

CCA Newsletter

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communion





teresian family



Letter from the CCA Leadership Team

Dear Sisters,

It is a pleasure to write to you during these days of reflection leading up to Pentecost. Through the leadership of Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully in the Church, guiding us all to fuller participation in the love of the Trinity and moving each of us to follow Jesus more closely each day. I would like to share with you the highlights of the Spirit's activity in our Association, CCA, within the last few months.



Sr. Hilary Case

The April 2017 National Meeting of OCD Nuns with the Generalate:

In our last letter (May 13, 2017) we quoted the opening invitation of Mother Therese, Coordinator of St. Joseph's Association, to join in praying "for nothing less than a new Pentecost for the Teresian Carmel." This invitation is worth quoting again because it drew us together spiritually in the love of the Holy Spirit while opening us to receive all the diverse interpretations of the life of Carmel that were represented at this meeting. Present were sisters of all four Associations plus many from unassociated Carmels. Several of the OCD friars also joined us. In our small groups we expressed honest differences, but we were able to move through the process of the meeting toward understanding and friendship. I have included two pictures which will help you to enter into our experience. Thanks to the DVDs the Terre Haute nuns have made available, those of you unable to attend the meeting can take in the excellent talks given by Father Saverio, Daniel Chowning, and Fr. Rafal. Special thanks once again to our Generalate and to the planning committee for making this meeting possible. We are especially grateful to CCA's representatives, Claire and Monika. Continuing the momentum begun at the meeting, the 4 Coordinators met by Zoom to consider how we might collaborate further in the future at the Spirit's invitation. In our relationships with the other three Associations, we of CCA continue our progress toward Goal 1: *"We have fostered a broader acceptance of unity in diversity and the mutuality of the Carmelite family, especially by continued collaboration and communion among associations/federations at home and abroad."*

Highlights of Father Saverio's reflections at the National Meeting:

- *"While Zooms are important, there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings, especially when the purpose is not to solve problems but rather to encounter Christ in each other and share."*
- *"A virtual meeting does not replace the real one! (in the flesh)."*
- *"The purpose [of meeting] is not just to transmit information."*
- *"We are living in hard times; we need to work together."*

At our National Meeting we all took steps further along the path of working and journeying together, all the while encountering Christ in one another.

Sisterly Visits: An Update:

Father Saverio's comments apply equally well to our Sisterly Visits, in connection with CCA's Goal 4: *"We have continued to provide active, mutual support to the identified needs of our communities, in particular, sisterly visits of each member community by the Leadership Team or delegates in the next term."*

Thus far, five of our CCA communities have received Sisterly Visits: Baltimore (Srs. Marjorie and Ann), Beacon (Srs. Colette and Ann), Cleveland (Srs. Carolyn and Michaelene), Concord (Srs. Claire and

Michaelene), and Danville (Srs. Colette and Hilary). All five sisterly “teams” have felt very well received, but more than that, it has been a powerful grace to visit, share, and collaborate on issues that are of concern to all of our Carmels. While Zooms are important, there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings, especially when the purpose is not to solve problems but rather to encounter Christ in each other and share. Between now and the end of September, six more sisterly visits will take place. As your Leadership Team we look forward to evaluating this program at the end and looking forward to the possibility of tweaking and improving it in the light of Father Saverio’s observation, which I will quote again here: *“We are living in hard times; we need to work together.”*

We wish you great joy, much love, and many work-partners as you enter into the grace of Pentecost, the Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, and Sacred Heart. So many feasts of love to start off the season of summer!

Carmel of Our Lady and St Joseph Boston, Massachusetts

During Lent we viewed a series on the Passion given by Fr. Henry Wansbrough OSB, with each talk being about ½ hour in length. We watched a segment each week and followed this with a ½ hour of personal prayer. The series continued with the Resurrection so we finished it during the Easter season. It took some of us awhile to adapt to Father’s English accent, but the program was very well done and quite worthwhile.



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty

We have studied and shared on the Vdq and have now begun to do the same weekly with the talks from St. Louis.

Our ICFP continued with Dr. Francine Cardman from BC speaking on women’s ministry and leadership in the early Church. Her area is historical theology and Church history, and her expertise really enriched the talks. Sr. Catherine travels down from Concord by bus to join us. In keeping with Lent we changed the tempo a bit and had Mark de Velis OCD, give us two excellent talks using the writings of John of the Cross. Dr. Andrew Doyle returned to speak to us on the Jewish perspective of the Psalms, and Dr. Angela Kim



Fr. Francis with Juanita and Marieleth

Harkins, also at BC, and coming for the first time spoke on the Odes of Solomon. Tom Stegman SJ, who hadn’t been well, had to postpone his day, but did eventually come and give us a very full day, sharing about his experience at the Jesuit General Congregation. Francis Alvarez SJ, who had just received his doctorate, spoke on what had been the subject of his dissertation, how our praying of the psalms can have a greater affect on our lives. He divided his talk into four aspects; images, encounter, the body, which the psalms cite over 1000 times, and the emotions and how the psalms draw us through

them. He noted how God allows us to dwell in our need to ‘bash the enemy’ etc. until we are ready to move on, but we *are* meant to move on. Our program came to a close for the year with a day from Richard Clifford SJ, who spoke on the Wisdom of Solomon. He’s truly remarkable in his ability to give rich, well organized, and very interesting talks without needing a note.

On June 1st our indomitable pastor agreed to retire at the urging of the Cardinal. He will, however, remain in residence. The new pastor is a good friend of his and both are remarkable individuals. The parish Way of the Cross grows larger each year, and we feel privileged that we are part of it. Also the Mass for the police in the city seems to be becoming an annual event. It is meant to create greater understanding between the police and the people.

The sisters in our parish convent, and our pastor, have been open to sharing it with women wishing to live in a prayerful setting. Some of the women come to the monastery for Eucharist and add to our mix of nationalities. At any one time we can be from 6 or 7 countries.

Early one cold morning Mary Teresa was opening the front gate when a man, coming down the street and shaking badly, asked the way to the City Hospital. Though only a 20 minute walk from the monastery it was far beyond what he’d be able to manage. Sister offered to call a cab, and brought him in for a cup of cocoa until it came. Drug addiction remains a terrible problem in the State, and it’s very evident around the hospital due to a methadone center, two shelters, and free clinics in the vicinity.

We may yet become a pilgrimage site. A group of young people came to the monastery from RI, as part of what seems to be becoming their annual pilgrimage. And a group of 13 adults came from Brockton for Mass –again as part of a pilgrimage.

We made Good Shepherd Sunday a day of celebration for Mary Teresa, highlighted by a Filipino dance professionally executed by Maria, Bernadette Therese, and Marieleth.

Our stove succumbed to overwork so, after ordering another, less expensive brand, we moved the freezer, the cabinet, and etc., and made way for the old one to go and the new one to come. The new one came, was hitched up and ready to cook until the troubles began. We informed the company and they sent a fellow to check. He told us that the troubles were part of this particular brand. The company agreed to refund our money and now we’re waiting for our new “new” stove coming from Canada.

A delivery man spilt a half gallon of milk on our foyer rug. The company was willing to replace the rug, which happened to



Richard Clifford SJ & Sr. Jeanne Marie



Rocky waiting for the country bus

be stuck to the tiles beneath, making it necessary to remove the tiles only to discover asbestos. The company was not quite ready to foot the painful cost of its removal.

The raccoons and the wild turkeys still drop around, -and the red tailed hawks. And yes, the street diggers still dig.



Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

Carmel of the Assumption Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Lent and Easter seemed to fly by this year. Our Spring came early, though it would give way to little spurts of winter that left us concerned about the fruit tree buds. So far we don't see too much damage or loss on all that we count on in the garden and orchard and are already reaping the fruits of Sr. Tanya's labors.

We had the transitional Deacons from St. Vincent Seminary for the Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross. Some were accompanied a younger member of the Seminary as Cross Bearer. After the Stations the Deacon and his assistant introduced themselves, told us what Diocese they were preparing to serve and when their priestly ordination would be. Sometimes we got a short history of their vocation. They ended by asking our prayers for their ministry.

The Easter Triduum was beautiful and went off without any unusual incidences like the Easter Water vessel leaking, the new Fire going out or the auxiliary lights we use at the Easter Vigil failing at an inopportune moment. Being celebrant at the liturgies of the Triduum in our Chapel give some of the Benedictines, who are professors at the college and have never ministered in a parish, their first opportunity to preside at one of the solemn Easter celebrations.

Our newest Benedictine Chaplain, Fr. Canice McMullen, found himself on list of rotating chaplains before he was ordained. Father's ordination was celebrated on May 27. The summer chaplains' list was published a few days earlier. One of the retired Fathers brought him over to circle our drive one evening and see how to get here and where to go. Father Canice came for a "first Mass" with us and then came a few days later on his assigned day.

Three of the Sisters planned to drive to St. Louis to attend the meeting with our Father General and the other Associations. A few weeks before the meeting it became clear that one of them should stay home because of other things going on in the Monastery, so Sr. Marie Elizabeth offered. It turned out that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. The other two Sisters decided it would be better for them to fly. Travel day, April 25, had barely begun when Sr. Shirley made it known that she needed some medical attention, so

she and Sr. Tanya drove to the hospital around 3 a.m. After Mass, Srs. Mary and Joann started for the airport, knowing only that Sr. Shirley might have a ruptured appendix. Sister finally had surgery at 3 p.m. and the diagnosis was confirmed.

A few days later, Sr. Shirley was suspected of having a blood clot in a lung. On her way back from a late evening MRI the wheels of the gurney she was on got stuck in the crack between the floor and the elevator and she had to be rescued by the security guards. She was in the hospital for nine days. Some days later she was readmitted for further diagnosis of complications, and spent another five days in the hospital. Thankfully she seems to be recovering now. In the meantime two other Sisters have had a hernia surgery and a cataract removal. As of this writing, everyone seems to be doing well again.

While a few sentences in passing hardly touch on the wonder and grace of the recent meeting of the Associations in St. Louis, we were very much enthused and encouraged by the news from the meeting and the talks that Father General, Fr. Daniel and Fr. Rafal gave to the assembly. The content is rich and inspiring, and the challenges they present are timely and practical. We look forward to the graces in other assemblies of the Associations and our working together.

We are continually amused and awed by our menagerie of wild life around the Monastery. Last week one of our volunteers told Sr. Tanya he couldn't finish the mowing the last patch of high grass. A fawn that was obviously newborn was asleep there and he didn't want to discourage the mother from returning to claim it. Our flock of turkeys make themselves at home all over the property. We have been treated to our first look at the new chicks, little balls of fluff no bigger than robins, trying their luck under the birdfeeder. The patriarch of the flock acquired two "lieutenants" from last year's hatching. These young males seemed to have been hatched from the same egg, as they were exactly alike, even to crowing in unison. The patriarch would strut around in full display followed by his two lieutenants, sometimes also in full display. They looked so much like pompous military in full finery on parade.

Please remember the sick and elderly in your prayers: Sr. Mary's parents who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and are in poor health; Sr. Theodora's mother, in her late 90s, who passed away on June 13; Sr. Shirley's father who is close to 100; Sr. Marie Elizabeth's aunt, an IHM Sister in Scranton, PA who, at 104, is in the final stage of recovery from a broken hip suffered earlier in the year. We also ask your prayers for our Sisters who have had surgery. Please know our prayers for you and your loved ones.

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

First and foremost in this report we would like to **thank** all the Carmels and Sisters that have included Srs. Maria, Lynne and our community in their recent prayer intentions. We regret not being able to be present for the OCD National Meeting with the Generalate in St. Louis. Our Sr. Maria was in the dying process when it came time to leave for the meeting. We are grateful to those that had the blog published to the Internet allowing us to see the photos and feel better connected to what was taking place.



Sr. Miriam Hogan

This year Easter and especially Passion week have acquired a new and deeper meaning for us as we prayed for and accompanied our Sisters Maria and Lynne on their personal journeys.



Sr. Maria Scheer

Our Sr. Maria Scheer, OCD (01/03/1935 - 4/26/2017) died at the Kahl Home after a long struggle with lung cancer. She was admitted in Jan of 2016 and was under the care of Hospice. Some of us were able to be at her bedside and sing the Salve at her passing.

Fr. Ed O'melia a longtime friend of both our community and the Kahl Home Sisters offered the Funeral Mass at The Kahl Home Chapel; burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Davenport.

Sister transferred to Eldridge in 1996 from Kensington, Calif where she first entered. At the Kahl Home it was noted that in addition to English, she was able to speak both Chinese and German. The Sisters and caregivers there were especially kind and compassionate but she was ready and anxious to depart for her heavenly home. May she now be interceding for Lynne and for all that accompanied her along the way to her new life.

Sr. Lynne on the other hand is still in the ICU unit of Genesis Hospital in Davenport recovering from two major surgeries. She woke up on the morning of March 30th with a pain in her jaw. Probably it was her nursing experience that helped save her life for she recognized the symptoms of a heart attack and an ambulance was called. As grace would have it, she was able to be operated on that day by the best heart doctor in this territory. The first surgery was for an aortic aneurysm repair. The next morning a second emergency surgery was done in the ICU room was to remove extra fluid from around the heart.



Sr. Lynne

There have been various complications following the surgeries. Thus the doctor has kept her in ICU for rehab where she can be closely monitored. We realize that it has been difficult to keep from talking for two months, not having visitors from outside the community and missing being with us at Maria's Funeral.

Rome recently accepted her postulation. Now, Sr. JonFe has been doing a lot of the work as Sub prioress.



Sunshine

At least we understand a little of what is going on, and get daily updates. Her cat Sunshine however keeps meowing whenever we pass her bedroom. This reminds us to continue to hold both Lynne and her 18 pound cat in our hearts and prayers. We need her back home with us, but it takes a lot of rehab to lift 18 pounds and get a voice back to respond to the meow machine.

Concerning news about the weather, we won't be singing the song "Rain Down" for a while. There was a tornado that passed through this area that grazed the outside edge of our property and downed a number of trees and limbs and flattened our neighbor's barn. Fortunately, no one was hurt and most of the yard is already back in order.



Tornado damage

The Blessing of the fields this year was canceled because of the rain but we hope to reschedule and provide pictures in the next report.

Finally, during this time of retreat we pray for the Spirits gifts and wish all of our Sisters the Lord's own Peace and Love.

Carmel of the Resurrection Oldenburg, Indiana

Here in the Indianapolis Archdiocese we are still waiting for a new Bishop. Archbishop Joseph Tobin's call from Pope Francis to go to New Jersey was a major loss for all of us who loved and admired him. In a February issue of the "Criterion," our Catholic weekly publication, there was an article about now Cardinal Tobin celebrating liturgy at his titular Church in Rome. One of the pictures was of him receiving the offertory gifts from little children. He was kneeling! We recalled the time we first met him personally at our old monastery where he was about to celebrate liturgy in the renovated chapel.

We were invited for the occasion and four of us sat in one of the front pews. To our complete surprise, he came out of the sacristy and knelt in front of us so that we were on the same eye level. He then introduced himself. This is a precious memory of a very beautiful, gifted, and humble man.



Sr. Jean McGoff

Before we left Indianapolis, some nine years ago, we sent about 26 file boxes of archive material to the Notre Dame archives. Our founders were very careful to preserve our history and we have added to it and organized it. One story from the archives features Mother Elias who had visited the infant community in Indianapolis. An extensive correspondence followed and was preserved, including the story of their escape from Mexico during the revolution. This month, again with the help of our community historian, Mary Jo Weaver, we sent another collection, including nine years of faithfully kept chronicles, records of elections, and personal files of deceased sisters. I, personally, have a great love of history and those who make it. I frequently think of a line from one of the Council documents, "The Spirit of God moves through history and is not absent from its development."

Marcie celebrated her eightieth birthday on March 13 with her big family in Texas. Six of her siblings are still living! We were treated to many great stories on her return!

Prior to Easter, Sr. Maureen Irvin, the Congregational Minister for the Franciscans here in Oldenburg, sent out a letter to the community and their associates, which included many ways to "practice resurrection" in our daily lives. She had gotten them from an internet article by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat entitled "Easter: Resurrection as a Spiritual Practice." I was so taken with the idea that we included quite a few in our Easter letter to our friends. Among them were:

When you add even a small portion of joy to the lives of those around you,
you bring resurrection into your community.

Enthusiasm is the mark of a life-giver. When you can laugh and sing and
relish life, you are practicing resurrection.

Practice gratitude and you are slaying the death-dealing forces of boredom,
despair, and taking-things-for-granted.

We did not get to the St. Louis meeting, but kept up with the daily reports and great pictures. Mother Anne drove over from Terre Haute to give us a personal account and brought us copies of all the talks. Sometime later, Fr. Daniel Chowning came for lunch and shared his insights and experience. He said that Fr. General was very impressed with the organization of the meeting. We are very grateful for the dedication that made this meeting possible and enabled those of us who did not come to feel part of it. It seems that it was a special experience of unity in diversity. (That sounds like Heaven!)

Anna Mary celebrated her 70th entrance anniversary just after Easter. Unfortunately, a month later, she fell in her room and broke her leg. Our hospital is just 15 minutes away and she was able to have surgery a few hours later. She is recovering well. Her niece, Eileen, came in May to visit her. We had never met Eileen and we enjoyed her buoyant personality. She took the two "selfies" which are included here.



Eileen, Sr. Anna Mary and the community

We have belonged to the Association of Contemplative Sisters since its beginning, almost fifty years ago. Our Cincinnati, Oldenburg, Indianapolis, Louisville Cluster group is very alive. About eight of us meet monthly for lunch (usually here) and then watch a DVD followed by faith sharing. This has been going on for most of the years we have been in Oldenburg. On June 2, Maureen Krah, one of the group, died peacefully in her own home where she had been getting hospice care. The day before, the group had gathered around her bed with prayer and song and the joyful laughter that is always with us. Maureen was a beautiful contemplative woman and a genuine mystic. This is surely the friendship that OHM speaks of in the Way of Perfection.



Sr. Helen with the Book

Helen recently loaned me the book “Christian Monks on Chinese Soil” by Matteo Nicolini-Zani. There is a long and fascinating chapter on the Carmelites. Although many archives were destroyed during the Revolution, there is ample material in this book.

In 1990, Helen was able to visit the sites of the former Carmelite monasteries in China and meet some of the older Sisters who were still alive in spite of the suffering they endured in those years. The unpublished account of Helen’s visit is called “An Account of My Journey.” Matteo frequently refers to this work.

One paragraph in this book is worth quoting. The words are those of John Wu: “To me as a Chinese, the great thing about Christianity is that it combines the profound mysticism of Lao Tzu with the intense humanism of Confucius....The

Confucian idea of God is personal but narrow while the Taoistic idea is broad but impersonal. And it is Therese who has confirmed my faith in my religion, for her mind is as subtle and detached as that of Lao Tzu, while her heart is as affectionate and cordial as that of Confucius.

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

A blessed Summer after a glorious Spring filled with rainy days and nights that worked magic on Mother Earth. It's refreshing to take in the multiple shades of green and colorful flowers.

The joy of the meeting of our Discalced Carmelite Nuns together with Fathers Saverio, Daniel and Rafal and our brothers of the three U.S. Provinces remains. We wished many more of our sisters could have been there, but somebody had to be "by the store". It was so good to see old friends and make new ones among us – a real lifting up in the bond of Carmel, a renewal of our charism. One of the Sisters wrote later that you could sense the spirit of our holy parents' presence. Of course the picture-taking was endless and everyone was so helpful. Some years ago, two members of the Secular Order of the Barrington Chapter, Susan and Catherine entered the Carmel of Shoreline, WA. Susan's job had taken her westward; it was there she chose to change direction



Sr. Roseann Gillice

in life. I believe Cathy visited for her Clothing and the occasion bore fruit with her desire to join the Sisters. Our reunion at the meeting was an enjoyable gift. Thanks to Pope Francis for this many-splendored event.

After we arrived home, Sister Sue had copies printed of the talks, names of participants, etc. They were bound into booklets for each sister in community. (We were reminded that Fr. Daniel's presentation was not to be circulated outside the community till next October.)



Srs. Susan Elizabeth, Roseann and Catherine

Shortly after our National Meeting, as a community we celebrated our Sister Marian's Diamond Jubilee on May 24th, a Wednesday. In the same year on the same date Marian made her temporary vows while Sr. Mary Gehring professed her solemn vows. Marian asked Fr. Nick Smith, a native of Ireland and a busy "retired" diocesan priest who comes to celebrate Eucharist with us once a month, to be the main celebrant and homilist. He said in his homily, "...it's an enormous privilege to be asked... But it's also an enormous task! 60 years in a 5/6minute homily! Hello! Then in your humility you suggested that I preach on the word of the day! That's 'Mission Impossible', if you ask me. And here's why! One of the greatest and most theological lines in the whole New Testament is 'The Word was made flesh.' That's what you've done since you were Baptized, of course, but in a special way as a Carmelite for 60 years; and that needs to be recalled. There is a time for everything, and this is your time, - God's word in you and in your life.

With God, coming to maturity in wholeness and holiness is never a finished state; that at some time we become the complete person; the one who has it all. No! We come from God and go to God, and life is that journey! An endless pilgrimage! Perfection, certainly for the Carmelite, is living that life in conformity with the humanness of Jesus. That takes some doing; is a ceaseless process, and never fully achieved here



Fr. Saverio with Sisters

below. You gave your life to Christ in this remarkable way 60 years ago, and you never grow old in that! The key is to grow with grace! God has challenged you to grow in love; a quieter love, of course, but deeper, richer, more mellowed, softened, full of hope! ...one of the words you love and have used over the years in meditation and reflection is the word 'remain'! What an interesting word! Remain! The gospel one day last week was: 'I am the vine. You are the branches. Remain in me as I remain in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.' And then there's the Agony in the Garden, so much a part of the Holy Week Triduum! Jesus said to the three; 'My soul is sorrowful, even unto death. Remain with me and keep watch.' So there you have it, sister! You give flesh to God's Presence; you're still growing; still keeping watch! You still remain! For 60 years of that as a Carmelite, thank you! ... Congratulations!"

A reception followed with some friends of the community. As a surprise, Sister Marian's sister, Dottie, drove up from New York with her son, Patrick that morning and returned the same day! The family and many relatives planned a celebration for June 3rd in New York.



Sr. Marian renewing vows



Presentation of the Gifts - Sr. Mary Gehring on the walker, Sr. Sue and Peggy Mason

This past March the same priest, Fr. Nick Smith came for Mass on the 17th. It was the first time we were given the blessing of St. Patrick in Gaelic.

Irish humor was part of the day too: "Four men were talking together about nationalities. One said, 'if I weren't French, I would be Italian'; the other said, 'if I weren't Spanish, I would be German'; the next one said, 'if I weren't English, I would be Austrian.' The three of them turned and asked, 'what would you be, Casey? He answered, 'if I weren't Irish, I would be ashamed!'"

We have been blessed by the presence of a priest visiting

America for a while.

Father Martin Donnelly has been filling in for Mass, since many of our priests are on overload; at times we haven't had a priest. He will come for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel novena as well – all 9 days. Martin was born in Ireland, but he ministers in Wales. The parish he was sent to had about 56 people, but after he arrived the number increased to 300! Everyone here at daily Mass and Sunday Mass loves him. Please pray for his intentions.

We are looking forward to welcoming Sisters Monika and Marjorie for our CCA sisterly visit this month.

In gratitude for all the big feasts we will be celebrating; for all that has been and will be! Alleluia!

Carmel of the Sacred Heart Baltimore, Maryland

As we left off from our last newsletter entry our community had begun our election process with several days of discernment with Srs. Connie Gilder and Carol Marozzi, SSJ as facilitators. We are dedicated to the process of contemplative dialogue and find it a helpful way of communicating among ourselves in every community meeting. Our dear friends, Bishop Dennis Madden and Sr. Kathleen Feeley were here to witness our re-election of Judy Long for the next three years.



Sr. Leah Hargis

Celia was involved in mid-February with an interview with “A Nun’s Life.” She is a wonderful contributor to such endeavors and speaks eloquently of her experience of religious and Carmelite life. Most important, however, is Celia’s and Mary’s expertise in our technical/digital work. Our community is committed to updating and invigorating our presence on the Internet and Facebook. Just before the end of February we went “live” on Facebook and answered questions from the audience. Many of the community sat in the Chapel and participated.

As March began, so did our Lenten season. We were quite busy with weekly choir practices and the usual focus on our liturgical work for our broader community. We tried something new this year and asked several members of our Sunday congregation to help us plan the liturgies for the Sundays of Lent. We were so happy to have a different perspective, some new ideas and affirmation that these celebrations are appreciated and remembered. We used Connie’s “Impasse and Dark Night” as our focus for the Sundays and Holy Week.

March saw us welcoming many guests. We were joined by the confirmation classes from Our Lady of Hope and St. Luke’s parishes for a Saturday afternoon program followed by Vespers in our chapel. At the end of Vespers, the young people were invited to ask questions of us which resulted in a wonderful and lively discussion. We welcomed Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, the Vatican Astronomer, to share some of his science with us as a means of ongoing formation. The Vatican observatory is now located in Tucson, Arizona because the night sky is still quite dark there. We were fascinated with his work and his discussion of the phenomenon of vast space. An unexpected guest was Sr. Helen Prejean who we were honored to meet when she while she was visiting the area to attend the opening of the opera, “Dead Man Walking” at the Kennedy Center. She is a close friend of 2 members of our congregation. Sr. Helen shared with us many stories of her past and present as she continues to raise people’s consciousness of the unfairness of our prison system and promote the end of the death penalty.



Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ



Sr. Helen Prejean (center) with community

In mid-March we hosted our CCA -M.L.C Visioning Committee for several days. It was wonderful to visit with Srs. Claire, Bernadette Therese, Hilary, Sue and, of course our dear friend Stephanie. May their efforts bear much fruit!! After their departure, we welcomed Srs. Ann Weber and Marjorie Robinson for our Sisterly Visit. We all found the experience enlivening and helpful.

It was in March that we received sad news. Father Columkille Reagan, CP, our dear long-time friend went home to God. Columkille was a Canon lawyer who advocated for religious women during the renewal years. We miss his laugh and presence. May he rest in peace in the eternal embrace of God.

This past Lent during our Friday afternoon hour of prayer we invited the public to join us in our chapel. Our focus was on peace—in the world, in our cities, in our hearts. Everyone who attended expressed a desire for even more opportunities to pray as community. They welcomed the silent, still place in our chapel just after Vespers or, on two Lenten Fridays, at 7:00pm followed by Compline.

As April rolled into view we opened our hearts and minds to Holy Week and Easter. All our liturgical celebrations were well attended and we so happy to have our dear friend Reggie Harris join us for the Easter Vigil and Sunday celebration. The music for the Holy Week services overflowed with melodic harmony as our choir was accompanied by piano, organ, flute, guitar, drums, timpani and oboe. Our friend, soprano Katerina Burton, had again joined us for Good Friday. Ms. Burton will be leaving the area to begin the graduate program at Julliard this fall. We will miss her but she goes with our prayers and good wishes as she continues her studies.

April ended on a high note with 5 of our sisters travelling to St. Louis for the National Meeting with Father General. They returned grateful for the opportunity to have attended this historic gathering which proved to be an enriching and unifying experience with the sisters from other associations across the US and Canada.



Srs. Teresa Benedicta (Hannover, Germany) Michaelene (Beacon), Monika (Baltimore) and Allain (Kirkintilloch, Scotland)

As May ended Srs. Monika and Michaelene returned from their trip representing CCA at the German Federation Meeting. Monika was impressed with the meeting and the opportunity to visit the Monasteries of Dachau and Hannover in addition to the Benedictine Monastery at Munsterschwarzach which hosted the meeting itself. Our presence at these international Carmelite events is vital to building bridges instead of walls.

As this letter was being sent off, we learned of the attacks in Manchester and London. Let us continue to pray for an end to these acts of hatred and violence. May the Spirit empower us with her gifts helping us to imagine and cultivate new ways to live in peace, respecting and loving the Divine Presence within each one of us.

Blessings and good summer, sisters!



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

Carmel of the Incarnation Beacon, New York

Since the launch of our new website in April 2015, we have had much appreciative feedback and have discovered its potential for greater communication with our friends. In this year's St. Joseph mailing, we let them know that we would be communicating differently from now on. Instead of the newsletter we used to write, we will have a section on our website with our news, sisters' reflections, notice of public celebrations and articles on Carmelite spirituality. The response so far has been very good.

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned Rita Ferrone, a liturgist who spoke to us last summer on the liturgies of Holy Week. We had another day with her March 8 on just the Vigil. Building on her input, and with a celebrant, Fr. Dennis Polanco, S.A., who took time to plan and practice, our Holy Week liturgies this year had an intentionality and depth that was very rewarding.

On March 1, we voted to accept Sr. Joan Kuzmic of Jackson Carmel for a temporary transfer. Joan had first met us over twenty years ago after a CCA meeting, and came to last year's also to meet and talk with those of us there. Her transfer was preceded by a several months' visit.



*Srs. Michaelene and Aletha
with Fr. Tomas*

These last few months seem to have involved a lot of visits. March 13 found us greeting an old friend, Fr. Tomas Bobadilla. Fr. Tomas is Mexican and had lived in our local parish some years ago, ministering mostly to Hispanic workers in the area, though he did come for Mass with us regularly. He seems to have been universally loved; the then pastor commented once, "It is interesting to live with a saint!" He has been here again for some months but will return to Mexico in August. He asked to have Eucharist here once a month until then.

Another visitor we enjoyed was Fr. Jack Welch, O.Carm. He has been at the Carmelite novitiate in Middletown and we asked him here for liturgy and a visit before he returns to Chicago.

February 19 to 22, Sr. Michaelene and I went to Cleveland for the first of the "sisterly visits" which were decided on as part of goal 4 at the last CCA meeting. We were touched by the sisters' warm welcome and the courage and faith with which they work toward selling their monastery and moving to smaller quarters. In March, Sr. Marjorie and I went to Baltimore, she as a sister visitor (with Sr. Ann of Reno) and I to work with Srs. Constance and Celia on planning the Newer Members Meeting to take place next fall. (We found Amtrak a good way to travel and I found an upside to gray hair: people offered me help with my luggage without my even asking!) Then March 28 and 29, Srs. Colette of Baltimore and Ann came to Beacon for our "sisterly visit". We enjoyed our time with them and found it profitable.

Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marita and I joined about 160 of our sisters at the historic meeting in St. Louis in April. It was extremely well planned and facilitated, and we found the talks by Frs. Saverio, Rafal and Daniel balanced and helpful. I think the number and diversity of the nuns was unprecedented. One afternoon, a couple came up to me in the foyer of the hotel, somewhat breathless, the man saying, "Sister, we just got here -- what is going on? I've never seen so many nuns together in my life!" I told him I hadn't either. They turned out to be Catholic and genuinely interested in us.

Lately, lest my life become boring, I have spent hours dealing with the fallout of two counterfeit checks ostensibly written from our account. The counterfeits were cleverly done, and had they succeeded, would have set us back (temporarily, of course) over \$44,000. It pays to have an almost illegible signature -- hard to copy. I now have acquaintances at the fraud investigation departments of two banks, the local police, et al.



Sisters with Fr. Saverio



Michaelene in search of Nessie

We are currently in our Ascension to Pentecost retreat. We suspended it for Memorial Day to hear all Michaelene's stories of her adventures representing CCA in Germany and Scotland. The experience was very positive for her and we marveled at the number of souvenirs she was able to bring home. Her only disappointment: no sighting of the monster in Loch Ness. She will have to make do with the overgrown carp in our little pond.

With our prayer for a peaceful and blessed summer.



Sr. Maria Viatori

Carmel of the Holy Family Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Moving Forward

It just so happened that schedules and time slots coincided in order for Cleveland Carmel to head up the roster of Sisterly Visits. Our community was so grateful to Michaelene and Carolyn for braving the winter weather and plane

changes to stay with us for a few days. Although we did not have a set agenda, it was so encouraging to have our sisters from Beacon listen to us and share their experiences of great transition and discuss the virtues necessary to ride the tumultuous tides of change. They told many stories of the Bronx, Garrison, and Beacon adventure that humorously got points across. Life continues and does not end when you have a new address. We want to thank our Leadership Team for investing in Zoom technology; it is the next best thing to on-site meetings. Michaelene and Carolyn were so accommodating in setting up Zoom Conferencing when we needed timely, objective advice and counsel.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Carmel in Piedmont, Oklahoma. Their Easter Newsletter was a poignant example and witness of how to deal with the unforeseen challenges that face community life. Each day is an opportunity to cling to the graces received and realize that we are part of the human family that has to grapple with uninvited circumstances and make the best out of life, grateful that God is with us on the journey.



Srs. Michaelene, Maria, Bernadette, Mary K. and Carolyn.

Joyous Easter

Bernadette and Barb do an excellent ministry in inviting priests to celebrate Liturgy for our worshipping community. We were blessed to have Fr. Lou Papes for the entire Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday Liturgy. Lou's excellent homilies can be found on the website listed in the next section. Bob Carr, our facility manager, had to bring up chairs from the Guild Room to accommodate the crowd on Easter Sunday. One of the cherished customs that we have at Eastertide is to have Eucharist in our refectory on Emmaus Wednesday followed by a festive meal. Fr. Thomas Chillikulam, SJ, felt right at home celebrating in such a family oriented setting.

Ascension Sunday dinner provided a perfect forum for reminiscence for our community. Some of the sisters told stories of nostalgic community customs, like the Ascension ritual of walking outside clad in mantles, looking up at the sky and celebrating winter with outdoor picnics featuring old fashioned chili. There was hearty laughter but also a great sense of community bondedness.

Our Sisters at Regina

We continue to marvel at the programming and activities that are provided for our sisters at Regina Health Center in Richfield, OH. Presently, they are involved in participating in the Women and the Word series that was initiated to honor our Sister Mary Lavin. It is a wonderful experience to join them for this enriching spiritual program. See www.sabbathretreats.com for details. With spring in bloom the garden club will be starting up their planters and working in the raised beds. The enclosed Madonna garden provides a quiet place for our sisters to pray and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

Praying and Promoting Justice

Network Catholic Lobby keeps us posted on what is happening in Congress. Health care, immigration, environment, our relationship with other countries, gun reform, sufficient meal programs for women and children, housing, and funding for the arts are important issues for us. We remain vigilant and contact our representatives and senators regarding our concerns. We thank God for Pope Francis and his willingness to reach out and be that peace- filled presence that is so very necessary in our fragile world.

Peace and blessing to you all during these summer months.

Donna's words on her Profession

I had wanted only a small, simple ceremony for my temporary vows. I sent out invitations via email telling my family and friends of my plans and that

I certainly didn't expect them to come since they had all come many years ago to my profession in the Congregation of St. Joseph.



Sr. Donna

I was a nervous wreck for weeks with much more anxiety than my unruffled first time with the CSJs. Is this where I'm supposed to be after thirty-five years of teaching and a comfortable retirement on the horizon? Can I really continue the discipline of rising early, attending prayer four times a day and daily Mass?

I decided to listen to the Spirit and not my fears.

Fr. Don Cozzens presided at the liturgy and gave a wonderful homily about being present to the Lord and to the community even though there will be days of doubts.

Each of the Sisters had a part: Barb Losh, of course, received my vows, Maria Viatori and Pat O'Brien did the readings, Pat Conway and Barb acted as witnesses, Mary K Keklak read petitions, and Bernadette Kamin brought up gifts and baked a ton of bakery for the little reception afterward.



Sr. Donna with friends and family

Even all my family who were in town and some of my best friends surprised me by attending.

That evening Maria made a superb chicken dinner, and we had Bern's famous "apple snake" for dessert. The day proved to be beyond my expectations. I felt very good about making vows and very glad to be in Carmel.

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains Reno, Nevada

Once again in February our local PBS station, KNPB, was here filming. This time they did a segment on the history of our print shop and the artists behind the creation of our cards. They do a series titled "ArtEffects" and showcase local artists as part of each broadcast. We invite you to view it on our website www.carmelofreno.com by clicking the 'MEET US' tab on the home page, then 'Reno Printshop History' on the dropdown menu. Or just click on the following link: <http://watch.knpb.org/video/2365990523/> Public television has been good to us with features on our sisters' music and art over the years and these have introduced many people to our Carmel.



Sr. Marie-Louise

When we are able we open our chapel and visiting areas to groups for prayer and meetings. Our local OCDS chapter meets here regularly, St. Albert's parish staff came for meetings, and the Diocesan Lay Ministers also held an all day workshop on prayer here in March. They all appreciate the contemplative space.

As part of our Easter environment, SaRa did a new painting of the Resurrection that we used as a focus for our seasonal décor. It elicited a very positive response illustrating once more how deeply the arts can move people in worship.

We are overjoyed with the sharing and joyful spirit of cooperation pouring forth from the St. Louis National Meeting of the four Associations and non-Associated Carmels with the Generalate in St. Louis. Preparation for the meeting included 21 ZOOM meetings for Claire and a weekend working with Cherry Caparas, OCDS, here in Reno on liturgy, schedule and related details. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who worked so hard to make it a success, and to each participant who came open to the Spirit and to one another. We are also very grateful for the excellent talks given by our Friars which will provide a wealth of material for reflection in community in days to come.



Sr. SaRa's Painting

Sisters Ann and Claire returned home inspired by the sisterly visits they have been privileged to do for CCA. They feel the bonds between our communities have been strengthened as a result of their experience of sharing both dialogue and laughter among our sisters and friends!

At home here our community meetings are involved with “future planning” both long range and more immediate. We began this past winter with a very broad picture of where we are now and a projection of what it would look like in the future. Then we started to narrow things down to specific areas of focus. We began by coming up with a list of things that are new in our community in the past two years, then we looked at: events, projects, schedule, circumstances, new way(s) of looking at something that has been or has to be adapted in the community. We brainstormed about the future with these in mind: ideas, projects, insights, intuitions, dreams, and wonderings. Then we collected these and grouped them in categories, prioritizing them for further discussion. This community never seems to be at a loss for ideas. Our weekly community meetings provide the perfect opportunity for on-going dialogue on these important topics.



Barbara Forrest

Sister Michael's niece, Kathleen Fox, and her husband Amery Fitch, came for a wonderful visit. They have an uncanny ability to find beautiful out-of-the-way nature habitats that Sr. Michael loves to visit. This time they all went to the Carson River valley basin and wetlands. The wildlife and flora and fauna after such a wet year for us was simply breathtaking. Sr. Michael rarely had seen so many birds here in over 60 years in Nevada!

Your prayers are especially appreciated for Sr. Rosalind's mother Barbara Forrest (RIP March 28th) and for Sr. Carol's sister Nadine Blick (RIP May12th). Both of went home to God since our last newsletter. We also have a list of those needing prayers: please remember my brother Richard Bishop, who is undergoing treatment after extensive surgery for a very serious and aggressive cancer; for

another of Sr. Carol's sisters, Judy Sheen who is recovering from a stroke; Sr. SaRa's mother who also just recently suffered a stroke; and for our Sr. Mary who is in rehab, recovering slowly from a fracture after a fall.

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

As winter has gradually yielded to spring, we have been reflecting together on our Carmelite life as we live it in Concord. We have been asking questions such as: How can we deepen our understanding of Teresian contemplative life and translate our new understandings into better interactions in daily life? What is God asking of us at this time as we, like many other Carmels, face aging and diminishing numbers? What can we offer to CCA, to the Carmelite Order, to the small world that is Concord, to our world at large?

Like St. Teresa, we live in a society that is polarized and fragmented. As Teresa's daughters, we see that Jesus needs good friends. Accordingly, we want to be good friends of Jesus and become even better friends, whatever the future holds for us. Therefore, in the past few months, we have taken the opportunity to consult other sisters, and we have made the most of all the wisdom that was gathered into one place at the National Meeting in St. Louis.



Sr. Hilary Case

In late March, Sister Mary Hughes, O.P. visited us for three days during which time she led us through a process of learning to look at the future as holding opportunities and options. Sr. Mary introduced us to the RCRI Toolbox, a resource-kit for communities that are



Srs. Hilary, Emmanuel, Claudette and Mary Hughes OP

discerning their future, and she made practical recommendations such as linking with other religious communities, both contemplative and apostolic, making friends with them, and sharing with them our life of prayer. In addition, she helped us to consider who we are as a community and the spirit of hope we have to offer to women who are considering contemplative religious life. It was good for us to take a step away from the preoccupations of daily work and to think about all the grace that God has given us in our community life for us to share with others.

Very shortly after these special days, in early April, Sisters Claire Sokol and Michaelene Devine arrived to facilitate our Sisterly Visit. Although we weren't really sure what a sisterly visit would consist of, we were looking forward to it, and the experience was a good one, for sure. We surprised Claire and Michaelene by asking them to begin early, the evening of their arrival, rather than wait until the next morning. So Claire

and Michaelene opened the visit with a showing of the prayerful creation of the Sand Mandala (many of you saw this at the 2016 CCA National Meeting) as it is meticulously painted, then intentionally dissolved into a swirl of many colors of sand. Creating... and letting go... and creating.... This process-in-sand is a



Srs. Katharine, Theresa, Louise and Gabriel

powerful symbol of God's call to us right now as we seek both to create and to let go of what we think we know. We spent the following two days sharing concerns with each other, how life is going here and in the monasteries of our visitors, but with the focus on what steps are emerging for us Concord sisters

to take next. We decided to put our energies now into updating--our building, our technology, our vocational communication--and into outreach, both through our website and in person. We are grateful indeed to Claire and Michaelene for their sensitive facilitation and for being our sisters and our friends.

Now we come to the National Meeting, planned by members of all four of the U.S. Associations and held in St. Louis from April 25-29. Sisters Claudette, Louise, and Hilary attended this meeting. All of us were so moved by the sheer number of sisters present and by the wide range of communities represented, many of whom we had never met before. It was a joy to see the novices, who came from several communities, making friends and bonding, and we did the same thing to the best of our abilities. We found the input of Fathers Saverio, Rafal, and Daniel Chowning to be challenging and profound, moving us out of our comfort zones toward a wider range of relationships in Carmel undertaken with honesty. Our small group discussions showed that we do have some significant differences about how to interpret Carmelite life, but all three sisters from Concord were amazed at how respectfully our groups were able to address these issues. We also found that in some of our concerns we are not alone; sharing hardships with others gave us strength. Having ordered the DVDs of the talks and the pictures, kindly offered by the nuns of Terre Haute, we are looking forward to watching, listening, pondering, and sharing the insights of this meeting in our community.

Finally, during March and April, we hosted Sr. Colette Barbeau, pm for a segment of her sabbatical year. Sr. Colette lives and works at Rivier University in Nashua, NH. At Rivier, she is developer and coordinator of a program for women who are desire to deepen their spiritual life and to explore a vowed life in relation to the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. We enjoyed her time with us and got to know her as she shared meals with us during most of her stay.

Blessings to all of you as we move from Pentecost into the Feasts of the Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart. Next time, we will share our summer news and more of our process of reflection if the time is right to do that.

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

So often poetry is more eloquent than prose. A poem by G. M. Hopkins, even one stanza of it which we quoted in Community, expresses the vibrancy of this new season.

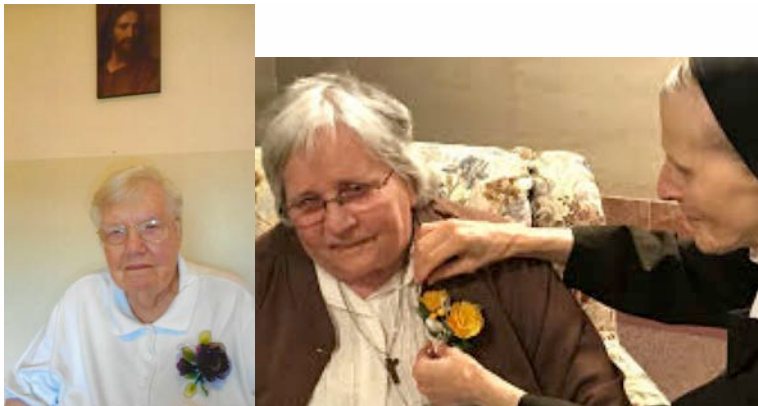
“...What is Spring?
Growth in every thing –
...Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.” *The May Magnificat*

New life is all around!

The national meeting of our Carmelite Nuns with Fr. General, Fr. Dan Chowning and Fr. Rafal appears to be a milestone for us: the gathering of 160 plus nuns from the four Associations, from non-associated Carmels and from the monasteries following the 1990 Constitutions. We want to acknowledge and thank all who worked so diligently in planning and executing the meeting. Our Community is deeply grateful for the all the reports sent to the Carmels, signs of renewed life and growth.



Sr. Angela Pikus



Srs. Joan Lundy (55th Jubilee) Joan Bourne (65th Profession)

The month of May brought celebration of dedicated lives. Each year we are included in a jubilee celebration arranged by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. In addition to celebration the decades of consecrated life, the half-decades are celebrated, too. So, Sr. Joan Bourne was honored for 65 years of religious profession and Sr. Joan Lundy for 55 years of religious profession. Lovely silk

corsages, handmade by a local Asian woman, were presented to each of the jubilarians, Mass was celebrated for them, the meals were festive and each received many cards of congratulations with gifts. Joan and Joan continue to “serve with gladness”.

The “sisterly visit” of Sr. Colette and Sr. Hilary in the first week of May was informative, encouraging and enjoyable. In addition to the scheduled dialogs, the Sisters shared in our prayer times, meals and recreations. They experienced the space and apartness we have for our contemplative life, the warm

welcomes of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius and the extensive grounds. There were visits to Sr. Anne and Sr. Joan Lundy at Emmanuel Center and Sr. Anna at Nazareth Center.

Visitors, announced and unannounced, continue to arrive. Peter Cottontail arrived during Easter dinner and gave each one a big hug. Peter visited the Sisters at Emmanuel Center and Nazareth Center, too. Very generous, since [s]he had to be quite warm underneath all that fur.



Srs. Joan, Hilary, Colette, Anne



Srs. Angela and Margaret dwarfed

Sr. Margaret has been receiving audio books from the Xavier Society for the Blind in New York City and finds that resource very helpful in dealing with her macular degeneration. The Society offers a wide variety of books on spirituality and religion and its service is free.

On Pentecost we drew billets for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, following our private Community retreat from Ascension. A friend of ours made the billets, each of them a meditation in itself.

Happy feasts of summer to all and may they bring new life, renewed life!

Carmel of the Mother of God San Rafael, California

Dearest Sisters of CCA,

Greetings to all our dear Sisters! We have had a wonderful winter and now a glorious spring of cool weather and delightful soft breezes, instead of the usual hot weather towards the end of May and into June.

Starting in February, we had the joy of having a celebration for our dear friends, Archbishop John Wester on his 40th Anniversary of Priesthood and Fr. Dave Pettingill on his 80th Birthday, on February 13th. It was very special Mass, with the Archbishop officiating and Fr. Dave giving the homily. They have been great friends of each other and of ours for 40 years. It was such an inspiration to have them with us and be able to share in these special events with them. Archbishop brought his very dear Mother and another good friend, Fr. Gerry Coleman, S.S., was also able to come and join us for the day.



Sr. Anna Marie Vanni



Fr. Gerry, Fr. Dave, Sr. Anna Marie, Helen and Archbishop John Wester

The month of March brought Father Jose Luis Ferroni, OCD, to give us our Novena to St. Joseph, from March 11th until the 20th. As well as giving us a tremendous discourse about St. Joseph during the Novena, Father Jose also gave us an excellent course each morning, entitled "A History of Christian Spirituality, Part I". Father is an excellent teacher and homilist. We thoroughly enjoyed his classes and were so graced by the Novena, that we hope in the future, he will be able to come again to continue with Part II of his course and officiate at another Novena!



Fr. Jose

In April, during our Holy Week celebrations, starting with Fr. Bob Benjamin, a longtime friend of the community, on Palm Sunday, our Chaplains were so filled with grace, that they imparted their union with the Lord to all of us, through their simple holiness and devotion. Fr. Samuel Musiimenta offered our Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Liturgies for us and Fr. Bruno Gibson, O.P. offered the Good Friday Service, with his wonderful love of the liturgy. Right after Easter Week, Sr. Teresa Francis and Sr. Anna Marie went to the Meeting in St. Louis with our Carmelite Father General, the Definitor General and the Procurator General. These three Carmelite Fathers gave the 160 assembled Carmelite Nuns superb conferences on the Apostolic Constitutions of Pope Francis for the Contemplative Nuns of



Sr. Teresa Francis and the three Nuns

the Church. We have been studying and sharing these conferences in community ever since. These are documents that we will be using as reference points, for our new constitutions, for many years to come. It was such a joy to be with so many of our Sisters. We renewed friendships and made new ones. What an historic event!

On May 2nd, Mother Dolores' nephew, Bill Corbett, came from Los Angeles for a visit. He had been visiting his Mom, Eveleen, in nearby San Leandro (Mother Dolores' sister) for her birthday and then came by to be with us for a few hours before going on to St. Helena to stay with friends. He regaled us with wonderful stories of all Mother's family. It was especially interesting to hear about Mother Dolores' Mom and Dad, from a grandchild's point of view! It was very special have Bill with us once again. His love for his "Aunt Marie" was very evident, as always!

Four of our Sisters attended the Funeral Mass of our former Archbishop George Niderauer, on May 12th. Cardinal William Levada was the main celebrant and homilist and gave a very touching homily of the main events of the Archbishop's life. The Cardinal and Archbishop were life-long friends and the Cardinal brought up all sorts of anecdotes about their friendship. There were 100 Priests and 20 Bishops. The Mass was a very loving and fitting tribute to the Archbishop.

The month of May ended with a beautiful May crowning of Our Lady's statue that resides right inside our enclosure door. She is a gift from a dear friend who passed away a couple of years ago. She now greets us, whenever we return home to the Monastery.



Bill and Mother Dolores

May you all have a very blessed summer!

Much love and prayers,
Your Sisters of San Rafael.