



CCA Newsletter

Volume 40 Issue 1 June 2018

Returning to the source is serenity.
Lao-tzu

Beacon, NY

Boston, MA

Latrobe, PA

Reno, NV

San Rafael, CA

Concord, NH

Danville, PA

Eldridge, IA

Baltimore, MD

Oldenburg, IN

Barrington, RI

Cleveland, OH

MEMBER CARMELS

Letter from the CCA Leadership Team



Sr. Monika Bies

Dear Sisters,

It seems as if it was more recent than April since we met at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD. We are grateful to all who made this meeting such a wonderful and touching experience. A very special word of gratitude to our dear Stephanie Hauge, who facilitated our meeting and to our friend Cherry Caparas OCDS, who was our trusted liaison with the retreat center: We cannot thank you enough! A heartfelt thank you as well to the former Leadership Team, Sisters Claire, Michaelene, Hilary and Monika, who put together the program! Sister Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, one of our two presenters, gave an inspiring talk on "Weavers of Communion: Vocation and Formation today." She is the co-author of the book *New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity*.

Father Michael Fish, a Camaldolese monk, led the assembly for two days in prayerful reflection on contemplative ways of being, based on his experience of walking the Camino. His material created a retreatlike atmosphere which enabled the assembly to enter into conversations with an openness to share on a more personal level. Within this spirit of deep trust and with the help of Stephanie Hauge's facilitation skills, we affirmed four goals for the 2018-2020 term. Sister Bernadette Therese, Cecelia, Roz and myself have begun the work and have been in touch with one another through e-mail and ZOOM. We very much look forward to deepening the friendships within CCA, between our US Associations and internationally. It was very telling that one of our guests commented during our meeting on our use of the word *relationship*, saying: "I experience the bonds between us more as friendships. Maybe we could substitute the word *friendship* for *relationship*"?

As this newsletter goes out to some of our international friends as well, we wanted to let you know that we are very happy that so many of you were able to join us in the livestreaming. Based on the positive feedback we have received, we hope to offer this possibility again at our 2020 Assembly. We are also very grateful to all the sisters who expressed willingness on their evaluation forms to serve CCA. Some of you have already been contacted and we will contact others in the months to come.

This CCA Newsletter is coming out in the month in which we are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and those of several of our beloved Carmelite Saints. May the celebration of these feasts strengthen the communion among us.

Your sister,

Monika

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains

Reno, Nevada

Our location in a “mission” diocese where we are the only residence of religious women led us to commit ourselves to becoming something of a center for spirituality and prayer for the larger community. Thus we have made connections with individuals and groups throughout northern Nevada. One such person was Jeane Jones, a dear friend of ours and a great philanthropist and advocate for the underprivileged. A very large



Sr. Marie-Louise



Sr. Susan at Jeane's Memorial

memorial was held in her honor at the University here. Our Sister Susan was one of the speakers. We hosted a more intimate one for close friends here in our chapel March 27th.

As Jeane was a great gardener, we constructed a small memorial garden here in her memory. Jeane often shared her fruits and vegetables with us, and exchanged gardening tips with Sr. Michael. This led us to construct the new garden with raised beds located outside the kitchen, far more convenient for all of us, gardeners especially!



Srs. Michael and Susan in Jeane's Garden

April here largely revolved around our CCA meeting. We hosted guests both before and after that. Sisters Marie Helen and Gloria from Kirkintilloch Carmel visited. Marie Helen gave a presentation on St. John of the Cross for the community, and also one in our chapel for our extended community, which was very well received. We are so grateful for our Scottish sisters' continuing connection with us.

Four of our sisters attended the meeting, Claire completing her term in leadership, with Cecelia and Rosalind beginning theirs. Due to the time difference, those of us not attending watched the delayed recordings of the proceedings on ZOOM. We were most grateful for them, although we did miss seeing the actual election and the party!

After the meeting it was a joy to welcome Sr. Lucia and Fr. Benedict from the Netherlands. As a couple of our sisters had visited their monastery it was wonderful to have the chance to reciprocate with tours to all the local scenes and sites. The desert and mountain terrain and western culture and expanse was certainly different for them. We had wonderful discussions on common challenges in Carmel no matter what the culture, and deepened our already close ties.

While our sisters were away at the meeting those of us at home welcomed our local Newman Center students from the University for their annual retreat day. They use our chapel and guest areas and plan the event themselves with inspiring energy and enthusiasm. With such dedicated young adults there is great hope for the future.

On occasion, parishes in the diocese make a special request for our sisters to speak in their parish; especially those parishes located some distance from Reno itself, where not many resources are available. On April 30th Sisters Claire and Cecelia gave a presentation on Teresian prayer and spirituality. They prepared a lovely PowerPoint presentation for it which was followed with a questions and answer discussion. It was very well received.

Every year the diocese hosts a special Holy Hour for Consecrated Life, followed by dinner. It was held this year on May 1st at the cathedral downtown and five of our sisters represented the community taking part in the liturgy. As we are the only community of religious women, apart from three other scattered sisters from various congregations around the entire northern half of the state (well over 55,000 sq. miles!) it is important that we be present and visible at such events.

Our dear Sr. Joan Williams' death was in December as you are aware. It was difficult to have her burial in our cemetery in December, so on May 2nd her nephew Stan, to whom she was very close, came and we had a special memorial service and burial rite in our chapel with close friends. Now dear Joan rests in peace among our Carmel's growing number of great heavenly intercessors.

We split our annual Community Retreat into two parts this year, one week before Pentecost and the second week after Corpus Christi. Fr. Daniel Chowning was in the states from Rome for the CA-AZ province of Friars' canonical visitation in mid May. Being so close, he also visited us May 13-15. There was a wonderful sharing on the Carmelite vision and mission within our community and within the order: it's challenges, future possibilities, and a wide variety of other topics of interest. It seemed the time went all too quickly and we were most grateful to Fr. Daniel for his time, attention, and brotherly sharing with us.

Sr. Michael's family was here to visit in mid-May, and as always, were a wonderful help in further organizing the library with her, and finalizing the planting in the garden. The seedlings that we had started for Jeane Jones' memorial garden were transplanted to the new raised beds, and additional plants put in. The off and on rain showers made for perfect conditions for new plants with sunshine breaking through in between. When not working, or doing puzzles, Sr. Michael, her niece and nephew-in-law, and her great niece and her husband managed to do a great deal of sightseeing. All are already looking forward to the next visit.

May the graces of the Spirit continue to surround you one and all as the summer months unfold, and may your physical and spiritual gardens grow and produce much fruit.



Sr. Robin Stratton

Carmel of the Sacred Heart **Baltimore, Maryland**

As you have noticed there's an old-new face here. The last time I was community correspondent (my last file is dated Sept 2006) we had quite a different format for the CCA newsletter – no pictures among other things. I'd like to thank Leah for her years of service as I take up my computer to share our community news with you once again.

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) offered a grant to help communities cover the costs of hosting a vocation event during National Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14). Our intrepid Celia caught the bug, got an idea for a Contemporary Stations of the Cross, and submitted a proposal which was accepted. The plan was to have Stations, a Pizza and salad supper with the nuns, followed by a talk on our history and life. Celia and her committee spend hours dreaming, planning, and finally presenting what could have been a medieval passion play but was in fact a twenty-first century multi-media experience of the Passion. Judging from the response of the participants, it was a memorable day – and one we hope to repeat again – with or without a grant - next year.

Dolora Zajick, international opera star, spent a week living and praying and even cooking with us. She offered to give vocal lessons to anyone who would be interested – and several of us took advantage of the opportunity. Needless to say, I was one of them. You can't imagine how encouraging she was. And what a gift she was at the Liturgy. Her magnificent full voice blended beautifully with the rest of us – a real lesson in community.



Contemporary Stations of the Cross



Sr. Helen Prejean

Sr. Helen Prejean came with friends for Mass one Sunday in early spring. She stayed for breakfast and spoke with us about her passion for the inmates on death row and for their victims' families is a passion for the Crucified Jesus whom she sees in each person. Bonnie Thurston, Scripture scholar, writer, and lecturer, paid us a visit over Palm Sunday week-end. She is a lovely guest – a gentle presence who gifts us by her very being.

In mid-March, our friend Fr. John Donahue SJ gave a lecture in our Chapel on the Book of Lamentations. He spoke of the need for public lamentation in our time and the fact that we do not have a venue for it in our Liturgy or culture. He asked: What would a Liturgy of Lamentation look like? Something well worth thinking and praying about...

We have also invited a few people in our worshipping community to form an adjunct liturgy group that would assist us with thoughts and creative ideas for the seasons of Advent and Lent. It was very helpful this past year.

Baltimore has three Nativity schools. These are tuition-free, faith based, middle schools in the inner-city for promising students of limited income. We've had a long-term relationship with one of them, Mother Seton Academy. Each year, the seventh grade students come for their retreat days and use the Conference Room, Chapel and outer grounds. Many of these youngsters have never had so much silence nor seen so much green space. It is a grace for us to be able to share with them.

On the Monday of Holy Week we had a community Reconciliation Service. We used water, stones, God's Word, our word, and peaceful embraces to recommit ourselves to one another and ready ourselves for the Holy Days ahead.

April came and went with visitors from near and far both before and after the CCA meeting. Carmel around the world is becoming a more one world community as we welcome sisters from Great Britain, Scotland, Holland, and various states of our own nation. Those of us who remained at home during the meeting participated in all the sessions from our living room, thanks to Zoom technology. I was one among small group comprised of Rebecca from Australia, Dorothy from Scotland, Shirley from Latrobe, Jon Fe from Eldridge, and Agnes from Boston, each in her own monastery and connected in a virtual room. What an amazing experience! What joys and possibilities this suggests for the future –“Beam me up, Scottie...”

On Pentecost Sunday, we had the joy of participating in the Secular Order's ceremony when Kimberly Snow and Donna Friedman received the Scapular and began their period of formation. We joined them for a celebration afterward.



*Kimberly Snow and Donna Friedman(OCDS)
with Sr. Monika*

We suffer and pray with the Parkland students who are working so valiantly for some sensible legislation concerning gun control, and for the students and families who have lived through the violence of school shootings. Our hearts anguish for and with the immigrant and refugee parents and children who are being forcibly separated at our border. Let us join our prayer with our Sister Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein) who wrote: "...All one can do is try to live the life one has chosen with ever greater fidelity and purity in order to offer it up as an acceptable sacrifice for all."

Much more has filled our weeks -Holy Week, the Kentucky Derby and Baltimore Preakness, weddings – Royal and otherwise, Pentecost retreat – and the blessed gift of daily life. We send our love and prayers to all till next time.

Carmel of Our Lady and St Joseph Boston, Massachusetts

Fallen trees: Two of our trees went down during a March storm. One had been standing straight and tall for 108 years, according to its ring-count. The other, a Persian lilac, had been filling the air with scent and blossom though not for quite as long.

Fallen nuns: And when the community went down with a very nasty bug-of-sorts two were left standing –Jeanne Marie and Eileen Mary.

Each of the sick had her own remedy, but none were without the sympathetic help of others. One of our Sunday mass-goers (comers?) brought chicken soup. A woman, who lives on the streets and comes here for Mass, brought special teas, special vinegar, special honey, and tincture of pleurisy with very detailed instructions for the use of each. Another woman, who lives near-by, brought a pureed vegetable mixture that she uses all winter with her children, who never get colds.

She brought her healthy, and very wonderful nine-year-old daughter, who takes great joy in coming to Carmel, for Mass here, on her birthday. There happened to be a young man, a student at Julliard, who was here at the time, so D'Angeles got a robust, operatic rendition of "Happy Birthday" with a special blessing from the celebrant.

Interested women: During these past months, we have had a number–four to be specific, of young women coming for brief stays to discern a possible vocation. One is still with us, and another, who seems quite hopeful, is working to pay off a debt.

Interesting speakers: Our formation program continued with Randy Sachs SJ giving a Lenten preparation lecture on Von Balthazar's perspective of Holy Saturday.

Following this was a day with one of the archdiocesan auxiliaries, Bishop Mark O'Connell, who's been giving a series in different parishes called 'Ask the Bishop.' It was an enjoyable experience of seeking, if not always seeing, and led to interesting discussions on a number of topics.

Bart Geger, SJ, the general editor of *Studies in Spirituality of Jesuits*, spoke on different ways of discerning God's will based on cultural or theological presuppositions.



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty



*Scholastica, to experience Carmel,
and Sr. Jeanne-Marie*

Richard Clifford SJ, took another look at the Adam and Eve story and also what the scribes tell us about biblical history. He recommended Not In God's Name : Confronting Religious Violence by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, which Mary Clare is reading and also recommends.

Joseph E. Weiss, SJ, Professor of the Practice of Liturgy at BC, spoke on the sacrament of reconciliation.

And Michael Simone, SJ, assistant professor of Old Testament, also from BC, gave a truly inspiring presentation on divine presence and agency in materialities like fire and chariots, and how this might be behind descriptions of love in 1 John.

We ended the year with Fr. Liam Bergin and his great Irish accent, speaking on sacramentality in art, color, and creation. We are also watching a series on the geography of the Holy Land given by David Senior. During Sunday's of Lent we had some very good sharing with Nouwen's Life of the Beloved as a starting point. In all it was a very good year for input.



Eileen Mary lending a hand in the outquarter's dining area

In the house: Our carpenter, who does just about everything that needs doing, is working on a major renovation of the outquarters dining area.

He is also quite a chef in his own right and every now and then will cook a special dish for us.

And in the church: Recently one of the Redemptorists was giving a mission out of the State when, during Mass in the middle of the homily, a man, carrying a cup of coffee,

came determinedly down the middle aisle. Father was a bit tense, not sure what the fellow had in mind, but when the latter turned and went into the area where the bathrooms were, Father relaxed –that is until a few moments later when a head stuck out of the sacristy and a voice called out “Father, any toilet paper? ”

A fruitful summer to all.



Maria, and Mary, enjoying their garden



Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

Carmel of the Assumption

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

All through the Lenten season we were looking for its true meaning (spring) but the surrender of winter to the start of spring was very late this year. Only the snowdrops greeted the feast of St. Joseph. We were well into mid-April when the trees began to blossom and the traditional Easter flowers reached their peak. Lent seemed short this year. Friday Stations of the Cross came in quick succession, reverently conducted by the Deacons from the Seminary, with some of the seminary underclassmen and the Benedictine Brothers assisting. Each Deacon expressed his gratitude for being able to experience this Lenten devotion with us. The Easter Triduum ended around our Paschal Candle, decorated with Eucharistic symbols encircling its Cross, painted by Sr. Theodora. The Easter Vigil, celebrated mostly by the light of the Candle in the darkened Chapel, never fails to bring home the great gift the light of the Resurrection is to us. All of our Benedictine presiders took great care and time to celebrate the Liturgies in a meaningful and prayerful manner.

With Easter and April, Srs. Mary and Marie Elizabeth prepared to attend the CCA meeting in Marriottsville, MD. It was almost too much to believe that, two days before they were to leave for the meeting, Sr. Barbara fell and broke her hip. In April 2017, as the Sisters were leaving for the meeting in St. Louis with Father General, Sr. Shirley became ill and ended up in the hospital for major surgery. So here we were facing the same scenario. Sister went by ambulance to the hospital, which gave us the opportunity to put our new driveway to the infirmary door to the test. The ambulance had no trouble getting right to the door and it prevented the difficulty of getting the gurney around some rather narrow corners in the Monastery halls. Sr. Barbara had surgery the next day to put a pin in her cracked hip and then went to St. Ann Home for therapy. She came home for Pentecost and is continuing therapy in the Monastery.

The CCA meeting was a true international celebration. Many thank to Sr. Celia from Baltimore Carmel and Sr. Johann from Scotland for all their hard work in making it possible for our Carmelite Sisters from home as well as from across the globe to participate via Zoom. Sisters from the United Kingdom came to join us in person and enrich us with their contributions. We are grateful for the new committee who agreed to bear the burden of organization and service for the next two years.

Our small solar energy project, long in the planning, finally got underway in February between snow storms and was finished in mid-April. Since we have difficulty getting any fuel company to come and put propane in the tank that fuels the generator used in power-outages, unless it is almost empty and will take the complete truck-load, we felt that renewable solar energy would be a good solution, with the propane tank as back-up. Several of us tried to get our minds around the workings of the array of computer-driven controls that work the bank of batteries that make up the system, at least enough to know if it is functioning properly. The company can check the system

online via website to monitor its effectiveness. What we don't use in energy is transferred back to the power company for credit on our power bill.



Sr. Ellen Jane crowns Our Lady

We celebrated the new feast of Mary, Mother of the Church by having our May crowning as part of the evening prayer for the feast. Sr. Ellen Jane crowned our Lady with a diadem of flowers made by Sr. Maria. Sr. Ellen Jane is our jubilarian of the year, marking 60 years of religious profession.

Our garden is finally planted, and we have been enjoying fresh asparagus and rhubarb. Some young women, both home-schooled and in public education, volunteered to come for a Saturday morning to help with outdoor projects. We were amazed at how much they accomplished in a few hours, cleaning the chapel and guest-room windows and weeding the garden plots. They helped Sr. Tanya reinforce the fence around the

garden to keep burrowing animals out. Some said they enjoyed working with Sister and would like to come back in the fall.

On June 10 we will mark 57 years of presence in the Diocese of Greensburg. Only Sr. Mary Paul and Sr. Marie Elizabeth are left from the group of eight Sisters who arrived in Latrobe on June 1, when the former Touchdown Club property became the Carmel of the Assumption.

Please remember all our community intentions in your prayers, especially the family members of our Sisters who are elderly and ill.

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

Love and greetings to you from all of us on this feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

On February 13th we had a friendly, social visit with our Bishop, Thomas Tobin. He is in the age category of most of us and shared his experiences of aging with us, his peers. The needs of the diocese and the bleak future of shortage of priests were very sobering. We experience it now and then



Sr. Roseann Gillice

when we have no priest for Mass. Many of the parishes are closing and merging with each other. As always, we need to do our best and trust in God's care and providence.

On March 3rd we provided a brunch for our daily Mass community as well as for friends who know and love Sr. Eileen. It was an opportunity to say good-bye as she journeyed to her home town, Bethlehem, in the Holy Land for a three month visit in Bethlehem Carmel with a possibility of asking to transfer. This is where Eileen entered and lived from 1971 to 1999 when she came to us. Everyone enjoyed being able to celebrate their friendship with her. Some people said they had already signed up for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and that they would drop in. At one point Sisters Sue, Mary and a friend Beatrice (Beat) sang a song from the Today's Missal, "Somebody's Knockin' At Your Door" while we knocked on the refectory tables during the refrain. It was a happy time for the sad moment of parting. Eileen flew from New York on St. Patrick's Day and arrived for the feast of St. Joseph.

Some of the people in our parish of St. Luke's come to the monastery for our daily Mass or Communion Service. Since the pastor, Fr. Bob, is retiring soon, one of the group who decorates the church asked if there were a special icon they could give to him as a gift. Fortunately, we had an extra copy of Andrei Rublev's Trinity mounted on wood. I also showed her the book, "The Divine Dance" by Fr. Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell which shows Rublev's Trinity on the inside front and back pages in brilliant color. She loved both and ordered a copy of the book for Father and herself; others were interested also. The jacket of the book says, "The Divine Dance makes accessible and practicable the Christian tradition's most surprising gift...God as Community...as Friendship...as Dance. Are you ready to join in?" A few years ago Sr. Roseann received a book entitled "God, Sexuality, and the Self – An essay 'On the Trinity'" by a British theologian. It "is a new venture in systematic theology. Sarah Coakley invites the reader to reconceive the relation of sexual desire and the desire for God, and – through the lens of prayer practice – to chart the intrinsic connection of this relation to a theology of the Trinity." Artwork with its history from the catacombs and through the centuries is included. On the cover is William Blake's sketch of the Trinity.

Our Secular Order members meet here once a month. Though they have a social time at each meeting, May is put aside for their special "Community Day". They have a guest speaker, change of schedule and delicious bag lunches are provided for them as well as for us. As our Christmas gift to them last year, we promised to prepare their lunch for this year on the Community Day. They were so grateful for the opportunity to be together – brothers and sisters in Carmel enjoying the gift of communion of life while sharing a meal.

Recently we have had requests for Marilyn Von Waldner's music on CDs. Marilyn, a former member of the community, made a record and a tape in the 70s and 80s of her songs, "What Return Can I Make?" The man emailing us said, "...tell Marilyn how much her "What Return Can I Make?" has meant to me. I started listening to it decades ago, and I suppose it sank deep into my mind, consciousness/heart...whatever. It seems especially that sometimes during difficult cases (I am a surgical urologist), I would silently sing her songs, such as 'Wisdom Is A Spirit...The Lord Will Give You His Mind'. I don't think it ever failed to comfort me and help me...and the patient." On extern duty Sr. Beth received a phone call from a woman in Midland, MI to ask for a CD of "What

Return...". Some years ago the woman at age 37 lost a child. She listened endlessly to Marilyn's tape and her songs helped her so much in her grief she wanted to contact her. The woman is a counselor and uses the songs for the people she advises. It happens that Marilyn is here on a visit with us while I write. It has been a consolation to her to learn of the people so appreciative of her music and words; that she has helped those in time of need. Sr. Roseann is in contact with someone to make the CD. We made the other music "Loved By God" – taped in 1989 – into a CD. It shows how the seeds we scatter can bear much fruit. I noticed at the end of the email for the CD order from the doctor to Sr. Eileen that he ended with, "Make it a great day." We have the gift to create life to the full; we need to use the gift.

Please pray especially for our sisters who are now in nursing homes. Sister Marian went to St. Clare's in Newport which is a diocesan home. Newport is where our foundation from New Orleans, LA first arrived. It is about an hour's ride from us; in the summer it takes longer due to tourist traffic. Sister Mary Gehring has been in St. Elizabeth's Manor and was joined recently by Sister Normagene. They are about twenty-five minutes away at most. St. E's is not a religious nursing home; we think it was started by an Anglican Sister, but changed over the years. The care is very good in many ways. The Columban Fathers and some diocesan priests are there as well.

We are eight in community now and will be meeting with our facilitator this month for future direction. Please pray for us.

Congratulations and thanks to the new Leadership Team. May the Holy Spirit be your constant companion. Thinking of the theme for the last CCA meeting sparked a little thought in me:



*Srs. Cecelia, Monika, Rosalind and Bernadette Therese
(New Leadership Team)*

One sip of true life

Intoxicates the pilgrim

To journey in joy.

In prayer for the Church and the world,
your sisters in Barrington.

Carmel of the Incarnation

Beacon, New York

On a first glance at my notes for the last couple of months, I thought this might turn into a chronicle of death and destruction. Of course, it can also be seen as a chronicle of life and gratitude for what was and what was not.

When I wrote our last entry for the newsletter, I asked prayer for our Sr.



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara



Sr. Rita

Rita, who seemed to be recovering from some devastating infections. As you know, she did not ultimately recover, and died February 12. Our chapel was full for her funeral; coming were her nieces and nephew, her godson and his mother, who had gone to nursing school with Rita, several members of her former community, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, including her now 90 year old novice mistress, and local friends. She was loved! Our pastor gave the most beautiful funeral homily I have ever heard. Our good friends, the Redemptoristine nuns with whom we share the building, were a great help behind the scenes.

As we buried Sr. Rita and Lent began, Sr. Mary began her last journey, dying March 24, the day before Palm or Passion Sunday. She had suffered much for two years -- perhaps part of what enabled her to be peaceful as she entered a wonderful hospice in the Bronx. She just wondered what death would be like and how she would know. Her funeral, too, was attended by family and many who loved her. After the emotional roller coaster we had been on since Christmas, the Holy Week and Easter liturgies had greatly added resonance and meaning.



Sr. Mary Salucci

Lest the weather be ignored, late March saw four nor'easters in three weeks! We almost despaired of spring. Sr. Ann asked her aide, a woman from Haiti, if she knew what a nor'easter was. Yes, she replied, it was a bad storm coming from the north (true) around Easter (not

quite – but a reasonable guess!).

We were entertained in April before the CCA meeting with some visitors, human and otherwise. A woman who lives nearby has some fantasies of becoming a farmer and has obtained a young cow and goat. We first made their acquaintance when their pen was left open and they wandered onto our property. Lulu, the cow, has an



Sr Aletha and Lulu

unfortunate taste for azaleas, and there was much scurrying to get pots of them indoors. Neither Lulu nor Beau, the goat, was amenable to being shown the way home. The first time they came was highly entertaining for us former city folk; subsequent visits perhaps less so.

The human visitors from England, definitely more welcome, were Sr. Shelagh Banks, the coordinator of the British association, and one of her councilors, Sr. Susan Thompson. We very much enjoyed their company for several days before the meeting, as we got to know them and the British association better. They accompanied Sr. Michaelene and me as we drove to Marriottsville for pre-meetings. Sr. Marjorie flew down the next day for the prioress' meeting. All three of us found the CCA meeting enjoyable and hopeful.



seated: Ann, Miriam, Susan, Ellen Mary standing: Aletha, Mary Theresa, Shelagh

May 8 and 9 we enjoyed a visit from Fr. Steve Payne, home now from Nairobi.

As part of managing our growing needs, we decided in April to contract with a food service for two of our meals. They do the cooking, the shopping and the cleaning up after meals. Preparation for, and implementation of this service has been a major adjustment for us, as you may imagine! The number of snags having to be ironed out daily still seems roughly infinite. However...most seem to agree that the food has been very good.

This service began operation on May 14. On Tuesday, May 15, to paraphrase the National Weather Service, "An extremely powerful front moved through New York and Connecticut, causing significant damage. Five people were killed and half a million lost power. Winds were over 100 miles per hour and several macrobursts and tornadoes were confirmed." A macroburst occurs in a thunderstorm when a column of cooled air sinks rapidly, striking the ground and producing strong horizontal winds. That is what we experienced here. We received warnings of the approaching

storm on our phones, then watched in horrified fascination as the 100+ mph winds swirled around the building. It lasted about five minutes and devastated our land in the back of the building. Power poles were snapped in half as if they were toothpicks, trees landed on three of the cars parked there, destroying them, and uncountable trees were uprooted and downed. The landscape in front of the house was unscathed! We heard the next day that the whole city was cut off, so many roads blocked that no one could get in or out of the city the evening of the storm.



Sr. Marita with Joe and Chris

We lost power of course, but did have generator power for a while, until the fuel in its small tank gave out. The sisters rose to the occasion, and “But think of the people in Puerto Rico” could often be heard. Thursday morning, our facilities manager, Chris Coleman, got a few of us together and said that we were looking at a week or even two without power. We began to think about where some of the sisters could go. However, by that evening, Chris and Joe Gingras, a general contractor whom we know and who works with our insurer, had found a fuel company willing to deliver to the generator every day. (Talking later with the insurance rep, Peter, I mentioned that Joe had been the GC for our chapel renovations eleven years ago. Peter said, “I know – he loves you!”) We have been very fortunate in the people who worked hard to help us. We were very fortunate, too, in that none of us was hurt, there was no damage to the building and we were able to stay at home. One interesting challenge was going without internet or TV for over two weeks!

With prayer for a peaceful and uneventful summer for all of us.

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

In Eldridge we once again rejoice in the promise of new life and the special energy of springtime. Celebrating these facts we participated as we do each year in the Blessing of the Fields after Mass. The ceremony begins:

Let us together praise the Lord, from whom we have rain from the heavens and abundance from the earth. Blessed be God now and forever.



Sr. Miriam Hogan



Then facing North, South, East, and West we bless the land and pray and sing. Ending the ceremony with the solemn refrain:

O Praise God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On a more personal level, Sr. JonFe has been busy planting the garden which is making good progress.

Our weather has been very warm, even setting a new record for this time of year of 99 degrees one day. However, with the extra rain, thanks to the remnants of Alberto, the local farmers are also seeing record growth taking place in the corn fields that surround us. On a more serious note, we have been praying for people in the South, East and Western parts of the country that were adversely affected by floods and are experiencing the damage of fires and especially for the people of Hawaii that are suffering the ongoing volcanic eruption.

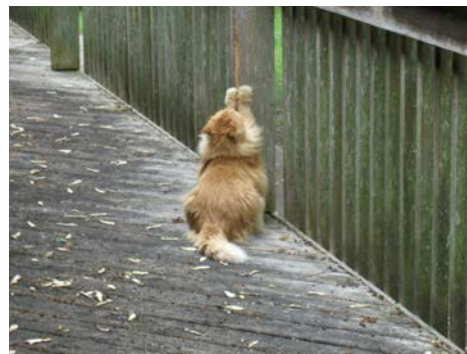
Sisters Miriam and Teresa Susan were able to attend the CCA meeting. The Community at home was able to participate in the Live Streaming. Everyone in the community was grateful for the opportunity to share this event without even having to travel. Thus, while Live Streaming this way is a first for us, we hope that it continues into the future allowing those at home to experience first hand what is an important aspect of Carmelite life today.

After the meeting, Sr. Teresa Susan and the Community shared in a visit from Susan's two sisters Cathi and Joan from Oregon.

Finally, on another happy note, we are aware that Sr. Lynne continues to recover from her time in the hospital. On being asked about her health however, she mentioned that her cat Sunshine is still more agile.



Sr. Teresa Susan with her sisters Cathi and Joan



Sr. Lynne and Cat Sunshine

Praying that all of our Carmels are enjoying the special graces of the Season!

Carmel of the Resurrection Oldenburg, Indiana

Our lives here, for the most part, go on quietly. But we are tied in to the life of this little village and that of the Franciscan Sisters by interest and prayer and some participation. Every six years they have their Chapter of Affairs and elections for new leadership. This has been such a year. Soon they will have their annual “missioning” which keeps what they do under the holy umbrella of obedience. As several of us belong to the OSF choir, we enjoy these liturgical celebrations in a special way. There is a four-star academy on the campus. Like the Franciscan Sisters, we have particular students each year to keep in our prayers. Having two of our sisters in the health care center keeps us in touch with all the ageing and infirm. So many of those whom we have grown to cherish and love have joined the saints in heaven. At the end of the month we will mark ten years in Oldenburg with a festive dinner prepared by the Sisters. We have been greatly blessed by the peace and richness of our lives here, after the loss of our monastery and Carmelite presence in Indianapolis.



Sr. Jean McGoff

We were sorry not to be at the CCA meeting in April but were grateful for all the excellent reports. We want to thank those who signed the wonderful card, assuring us abundantly that we were not forgotten! We are so grateful for the expert leadership of these past few years and the new team that was elected in April.

Our ACS friends in Cincinnati and Indianapolis continue to join us one day a month for lunch, study, and the sharing of the contemplative path to which each is committed in her own style of life. Our current interest is Eckhart. I think he is a bit too deep for some of the members but a

background in John of the Cross (for those of us who have been shaped by his writings) is very helpful.

During our pre-Pentecost retreat we met each morning to watch DVD lectures on the Gospel of John by Donald Senior. Fr. Donald explores the theological understanding inspired by John as well as new insights into a “timeless message.” A different and very interesting approach to this Gospel is taken in a book by Bishop John Shelby Spong, “The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic.” He says that he has read everything that there is to read about this gospel and believes that its content could only be written by someone deeply immersed in Jewish mysticism.

Our community study for the past couple of months has been “The Apocryphal Jesus,” with lectures by David Brakke, a History of Christianity professor at Ohio State University. We had no idea how extensive these writings were. For centuries the Christian imagination was at work to fill out the stories of the original figures in the New Testament. This one evoked broad smiles - “The Forged Letters of Jesus and the Apostles.” As that great comedian, Jimmy Durante, used to say, “Everyone wants to get into the act.”

We send our love and prayers to all of CCA and so appreciate this newsletter that keeps us informed about one another in this great spiritual adventure that we share. It is so much at one with the great human adventure. I think of the beautiful poem of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin that we bring out each year on the feast of the Sacred Heart. These are the last lines: “Heart of the world’s heart, Heart of Jesus, Heart of Evolution, Unite me to yourself.”

Carmel of the Holy Family

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Joyful Thanks

We extend our thanks and gratitude to Claire, Michaelene, Hilary and Monika and the many sisters who were involved in the planning, preparation and execution of the assembly in April. Thank you so much for the live-stream access to the various sessions. The technology and your thoughtful care kept us informed and gave us a sense of participation at the meeting. Our sisters at Regina Health Center also benefited from hearing about the conferences and appreciated reading the hand-outs. You all went the extra mile to keep us in the loop.



Sr. Maria Viatori

Cheers to the New Team

Congratulation and a promise of prayer goes to Bernadette Therese, Monika, Rosalind, and Cecelia. We thank you for your willingness to engage in this ministry of selfless service to the association.

We are also grateful to Donna who accepted the task of being editor of the newsletter. She has had many years of experience in moderating high school yearbook and newspaper publications and editing other texts.

Experiential On-Going Formation

The process of downsizing, repurposing, selling, buying, renovating, and grieving all take a toll on the community. But seeing glimpses of hope and new life urge us forward. We are immersed in the



*Vera Lea admiring the
flowers at Regina Hall
Health Center*

same challenges and opportunities that countless families and religious communities face today. We continue to work with Dr. Sally Wilson to process our individual and communal journey of letting go and receiving. Many lessons mirror our Carmelite spirituality. These life situations beg us to go deeper and allow God to nurture the virtues of hope, courage, patience, and determination to embrace the reality of life at Cleveland Carmel and continue the mission of unceasing prayer for our world and church.

We surprise one another with resilience and creativity when unexpected challenges knock at our door. After many months of planning and work we all acknowledge that many things are out of our control and patience must

be retrieved out of our inner storehouse. We will eventually move to our new monastery and will let you know when that awaited event occurs. Please continue your prayer for us. We have had some serious inquiries from potential buyers; however, a purchase and sale agreement for the monastery has not been negotiated as of this writing. A great consolation is that we are not alone in this venture and that the sisters of Beacon, Danville, and Oldenburg have paved the way before us.



Bernadette's Paschal Candle

Milestone Celebration

May 16 has special significance in our community. On this day in 1923 a small band of sisters came from Saint Louis to found Cleveland Carmel. Pat O'Brien shares in the festivities because May 16 is also her birthday. This year she celebrated her 90th Birthday. A special liturgy, offices, meals, flowers, and fun followed Pat through the day. We even passed around binoculars during dinner to view a brown thrush perched on a branch in the yard near the refectory. It was truly a day of rich blessings for Pat, the community, her family, and friends.



Mary K, Barb, Pat, Donna and Bernadette celebrating Pat's 90th Bday



Pat and Donna

Our Response to Social Justice Concerns

We continue to write our members of Congress regarding immigration, gun control, the farm bill, domestic violence, healthcare, and foreign policy issues. We thank the efforts of NETWORK Catholic Lobby and our own Diocesan Office for Peace and Justice in their educational outreach and suggestions for appropriate action steps.

Blessings and peace to all as we celebrate these beautiful summer months.

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Concord, New Hampshire

At this time we have no news that we are ready to report. Next time... we will share our news from spring and summer together.

May all of our sisters have a graced and blessed summer.

Carmel of the Sacred Heart and of the Holy Face

Danville, Pennsylvania

and

Carmel of the Mother of God

San Rafael, California

will also share their news next time.