



CCA Newsletter

Volume 35 Issue 1 October 2013

Baltimore, MD
Barrington, RI
Beacon, NY
Boston, MA

Cleveland, OH
Concord, NH
Danville, PA
Eldridge, IA

Latrobe, PA
Oldenburg, IN
Reno, NV
San Rafael, CA



*The morns are meeker than they were,
The nuts are getting brown,
The berry's cheek is plumper
The rose is out of town.*

Dear Sisters,

The above excerpt from Emily Dickinson's poem "Autumn" is a beautiful description of the season we are experiencing. The last line "The rose is out of town" notes the absence of spring and summer flowers and foliage. But if you look in the upper left hand corner of our newsletter, you will see a rendition of Flos Carmeli "Flower of Carmel" which is with us in every season. This Mandala

was created by Sr. Romaine Welch for CCA in 1976. I would like to share with you her explanation of the artwork, which can also be found in the Archives section on our CCA website.

The Flos Carmeli Mandala symbolizes the Carmelite life journey to the center. Stretching across the piece is the Eastern symbol of energy the "Kundalini." This represents human energy transformed in the power of Christ's Cross. The blue outer circle signifies the Cosmic Christ and the world of creation; while the healing power of the Risen Christ for all humanity is exhibited in the red circle. At the center we find the third circle representing the experience of Divine Intimacy, the intercessory priestly prayer of Christ and union with Christ in the Trinity. Multi-colored petals convey the contrasts of light and darkness, the human and divine and the Church in time and history. The multifaceted life of Carmel, such as silence, solitude, prayer and community to name a few, comes to life in the blue and golden petals. Four identical petals express quaternity, a symbol of fullness. The flower's three stamens are obedience, celibacy (gift of self in service of the Church) and love for the Church.

Sr. Romaine Welch was a Carmelite for over 60 years. A trained and recognized artist before entering, she once stated, "Beauty is my way to God." During her life in Carmel, Sr. Romaine shared many of her artistic talents with us. This Mandala is only one expression of her inner prayer life. We thank God for the gift she was to us.

As we continue our journey in Carmel, let us pray especially for peace in our world and for all whose lives have been wounded by violence. May Mary, Flower of Carmel, hear our prayers.

Your sister, *Judy Long*

Sr. Roseann Gillice, ocd



*Awesome Autumn
greetings to you near
and far!*

The changing
colors of leaves, which
please the eyes in this
season, fill us with awe

and wonder, as well as Pope Francis with what he does
and says bringing good news to the world like Jesus.
VIVA IL PAPA!

World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Rio de Janeiro, during July 23-28, 2013, was one of refreshing simplicity and dignity. One young man traveling to the celebration remarked, "I feel that the new pope is a really warm guy, someone who's looking to really open up the Church to everyone, ...". We attended in spirit flying in first-class with plane tickets printed by Sr. Francesca, hats and shopping bags made of old newspapers. What a little creativity can do!

The heat was intense during the novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, but many people came. Again three priests spoke on different nights. One of the homilies was entitled, "Reconciliation Is Not An Option". That caught the people's attention! On the feast it was a joy to have Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD, celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Sr. Vilma's Group, as we call them, continues to meet in our visiting room on the first Tuesday of each month. They are nine persons who are psychologists, therapists and counselors interested in the relation between spirituality and psychology and share their learning and experience with one another. They are very appreciative of our welcoming them to the monastery for their sessions together. Speaking of Vilma: the Carmelite Institute awarded the 2nd prize for the Sr. Vilma Seelaus Paper to our Rhode Island diocesan priest, Fr. George Nixon. His paper, discussing spirituality and psychology in the formation programs for seminarians, was based on St. John of the Cross. Oftentimes Father spends his day off at the monastery and stays overnight for the Eucharist in the morning. His homilies are unique. Congratulations to

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. THERÈSE

Barrington, Rhode Island

our Sr. Judy Murray as recipient of the 3rd prize!

A few of the sisters are viewing the study of Dante's "The Divine Comedy". They are DVDs from Catholic Courses – Learn More. The teacher is Anthony Esolen, Ph. D., a professor of English at Providence College in Rhode Island. Once, when I asked about the classes the sisters said they were still in hell. Recently, they landed in Purgatory.

During the Liturgy of the Hours we add a reflection either at the beginning of the Office or after the Scripture reading. Around Albert the Lawgiver's feast, Sr. Marian read from "The Word of God and The Rule of Carmel" a booklet published in 1996 for Ongoing Formation. I call it "A Gem from the Generalate".

In August we set aside five days for a "Come and See" experience because two women were interested. The time, which was carefully and well scheduled, allowed for a "sampling" of the Carmelite style of life which feeds and supports the call to union with God in Christ through a life of prayer for the good of the Church, the Body of Christ and the world. They found it helpful and want to continue the discernment process. Please pray for them.

Though not everyone is enthusiastic about meetings, we gathered together to read and share on Teresa's "Dwelling Places". We finished reading it knowing that the springs we drank from will never dry up; the humanity, which touched our own, will keep us sane. While teaching the true understanding of prayer and guiding us to light and love, Teresa points out the wrong path as well. A certain unity was created when 2 or 3 different sisters shed on the same sentence or paragraph another perspective that was in accord with the meaning of the text.

Our Sr. Anne Marie had a pacemaker inserted recently. She has limited motion of one arm for a while, but is coming along rather well.

On the morning of the 29th the roses in honor of Therese were blessed and given to the people as they left Mass. We did the same on Tuesday, October 1st. There is a real joy for us in giving and for the people receiving them.

We began the 3-year lectures in preparation for Teresa's 5th Centenary of Birth on Sunday, September



Dr. Keith Egan giving the 1st lecture on OHM Teresa.

29th in our chapel at 2 PM. About 180 people, including our community, gathered for the 1st lecture by Dr. Keith Egan, “Therese of Lisieux, Gifted Daughter of Teresa of Avila”. It was a celebration of the story of the family of Carmel in the Body of Christ, a presentation with love, warmth, humor that left one with a feeling of peace and serenity and that Teresa and Therese belonged to us and everyone to them. Holiness seen in a true light - humanity restored to the image and likeness of God through love lived in the wine cellar of the Holy Spirit. God as lavish love! The people were very appreciative of the opportunity to benefit from Keith’s wholesome talk. He spoke of the mother – daughter relationship turning into that of sisters. Some remarked on how alike Teresa and Therese were, that it was a creative way to present



People departing after the lecture.

them.

Sr. Eileen showed us some pictures of scenes and people around the house, which she took on different occasions. One was of Sr. Susan sitting in a chair on the patio outside the kitchen. We all exclaimed how beautiful it was so I wanted to include it with our input. I asked Susan what she might have been thinking as she looked at the Bay. Well she was deciding whether to read or be taken up with the gorgeous view, which made her, think of something Therese might have said - that the sea is wide and my boat is so small. Then she fell asleep!

We thank our Leadership Team of CCA as they plan and prepare for the much-awaited meeting with Fr. Saverio and our celebrating together with love and joy the 5th Centenary of Teresa’s birth.

Let us stay united in prayer for the peace of the Holy Trinity among nations, for the suffering people, for the ill and pains of the world. May we surrender to the Holy Spirit to make our world a better place for all creation.

Love from all of us to all of you!



Sr Susan contemplating the scene on Narragansett Bay.

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH

Boston, Massachusetts

We continue preparing for OHM's anniversary and our own 125th, which coincides with it. Regarding the musical drama of the Interior Castle, to date Boston College, St. John's Seminary, and the Newman Center at Harvard have committed to hosting it.

VISITORS

We bid a sad but grateful goodbye to Sr. Ancilla who returned to San Diego. Fortunately, before leaving she was able to attend the end-of-the-year ICFP picnic at Barrington and meet the sisters there.

For the first talk of the new semester of the ICFP, Dr. Catherine Mooney, a church historian at BC, returned by popular demand and spoke on Hildegarde.

We had another brief visit with Marie Louise as she was returning to Reno from having attended the French federation meeting with Bernadette Therese.

Mary Clare had a visit from a friend she had not seen in 32 years. Zafrullah Chowdhury, the doctor she had worked with in Bangladesh, came with his wife and son. The latter will begin study in a college in the area.

Our most recent visitor was Finbar, which is



VOCATIONS

We had two women join us for live-in experiences during this past interim. And our delegate for religious, Marian Batho CSJ, brought a group of

young women who are interested in religious life, and with whom she has been working, to speak with us.

CELEBRATIONS

Our triduum in honor of our lady of Mt. Carmel was very well preached by Fr. Carlos Suarez from the parish of Edith Stein and very well attended by people from just about everywhere. The following day in speaking to a married couple, both Episcopal priests, who had attended, they remarked how moved they had been by the sight of the congregation, as it showed the "catholicity of the Church...A great congregation! People of every tongue and tribe!" And it truly was.

We made another happy trip to Concord Carmel. This time it was to celebrate with Sr. Hilary as she took her solemn vows. Everything was so beautifully planned, even the weather.

Sr. Rose's family came to join us in the celebration of Mass for the first anniversary of Sister's death. They continue to be so caring for her, -and for us.

Fr. Jacques McGuffie, a resident of our parish, who for many years had served at our public services as a permanent deacon, entered the seminary after the death of his wife. So it was with real joy that recently we were able to welcome him to celebrate Mass here for us.

PREPARATIONS



Paul Hayes and Finbar with some of the community

actually only one of his seven or so names. He's an Irish wolfhound owned by a benefactor, Paul Hayes, whose wife died not long ago. Paul is a lawyer whose "hobby" is to raise and show the dogs.

MAINTENANCE

We have had a bit of help in the area of maintenance. A priest friend, John Currie, brought a group of young people to the monastery carrying buckets, soap, rags, and gloves, to help where they could. They swept, weeded, washed windows, outdoor statues, and etc.

Sr. Marie, an SND, is helping reorganize our library. She is an incredible and enthusiastic worker, and a lovely person. At first I had the sinking feeling that, as kindle moves in, all of this work would be for naught, but now, looking at the wealth of row upon wonderful row of books, I know nothing will ever replace them for sheer beauty.

The provisory room in the basement has been finished and looks fit for Better Homes, but the other side of the cellar also has problems and we have begun, with help, to dig down to a solution.

PRAYERS

Eileen Mary has a herniated disc pressing on her sciatic nerve and leaving her in great pain.

Surgery is not an option for her. The injections work somewhat, but prayers would surely be appreciated.

Mary Fernald, a former OCDS, who worked here for many years answering the door, doing mailings, and much more, died on the feast of St. Albert the Lawgiver. Please pray for her, too.

A woman from Cape Verde, who has lost two sons to violence, comes here to talk or pray. This week she was given the news that her nephew had been shot and killed while standing in front of his house. Her own message to the young people has always been one of peace and forgiveness. "We need to live with one another in peace. I'm begging them not to get revenge." Pray that she continue to be open to this grace. And I was also struck this week by a quote from Claude de Colombiere, and apparently Augustine as well, that referred to revenge as a pleasure that we are asked to sacrifice.

One day as Mary Teresa was returning from a medical appointment, she noticed that someone had left a backpack at our gate. On reaching the gate she saw that a young man had spread his prayer mat in our courtyard and was bent over praying, his face to the ground, framed by the arch above the gate which reads "Pray Always."



Juanita and Mary Clare checking out the shovel being use to dig in the cellar

St. Monica Bies, ocd



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART

Baltimore, Maryland

Carmelite Forum

This year's annual summer seminar on Carmelite Spirituality "Carmel at Prayer: A Surge of the Heart... A Glance toward Heaven" continued

to prepare for the 500th anniversary of the birth of Saint Teresa in 2015. Sister Connie gave a workshop on "The Promise of Contemplative Prayer in John of the Cross."

As in the preceding year Sister Fran and Sister Mary teamed up for a lecture "Journey to the Deepest Center with Edith Stein" and a workshop "Teresa, Teach Us to Pray." Sister Fran prepared the text and Sister Mary provided dynamic visuals.

All of the forum lectures are being posted progressively on Carmel Stream.

Labor Day Picnic

The wonderful weather on Labor Day surely contributed to a great celebration. We had such a nice time with our OCD and OCarm. Brothers from Washington, members of the Secular Order and friends from our Sunday organization.

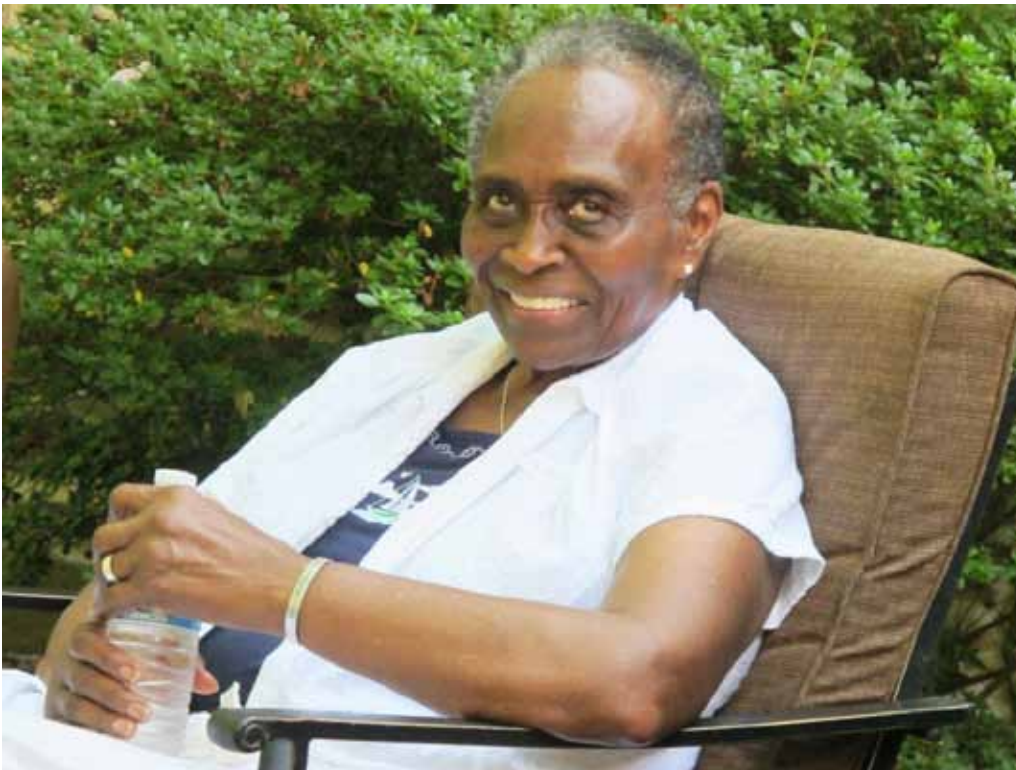
Our celebrant Father Marc Foley, OCD, emphasized in his homily the importance of attending to what is in front of us:

Are you attending to what is in Front of you?

There are many reasons why it takes Great Effort to Attend to what is in Front of us. And chief among them is that what is in front of us Doesn't hold our attention. –Its not Exciting; It's Ordinary; we can become Bored.

He then provided us with three examples:

#1 There is a scene in Checkhov's play The Three Sisters where, Irena, a very indolent and bored woman, comes to believe that the reason she is bored is because she is Idle. And that the antidote for her boredom is to Work. So she gets a job at the Local Telegraph Office. And one night, Irena comes home from work, plops down upon the couch and says with irritation: "A lady came to telegraph her brother in Saratov, that her son had died today, and she couldn't remember the address. So she sent it without an address, simply to Saratov. She was crying. And I was rude to her, for no reason whatever. And I said to her, "I haven't got the time." I must look for another job, this one is not right for me. What I want, what I dream of, is the very thing that's



Sister Barbara Jean enjoying our Labor Day Picnic

lacking. This work is without meaning because it lacks poetry” (Act 2). Irina quit her job not because it lacked “poetry”, but because she lacked the capacity to bear the burden of the prose of daily life. An opportunity for living a deeply meaningful life was sitting right in front of Irina and she didn’t have the capacity to recognize it. She lacked the capacity to Attend to what was in Front of her.

#2 The Desert Tradition writes of what is called Akadia (accidie) a boredom that is the result of being Disengaged from life. And the Antidote that the Desert Writers prescribe for Boredom, is not finding an exciting life, but Embracing the Tediousness of Life, the ordinariness of Life. Which is another way of saying, we are called to Attend to Life as it is

#3 St. Paul tells us that the Foundational

quality of Love is Patience. “Love is Patient” The more we patiently Attend to how we attend, the more we Patiently attend to what is in front of us, the more we will find God in our lives, for God is Love. Love alone give Value to all things.

Sister Hilary’s profession in Concord Carmel (Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph)

Sister Robin was able to attend the wonderful celebration of Sister Hilary’s profession in Concord. She was grateful to be part of this very joyous occasion and to see some of the sisters from our CCA Carmels.

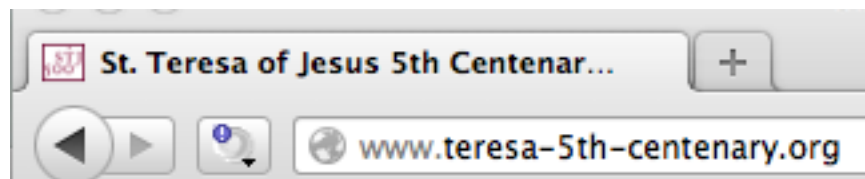
CCA Team meeting

The CCA team met at our Carmel on the third weekend in September.

Important Notice

**Official US OCD Website for St Teresa’s 5th Centenary of Birth
is now up and running.**

Please visit us at:



**Welcome
to the official
website for the Fifth
Centenary of the
Birth of St. Teresa of
Jesus sponsored by
the Discalced
Carmelite Order in
the United States.**

This website is sponsored by:

The three Associations of monasteies of Discalced Carmelite Nuns – St. Teresa, Queen of Carmel, and Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA).

The three Provinces of Discalced Carmelite Friars and Seculars – the Washington (Eastern) Province, the Oklahoma (Central/Southern) Province, and the California-Arizona (Western) Province.



CARMEL OF THE INCARNATION

Beacon, New York

The last week in June, we welcomed six Redemptoristine nuns to share part of our building. We all took it as a sign of God's

blessing on this endeavor that, after the long two days of moving in, a gorgeous rainbow appeared over our pond.



Unexpectedly on a hermit day in mid-June, the doorbell rang, and there was Fr. Patrick McMahon, O.Carm., and one of our Kenyan brothers, Fr. Daniel Mutuku, OCD. Patrick was taking Daniel on a quick tour of Carmelite places in the Hudson Valley. We agreed it was just like Carmelites to show up at dinner time, and what had started as a silent meal became a joyous conversational occasion. Fr. Daniel had many questions about our life, as did we about his life and the Order in Kenya.

Fr. Mark Zittle, O.Carm., was our celebrant for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Some of us had known him since he was a novice in

Middletown, NY, and then as a student at Whitefriars. He now serves with Fr. John Horan in a Carmelite parish about forty minutes south of us. Celebrating with us also were Fr. Rob Traudt and the O.Carm. Novices from Middletown. They are a diverse group: only two Americans, Bro. Kendall and Fr. Cyril; with two Vietnamese, Bros. Joseph and Francis; one Mexican, Bro. Felipe; and one Australian, Bro. Matthew. Matthew is the first vocation in Australia for some time, hence his coming to the US for formation. He will return to Australia for his profession. Frs. Mark and Rob and the novices stayed for dinner after the Eucharist, so we were able to get to know each other.

This hospitality was returned one Sunday in early September when a number of us were able to accept the invitation of the Middletown novitiate to Evening Prayer and dinner. We found the novices not only genial but also excellent cooks -- so much so that Fr. Rob is thinking of prolonging the novitiate!

It had seemed that the day would never come, but August 1, our Sr. Jeannie returned home after a year and four months in a nursing home as a result of suffering a broken neck in an auto accident. It has been a joy to have her back. However, she fell recently and broke a hip. Her surgery, Oct. 1, a partial hip replacement, went well, and she hopes to recover in a facility closer to home than the nursing home in Connecticut. Please continue to keep her in prayer.

The Avila Institute of Gerontology, located a bit north of us, is the educational arm of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. They are developing



Fr. Daniel with Rita, Marita and Aletha

a self-assessment tool for religious communities, a project fully funded by the National Religious Retirement Office. As a small community, we are serving as one pilot. September 9, Sr. Peter Lillian DiMaria, O.Carm., director of the Institute, Beth Selig, her assistant, and Sr. Janice Bader, CPPs, executive director of NRRO, came to meet with Sr. Marjorie and

focused on the importance of collaboration, use of consultants, long range planning by leadership, and mentioned some tools available for this. The second part of the morning featured another DVD on two stories of actual covenants and starred our very own sisters of Oldenburg! In the afternoon, Sr. Bernadette Kenny, RSHM, a civil lawyer, spoke about the civil



Srs. Marjorie, Peter Lillian, Janice With Karen and Beth

Karen Schoen, our health care coordinator. They also toured the monastery after meeting.

September 15 we held an afternoon of prayer for women on the theme “Seeking God in the Year of Faith”. This program has proved popular with our friends, and this year, over forty attended. Talks were given by Srs. Marita and Pat Boyd. There was also time for silent personal prayer and some interchange, the day ending with Evening Prayer.

Later in September, Srs. Marjorie, Michaelene, Marie Gertrude and I attended the semiannual meeting of the Archdiocesan Council of Religious Women. The topic was once again covenants. The day began with prayer, then a DVD presentation by Sr. Hertha Longo, CSA, of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, on covenant relationships. Her presentation

corporate implications of covenants. This was all useful information.

For the feast of St. Therese, we once again had our former pastor as main celebrant and homilist. Fr. David Nolan is one of Therese’s great friends and always finds something fresh and inspirational to say about her spirituality. This year, he spoke on Pope Francis and Therese. Even most of us were not aware of how much Pope Francis is explicitly devoted to Therese.

The leaves are beginning to turn and soon the lovely Hudson Valley will be awash in glorious color -- and leaf peepers taking up all the local hotel rooms! The colors usually peak here right around Oct. 15.

**We pray you all have a grace filled feast of
Our Holy Mother.**

Sr Angela Wikus, ocd



CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART AND OF THE HOLY FACE

Danville, Pennsylvania

At this writing the hills surrounding us are colored in scarlet, crimson and golden tones. The cornfield on the east side shows rows and rows

of brown stalks; the apple crop in the orchards on the west and south sides has been harvested, yielding 82 bushels. So we are enjoying both autumn beauty and autumn harvest. Giving thanks comes spontaneously.

Following his visit earlier this year in April, Fr. Salvatore, O.C.D., came again in early August, giving us a conference on conversion, an ever-timely theme. He celebrated Eucharist and gave time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and, of course, there were a couple of happy recreations.

Our Secular Carmelite group is growing steadily. Another woman, Chandra, has been coming as a guest; Cynthia received the Habit in May and Susan will make first promises in November. Upon invitation, several members of the group attended a Day of Recollection planned by the Wellsboro,

PA group, which was held at the parish in nearby Milton. The Wellsboro community is a “daughter” of Elysburg/Danville with three members from the Wellsboro area founding the group just a few years ago. The community now has eleven members. It’s a blessing to have connection with the larger Carmelite family, friars and secular members.

September 19th marked the 60th anniversary of our foundation in the Diocese of Harrisburg. We had planned only a quiet observance with a Mass of Thanksgiving to be celebrated by our Bishop Joseph McFadden; then unexpectedly and suddenly, he died in May. So, plans changed and we observed the anniversary with a Mass in thanksgiving, followed by a day of reflection by our good friend, Fr. Frank Karwacki, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Mount Carmel. He is devoted to Carmel and had the second Mass after his ordination in our Chapel. Through the years he attended various celebrations in our former Chapel. The General Superior of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Sr. Michael Ann, and her Community gave us a delightful surprise with the gift of a dozen, long stem red roses for the day. Gradually the “quiet observance” became known and many congratulations came in.

On the feast of St. Therese we were showered with roses: Sr. Michael Ann and her Community again gave us roses, this time 2 ½ dozen small, white and pink roses in fern, while a gentleman and his wife, long-time friends, brought 1 ½ dozen white, pink and red roses. This was in addition to the roses in the Chapel, two dozen long stem, white and red. Thank you to our dear friends and St. Therese!



Sr Angela with Blanca Nash, Sr Frances' niece, during her annual visit with the community



Sr. Ann Marie on her 86th birthday

Fairer than the Moon

*Pre-dawn sky and mist rising over silent field
pearl moon silent, too, in its move across the sky,
then the lone, brief call of a bird
to wake, to wake, a call to praise.*

*By the grove of trees three deer appear shyly,
feeding on the grass and dew.
Minute by minute more of nature hears and heeds
the lone brief call to praise.*

*Wake, my heart, wake though weary you may be.
Hear, feel rather the call to praise
which is your life, your glory.
Join the song that leads you into
deeper rest, into mystery,*

*the mystery of the song beyond the sky,
beyond the stars, which sounds unendingly
in angel choirs heard but once on earth
the day the Virgin bore her Son, the King
she who now is queen,
fairer than the pearl moon.*

*Queenship of Mary
August 22, 2013*



Sr Hilary Case, ocd



Blessings to all of you during the “octave” of St. Therese’s feast! As we celebrate her life and enter into our Fall season, we are in the middle of our

community retreat. This year, we have Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh with us, and we will tell you more about our retreat in the next newsletter.

Now, we want to share with you all the news of our busy and productive summer. Our summer ended with Sr. Hilary’s solemn profession on Saturday, September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. I will first tell you about the earlier activities of the summer, which shaped our preparations for this second solemn profession of 2013.

June began with the Carmelite Forum on the campus of St. Mary’s College in South Bend, IN where we studied “Carmel at Prayer.” Four of us were able to attend: Sisters Louise, Miryam, Hilary, and our postulant, Katherine Prenovost. This summer, the college was renovating our usual haunts in Regina Hall, so we stayed in Le Mans Hall, an older dormitory built in collegiate Gothic style: high ceilings and long halls hung with pictures of graduating classes from the 1880s and Holy Cross sisters supervising May Day celebrations from the same era. Our rooms were of various shapes and sizes with old, scarred, but innately elegant built-in dressers and shelves. This residence resembles a queen, grand and gracious, slightly down-at-heel but still wonderful. There was much to explore: the long halls themselves and a tunnel in the basement that leads to the Noble Dining Room. The four of us had rooms adjacent to those of Baltimore’s sisters: Monika, Celia, and Olivia. We were happy to see them and do some serious sharing and giggling during the week. Being next to them was especially fortunate the morning that Sister Louise accidentally locked herself into her room. After hearing distant cries of distress, we groggily responded. Celia, Katherine, and Miryam knew just

CARMEL OF OUR LADY AND ST.

JOSEPH

Concord, New Hampshire

what to do, and soon, Louise was free and able to warn us about the two sets of locks on the doors! Forewarned about the hidden locks and fortified by all this friendship, we were in a good state of mind to profit from the wonderful talks and enjoy the great meals. This Forum had a deeply contemplative spirit as well as a joyous energy; we all felt intimately connected as Carmelite family and better prepared to live in community and pray for the needs of church and world. It was hard, yet necessary to leave. We arrived home on June 17th at 2 a.m.—as usual, our plane had been delayed.

July was HOT, HOTTER, and BOILING HOT. Wilting but still alive, we prepared for the Triduum of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This year, Fr. Kevin Culligan, O.C.D. was our celebrant and homilist. He preached on the theme of “Mary, Mother of Fair Love,” interweaving Scripture with the lives and writings of the saints of Carmel. He was able to stay over to the 17th and give us another good homily on the Martyrs of Compiegne. We felt so blessed to have him with us!

August and September were busy months because we had a second solemn profession to plan. On September 14th, Fr. Daniel Chowning, O.C.D. was our principal celebrant and our homilist. In his homily, Fr. Daniel connected Jesus’ suffering on the cross to the mystery of God’s love. Baptism enters us into Jesus’ passion and resurrection. Hence, any suffering we undergo in our own lives will take us into a deeper relationship with God if we allow it to. Although suffering is always painful—after all, it is suffering—through the love of God, suffering is also redemptive, and it is the love of God that enables us to celebrate the exaltation of such a shameful punishment as the cross. A solemn profession is one of the ways we human beings enter into this mystery.

We all felt the love of God throughout this festive day. Fr. Kevin Culligan, O.C.D. and Fr. Mark Joseph DeVelis, O.C.D. were designated concelebrants, and twelve other priests concelebrated as well. Our guests included five sisters from Boston Carmel, Sisters Bernadette Therese, Mary Teresa, Mary Clare, Eileen Mary, and Juanita.



*Sr. Hilary profession her Solemn Vows
in the hands of Sr. Claudette, Prioress*



*Sr. Hilary sharing the Kiss of Peace with
Sr. Emmanuel and Sr. Louise*

From Barrington Carmel came Sisters Sue, Genevieve, and Mary Gehring. Eldridge Carmel again loaned us Sister Teresa Susan Dreyer, who helped us with all sorts of tasks and offered us her warm friendship, as did Sister Robin Stratton from Baltimore Carmel. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all these sisters for being present and for celebrating with us. Sister Hilary's three sisters and one brother-in-law were also here: Helen and Bill Hartfiel, Sara Case, and Charlotte Hatch.



Sr. Hilary with her sisters and brother-in-law

Thanks also to the Knights of Columbus, six of whom provided an honor guard for the processional and recessional, and to many of the wives of the Knights who prepared and served the lunch along with the women of Forever Young. The weather was bright and warm but not too hot, and we ate outside under a huge tent provided by our friend and custodian, Dan Stanley and helpers. We are grateful to all who helped make this day so special.

May all your days between today and our next newsletter be equally and diversely filled with God's love.

Sr. Miriam Hogan, ocd



Eldridge held their elections this quarter. Our Bishop Martin Amos came for the procedure

and witnessed the postulation of Sr. Lynne Elwinger. After the results were accepted by Rome, we held another election and Sr. JonFe de Torres was elected sub-prioress.



Sr. Lynne Elwinger and Bishop Martin Amos



Sr. JonFe de Torres

Our Sr. Mary Jo has a Caregiver coming Mon through Fri now for a couple of hours in the morning. She is a very professional and likable person who just happens to be named Teresa.

Sr. Teresa, who is in charge of our apple trees, and the local farmers have been very pleased with the large yield of apples this year. She took time out

CARMEL OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Eldridge, Iowa

from the harvest to return to Concord Carmel in NH to attend Sr. Hillary's Solemn Profession.

On a lighter note: the city of Bettendorf attempted to pass an ordinance to make it against the law to feed the birds and the squirrels. Well that idea met with overwhelming resistance from the majority of people that elected the City



Council. So the proposal only lasted for a day. The birds and squirrels were exempted but the deer and raccoons were not so fortunate. We could not help but rejoice that our local squirrels were in no way threatened, and they continue to amuse us with their begging tactics outside the glass door of the refectory.

Returning to the subject of Fall Harvest, we are grateful for a good yield both from our own garden and for the farmers. Inside our back page for Journey and the Joy this issue we have included a photo of the harvesting equipment in action with the quote from the poem "We plough the fields:

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His Love.*



Sr Anna Marie Vanni, oca



CARMEL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

San Rafael, California

Dear Sisters of CCA,
On August 18th, we had a very joyous celebration of Mother Dolores' 65th Anniversary of Entrance. Our good

friend Bishop John Wester, Bishop of the Salt Lake City Diocese, was the main celebrant, along with our good friends, Fr. Hank Ormond, O.Carm, our Pastor Fr. Mark Reburiano and another long-time friend Fr. Ray Reyes. Over 120 friends came to share our joy and Mother was just thrilled with Bishop Wester's very heart-warming homily, all her close friends and family who came to be with her and the lovely reception afterwards, served by the YLI of the nearby Parish of St. Anthony's.

Then, the very next morning, our good friends returned for our new Archbishop Cordileone's first Mass in our Chapel. This time there were over 150 people in attendance. The Archbishop then came in for Breakfast and conducted his first Visitation of our community. He stayed until 4:00 p.m. and seemed to enjoy everything, including his grand tour of the property: hermitages, shrine to Our Lady of Fatima and cemetery. It all went very well and we are very grateful to Archbishop for his kindness, goodness and openness.

Now, we rejoice in the safe arrival of Sr. Immaculate, who arrived from Kenya, late in the evening of October 2nd!!! After 7 months of working on her Visa, she has finally joined us. She is still

getting used to the time change between California and Kenya. We are giving her a week's Retreat to slowly get used to living here in our Monastery and with all of us. Having two other Kenyan Sisters to welcome her has made her feel right at home. So, if she can just get enough catch-up rest, she will be as good as new. She is so grateful for the very warm welcome she has also received from our dear friends, whom she has met after Mass each day. Sr. Immaculate now has the same entrance date as Sr. Anna Marie, but, it only took her 20 minutes to come from her home in the nearby town of Fairfax, not a whole day and night's worth of flights!

Just before Sr. Immaculate's arrival, we had concluded our very grace-filled Novena in honor of St. Therese. Father Bruno Gibson, O.P. was the Celebrant and Homilist. So many people came from all over, some from quite a distance, to join us for these nine days of scriptural reflections, which were based on the life and teachings of St. Therese. We were so blessed to have the homilies from someone who is so deeply spiritual.

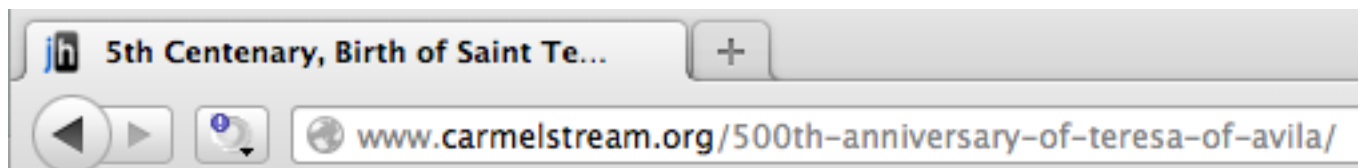
Now, two of our Sisters are getting ready to attend the Vocation Day at the Franciscan University of Steubenville for the third year in a row. We now know a few young women who are interested in visiting our Carmel this next summer and would like to stay in touch with them before they come.

We all send our greetings and hope you all enjoy this beautiful fall time of year. God bless each of you!

**With much love and prayers,
Sr. Anna Marie and Sisters (San Rafael Carmel)**

A note from your Editor

Besides the "Official Site" mentioned at the end of the Baltimore article, there are many other sites on the internet dealing with St. Teresa's Centenary. Two others you might find interest are:





CARMEL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Projects:

I mentioned at the end of our article in the last newsletter, that with the arrival of our new statue of St. Joseph, several projects that had

been on hold for various reasons suddenly began to get under way. It seems like the last 4 months there has been an almost constant procession of workmen in and around various parts of the Monastery.

First, during Mass one morning we began to hear scraping and pounding. After Mass, we looked out the chapel window and saw 3 large and two small trucks in our driveway. By the time Sr. Marie Elizabeth got to the back yard, the roofers, about 20 of them like a swarm of busy bees, had already removed the shingles from the two garages and had started on the wing. These roofs, along with hundreds of others in the neighborhood, were damaged by the hailstorms we had two years ago and it was finally our turn to get fixed. It took only 3 1/2 days for them to complete the job.

Next, the chapel had its interior walls and rug washed. Electricians arrived to replace the noisy ceiling fans in the chapel, refectory, and recreation room. They also installed a dedicated line to run the portable air conditioner we obtained to make recreation more enjoyable. About the same time we began to have trouble with one of our telephone lines working sporadically or not at all. Turns out that some “unauthorized” chipmunks had been “working” on the wires in the Verizon box outside the Monastery.

Our walk-in freezer,

which normally runs at 10 to 20 below zero, started running at 10 to 20 above zero. We decided it might be time for a replacement. The company sent out their estimator to prepare a quote for us. Turns out he use to work on this unit 30-40 years ago, adheres to the idea that older units are better than the new ones, made a few adjustments and it has been working fine ever since. He told us the unit was built in 1961.

Three outside doors, and one of our back decks were beginning to deteriorate so those were the next projects to be undertaken. The new deck, which happens to be at one of our emergency exits, now has a roof and is a pleasant place to sit outside for reading or prayer.

With St. Vincent’s College back in session, we had a crew of 10 students show up to help on their Community Service day. These students helped Sr. Tanya spread topsoil along the edge of our driveway to make it easier to plow and less difficult to get mowers and other vehicles from the lawn to the pavement.

Sr. Tanya noted the group had a lot of good will but not much experience with this type of work.

Another project was to get all the limbs touching the roof removed. This moved up in priority when we noticed long black snakes were making their way into our inner courtyard. One of our neighbors volunteered to do this for us with his 15’ extension chain saw. He worked from the ground, the first floor and second floor roofs. While he was on the second floor roof, one of the limbs he cut bounced off another limb on the ground and went through the window in the little laundry. With glass everywhere, we had another project to consign to St. Joseph.

In August, we had the official blessing of our new St.



Clockwise: Roofers, Bob on the roof with his chainsaw, and the students from St Vincent.

Joseph statue. Many members of the family of Joe Pevarnik, in whose memory the statue was given, attended this blessing service. The Pevarnik's have been benefactors of our Monastery since the day we arrived in Latrobe and Joe's mother took dinner off their table and brought it up to the Nuns.

Visitors:

In June, a Deacon from West Virginia arranged for some young ladies (ages 14 to 20) who were attending a "Fiat Vocation Camp" to visit our monastery. Sr. Joann, our vocation promoter, invited Srs. Mary Paul, Tanya and Theodora to relate their vocation stories to the group and answer questions. The evident interest and the questions asked by these women were very encouraging to those involved. We hope to continue to work with this program in future years.

The 17th of June, we had the pleasure of welcoming nine of our sisters from Cleveland for our annual get together. It was so good to see them, spend time catching up and to show those who had never been here our monastery and grounds. As always, the time together was too short but it was a very enjoyable visit.

Three newly ordained priests came to our Monastery in June to say Mass and give us their first blessings. Two, one a Benedictine and the other from the Diocese of Erie, were from the seminary at St. Vincent's. Both had come as Deacons to lead our Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. The third, from the Diocese of Greensburg, we met and promised to pray for when we attended the Papal Nuncio's Mass in Greensburg last year.

This summer many sisters had visits from family members. Sr. Ellen Jane's brother and some cousins dropped by at various time. Sr. Barbara's brothers, sisters and a niece came for a family



Members of Joe Pevarnik's Family with St. Joseph reunion. Sr. Mary's uncle Fr. Robert Wild was here overnight and con-celebrated Mass with our Benedictine Chaplain on Sunday morning. Sr. Anne's great-grand-nephew and his parents stopped for an afternoon visit. Sr. Tanya had a visit from a Texas nephew, who arrived on a deluxe BMW motorcycle, which apparently does everything but wash dishes. The next day another cousin, who comes from Chile, brought his wife, daughter, mother-in-law, daughter's nanny and the nanny's daughter for a visit. Her cousin was the only one fluent in English and he translated for the others. Sr. Joann's sisters arrived to celebrate her birthday bringing a suitcase full of old family pictures and documents (even her old report cards, which being typical sisters, they shared with some of us who were visiting, much to Sr. Joann's chagrin).

Other News:

Speaking of birthdays, we have celebrated six in the last four months. Two were of special note: first was Sr. Anne Marya's 88th and second Sr. Mary Paul's 80th, which was quite a celebration and included a personalize song written to the tune of "Long, Long, Ago" by Sr. Marie Elizabeth.



Sr. Theodora with Sr. Anne Marya's pie



Sr. Mary Paul with her song

On July 2nd, Bishop Emeritus Anthony G. Bosco, who was bishop of our Diocese from 1987 to 2004 and a good friend of our Monastery died at the age of 85. Srs. Marie Elizabeth and Barbara represented us at his funeral.

Ever heard of Blessed Karl I? He was the last Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. At his beatification in 2004, Pope John Paul II stated: "From the beginning, Emperor Karl viewed his office as a Holy Duty to his people....His chief concern was to follow the Christian path in all his political as well as his personal actions... his people's social welfare was so important to him. May he be an example for all of us, especially those with political responsibilities." We did not know much about him either until we were approached by the vice postulator for his cause, Brother Nathan, OSB, about assembling 10,000 holy cards containing his relic. We are at 7900 and counting.

On September 7th, besides fasting and praying, we joined Pope Francis, via television, at his prayer



During the liturgy on June 30, Sr. Maureen Irvin, the Franciscan Congregational

Minister, announced to the Franciscan Sisters that the Carmelites had come to live on the campus five years ago. We then joined them for a special dinner. It has been a mutual blessing in which we have experienced wisdom "ordering all things sweetly."

Jean Alice drove to the Carmelite Forum in South Bend on June 12. A tornado touched down in that area just after the evening meal and everyone had to gather in the tunnel that connected the dormitory with other buildings. It was an exciting evening with no damage that we heard of. She especially enjoyed Connie Fitzgerald's rich and perceptive workshop on John of the Cross.

Ruth was able to join her siblings in July, in Hoyt Lakes, MN, to celebrate her father's 85th birthday. It was a total surprise for him and a great

service for peace in Syria, the Middle East and throughout the world.

Our celebrant for the Feast of St Therese was Fr. Jim Hess, O.Carm. His homily was based on four characteristics of Therese stressed in Thomas J. Nevens' new book *The Last Days of Therese: Doubt and Darkness*. He points out that she 1) always aimed high, 2) relied on Scripture (esp the Gospels) as guide and teacher, 3) embraced the Cross of Community Life and 4) reached beyond herself to help others in need. Fr. Jim suggested we might all benefit from cultivating these characteristics in our own lives.

Request for Prayers

Sr. Wanda's sister, Carol, died in June and we ask prayers for her and her family. Sr. Maria's brother Anthony is dying. In early September, she was able to make a trip home to Guam to see him and we ask prayers for a peaceful death.

CARMEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Oldenburg, Indiana

consolation. He is still grieving the death of Ruth's mother in 2012.

In July the community participated in a retreat based on the life and works of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, led by Sr. Barbara Leonard, OSF. The final day was a ritualized experience of his magnificent "Mass on the World."

For our ongoing education we are following the "History of Impressionism" (from the Teaching Company), lectures on "Rediscovering Vatican II" from the Catholic Theological Union's Lecture Series, and the DVDs from the August assembly of LCWR.

We lost our Franciscan chaplain, Carl Hawver, who retired from 12 years of service here on August 4. Now the Franciscans are in the same situation as so many parishes and motherhouses. We are having about three guest priests each week and the other days are communion services. We go over to the big chapel for the liturgies but are able to have our own communion services in our small chapel. It allows us to have dialogue after the scripture readings, which is

something we loved to do in Indianapolis.

The OSF monthly newsletter lists the names and dates of those on death row who are to be executed. A bell is rung in the motherhouse on those days. We are able to embrace the prisoner and the families of both the victim and the prisoner in our prayers as well as the intention that all states will finally abolish the death sentence.

Helen, Marcie, and Jean Alice participated in the regional meeting of the Association of Contemplative Sisters at Maria Stein Retreat House in September. The main speaker was Barbara Fiand, SSND, from Cincinnati. Her theme was "Approaching a Depth Understanding of the Divine." The meeting was a wonderful combination of contemplative richness and the sheer fun of being together.

We have the full text of the interview with Pope Francis conducted by Antonio Spadaro, S.J. editor in chief of *La Civiltà Cattolica*. It is an inspiring revelation of the holiness, wisdom, and humanity of the one chosen to lead us at this time of crisis and opportunity.



Anna Mary



Community blessing Terese as she started on her way to make a 40 day retreat at Guelph

Sr Joan Williams, ocd



CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Reno, Nevada

We celebrated our WEST COAST REGIONAL MEETING on the shore of Lake Tahoe at Zephyr Cove. Smoke from

Yosemite's raging fires mercifully lightened during the three August days we spent there.

Our meeting represented members of the Order born from coast to coast in the U.S., as well as from Ireland, S. Korea, Vietnam, and Kenya. Participants ranged from novice to professed for 65 years. Different educational backgrounds and life experience reflected this diversity. It was rewarding to see how well our West Coast Gathering represented the varieties of Carmelite experience in today's communities.

The CA/AZ Provincial Council of Friars participation in the meeting was invaluable! Conversations centered around an agenda based on Fr. Saverio's Letter of July 16, 2012 regarding autonomy and voice in the Order.

- We questioned how the ideas in the General's letter could enrich our relationship with Carmels, our Associations/Federations, with our Friars and with the whole Order of Carmel.
- We asked: How do we balance autonomy and nourishing the spirit of each community while working collaboratively among within the Order?

The group agreed that autonomy is about more than an individual monastery's autonomy of self-determination. We recognized that autonomy is not individualism but needs to be paired with other words that fill out its true meaning — such as interdependence and true loving relationships. We agreed that genuine autonomy is really interdependence and includes the free, deeper inner strength that allows an individual to make herself available in true charity, humility, and detachment for the greater good of all.

The second session was a sharing on: "what has helped in the community in terms of healthcare,

aging and what you have done in your community that has been enriching and life-giving?"

While details for each community, and the CA/AZ province of the friars are different, three common themes surfaced throughout the presentations: 1) Facility modifications, construction, reorganization and special technology. 2) Government programs at national, state, and local levels and other health care coverage. 3) Other resources.

We noted that some of the most valuable resources for us are organizations such as NRRO and NATRI — now renamed and part of RCRI. Some communities have hired consultants to help with Social Security, SSI, Prescription Drug Programs,



Taken at West Coast Regional Meeting

as well as Health and Medical insurance. Part time assistance with health care is also in practice. Participants at the meeting felt that "Regional Meetings" are a vital way of going forward together, united as sisters and brothers.

As a means of including those communities unable to be present, several sisters put time and effort into summarizing what took place during our sessions. Some of what you have just read was taken from the summary and if you would like a copy of the whole summary please contact annweber@carmelofreno.net and she will send it to you.

THE NORTHERN FRENCH FEDERATION

The Northern French Federation invited CCA to their meeting at Lisieux June 2-8. Sisters Bernadette Therese from the Boston Carmel and Marie-Louise from the Reno Carmel represented CCA at the meeting.

The French Federation asked our Association to share on several questions. In addition to the general information about CCA, the Sisters were interested in our experiences and experiments in individual communities. After considering a wide variety of options the CCA team wrote a talk on:

- the successful combination of communities to form the new community at Beacon
- the sisters move from Elysburg to Danville
- the migration of the Indianapolis sisters to the Oldenburg Franciscans and the Covenant relationship they established with the Franciscans
- the Young Adult Prayer Group at Baltimore Carmel and their outreach ministry through that.
- the West Coast Gathering, which involves the three Associations.

We wanted to share in some depth about the West Coast Meeting and the Northern French Federation but not to neglect the home front:

- St Teresa's Birthday

The five sisters who will be presenting at the San José celebration honoring St. Teresa's 500th anniversary of birth met recently for the first time at the House of Prayer in Carmel, CA. Sisters Marjorie (Beacon) Michael (Danvers), Teresita (Carmel) Mary Clare (Terre Haute) and our own Sr. Claire enjoyed exploring together the topic for their presentation: "Who are the Daughters and Sisters of St Teresa Today?" The idea of a PowerPoint incorporating photos and input from all our US Carmels emerged and is beginning to take shape. You will receive a letter about this in the near future. We are grateful for our Sisters contribution and pray for their continued inspiration on this exciting project! It was our great joy to host some of the sisters here in Reno following our meeting.

- Here in Reno we hired a professional woman, Alise Vetica, to

manage our Social Security, Health Care Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and supplemental insurance. In our world today it is difficult to navigate the systems of government. Hiring Alise saves two sisters an enormous amount of work. She is extremely competent, a fact reflected on her business card, "Helping you to know what you don't know." Many services that we're not aware of are available under various insurance policies. Alise keeps us informed of these when needed. There is strict confidentiality for every sister and it is good to know that each of our files is kept up to date. We count our blessings!

- Our Sisters Council recently met at our monastery. There are only a few sisters in our area and most of them live alone. Our gathering gives us a way to share and support each other. We usually begin with an update that gives us a good understanding of each community and the way it is moving forward. Our Bishop has called for a diocesan synod and our group will support and participate in this important gathering.

- Sister Cecelia's Adventures in Music: The Haegum is a traditional Korean string instrument. It



Sr. Cecelia with a Haegum

has two strings and a bow and sounds similar to a violin, so they call it a Korean fiddle. It was given to me as a gift from my sister, Martha, but it wasn't purely by accident. As my religious life advanced, the desire to play an instrument grew stronger. At a certain point it became almost a necessity to find a sound on the string that would express my deep gratitude for my being. When Martha discovered a Haegum for me last summer, things fell into place. Soon I found a wonderful Korean teacher online who became a good friend and offers me free lessons on Skype.



Carmel of the Holy Family *Cleveland Heights, Ohio*

Harvest time is here and it takes a moment to change gears and return to the glories of summer and recount the activities and events that enriched our lives.

In the early part of June we welcomed Olivia, Celia and Monika from Baltimore as they traveled on route to “The Forum”. It was a wonderful experience to see Monika again and to meet Olivia and Celia for the first time. We had a grand time touring them around the monastery and it seemed that they relished their time and enjoyed our outdoor enclosed porch. Sharing the evening meal with them was a delight. We were eager to hear how our new members were attracted to the Carmelite way of life and of course, we were interested in all the news from Monika.

In the middle of June we double checked our maps and the directions that Marie Elizabeth sent us and took off for our annual “Get-Together” with our sisters in Latrobe. The Pennsylvania hills were alive with beauty and spring time blossoming. We knew we were getting close to our destination when we saw the formidable spires of Saint Vincent Arch Abbey. What a blessing to be with our sisters in Carmel. They truly rolled out the red carpet for us. We were amazed at the difference between our growing seasons; plants were in full bloom and the sisters were already enjoying the bounty of their garden. We were beneficiaries of the creative work of some “Top Chefs” in the house. After a sumptuous repast in the refectory we received the grand tour: peeking into the hermitage, visiting the bee hives, chatting about recent bird sightings, checking the growth of the blueberries, marveling at all the

outdoor equipment. Bernadette was thrilled to pluck up a red beet from the garden as if she had found a golden treasure.

It was a poignant experience to be able to pray at the graves of our sisters and recount the giftedness and beauty of their lives. We ended our day with Vespers and admired the new statue of Saint Joseph that graced their chapel. As we said our good-byes the wheels were already in motion as we looked forward to our next reunion in 2014.

On the feast of John the Baptist, Bishop Richard Lennon and Rev. William Wiethorn, OFM Cap, vicar of religious witnessed our election. We



began with Liturgy at 10:00am and proceeded to the choir for the election. Sister Barbara was re-elected prioress and Sister Bernadette was re-elected sub-prioress. The community celebrated with special prayer and a festive meal to mark the beginning of a new triennium and to thank Barb and Bernadette for their generous spirit of service.

The community was buzzing about and eagerly waiting the beginning of Donna’s three month live-in. After participating in our Sunday Liturgy on a regular basis and coming for several short-term periods,

Donna expressed the desire to pursue the next phase of inquiry and discernment. We welcomed Donna on July 10th and set in motion her continuing journey in Carmel. She has wholeheartedly entered into our rhythm of life and has generously shared her talents and gifts. We ask your prayer for the light of the Holy Spirit for her and our community during this sacred process.

If you see torches passed between religious congregations they would symbolize collaboration and gratitude. The Ursuline community welcomed the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine and our community on June 30th for a picnic lunch at their motherhouse to express gratitude and celebrate friendship between our communities. Our Sister Rosemary was smiling down from heaven and sending along her thanks for the wonderful care she received with the Ursuline sisters. Our sister Anita is now residing at Regina Health Center sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine. All of our sisters attended the celebration and sensed the gracious blessing of collaboration within this awesome network of women religious.

As we gazed upon our July calendar we realized that a milestone event would occur on July 24th. Barb Losh celebrated her 25th Anniversary of Profession in Carmel. Barb had been a Sisters of Mercy before entering Carmel in 1984. We had a lovely meal to mark the occasion and we recounted the remembrances of that glorious day when Barb made her profession and Anita received her vows.

Our Carmel has truly been graced by the lives of steadfast friends and benefactors who support our life of prayer. Jordan Ussai, one of our dearest friends entered eternal life on August 27th. Jordan was Pat Conway's brother-in-law and was instrumental in starting the satellite worker's compensation office at the monastery. For decades the sisters filed, processed claims and paid bills for the main downtown office. It was one of the remunerative works that helped sustain our livelihood. We are grateful for the many years of friendship we shared with Jordan. He was brother to us all.

On Sunday, September 1st we had the opportunity to read Pope Francis' Angelus Address as he pleaded with the world community to seek peace

in Syria. We joined with all people of good will on September 7th for a day of fasting and prayer for this intention. We applaud Pope Francis in his efforts to focus on the needs of the poor, marginalized and disenfranchised of our world.

On September 28th, Jean Marie, Mary Lavin and Pat O'Brien attended, "The Impact of Vatican II on Women Religious in the United States: A Symposium at Ursuline College." Sr. Karen Kennelly, CSJ, Coordinator of the History of Religious Women Conference, LCWR History Committee delivered the Key Note Address, "From Vatican II to the Present." Breakout sessions focused on education, healthcare, social services and foreign missions. One of the last sessions developed the connection between music and contemplation. The sisters came back affirmed in the sense that religious women listened to the spirit of Vatican II and worked tirelessly to serve God's people.

Father Mark Latcovich, rector of Saint Mary Seminary and Borromeo Seminary was celebrant for our Novena to Saint Therese. We had over 160 people join us for the closing Liturgy on October 1st. It was a powerful experience to witness the faith of so many people who have a strong relationship with our sister Therese. May she continue to guide us on her Little Way.



Mary Lavin with friends at the Therese Novena

Blessing and peace to all as we approach the feast of Our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus.