



CCA Newsletter

Carmelite Communities Associated

Volume 32, Issue 3, September 2010

FROM THE CCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

September 14, 2010



Dear Sisters,

Greetings from your leadership team in these cooler days of a longed-for autumn!

We reported to you last May on the meeting of the Carmelite association and provincial councils in Oklahoma City. At that meeting, we discussed plans for the celebration of Our Holy Mother's fifth centenary and decided to put in place an interim committee, one person from each association or province, to act as an official clearinghouse for ideas for this celebration, to solicit such, and to create a website for this celebration. We are happy to announce that

CCA's representative on this committee is Sr. Marita Biscotti of Beacon Carmel. We are grateful to Marita for taking this on, and know she will do a good job.

The interest groups formed at the 2009 CCA meeting have had time to work and discern what is possible for them. As you know, the prioresses' group, coordinated by Srs. Susan Weber and Colette Ackerman, will be meeting in Reno September 21-25. The infirmary Carmel group, headed by Sr. Sue Lumb, found that most of our communities use local nursing homes when that level of care is needed, and have suspended their work. The younger/newer group, headed by Srs. Monika Bies and Melanie Patterson was never able to form. Melanie is back in England and Monika reports that there was no apparent interest among others. Though Sr. Eileen Nassar was eager to form the older/wiser group, other commitments left no time for it. The technology group, led by Sr. Miriam Hogan, is working together. Our Holy Mother's Centenary group, under Sr. Marian Steffens, has had exchanges and anticipates working with the interim group set up by the associations and provinces. We look forward to further reports from the three active groups.

We look forward, too, to the meeting with Fr. Saverio Cannistra next March. Please keep the three coordinators in your prayer as we plan this. Thanks to Sr. Donna Ross, coordinator of Mary, Queen of Carmel, we already have a venue, a Sheraton Four Point Hotel in Oklahoma City. The provincial and association councils met in a nearby hotel last April and found it a good experience.

Along with cooperative efforts among our three US associations, our international contacts continue as well. It is supportive for all concerned as we share our living of Carmel in today's world.

The leadership team will be meeting at Beacon October 8-11 to begin planning for our next national meeting, at which Fr. Camilo Maccise will be a resource.

May our celebration of the Cross deepen our unity with and care for all in our suffering world.

In union of prayer and love,

Carolyn O'Hara, OCD

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



The most memorable moment for us these past months was on August 15.

Sr. JUANITA DE LA MADRE DOLOROSA pronounced her solemn vows in the presence of her family, friends and many of the friends of Carmel. Juanita's former OMI spiritual director, Fr. Jaime Lociacono, was the main celebrant. He said the Mass prayers and gave the homily in both Spanish and English. Sister's family sang much of the music during the Mass, including a song at the Offertory that had been written by her father. And the weather fulfilled its part beautifully for the festivities that followed in the garden. Everyone appeared to be caught up in the joy of the occasion.

Robert Hennessey, our regional bishop who presided at the profession ceremony, had also been with us a month earlier giving the triduum in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to a packed and appreciative congregation. He also gave the community an exquisite jewel-studded chalice with medallions of the twelve apostles, which we used for our monastery's foundation day on the feast of OHM's transverberation.

Back in the month of May, Mark Huang, the brother of Sr. Bernadette Therese, brought the Cardinal Carter Academy Choir, which he directs, from

Toronto to our monastery. They were touring and offered to do a performance for us. We were able to offer the occasion to our benefactors as a "thank you." The choir was composed of young people—both boys and girls in their teens—and though the group had received many awards, we were not prepared for the quality of their music. It was extraordinary.

Bernadette Therese and Eileen Mary attended the formators' program in Wichita, and Sr. Marie attended a workshop for archivists that was held at the SVD community house in Techny,



Sr. Juanita and family with Bishop Robert Hennessey

Illinois. All of them appreciated what they received.

Closing off a year of ICFP lectures was the great learning moment that is the party at Barrington.

We've had a few additions to the monastery: two elegantly restrained signs on our front wall that say "Carmelite Monastery" on one side of the gate and "61" on the other side. A solution to our being unnoticed by cabs etc. looking for No. 61 and for those of us who have trouble finding the way home.

We also had a ramp installed at our side/front entrance to make our ceremonies and lectures etc. handicapped accessible. We've been awhile debating this, wondering what it would mean for the appearance of the front entrance, but it actually blends in very well.

At the back in the garden we have a new-for-us statue of Mary, which we were able to get from one of the parish churches that closed.

We ask prayers for Srs. Rose and Catherine, both who seem to be slowly slipping away from us, for Sr. Mary Teresa's Aunt Tosi who died recently, and for her family and those dear to her, and for Sr. Immaculata, OSB, a member of Sr. Agnes' former community who asked prayers for her work. She is the liaison for her diocese which is working with Georgetown U. in the area of stem cell research and also what western and oriental medicines can offer to each other.

Because of a very good crop of grapes, we have been able to use our Mahamia. This is a large pot with a rubber hose attached. One simply puts washed grapes, stems and all, into the pot and places it over a low flame. As they cook, totally delicious grape juice comes from the hose. Of course something must be placed to receive the juice.

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



You all know of Sr. Carolyn's trip to France with Sr. Claire.

After Carolyn's return in June, we felt as though we ourselves had been there as she described both homey and awesome details of their days. We were especially moved as she spoke of her stay in Lisieux Carmel, actually seeing St. Thérèse's cell, the staircase she climbed, and other favorite spots of Thérèse. Carolyn had many photos of both Lisieux and the rest of the trip, bringing us in touch with the nuns in various Carmels as well as sites they visited.

Our Celebrant on July 16 was Fr. James Sidotti, O. Carm. He included in his homily the ninety years that Carmelites have been present in the Archdiocese of New York and also our ten years as the Carmel of the Incarnation.

Sr. Marita was asked to join the Archdiocesan Vocation Council. Until now no contemplative sister has served in this capacity. After attending the first meeting to plan events for the coming year, Marita drove around Yonkers and the Bronx, trying to find her way out of very unfamiliar territory. This North Country native hopes to make friends with a GPS before setting out on her next adventure!

Fr. Michael Berry came for Mass and a visit in August while visiting his family who lives not far from us. Michael wove into his homily a reference to Our Holy

28 for the profession of solemn vows of Mark Christopher Zittle, O. Carm. and Joseph Phung Van Ngo, O. Carm.

Sr. Marie Rose Gibson, RSM spent two weeks of her sabbatical with us in August. "Peachy" spent some time in our community twenty years ago, so it was also a reunion for those who knew her then.

Mary Jo Meadows, Fr. Daniel Chowning and Peter John Land (novice) came for dinner one Sunday in August. They came home with Srs. Carolyn and Jeanne Marie who had attended the Vipassana Retreat at Bethany Retreat House in Highland Mills given by Fr. Dan and Mary Jo. We were pleased for the opportunity to meet Peter.

The leadership team of MACC (Metropolitan Association of Contemplative

CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

San Rafael, California

Sr. Teresa Margaret Balog, OCD



Wow! Is it already that time again. First, I must tell you that Our Lord has blessed us here in San Rafael with a perfect

summer. While so many of you have suffered from heat waves, we have only had maybe three days of extreme heat.

The community would like to thank Sr. Claire Sokol of Reno for coming to San Rafael for her two-week retreat. We hope it was a restful and prayerful time for her, tucked away in our Redwood Hermitage. Her prayerful presence permeated our community.

We would also like to announce the completion of our St Joseph Hermitage. The community decided to celebrate its completion by throwing a barbecue for all the workers who poured their heart and soul into this project. They did a beautiful job! Each of the sisters is taking her turn using it.

We have been heavily into our jam season in June. So far, 1000 jars are done and we are determined to reach at least 2,000. Sr. Anna Marie has everything well organized and she has done an excellent job in training us. We have canned apricot, bumble berry (mixed berries), strawberry, plum-pear. Next, we will do peaches and pickles.

On May 23 and 24 we celebrated Sr. Emmanuel of the Virgin Mother's 50th jubilee. Bishop William Justice celebrated the Mass on Saturday, and Fr. Kevin Kennedy celebrated the Mass on Sunday. Many friends from Seattle, friends and benefactors of the community, our OCDS group, and a very dear friend of Sr. Emmanuel, who came all the way from Croatia, shared this very special and monumental event in her life. We had a



MACC Leadership: Srs. Mary Cecilia OSC, Moira OSSR, Mary, Rita and Michaelene.

Mother in the **Book of Her Life**, which we are all reading in preparation for her fifth centenary. We had recently reflected on the same chapter from which he took the quote. The five-year preparation reading of Our Holy Mother is bearing fruit among us all.

In August Sr. Mercy had cataract surgery (both eyes) in Boston. She stayed at Boston Carmel and was there for Sr. Juanitia's Solemn Profession.

Srs. Marie Gertrude, Mary and Marjorie went to Middletown on August

Communities) recently met at our monastery. Srs. Michaelene, Mary and Rita are on the team.

Please remember in your prayers **MARY E. BISCOTTI**, Sr. Marita's mother, who died on August 13.

As this unusually sultry summer winds down, the falling leaves announce the coming of autumn with its colorful foliage. Enjoy a pleasant fall with its particular seasonal manifestation in your area!

packed house for both celebrations. Sr. Emmanuel is now celebrating her jubilee back home in Germany with family and friends.

On June 11, I celebrated my clothing day and took the name of Sr. Teresa Margaret of Jesus and Mary. We had a nice luncheon and then sent Mother Dolores and Sr. Teresa Francis off to Carmel-by-the-Sea to attend the 50th jubilee celebration of Mother Mercedes. The following day the community hosted the 60th wedding anniversary celebration of Sr. Anna Marie's parents, Mike and Bev Vanni. Fr. Dave Pettingill, a very dear and longtime friend of the family, celebrated the Mass in their honor. Also in June, we invited Mother Mercedes to come and celebrate her 50th jubilee with our community. Later that month, Sr. Maria Fideles of the Angels flew to Kenya to celebrate her 25th jubilee with family, friends and her former Nairobi community. She returns in October and will celebrate her jubilee in November with the community.

In July we were treated to a terrific novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Fr. Cyril O'Sullivan was our celebrant. He did an excellent job in opening up the Word of God to us through his reflections on the readings of the day. Throughout the novena, you could feel a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all.

The community of San Rafael wishes everyone a most blessed and joyful autumn! We thank you again for the warm welcome you continue to extend to us.

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



This year's celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was dedicated to the healing of the Gulf of Mexico. In the "Call To Worship," Sr. Fran laid the foundation for our celebration: *As we reflect on the Gulf, who has the greatest call on our solidarity? Who is the most marginalized? True, there are many people suffering, but the most marginalized of all is Earth. This disaster compels us to see that the earth has been relegated to the margins of human consciousness. It is dying on the margins of human consciousness. We must look hard, see the truth—yet not despair. Rather, hope! Indeed, stay tethered to joy in this bleak moment, to let the joy of Jesus' presence irradiate ALL things and experiences, even at the foot of the Cross. There, Mary of Mt. Carmel shows that solidarity and presence can transform loss beyond reason into beauty, grace, and a new beginning. Let us claim the Gulf to be Mary's place, that the contemplative consciousness of Carmel might help restore it and be for our marginalized earth a shelter in the time of storm.*

The prelude, "A Shelter In the Time of Storm," by Michael Joncas and the Gathering Hymn, "Virgin Mary Of Mt. Carmel," laid a further foundation for our Eucharistic liturgy.

A slide show, which Sr. Mary had put together for our Communion meditation, gave the massive oil spill a "face," as it included pictures of the embattled Gulf region, its people who call this part of the world their home, as well as its wildlife. For background music Mary used the

song "Requiem" written by Eliza Gilkyson as a memorial to the victims of the December 2004 tsunamis. (See lyrics below.) Unfortunately, the reality in the Gulf is such that it proved very fitting for this environmental and human catastrophe as well.

*Mother Mary, full of grace, awoken,
All our homes are gone, our loved ones
taken
taken by the sea
Mother Mary, calm our fears,
have mercy
drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
hear our mournful plea
our world has been shaken
we wander our homelands forsaken
in the dark night of the soul
bring some comfort to us all
oh Mother Mary come and carry us
in your embrace
that our sorrows may be faced
Mary, fill the glass to overflowing
illuminate the path where we are going
have mercy on us all
in fun'ral fires burning
each flame to you myst'ry returning
in the dark night of the soul
your shattered dreamers,
make them whole,
oh Mother Mary find us where
we've fallen out of grace,
lead us to a higher place
in the dark night of the soul
our broken hearts you can make whole,
oh Mother Mary come and carry us
in your embrace,
let us see your gentle face, Mary.*

(From Requiem by Eliza Gilkyson)

SR. MARY ROSE FLEIG'S PROFESSION

As announced in the last CCA news-letter, Sr. Mary Rose made her solemn profession on Sunday, June 13. She was surrounded by her community, her family, longtime friends and the monastery's congregation. The celebration had begun on Saturday with a picnic in our courtyard which everybody, including her many nieces and nephews, enjoyed very much; both days were filled with abundant blessings!



Mary Rose Fleig's Solemn Profession



FORMATORS' CONFERENCE

Srs. Fran Horner and Monika Bies attended the Carmelite directors of formation conference, "Education for Those Serving in Formation," which took place in Wichita, Kansas, from May 25-June 3. It was the last year of a three-year program. Sr. Colette attended the first program, and Srs. Fran and Judy Long were participants in the second year. It was a blessing to learn with and get to know sisters from the three US associations.

The bonds formed at meetings like the formators conference will hopefully carry us through the very similar challenges we face as individuals and as communities and at the same time enable us to look with hope into the future of the Carmelite Order.

CARMELITE FORUM

Srs. Judy Long and Mary Rose Fleig attended this year's Carmelite Forum/Carmelite Institute program. The Forum celebrated its 25th anniversary. Topics of the workshops and plenary

sessions were on the theme, "Carmel's Quest for the Living God."

Sr. Constance gave a workshop entitled "Thresholders: Remembering the Future and John of the Cross," which extended further her work on the purification of memory and prophetic hope by stressing the communal dimensions of this purification and the generative effects of transformative hope at a time of epochal change. Her workshop was well-received and attended.

Oldenburg, Indiana

Sr. Jean Alice McGoff, OCD



On May 15 the whole community drove to Terre Haute to join in the celebration

of Mother Anne’s jubilee. It was a very joyful and meaningful occasion and there was much to share when we returned to Theresa Hall. Little did we know that this was the last gathering of our community of nine members. As you know from the account we sent in August, Sr. Betty Meluch had a serious fall on Ascension Sunday and “woke up” hours later to the vision of God. Sr. Joan Williams from Reno Carmel came the next day en route to visit relatives in Cincinnati. She was a special consolation at this difficult time. By now we have passed from shock to the peaceful confidence that Betty is still with us and is being as responsible as ever.

At the end of the month, Sr. Helen Wang attended the formators’ meeting in Kansas and came home with lots to share. We appreciate all that has been put into this very special and productive program. En route home to Latrobe, Srs. Mary Wild and Mary Elizabeth Krug stopped for lunch. Being so far away from the nearest CCA Carmel, this was a treat for our sisters.

Sr. Jean Alice was the spiritual assistant to our Secular Order for many years in Indianapolis. With our move, Fr. Daniel Chowning took up this position. As he was unable to be with the group in June, they invited Jean Alice to preside at their annual ritual of receiving the scapular and making promises on June 15. We rejoice in the energy and spiritual maturity of this OCDS chapter.

This summer has been one of the hottest on record, a universal condition in the United States. But it also brought the beauty of our many hybrid daylilies and a brilliant garden planted by Helen



Cloister walkway, Oldenburg

around Olivia Retreat House chapel. This building is next door to us. Connecting the two is a cloister walkway. Thus the grassy area between looks like a three-sided courtyard. We have bird feeders in the center and a perpetual flock of goldfinches, sparrows, morning doves, and one pair of cardinals coming to perch and partake. There are often squirrels under



Abby

the feeder and romping through all of this is our new little dog, Abby. Helen has been promoting the butterflies in our garden by collecting Monarch caterpillars, housing them in large glass jars and feeding them milkweed. When they have emerged from the pupa and their wings are dry, she takes the jar to one of the large butterfly bushes in her garden and releases them into freedom.

What a beautiful symbol of transformation, one that OHM captured in **The Interior Castle**. These bushes were alive with butterflies while the blossoms lasted. On the other end of the garden we have a small flock of humming birds visiting the syrup feeders. It is a touch of paradise.

We have been listening to a set of DVDs from the Center for

Contemplation and Action, “Following the Mystics Through the Narrow Gate.” The lectures are given by Rick Rohr and Jim Finley and are very powerful and energizing for the spirit. They were part of a conference attended by a thousand people. As Rick put it, this is an indication of the contemporary thirst for the “contemplative mind.” Our educational project has passed from World Literature to American Literature (The Teaching Company). Apart from seeing the human adventure through the eyes of the great writers of the 19th century, it is an interesting review of the history of that era.

June 30 we were invited to return to our monastery in Indianapolis to see the renovations made by the Archdiocese in adapting the building to be the Bishop Simon Brute Seminary. We had a tour and refreshments in our old refectory. The rector, Fr. Robert Robeson, was very respectful of the architecture in making the necessary changes. We were quite pleased and happy with what has been done, and also in the fact that the seminarians like their new home. There are currently over twenty-five young men living there and completing their college education at Marian University, a mile down the road. If the seminarians and donations keep coming, they will progress with their expansion plan. This includes a separate chapel and another building with more bedrooms. The present chapel in the monastery would become a library.

On August 9 we celebrated Sr. TERESE’S 60TH ENTRANCE ANNIVERSARY here in the very building where she was a Franciscan postulant and novice. Sr. Bar-



Celebrating Sr. Terese’s 60th entrance anniversary.

bara Piller, the Congregational Minister of the Franciscan Sisters, joined us for the occasion. Terese and Barbara have been close friends for many years. At times they taught in the same school or lived in the same convent.

August 25 our Carmelite sisters from Terre Haute joined us for the day. They had attended Sr. Betty's funeral in May but there was no opportunity for them to see Theresa Hall. We enjoyed the sharing and they commented on the spaciousness of our living space and the light pouring through the many large windows. They also got a tour of Michaela Farm where the Franciscan Sisters incarnate their ecological concerns and love of the earth. They raise beefalo there and sell fresh vegetables, eggs, and honey. We ended the day singing the *Salve* together in front of the very old statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel who presides over our front door.

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

**Danville, Pennsylvania
Sr. Angela Pikus, OCD**



This morning in this early hour a thick fog covers the whole valley causing even the nearby motherhouse to be invisible; this is almost a daily occurrence these fall days, thanks to the nearness of the Susquehanna. The dogwoods are turning red and the huge cornfield on the east of the property shows brown tasseled stalks.

For our Pentecost retreat in May, we used a taped series, "The Holy Spirit," by Fr. George Montague, SM. Next month our annual community retreat from September 26 –October 3 will be given by a Redemptorist friend from Ephrata, Fr. Paul Bryant. Throughout the summer, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius offer preached retreats and days of recollection for their sisters to select from, and we are welcome to attend these.

The announcement of our new bishop was made on June 18 and the following morning he and the diocesan administrator, our good friend Fr. Chet Snyder, came to visit us. Bishop Joseph McFadden, a former auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, said he came to give us some work: praying for him in his new role as Bishop of Harrisburg!

We found him to be soft-spoken with ready, lively conversation, clear aims for his service to the diocese, prayerful, and certainly valuing the prayer life. After his visit with us, he went to Elysburg to our Carmelite sisters. The evening before he visited the contemplative Dominicans sisters of our diocese in Lancaster.

The Dominican sisters here and the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius appreciate when we arrange the liturgy for our Carmelite feasts. They especially hope for a festive liturgy on the solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel since among the sisters there is a Sr. Mary Carmel, a Sr. Carmelita and a Sr. Carmen! So, for the day we planned special hymns for the Mass and included two of our Carmelite hymns, "Queen and Beauty of Mt. Carmel" and "Flos Carmeli." The organist called a special practice to learn them. A few sisters from the motherhouse came over for the Mass. At the places in the dining room, we had a small scapular for each sister, and at breakfast there was an enthusiastic *happy feast day to you* sung for all. There is a real sense of inclusion and community among the sisters, while each of the three communities maintain their own privacy, identity and practices.

We ask prayer for our Sr. Alberta who has had four trips to the emergency room at Geisinger Medical Center since May with heart and diabetes problems. She has always managed to regain much of her strength, but the traumas have taken a toll in overall vitality. Still, sisters stopping in to greet her always get a bright, warm smile and often a witty conversation. And the nursing staff gives extra care and attention to her



Singing the Salve as the day ended with visiting Terre Haute sisters in Oldenburg.



Sr. Alberta Grimm

needs. We appreciate, once again, that we have such 24/7 care for our sisters.

Sr. ALBERTA DIED September 6, 2010.

Each year in summer the nursing staff puts on a lovely party with a Hawaiian motif, a *Luau*, for all the sisters and staff. The nursing staff prepares much of the meal, decorates the dining room with ar-



Sr. Joan of the Cross at Luau

range-ments of [artificial] tropical flowers, life-size paper parrots, dozens of sea shells, an artificial palm tree and small Kon Tiki refreshment stand. A paper lei is provided for everyone and the place settings are bright with flowered napkins and place mats. It's an enjoyable time for everyone.

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



From summer to fall life is full in Reno Carmel! June was a travel month for two of our sisters: Rosalind in Wichita for year three of the directors of formation workshop and Claire (with Carolyn of Beacon) to France as guests to their federation meeting. We wish all of you could have been with us as Claire shared this “experience of a lifetime.”

Summer is often a time of visitors, both family and friends of our community. This summer brought us a very special visitor and his wife: Greg and Barbara Lavigne. This was their first-ever visit. Greg is the brother of our dear Sr. Marie Lavigne who entered on Virginia Street in Reno and died of leukemia less than two years later (September, 1956) after making final profession on her deathbed. When the sisters moved to La Fond Drive two years later, her body was moved to our cemetery, the first of our sisters to be buried here. Sr. Rose, who was Sr. Marie’s novice mistress, shared photos and stories and took them on their own tour of our cemetery where now there are eight markers for our sisters. What a special visit this was for them and for us!

When we added on to our monastery in 2000–01 we wanted to find a way to give back to the people of our diocese for their loving support through the years. We envisioned our chapel and guest area as a “spirituality center” for diocesan and parish staffs and some non-profit groups to use for meetings or re-

treat days when the guest rooms are not being used for private, non-directed retreats (sisters or priests) or by family visitors. This summer several groups have planned their own retreat day here: Bella Voce (a local *a cappella* women’s group); a forming OCDS group; and our diocesan Catholic principals’ group. They are grateful for the beauty and peace of our Carmel and are very respectful of our private space. It is easy to forget that there is a group gathered here!

For the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, we invited those who worship with us on Saturday evenings to a potluck in our courtyard. It was invaluable to have the guest kitchen available to store the food they brought and to allow for a quick clean-up of dishes before they left. The thank you notes we received from several who joined us reflected the spirit of friendship, caring and sharing that we experience with our extended community who reach out not only to us but to each other. They graciously welcomed several people who came to Mass for the first time that afternoon and made room for them at their tables.

Our Sr. Rose will be featured in the September 2010 SOAR! newsletter, so look for it. We are in process of applying for a grant and they were delighted to learn more about a Carmelite who has been in religious life for 73 years. She will be a wonderful “face” of retired yet “active” religious.

In our work of preparing for community elections early next year, we are mindfully focusing on future planning. With 13 out of 15 in our community over the age of 63, we have applied for NRRO consultation for planning and were invited to attend a new workshop in October, the purpose of which is: a) to provide some information on planning and elder care; b) to share models of elder-care services being used by small institutes; c) to provide an opportunity for networking among institutes of similar size; d) to explore ways that NRRO might assist in planning efforts. This workshop is limited to communities who are 50% or more



Sr. Rosemary played the recorder on Christmas CD.

underfunded for retirement and have fewer than 25 members, active or contemplative.

We celebrated the arrival of our new instrumental CD, *A Contemplative Christmas*, by inviting members of the Redfield Foundation to dinner on August 21 and presenting them with copies of the CD. One of our dear friends on that foundation encouraged us to apply for the grant, which made this CD possible. As others were preparing for and celebrating the Easter season, Claire, Rosey, Cloe and Roz were practicing Christmas music in our chapel, which then became the sound studio the week following the octave of Easter. Claire's sister, Jenny, flew down from Seattle to be our violinist and their father, "Papa Sokol," joined us for that week. We had a wonderful early 95th birthday celebration for him after we finished the recording sessions. What we



Papa Sokol celebrating early his 95th birthday, as daughters, Jenny and Sr. Claire, look on.

didn't know then was that would be the last time Mr. Sokol would be able to travel.

Please keep him and Rosemary's brother, Paul, in your prayers. Paul has fought the good fight with brain cancer and now has hospice care at home. **PAUL DIED SEPTEMBER 12, 2010**

We look forward to welcoming the CCA prioresses to our home for their September meeting. Perhaps they will see the doe and her two fawns that have found paradise in our enclosure garden where the delights of tender new leaves, vegetables and blossoms allure them. Some admire their graceful beauty while others of us bemoan the destruction and notice what they don't eat for future planting.

As we pray for those who suffer from floods, heat, war and terror, economic hardship, disease and terminal illnesses, we thank God for our Carmelite family and for those with whom we are united in prayer.

CARMEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Cleveland, Ohio

Patricia Amrhein, candidate



What time is it?

Time has been under much consideration here at the Cleveland Carmel as we allow the unfolding of our

daily routine and scheduled events. *Chronos* time, the Greek philosophers have called it. Though we seek to sanctify its hours, much of the blessed resolve in the end is in God's time—*kairos*—the fullness of time, the fluid and boundless time of God-life. The breakthrough of God's time is most often a celebrated event, a turning point in our histories, a future opening to us. After a life lived long and with good intention, perhaps it is our final relinquishment that leads to *kairos*.

Yet, the death of a dear one can bring

a sense of devastation to our plans and chronological projections, its momentary hold making us feel that our future is quite dim. The death of our dear sister Annamae on May 10, 2010 may have been such a moment in time—but for her resurrection promises.

After the Eucharistic celebration of Annamae's life and after her burial, the sisters returned home. Ready to pick up the movements of the day at hand, Sr. Anne Joan opened the front door of the monastery for a breath of air and a bit of sunshine. As the door swung open she was met by hundreds of butterflies that emerged from an adjacent bush. Astonished and awestruck, something more was present to her in that moment—an assurance, a promise. The next day, reminiscent of God's promise to the ancients, a full-arching rainbow spanned across our monastery grounds. But we are savvy creatures.

Inasmuch as matters such as these are scripted in a place coincidental to our feelings of loss but in hearts that long, God does enter in undetermined ways. In a passing instant, through an open door, in the empty heart, *the eternal impinges upon the sweep of ordinary events*. For a moment we know we are saved, we have the promise of a future, we are in touch with God's purpose...we know what time it is.

Mary Frye captures all this so beautifully:

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake, in the morning bush
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight of night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.

Our theme here can be carried out in many ways because we know the action of God in the world. Our community visit to the *Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage* in July was such an event. The hospitality offered by Cleveland's Jewish community made possible the national exhibition, *Women and Spirit/Catholic Sisters in America*, and carried with it a message of continued collaboration and the shared values of our traditions. With the permission of the national exhibit planners, the dioceses of Cleveland and Youngstown portrayed the "local story." Inspiring beyond the rudiments of education, medicine and contemplative living were the societal contributions of cen-



Sr. Bernadette Kamin candle carving.

turies of religious women. Our Sr. Bernadette Kamin's candle carving was among the handcrafted items on display.

In July Sr. Jean Marie took advantage of a unique retreat opportunity traveling to northern Michigan to stay in a hermitage offered by the Carmelite Sisters of Clinton Township. Jean Marie's place of serene silence and stillness was nestled in an eighty-one acre portion of a national forest—a half-hour drive from Lake Huron. She reports that in such a secluded spot she sighted only two people—and a donkey named Simon. Since the death of a dear friend on Palm Sunday, Jean Marie found meaning in the

words *Jerusalem, my destiny!* Simon became for her the embodiment of those words—a simple and visual reminder of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.



Simon

Sr. Jean Marie enters the newsworthy once again as she, Sr. Patricia O'Brien and Sr. Mary Lavin ventured to the Carmelite Forum in Indiana for a week of excellent input and Carmelite dialogue. The sisters reported tornado activity near the grotto during the night of the concert. Though inspiring and beautiful, the more peaceful of events was found in the closing liturgy in the chapel of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. All three sisters attest to the variety of people present at the gathering and the vast number of secular Carmelites that attended this meeting, two of whom have begun relationship with the sisters since their return.

The first week of our August retreat was spent with our Jesuit friend, Tom Schubeck. His presentations on "Virtue" invited us to go beyond the obvious prac-



Jeanette Oppenheimer (grandniece), Charlotte Stein Sachs (niece), Aaron Oppenheimer (Jeanette's son).

A unique afternoon with members of the family of Edith Stein

tice of virtue into the arena of *love for others* and the *justice* that a truly virtuous life virtue would entail. A prophet's reminder lingers in the words: *Hear, oh, Israel! The Lord your God is one!* It is thus that God is in strong solidarity with those in need...caring for the stranger. Perhaps John of the Cross intones this meaning: *Let us go forth to behold ourselves in Your Beauty!* God's love is indiscriminate, unconditional, agape, a beautiful One.

We emerged from our retreat for what was to become a rich and unforgettable encounter. Through the arrangement of representatives of the Jewish community in Cleveland, we were able to spend a unique afternoon with members of the family of Edith Stein. Edith's niece, Charlotte Stein Sachs, Edith's grandniece, Jeanette Oppenheimer and Jeanette's son, Aaron Oppenheimer took us on a pictorial tour of Edith's homeland. With knowledge of Edith's importance to the Carmelite community, they shared what they could of their memories of her and all that they had gleaned from their European visit. One among us searched for Edith in the eyes and heart of her Jewish family only to find there a woman of truth, intelligence and social significance.

What time is it now?

Maybe it is enough to know that God's purposes are worked out across time. We only need open the door.



Mary K, Maria, Barb, Charlotte, Pat Conway.

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



The happy news we have to share concerns our Sr. JonFe de Torre's final profession.

Happy for Sr. JonFe and happy for the Eldridge Community!

Sister's vow ceremony and reception were held on June 26 in our local parish of St. Anne's in order to accommodate the number of people that wished to at-



Sr. JonFe and Bishop Amos. Some of the concelebrants are in the background.

tend. Bishop Martin Amos was the main celebrant. He gave a homily on the vows as they are perceived in our modern culture. (We have made his sermon available on our community website. It has already drawn a good number of hits.)

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Amos were six other priests of the diocese and special friends of the monastery. Sr. JonFe's brother, Joel De Torres, who traveled from New Jersey to attend did one of the readings. It is not generally known, but he called his wife to practice reading before the ceremony. So all in all everything went exceptionally smooth. Two women from the **Catholic Messenger** took pictures, which we were also able to publish on the web.

Bishop Amos also gave us permission to share his homily on Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

On another matter, the new dog Jinji passed his cat test; but after having bitten five of the nuns, it was decreed that he would be better suited to a family that trained dogs. Now he seems to be doing well in his new location and our cats are back to their normal activities.

We have had a good harvest this year in spite of the rain that has limited many of the crops to the south of us. Thanks much to JonFe's efforts, we have an abundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash etc. There are those who remind

we take special delight in the Lord who has blessed the works of our hands.

It has been a busy time in community this summer. We have had many visitors and have received many prayer requests from people who are suffering economically, from those looking for work as well as the requests for the sick.

Our prayers are very much united with the prayers of the miners in Chile, who probably know a whole lot about enclosure at this point. We are also praying for their families.

Once again, as we look forward to fall, we give thanks for the companionship of all of our sisters who call us to

embrace the spirit of our Holy Mother, Teresa.



Sr. JonFe's final profession.



At the reception with her brother, Joel De Torres.

us that it is all organic—green, poison free etc.—but some of us know that more importantly it is, “a garden enclosed” and

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



The peace of Christ to all our sisters near and far!

Our summer season burst with the good things of the earth. Along with the delicious fruits from the stores, our vegetable garden yielded its own abundance—plenty to eat and plenty to spare. It’s a real treat to taste garden tomatoes perking up a casserole dish in the winter.



Sr. Anne Marie renews vows at golden jubilee celebration.

We celebrated SR. ANNE MARIE’S GOLDEN JUBILEE ON JUNE 12. About 200 relatives and friends were present to praise and give thanks to God. During the renewal of her vows, Anne was moved to tears of joy. After she sat down, her four-year-old grandniece Megan walked from the other side of the chapel, gave Anne a big hug, and very tenderly and comfortingly said: “Everything will be alright, Auntie Anne.”

On June 24, the Birth of John the Baptist, Maureen O’Rourke entered as a candidate. Some of you met Maureen at one of our CCA meetings—on our party night she performed quite impressively as a juggler. Please remember her in your

prayer as we journey together into the wilderness of Carmel.

For Our Lady of Mt. Carmel novena our brother Fr. David Centner, OCD of our Washington Province spoke of Thérèse’s poem, “Why I Love You, Mary,” and of her insights, which are so full of love and truth. Besides preparing his homilies, one evening he prepared a supper for us that we all enjoyed. It was a blessed time.

Our hermitage, Horeb, has been newly renovated. However, everyone was not able to take advantage of the silence and solitude afforded by it, due to the slant of the land and no walkways on the grounds. Recently, we purchased a golf cart to remedy the situation. It is quiet, runs on batteries, is in excellent

condition and has proved its worth. The cart provided a great retreat time already for one of the sisters. It offers a fresh air ride too!

In June and July, a few birthdays occur, but we never had any to celebrate on the Fourth of July until Helen from Cameroon joined us! I have Helen

as my prayer sister for this year, so I printed pictures of Cameroon to post and add to the atmosphere in the refec-



Maureen and Helen at Helen's birthday celebration.

tory for our birthday supper. If you have a chance, Google sacred art of Cameroon; it was here that I found the picture of Christ walking on the water, an experience in itself.

In this newsletter I want to mention upcoming dates of celebration and will tell of them in the next one. Our SR. JEAN will have her 60th JUBILEE ON SEPTEMBER 18. In October Sr. Vilma will travel to Louisiana for her sister Miriam’s 60th jubilee (Covington Carmel) and her sister Anne’s 65th jubilee (Lafayette Carmel).

On August 15 some of us had the joy of being present for Sr. Juanita’s solemn profession in Roxbury Carmel. The mixture of English and Spanish in the Liturgy added an “at-home feeling” –Teresa, John, etc. How good it is to be in the family of Carmel.

Thank you Carolyn and Claire for attending the French Federation meeting. It was a joy to hear about it and that Sr. Christine is the new federal president. Thanks to Sr. Alix Anne for having sent Christine to last year’s CCA meeting.

Please pray for Sr. Eileen’s brother YOUSSEF (JOSEPH) who has heart problems.



Sr. Normagene takes Srs. Susan and Maureen for a ride.

New golf cart to enable more sisters to get to Horeb, our hermitage.

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

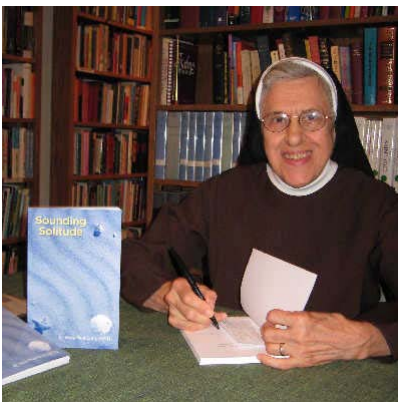


The study of Holy Mother's **Life** continues to bear fruit both in our community discussions and in our living of the life. It is amazing how often when we are discussing other saints or the readings of the day that we will find someone saying: "That sounds like what Holy Mother was trying to describe."

In May, Fr. Marc Foley arrived to conduct our canonical visitation. As always, his comments and insights were very beneficial. The report is being reviewed and discussed as we prepare for our elections next year.

At the end of May, Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth were off to Wichita, Kansas for the third formator's meeting. They decided once again to drive, stopping one night in Illinois and then spending the next with our sisters in Piedmont. Both going out and returning they had to be on the watch for tornadoes, but managed not to encounter any. They felt the meeting was excellent and provided much food for thought. The whole community is able to benefit as we listen to the talks at dinner.

Our Sr. Mary Paul has written a book which was published by ICS. It is called



Sr. Mary Paul Cutri with her new book, **Sounding Solitude**.

Sounding Solitude. It seems to have been very well received. We are having trouble keeping it in our bookstore because it has been selling so fast.

Our weather this summer has been hot, humid and wet, which seems to have done wonders for both our vegetable and flower gardens. Our flower gardens also benefited from the generosity of Sr. Wanda's brother, Fr. Leonard, who provided us with a large number and variety of sets and bulbs to be planted. In addition to our regular 30 tomato plants, Sr. Tanya was given 104 heirloom tomato plants. She planted 88 and we now have pink, yellow, brown, purple and red tomatoes in abundance. Sr. Marie Elizabeth has canned 75 quarts of stewed tomatoes and Sr. Tanya



Sr. Tanya in vegetable garden.

is planning to make chili sauce and plain tomato sauce to freeze, but we can't keep up with them so are now providing our excess to some people in the neighborhood. We have also been canning and freezing other produce from the garden and fruit from our own trees which have produced very well this year. Our bees have been busy, which should give us a sufficient supply of honey for the winter.

With the new school year starting at



St. Vincent College freshmen and senior mentors paint Latrobe Carmel's enclosure fence.

St. Vincent College, a group of 30 incoming freshmen with their senior mentors showed up one day to volunteer their services. They made short work of painting our enclosure fence.

We have begun work on our plans for celebrating our 50th jubilee year (2011) of foundation in Latrobe. More on this in the next newsletter.

Please keep in your prayers Sr. Theodora's mother, Marie, and Sr. Wanda's sister, Mary, who have both been having health issues. Our sisters in Cleveland and Oldenburg are in our prayers for their loss of Srs. Annamae and Betty.

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



We were pleased to learn of the growing

relationship between the Northern French Federation and CCA, and we were grateful to Srs. Carolyn and Claire for sharing this news as they described their trip to France in their letter of August 6. They spoke of a new energy in the Northern French Federation. We too have experienced new energy and the power of the Holy Spirit this summer.

In May, Srs. Claudette and Theresa went to Wichita for the third year of the Carmelite directors of formation program.

They returned home radiant with the joy of the workshops and all the opportunities for sharing with other Carmelite formators. They were pleased that the program will resume in 2012. In the meantime, they received

certificates of completion of the initial three years. We all benefit from their participation in this program.

Summer was already underway with repairs to the house and gardening projects, but soon it was time for the Carmelite conference at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, June 16–20. On the morning of June 16, Srs. Claudette, Miryam, Hilary and Mary Frances were all ready to charge out the door when a call came to inform us that our plane was delayed—long enough to put our connection to South Bend in jeopardy. So instead of charging out the door, we went back upstairs, jettisoned some extra “stuff,” and repacked. The day continued with one missed connection after another. The Holy Spirit had some work to do to keep us cheerful, but fortified by meal vouchers, we arrived in good spirits just in time for supper. It was truly moving to see so many of the Carmelite family—250 participants gathered on one campus! Our program included the three plenary talks given by Fr. Camillo Maccise, OCD, Most Rev. Fernando Millan Romeral, O.Carm, and Ms. Dolores Lecky of Georgetown University, plus our choice of workshops presented by the members of the Carmelite Forum. Two panel discussions, one led by the O.Carms, the other by the OCDs, stimulated our thinking about Carmel in the future. If Carmel in the future has anything like the spirit of Carmel in the present, the sisters of the future will indeed have the grace to serve the People of God, whatever challenges they face.

By the way, on the way home both our planned flight and our “Plan B” flight were cancelled. We were now old hands at travel detours, however, so switching airlines and midpoint destination, we accepted meal vouchers and settled in for the long haul. We arrived home in good spirits long after supper but in time for some rest and relaxation. Along the way, we did enjoy a fortuitous meeting with Sr. Mary Fleig from Baltimore.

July brought intense heat and some additional residents from the forest. A

baby moose wandered through our property one morning. The chipmunks made tunnels and devoured flowers and tomatoes. A huge groundhog took up residence under the stairs that lead from upper to lower cloister. Avoiding all trap closures, he stole the bait. Nightly he supped from Sr. Claudette's prize asters. A community of bats moved into the attic and swooped down to take possession of the dormitory. Srs. Theresa, Miryam and Mary Frances valiantly and patiently caught them, but one of this bat host invaded Hilary's cell anyway. Eeek!! Finally, in August, a professional team came and sealed off all the entries...we devoutly hope.

July 13–July 16 was our annual triduum and celebration of the solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Fr. Mark DeVelis, OCD served as presider and homilist at our nightly Masses. As he shared lunch with us during his stay, he caught us up on news of the friars. Fr. Mark recently moved into the Brighton community and will be coming up to Dover, New Hampshire, on the weekends. We look forward to seeing more of him during the coming year.

On August 14, the sisters held a canonical election presided over by Fr. Richard Roberge, pastor of St. John's, St. Peter's and Sacred Heart Churches in Concord. While the sisters in initial formation prayed, the CHAPTER ELECTED SR. CLAUDETTE AS Prioress. THE SISTERS ALSO ELECTED SR. GABRIEL AS FIRST COUNCILOR AND SR. THERESA AS SECOND COUNCILOR. We celebrated this election with an Agape meal. We are happy to see ourselves as living in a graced time of new beginnings, and we give thanks for all the blessings of the past three years.

There is one final trip to share with you. On August 15, Srs. Theresa, Miryam, Hilary and Mary Frances went to Boston Carmel to witness Sr. Juanita's solemn profession. We joined many of the Barrington sisters for the occasion. Great music to fit a solemn and wonderful event! The ceremony and Mass were both festive and simple, and Boston's courtyard

is a perfect place for a celebration afterward. We thank you with all our hearts, Sisters of Boston Carmel.

TECHNOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

The Technology Interest Group held its first meeting on July 31. We were able to connect with four different Carmels (Concord, Baltimore, Reno and Eldridge). Among other topics covered was a desire to use technology (ooVoo, Skype) to make our CCA meetings available to those at home. The next meeting is in the planning. We will email our CCA Carmels with the time and details.