



*CCA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1  
JUNE 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*

As we begin this sharing of our recent months, we hold in our hearts the images and the memory of our historic shared Zoom CCA assembly during the first week in June. How good it was to see so many of us gathered to discuss the issues, dream the dreams, and share the anguish of our lives. Our abiding thanks to the team that has borne the heat of the day and to those who are in process of taking up this ministry and carrying us forward into a new future and further into the Thicket of God.

Now, back to February: During Black History Month, we invited the Gospel Choir from Saint Matthew's Church to join us for a special Sunday Eucharist and "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" with their music. We met them afterward to share coffee and donuts in our Conference Room. It is always an uplifting experience, both for our congregation and for ourselves, and to have the Choir share our Sunday prayer.

In late February we had our election process facilitated by Sisters Liz Sweeney, SSJ, and Connie Gilder, SSJ. Colette was elected Prioress for the next triennium. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Madden and Chancellor Diane Barr were present for the election and stayed to have dinner with us afterward. We entered our usual three-month transition phase little imagining what life would hold. May 1 was the day of Colette's installation as Prioress. The bishop did not come due to the pandemic. He sent a letter, however, stating that Colette was duly elected and giving the names of all the Chapter Sisters who were present and eligible to vote. Another first in our history.



*Srs. Judy Long and  
Colette, past and present  
prioresses*

In early March the implications of the extraordinary coronavirus entered our lives and changed drastically much of ordinary life. We closed our chapel to the public and ceased all outside contact. We have a Communion Service with Lauds each day. Our regular helpers are on furlough. We order groceries online for curbside pick-up or delivery. Our Spanish classes ended, though some of us have continued to study through an online course called *Duolingo*, which is very good. Gov. Hogan of Maryland and our Archbishop Lori have provided great leadership for our people. We are grateful that guidance has been reasonable with common sense. Only now, with the assistance and guidance of our infirmity team, are we beginning to go for necessary doctor appointments.

Just before “lockdown,” Sister Rosemary Kemsley, an Anglican Sister of the Love of God (and a friend of our friend, Dr. Bonnie Thurston), arrived to spend Lent and Easter in our monastery. Well, as you can imagine, Sr. Rosemary is still here and her plans to spend time with Bonnie have evaporated. We enjoy hearing the “Queen’s English” and seeing her botanical drawings and, of course, all this is turning into a special relationship with her and her community in Oxford, England. Rosemary will continue as a welcome and gracious presence among us for however long she needs to stay.

Lupe’s green card arrived at last, and she went to Mexico for an overdue home visit at the beginning of March. She had to come home early and went into quarantine in our retreat space for the recommended fourteen days. Thank God she was fine. No Covid-19!



*Live-streaming Vespers*

Mary and Celia came up with the idea to live-stream Vespers through Zoom one afternoon each week, which would enable our people to stay in touch from home. Twenty-five to forty or more people join us to pray each Tuesday afternoon. Shortly after that, Mary thought about doing *Lectio Divina* on Saturday afternoon as a way of sharing the Sunday Scriptures with some of our congregation. The *Lectio* consists of reading the Gospel, a commentary by a scripture scholar or

theologian, small group sharing, and prayers. It lasts an hour and a half. What started as an experiment with about 15-30 people, has now grown to 150-300 people from around the world. Participants include lay people, secular Carmelites, Carmelite Nuns, Sisters of many congregations, priests and seminarians – and you are welcome to join us any Saturday. You can register on our website: [www.baltimorecarmel.org](http://www.baltimorecarmel.org).

Holy Week and Triduum were unique. Because we had no clerical presiders, we adapted the Services as best we could, and walked with Jesus through those Sacred Days, which had an elegant simplicity and silence throughout. On Easter Sunday, Luisa, Monika, and Celia, who are acquiring a reputation for themselves with the organ, piano, and tympani, treated us to music that was truly a fitting alleluia conclusion to the mysteries of the Triduum and the Resurrection of Jesus. As has become our custom, on a beautiful evening several weeks after Easter, we gathered around the remains of the Easter Fire and finished burning the logs as we roasted marshmallows, made S’mores and remembered Our Holy Father’s *Living Flame of Love*.



*Srs. Robin, Judy Murray, Judy Long, and Barbara Jean with the remains of the Easter fire*



*Happy Birthday,  
Connie!*

We had a shortened, though welcome, Pentecost retreat that ended with Connie's birthday celebration on Pentecost eve. It was a good way to honor the abundant life we have among us and around us. Our spring has been lovely with flowering bulbs, trees, perennials and some early garden greens (delicious). Everything is doing beautifully.

In between, Sr. Liz Sweeney, SSJ, has been facilitating us in the practice of communal contemplation by means of what is called "WE-space prayer." It is a way of entering more deeply into a larger consciousness as we attempt to let go of our individual desires, thoughts, and enter into the larger world of the whole community – world – universe. Liz does this by Zoom since at the moment she cannot come in person.

Of course, we cannot go to see our Mary Eileen, Anita, and Veronica personally at Maria Health Care Center. Judy Long arranges a FaceTime visit periodically to keep us all connected. Whoever is available gets together and chats with them, thus easing their and our feelings of isolation and separation. No one among the residents at the Center has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus, thank God.

One of the more interesting commitments our vocation team has taken on is a Saturday morning Zoom with our three (maybe four) possible applicants. They spend an hour with them discussing some Carmelite texts and/or Carmelite spiritual reading. One evening the community had a pizza supper by Zoom with them, which was fun. Our challenge is how to make visits happen with the coronavirus around.

We still live in the happiness and enthusiasm of our CCA meeting. While this pandemic is afoot, we pray good health and blessings to all. Please stay well – enjoy the summer months and the feasts we celebrate together!

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

Sr. Sue Lumb

What can be of greater consequence to our daily living than the pandemic with its global impact? So many deaths, especially among the poor and the elderly. At the same time, it was as if life had been put on hold due to the virus until new ways of living in the wake of its force become the "new norm." Governmental regulations, such as *social distancing, wearing of masks, quarantine*, became familiar social practices while threatening the stability of institutions such as education, employment, finance, sports.

The question remains – “how much longer will this impact our lives on all levels?  
Radical change is upon us as Covid-19 rages on.

On another note, we'd like to tell you two sisterly events that happened during this time. Sister Patricia had her one hundredth birthday. (Is she the oldest CCA Carmelite?) Family members were ready to come -- 70+ -- from all over the country – but the party had to be postponed. Hopefully, we'll celebrate her 100 years before she turns 101.

Sister Gen's event was not a party, but a fall that sent her to the hospital for two days and then to rehab where she continues to be. Marian has been calling her every day and the two of them support each other; for several months nursing homes have been closed to visitors because of the virus. It is a true experience of being quarantined. Since life is in the slow lane, maybe you would enjoy one of Aesop's fables - you might hear something that points to a truth in life – or – you might just smile!

### ***“The Mice in Council”***

Once upon a time all the mice met together in council, and discussed the best means of securing themselves against the attacks of the cat. After several suggestions had been debated, a mouse of some standing and experience got up and said, *“I think I have hit upon a plan which will ensure our safety in the future, provided you approve and carry it out. It is that we should fasten a bell around the neck of our enemy the cat, which will by its tinkling warn us of her approach.”* This proposal was warmly applauded and it had been already decided to adopt it, when an old mouse got upon his feet and said *“I agree with you all that the plan before us is an admirable one. But may I ask who is going to bell the cat?”*

A last word from Leonard Cohen:

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.*

Warm and restful summer days.  
Sr. Sue





## ***Carmel of the Incarnation***

*Beacon, New York*

Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

I have mentioned before the excellent nursing home, Ozanam, in Queens (NYC) where our Sr. Jeannie and the Redemptoristine's Sr. Lydia now reside. October 5 our Sr. Ann joined them there. She had come to require more care than we could manage here, even with aides coming in. She herself made the decision, and told us later that when she got there, she spontaneously thought, "Yes, this is where I need to be." Her acceptance and subsequent good adjustment are a model!

Also in October, Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm., the provincial in Middletown, and two pre-novices came to dinner. Fr. Mario had just come from their general chapter and raved about the talk our Fr. Saverio gave at the beginning of the Chapter.

Later in the month Kate Asselin came to interview us as part of CCA's Shared Services project. We have some experience in using outside services and could share that with Kate, as well as learn from her.

Both Sr. Marjorie and I have traveled to Baltimore Carmel to work on our presentations for the CCA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, I with Sr. Colette, and Marjorie with Sr. Connie. Some day...or year!

And speaking of delayed anniversaries, we were set to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> in this archdiocese on July 16, and even had the Cardinal committed to coming. Some day...or year.

Having lost one facilitator when her community asked her to relocate to Rome (Italy), we searched for another and had a preliminary meeting with Sr. Florence Hee in January. We intended to continue with her to look at our present functioning and our future...then along came Covid.

Our experience of life in the pandemic is probably not very different from many of yours. We have not had Mass since about March 21. Any appointments for the next months were cancelled. Our cleaning people were furloughed (with salary), the parish volunteers who answer the door and phone no longer came, we received no visitors, and our food service staff are masked and gloved, and stay at a distance from us. We begin the day with Morning Prayer and Communion service.



*Staying safe*

We are aware that we already have so much that makes it easier for us than for many to live in quasi isolation: a large and comfortable building, beautiful grounds to walk or sit on, a worship structure already in place, an appreciation of silence and solitude, and the support of each other. Our liturgy committee did a marvelous job of planning the Sacred Triduum; the liturgies were beautiful and especially meaningful in the context of so much suffering. We are grateful, too, for the technology that allows face to face communication.

We are also glad to be residents of a state whose governor acted proactively and responsibly, in sharp contrast to the chaotic ineptitude of the federal government. Gov. Cuomo recently ended 111 straight days of public press briefings during which he informed people of what was going on in the state, validated people's feelings, and encouraged following guidelines and best practices. While no one here has yet bought a Cuomo tee shirt (such do exist!), we are appreciative.

Lest life become boring as the state began to open up, the day after Pentecost, a mighty wind (definitely not the Holy Spirit) tore many shingles off our roof. Had it just been wind damage, the insurance would have paid for repairs, but it was found that the roof was old, had three layers of shingle already on it which contained asbestos, and so had to be completely replaced, at our expense. Our favorite contractor actually got the insurance company to pay what they would have paid for a simple repair, then gave us a 10% discount on the rest. In his own words to the insurance agent, "I love those ladies!" Those ladies love him back.



*Sr. Miriam's  
Golden Jubilee*

And, for the pièce de résistance of life in lockdown, on June 3 we had a marvelous and joyful celebration of Sr. Miriam's golden jubilee. Though we could not have the Eucharist, nor any of Miriam's family, nor any guests, we managed to make the day wonderfully festive. The liturgy was lovely and the color gold abounded in the house.

Enjoy all our July Carmelite feasts!



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

*Boston, Massachusetts*

Sr. Mary-Clare Doherty

### **Before the Virus (BV)**

We had started to read *Lover's Quest* by Maximiliano Garcia, OCD, and discussing it on Sunday nights during Lent, a choice that proved to be a very happy one. It's a book worth rereading, and one that lends itself quite readily to discussion.

Our former pastor, who has retired. due to serious health issues, asked to come for Mass. We miss him and were glad that he felt up to coming. After the Mass we promised to have him back again. Then we went from BV to DV

### **During the Virus (DV)**

First came the cancellations: speakers, doctor appointments, meetings, visits. Neither our externs, nor our regular shopper could continue coming. David's and Jola's work was confined to the gardens and the outquarters. People started sending us masks, many masks, and all kinds of produce. Everything gets efficiently sanitized. And one of our bishops offered a supply of sanitizer as well as a thermometer. Irv, the mailman, comes masked, and our mail is left untouched for a day. We have continued to have Mass with the needed adaptations. The older CSsRs have only recently returned, and one of the SJ communities was on lock-down except, it appears, for coming here. And despite an evening curfew added to the regular stay-in-place restrictions, we were able to have the Easter triduum as the curfew did not apply to clergy. We have started to pray the rosary together for all who are dealing with the myriad forms of suffering the virus has inflicted and for a vaccine to be found



*Srs. Agnes and Jeanne Marie  
practice Covid19 precautions.*

And then George Floyd was murdered. We are hopeful that the present marches, prayers, and protests won't be just another case of the "enough is enough" slogan going nowhere. There seems to be greater recognition and acknowledgement of the racism that exists in our culture. And greater hope for its cure. The local press



and the local prelates have, thankfully, become vocal and involved in the demonstrations.

We took this time of quarantine to have some maintenance work done in the outquarters and chapel: needed painting and organ repair, as well as having the chapel and foyer rugs cleaned. David painted the foyer and replaced the ceiling there.



*Happy 80th,  
Sr. Eileen Mary!*

And, despite all that was happening, the month of June had us celebrating three birthdays: those of Bernadette Therese, Jeanne-Marie, and Eileen Mary. As it was Eileen Mary's 80<sup>th</sup>, we made it extra special, beginning with the presentation of a large number 80 made of Brussel sprouts. We received an enormous amount of these little green orbs which Sister finds horrifyingly distasteful. We thought the Lord has a good sense of humor as they arrived just before her birthday. The vegetable was replaced with caramels, eventually.

Each year, beginning around the middle of May, some of our neighbors "treat" us to a display of fireworks which continues through the summer. There is, what might euphemistically be called, a drawback. The fireworks are loud, very loud, and are usually set off in the late evening up 'til 4:00 AM.

Since the stay-in-place ordinance there have been few cars on the road which has markedly lowered the air pollution and given rise to a glorious display of flowers. The animals, too, seem to have taken their rightful (?) place in the community. A wild turkey was seen strutting down the middle of the street with great aplomb, apparently humming "this land is *my* land."



*The beauty of the  
garden*



***Carmel of the Holy Family***

*Cleveland, Ohio*

Sr. Maria Viatori

"To grow is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often."

The above quote from John Henry Newman exemplifies the situation that we find ourselves in during this COVID-19 pandemic. We are called to adapt and change many times because of a virus that has no boundaries or exceptions. We had to marshal our

individual strengths and act as one united force in community to stay healthy and retain our commitment to pray for and with our fragile world.

### Liturgical Shifts

Our last in-person liturgy was celebrated on March 19 on the feast of Saint Joseph. Fr Gary Chmura, our celebrant for that feast day, indicated that things would drastically change as we faced this unwelcomed detour. We made the difficult decision as of March 20 to watch Mass online and receive Eucharist at the appropriate time within Mass. We were blessed to connect with several parishes and Saint Ignatius Jesuit High School for their live-stream Masses. Celebrating the Triduum was definitely different; however, we incorporated a modified *Exultet* and blessed our Easter candle within our Divine Office.



*Srs. Barb, Bernie, Mary K., and Donna around Bernie's hand-carved Paschal candle.*

### On-Going Formation – Ohio Strong

During the latter part of March and extending through April and May, Governor Mike DeWine had daily news briefings from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. We were “glued” to our computers or TV to learn the latest information and decisions. Gov. Mike De Wine, Lt. Gov. John Husted, and Dr. Amy Acton conveyed pertinent facts and collaboratively delegated various cohorts within the state to develop procedures and guidelines that would keep Ohioans safe. We were blessed that Gov. DeWine acted swiftly and kept us informed. Anyone interested in learning effective leadership and administration skills could learn a great deal from the processes used by Gov. DeWine and his team. Ted Diadium, of *The Plain Dealer* wrote in a column on May 8:

The governor has been getting kudos within the state and around the world for his quick action in handling the crisis and his relentless attention to keeping the people informed as to what he was doing and why.

### Helping the Cause

Our benefactors and neighbors came to our rescue during the weeks of sheltering in place. One good friend is still doing our grocery shopping while others continue to help in maintenance or drop off goodies at the porte-cochère. We even had an outdoor “pet therapy” visit from Audrey, a beautiful golden lab with her owner Dr. Julie Keller.

On the flip side, Bernadette, our good will ambassador, keeps tabs via phone to our close friends who live alone and assures them of our prayer and best wishes.



*Donna and Bernie with friend, Audrey*

Donna stepped up to the plate and became our mask maker and hair dresser. You could hear the sewing machine rev up at top speed as Donna proceeded to finish her masterpieces. Our laundry room now has magically been transformed into our hair salon. Necessity is truly the mother of invention.

### Our Sisters at Regina

Anne Joan, Vera Lea and Pat O'Brien continue to do well at Regina Health Center. Barb receives updates from the Administrator regarding the latest policies and status of residents and staff. The one severe draw back from this pandemic is the fact that we cannot physically visit with our sisters. We have bolstered our letter writing and phone calls to them during these weeks of sheltering in place.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: she that has found one has found a treasure. (Sirach 6:14)

At the beginning of the pandemic, Donna received news that her best friend, Eileen Teare, died quite unexpectedly. Eileen taught with Donna at Saint Joseph Academy and was a very close friend for decades. Eileen was such a supportive and caring person, and she extended her gentle, kind ways to our entire community. Thank you for your prayers for Donna and Eileen's family.

### Grateful for Beauty Around Us



As we moved along through the weeks, nature seemed to instantly change to spring. We had snow one day and then high temperatures the next. People would stop and take pictures of our colorful tree peonies or stop and smell the lilacs close to our sidewalk. Bernadette started to plant her garden at the end of May and we look forward to enjoying the bounty of her labors.

*Sr. Mary K with some of our peonies (which are almost as big as she).*

### Zoom Has It Hands Down

Thank you, Bernadette Therese, Monika, Roz, and Cie for all that you have done and continue to do for us. To all who made the Zoom association meeting possible and to all who gave reports, joyful thanks to you. It was amazing to be with so many sisters and to have Nancy, Stefanie, Kate, and Elizabeth present. Thank you, Margie, Roz, Shirley, and Mary for your willingness to serve the association.

### Crisis of Racism

We applaud Pope Francis, Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles, and Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso and many others for their leadership as we face this tragic dilemma in our country and mourn the senseless murder of George Floyd and so many others. As stated by Pope Francis: "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

### A Fitting Closing Prayer

A portion of the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation seems to be an appropriate prayer for this time in our country:

In the midst of conflict and division, we know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace. Your Spirit changes our hearts: enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together. Your Spirit is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness.



Sr. Hilary Case

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

*Concord, New Hampshire*

Our hearts go out to all of you, our sisters, during this pandemic time. We regretfully closed our monastery on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, trusting that he would have understood. We do things in a different way, going out only for essential doctors' appointments and foregoing the celebration of Mass. We miss our neighbors and friends, the people who share our daily Eucharist in normal times. We have, perhaps, rediscovered one another, as we now come together for a sharing on the readings of the day, followed by a sharing of news of all kinds, international, national, local, and personal.

We are grateful to Baltimore Carmel for hosting the inspiring sessions of *lectio divina* on Saturday afternoons. Not even the CCA Meetings, held from Monday through Friday during the week of June 8th, deterred Baltimore from hosting *lectio divina* on Saturday. These meetings are an important opportunity for us to take in the readings for Sunday, hear input from a well-known scholar, pray silently, and share our own insights and concerns with others. While missing our own neighbors, we have made acquaintance with some of Baltimore's neighbors as well as some men and women from other countries. We really appreciate this way of preparing our hearts for Sunday and the following week.

The CCA National Meeting was the highlight of our spring and early summer. Zooming worked very well for us. While getting together in person is still important, it struck us that never before had so many of us been able to "come to the

meeting.” This time, we were able to handle the technological challenges – with some help from our friends, above all, Celia, whose expertise with online meetings approaches wizardry. It is amazing how much business we actually worked through! Our thanks to all who made the meeting so successful. We also look forward to our in-person celebration of CCA’s 50 years...whenever the time is safe to plan on.

In some ways this is a horrifying time to live in, and we are saddened and angered by the brutal murder of George Floyd as well as by the reports of all the people suffering from and dying of COVID 19. Black Lives Matter. All Lives Matter. We pray with and for all who are involved: those who suffer directly, those who care for them, and those who have the responsibility to legislate improvements in social justice and health care.

We want to end this letter on a positive note. Since we have been advised not to go out for walks on the street anymore, we have begun to rediscover our own backyard. It’s on a steep hill which is ideal for exercising (pant, pant), and there is more to see than we remembered. Among the sights of spring were five clumps of daffodils growing out of the old compost pile and some volunteer hosta plants growing around our pond. We have several pairs of birds: two robins, two blue jays, two cardinals, and two bluebirds, plus some downy woodpeckers, and one huge pileated woodpecker. In addition, Sisters Louise and Katharine have seen two wild turkeys, and we’re all watching a whole family, four generations, of woodchucks. Finally, two deer who joined us in late February, have themselves been joined by--not one but TWO healthy fawns. We didn’t realize that there were two for a few weeks, but one night they burst out of the woods together, startling Hilary, who had just come from clipping some bushes outside our choir. Although we don’t try to tame “our” four deer, we are glad that they feel welcome and choose to hang out in our enclosure.

Until next time--we wish you a safe and happy summer season.



Sr. Angela Pikus

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

***Danville, Pennsylvania***

News next time!





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

*Eldridge, Iowa*

Sr. Miriam Hogan

Iowa was under a stay at home order for the last three months. Just this week we were able to have Mass again. Please say a prayer for our Fr. Ed as he lost his younger sister to ALS last week and had to call the police to check on his older sister who did not answer the phone. They found her sitting in place for two days. Father is with the older priests at the chancery and could not travel up to Wisconsin to be with them.

We are praying for all of our Sisters during this pandemic and demonstrations taking place in our cities.

On a happy note, we have been able to have exposition lately. All in God's good hands and time....

The other good news is that the mother raccoon that we were feeding peanuts on our deck after supper came out with her five little ones on Trinity Sunday!

Peace and love to all of our sisters.



### ***Carmel of the Assumption***

*Latrobe, Pennsylvania*

Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

Our last contribution to the newsletter was not included with the rest, since my computer refused to communicate with Sister Donna's. Our Christmas news has been greatly eclipsed by the sudden illness and unexpected death of our Sister

Mary Paul, of which by now you have read in her obituary. When we called the ambulance for her on February 22 because we felt she was having small strokes, it never occurred to us that she would not come home again. Three times she and we were told she would be coming home, and each time a further diagnosis of the real cause of her illness prevented it. By the time they found the lung cancer, she had only hours to live.

At the end of February, one of our volunteers and her husband, Gisela and William, came to share with us their late-fall pilgrimage to St. James Compostela, an event they were looking forward to for some time. Their presentation could not have been more comprehensive. They came in the outfits they wore on the pilgrimage and brought their equipment and backpacks, so we could understand the sacrifice one makes to make this trip. Their slides were extensive and beautiful. They began at the shrine at Lourdes at the Baths and six weeks and 600 miles later they were in Compostela, walking every step of the way. One of the most amazing things about their miraculous pilgrimage was the way someone was always there to direct them when they were hopelessly lost. Many of the ways to Compostela are no more than paths along rivers and through the woods, often poorly marked. They could walk for miles and see no one, but when they were in need of direction there someone would be. Once they found a man sitting on the ground in front of a car in the middle of a field. He took one look at them and pointed out the way, without their needing to ask. It makes one think of one's own pilgrimage through life and how God seems to send someone when he knows we need a nudge in the right direction. This was a good preparation for Lent and the long pilgrimage called Covid-19 we were about to begin.

This was the same day Mary Paul began her pilgrimage into eternal life. Her viewing was held on the last day that public Masses were allowed in the Diocese and social distancing was being enforced. Most of her friends sent their regrets but others came in singularly or in twos. One person couldn't believe she was dead, saying that she had given her the chalice at Communion a few weeks ago. One of our former postulants came from New York. She was particularly close to Sr. Mary Paul and kept in contact these many years. Her funeral Mass, which was still allowed, was sparsely attended, though a few of our Benedictine Fathers concelebrated. We were able to have one Mass offered for her in our chapel before we joined the rest of the Church in being closed.

We had been anticipating that we might not have daily Mass and had a good supply of consecrated hosts that we could have a daily Communion service, which we did with Morning Prayer each day. We were fortunate to be able to have this, though our hearts ached for the people who would call and say how much they missed the Holy Sacrifice and receiving the Eucharist. We missed our daily congregation and some of the people who came on an intermittent basis to help us. Friends called and wrote to see if we were well and needed anything.

Sr. Maria had been ordering the bulk of our groceries online for some months, so her facility at this was a blessing during the restrictive time. Our friends came by to spend time in our chapel, when it was open, and would bring some item that was hard to find.

Palm Sunday Eucharist was viewed online with the Bishop; then, we got the good news that we would have Easter morning Eucharist. We could not imagine Easter without a vigil, so we had our own version, singing the *Exultet*, doing a few of the readings, renewing our Baptismal vows, and having our Communion service. It was the best gift ever to have Mass on Easter with the sequence and Easter hymns.

Our weather has been a bit crazy. We actually had a mini-blizzard in mid-May, though nothing laid on the ground and what we planted survived. Many of our bushes lost flowers, future fruit, and even branches to the late frosts into the end of May.

Our Benedictine Fathers are hoping to have their Abbatial elections on June 22, and are doing their utmost to stay virus-free until this is over. It was postponed once, and they want to get this accomplished and move on. They have been as cloistered as we have, not even visiting their own brothers in their infirmary. Our next Mass opened our State's green phase on Pentecost, and we have had Eucharist every day since, though we are not open to the public yet because of the volume of our regular Sunday congregation and our small space. Being alone helps us to sing as we don't have to wear masks.

There is a little tilled area outside our kitchen windows where Sr. Mary Paul grew tomatoes every year. We didn't want to leave it barren so Srs. Tanya and Mary made two raised box gardens for growing salad greens and some root vegetables. We have been already enjoying the produce. The garden is very neat and convenient to the kitchen. We think Sr. Mary Paul would be pleased. Our other garden has the tomatoes, potatoes, and vining vegetables.

Our community subscribed to Bishop Robert Baron's Word on Fire Institute last year and have been using it for our ongoing formation, to our benefit and satisfaction. We had viewed his series on the lives of some of the Saints on DVDs and decided to subscribe to the website. We have watched the series on the theology of Hans Urs Von Balthasar and found it very inspiring. Now we are finding the series on St. John Henry Newman very educational, especially for those of us who are not familiar with the writings of this saint.

Those of us who participated in the five-afternoon meetings of our Association continue to marvel at how this happened and at the skill that Celia has to make it happen. It was not as good as being in the same room, eye to eye, but it was good to leave satisfied that we had done all we could under the circumstances and with the feeling that we worked together toward our future. Thank you to Celia and all

who made the meetings happen. A very big thank-you to our Leadership Team for their heroic work in this time of challenge and change.

Please remember all our ill friends and family, and for Larry and Joseph Krug, who are seriously ill with non-Covid ailments. We look forward to being able to see you all face to face.



### ***Carmel of the Resurrection***

*Oldenburg, Indiana*

*Sr. Jean Alice*

It was in early March that we heard about the deadly virus that was afflicting our world. One of the first results affecting us was the calling off of the Carmelite meeting in Ghent. On my Jubilee visit to the origins of our Carmel in 2001, Sr. Terese Boersig and I had been in Hoogstraat and Ghent and were so excited about the projected visit of so many Carmelites to that memorable location.

In Oldenburg in the middle of March, we had our first announced death by Covid-19 of someone in Indiana. We are on the campus of the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters. Since then they have been very clear and lined up with rules to keep everyone safe. Anyone entering a building on the campus (Sisters, maintenance people, cooks, nurses, etc.) must have their temperature taken and be wearing a mask. There are over 100 Sisters here, and as we approach the end of June, there has been no case of this virus at the motherhouse. Beside safety rules, it has been so interesting to see the creative ways that have developed to keep the Sisters alive, informed, and intellectually involved and interested in many things.

Sr. Marcie celebrated her 65<sup>th</sup> entrance anniversary on March 17. Considering the circumstances, it was a very small celebration, but full of gratitude for all the joy and creativity she has brought to our community.

This is a quote from our Palm Sunday letter to our friends:

We are entering into Holy Week but there are no Palm Sunday songs of Hosanna here on the Franciscan campus. We are experiencing with the rest of the world the temporary shutdown of the life we are so used to. In a real way our planet is walking the "way of the cross." In spite of quarrels, threats, persecutions, disagreements and forms of war in and between countries, we are in this suffering together. The special gift of our faith is knowing that Jesus Christ,

God Incarnate, is with us every step of the way. John's Gospel expresses this so beautifully: "I am risen and am still with you."

In the eighties we decided to earn our living in a new way by printing books for various publishers, Cistercian Studies, ICS, Crossroads, etc. We purchased some very modern equipment called compugraphic machines, used at that time by the *New York Times*. At the same time, we were more and more drawn to using inclusive language in our communal prayer. This led to our developing and printing a series of breviaries in which we addressed God as You, eliminating both masculine and feminine language. We printed 500 small booklets and when they sold out in no time, we realized that our drawing was universal! Various editions followed, and by 2000 we had developed a two-volume edition that sold 100,000 copies around the globe. When we moved to Oldenburg, the Carmelite Sisters in Reno took over the printing until the demand for the book dropped and no longer supported a large printing.

We were very touched by a recent article written as part of the Global Sisters series by Sr. Judy Best, SSND, a dear friend who has used our inclusive breviary for many years. It was published on the internet April 29. Judy writes:

Eventually, praying the Office led me to a source of strength, a centered place, reminding me of who I am in the body of Christ. Believing this word of God causes me to reflect on what a gift the inclusive *Companion* has been to the church. I realize it has been foundational to my fidelity in religious life. The Carmelite Sisters' story and decision to rewrite an inclusive *Companion* has meant much to me as well as many others."

A priest friend, a professor in a college in California, recently encouraged us to print a new edition of the *Companion*. Not wanting to get involved in all that is demanded by such a project, we delegated him to carry this through. The printing requirements that ended this project for us have changed, so we wish him well with the new possibilities!

It was such a special experience to be part of the Carmelite zoom meeting on June 8. Having been somewhat involved in the planning of what was to be a face to face meeting to celebrate our 50 years, I more than ever realized how much our present leadership has put into their responsibilities and our gratitude is very deep. I thank each of them for our community. We thank Stephanie and our Sisters who are so gifted with computers, zoom technology, etc. We are also very aware of each community and appreciate all that you share with us about your struggles and blessings. You are in our prayers each day.





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

*Reno, Nevada*

Sr. Marie-Louise Bishop

Call this the “Carmel of Reno Covid-19 edition: Carmelite life online and in the midst of the Pandemic.” How the world has changed, and how we have had to change and adapt! We trust that there has been some growth and creativity since our last newsletter was shared. The pandemic has forced us to expand in important and unexpected ways, even as we have diminished in others due to the crisis. On the diminishment side, our calendar of visitors and events for the extended community was cleared. On the growth side, we became creative in finding new ways to stay connected with our local community and to provide them with needed spiritual supports. We have a “Constant Contact” email service that Cecelia and Claire manage where we post reflections and events to send out to our extended community. Lately it has been a major vehicle to keep our friends up to date on the community’s reflections on the pandemic and what we are doing and planning to do with respect to sharing liturgy and events at the monastery.

One of the first things we had to cancel was SaRa’s planned art exhibit in the cathedral in Seoul, Korea. As part of the exhibit she had done a series of beautiful paintings on St. Teresa’s four waters. Rescheduling the exhibit is on hold until the pandemic situation and related travel becomes safe again. Travel by our families and friends planning to visit Reno are postponed to be rescheduled later. Our own travel for family visits and meetings vanished from the calendar. It is a marvel to see how circumstances that turned us all so much inward with community have managed to expand us outward in unanticipated ways.

As a result of these developments, our news this issue is basically domestic and home-centered. The garden and grounds are rejoicing at all the extra attention. One big project was making our vegetable garden squirrel, deer, and rabbit proof. Given how persistent and hungry the critters are, it was no small undertaking. Steve, our jack-of-all-trades, and a creative genius, designed and built screened-in garden boxes that are animal proof and yet allow for plenty of sun and water. They are beautiful too! Susan and all the gardeners rejoice at seeing growing things flourish.



*Susan with the first of three new mesh-covered vegetable garden planters.*



*Roz keeping up the compost bin. The garden loves it.*

Roz has been diligently feeding the worms in our compost dump. Kitchen vegetable and fruit peelings get turned into marvelous compost for the garden and spare a lot of space in the garbage bins. The number of birds enjoying Roz's feeders has been a joy to watch, even if the competition for the food by the squirrels is a challenge. We keep binoculars and bird books by the chair in the dining room so we can watch the various species come and go. God's creation is inspirational. Every little bit we can do to care for the earth helps. With so much less person traffic the wild-life on our grounds have been having been enjoying the quiet of the roads and driveway.

We have also been grateful for being able to stay in touch with our families and many friends via the internet. Fr. Chris Kanowitz, a close diocesan priest friend, has stayed in touch with us on-line. He also set up for his parish community (and anyone else interested) a daily on-line liturgy of the hours with sharing on scripture. Fr. Chris had some of his staff come down with the virus, so he was himself in quarantine. It was an inspiring model for other ways we can reach out and touch others when they most need it.



*Fr. Chris Kanowitz, a close friend with a Carmelite heart.*

Bishop Philip Straling has celebrated daily Mass with us for years since his retirement. He lives not far from the monastery. We have kept in close contact with him since the pandemic began. Carol leaves the last few days' morning papers in his mailbox and drops off some homemade dinners a few times a week. He has been consecrating hosts for our communion services as we need them. A truly pastoral man! Our current Bishop, Randolph Calvo, has been keeping in touch with us as well, sharing developing guidelines and recommendations from the diocese with us so that we can plan judiciously for eventual reopening when that is possible. The diocese has even provided us with disinfecting supplies, digital no-touch thermometer, and other things we will need for safety purposes whenever we can safely begin to have our friends join us for liturgy again. Community meetings to work out all the details needed to plan for a phased-in welcoming of our extended community has occupied a good number of hours and surfaced a myriad of creative ideas.

For all that technology can sometimes feel overwhelming, we are truly grateful for the ways in which it has allowed us to remain connected to our sisters in CCA, across the country, and around the world and to keep up our exchanges with our local community in the city and the diocese.

It seems that our monastery, with more time together given a closed civic community, has become even more connected with national and world events. The profound impact that George Floyd's death has had on our national conscience has deepened our community and our prayer life. It is such a call to be renewed in gospel values and love of neighbor. May we all find in our current civic and medical crises an opportunity to grow in love, generosity, and care for one another.