



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 31, Issue 3, SEPTEMBER 2009



FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

*...Christ calls forth from each of us the deepest personal response,
only to transform this gift of ourselves into a communion of life.*

Charter Of Life

Dear Sisters,

As I read these words from our **Charter of Life**, I feel the quote fits perfectly as the beginning of this letter. The gifts freely given are being shared for the good of all.

As you remember, one of the major issues that emerged at our national meeting in June was the involvement of newer and younger members. Goal #4 states, "We have included newer/younger members as vital contributors to the future of CCA's vision." I am happy to report that, besides my election to the team, other newer members are becoming involved in the mission and work of CCA. Sr. Monika Bies (Baltimore) and Sr. Shirley Marie Ahern (Latrobe) have graciously agreed to help with the emailing of our newsletter: Sr. Monika for the international mailing and Sr. Shirley Marie for the nuns and friars in the United States. Having grown up in Luxembourg and Germany, Sr. Monika is fluent in German and French and is happy being able to share her gifts. Sr. Shirley, one of our technical wizards, appreciates the trust that is being placed in her at being asked to serve in this manner. Sr. Frances Horner (Baltimore) has enthusiastically agreed to be the new treasurer for CCA. Sr. Fran, a former tax lawyer, loves numbers and mathematics. She will replace Sr. Marjorie, who was elected to the leadership team. We thank Sr. Marjorie for all her years of dedicated service.

The meeting of the OCD Councils has been scheduled for April 26-30, 2010. This is the tri-annual meeting of the three Provincial Councils and the three Association Councils. You may recall that this meeting was started at the suggestion of our former general, Fr. Camilo Maccise. The first meeting took place in Lake Dallas, TX, October 1-5, 2001. Our Carmelite Order, having such a diverse and wide expression of its spirituality, always benefits by coming together face to face and realizing how alike we are in our hearts and souls.

We continue to have communication with our international sisters who attended our national meeting. Sr. Christine has sent Baltimore a delicious batch of homemade jellies and jams from her Carmel in Le Havre, France. She also sent Sr. Claire a beautiful map of the US she designed depicting all the CCA Carmels. Lastly, she shared with us beautiful pictures from her monastery and the surrounding city. We can share the pictures and map with all, but the jellies and jams will have to remain in Baltimore! Sr. Monika has received from Sr. Hildegard in Germany a DVD about Edith Stein entitled "Die Jüden" (The Jewess). She writes that it is a fine production and has been well received. Our sisters from Mexico also sent a beautiful gift in the form of a DVD of pictures that they took at the meeting. Our sisters from South Africa continue to stay in touch by mail. This sharing of our Carmelite charism enriches our spirits and our lives.

So, as we enter into the silence and solitude of our monastic fast, we wish you much peace and joy as our journey up the mountain of Carmel continues. May the love of God permeate our lives, enabling us to share that love with our brothers and sisters.

Your sister,

Judy Long, ocd and the Leadership Team

**CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS
Reno, Nevada**
Sr. Rosalind Bliss Forrest, OCD



Do not seek to follow the footsteps of those of old. Seek what they sought.
(Matsuo Basho, Japanese poet)

Although our community elections are not for another 14 months, we have begun a process whereby we may prayerfully listen to each of our sisters on different topics and then have opportunity to share what we have heard, ask questions, clarify and set the next step. This is important for us because we know that we are a different community now than we were three years ago.

On August 27 we began with Morning Praise and Mass and then met to share our reflections on the questions: “Who am I now? Where have I come from? Where/how does my deepest desire lead me to live within this Carmelite community? Where do I see this Carmel today and in the future?” To honor each sister’s reflections, we sat in silence for about a minute before another sister shared. This took all morning. We returned from 2:30-4:00 p.m. for a time of dialogue and discussion. Many ideas were generated and much willingness to look at both the reality of our life and at possibilities for the future! We’ve already set another date to continue the discussion.

How did it get to be September already? Because of our print shop work, we must always plan ahead. Even as Christmas orders are being filled, we alternate printing some of our spring cards on our wonderful digital press with imprinting personal messages on our Christ-

mas cards! We are also looking forward to October when we will host the West Coast gathering of Carmelite nuns from three different associations at the Presbyterian Retreat Center, Lake Tahoe.



Sister Rose at Lake Tahoe.

Every other week we meet in the evening for theological reflection. About a year ago we re-read *Setting out from Essentials* (2003 OCD document from the generalate) in preparation for the West Coast gathering. From our sharing, we developed possible discussion questions for this October’s meeting. Our most recent theme, however, has been sharing on the presentations by Sister Ilia Delio at the CCA meeting.

Following the CCA meeting last June, it was wonderful to have Sister Stephanie (from Germany) with us for almost a week and Sisters Marie Therese and Mary Grace (from South Africa) for two days. Sharing with our sisters from other parts of the world enriches all of us and deepens our bonds as sisters and friends. We are grateful that our sister, Claire, is the liaison with our international sisters for CCA and grateful also for the sisters from other countries who participated in our recent meeting and/or corresponded with us.

*Our Golden Jubilarians.
Left to right: Sisters
Laureen Grady, Maria
Ahern, Susan and Ann
Weber.*



Into the desert

Speak to my heart, O God
For my heart longs to hear
Words different, other, strange
Unknown.

Shout in my heart, O God
Your impossible words
That my heart may hear
And fall silent.

Lure me,
Into the desert
Away, forgetful, unprovided
Let me hunger and thirst.

Confuse my heart
Empty my mind
Let the stillness
Enter me.

Speak to my heart, O God
For my heart longs to hear
You.

–Sr. Melanie Peterson

This summer was also a time for a quiet celebration of the 50th Jubilee of four of our sisters (that’s 200 years of religious life) during Evening Praise followed by a wonderful meal. We had a display with photos from the past, lots of stories and laughter and a special prayer service to end the celebration.

Oldenburg, Indiana
Sr. Betty Meluch, OCD



It was an eleven-hour trip from Oldenburg to the 25th CCA meet-

ing in Colombia, PA, but for the five of us it was worth every inch of the trip. The meeting began on Pentecost Sunday and lived up to the meaning of the feast. Sisters from multiple countries colored the meeting like a National Geographic map and enriched it with a new depth. Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio’s faith-based cosmology magnified the Lord and stretched our minds and hearts. A few days after our return to Oldenburg, the Franciscan sisters hosted their own friar Michael Bastich, whose talks followed Sr. Ilia’s message of God’s love versus atonement.

On the feast of Corpus Christi, Jean Alice joined the Indianapolis OCDS members for their profession ceremony and reported about their lively adaptation to their new meeting location in Marian University which is sponsored by the Oldenburg Franciscans.

This spring we hired Constance Neeson of BMT Consults Company to help us find a suitable *medigap* and prescription insurance. We felt mired in red tape for awhile but Connie was a lifesaver. We are now backed by AARP Health Care Options and life is a bit simpler.

We are still outfitting our small chapel in Teresa Hall, and the latest addition is a new wooden tabernacle with the symbol of the Order carved on its door. *Weberding* carvers are known worldwide and it is great to live in their neighborhood.

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the beautiful large chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis.

The massive marble pillars remind one of the strength and zeal of Elijah, and closing the liturgy with over 100 sisters and friends singing the *Salve* was a feast in itself.

Sisters Jean Alice and Ruth have become cantors for the liturgy of the Eucharist in the main chapel on Sundays, and Terese and Jean are lectors. It is good to have these ways for us to say “thank you” to our hostess community.

Oldenburg and nearby Batesville brightened our July with The Batesville Fire Department Parade. The 100 entries included fire trucks, old tractors, a horse-drawn cart, antique cars, floats, and even a cement mixer. Lucy, our black Lab, could hardly contain her excitement, especially when they began to throw candy. A few weeks later we were treated to the oompapas of the *Freundenfest*. Who says small towns are dull!

The Sisters of Saint Francis celebrate the jubilees of all of their sisters on the feast of Saint Anne. This year the list included jubilarians who have served for eighty, seventy-five, sixty, fifty and twenty-five years in the order. The liturgical celebration was magnificent and truly an *alleluia* moment. We felt privileged to be part of it.

On the feast of the Assumption, we had our own jubilee for Sr. Rita’s sixtieth anniversary of profession. We had the

blessing of both communities. We celebrated the liturgy of the Eucharist with our Franciscan sisters in their large chapel, and Rita renewed her vows in our small private chapel. She received flowers for the entire house and we all experienced the grace of the day.

On August 17 Lucy Monastery went to her reward. She went like a lady and



Lucy Monastery

without a wimper. Lucy is buried next to the rest of our community, with her plaque resting above her grave. May we all end so peacefully and be remembered with so much love.

The unforgettable event of the summer was our trip to see *Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* at the Cincinnati Museum Center. It is a *Magnificat* of the religious life, and we stand on their shoulders!



Sisters Rita, our jubilarian, and Jean Alice.

*Swirling autumn leaves:
hearts of bronze and veins of gold
dancing on a breeze.*

—Sr. Rosemary Kluepfel

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



Greetings and blessings as we enter into the colorful season of fall!

Those of us who attended the 25th CCA meeting and celebrated our 40th anniversary in Columbia, PA, still feel the joy of this experience. We are so grateful to the leadership team, Stephanie Hauge, our facilitator, and everyone who contributed in any way to its preparation. The presence of our international sisters and the coordinators from Queen of Carmel and St. Teresa's Associations was a wonderful gift and added much to our festivities. Our Holy Mother was probably joining in, dancing with her castanets.

After the meeting, Mother Gabriela and Sr. Gema Adriana from Mexico visited Boston Carmel. The trip to Barrington is about one hour and twenty minutes, so one day we were fortunate to have them and Srs. Juanita and Marie (translators) and Jean Marie of Boston Carmel for lunch and a time of sharing love, laughter, our home and grounds, the beautiful bay and beach down the street, fun, history (a time of learning a few



Rainbow at Barrington as Mexican and Boston sisters visit.

things for and from our Sr. Marian) and, of course, picture-taking. Ay, Ay, Ay, Ay! The rainbow confirmed the joy of our gathering.

This is the partial schedule for the formation program for the New England Carmels (Barrington, Boston and Concord):

September 22 – Our Sr. Vilma will give her talk from the Carmelite Forum, OHM in dialogue with a best selling book, **Don't Sweat the Small Stuff**. It is about the virtues Teresa emphasizes for us—humility, detachment and love.

October 6 – Fr. Lennon, a professor from Australia teaching at Boston College, will speak on **The Theology of the Church**. He has written books and is familiar with Karl Rahner's theology of the Church.

October 13 – “The Culligan Man,” Fr. Kevin, OCD (hopefully!).

November 3 – Fr. Congdon's topic is **The Sacrament of Penance as a Means to Holiness**.

November 24 – To be announced.

December 15 – Fr. Thomas Stegman, SJ, will focus on the Gospel of Luke, the gospel for the cycle which begins this Advent.

Our theological reflection on “Mary in the Contemplative Life of Teresian Carmelite Nuns” enriches us. Our communion with Mary is similar to the first hermits and Thérèse's relationship with Mary. Also, the “qualitative leap” mentioned in the theological perspective takes us in the direction of deeper love and understanding of Mary and her place in the new creation.

We are grateful to CCA for the valuable input of Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM and Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. It awakens us to see the familiar in a new way.

On August 18 we were happy to welcome Helen Diyla Mengnjo for a live-in experience. She had visited us previously and desired to return. Her middle name means, “who will cry/intercede on behalf of the people.” Helen was born in English-speaking Cameroon. When she was two months old, she moved to French-speaking Cameroon. Later her education took her back to the English-speaking side. Her journey has taken her from Cameroon in Africa to Atlanta, GA, where she found us on the website. Now in our midst her voice adds much to our chanting of the Liturgy of the Hours and our singing at the Eucharist. She makes a bucket sound like a drum and a small drum bigger than it is! Please remember Helen in prayer as she continues to seek God's will in her life.

Our Secular Order members are adjusting to the lack of Carmelite friars and are now participating in regional retreats. Because of the cost and the distance, fewer members are able to attend; they found the retreat time up-building for community. However, they are extremely faithful and willing to cooperate in every way.

Christ's peace and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BOOKS, OLD AND NEW:
Truly Our Sister (A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints) and **The Quest For The Living God**, both by Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ.

–Sr. Roseann Gillice



The Sisters from Boston and Mexico in our refectory.

CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION
Beacon, New York
Sr. Rita Donahue, OCD



The summer months brought many visitors our way, including several of our Carmelite family.

One Sunday in May we hosted Fr. Robert Cameron and his family for a celebration of his fiftieth anniversary of ordination. Fr. Robert, now a priest in Kansas City, Missouri, grew up near the Bronx monastery and has remained a friend through the years.

We had the joy of hosting Sr. Hildegard Grimme, president of the German Federation, for several days in May before the CCA meeting. Sr.



Sisters Monika and Hildegard conferring.

Monika Bies came from Baltimore to assist as translator. We fully enjoyed the opportunity it gave for informal exchanges on various aspects of our Carmelite life ranging from the mundane to the more serious. We were also privileged to hear Sr. Hildegard's talk on the European meeting, which she attended in Avila this past February.

The new CCA leadership team—Srs. Carolyn, Marjorie, Judy Long and Claire—met here in June, joined one day

by Stephanie Hauge as facilitator.

Fr. Steve Payne, OCD worked us into his itinerary in June. We enjoyed Steve's slides of Africa, showing the various locations and activities of daily life there. We were especially pleased to see pictures of some of the African men who are now professed members. They were in formation when Steve brought them here for a visit a few years ago.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Fr. John Horan, O. Carm. was our celebrant. Several local priests concelebrated with Fr. John. A large crowd filled our chapel and additional worship space.

Fr. Reid Mayo visited one Sunday in July along with his brother and sister-in-law. Fr. Reid was the local pastor and good friend of our sisters when they were in Barre. Fr. Reid celebrated Mass the next morning on the feast of St. Elijah.

Another visitor in July was Fr. Cyril Guise, OCD. Fr. Cyril knows New York's new archbishop, Timothy Dolan, very well. He often visited Holy Hill when he was Archbishop of Milwaukee. While in New York, Fr. Cyril was invited to concelebrate Mass with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Fr. Kevin Culligan, OCD and Mary Jo Meadows gave a Vipassana retreat at nearby Bethany Retreat House in August, which Sr. Carolyn attended. Mary Jo stopped for a brief visit after the retreat. Fr. Kevin also visited and had dinner with the community before returning to Brighton, MA.

Sr. Marjorie attended the Installation Mass for Archbishop Timothy Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral on April 15, along with the Redemptoristine prioress and Poor Clare abbess. They were among the 2000 plus who filled the Cathedral to overflowing for the occasion.

Archbishop Dolan was welcomed to our Dutchess County Vicariate one evening in June. Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene and Marie Gertrude attended the prayer service held at nearby St. Mary's Parish in Wappingers Falls.

The Archbishop also hosted a picnic

for religious at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, which Srs. Marjorie, Mary and Marie Gertrude attended. Archbishop



Sisters Michaelene, Marjorie and Marie Gertrude with Archbishop Timothy Dolan.

Dolan made sure to personally greet each religious who was there.

Sr. Mary Theresa has been kept busy as guest sister recently. We had a few active sisters and a laywoman make retreat in our guest quarters, as well as our own Carmelite sisters, Anna Kalinauskas and Patricia Boyd.

The Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities (MACC) held a day in July which several of us attended. The presentation by Sr. Anne Smollin, CSJ, was on *The Gift of Laughter in Community*. While we did laugh heartily, the day was very informative. Group activities highlighted relational skills, communication dynamics and experiences of stress as well as joy, with an underpinning of good humor.

A community in-service day was given by Karen Schoen, RN our health care coordinator. The topic was *Nutrition, Hydration and Exercise*. Karen had placed an attractive arrangement of fresh fruits and vegetables on one table and a collection of our various-sized drinking glasses and pitchers of water on another table. Speaking about exercise, Karen cited various types of activities throughout a day, which constitute exercise in addition to those done at a time set aside specifically for them. Our body is always needing and using stored energy. She spoke of different energies used, e.g., for doing a crossword puzzle, reading, watching a DVD. She also gave an update regarding the swine flu.

Sr. Catherine Cleary, PBVM, is New York's new vicar for religious. Sister presided at our community elections on August 28, at which Sr. Michaelene was elected prioress. Councilors are Sisters Marie Gertrude, Marjorie and Carolyn.

Sr. Mary Salucci will have hip replacement surgery on September 14. We expect she will do well and be up and hopping again before too long. She will be grateful for your prayers.

Sisters Michaelene, Jeanne Marie and Rita visited our sisters in Danville in September. After a very pleasant time visiting, Sr. Joan Bourne took them to see Sr. Josephine Koeppel, who is a short distance from Maria Hall, before starting their trip home. Sr. Josephine is happily settled there and continues to work at translating writings of Edith Stein.

Our trees are slowly beginning to turn. We will soon be surrounded by the beauty of autumn. May the new season and our Carmelite feasts hold new graces and joy for all!

Please remember in your prayers Catherine Golluscio, sister of our Sr. Patricia Considine, who died on August 6, feast of the Transfiguration.

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



For this newsletter we choose for our topics three blessings among the many "graces" that Ordinary Time tends to bring with itself:

SISTER CONNIE'S PLENARY PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Those who were at the CCA meet-

ing in Columbia in June know that Sr. Connie left the gathering to attend the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she delivered a plenary presentation entitled *From Impasse to Prophetic Hope: A Crisis of Memory*. Her now classic essay, *Impasse and Dark Night*, first published in 1983, provided the theme for the CTSA's 2009 meeting, and its current leadership was very anxious to secure her participation. Connie's talk offered an interpretation of John of the Cross' purification of memory and pointed to the goal of this process of purification: prophetic hope which expresses itself in what she calls the "prayer of no-experience." She suggested that in this utterly silent "prayer" a radically new "self" is being worked on and shaped, a dispossessed "self" truly capable of living and loving in a way that realizes more fully our relational evolution and synergistic existence in our universe. This was the first plenary session offered by a monastic contemplative at a CTSA meeting. The words of Bishop Richard J. Sklba in the Milwaukee archdiocesan paper express well the reception she received: "Sister Constance FitzGerald ... whose poetry and prayer offered possibilities for opening new paths to solve theological dilemmas.... Like many others in attendance, I almost felt the need for silence rather than a theological response from a different voice." Apparently, as a result of Connie's presentation, there were corridor and dinner conversations where the theologians spoke of their prayer lives and spiritual journeys to a degree unprecedented in many members' experience. Connie remains very grateful for the love and prayer of her CCA sisters and friends, especially those at the Columbia meeting, who consciously supported her in prayer as she gave her talk.

SISTER MARY EILEEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 2009 OCDS CONGRESS

Sr. Mary Eileen participated in the 2009 OCDS Washington Province Congress (July 16-19) that was held at the

Westin Hotel in Baltimore. Three hundred OCDS members from all over the country attended in this gathering.

The keynote address was given by Father John Sullivan, OCD on the topic *Together For Each Other, For Ourselves*. He drew the principles for building this togetherness from the teachings of our three Carmelite Doctors of the Church. The program itself covered four major areas: The Carmelite Vocation, OCDS Formation, OCDS Community Life and OCDS Community Apostolate. All four topics were also addressed in panel discussions and simultaneous workshops.

According to Sr. Mary Eileen this Congress has laid the foundation for a new era in the history of the secular order of Discalced Carmelites in the US. As she sees it: "the OCDS community received a mandate to take their apostolate to spread the Teresian charism of prayer as leaven in our secular society."

SISTER FRAN'S REFLECTION ON THE FEAST DAY OF THE MARTYRS OF COMPIÈGNE

Following The Martyrs of Compiègne: Would You Die For Your People?

Would you die for your people? On July 17, 1794, chanting *Laudate Dominum*, a community of 16 French Carmelite nuns from the town of Compiègne ascended the scaffold during the height of the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. There they offered their lives to restore freedom, justice and peace in their beloved country. Unbeknown to their executioners, for months before this event, these nuns daily had made an act of consecration of their lives as a holocaust for the restoration of peace. Ten days after their deaths by the guillotine, the Reign of Terror ended, somehow stemmed, we believe, by the Carmelites' generous self-gift.

Accounts tell that the normally cat-calling, raucous crowd fell to silence as the nuns processed to the scaffold. Says William Bush, author of **To Quell The Terror**: "[T]he execution of the 16

Carmelites should never be dismissed as a mere manifestation of the martyrs themselves, or even of the powerful personality of their prioress. Rather it must be viewed as an exceptional but very great mystical manifestation of God at work, making the martyrs 'bearers of God' through their oblation. For through the inexplicable, self-imposed and unprecedented silence that accompanied their long procession and continued through their ceremonial sacrifice, it was God, through them, who was revealing something of God's presence and power in the world at that hour." It is not that God wanted this violence, but rather that humanity had to have its eyes opened to see what it was doing. It was God acting in God's most characteristic manner—self-gift, self-emptying; God's power displayed in this very manner, and the Carmelites being completely conformed to this image of God, the sketch complete.

Would you die for your people? Sometimes it is hard enough just to be inconvenienced for your people! In fact, most of us will not be called to a physical martyrdom but to surrenders far more ordinary. Would you get up at 2:00 a.m., night after night, to help an infirm sister? Would you give up extra time that could be used for prayer to take your sister to an appointment? Would you spend hours planning a liturgy, even in Ordinary Time, to help the congregation be open to the mystery and presence of God, even though they might never trace their feeling of grace to your work? Would you give up legitimate outings because you know a steady, reliable presence is needed in the house? Would you quietly do housecleaning that one of your sisters overlooked? Would you give up your leisure time on a big feast to prepare the day's meal, adding all the little touches, perhaps unnoticed, to make the day especially festive? Would you so keenly feel the responsibility of your prayer for all who suffer that you never neglect its call? Would you give up a successful professional career and all its luxuries because you know the contemplative vocation is rare and someone must live it

for the world? We might answer, "yes, this is the life of a Carmelite." But doing these tasks is not enough. What really matters is that we do them singing *Laudate Dominum* in our hearts! This is what it means to die for your people. And surely we cannot refuse—not with the memory and example of the Martyrs of Compiègne calling us forward.

BOOK REVIEW

Heaven Begins Within You, Wisdom from the Desert Fathers by Anselm Gruen, The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1999.

Anselm Gruen is a Benedictine monk of the Abbey of Münsterschwarzach in Germany.

He is a best-selling author with the particular gift of integrating classic spirituality in a contemporary context, a gift he also uses in workshops and lectures that he gives to managers.

Based on his background of theology and psychology, Anselm Gruen analyzes in **Heaven Begins Within You** some aspects that are found in the Wisdom stories from the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Among them are the following: staying by oneself, keeping silence (not passing judgement), analyzing our thoughts and feelings, dealing with our passions, and practicing gentleness. For him all of these disciplines are based on the importance of a spirituality from below, a spirituality that passes through self-knowledge:

"We will come to God only on a path that goes through sincere self-encounter, through listening to our thoughts and feelings, to our dreams, to our body, our concrete lives and our relationships with other people. And God will transform everything that we hold out to him, until the image of Jesus Christ shines out in us, too, the image that God has pictured to himself of every single one of us and that can irradiate the world only in and through us. [T]he monks have... no other aim but to make this unique image of God appear in this world without distortion."

Maybe this following quote from the chapter, "Staying by Oneself," can whet

your appetite some more. Anselm Gruen defines here the whole purpose of "staying in one's cell" in a way that surely captures our vocation as Carmelite nuns:

"The monks do not remain sitting in their cells because they think they are better than the men and women in the world.... They are working on a sort of environmental protection for the mind. On the small site of their cells they do waste removal for the world by cleaning up anger and resentment. That way they create a purer atmosphere, an atmosphere of love and compassion."

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



As the days of summer begin to fade into memory, we gratefully look back to share some of its highlights with you. On Labor Day someone from our worshipping congregation remarked, "This must be the Fourth of July we are celebrating!" I felt that way too; summer days and weeks pass much too swiftly.

It has been a cool, comfortable, rainy summer here, and everything has remained so green. We had one bad storm mid-August, which took down scores of tree branches and limbs very close by, but we were spared any damage or flooding. In the midst of our busy city neighborhood, we share our yard with an amazing variety of mostly night-time visitors. Deer, possums, skunks and raccoons are regulars, to say nothing of lesser beings. Some make their presence known in unmistakable ways, others we glimpse occasionally. Diligent spraying of all plants in the front of the monastery prevents them from becoming midnight snacks for the deer! In contrast, Sr. Bernadette has

been providing snacks and sustenance for a large number of birds outside our kitchen window year round. In early summer families of woodpeckers and nuthatches came many times a day for seeds stuck in suet. The babies would line up on the branch of a nearby tree to wait their turn. So many other birds continue to come to the regular feeders outside the same window that any cooks or kitchen cleaner-uppers are provided with constant entertainment!

When our sisters, Maria, Annamae and Vera Lea returned from the CCA meeting in June, they brought the two sisters from South Africa, Srs. Mary Grace and Marie Therese, with them to spend a few days with us. Several of us toured the



Sisters Mary Grace and Marie Therese at table after our turkey dinner.

two sisters around the Cleveland area a little and the days passed quickly, with much lively sharing back and forth at meals. Sr. Marie Therese showed us her video presentation on the South African Carmels. It was so enjoyable to learn about their lives and histories, and especially to see the group photos of each community.

As a community we have benefited greatly from Ilia Delio's input at the CCA meeting. Together we viewed her DVD, "The Cosmos in Evolution," and found it very stimulating. Some of us have been noticing connections between Ilia's material and what other theologians have been writing. We have decided to give her book, **The Humility of God**, as a Christmas gift to our priest celebrants this year. Some of our sisters are cur-

rently reading it and finding it excellent food for prayer.

On June 24, the Feast of John the Baptist, we were happy to welcome Patricia Amhrein to our community as a candidate. Pat spent some months with us last year, then returned to the Baltimore area for a time to further discern her call. She is peacefully entering into our everyday Carmelite life, and letting God's timing become hers.

Two thousand nine marks a jubilee year for an unusual number of our priest friends, several of whom come regularly to celebrate Eucharist with us. Our retired bishop, Anthony Pilla, is celebrating his golden jubilee as a priest, and we invited him to dinner in honor of his anniversary. Our friendship with Bishop Pilla is a long-standing one, as he served over twenty-five years as bishop of Cleveland. One might say we have aged together over these many years. His annual visits with us were most often summer picnics, and he liked to play some kind of game before the meal. We started out with volleyball, went to badminton when volleyball got too rough, then on to bocce ball for a time, and now we simply sit and chat over dinner. For his jubilee celebration, Bishop Pilla brought us an Italian gelato cake for dessert, hand delivered by his great niece who helps out in her father's business. Bishop Pilla's nephew went to Florence to learn the recipes and secrets for making this delicious treat and to buy the equipment.

In July we had the joy of celebrating a fortieth jubilee with our good friend, Fr. Neil O'Connor. Fr. Neil was our resident chaplain for seventeen years, while at the same time serving as principal at Cleveland Central Catholic High School. He left us to become pastor of a large parish on the other side of Cleveland, where he has now been for another seventeen years! We have remained close friends and have him over for dinner several times each year. In return, he invites us every summer to spend a day at his cottage in Vermilion, a small resort town on Lake Erie. In addition to his many other talents and gifts, Neil is an excellent cook!

We had a surprise visit this summer from Sr. Margaret Spotti from the Nairobi Carmel. Margaret was in Pittsburgh for several weeks to care for her elderly sister who had to move into a new apartment after difficult joint replacement surgery, and had no one to care for her. Margaret has been the portress in her Carmel for years and feeds the poor people who come to the door with donations she receives from benefactors. She was eager to return home to her hungry supplicants. We have since heard that she celebrated her eightieth birthday in July with numerous cakes from her many admirers!

We have been so blessed this summer by two women who have volunteered many hours of work in our yard and large vegetable garden. Both are experienced gardeners and Sr. Bernadette can trust them not to pull out the wrong things! They have contemplative hearts and love this silent work in God's creation, whatever the weather is doing. We can never repay their generosity. Our roster of volunteers to answer our front door and telephone has also expanded recently. Of note is one faithful volunteer receptionist in her upper eighties, who drives quite a distance to get here and will even come for extra hours when needed.

We wish you a happy and fruitful autumn and much joy in God's bountiful gifts!



Sister Maria on her birthday with a "friend" who models some gifts.

CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug, OCD

Our area has been blessed with wonderful spring and summer weather this year. We have had a good bit of rain that brought life to the garden and not many extremely hot, humid days. In August, according to the official records, we had two days over 90°, the first since June of 2008. Our area is always a bit warmer than Pittsburgh.

We were able to plant a bigger garden this year, though we spent a lot of time fighting the rabbits and wood-chucks that found ways into the garden in places we thought were safe from their invasion. One of our neighbors spent some evenings on our property with a shotgun and put a good dent in the woodchuck population. In spite of the animals, we have been harvesting many meals of fresh vegetables and some to freeze. Our tomatoes were a great disappointment. They began lush and weighted down with fruit. Then the blight hit and in a few days the vines were all dead. We were able to save some of the tomatoes and ripen them but we lost several bushels. If anyone had any success with growing tomatoes and avoiding the blight we would be glad to hear about it.

Sr. Barbara and her family met for a weekend in early May to celebrate the life of their brother Chuck, who died during the winter. The family gathering was videoed and we were able to share it, too. God blessed Chuck with many talents that he shared so freely with others. May he have eternal peace.

We paid a spring visit to our sisters in Danville and found them well and relieved that they had sold their monastery. Their cheerful spirits and the serene acceptance of their circumstances is a blessing to experience and an example for us.

Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth were privileged to attend the formators' meet-



ing in Seattle at the end of May. They left several days early so that Sr. Marie Elizabeth could visit a brother and sister in Portland that she hadn't seen in nine years, and then help the rest of the committee prepare the retreat house for the meeting.

Both sisters found the content of the meeting excellent and the wonderful gathering of representatives of the Carmelite family a joy to be part of.

While Sr. Marie Elizabeth was in Seattle, three of the sisters took turns keeping the choir on pitch by playing the melodies of the hymns for Eucharist and office on the organ. This was a big improvement over the a capella efforts of previous occasions.

In early June work began on re-roofing the monastery. It took several weeks, but the workmen were very respectful of our silence and meticulous about their work. We had wanted a covering built over the walkway from the guest area to the side door of the chapel and decided to have that done while the roof was being renewed. The carpenters were so clever in the design that only those who come to daily Mass realize that it had not been there since the monastery was initially constructed.

At the end of June, Sr. Shirley Marie was accepted for solemn profession, and we worked toward the Labor Day weekend ceremony since then. In early August, a dear friend of our community, Dorothy Petrosky, succumbed to lung cancer. She had donated her body to science so there was no funeral. Dorothy was a part of our community from our earliest days here. She was an OCDS member and joined us for daily Eucharist, Sunday and feast day Evening Prayer and all our celebrations. She remembered each sister's special days, including those we might have temporarily forgotten, and even called the bakery from her hospital room to arrange to have pies for us for a feast day. You can imagine our dismay when we found that her memorial celebration was to be held on the same day as Sr. Shirley Marie's profession. This left many of

our benefactors torn between the two ceremonies. Sr. Mary negotiated with the funeral director in charge of Dorothy's last wishes and he graciously changed the memorial service to the next weekend. We laughingly remarked that it was a good thing, because if Dorothy had to make a choice, she would be at the profession. No celebration will seem the same without her cheerful presence.

PROFESSION

On September 5 Sr. Shirley Marie of the Holy Spirit and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pronounced her solemn vows before her sisters, her family and many friends. One of God's gifts was a day of



Fr. Mark Foley, presides, Fr. Jude Peters assists at Sr Shirley Marie's Profession

beautiful weather. The morning was so pleasant we didn't need the air conditioning in chapel, but opened the doors and windows to mix cool breezes and bird song with our own rejoicing. Fr. Mark Foley, OCD our provincial delegate, presided at the ceremony and was assisted by Frs. Jude Peters, OCD and Paul Fohlin, OCD. A Capuchin friar, a friend of Shirley's, and four Benedictines completed the concelebrants. The presence of Srs. Robin, Judy Murray and Judy Long from Baltimore, Normagene from Barrington and Miryam Kathleen from Concord added to our joy and volume to our choir.

Sister's 90-year-old father, her two brothers and her sister were present and took various parts in the ceremony. Before the Offertory they each presented her with a white rose, which she offered to Our Lady. About 75 friends and bene-



Sr. Shirley Marie makes her Solemn Profession.



Sister Shirley Marie and her father.

factors joined us in the decorated parlor or out of doors for a festive meal following the Eucharist. Many remarked that they had never experienced a Carmelite final profession ceremony before and were touched by the solemnity and joy that pervaded everything.

Since we see little of the newly professed on the day itself, we celebrated our community's blessings in this commitment on Labor Day with a festive meal and presents.

*Fine bread, table grapes
old treasures in early light,
universal charm.*

—Rosemary Kluepfel

**CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART
AND OF THE HOLY FACE**

**Danville, Pennsylvania
Sr. Joan Bourne, OCD**



Fog forms almost daily in early morning as the cool air from

the Susquehanna meets the warmth of the earth and forms a thick white veil over the area, allowing only a faint outline of the motherhouse. But as the sun rises, the fog slowly disperses. Another daily occurrence is the whistle of the trains, principally through the evening, an enjoyable sound, reminding us to pray for passengers and crew as they travel westward.

Our Sisters in the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg visited us on the first Sunday of May here at Maria Hall. Mother Teresa and six other sisters came in early afternoon and shared about their life at Valparaiso Carmel (Nebraska), showing photos of the large community and of the monastery. They toured our living space and the choir loft; then we enjoyed refreshments with them in our dining room. Near the end of the visit the sisters sang two songs of OHM St. Teresa in Spanish. It was a very enjoyable and memorable visit, ending near to 5:00 p.m.

Before the CCA meeting, Sisters Hildegard from Germany, Monika and Aletha came for a day's visit and overnight. They also visited Sr. Josephine in Emmanuel Center. It was a joy to have them with us even for the short time.

Early June brought our CCA meeting with Sisters Anna, Joan + and Angela participating. On the free afternoon of the meeting fifteen of the sisters came to visit us, seeing our rooms and living space and hearing of our transition from Elysburg. Plenty of photos were taken and we are very grateful that the sisters were able to come.

In mid-June, the ever-faithful Catholic Nurses' Guild from Shenandoah came for their annual visit, followed by Vespers. The Guild members have been coming annually for over 40 years.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we are always invited to attend the ongoing education programs sponsored by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Likewise, the preached retreats are open to our sisters. Sr. Sarah Sharkey, OP, a professor of scripture at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, gave a three-day workshop in early July on the roots of biblical justice in the Old Testament. The presentations were in the auditorium of Maria Hall and also on closed circuit TV, which we were able to use in our community room. She spoke with conviction and clear examples—an effective educator!

Another program arranged by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius was presented by a laywoman, Alice Camille, on the life and writings of St. Paul. Ms. Camille writes the bulletin, *Exploring the Sunday Readings*, published by Twenty-Third Publications of New London, CT.

Two of our friends from Shamokin asked to come to give a piano concert for all the sisters here. Victor Boris and Irving Liachowitz played a dozen or so four-hand piano pieces, entertaining us with their extraordinary talents. Then Victor, a tenor, sang several more numbers. All the sisters enjoyed the entire hour and a half, giving grateful applause after every piece.

A priest whom our founding sisters knew as a star football player for Mount Carmel in the mid-50s is now the resident chaplain at Maria Hall. Fr. Patrick Devine, who was also our confessor for ten years in Elysburg, began as chaplain in mid-July. All the sisters are happy at this appointment, and Fr. Devine claims if he were any happier he would make the cover of AARP magazine.

On the solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel we had a visit from our vicar for religious, Fr. William Waltersheid. He shared news of the diocese and of our sisters in the new

community at Elysburg. The sisters there had an open house for clergy on August 21 and for the laity on August 22 with tours through the monastery and garden. Then on August 24 the opening Mass was held with Bishop Rhoades in attendance and the nuns' chaplain as celebrant; we received a personal invitation from Mother Stella Marie. Five of us attended. The overflow crowd was seated on the front lawn with loudspeakers set up. Bishop Rhoades consecrated the altar before Mass and following the Mass, he went inside to bless the monastery and establish the enclosure. The press coverage before and at the opening was significant, as the monastery is well-known. Joan hopes to continue contact with Mother Stella Marie and the ten other nuns.

Retreats filled much of our summer: Sr. Thérèse made the preached retreat by Fr. Daniel Francis, CSSR of Baltimore, sponsored by the SSCM. Sr. Margaret made a solitude retreat here at Maria Hall on the fourth floor which has space and several empty rooms; Anna and Pat made their retreat at Beacon Carmel. Our Beacon sisters, Michaelene, Jeannie and Rita then came for an afternoon visit on September 2, which turned out to be a perfect autumn day. We're so grateful for the continuing support and friendship of our sisters as we strive to live our Carmelite life in new surroundings. Heartfelt thanks to all in CCA and to so many other Carmels!

**CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH
Concord, New Hampshire
Sr. Hilary Case, OCD**



The summer has flown by—we are all wondering where it went. After a

slow beginning of rain with October temperatures through June and July, our summer blazed forth in August with two

weeks of weather in the 90s, then returned to September temperatures. Concord weather always forms an intriguing backdrop to our varied contemplative lives. What did we do? Some of us traveled, some of us stayed home. We all enjoyed our picnics out on the back porch, a summer tradition at Concord. We gardened, mowed and pruned. We studied and shared. Here are some of the highlights of our activities.

TRAVELERS

In May, Srs. Claudette and Theresa set off for the Carmelite directors of formation program at the Pallisades Retreat Center near Seattle. Year Two of this program was just as energizing and inspiring as Year One. Claudette and Theresa also very much enjoyed their visit to Seattle Carmel, where they spent the night before returning to New Hampshire. They remember that Mother Aloysius and Sr. Margaret Mary stayed with the sisters of Seattle Carmel for some time in the 1930s. In all, they had much to share with the community when they came home.

After a mere week's interval, Sr. Claudette set forth again, this time headed for the CCA Meeting at the Precious Blood Spiritual Center, Columbia, PA. Sr. Miryam accompanied her. Both sisters loved Sr. Colette Ackerman's display of photos and albums from CCA's forty-year history, as well as Sr. Mary Fleig's Power Point presentation of the same. Claudette and Miryam gloried in CCA's current international and multicultural character, even as the exhibits moved them to honor CCA as it was back in the 60s and 70s. So much history; so much growth! The talks of Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF on *The Cosmos in Evolution* and *The Evolution of Consciousness: Praying in a World at Play* very effectively set CCA's experience of growth within the broader context of human and cosmic evolution and the creativity of God.

Before coming home, Claudette and Miryam spent the night at Baltimore Carmel. While there, they visited our Sr. Josepha, who resides at the Stella Maris Nursing Home; they found her doing well.

I must move back to our weather because it did indeed help shape our experi-

ence of the triduum for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This July was the coldest July that anyone could remember, even Sr. Emmanuel who was a novice during the summer of 1946 when our community was founded. Daytime temperatures during the triduum did not rise above 75 degrees. For the very first time, we did not need fans in the chapel, and we had no concern about the heat. For this benefit of cold and wet, we were most grateful! On a more serious note, our celebrant was Fr. Steve Kucharsky, a diocesan priest now serving in Keene, NH. He gave us four energetic reflections on Mary's varied roles in the church and in our lives.

FORMATION NEWS

On September 8, at Lauds on the feast of the Birth of Mary, Sandra Webb



Sister Marie of the Trinity

entered the novitiate, taking her religious name and title. She is henceforth to be known as Sr. Marie of the Trinity. We are delighted that she has taken this important step toward full membership in our community. She joins Sr. Miryam, who is in triennial profession, and Sr. Hilary, who is in her canonical year of the novitiate. All three of these sisters are looking forward to Sr. Vilma Seelaus's presentation on our Holy Mother at Boston Carmel on September 22. That day will kick off the intercommunity formation program of New England, which comprises Boston, Barrington and Concord Carmels.

I will conclude by sharing with you the grace of Sr. Claudette's prayer for Sr. Marie of the Trinity's entrance into the novitiate. Although it was addressed to Sr. Marie, we found it helpful for ourselves as we continue to live out our own vocations, whatever stage we may have reached.

"Lord Jesus, when Sandra was confirmed she chose your Mother's name to be added to her baptismal name. Today at the beginning of her novitiate, she desires to be known in Carmel as SR. MARIE OF THE TRINITY.

"As we welcome her into our community, we entrust her to your Mother's loving care and guidance, begging Mary to draw her into the intimacy of your indwelling presence with your Father and your Spirit.

"May Mary's faith, hope and love teach her your ways, encouraging her to grow in the gift of herself to you and to her sisters and brothers.

"May Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Virgin of the Solitude, accompany and sustain each of us . . . that we may continue our journey in faith, hope and love into the depths of your Indwelling Presence and be for your people a source of goodness, joy, and peace.

"We ask you this, Jesus our Lord, who live and reign with your Father in the Bond of your Spirit, God forever."

We pray the same for each of you, that you will know the friendship of Mary in a new and special way as you journey forward into the fall and winter seasons of 2009. Amen.

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

VISITORS

The CCA meeting was the cause of some extra joy for us in the visit of our Mexican Sisters and Sr. Miriam



from Eldridge. Later in July we had Miriam and Mercy from Beacon come by. Again, their visit was all too brief.

Arlen Harris, ofm cap, whom we came to know when he was in the area here doing some of his formation, came up from his native Brooklyn after ordination to celebrate Mass with us. We welcomed back another old friend, Jim Gillen, SJ, from Tanzania. And we have a new friend, celebrant and confessor in Michael Boughton, SJ, the head of the Ignatian Spirituality Program at BC. We also met Fr. Oh, a Korean priest studying in the area and, hopefully for our sake, will not finish his studies as quickly as he'd like.

John Boles, our former regional bishop, now retired, came for Mass and a visit with his sister Mary. They had been neighbors and family friends of Sr. Mary Clare who hadn't seen Mary in many years so there was a very happy reunion.

LEARNING

Among the final classes of our ICFP for the year were Dr. Tina Rea who lectured on Paul and the scriptural world of his time, Tom Stegman SJ, on Paul and the Holy Spirit, and our party. While in Barrington, Gabrielle hunted up some snails from the seashore which she cleaned and cooked for supper. Work for her, enjoyment for us.

Eileen Mary and Bernadette Therese were in Seattle for the formation workshop, and Juanita and Mary Clare attended the CCA meeting in PA.

ADDITIONS

We've been hoping that none of us would pass away during these past few months as we had no room left in our crypt. We did make it. Now there are six new openings, and we can rest in peace. The masons who did the work were from Ireland and Brazil. The latter commuted to the monastery each day by bicycle from their present homes.

CELEBRATION

In August we celebrated 50 years of Eileen Mary's entrance into religious life. Genevieve, Sue Lumb and Mary Davin

came up from Barrington, and Matt Allman, CSSR came from CU to help us. They and we succeeded wonderfully. The weather, too, was perfect.

In August a funeral Mass was celebrated at Mission Church, the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, for Senator Ted Kennedy. Our Redemptorists worked hard and felt well rewarded in what was surely a grace-filled moment. One of the parishioners remarked later that "Mary must be so happy, her picture has gone all over the world."

The pastor of Mission Church went to New York to his own brother's funeral on the same day.

The second half of our community to visit the Carmel in Danvers—Agnes, Marie, Mary Teresa, Eileen Mary and Bernadette Therese—went to celebrate the



Sister Mary Teresa with Sisters Mary and Michael taken at Danvers Carmel.

foundation's golden jubilee with the nuns and returned with special memories of our very special sisters.

PRAYERS

A 15-year old boy, waiting at the end of our street for a bus to take him to school, was shot and killed one morning in May. A small shrine was put together on the spot where he died.

MUSIC

Taras Leschishen, who comes for our choir practice, did an accompaniment and arrangement for Mary Amlaw's Mass in honor of Elizabeth of the Trinity, with her

permission and blessing. He hopes to get it published by OCP.

AND

The Hardwicks, who live down the street, have a sweet little cat that never comes out. One day, however, he did slip out and was instinctively drawn to our gardens, which are guarded from all threatening intruders by two super-responsible dogs. Scooter, the cat, spent two nights and two days balanced on a little branch high up in a pine tree, looking wistfully and pleadingly at the upturned faces nearly a mile below. He did get down safely, though, for he IS cat.

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



In Eldridge this has been a particularly slow news quarter. We are all in

good health and even Sunshine, Sr. Lynne's cat (also known as the little lion) is behaving itself.

Bishop Martin Amos was with us to celebrate the feast of Our Lady Mount Carmel and will be coming back for the feast of our Holy Mother. Hopefully, then we will have more time to visit and take pictures.

It has been a particularly wet and cool summer but with the recent dry weather it promises to be a good harvest for the local farmers.

Sr. Miriam attended the CCA meeting and has been publishing reports from our own sisters and also reports to the generalate from Sr. Michael (the U.S. and Canada) and other countries. These reports can be found on the CCA web site under the password protected area. They are fascinating to read! Please ask your CCA contact person if you have forgotten the password. Wishing all a blessed feast of our Holy Mother and Thanksgiving.

Sr. Lynne adds: We have been so busy with the ordinary that it was just as well we don't have anything extraordinary to report.

“May Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Virgin of the Solitude, accompany and sustain each of us . . . that we may continue our journey in faith, hope and love into the depths of your Indwelling Presence and be for your people a source of goodness, joy, and peace.

“We ask you this, Jesus our Lord, who live and reign with your Father in the Bond of your Spirit, God forever.”

-Sr. Claudette