



CCA NEWSLETTER  
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FEBRUARY 2020



BALTIMORE, MD  
BARRINGTON, RI  
BEACON, NY  
BOSTON, MA  
CLEVELAND, OH  
CONCORD, NH  
DANVILLE, PA  
ELDRIDGE, IA  
LATROBE, PA  
OLDENBURG, IN  
RENO, NV  
SAN RAFAEL, CA



*Sr. Robin Stratton*

## **Carmel of the Sacred Heart**

Baltimore, Maryland

### **Events**

In mid-October Fernando Millán Romeral, O.Carm., who recently completed 12 years as Prior General of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance, came with Quinn Conners to celebrate Sunday Eucharist with us. He was in the States to give the opening address at the inauguration of the Carmelite Chair at Catholic University in Washington, DC. They stayed for brunch afterward, and we had a delightful visit. On the Feast of Our Holy Mother five of the nuns went to Washington to help celebrate the inauguration of the Carmelite Chair at the Catholic University of America. Fernando gave the address and spoke of Titus Brandsma and his love for Saint Teresa.

We ended our first semester of Spanish lessons with a Spanish Mass and dinner with our professor on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Now we are beginning our second semester – ah, the verbs!

Barbara Jean's brother Reggie died on January 14. She had visited him recently, which was a blessing. Several of the Sisters drove to Long Island to be with her for his funeral services several days later. Please pray for him and his family.



*Sr. Mary Eileen  
turns 100.*

Our Mary Eileen celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in great style. She was in fine spirits and enjoyed every minute of the day. We had about forty members of her family join us for a special Mass and luncheon. Mary had prepared a huge display of pictures of Eileen's life on the refectory wall. Celia had a video produced by Storia Productions that included an interview with Mary Eileen, several of her family members, and some of the Sisters.

It was touching to see it in the chapel

before Mass. At the rate she's going, she'll reach 101...



*Sr. Mary Eileen with TOCD  
group.*

### **CCA**

We have been spending a great deal of time and effort on preparations for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Caroline O'Hara from Beacon was here to work with Colette in November. Marjorie Robinson came in January to work with Connie (who is also working on her

paper for the Ghent meeting in May. We have been treated to learning about events and people she uncovers in her research). The Leadership Team, Bernadette Therese, Cecilia Kang, and Monika Bies met here in late January. Rosalind Forrest was unable to come and was with them via Zoom technology.

Many of the Sisters participated in the excellent communications workshop presented by Kathy Galleher PhD, and sponsored by CCA via Zoom. It is always good to be with our Sisters and to experience the ever-growing bonds of trust among us. The questions for discussion elicited quite a spirited response!

### Liturgy

A couple of years ago, we invited some members of our Sunday congregation to meet with us in order to brainstorm ideas for the seasons of Advent and Lent. The five members of our liturgy committee meet with them for about an hour after Eucharist on Sunday a month ahead of time. Ideas fly around the conference room like butterflies, and we leave with our heads full of themes, possibilities, and hopes to work with for the upcoming season.

The Sisters of Mercy recently sold the Villa where their senior Sisters resided and moved into one wing of a local assisted living facility. They approached us to ask whether they could use our Chapel for the funerals of their Sisters. We have been close to these Sisters since forever, and it seemed so appropriate to be able to share our Sacred Space with them. They prepare their own services, and we provide what's needed for the funeral. We had our first experience a few weeks ago, and it seems to have gone seamlessly. A number of the older Mercy Sisters remarked how grateful they were to be in such a beautiful place and that it seemed so appropriate to be here, given the long historical bonds between us.

On Gaudete Sunday each year, we host the Class of 1953 from Loyola Blakefield High School for a Mass for their deceased members. This has been going on for at least 20 years. A dear friend of ours, who was a member of the class, began the tradition, and when he died several years ago, we thought it would cease, but others have picked up the baton, and it continues. On the eve of Saint John of the Cross' feast, we had our annual "Advent Candlelight and Vigil with Saint John of the Cross" during which we tell the story of the Incarnation with the *Romances* of our Holy Father as the readings. We had our regular piano accompanist as well as a guest flautist and soloist. The chapel was filled with candlelight, and on the altar our statue of the Infant was enthroned. This statue, known as "Divine Wisdom," has been in the community since the mid-eighteen hundreds. It belonged to Mother Louise Pekochek, one of the nuns who taught in the school from 1831-1851.



### Festival of Learning

It was different this year. Rather than explore cutting edge theology, science, or spirituality, we needed the time for a variety of pressing issues. We worked on the CCA questionnaire regarding *Cor Orans*. Liz Sweeney SSJ helped us with preparations for our February elections. Kate Asselin, who, as you know, is working for CCA, spent part of a day with us examining our

present situation and looking at practical ways in which CCA could be of assistance. We spent one evening making masks. On All Saints of the Order, we made our annual pilgrimage to the cemetery to visit the nuns on whose shoulders we stand. We held a short prayer service at the old part of the cemetery, the one that holds the remains of Sisters from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, then moved on to the newer plot, where Sisters with whom many of us lived are buried. We told stories, remembered, and prayed. It was a glorious day – from the top of the hill, one has a panoramic view of Baltimore and the bridge that leads into the Chesapeake Bay. This was the last event of the 2019 Festival of Learning!

## Retreats

We hosted both Hilary Case and Marjorie Robinson for their private retreats.

We had to cut our own community retreat in January by one day because of community happenings. Of course we promised ourselves a day sometime in the future – you know how that is! The theme of the retreat was “Many Voices Made of Longing.”

The first four days were led by Chris Koellhoffer, IHM, the director of *Mobile Spirituality Ministry* in Scranton, PA. We had four days with a daily conference followed by three unstructured days.

Lent is hard upon our heels. May we accompany Jesus into the desert and meet one another there in love and prayer. Till next time...

## **Carmel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Therese**

Barrington, Rhode Island

*Sr. Sue Lumb*

Hi Everyone, our CCA Scribe for the past 9 or so years, Sr. Roseann, has, deservedly so, asked for a break from this responsibility. We are grateful for her dedication to sharing our story with you, the serious events as well as the humorous ones. So, for at least this edition, I will try to walk the path of “scribe.”

October is a beautiful month in the northeast with the trees pleasing the eye with bright colors of red, gold, and orange. Yet nature is equally beautiful when the stark leafless branches stand naked in front of a sunset deep with red and gold sunlight. For a few evenings the Barrington beach became engulfed in orange – sky, water, sand all reflected the burning sun -- everyone stood still, quiet, embracing nature’s beauty. Such peace can also be experienced when snow falls gently (or wildly), and everything receives a white mantle with a tint of blue in the early morning hours.

During the October community retreat and in December for St. John of the Cross' Feast day we had the privilege of Fr. Mark DeVelis coming here to feed our souls with his research and reflections on St. John of the Cross and to celebrate the liturgy with us. His conferences were titled "Union with God," including references to the *Romances*, *The Dark Night*, *Spiritual Canticle*, and a few of John's poems. He explored the relationship with God as one of presence centered on the Beloved in Love. Being centered calls us to discipleship -- a "great challenge for us all as it leads us to the gradual process of transformation." Fr. Mark concluded with stanza (38) of *SC*: "There you will show me / What my soul has been seeking."

Just a quick reference to his talk on "Asceticism." In his discussion about John's "asceticism of negation," Mark referred to it as an expression of love and the desire for inner renewal through prayer, humility, detachment, along with suffering. No one escapes suffering but for good reason because it places us in the profound mystery of love. I love how Mark puts it: ". . . only God will satisfy the human heart; so choose God and submit to his cure, which is the Night." May we enter the *night* with confidence and courage and even find rest.

Another surprise event was receiving a call from Mark Patinkin, a *Providence Journal* writer who does special topics. He had interviewed one of the priests of the Diocese who told him about us. Guess it was interesting enough that he asked to come to interview us. Patricia, Beth, Mary D., and I met with him for a two-hour interview, but he was so interested in the lifestyle and asked good questions that to be with him was a pleasure. Every once in a while Sr. Patricia would ask if he was feeling a sense of conversion, and he would respond: "Almost, but I have to think about it." And then he would look at her intently and say: "No way are you 99 years old." She would laugh! Topics for discussion were free flowing and comfortable. It seems to have been of interest to his readers because people wrote to thank us for living a life of prayer, and more people are attending our Sunday Mass. We are grateful for Mark Patinkin's kindness and interest.

Every year for about 30 years the Gregorian Concert Choir from the Cathedral in Providence has offered us an afternoon to enjoy seasonal and sacred music. The public is invited, and this year we had a packed chapel (maybe this was another gift from the article in the *Providence Journal*?). It was great to have so many with us to enjoy the music. Refreshments followed the concert to give people a chance to chat and meet the members of the choir



*Msgr. Mancini and Sr. Gen  
with Choir*



*Thanksgiving dinner at  
Barrington*

Thanksgiving was lovely. Our friends are so generous in sharing food and good wishes. Dinner was delicious.



December 1 was not just the beginning of the month but the first week of Advent. Advent – Christmas – profound liturgies, contemplating the crèche - giving and receiving gifts both spiritual and material – cold temps – mittens and boots and parkas – sending out Christmas cards or the intention to do so, but somehow time intervened, and cards still sit waiting to be sent. Sr. Marian came back to the monastery for a few days including Christmas. And she came back the first week of January for her birthday (1/2/34 – yup, that’s her birthdate!). But Marian had to return to St Clare’s earlier than planned because she had a virus that, unknown to her, began at the nursing home, and the staff thought she should return. Next we knew St Clare was quarantined – no visitors for a week or so – guess people were getting cabin fever. Marian is doing okay now; thanks be to God.



*Barrington crèche*

Sr. Mary Gehring is not able to come back for a visit because it would be too confusing for her. But her smile is as welcoming as ever – whether she knows you or not. Many in her nursing home also had the virus and her wing was quarantined. But all is well now. Sr. Mary Theresa also joined us to celebrate her birthday, Christmas, and her 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of vows on January 1. Sr. Anne Marie had an opposite experience – the day after Christmas she ended up going to the ER and then for a 3-night stay in the hospital and from there to rehab. She is a walking miracle with her triple bypass, 8 stents, and a pace maker – her heart just keeps on pumping and may it do so for years to come.

We were aware of the holidays pointing to a new year and the questions that it brings about the future. Some of you have had to make decisions, and we pray that any changes experienced have been good for you. We ask for your prayerful support as we continue the discernment process with a bit more anxiety and awareness of changes occurring more frequently and demanding decisions.

January was a month of anticipation: February 2 was Sr. Eileen’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since entrance. She asked to have a celebration with just community on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but in the spring a celebration with family and friends. February 2 was also Sr. Maria Francesca’s 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the World Day of Consecrated Life - and it was Super Bowl Sunday - even if the Patriots are among the missing. February 12 -15 was the visitation in preparation for elections in March. Fr. Leonard Copeland and Sr. Bernadette Therese will be the visitators. February 26 is Ash Wednesday, and off we go into the Lenten season. Just a curious question: The Advent pilgrims seem to outnumber us Lenten pilgrims here in Barrington – how about with you? But, we are all part of the same mystery, so blessings on all.

Thanks and prayers from all the Sisters in Barrington.

A “rookie scribe,”

Sr. Sue



*Sr. Carolyn O'Hara*

## **Carmel of the Incarnation** Beacon, New York

Look forward to our news next time!



*Sr. Mary-Clare Doherty*

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

Boston, Massachusetts

At the end of last year, during the Christmas season, we fell victim to the “bug” which came in the form of virus, flu, and/or cold, depending on the form in which its evil little heart decided to attack. Things were at the point where friends of Sr. Agnes came to take down all the choir and outside decorations for us. At present it is making valiant efforts to return, so if our report seems somewhat lacking in its usual high standard, your compassion will compensate. We might mention that Sr. Eileen Mary, though she weathered a bruised nose and fractured toe from a fall, was the only one who didn’t succumb to the bug, so far.

### **EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS**

On Oct.11, Mary Teresa celebrated her birthday to a theme of “New York and Snow.”

On the feast of OHM, drawing more blessings from heaven, Sr. Maria renewed her vows

And earlier this year, Sr. Marieleth received her green (rather greenish-blue) card and has become permanent.

We had our celebration of the Lunar New Year with an added surprise. One of the Mass celebrants, who is from Vietnam, presented each of us with a red envelope containing a Bible quote and a new two-dollar bill. He told his Vietnamese community, who have been exceptionally good to us, that he was coming here, and they needed to give him something to bring.

## VISITORS

A group of students and staff from Boston College came one afternoon for tea and pastry and to hear about the Carmelite call. Everyone was quite pleased with the visit. A second group is scheduled for April. And one of the students is coming earlier in April to share her paper on Mary Magdalen



*Fr. Mark Joseph, Fr. Xaverio, and Boston Carmel*

We were very happy to receive Fr. Xaverio, OCD, who was visiting in Brighton and managed time to come with Fr. Mark Joseph for Mass and breakfast.

Bishop Hennessey, who now and then takes the opportunity to give us a later Mass, came with two of his priest friends for Mass and lunch.

Bishop Mark was here for Mass and took the opportunity to share with us on the New England bishops' ad limina meeting with Pope Francis and also on the National Bishops' meeting. We asked a good many questions, and he answered them all quite openly.

Cardinal O'Malley had been scheduled to come during the Christmas season, but we asked him to cancel indefinitely due to the bug we were presently entertaining.

Bernadette Therese has been doing a goodly share of visiting that brought her to Indiana to the Queen of Carmel meeting with Fr. Rafael OCD, to an LT meeting in Baltimore, and some sisterly and canonical visits.

## PRAYERS

Jeanne-Marie spent some time at her mother's recently as Mrs. Graham moved into an assisted living facility, Carmel Terrace run by the O.Carm. Sisters. Though her mother seems to be adapting well, I'm sure she would appreciate a prayer from you.

And, you were praying for Sr. Mary Teresa's terrible cough. A woman, who comes here for Mass on Sundays, heard sister's cough and began to treat it with herbs that she brought here and prepared faithfully each day, and Mary Teresa faithfully drank it each day. And then, what none of the doctors' visits accomplished, happened. It left. But do keep Sister in your prayers as this latest round of bug is threatening to bring the cough back to life.

## FORMATION SPEAKERS

We continue to be blessed with excellent speakers, thanks to their talents and Sr. Mary Teresa's hard work. This period all of them were from Boston College. In the first half of October, Fr. Michael Simone, SJ, spoke to us on the Gospel of Matthew, followed by Professor Andrew Davis, who came later in the month and spoke on biblical covenants. Andrea Vicini, SJ, was with us for the first time. Coming from Italy, a medical doctor and professor of moral theology and bioethics, he is somewhat new to BC. His topics were reproductive issues and gender issues. His input was both clarifying and encouraging. Richard Clifford, SJ, spoke on apocalyptic gladness and the end-of-the-year lectionary readings. Barbara Quinn, RSCJ, came in December. Her talk was entitled "Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation: Earth Meets Heaven Here and Now." A second new speaker



from Boston College was Dr. Dan Daley. His morning topic was “Structures of Virtue and Vice” and in the afternoon he spoke on medical and end-of-life ethics. Speaking of carbon footprints, he noted that the average worldwide is four, while for the homeless person in the States it’s eight. He figured his own was about thirty due to his air travel. Lastly, a third speaker, who was also new to our program, was Matthew Monnig, SJ, who spoke on “Satan in the Lukan Narrative and Theology.” The three speakers who were with us for the first time were exceptionally good, in both content and delivery.

On December 2 Fr. Johann Baptist Metz died. He had come here as the first speaker in BC’s Joseph Chair. His wisdom is well known, but we were particularly delighted by his simplicity. Fr. Bob Daly, SJ, accompanied him on that day and was reminiscing with us about how, when we asked about taking a photo, Fr. Metz responded, “Just a minute,” then took out a comb, combed his hair, and agreed.



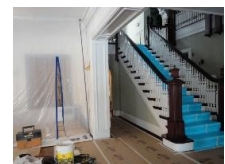
## **Carmel of the Holy Family**

Cleveland, Ohio

*Sr. Maria Viatori*

### Adjustments and Tweaks

During the autumn season we presumed that we were home free in our new monastery, free from major renovation projects; however, after having had extensive painting completed, we noticed bubbles forming on the wall of our living room. Our master plumbers came and made the dreaded diagnosis: the plumbing stack running from the second floor to the basement was corroded. Once again, we were living with plastic sheeting and blue protective covering on the floors. We survived through several weeks of repair as we began the new year.



*View of our former chapel well-stocked with furniture*

The process of cleaning out the monastery on Fairmount Boulevard was a chore that demanded our continued attention. We hired an estate sale company that held a three-day sale of items that were still in the monastery after our move to Arlington Road. The sisters moved all the light pieces of furniture to the first floor and the movers came to handle the large pieces. The former chapel, choir, Blessed Sacrament chapel, and library were transformed into huge furniture and household boutiques. The items that were not sold were donated to a worthy charity that provides services to persons and families who need a helping hand

in life. It was a mammoth undertaking that took months of preparation, and we all breathed a sigh of relief when the task was completed.

### Traditions with a New Twist



*Srs. Mary K.,  
Donna, and Barb  
enjoy a Christmas  
visit with friend,  
Grace Carroll*

We had all of our Christmas decorations boxed and stored on the third floor of our new home. The question was, “Where does everything go?” We had fun trying to place cherished items in new spaces and decorate with a new sense of purpose and care. We were all very pleased with the results and gave ourselves a pat on the back for our artistic flair.

In years gone by on December 24, we would sing and bless the various rooms of the monastery with incense before one of the sisters would sing the Martyrology during Morning Praise. For anyone who sings, the swirling incense is no friend to vocal cords, especially in the wee hours of the morning. This year we adjusted the schedule and had the blessing of the house on Christmas Eve afternoon. We were all thrilled to have Bernadette swing the incense at a reasonable hour.

### Celebrating Christmastide

Father Tim Kesicki, SJ, and his family joined us for Christmas liturgy. Tim is a close friend and has celebrated with our community for many years. Bishop Martin Amos also was gracious enough to celebrate several liturgies with us during the Christmas season. We prayed in the New Year and celebrated the coming of 2020 with cheer and gratitude!



*Community with Fr. Tim and  
his parents*

### This House Shall Echo Praise



*Srs. Barb, Donna, and Fr.  
Don Cozzens at Donna's  
profession*

Sr. Donna of the Holy Spirit pronounced her perpetual vows in Carmel during the Liturgy of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, 2020. It was a joyous reunion of family, friends, and those who celebrated Eucharist with us at the Fairmount Boulevard monastery. We were blessed to have the ceremony at the Marian Chapel of the Church of the Gesu in University Heights. Father Don Cozzens presided and spoke of the gifts of patience and solitude that the prophet Simeon and prophetess Anna would bequeath to Donna on this special occasion. Don eloquently conveyed the wishes of Donna's community, family, and friends that she receive the blessings of deep peace, uplifting joy, and wisdom that would carry her through the pilgrimage of life. The

Eucharistic celebration and profession ceremony were a true culmination of Donna's journey in seeking to live the life of Carmel. Gesu Parish and our Jesuit community also provided gracious

hospitality for the reception that followed the liturgy. After the reception Donna's family shared a lovely meal with the community. It was a perfect day from beginning to end.



*Sr. Donna celebrating with family and community*

### Your Prayers

Sr. Bernadette Kamin's sister Maria Kosir died on January 26, 2020.

"Mici" and her family had visited Bernadette on December 26, 2019, and had a wonderful time showing pictures of their family trip to Slovenia the previous summer. The throng of people who gathered to pay condolences at Mici's wake and funeral was a testament to her sheer goodness to so many people in the Saint Vitus Parish community. Thank you for praying for the Kosir and Kamin families.

### Letting Go and Receiving New Life



*Sr. Barb signing THE important papers*

On February 11, 2020, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we learned that the Dalad Group had decided to close on the sale of the monastery and property, thanks to the efforts of the excellent commercial real estate group who assisted us. On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, the title officer came to our Arlington Road monastery, and all the documents relative to the selling of our former monastery were signed. The Dalad Group will use the existing building and convert the monastery into condominiums with other units constructed on the property. The members of our Advisory

Committee, specifically the Ad Hoc Team focused on selling the monastery, were an invaluable source of support and wise counsel.

This has been a very lengthy process for our community. This arduous journey began in October 2015, when we made the decision to move out of the Fairmount Boulevard monastery. There were many twists, disappointments, and detours through the years; however, we believe that we grew in resilience and hope. We could not have done this work of grace without the strong and capable leadership of Sister Barb Losh who consistently encouraged us to move forward through the challenges of letting go and receiving new life.

We thank all the communities in our Association for your continued support and prayer as we walked this long uncharted journey to a new monastery home.



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

Concord, New Hampshire

*Sr. Hilary Case*

Happy New Year from Concord Carmel! Our news is sparse this time, so I am sending you a picture that looks like flowers in winter! It's our front rhododendron bush in "bloom."

Blessings to all and more next time. Love from us to you!



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

Danville, Pennsylvania

*Sr. Angela Pikus*

Our Sister Margaret Kob has authored a book entitled *Sparkles on the Gihon: A Beginner's Delight in Scripture Study*. It consists of a collection of 152 scriptural reflections in verse form in four groupings: Old Testament, Liturgical Year, New Testament, and Prayer

Ponderings. Following these there are eight essays on figures in the Old Testament, concluding with reflections on the mysteries of the rosary. Instead of publishing it in paperback, Sr. Margaret decided to put all of these on the internet for immediate and widespread access at: <https://sparklesonthegihon.wordpress.com/> It can also be accessed on Facebook. Just a word of information: the Gihon is one of the four branches emanating from the river which rises up in the Garden of Eden. The Book of Sirach 24-25 tells of the sparkles of the Gihon with the rich beauty of vintage time.

As you know, here at Maria Hall we share in the richness of the feasts of the other communities residing here: Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Religious of the Good Shepherd, and, of course, Sisters of SS Cyril and Methodius. We have been called upon to contribute to our Carmelite celebrations, e.g., with planning of the liturgies for these feasts, and sharing meditations from Our Holy Mother and John of the Cross.

Recently, our sisters in skilled nursing care at Immanuel Center have had visits from their families. Sr. Joan Lundy's nephew and grandnephew from Reno visited, and Sr. Anne Mika's niece, grandnephew, and his fiancé from Chicago also visited. The families are very devoted, even to sending a large bouquet of flowers for Sr. Joan's enjoyment.

The fall and winter up till now, have been quiet for us at Maria Hall, except for the visit of Santa Claus Jake Trevor of the Danville Fire Department who arrived on Christmas afternoon in a shiny red fire engine, minus the siren. Santa provided a bag of candies for each of the Sisters at Maria Hall.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur will be leaving Maria Hall to go to their convent in Cincinnati. But there is the real hope that other Sisters will come; Maria Hall is known somewhat widely.

We continue our ongoing education with the wonderful CDs on Christology put out by *The Great Courses*, an easy and quality way of learning.

Sr. Angela continues to assist the Secular Carmelites in their monthly meeting, offering a presentation on a Carmelite theme, saint, or prayer. The group has one new member who recently made first promises.

From all of us comes a loving and prayerful wish for a blessed New Year.



*Santa visits Sr. Margaret  
at Maria Hall*



## **Carmel of the Queen of Heaven** Eldridge, Iowa



*Sr. Miriam Hogan*

In Eldridge, we have been very aware of the rapid passing of time, since our Sr. Lynne went home to God last March. First, we faced the reality of the need to begin to downsize the monastery. From that time forward, with the exception of a joyful and peaceful break for Christmas, it has been meeting after meeting after meeting...



*Sr. JonFe and  
Br. Larry*

Sr. Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP, was here just about every month and Brother Larry Lundin, SJ, Associate Director for Finance and Administration from RCRI, recently came to help with the financial matters. It was a delight to meet with him for our meals and to hear him share



*Sr. Kathleen*

some of his Jesuit wisdom and expertise. We have also met with a lawyer and several different realtors. While more meetings are scheduled, the realtor who brought us birdseed has to be regarded as special. Still with an adequate food supply, our birds, squirrels, possums, and raccoons do not seem to be disturbed in the least. Please keep us in prayers, however, as it is indeed a stressful and difficult time for all of us. As much as we have been blessed with meeting good and competent people, we also know that there are not too many people looking to buy a monastery these days.

Sr. Mary Jo's article entitled "Embracing and Expressing New Experiences of God," first published on the Official Website of the Carmelite Order, seemed a helpful writing to consider on the anniversary of her death (Feb. 11, 2014) this year. In closing, I will quote a couple of paragraphs:

Is it perhaps true that everything is an experience of God, both the light and the dark? Light events seem easy to recognize as experiences of God. What about the dark ones? What about frustrated plans, illness, diminishment, difficult associates, inability to pray, and all the unanswers that are our constant companions?

...

I can examine whether or not the suffering upon me is really necessary. What is the Reign of God asking of me at this moment? Necessary suffering can carry with it a glimpse of the Resurrection. As the saying goes, sometimes only a glimpse is enough.

Peace and Love, Sr. Miriam



## **Carmel of the Assumption**

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

*Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug*

Look forward to our news next time.



## **Carmel of the Resurrection**

Oldenburg, Indiana

Sr. Jean Alice

October of 2019 ended with the long anticipated CCA visit by Monika Bies from Baltimore and Cecilia Kang from Reno. Being few in number has curtailed our active participation in meetings for many years. Thus, this direct contact means so much. We managed to do and share a lot in our precious two days. My unique experience was having my talk for the June meeting recorded on a DVD. I was quite impressed with our visitors' technical expertise. Our active involvement in CCA ended prior to the new age of computer technology. It is full of surprises. We are very grateful to the many members who made themselves available for these visits and we offer a big "Thank you!"

A friend from Indianapolis always helps us put up our Christmas tree and a unique crib that dates from the early years of our Carmel. It is beautiful to behold! The residents of Oldenburg, mostly Catholics, begin to celebrate Christmas early in the month but they know how to blend this with the prayerful spirit of waiting nourished by the liturgy. Advent here has a special glow.

We have a lovely small chapel in our building (Theresa Hall) where we have our daily times of prayer. A few times a week we go over to the big Franciscan chapel or watch the liturgy via our large television (a special gift in bad weather). From time to time a friend of many decades, Rev. Keith Hosey, comes from Indianapolis to celebrate with us. Right now the Franciscan chapel is

being painted and the Franciscans are having liturgy in their large community room. This is supposed to be finished by Easter. Entering the renewed chapel will be its own “rising.”

Our current spiritual nourishment is based on DVD lectures by Ilia Delio, “Evolution and Christogenesis.” Our first encounter with Ilia was at a CCA meeting in Pennsylvania over ten years ago. She was hardly known then. She started her lectures, as she still does, articulating the worldview that we took for granted decades of our lives. She then opens up new vistas of the “God Within Process.” Each disk has about six parts. We managed to absorb about two at each sitting!

We recently received as a gift a wonderful book written by Sr. Leslie Lund of the Carmelite Sisters of Mary in Washington State. It is titled *Journey into Divine Intimacy with St. Teresa of Avila*. I would simply call it an amazing work, deserving of the excellent reviews it has received. Leslie has been a Carmelite for close to 40 years. Her first years were spent in our monastery in Indianapolis. I was her novice mistress and quickly recognized her special intelligence and her deep interest in the writings of John and Teresa. We will be sending copies to our Secular Order which is growing and thriving. The book is available on Amazon.

Our CCA newsletter will probably arrive at our Carmels early in Lent. We wish each of us a blessed preparation for Easter and a depth of prayer that will help to heal the divisions in our country and bring us back to the original vision of its founders.



*Oldenburg community:  
(seated l-r) Srs. Jean  
Alice and Helen (standing  
l-r) Terese and Marcie*



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

Reno, Nevada

*Sr. Marie-Louise Bishop*

October was travel-filled for several of our community. Sr. Cecelia visited the Oldenburg community October 27-30 for the CCA leadership team and returned with lovely stories of our sisters there. Since Reno was a foundation of their monastery, several of our sisters had lived in the Indianapolis Carmel before coming to Reno. There has always been a special connection and fondness for the community there.

Sr. Maria, who is on our seminary board, visited Mt. Angel seminary in Oregon in October, sharing with our seminarians and the faculty there. Srs. Ann and Susan were in California at the Sisters of Notre Dame's House of Prayer in Carmel, CA to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of entrance into religious life with a lively number of those who were postulants with them in Belmont, CA those many years ago. Many of them have remained close over the years, and there was always an energetic spirit in the group. Judging from Ann and Susan's report, the group is as lively as ever, and they had a simply wonderful time together.

On November 3 we had our annual Open House when our cards, art work, and music are for sale at the monastery for the general public. It seems to get bigger with every passing year, and new visitors join old ones. We provide lunch for the volunteers who help us with the sales and always end the day with a lovely prayer service for our beloved dead. Everyone can leave in a basket a card with the names of family and friends who have gone home to God, which we keep under the altar the entire month of November.

Our liturgists and musicians planned a beautiful Taize prayer service on November 12, and the chapel was almost filled. In addition to Claire's piano, her sister Anne Philpott added the violin, and Fr. Chris Kanowitz provided the harp accompaniment. Our friends and visitors were quiet, prayerful, and deeply appreciative of the experience, and many requested that we do it again in the future.



We were treated to a genuine Quinceanera this fall on November 30 when our grounds-keeper and all-around upkeep man, Victor Gamboa, had his niece's celebration here. The whole family came, and our chapel was lively and decorated for the occasion. We have come to know a good number of his relatives over the years, so it was something of a homecoming for all of us.

Thanksgiving gave us the extra feast of having Claire's two musician sisters here, Anne and Jenny. We are always treated to gorgeous music with piano and two violins at Mass and also some extra musical conversations and talent displays for the community.

We have continued our gathering in the chapel with young adults and the leaders of young adult groups who met in the chapel for silent prayer and reflection on December 9. They are an inspirational group and very much the hope for the future of our local church.



In mid-December Bishop Calvo, who has done considerable study and research on the question of women and the deaconate, gave a presentation on the topic in our chapel. It was attended by a large group with lively questions and answers and was enthusiastically received.

Most of you are aware of our community's loss the beginning of January with our dear Sister Michael going home to God on January 2. Her niece and nephew in law had been to visit her shortly before she took a turn for the worse and quite quickly became weaker, unable to leave her bed. Her brother Larry visited as well before she was completely unable to respond.

We all took turns being with her, with Carol being her primary and skillful care-giver, devoted and continually at her side until she passed on to eternal life. We celebrated her Vigil on January 9 and her funeral on January 10. Many of her family came. Our chapel was packed for the services, with many of our extended community offering recollections from years of experiencing her outreach and friendship with them. Bishop Calvo presided at the funeral. His homily was inspirational and reflected beautifully Sr. Michael's life and role in our community and our extended one of Reno. Everyone was touched by the whole experience.

In the midst of all this our Diocesan Religious Education and outreach conference was held Jan 4<sup>th</sup> this year. As usual we had a booth there to sell our cards and introduce ourselves to those who may not always be able to get to the monastery, especially those from more remote areas of northern Nevada. We always meet new people and are glad to be supporting continuing education of the laity in our diocese by attending the excellent conferences they offer.

Slowly we are adjusting to Michael's loss. She was such a presence and pillar of Reno Carmel since the beginning years, that she is woven into the pattern of our everyday life and an essential part of the fabric of the community we have become. We do experience the joy of having another saint conversing with God on our behalf.

One of Michael's many legacies here was her work as our librarian, and along with our late Sr. Joan, the collector of our community's history. We have been preserving that legacy with a modernizing and streamlining of the library and storage room. Michael's family and several volunteers have been a wonderful help and are spending many hours preserving what she began.



*Srs. Carol and Marie-Louise with Michael's niece Kathy and her husband Amery undertaking some library renovation*