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## **Carmel of the Sacred Heart**

Baltimore, Maryland

*Sr. Robin Stratton*

### **What's going on:**

It seems so long ago already that some of us attended Father Kieran Kavanaugh's wake and funeral at the Friars' monastery in Washington. He was both a dear friend of our community and an international scholar and translator of Our Holy Father Saint John of the Cross. He will be sorely missed, though his spirit remains vibrant each time we pick up his translations.

Father Adam Gonzales OCD paid us a visit following the CMSM meeting at the Bon Secours Center in Marriottsville. We shared Vespers and dinner and had an informal gathering during which Adam shared news of the Order and his Province. He is a most welcome guest. And in early April, we had other Carmelite guests: Father Kevin Culligan from Holy Hill and students Brothers John Mary and Emmanuel, and Father Michael Joseph all from the Lincoln Road community. They came for a tour of our archives, which Connie hosted in her best historical mode. Afterward they joined us for dinner. It was a special treat to see Kevin again after several years.

Judy Murray and Mary drove to Beacon Carmel for Sister Marie Gertrude Haughney's funeral. Though it was a very long day's drive, they were grateful to have been able to be present with our Sisters to share their sorrow in the bonds of sisterly love.

Barbara Jean was invited to Washington DC to view a short documentary entitled *Railroad Ties*. The film explores the life of Arabella and John Weems and six unsuspecting Americans who discover they have a common ancestry along the Underground Railroad. Produced by *Ancestry.com*, and shot on location at Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY, by Dr. Sacha Jenkins, the film features Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Barbara Jean's cousin Gayle George. Barbara Jean was very moved by the experience of learning about the endurance, love, and hardships of her great-great-grandmother, Arabella Weems.

Lupe's sister Maria de los Angeles Gallo-Romo came for a visit. "Geli" entered the Carmel of Puebla and was a Carmelite for 29 years. She was in Africa for 14 years, 9 of them in a Carmel which is now closed. After leaving Carmel, she worked as a volunteer in the Archdiocese of Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and as the Bishop's



Geli and Lupe

secretary. It was Geli's first visit home (Mexico) in five years and she and Lupe had a grand reunion.

In mid-March, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Mother Seton, one of the three Nativity middle schools in Baltimore, came for their annual retreat days. They used the conference room, the chapel, and the great outdoors from 8:30-3:30. These inner-city youngsters don't see much green space or have the opportunity for silence, and we were happy to share ours with them.

A group from the Esperanza Center here in Baltimore that ministers to the needs of the Hispanic community was also here for a day of retreat. They used the chapel and the conference room. Each time they come they tell us how much it means to them to be here and how they appreciate the space and beauty of the monastery.

We also hosted a large Confirmation group from several local parishes, together with their parents, sponsors, and catechists for a day of retreat. They were here from 9-5 and we engaged with them in prayer, *lectio divina*, talks, power point presentations, and conversations. Their pastor, Father Tim Klunk, celebrated Mass with them and the community at 4:00 PM. It was an exhausting and fascinating day for us (as you can well imagine) – and we hope for the students as well.

Our revived Young Adult Prayer group (YAP) has met several times. They have a period of instruction, followed by a half hour of prayer in the chapel. During this time, the nuns are invited to come and support them with our prayer. It means a great deal to the participants that they are supported by our presence and prayer.

The Lawrence Freeman lecture we offered several months ago led Mary to initiate a Centering Prayer group which meets at 6:00 PM each Monday. At first they met in the meditation chapel but quite soon they moved into the main chapel. People are hungry for silence and prayer.

The week before Holy Week we again offered our Contemplative Stations of the Cross. It was a powerful experience, both for us and for our people. Using a minimum of visual props – a Crown of Thorns made from barbed wire, a judge's gavel, and the great Cross) as well as silence, words, song, and power point images, we prayerfully reflected on the mystery of the Passion as our preparation for the week to come.

On Wednesday of Easter Week, we had a delightful recreation via Zoom with our Sisters in Kirkintilloch, Scotland. It is amazing that we can keep in touch so easily and it was great fun to exchange news, ideas, and projects.

Celia's Solemn Profession on May 12 was a glorious celebration. The heavens opened and rain poured down in torrents all day. It didn't dampen anyone's spirit though the grounds got rather rutted from the cars that had to park on the grass. Several people



Celia

remarked that Celia's profession was marked by the blessing of the fruitful rain – symbolic of the fruitfulness of her life. Celia was radiant. The chapel was packed. Organ and piano, flute, guitar, and timpani praised the Lord as we processed into the chapel.

Monsignor Joseph Luca presided at Eucharist. He is a close friend of Celia's family and has known her since she was a youngster. An O. Carm with a glorious voice, Father Dismas Pele Alu, led the Litany of the Saints during which Celia prostrated and was covered with Mother Bernadina Mathews' mantle. A reception with

marvelous food followed, and a tired but very grateful community slept well that night...

### Formation:

Celia and Lupe treated us to two classes of what they have learned in classes with Connie on the life of the spirit in the work on Saint John of the Cross.

Rebecca Klohe began her postulancy on the Tuesday after Easter with a ceremony of welcome at Vespers

Celia and Rebecca finished their course on sacramental theology with Fr. Brian McDermott. In the fall, Celia will conclude her theology studies with a course on eschatology. Rebecca began participating in Brian's classes while she was here for her live-in, continued them via Zoom during the interval before she entered, and continued them when she returned as a postulant.

Most of us are taking part in the Women the Well dialogues. The small groups are stimulating. We have been enriched by being together and sharing "our divinely appointed differences" with one another. We've also had some community discussion on the material.

At this point I feel a bit like the passage in Hebrews where it is written: *"And what more shall I say? Time will not allow me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah."* I was going to write of Tenebrae and the Triduum, of the tragedy of Notre Dame's burning, of our traditional molasses cookies in the shape of palms, crosses, fragments, and circles that appear at our places from Palm Sunday till Holy Saturday. But I will end by noting Connie's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 30 – a happy and blessed day for all of us.



Connie's Birthday

Till next time I pray you all blessed feasts – especially that upcoming week of four Solemnities – liturgical overload!

Lovingly,  
Robin



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

*Sr. Roseann Gillice*

Greetings to all as we live Ordinary Time in the spirit of Pentecost with Mary, our sister and Mother of the Church!

One of our Columban priests comes for Eucharist at 5 P.M. usually. He is “retired”— 86 years old, but even in his younger days early morning rising was a problem. In his homily he told us that one Ash Wednesday he overslept, rushed down to the Church, but found it empty, except for the janitor who was cleaning. As he approached, the janitor said, “Don’t worry, Father, I took care of everything.” Father asked what he said while giving the ashes. “I just said, ‘Can’t hurt; might help.’”

During Lent we watched the four films on *The Holy Shroud of Turin, An Icon of Love* which Sr. Anne Marie purchased from Ignatius Press. A booklet about Benedict XVI’s visit to Turin on May 2, 2010, and his talks are included. Another set we have is from Grizzly Adams Productions. (That is the correct name of the company!) In this DVD, one of the speakers (she was either a scientist or theologian) exclaimed that with the Shroud something **new** happened. How astounding that this piece of cloth has survived through the centuries the destruction of wars, transferal, and damage caused by a fire. More astounding is the fact (for some) that it is a gracious gift of God. The Shroud becomes the fabric of our own living and dying.

We have been praying *lectio* together on Sunday’s readings once a week. It is like feeding each other with vitality from our innermost being and connecting at a deeper level in simplicity and peace.

This past April 18 our Sister Patricia turned 99. Since her birthday coincided with the feast of Holy Thursday, she chose to celebrate on May 18 which was her parent’s 101<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. Another choice of Patricia was to count her years of life, as she often quoted, according to the Chinese way: when you are born, you are considered to be one year old, so she would be 100 now. (Probably another possible choice was to be around to enjoy it!) Ah, yes! Another reason was to provide an opportunity for all the relatives who had never met each other to come to celebrate together. A babe in arms, toddlers, young people to senior citizens arrived from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island. Her Irish heritage was represented by our dear diocesan priest and homilist, Fr. Nick Smith. Our wonderful friend, Fr. Joe Escobar, our celebrant of Portuguese descent, added to the “United Nations” present that day. The words of wisdom of Patricia to everyone that day were, “Life is short!” Please pray for Patricia’s niece-in-law, Navi, a person so full of

life, goodness, and humor who is struggling with cancer. As a child, she fled from Cambodia with her mother and six siblings during the Khmer Rouge, the brutal regime that ruled the country under the leadership of the Marxist dictator, Pol Pot. They escaped through the mine fields and the jungle after paying a sum in gold to the guides. In safety in France the family had to separate to be with relatives who could sponsor them; that meant going to different countries. Our Sister Marian was able to be present for the big day. The policy of the nursing home allows three over-nights which cannot happen frequently. A person can lose the room, otherwise. Though we wanted to bring Sister Mary Gehring home (for this and other occasions), it would be too confusing for her at this time of life.

On the night of May 29<sup>th</sup> Sisters Sue, Mary, and Roseann drove to Logan Airport in Boston to welcome Sister Eileen on her return from her sojourn in Carmel in her home – town of Bethlehem, Holy Land, after a year. The plane was due at 10:30 P.M. so we decided to leave at 6:15 P.M. to avoid traffic, find a parking place and walk the long walk from it to be on time for her arrival. We planned to find a place to eat supper at the airport. Nothing was open except a few concessions with not much to offer near closing time. We settled for donuts and a drink. The young man put in more donuts than ordered. We sat on the benches in the corridor of the airport eating “end of the day” donuts. I thought I was biting a nut. Later we walked to the baggage claim. A friend once said that, “being at the airport is like enjoying Halloween”. Eileen finally arrived looking great and refreshed after a trip from Amman, Jordan, to O’Hare in Chicago to Logan in Boston. One of her comments to us was, “Well, you all look a year older.” It was good to see her and to be with her again. Mary did a great job driving home in the rain on an empty stomach.

We are grateful to Rochester Carmel for the translation of the dialogue of the Spanish sisters with Archbishop Carballo. It was a delight to read something so true, loving, and humorous. Thanks be to God for all the people willing to help and serve us.

Sr. Sue’s brother, Richard, went through painful chemo treatments recently. He is beginning to feel better and has come to an amazing belief in the power of prayer to sustain him. Now prayer is a powerful connection for all the family.

Sr. Anne Marie’s older sister, Mary, died on February 28 in Massachusetts after having lived for some years in Arizona.

A joyous feast of our Holy and Beautiful Triune One!





## **Carmel of the Incarnation**

Beacon, New York

Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

In February we welcomed two novices of the Sisters of the Atonement (Graymoor) for their pre-profession retreat. One was from the Philippines and one from China. They had made the SA sisters' acquaintance at one of their foundations in the Philippines some nine years ago.

We continue to assess our own situation in light of *Cor Orans*, but have been hampered somewhat by the temporary loss of our facilitator. Some months ago she had a freak accident which resulted in a broken neck and is just now returning to work. We have missed her!

As many of you know, our Sr. Marie Gertrude died April 6 after about six months in hospitals and nursing homes. Most of us were with her the day before her death and found her peaceful in the hospice section of a hospital. She had had quite a ministry of correspondence and was much loved by the local parishioners, so we knew we had to have her funeral at the parish, our chapel being too small for the expected congregation. Said expected congregation did come, as well as two unexpected visitors. To our surprise, when we entered the church, there were Srs. Judy Murray and Mary Fleig from Baltimore! We were very touched that they had made such a long journey to support us.



Later in April, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sr. Marita celebrated her golden jubilee. Nature began the celebration the evening before with a spectacular double rainbow. The next day was a quiet celebration in community, with Fr. Steven Payne as celebrant. It was a joyful day, and Fr. Steve's presence was much appreciated. Shortly after, we were glad to hear from him that he had been awarded the new chair of Carmelite studies at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Also in April, several of us profited from a day of ongoing formation for spiritual directors held at a local retreat house. Br. Don Bisson, whom many of you probably know, gave presentations on what he called Jungian tools for spiritual direction. As always, he was very good.

With our Graymoor friar celebrants away at a general chapter, we had a chance to meet some Redemptorist priests, two of them very recently ordained. Fr. Michael Cunningham offered us a first blessing, which we all received. We then all raised a hand and sang a blessing for him. Fr. Ako Walker is from Trinidad. Talking later with a

Carmelite friar from Trinidad, I was impressed that they knew each other. Then another Carmelite enlightened me – apparently Trinidad is so small that everyone knows everyone else! And from an older Redemptorist we learned the meaning of the letters after their names: some interpret CSsR as “Congregation of the Same sermon Repeated.” (They are better than that!)

In June, as is our custom, some of us -- this year Srs. Michaelene, Marita, Marjorie, and I attended the first profession of the O. Carm. novices in Middletown. It was a large group this year: one American, one Trinidadian, one Filipino, four Vietnamese and three Hispanic friars. The readings and hymns of the Mass, as has become usual, were in three languages. (It was, after all, the day after Pentecost!) It is always heartening to see the young, or not so young, men vowing themselves to service in the Carmelite family. Part of the joy, too, is seeing old friends. We had lunch with Fr. Michael Driscoll whom the older Bronx nuns knew when he was a child, and Fr. Bill Harry, the Chicago provincial. Fr. Michael was cured of a stage 4 melanoma after praying to Titus Brandsma. That has been declared a miracle and is being used to move forward Titus' cause for canonization. Then the day after the profession, we enjoyed a visit with a dear friend, Fr. John Horan, O. Carm.

The spring has been a wet one here and our grounds are now very lush and beautiful. Most of the scars of the terrible storm a year ago have been covered over by the new growth – perhaps an invitation into what Wendell Berry calls “the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.”

Enjoy all our Carmelite feasts coming up!



## **Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph**

Boston, Massachusetts

*Sr. Mary-Clare Doherty*

**Praying:** Mark Joseph, OCD, presided at our Lenten Penance service. We followed the Stations of the Cross at the examination of conscience, while related ‘failings’ were read at each station. Members of our parish, St. Patrick’s, part of a collaborative of three parishes, arrived at the monastery for their Good Friday Stations of the Cross. One of the sisters did a Scripture reading, another gave a reflection, and everyone joined in the singing. Isaura, a woman who has had two sons



Our pastor and Isaura



Parishioners of St.  
Patrick's



killed in violence in the neighborhood, joins the procession each year carrying a flag that calls for peace and forgiveness. Speaking of collaboratives, one has been newly established in the diocese under the patronage of Sts. Zelig and Louis Martin. The school is named for St. Therese.

We began our Easter vigil in the crypt and moved out to the courtyard for the Easter fire. One 7-year old parishioner, who had joined us and has plans to enter Carmel, declared after the service, "I have seen the place where I am going to spend the rest of my life." Good Friday and Saturday we prayed Tenebrae, and our Easter vigil ended with our now just-about-perfect dance done to Andrew Everson's "He Is Risen." It's impressive how our guests seem to fall quickly into the steps. Mary Teresa's work on the liturgy is particularly special during this time of year, and many other times of year.

**Learning:** We've been watching some of the webinars presented by the Carmelite Institute, and our inter-community formation program continued with Jesuits Andre Brouillette and Joseph Weiss, Professors Tom Groome, Angela Harkins, and Orfilio 'Neto' Valiente, all from Boston College. Sister Margaret Guider, OSF, who is also at BC, gave an excellent presentation entitled "Confronting the Soul-devouring Dragon: Sexual Abuse and the Mystery of Evil." The year finished with Tom Stegman, SJ speaking on the Book of Revelation in the morning and Lent and Easter in the Gospel of John. after lunch.



Sr. Meg Guider, OSF

**Sharing:** Kate, the parson at a nearby church, came to the monastery to spend some time in a sacred space as part of a course requirement. And Bishop Mark continues to come regularly to our sacred space to celebrate Mass, though we're no longer in his region. He asks for questions and shares about his own work: a court case in one parish, unrest in another, and peace, fittingly, in a town called Salem. Our paschal candle, done by an acquaintance of Sr. Agnes, ended up in his blog. Jeanne-Marie continues with the prayer program, which she adapts to different age groups ranging from women students at MIT to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the nearby elementary schools.

For our own Lenten sharing on Sunday evenings we used James Martin, SJ's, book, *The 7 Last Words of Jesus*, as a starting point, and on Wednesday of Holy Week we had our Seder service with its theological challenges. We continue our one-on-one meetings through the year where each of us meets with one other sister for Sunday lunch.

Sr. Agnes gave input to a large, and very appreciative, group of Koreans who attended a day of prayer here. We joined them for the closing Mass, all in Korean. And Eucharist was celebrated by a young Kenyan, Richard Okure, who had often joined us for Mass before his ordination. He is presently studying in Rome and hopes to work in the South Sudan.

***Flying Around:*** A friend of the community's, a woman who has no address, sleeps wherever she can, and who often comes to Mass at the monastery, managed to fly to Strasbourg, Germany, for a conference on human trafficking—not her first trip to Europe. She has been working for the cause of women who are abused. She's also an avid reader and quite familiar with OHM. Another friend flew us some tropical flowers from Hawaii which stand in their exotic elegance before the icon of Christ in our choir. And a pair of hawks, after checking out the grounds, have apparently chosen a tree behind our crucifix to start a family.

Bernadette Therese, who supplies much of our musical accompaniment during Mass, has been leaving us to fly to some Carmels for CCA. Fortunately, however, Agnes' cousin, Jisu, a pianist, came and recorded music for our liturgies, and we have Mary Teresa at the accordion. Agnes has flown to Korea to visit with her mom who is becoming weaker. She'll have no trouble getting back into the US, however, as both she and Bernadette Therese are now US citizens, with a vote.

Also flying around, there are helicopters that spend considerable time circling our neighborhood. At first we figured they were looking for someone, but now we realize that they are probably running tours to admire our gardens. The rain brought exceedingly lush growth. We had almost to push our way out the door against the great green wall of weed and shrubbery that blocked it. It is beautiful though, in a challenging sort of way. We have hired help to meet the challenge.



### **Carmel of the Holy Family**

Cleveland, Ohio

*Sr. Maria Viatori*

### **Joyful Winter Visitors**

The winter weather and air traffic cooperated for our welcomed Sisterly Visitors, Margie Robinson and Judy Long. We all anticipated their visit and looked forward to our sharing. Although we were still residing at the monastery at Fairmount Blvd, we were able to show them all we accomplished at Arlington Road. It was the first time that we gathered as a community in our new recreation room and had a wonderful afternoon chat with Judy and Margie. We were so grateful for their words of



encouragement and support, and we sensed those sentiments were coming from all the sisters in CCA. One of the sage pieces of advice and support that our sisters gave us was: "Continue to move forward and don't second guess." Part of the tour of our new monastery was to show Margie and Judy our two guest rooms and remind them that the welcome mat is now in place.

### Our Worshipping Community

One of the difficult moments through our moving process was to grapple with all that surrounds saying goodbye to our vibrant Sunday worshipping community because of our new, much smaller, chapel. Our last Sunday liturgy at Fairmount Blvd. was held on April 28. It was bittersweet for all of us, knowing that change offers both opportunity and challenge. We are trying to discern ways to continue the prayerful connections we have with so many of our friends and benefactors.



Mary K celebrating our last Sunday liturgy with some of the congregation.



Barb and Rita Carfagna after the liturgy



Donna's friend, Eileen, and Donna at our last Sunday Eucharist

### Moving

We were so very grateful that our new monastery was only four blocks away. For months we were going back and forth with boxes and bags. Barb had endless meetings with folks who were finishing up details before the move. Marie Theilan, a dear friend and fabulous organizer, was at Barb's side helping to move the process in an orderly fashion. Before the big move we were blessed with friends who had strong children who did not mind running up and down steps with boxes and delicate pieces of furniture. Katherine Soucek deserves a medal of honor for the many ways she helped Bernadette in setting up the new kitchen and packing up and sorting various items. Sheila Flynn was another steadfast volunteer who helped Bernadette with all things that pertained to the garden.

The week before the actual move ten large wooden trolleys and multiple wardrobe boxes were delivered. We worked like eager beavers to pack as much as we could so that the movers could wrap the trolleys in what seemed like huge saranwrap film and whisk them into the trucks.

We color coded furniture and labeled items that would be moved. We tagged rooms with the numbers of pieces that were to go on the truck and designated people as coordinators of sections of the house so that nothing was left behind.

Thursday, May 9, had finally arrived! Two moving trucks and eight men were parked in the front lot and the adventure began at 8:20 am. It surely was a feat to pack up everything and move it into the trucks. By around 12:30 pm we stopped for lunch, and by 1:15 pm we were all headed to Arlington Road. It was raining, but that did not deter the process. Once again, we had designated people on each floor to guide the movers. There were some tense moments, and dings on some pieces of furniture; however, the resounding comment from the community was, "We lived through it and survived." After the final walk-through we waved the trucks goodbye at 6:15 pm. Our good friends, Mary Jo Lackamp and Carolyn Quilter provided a gift meal for our first evening at our new monastery. All slept well that night.

Father John McNulty from neighboring Communion of Saints parish came to celebrate the first Mass on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 am. We were bleary eyed but grateful to have our first liturgy in our lovely new chapel.

### Saint Joseph on the Move



Our statue of Joseph holding the young child Jesus that graced the front yard of our Fairmount Blvd. monastery needed cleaning and rehabilitation. The crew from Henninger's Religious Goods came and skillfully carted it away to their studio for restoration.

On the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, the statue was returned and placed in front of our new

Arlington Road monastery. On the same day, the crew installed the permanent tabernacle and pedestal in the new chapel. The transfer of sacred items was another step forward toward our move on Thursday, May 9.



### Welcome to our Home

A week after we moved, we welcomed Colette from Baltimore for a few days. We were very happy to have Colette as our first overnight guest. She was so gracious in the midst of our orderly chaos. Our conversations jokingly revolved around topics such as, "Do you remember where we put the ice cream scoop?" "Bernie, where does this salad bowl go?" They say that all of this adjusting to newness is good for the brain.

We were thrilled that Father Don Cozzens, a friend to Colette, Baltimore Carmel, and our Carmel came and celebrated liturgy with us on the morning of May 17.

### In Closing

The location of our new monastery and surrounding neighborhood affords a serene atmosphere of quiet and beauty. Massive trees, perennial and annual flower beds, herb plots, plus raised beds for vegetables all lend to the harmonious character of the property. We also have a wild life preserve in the back of the house where we view deer, hawks, turkeys, and other interesting creatures. Our Victorian monastery has



three floors and provides the spaciousness we need to live our Carmelite life. We are truly blessed. As one of our friends remarked, "God gave you this house!"



We are acclimating ourselves to this new sacred space, and we thank all of you for your prayerful support. We have not sold the monastery on Fairmount Blvd. as of this writing, so we ask that you keep that intention close at heart. Blessings of peace to you all during these summer months.



*Sr. Hilary Case*

## **Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph**

Concord, New Hampshire

I'm writing just after our celebration of Pentecost, the final celebration of the Easter Season. The mystery of the coming of the Holy Spirit with flame, gifts, and new powers of communication and communion--this Feast invites us to awe, gratitude, and renewed commitment to our Christian call and the Carmelite charism. Coming up are the celebrations of the mysteries of Ordinary Time: The Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi. Reflecting on these feasts, I think they call us to trust and celebrate our participation in the life of God as Trinity through our participation in the Body of Christ. We live this out in Word, Sacrament, and our relationships, which need to grow and flourish in Christ. So I come to you with our efforts to flourish and grow, in other words, with our news.

March was a busy month for Sisters Claudette and Hilary in the area of vocations. On the first Saturday, our Diocese of Manchester held a Vocations Day for all the parishes, *Hundredfold*, a program for parish vocation ministry designed and presented by Rhonda Gruenewald. Over 100 people including priests, sisters, and vocation teams from the



parishes attended and networked. While there, Claudette and Hilary met the new diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Matthew Mason. He invited us to participate in the July program for high school women, *Fiat Days*, which will be held at Catholic Northeast College. We will be doing that on July 10 and 11. We trust that the experience will both energize us and give us valuable insight into the world of the upcoming generation.

At the end of March, Claudette and Hilary joined the Women's Sodality at Catholic Northeast, giving a talk about Carmelite life and sharing supper with the students. The photo shows Claudette meditating and listening happily to the noise of students greeting each other before the talk. We are grateful for our growing relationship with this college.



Moving forward to late April and May, Sisters Louise and Katharine Mary were blessed by visits from their families. Louise has twin younger sisters, Kathy, who is a teacher, and Karen, who like Louise is a nurse. When they come we can always hear laughter coming from the parlor as they enjoy catching up with each other. Katharine Mary's nephew Kevin and his wife, Rebecca, brought their two-year-old daughter Sarah, and they stayed overnight. On the next day, as they were preparing to leave, Sister Theresa taught Sarah how to play "Fetch" with a soft toy that Sarah had brought with her. Theresa would throw the toy across the lobby, look at Sarah, and point to the toy. Sarah, giggling madly, would run and fetch it and bring it back. There is nothing like two-year-old laughter to make you glad you're alive.

Our Sisterly Visit took place from May 20 to May 23. We were happy to see Sisters Judy Long (Baltimore) and Bernadette Therese (Boston) and to share our lives and our thoughts with them. Looking at our future can be difficult for all of us because we have to face the realities of advancing age and shrinking numbers, but we are far from being helpless and hopeless, and the sisters helped us to look at different options. The second photo shows us all lined up in the lobby feeling gratitude for CCA's program of Sisterly Visits.



In early June Sister Hilary went to Chicago for the third week-long session of *ForMission*, a training program for formators who are looking for new ways to pass on their charisms and to improve their communication and listening skills. This is the program of the Religious Formation Conference, which works in partnership with CTU. The program includes five days of input and skill-building plus in-depth sharing in mentored small groups. In between sessions, the student formators write two papers and submit an update to their individual contact person who serves as mentor. Everyone also belongs to a supervision group. This training is valuable for initial formation and for purposes far beyond that. We are glad that we discovered it at the Milwaukee Religious Formation Congress in 2017.

Finally, we thank Baltimore Carmel for publishing their *Memorial to Father Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD*. It's a real tribute to Kieran's life, scholarship, and friendship with friars and nuns alike. And we send our prayers to the Carmelite Federations in France and all the people of France in remembrance of the catastrophic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral on April 15. So much history there! But the gold cross shone through the smoke and the rubble, symbol of healing and new possibilities for reconstruction.

Until next time--may your summer be richly blessed.



*Sr. Angela Pikus*

## **Carmel of the Sacred Heart and of the Holy Face**

Danville, Pennsylvania

WIND has been the often-used word these days here, the wind of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, of course, but also the wind of nature which does, at times, its own unusual and unwanted, pruning. In May we had several mighty gusts of wind which took down several trees, one landing on a gazebo structure and another uprooting the unusual large-blossom magnolia tree. The magnolia blossoms were, without exaggeration, at least 12-14 inches broad, a creamy color with a faint, pleasant scent. It may be hard to replace. Thankfully, no building, vehicle or person was hurt. Meanwhile, to commemorate Earth Day, the Sisters planted two trees. Caring for the environment is a priority here.

On June 4, Sr. Joan Lundy and three other residents of Emmanuel Center were authorized to serve as PEERs among the other residents. (PEER: Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents, a State-wide program in nursing homes.) In preparation, she and three other residents received four in-house conferences on listening to residents' concerns, dialoging with the resident, and, if necessary, making representation to the Center's Staff.



Srs. Anne, Angela, and Joan Lundy

We continue ongoing formation with DVD courses. Having completed one on the Old Testament, we're beginning one on Jesus. The presentations are of a factual, historical nature.

Our Community has been spared all the ordinary illnesses of winter but ARTHURitis

has come to visit at times!

Please remember in your prayers, Peter Pikus, Sr. Angela's brother, who went to God on February 28, peacefully after a brief hospitalization. At his request, there was a military funeral.

From June 22 to 27, we will have an informal, private retreat and ask your good prayers. May you be enjoying these "what is so rare as a day in June" days. God's blessing on all!



*Sr. Miriam Hogan*

## **Carmel of the Queen of Heaven**

Eldridge, Iowa

Sr. Lynne's peaceful passing into eternal life on March 11 is still very much in the hearts of her friends and Sisters. We have published her writings for Journey and the Joy on our website. Also, we published a number of pictures that were taken over the years that she was with us.

Recently, we have been in a discernment process with Sr. Kathleen Pruitt and Sr. Nancy R. We have been meeting with them as a community and individually concerning our future.

We are praying for the local farmers who are unable to plant a large percentage of their fields because of the excessive rain. St. Elijah, dear patron, enough already! The mighty Mississippi has set a new record for days being above flood stage.

Finally, on a happy note, our Sr. JonFe recently passed her test for American citizenship and will soon be sworn in.

**Wishing all of our Sisters a Blessed Pentecost Season and Happy Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.**

Lynne's obituary: <http://carmelitesofeldridge.org/srlynn.htm>

Photos: <http://carmelitesofeldridge.org/photosmay2019.htm>

Peace and Love to all of our Sisters, Miriam



## **Carmel of the Assumption**

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

*Sr. Elizabeth Marie  
Krug*

Spring came all at once this year, though a few weeks early for Easter. After a few crocuses and snowdrops appeared, suddenly the trees and the gardens were in full bloom. Even flowers that bloom in May and June adorned the Easter season. Fortunately, we had no killing frosts that harmed the fruit trees and most of the flowers completed their full cycle of blooming.

We had no severe weather to compare with what those in the south and mid-west were experiencing, but we did have some heavy rains and high winds. One of the long-needle pines behind the shrine of the Sacred Heart was partially uprooted and, in falling, damaged the other tree there, which is now scheduled to be cut down. A maple tree at the edge of the woods lost a big branch, landing conveniently between a small dogwood in full bloom and the big tulip poplar without damaging either.

Our Stations of the Cross take on a more universal flavor each year. We often have Vietnamese or Chinese deacons and seminarians coming to lead them, as the community at St. Vincent is involved with the Vietnamese Cistercians in California and have a house in China. This year we had Deacon Dominic Leo, OSB, who was born in India and is now a member of our local Benedictine community. The Stations of the Cross continue to be well-attended.

Holy Week and the Liturgies were beautiful, though we had wet weather that might have discouraged some of older friends from evening driving to the Easter Vigil. Even in the midst of our Paschal rejoicing, our human mortality is never far from our consciousness. One of our older benefactors attended daily Eucharist during all of Lent. On Easter Monday we missed him at Eucharist. Later in the week we heard he had a major stroke on Easter Monday and might not be able to drive or even walk again. He usually comes on Sundays with his wife and small grand-nephews. He asks every day if they are going to Carmel for Mass next Sunday and taking the boys. We are hoping this will happen soon. A little later we learned that one of the Knights of Columbus who helps us every Friday became gravely ill and was diagnosed with progressive and fatal liver cancer. We always knew him when he was working, even when we couldn't see his face, as he arrived, winter and summer, in Bermuda shorts. His fellow Knights continue to come to help outdoors on Fridays, but he is dearly missed. Please join in our prayers for Ben and Jim and their families.

Shortly after Easter we began enjoying asparagus from our garden and then rhubarb. Our garden is in now, and we are already enjoying home-grown salad greens and broccoli.

The Easter season brought a visit from Sr. Joann's grand-nieces, Mia and Callie, who are four and two years of age. We have been enjoying photos of them for the past four years, but this was their first visit. Grandma Jackie and Great-aunt Jeanie brought them from Cleveland for a few hours. Tiny though they are, they can be a handful sometimes, but with us they were just two little girls having fun. We were especially interested in Callie, who was a Turner baby with hydrops and not expected to live beyond a few hours after birth. We prayed very much for her when she was in utero and, by the time she was born, much of the hydrops had disappeared and she had a good chance to live, to the amazement of the medical profession. Today she is a lively elfin two-year-old, intelligent above her age group and full of fun.

Very early on the morning of the feast of the Visitation, we awoke to find some of our electricity was off, and, shortly after, we lost it all. Our solar-powered batteries kept all the necessary appliances running, as expected. We were especially concerned as newly-ordained Father Dominic Leo, OSB, with his family was coming for Eucharist, and our auxiliary power doesn't cover the chapel. Fortunately, commercial electricity was restored in about 50 minutes, in plenty of time for a feast-day liturgy and a first blessing from Father. Father gave a very inspiring homily on Our Lady.

Our maple tree in the rear of the monastery was exceptionally productive this year, and it literally "snowed" maple seeds one day. As a result, we had maple trees growing in the grass, in the gardens, and about a million little trees growing in the gutters. We arranged with our builders to put screens on the second-floor gutters and larger downspouts on the first-floor gutters to discourage further clogging and tree growing.

There is a young woman who is in contact with us and is interested in our community. She has been in touch with us for about a year. We were about to schedule another visit over Memorial Day weekend when we found out she was diagnosed with a large mass in her stomach. She underwent surgery on a few weeks ago. Please pray for her.

Those of us participating in the *Woman at the Well* project are so grateful and in awe of all the work being done on our behalf to make this possible. We who are "electronically challenged" feel we are living in a "science-fiction become real" experience and are delighted to see and share with our Carmelite Family.

We have been ordering CDs from Augustine Institute and finding them very helpful and inspiring. We decided we would use the conferences on the Gospel of Mark for our community retreat later in the year.

Some of the community also subscribed to *Formed*, where inspiring and informative classes and conferences can be had online.



As this is being prepared for submission, we have had our Canonical Visitation which was followed by our “sisterly visit.” Father Jude Peters, OCD, with Sr. Bernadette Therese from Boston, conducted the visitation, and Sr. Bernadette Therese and Sr. Rosalyn from Reno were our sisterly visitors.

You are in our hearts on all the major feasts, especially our Carmelite ones.



Sr. Jean Alice

## **Carmel of the Resurrection**

Oldenburg, Indiana

Spring came early in our part of the country. Farmland, hills, and dales filled with trees are just a short drive away from our charming village. An excess of rain has made it impossible for farmers to do their usual planting but everything else is flourishing, especially the trees. Nature is a symphony of green!

Technology has many blessings, and currently it enabled us to share in the joy of Celia's Ashton's profession in Baltimore. On the net one could see the community, hear her vows, see her prostration with Mother Bernadina's mantle over her shoulders, and listen to Sr. Connie's rich and meaningful homily.

In March we celebrated Marcie's birthday with a private liturgy in our little chapel.

Several of our Franciscan Sisters spent time in Laredo recently, offering their services to those migrants who had been able to cross the border. When they returned we had a first-hand account of that painful situation. The news seems to be filled with war, violence, turmoil, displacement, and dissatisfaction. On the plus side, the world seems to be waking up to the reality of climate change. Watching carefully for what is good news keeps us tuned into those words of scripture, “Where sin abounds, grace does more abound.”



Sr. Marcie

We are continuing our study of Scripture with Professor Bart Ehrman's *The Historical Jesus*. He is an outstanding scholar and we look forward to our weekly DVD sessions. We are also viewing the beautiful and interesting series on the history of our National Parks. The first discs, with much information on John Muir, were very moving. His sense of creation was truly mystical. We owe so much to those early persons who committed

themselves to getting Congress to reserve millions of acres for places of rest and beauty, open to every citizen.

Fifty years ago, in August, we participated in a meeting for contemplative Sisters at the Jesuit House of Formation in Woodstock, MD. Carmelites were the largest group and we learned a lot about constructive dialogue, facilitating small groups, and goal setting. Contrary to what had been expected, the consensus of the group was to create the Association of Contemplative Sisters. Somehow, from this movement, the Carmelites finally got a rescript from Rome authorizing us to meet to discuss the formation of our own association. The meeting that followed in January of 1970 gave birth to CCA. Over the years, ACS has evolved into a membership mainly of women who wish to lead a contemplative life in ordinary circumstances. Members from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky have continued to gather over the years. The women's group that meets here monthly is part of that. While we prepare for CCA's anniversary, we are getting ready to celebrate ACS in August here at the retreat house on our Franciscan campus. In all these occasions we experience in so many persons and groups that hunger for a greater intimacy with God and our gratitude for the vocation that has contributed to this beautiful raising of consciousness and awareness that "God alone suffices."

We will feel our connection with all our sisters and brothers in Carmel when we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. We will actively participate in the liturgy here as reader and Eucharistic minister.



## **Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains**

Reno, Nevada

*Sr. Marie-Louise  
Bishop*

Deepening, connecting, and expanding seem to be the major themes in our community life over the last few months. Every aspect of our effort and experience mirrors the call to growth and to reach out to those with whom we are in contact. What an invigorating journey.

We have been committed to strengthening bonds with our Carmelite communities internationally. While correspondence and exchange of newsletters have been in place for a long while, lately we have started to take more advantage of Zoom meetings with our sisters in Kirkintilloch Carmel in Scotland. We share responsibility each month for discussion topics and resources to reflect on ahead of time. Then our communities

exchange our responses online to what we read. It has been wonderful to get to know our respective communities better, especially those sisters who have not been able to travel internationally, and to see and hear from each sister in community.

Our community elections were held mid-February with our Bishop present. Over time our idea of community leadership has evolved. We understand that each sister has responsibility for the community's future and well-being. While we do elect sisters for leadership responsibilities, we have also established three general areas covering community governance and responsibilities. Every sister is involved in one or more governance committee: administration, care of the sisters and spirituality. Susan and Rosey are currently Prioress and Subprioress. Committees meet on a regular basis, make recommendations covering all areas of responsibility, bring them back to the whole group for discussion and approval. Then the respective committee members take the initiative to implement what we have decided. It has been wonderful to see the participation of all the sisters and to marvel at how the insights and experience of each one has made the whole community so rich with ideas, experience, and shared responsibility.



Over the years we have been reaching out to groups and parishes in the area. We have made a commitment to encourage our young adults to participate. It has been very rewarding to build bonds with the Newman Center students from the University of Nevada in Reno. Some come to our young adult prayer group. The Newman Center students were here in mid-March to do their annual "Living Stations of the Cross" in the chapel. They write the script, do the costumes and act the parts of all the characters in the Passion Narrative. It is enhanced by their singing and music. A truly inspirational and moving experience for all who attended! Then we invited the students (always hungry!) for a pizza dinner and conversation.

In mid-March Claire and Roz were responsible for sharing a "Carmelite Retreat" with the parishioners at St. Rose of Lima parish. Each shared a different element of Carmelite spirituality (history and development, charism and prayer). It reinforced for us how hungry people are for these riches and how grateful they are when we can share them more broadly.

At the end of March, the community celebrated Rosey's 50th jubilee. All of her siblings (and some spouses) were here for the event and shared early pictures and reminiscences. There were many fun and interesting stories of Rosey's early years in Carmel and beautiful photo albums chronicling her life in Carmel that were shared around the table. It was a real joy to visit at table and to hear the family's perspective of how their life, and Rosey's, developed over the years. We participated in the *Women at the Well Dialogues* at the beginning of April. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond again with sisters who are not able to regularly attend our Association meetings. The warmth and excitement of the greetings when various sisters signed in was a joy to see. What a witness to the depth of caring and long history of friendship. It was moving to see the fruit of years of prayer and reflection as we shared in our discussion groups.



Holy Week and Easter are always deep and rich. Seeing the impact of the liturgies on our extended community joining us for services always enhances that. The hours our liturgy planners, along with our friends Jim and Bunny, put into the revisions for our booklets seemed endless, but they resulted in deep and moving celebrations which both the presiders and participants commented upon. Worship involves the entire community and is so enriched when so many are deeply involved in both preparation and celebration. Attendance grows each year.

For Easter we always have our visiting guests, as well as some of our friends who would otherwise be alone for the holiday, to join us for Easter dinner. Our refectory was filled to capacity with joyous feasters. Sharing community and bonding more deeply is as much of a feast as all the delicious food the sisters prepared for the occasion. And we have more than the usual amount of help cleaning up as a further reward.



Dr. Elaine Park giving conferences for our community retreat.

Finally, from May 22-26 we were gifted by the presence of Elaine Park as the presenter for our community retreat. Her theme was the Fire of the Spirit in preparation for Pentecost. Her years of experience studying, teaching, and praying with scripture shine through her talks and the exercises she had us do. Now retired as dean of Mt. Angel Seminary, she has become an even closer friend over the years. We are still unpacking the material and reflections she shared with us and are sure they will be returned to for a long time ahead.





## Carmel of the Mother of God

San Rafael, California

*Sr. Anna Marie Vanni*

Greetings from California, where we are praying earnestly that the Lord spare us from any fires, other than the prescribed burns, which are happening everywhere to keep the fires down to a minimum!



Starting this past March, we had a very special Novena to St. Joseph led by our dear friend, Father David Guzman, OCD. It was truly a very special Carmelite celebration of Great St. Joseph. Father's homilies were very inspiring, the Masses he offered were so reverent, and it was such a joy to have so many of our friends attending each afternoon! We all enjoyed meeting with our special friends on the last day of the Novena in the Speakroom, to thank them for all they do for us throughout the year! St. Joseph, Patron of the Church, pray for us!!

Sr. Immaculate arrived home very safely and full of wonderful stories from her home visit to Kenya at the end of March. We are so happy to have her back with us after almost a month away! She was visited by many, many relatives who gathered at her family home from all over Kenya, including some members she had never met before or even knew about! The family had a huge celebration with Mass and a dinner/reception afterwards.



Thanks to all the generous donations given her by our dear friends here at home, Sister was able to help many of the school children in the area around her home, with shoes, school supplies, and uniforms. She was also able to give away the wonderful supply of children's clothes that she brought from home for the very needy children in her village. Below is a picture of some of the children from her village back home.

At the beginning of April, Mother Teresita from Carmel-by-the-Sea came for a very nice visit with Sr. Mary Colette and Sr. Maria Teresa. Our Foundation came from Carmel, and it was great to renew our wonderful ties and memories of Sisters who had come over the years to help out with "their" foundation. Mother Teresita and the Sisters were incredibly supportive and very touched by the joyful and loving spirit of our community. We, in turn, were so grateful to receive their loving kindness as well! It was a very profound sharing of our Carmelite charism.



Right after our visit with the Sisters, Sr. Anna Marie had her second knee replacement. The first one had been on December 26, 2018, and had gone extremely well. The second surgery (April 10) has been a long time in healing. Unfortunately, there were many complications, but there is improvement every day. Thank you so much for all the prayers. Please continue!

We had such wonderful Holy Week and Easter celebrations; each priest shared with us his own loving devotion to Our Lord's passion and resurrection and to his priesthood.

On Memorial Day, two of our Carmelite Brothers came from Mt. St. Joseph Monastery in San Jose. Cathy Gonzales, OCDS, a wonderful mutual friend of ours and the Carmelite Fathers, drove them up along with a delicious lunch to celebrate the day! Brother John and Postulant Steven, were so friendly and shared with us their vocations stories as well as their love for the life of Carmel.



We now look forward to our Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, this time to be led by Father Brian Costello, a diocesan priest, whom we consider to be a part-time Carmelite!

May you all have a very safe and pleasant summer! Much love and prayers, Your Sisters of the Carmel of the Mother of God in San Rafael.