. Marie Elizabeth is especially pleased that her patroness is being given full honors of the Church in her lifetime.

Fr. Thomas Acklin, OSB from St. Vincent Archabbey gave us two conferences on Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity in preparation for the canonization. As a Benedictine novice, his Passionist spiritual director recommended our Carmelite Sister as a guide and model in prayer. This led to an enduring interest in, and admiration for, Bl. Elizabeth and her short but powerful spiritual legacy. It led us to wonder at how interconnected the various charisms are in the Church and how much we can learn from each other.

Sr. Mary Paul's only sibling and sister, Gerry, passed to the Lord on September 26. She would appreciate your prayers for her and her family. You are in our thoughts and prayers each day, as we thank God for the grace of sharing this life with you.

## Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

### Eldridge, Iowa

Sr. Lynne was able to attend the Bishops' and Major Superiors' of Iowa Meeting this September. The Davenport Diocese hosted the meeting which was held in the New Melleray Abbey located near Dubuque, Iowa. The monks there are members of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (commonly called the *Trappists*).



*Sr. Miriam Hogan*

Lynne told us that there was a very interesting discussion concerning the resettlement of refugees in our Diocese. The plan was to help 33 families to settle here. It was explained that most of the refugees have a family member or relative in this area and that most of them would be from Africa as there are already African families in the community and the hope is to bring them to shared experiences as they seek to integrate into American culture.

Two men that have already been resettled came to the meeting and told their stories. One explained that to him "home is where one has good memories" and this is his home as all of his memories of Africa are not good. The other one explained that he was able to get his Masters degree in Myanmar where he had fled from S. Sudan. But that he calls his mother back in Africa every day. (Thanks to newtechnology!) Both men spoke good English.



*Kahl Home Resident of the Month - Sr. Maria*

Concerning another important matter, we ask your prayers for our Sr. Maria. She is now being cared for by Hospice at the Kahl Home. They have posted her Life story and some photos in her Unit as the Resident of the Month display.

Finally, as we watch the change of colors and harvesting going on we recall that "There is something very sacred about the change of seasons."



*Harvest Time, Soybeans*

Wishing all of our Sisters a Happy Feast of St. Teresa and Celebration of the Canonization of Sister (SAINT) Elizabeth of the Trinity.

*Trinity, whom I adore, calm and changeless mystery,  
I hide within Your Life: "You in me, and I in You."  
Make my soul Your dwelling place,  
Your heav'n on earth, Your home of rest.  
May I ne'er leave You alone,  
But keep me there  
In living faith.*

*Word of God, eternal Sound, I give all to learn from You;  
Through darkest poverty I will cling to Your embrace.  
PRAISE OF GLORY I shall be,  
Oh, Star of mine with lustrous beams:  
Fascinate me with Your Light, And hold me fast  
Within "MY THREE.*

*Dove of Love, consuming Fire, form in me His mystery.  
For Him, the Word of God, I will be humanity.  
Father mine, look down on me, And see in me Your only Son.  
Oh, my Life, my joy, my All,  
You are "MY THREE, MY TRINITY. "*

(Poetic version by Sr. Mary Jo Loebig, O.C.D., based on the prayer of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity)

# Carmel of the Resurrection

## Oldenburg, Indiana

We were fortunate, from early spring on, to have abundant rain without the drastic flooding that afflicted other parts of our country. Our valley has remained a blaze of green until now, bypassing the often parched grass of August. The summer moved along with the usual town celebrations, the Firemen's Parade, Freudenfest (a very German festival that coincided with the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel), and the various Jubilee celebrations of our Franciscan Sisters.



*Sr. Jean McGoff*

In early June an article about our community, written by a close friend, Sr. Judy Best, SSND, appeared online in the Global Sisters Report. It was titled "Zest for Life: Letting Go as a Contemplative Community." It included some beautiful pictures of our former monastery.

For our weekly series of study to "form our minds and hearts," we began DVD lectures by a Vatican scientist, Guy Consolmagno, SJ, on "Exploring the Big Questions of the Cosmos." The expansion of our understanding of the universe and new scientific discoveries has confirmed for us what John Haught expressed in one of his books, that "evolution has given us a more exciting God."

The end of July brought us "Vultum Dei Quaerere." It is almost 50 years since "Venite Seorsum" was promulgated and we appreciated the new breadth of thinking and openness in this document. It truly made an effort to respond to the current reality of living a contemplative life. That month, in an edition of "The Tablet," an article written by the Prioress of the Poor Clares in London. Sr. Patricia Rumsey, appeared. While affirming all that was encouraging and positive, she felt it still implied a difference between men and women living our life, had too much emphasis on "separation from the world," and did not recognize that those living an ordinary life style could be gifted contemplatives and also see things "with spiritual eyes." Whether or not one agrees with this estimation, it was refreshing to see her comments in such an excellent and well-read magazine.



*Marcie & Marilyn Webb, ACS  
President*

August 11 Marcie attended the Association of Contemplative Sisters national meeting at Kingsville Retreat

House in Belleville, IL. The theme was "THE WE MYSTICISM: MOVING ACROSS THE WATERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS TO COMMUNION."



*Srs. Mary & Joanna from Terre Haute*

The weekend of August 20, our Chinese Sisters, Mary and Joanna, came from Terre Haute, bearing gifts from the garden and orchard and cupboards of the Carmel. to fix a special meal for Helen and the community.



It was a thank you for our help over the years in bringing their Carmel to birth. It was such a joyful celebration. They prepared a program for our entertainment, including music and a dance by Joanna. They are very happy and are learning so much from the Terre Haute Sisters as well as their study of English.

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross we renewed our vows in our little chapel during morning prayer. Our altar is situated in such a way that seated, we face six large windows. Reflecting on the freedom of the vowed life, I saw most of the spires of Oldenburg, visible out those windows, as a rising upward in another expression of freedom. To complete the picture, groups of birds often fly in circular clusters in the beautiful sky as if they are just having a good time. We celebrated Albert a few days later, thanking him for the gift of our simple Rule, another invitation to freedom.

Helen and Jean Alice both celebrated birthdays this month. China celebrated the annual Feast of the Full Moon on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so Helen chose this day to celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> entrance anniversary, along with her birthday. We had a special dinner planned by Helen. When it was dark we went out onto our cloister for evening prayer. The sky was beautifully clear and the moon was big and bright.



Indiana is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of joining the Union. Right now runners are carrying a torch through all the counties of the state. It will arrive in Indianapolis on December 11, the actual day. The torch went through Oldenburg on September 18, carried by a very good runner who is a senior at the Academy here. We meant to be over on Main Street to see him pass by, but there was a corporate failure of memory!



*Helen & Jean Alice (above) Chinese guests from CA*

We hosted two different meetings this month. ARC (the leadership group of various religious congregations in Indiana) who gathered to pray, share agendas, and enjoy a catered dinner on September 16. We welcomed regional members of ACS to the retreat house next door on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We heard reports of the national meeting in Belleville and did some future planning. These are such joy-filled groups. Opening our minds and hearts to one another, we take in new wisdom and new hope.



*Terese at ARC Meeting*

Needless to say, this has been a very full month and we look forward to a 10-day hermit retreat following the feast of Our Holy Mother in October.

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

Autumn greetings from New England!

This July we again asked different priests to give our Novena for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Fr. Frank O'Hara, our diocesan priest, Fr. Augustine Judd, O.P., and Fr. Michael Berry, OCD celebrated with us, three nights each. We enjoyed having Fr. Michael Berry with us again. Years ago, he was among those who came to Barrington for the party day at the end of the formation classes. It was good to hear about our old friends and to share incidents in our lives that remind us of God's loving care.



*Sr. Roseann Gillice*

While on retreat at Beacon Carmel, Sr. Roseann was given a copy of an e-mail which Sr. Michaelene thought might be informative and helpful – **a tip about ticks** "for anyone with children and animals, or hunters, or anyone who even steps outside in summer!! A School Nurse has written the info below – good enough to share - and it really works!! I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20). The tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me. Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!" Please pass on. Everyone needs this helpful hint." Coincidentally, one of our Sisters went for her annual check-up and the doctor discovered a tick starting a new adventure on her back. What timing!

On the ecclesiastical level, Sr. Roseann found an interesting piece of information written in an article by Sr. Carolyn for Beacon's Newsletter. In writing for OHM's fifth centenary she quoted Pope Pius XI (1922-1939). When asked if Teresa would be made a Doctor of the Church, his reply was, "Her sex is against it." How times have changed and continue to do so.

Recently our Sr. Anne Marie had an operation on her nose for cancer; painful, but helpful. The discoloration on her face is much less now. One good effect was to have some hours of deep, restful sleep. Please keep Anne in your prayer.



*Maryellen*

Since we have fewer Sisters available for community work, we were helped through the Human Services Office of our Diocese to hire a cook. We have been blessed by Maryellen who comes three days a week. During that time she also prepares extra meals to cover us for the days she will not be here; she cleans the kitchen and related areas as well. She is a manager at Kohl's

department store and fits us into her schedule! When Maryellen was young they used to call her "Hurricane"; it fits her. However, unlike a hurricane, she works in a quiet, orderly, loving fashion and accomplishes so much good. We are deeply grateful for her presence.

Besides our Sisters giving sisterly, loving care we have two CNAs and a good friend of the community coming to help our infirm Sisters. It is inspiring to see how careful and dedicated they are to their patients. Our Secular Order members still meet at the monastery. There are six new observers interested in joining their community which at the present moment totals about thirty-five active members. They have small group meetings in the chapel as well as one large group meeting for input which members themselves have given. This is followed by a social time which provides "eats", a business report, plus the conference by the priest at two P.M. Vespers and Mass are after the conference. The list of inactive members grows with the changing years, but both sides keep in contact with each other. Fr. Anthony Haglof, OCD, from Brighton, MA friars and Fr. Tim Lemlin, one of our diocesan priests, take turns in attending the meetings. During the year the OCDS have a "Community Day" which is structured differently. A guest speaker is invited. A Jesuit and a Marist have given talks on Teresa and John.

Recently, we have had more requests in our bookstore for the works on St. Miriam of Jesus Crucified of Bethlehem Carmel. Reading her story you could say she is a saint for the ecological movement. "Maurice Barres dedicates admirable passages to her: 'She lived as a victim sharing in the sufferings of persons, individuals, animals, trees, plants; even of soil that was dried-up or flooded.' The Jewish convert Rene Schwob has dedicated an important article to 'Mariam the Arab'. He marvels at 'these wonderfully translucent poems' and he adds: 'May we be permitted to wish that this uneducated little girl, when the time of her canonization arrives, may become the patron saint of intellectuals. She is certainly raised up to free them from pride.' Louis Massignon, Jacques Maritain, Leon Bloy, and Francis Jammes have praised this Palestinian mystic. Julien Green writes, ... 'I have been reading with avidity the story of this predestined one.'"

Miriam was a forerunner of the age of the Holy Spirit. "In June, 1877, she sent a petition to Pius IX: 'the world and the religious communities are looking for novelties in devotions and neglect the true devotion to the Paraclete. This is why there is error and division and never peace and light. The light is not called upon as it should be called upon; it is light which gives the knowledge of truth. Even in the Seminaries it is neglected. It was revealed to me that in the whole universe it must be established that every priest says one Mass of the Holy Spirit every month.'" (Mariam, The Little Arab by Fr. Amedee Brunot, SCJ, translated at Nazareth Carmel, Israel)

We are very grateful for the Apostolic Constitution, "Seeking the Face of God". It's a great opportunity to work together with the Holy Spirit. We pray for everyone involved in preparing for the National Meeting in 2017 for all who are keeping the CCA afloat. We proclaim praise especially for Stephanie, our facilitator.

Please pray for Jack Bettencourt, Sr. Mary Theresa's brother-in-law who died recently.  
Happy Feasts of Therese and Teresa, our great friends and sisters!

#### *Haiku*

*"Geese on the roadside,  
deer on the lawn,  
bees in the bushes  
sing nature's song.  
Timing? Melody?  
Who knows the tune?  
The One Who is listening  
created the moon."*

*"Trees stand upside down  
in the still, water mirror.  
Darting fish part leaves."*

## Carmel of the Sacred Heart Baltimore, Maryland

Greetings from Baltimore!

As the leaves begin to change to the yellow/orange/red hues we can look back on summer 2016 as a very productive and reflective time.

As May began we focused on our annual Pentecost retreat but also with great anticipation for Sr. Cecilia of the Cosmic Christ who made her First Profession of Vows on the Solemnity of Pentecost. We were thrilled to witness her deep



*Sr. Celia of the Cosmic Christ*

commitment and her sharing of many gifts as she placed her hands in Sr. Judy Long's hands and gave voice to her desire for God, for community and for contemplative prayer. Celia was surrounded by many friends and family members as well as our Carmelite Friars. We were honored as well to have Monsignor Joseph Luca, a special friend of Celia's, preside at the Mass.

In June we were treated to a special piano concert by composer, pianist and Chair of the Piano Department at Washington Conservatory of Music, Haskell Small, who performed his own composition *A Journey in Silence: Reflection on The Book of Hours* interspersed with poetry read by his wife, Betsy. This event was truly a journey into prayer which was enjoyed by us in addition to members of our Sunday congregation. June also saw us hosting a day of reflection for the Franciscan Volunteers from Washington DC led by our dear friend, Meghan Meros, who is their coordinator. We were delighted to have these young women here to share our space of silence and prayer.

We began July anticipating two major liturgical celebrations. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month our dear friend, Joe Healey, a Maryknoll Missionary Priest, celebrated (and I do mean celebrated!) his 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in our chapel. We had many out-of-town guests attending as well as a willing and eager nun and guest choir. The day was lovely and memorable. Then, just the next weekend we celebrated Our Lady of Mt. Carmel with our Sunday congregation. Again, our choir and cantors were ready to "sing the Lord's praises." Just after the Feast, Sisters Colette and Celia represented our community at "Camp Fiat" which is a multi-diocesan discernment experience for young people which was held this year in Emmitsburg, Maryland. When they returned from their experience they both expressed hope for our future participation with this worthwhile endeavor.

We were so happy that Celia could attend the annual Carmelite Studies Week at Whitefriars Hall from August 14-20. In attendance as well were 50 of our O.Carm brothers in formation. Fr. Leopold Glueckert, O.Carm gave fascinating and insightful presentations each day on the "Neglected Beacons of Carmel." They studied Nicholas of Narbonne, Sibert de Beka, John of St. Samson, Michael of St. Augustine, Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection and Bartholomew Xibert. The week culminated with the Solemn Profession of Brothers Matthew Gummess and Jorge Monterroso.



*Sr. Leah Hargis*

Meanwhile, back at home, we were enjoying our second of two annual vacation weeks. Some of the nuns enjoyed an air conditioned living room with lively conversation. Those of us who garden got some needed "weeding time" in our various gardens. All in all as August ended we felt refreshed and ready for a return to more ordinary time.

The only word for the weather on Labor Day for our Carmelite Family Picnic was "FABULOUS!" It was cool, clear, fun and yummy. Together with the OCD and O.Carm Friars, our Secular Order members with spouses and ourselves we were 55 hungry souls. To liven things up a bit we played volleyball and some other games. Seriously, a great time was had by all. Also this month we've enjoyed a "facelift" around our circular entrance and around the outside of the Chapel. Our landscaping needed some sprucing up (pun intended) and we wanted to add more flowering plants, shrubs and trees. Everything is settling in well and looks beautiful already.

Finally, as this goes to press, we were blessed to have a wonderful visit with our friend, Ms. Delora Zajick, internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano. The Reno Carmel introduced us to Dolora as she has been a longtime friend of theirs. Our chapel was filled with her magnificent voice on September 11 as she performed her own arrangement of, "Let Us Break Bread Together." What a great blessing it was!

As we begin the Fast of the Order and look toward the feasts of Teresa and Therese , we send everyone greetings with prayers for a blessed autumn.



*10 Sister Visitors with Stephanie and Mary Hughes, OP (far right) gathered in Glen Burnie, MD*

## Carmel of the Incarnation Beacon, New York



*Sr. Carolyn O'Hara*

Our life these last few months seems to have been all about visits. In June we had one from Ann Williams, who was a member of the community for a while in the early 2000's, and now lives near St. Louis. You who have met Ann can guess how delightful it was.

We did miss two people in June as two Redemptoristines traveled to Italy for the beatification of their foundress, Maria Celeste Crostarosa, an eighteenth century Italian mystic. We Carmelites felt that she had a good start in religious life, having been in a Carmel at the beginning. Her Carmel was suppressed and she went to the Visitation nuns before founding her own order. She also planned to found the men's community before Alphonsus thought of it, and worked with him! (Shades of Teresa!)

We had Fr. Craig Morrison, O.Carm. as celebrant for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. We had very much appreciated our 2015 retreat with Craig, and were happy to see him again.

August 1 we had a long awaited visit from the Darnowski family. Some 14 or 15 years ago, Doug wrote to us, asking that we pray he find a wife. We did and he did. Now he and his lovely wife, Adele, have ten children, the oldest of whom is just twelve. These include one adopted child and two sets of twins. The children were charming: happy, friendly, respectful, appropriately rambunctious at times, outgoing...and we were in awe of their parents.



*Fr. Ray Rafferty*

A few days later, an old friend, Fr. Ray Rafferty, came for Eucharist and a visit. Fr. Ray is a New York diocesan priest, now retired. Our archdiocese is promoting Dorothy Day's cause and Fr. Ray's present task is interviewing people who knew her personally. These interviews will be transcribed and sent to Rome at the end of the year. He was not allowed to tell us what people said, but did share a lot about the whole process.

Later in August we welcomed Fr. Cornelius Omonokhua for Eucharist with one of our parish priests, Fr. Irenaeus Ikhane. Fr. Cornelius is the director of mission and dialogue for the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria -- and Fr.

Irenaeus' cousin. He was visiting Nigerian missionaries here in the States. He shared some of his own story during the homily. The grandson of a slave, and the son of a woman past menopause (she thought!), he has spent some forty years in dialogue with Muslims and about twenty five years in dialogue with other Christians.

Our liturgy committee arranged for a morning with Rita Ferrone, a liturgist who lives not too far away. She kept us alert and interested as she talked about the



*Fr. Irenaeus, Sr. Marjorie and Fr. Cornelius*

liturgy (notice the singular) of Holy Week, her passion. One of her theses is that the liturgies of Holy Week need to be seen and celebrated as one liturgy, spread out over a number of days. We hope to have her return closer to Holy Week.

This month, Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marita and I traveled to Glen Burnie, MD, just south of Baltimore, for a meeting for those of us slated to make the sisterly visits to our communities. The days were intense, but worthwhile, as we discussed just what we are to do, and how to go about it. We felt it important that we, the visitors, have a common understanding on this, for the sake of the communities. Our own Stephanie Hauge facilitated and Sr. Mary Hughes, OP was an excellent resource. I'm sure a longer report on this will be coming from the leadership team. An unexpected pleasure was our last afternoon's trip to Baltimore Carmel to use their conference room and enjoy supper with them.



*Sr. Marjorie, Stephanie, Sr. Mary Hughes and Sr. Ann Weber*

The heat has made it difficult to realize that summer is over; however a few brave trees are beginning to change color, so we have hope for fall! Enjoy our feasts coming up.



*Sr. Maria Viatori*

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

### Cleveland Proud!

This summer has surely been filled with excitement for the people of Cleveland. Our community, at present, may not be known as sports fanatics; however, we cheered the Cavaliers as they won the NBA Championship on June 20. Over a million people gathered in downtown Cleveland to pay tribute to the team. It was a proud moment, and we thanked God that jubilant fans gathered in peace to celebrate a milestone victory in the midst of the current wave of violence.

On the heels of this event, Cleveland continued to be in the news as it hosted the RNC. One significant strategy that made national headlines came from Sr. Rita Petruziello, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Cleveland, as the city prepared for the Convention.

Sr. Rita said, "Why don't we circle the city with love? Why don't we do that?" Thousands joined her on the downtown Hope Memorial Bridge the Sunday before the convention. *WKYC News* reported, "One mini but mighty woman's vision turned into thousands of strangers standing in solidarity. Shoulder to shoulder,

hand-in-hand, they stood lining both sides of the bridge as far as the eye could see for 30 minutes of silent reflection rooted in love.”

Once again, religious women stand out as beacons of hope and peace in a world fraught with political unrest and conflict.

### Secular Order News

We were saddened to learn of the death of George Nadeau on July 2 who started to attend the Third Order meetings back in 1984. George, a retired Navy man who definitely steered a true course in life, was a steadfast and faithful member of the group and a true friend to all in our community. In his biographical narrative George stated, “My favorite Carmelite quote is ‘prayer is nothing more than a heart to heart conversation with one whom we know loves us’ by St. Teresa of Avila. She is my favorite saint. One of my favorite biblical quotes is from the prophet Micah: ‘Shepherd my people with thy rod, the flock of your inheritance, that dwells apart in the woodland in the midst of Carmel.’ This was the inspiration for me to take as my religious title, George of Jesus the Good Shepherd.” Mass of Christian Burial was held in our Chapel on July 29, 2016.

### Community News

Our community retreat was held July 5 -12 with a quiet week following from July 17-23. Father Mike Woost, a longtime friend and lover of Carmelite spirituality, offered us powerful and rich insights on the theme of journey to transformation. All of us remarked that his input was just what we needed to help us through our time of transition and moving forward. We pray the grace of the retreat will continue.



*Tom Woost, Srs. Bernadette and Mary K.*

Our sister Vera Lea Virant has recently taken up residence at Regina Health Center in Richfield, OH. We are indebted to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine for providing such wonderful skilled nursing care in a religious environment.



*Community in front of Trolley*

We are so grateful to the leadership team and the recommendations put forth by the Assembly in regard to “sisterly visits” to our member monasteries. Because we were unable to attend the CCA Assembly, we had envisioned asking a member of the team to come and give us personal input. Our request has been answered in the form of Michaelene and Carolyn. Barb and Maria participated in a Zoom session with our two sisters from Beacon. It was such a helpful and encouraging experience to have a working session with them. We look forward to their visit with us.

The Carmelite Guild invited our community to join them in a “Lolly the Trolley” tour of Cleveland. With all the renovations downtown we jumped at the



chance to view the new face of Cleveland. We saw parts of downtown, the Flats, and University Circle that we hadn't seen in years. We were awed by the changes.

### Thank You

We thank our leadership team and the coordinators of the other associations in planning the April 2017 meeting with Father Saverio to discuss the implications of APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTION *VULTUM DEI QUAERERE*. We hope that it will be a time of rich sharing and dialogue.

Happy Feast of Holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus. May her guiding spirit be with us all.



*Sr. Barb with her sister Rosemary and grandniece Abby*

## **Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains Reno, Nevada**

After our very hot and western fire-filled summer season we are grateful for the cooling temperatures of autumn. The sisters in our extended dormitory area (equipped for assisted living) are additionally grateful for the new heating and cooling units installed in the rooms.

Many of you have followed the rash of extensive fires throughout the west this season. Western Nevada has been no exception. We were aware of a significant fire only a few miles from us and we could see and smell the smoke. So when the fire department told us to prepare for evacuation we assumed they were talking about that Caughlin Fire and thought we would have a little time to get organized. We were shocked when they told us we had to be out of the monastery within minutes. In fact another fire was dangerously close to us—two doors away! The fire department had all of us evacuate the monastery very quickly. We had discussed a long while ago a fire evacuation plan and together we had all of us out (wheelchair etc.), as well as critical papers, main computer backup, and dog out of the buildings in 7 minutes! Supper was turned off on the stove and oven. Then we made plans at the evacuation center at the high school and went out to dinner. The fire was put out and the fire department managed to save all the homes. We were able to return home later that night although it took a few days to fully return to "normal."

After the experience we made some modifications and improvements to our evacuation plan. The fire, police and sheriff's departments were wonderful throughout. We later brought home made cookies down to



*Sr. Marie-Louise*

them in gratitude. So many others in the west have lost lives and homes and priceless memories. We have been praying for others in the east and Midwest who have been battling floods, severe storms and fierce weather conditions. It makes us truly wonder what has happened to our earth and what our role and responsibility in all this really is. And most importantly, what we may be able to do to help transform the situation.



*Chris Donovan*

A very good friend of ours, Chris Donovan, gave two presentations open to our larger community in our chapel this summer. She is currently working on her second master's degree at Boston College. Accompanied by marvelous handouts, the first talk, on St. Paul's "Letter to the Romans", triggered thoughtful discussion and was enthusiastically received. The second one, "The Rosary: A Contemplative Approach" was done in conjunction with Sr. Claire and used her music in between Chris' reflections on the various mysteries of the rosary. Those in attendance found the experience very enriching.

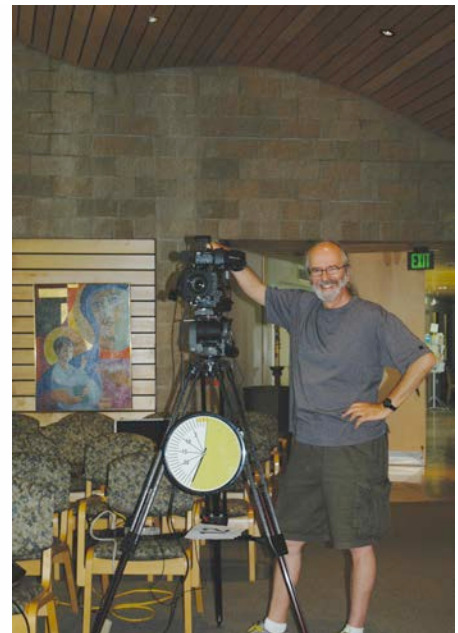
One of the ways we cooperate with the diocese in outreach is to have the weekly TV masses filmed in our chapel here once a month. Camera and crew arrive ahead of time to set up for masses to be celebrated 4-

6 weeks ahead of time. 4-5 priests arrive to be filmed one after another, about 35 minutes apart all afternoon. Sr. Maria coordinates the many details in the chapel around this, including liturgical décor well in anticipation of our current season and insuring that all supporting ministries are covered. For the homebound, sick and elderly this is a ministry that is highly valued and people who have never been here recognize the interior of our chapel all around the diocese. We are most grateful to Maria for her dedication to this ministry, among so many others!

Technology keeps moving and circumstances continually evolve. Our ancient and dying old phone system finally fell victim to the ravages of time. Once cell phones made the monastery much more quiet and communication was more dependent on them, the replacement system didn't need to be as elaborate as the old one had been in it's time. We now have a new phone system for our house and print shop phones. It is much simpler, and doesn't have all the old features, but it works for our purposes. Callers are still getting used to it's limitations.

Late spring and summer into early fall is usually the time for our sisters to make family visits, make their personal retreats, and the time when we have other sisters, priest friends and family members visiting here. It's always full of comings and goings for one meeting or another. We would ask your prayers for Sr. Rosalind's mother Barbara who is now in hospice in San Diego, for Sr. Rosemary's father Tony who is over 100, and for Sr. SaRa's mother who seems to be doing a bit better after SaRa's extended stay with her in Korea to help her.

Our busy Christmas card season is upon us. Orders are coming in; press is clicking along, packages going out, and computers humming. It must be September! Blessed fall to one and all!



*Dave Allen with his camera for TV Mass*

# Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

## Concord, New Hampshire

Greetings to all from Concord, where fall weather is at last arriving! We hope that you had a grace-filled summer and that this letter finds you well. Here are the highlights of our news.

First I want to give you an update on Sister Gabriel. You may recall from Judy Murray's post on the Carmelite News that Gabriel went into Concord Hospital for intestinal surgery around the first of June. Although her surgery went well, she contracted a severe case of pneumonia after surgery, and her recovery has not been easy. We are happy to report that she is much better, doing well in rehab, where the staff is helping her build up muscle strength.

Please keep her in your prayers, as she has some distance to go before she can come home. But she has come very far, and she is much, much better.

For our celebration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we have a Triduum. This year, Sr. Michaelene suggested Fr. Robert (Rob) Traudt, O.Carm., who has given conferences to the Beacon Sisters. We enjoyed his conferences here very much. Fr. Rob is novice master for the O.Carms in Middletown, NY, and we think that his novices are fortunate, as he has much to share. We also experienced him as our brother, and we are grateful that he was able to visit us for Our Lady's Feast.

Speaking of visits, as I write, Sisters Colette and Judy M. from Baltimore are here. They have been helping us with the cooking and reception duties during the time at which our sisters, Claudette and Theresa, are on retreat. We have enjoyed their meals and the relief they have provided from answering the phone and door, but even more, we have enjoyed their company. When sisters visit you, you always experience the presence of Jesus in a new and special way as you have special conversations and do things in a somewhat different way from the way you normally do them. We want to thank both Colette and Judy and of course, Baltimore Carmel, for all the help and the joy we have received.

More next time; Happy Feast of Our Holy Mother, Saint Teresa!



*Sr. Hilary Case*

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

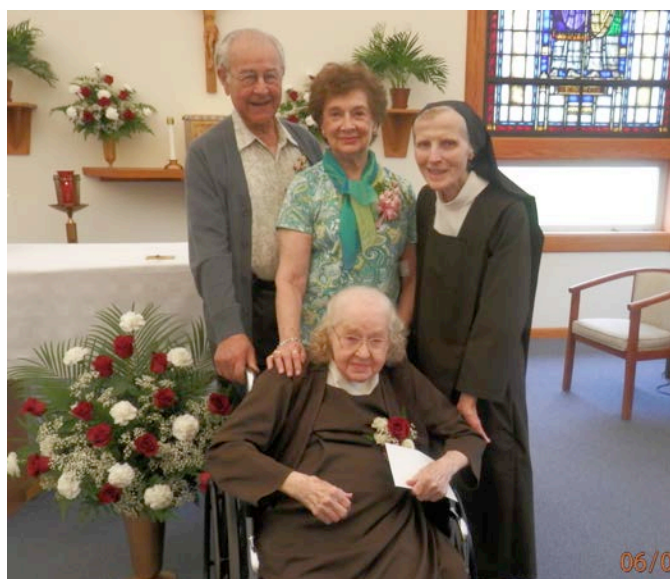
Our area has been experiencing dry, hot weather with little rainfall. The lantana, portulaca and sunflowers in the garden plots seem to be thriving nonetheless. In the Susquehanna River, a mile from us, grass was growing about six inches high and at a distance of about twenty feet from the shore. A rare occurrence!



*Sr. Angela Pikus*

Our biggest news for this time is Sister Therese's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the

past few years the words were: "if I live to be one hundred" and then the big Day arrived! Although her birthday is June 3<sup>rd</sup>, she wanted to celebrate on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, because, she said, everything she has is from Jesus.



*Robert Dugre, Betty Dugre, Sr. Therese, Sr. Angela*

Sr. Therese asked for a quiet celebration with family and close friends only. Her nephew Robert and his wife Betty drove from Long Island; a few Secular Carmelites, local friends and six of us were present also. There was a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Chapel of Emmanuel Center, followed by a dinner in the family dining room for eleven. In addition to the planned dinner, the chef provided sweet potato fries with coffee ice

cream for dessert, two of Therese's favorites. Her nephew gave a toast.

Among Sister's presents was a spiritual bouquet from the Secular Carmelites in the form of potted cardboard flowers with the prayer gifts written on them. The gift was novel, colorful and it delighted Sr. Therese very much.

Later in the month the staff of Emmanuel gave a party for Therese and for another centenarian, a woman resident. A photographer from the Bloomsburg newspaper, "Press Enterprise" was present and took photos which were published the next day.



*Sr. Therese with Secular Carmelite  
spiritual bouquet*

Sr. Therese says she is set to go to Heaven now but *that now* may be prolonged; she received a third pacemaker this month at her cardiologist's recommendation!

In our Community meetings we have finished our study of *Laudato Si'* and noted the breadth and comprehensiveness of it. Definitely our sharing has sensitized us more to the obligation of reverencing our planet and to practical measures each person can take to help toward healing it. We've just begun a DVD series by Bishop Robert Barron, entitled "Catholicism The Pivotal Players". The first of the series gives one hour presentations on the life and times of six persons: Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, John Henry Newman, Gilbert K. Chesterton and Michelangelo. A quote from the jacket of this first volume states that the complete series "illuminates a handful of saints, artists, mystics and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of Western civilization." We have learned from the commentary of Bishop Barron and enjoyed the beautiful photography on the first, Francis of Assisi.

In July Bishop William Waltersheid, auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh and our former Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life, visited us for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We had an enjoyable conversation sharing our news and learning of Bishop Waltersheid's responsibilities and travels.

In late September, our Secular Carmelites had a weekend retreat at the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Spiritual Center, given by Fr. Emmanuel-Patrick Betasso, O.C.D. of the Washington D. C. monastery. Father stayed on after the retreat to meet our Community. He had Mass here in Maria Hall Chapel and breakfast with us. The visit was necessarily short and he hopes to come again.

In addition to their many other charitable works for the local Churches and communities, the Knights of Columbus of Elysburg, Coal Township and Shamokin annually present our Community with a gift check. This year Mr. Lou Odorizzi, past Grand Knight and Mr. Bevo Forti delivered the check and visited with Sr. Joan Bourne and Sr. Angela sharing news of the programs the Knights sponsored.

Sr. Angela's youngest brother, Raymond, died peacefully and unexpectedly in the early evening of August 18<sup>th</sup> at his apartment in Arlington, VA. His funeral was in the church where he was baptized, SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Portage, PA. Please remember him in your prayers.



*Lou Odorizzi, Sr. Angela, Bevo Forti*

*Photos of Sr. Therese: courtesy of Bernadine Markey, OCDS*

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

Dearest Sisters of CCA,

Blessings of the Autumn Season! We are starting our newsletter from May/June. Sr. Anna Marie and Sr. Immaculate were able to take a 2 week Retreat with our Carmelite Hermit Sisters of Mary in Newport, Washington. Srs. Nancy and Leslie were the best Retreat guides ever! We felt right at home and had a great time hiking all over their 80 acres of forest and blissfully enjoying our silence and solitude immensely! What a special time of refreshment in the Lord.



*Sr. Anna Marie Vanni*

We had a very nice surprise visit from Father Christopher La Rocca, OCD, newly arrived from the Carmelite Mission in Uganda. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the people of Uganda and all the Carmelite vocations there.

At the beginning of June, the Sisters started working on the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Teresa Francis' Entrance Day. All the Sisters worked very hard on the beautiful floral arrangements and delightful decorations for the Chapel, Choir and Refectory. Finally, June 8th dawned upon us! It turned out to be glorious day! It was so wonderful to have Bishop Patrick Joseph McGrath, from the San Jose Diocese, with us once again. He offered a very beautiful, personal Mass, with so many of our dear friends in attendance, for Sr. Teresa Francis' special Anniversary. Sr. Teresa Francis was overcome with joy and gratitude for all the greetings and Mass cards she received from all the Carmels. She sends her love to everyone!



*Sr. Teresa Francis*



*Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD*

The Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was given by Father Godfrey Chandya, OCD from our Carmelite Mission in Uganda. We enjoyed having Father with us for the Office, Mass and meals. He was a true Carmelite Brother to all of us. He enjoyed visiting our Carmelite Friars in Oakville, California and seeing so many vineyards in the Napa Valley. Father delighted in seeing the Pacific Ocean, the nearby Mount Tamalpais, with its views of the whole San Francisco Bay and visiting downtown San Francisco. During the Novena, Father gave us an outstanding History of the Carmelite Order and of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Then, right after the Novena, we had a wonderful visit from Father Daniel Chowning, one of the Carmelite General Definitors from Rome. It was so nice to have a chance to catch up on all the news of the Carmelite Order in Europe and around the world.

We pray that everyone had a very grace-filled Feast of St.

Therese. Our Novena to St. Therese, directed by Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD, was phenomenal! Father's themes were: "Walking in the footsteps of St. Therese; Rediscovering the value of our Vocation to Love; St. Therese, the Great Prophet of Merciful Love; The Handmaid of the Lord: completely given to the Work of Love; In the Evening of Life, I will appear before you with Empty Hands; The Holy Spirit, working in us, takes little souls and makes them Great Souls." Father put much of his own prayer, thought, and life of joy in the "little way" into his homilies. We were all spellbound! Along with the Sisters, our Secular Order members, in particular, were enthralled with all his insights, drawing on his own love of our most recent Saints, i.e. Padre Pio and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. St. Therese' little way interprets perfectly St. John of the Cross' going up the mountain of nada, nada, nada: the perfect surrender to God's will. Father showed us how Mother Teresa's life perfectly mirrored St. Therese, that while seeing and serving Jesus in the poor, she shared her spiritual darkness for years.



*Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD*

May the coming Feast of Our Holy Mother be a day of many blessings and graces for each of our Sisters in CCA.

With much love and grateful prayers,  
Your Sisters of San Rafael Carmel