



CCA NEWSLETTER
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OCTOBER 2019



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

Major Happenings

It's been a busy and exciting summer as you will see.

In mid-June, we had a visit from Barbara Mikulski, former City Council member, Congresswoman and five term Senator from Maryland, accompanied by her Senior Public Policy Analyst Louise Flavahan. Barbara is Maryland's longest-tenured United States Senator, and has recently joined Johns Hopkins University as a professor of public policy and advisor to President Ronald J. Daniels. At Hopkins, she is based primarily in the Krieger School's Department of Political Science, serving as a Homewood Professor, a title reserved for individuals of international distinction and major accomplishment in their fields. She also consults with leaders of the university and Johns Hopkins Medicine on public policy and other relevant issues. After dinner we adjourned to the conference room, and Barbara spoke to us of the process of her decision to retire from the Senate and how she discerned making a new life for herself at Johns Hopkins University. She also spoke of the initiatives taken in Baltimore City and the exciting new blood coming to the fore in national politics. She has been our friend for many years – writing for prayers as far back as the 70s, even before she was elected to the City Council.

In early summer, the sisters from Kirkintilloch Carmel wrote to invite our community to a seminar with Father Iain Mathews OCD. At the end of July, your scribe made the trip and had a glorious time in Scotland. The hospitality of our sisters in the Carmels of Kirkintilloch and Dumbarton could not have been more gracious. The seminar with Iain Mathews, sponsored by the British Association, was held at St. Mary's Redemptorist Centre for Spirituality in Kinnoull (Perth), which gave me the opportunity to see more of the beautiful countryside. While in Dumbarton, Sister Allain Docherty and Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit treated me to a two-hour cruise on Loch Loman, though I failed to encounter "Nessie," the monster who is supposed to inhabit the Lake! Later in my visit, the Kirkintilloch nuns had a workshop with Craig Morrison, OCarm, on *Lectio Divina and the Rule of Carmel*. The whole trip will feed my soul for a long time to come.

Just before the Student Study Week at Whitefriars Hall, Quinn Connors, OCarm, brought Sister Sanny Bruins, OCarm, from the Netherlands for a visit. She stayed for dinner and spoke to us afterward about their project to rebuild Carmel in Holland as communities of equality - women and men working and living together. It is a beautiful vision, and we pray for their future. Afterward, Celia took Sister Sanny and Rebecca to Whitefriars Hall for the Student Study Week – at which Sanny spoke and Rebecca participated.

Early in the day prior to the Newer Members Meeting, we hosted Sisters Agnes Ahn and Marieleth Trinidad from Boston Carmel, Sister Teresa Susan Dreyer from Eldridge, and Gloria Ogni from Kirkintilloch. In the evening Sisters Rosa Maria Rivas Ramos and Claudia Vega Solano, members of the leadership team of the Mexican Federation, arrived. It was a full and happy house overnight. Mary rented three vans to transport everyone to the meeting. While they were here, we were honored to have Agnes' niece, Jisu Jung, with us at Sunday Eucharist. She is an extremely talented piano student at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and played a magnificent Communion Meditation which she had composed. The meeting from all reports was a resounding success. At the end of the meeting the sisters and guests from Boston, Eldridge, Cleveland, Shoreline (Seattle), and Alhambra arrived about 9:45 AM. We had a special breakfast prepared for them. Lots of good conversation. They were given a tour of our archives; then, some left for the airport or the drive home. The rest stayed for dinner after which the sisters from Alhambra and Seattle left for the airport. Agnes and Marieleth stayed till 3:00 PM. How good that they could all stop here for however short a time.



Gloria, Judy M, Rosa, Claudia, Luisa, and Robin in Baltimore following the Newer Members

Sisters Rosa Maria Rivas Ramos, Claudia Vega Solano, and Gloria Ogni stayed on till the day after



Fr. Brent Alexis and Sr. Monica at the Labor Day Picnic

Labor Day, which gave them the opportunity to experience our Carmelite Labor Day picnic. Brent Alexis, OCarm, presided at the 10:30 Eucharist which opened the gathering. The picnic itself was an outstanding success. We had spent most of the week-end preparing food for sixty – which in Carmelite terms means about a hundred! There was a good volleyball game going, and for perhaps the first time, we had sufficient people to make two full teams – it was a wonderful combination of OCarms, OCDs, Secular Order members, prospective applicants, men and women, habits and non-habits – a

glorious snapshot of the Order! The Friars pitched in to replace and put away the furniture. After everyone had left, our visitors (Claudia, Rosa, and Gloria) helped, and we all got the clean-up accomplished in quick order. Afterward we sat outside, talked, cheered, and played games ourselves till supertime.



Secular Order members at the Labor Day Picnic

We have had two young women discerning Carmelite Spirituality with us for several months. They came for Mass on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and were deeply touched by the ritual of our Renewal of Vows. Afterward Mass, they participated in a morning of reflection prepared by Celia and came to dinner with the community before they departed. Several weeks later they took part in the discernment week-end prepared by the Vocation Team. We ask your prayers for them as their journey continues.

Ann and Susan Weber arrived for our “Sisterly Visit” in mid-September. We had good sharing and ended with a pizza party at supper on the last day. It is always a graced time for all of us.

Here, There, What and Who

Mercy Villa, a retirement and skilled care facility owned and operated by the Sisters of Mercy, was sold early this summer. (Our Mother Mary Magdalen and Marie Therese received excellent care there at the end of their lives.) We were told that we were welcome to take anything on the property. Judy Murray, Leah, and Mary made regular forays to dig up azaleas and other plants to transplant to our grounds. We also received the lovely statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette. Mary beautifully landscaped them into a grove of trees that resembled a natural grotto. The last to come were some outdoor benches.



About 20 graduates from our local parish school came for several hours of service work on the trails, outdoor steps, and tennis court one morning. It was a combination of girls and boys. This was early service work as preparation for their Confirmation next year.

Barbara Jean has participated in the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging at Johns Hopkins for some years. According to her: “The study does not provide treatment, but follows the individual participants as they age. Most important, the research from data collected may give knowledge and help in studying the incidence, distribution, and risk factors for disease and what happens in the process of aging.”

On August 25, At 3:00 we rang our tower bells in union with religious people throughout the country, in memory of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slaves in this country and as a prayer for the liberation of all people in bondage.

In early September about half the community began a course in Spanish conversation. Lolita Harmeyer, who has worshipped with us for years, offered to teach us. She is from Spain and has taught on the high school and college level for many years. We’re slow – but persistent.

Veronica celebrated her milestone 90th birthday in a decorated refectory with all her favorites on the menu. We had Spanikopita, mashed potatoes, and carrots, with cherry and pecan pies and Priggles (a local) ice cream for dessert. Ad multos annos!

Blessings for the upcoming Feasts of the Order – may all our Saints intercede for us as we continue the daily trek up Mount Carmel into the Thicket of God.



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

Sr. Roseann Gillice

Greetings from your sisters in Barrington, Rhode Island, in retreat at this time! Fortunately, we were in contact with Fr. Mark Joseph DeVelis, OCD, at Boston Carmel and he was able to accept our request for a retreat on short notice. He gave a conference each day for four days on OHF. What a wonderful gift! The rest of the retreat is hermit style.

In June we gave our Christmas gift to the Secular Order! As in the past, we arranged a lunch for them and engaged one of our Dominican Friars for the conferences during their special "Community Day." Each one was given a booklet about some of the Carmelite saints. They were extremely grateful.

This July was the first time we celebrated a Triduum rather than a Novena for the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; priests are becoming scarcer. Devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is very much alive, and the people are very dedicated in their faith. Our two diocesan priests, Fr. Frank O'Hara and Fr. Bob Hawkins, were a blessing to all.

In August our sisters in Boston Carmel were fortunate to have Fr. Iain Matthew, OCD, as their retreat master. They set aside one day and graciously invited others to share the riches of Father's input. Danvers, Concord, Barrington Carmels and Fr. Mark Joseph DeVelis, OCD, Brighton, were present for the conferences. The setting was congenial for breaking the bread of John of the Cross and OHM, as we shared lunch together in the refectory beautifully decorated by Sr. Marieleth. We remained there for the conference and were enriched in many ways to deepen in the life of God within us to serve the Body of Christ. Our Sr. Anne Marie has been instrumental in recommending Fr. Matthew's book *The Impact of God* and has sold over 2000 copies. Later in the day Fr. Matthew gave the Fall Lecture to the people in the chapel.

The CCA Newer Members Meeting was attended by Srs. Maria Francesca and Roseann in Faulkner, MD. I am sure the whole Association would have benefited from the talks and experiences. It was a joy to connect with the sisters who prepared the way for us in the past, to hear again their history, to share their spirituality. It was a bonus to do this with our three Associations in the U.S. and our dear Sisters Rosa Maria and Claudia of the Mexican Federation.

We continue to have the blessing of the roses in honor of Therese to give to the people after Mass. This is a joyful time.



*Sr. Mary,
Resident of the Month*

Our Sr. Mary Gehring continues to be a joy and blessing to the people around her at St. Elizabeth's Manor. One of their customs is to "Spotlight" a resident for the month. Mary was chosen recently. Her dear friend, Linda Polselli, arranged pictures of Mary from youth to old age on a poster which was displayed prominently in the home. Though not able to communicate easily with words, Mary's joy and satisfaction were visible.

Sr. Marian came home for OHM's feast; days like this are a real treat. Though she was in the hospital for a short time, she is back in St. Clare's to keep them happy.

Thanks for the Zoom Meetings arranged for CCA by our zealous and competent sisters and for all who participated.

Please pray for:

- Sr. Eileen's brother, Edward, 63, who died on July 11th in Bethlehem, Holy Land, and for the family.
- Peggy Mason, some of you might remember her - she accompanied Sr. Marian to CCA as an aide in the past - Peggy and her husband were in a car accident, and she is in re-hab. Her husband, Everett, is alright.
- Sr. Roseann's brother, Jack, 92; he fell, broke two bones in his neck and is now in a nursing home in Florida.



*Eileen and her brother
Edward at their home in
Bethlehem*

A happy, hopeful Advent and a peaceful, beautiful Christmas to all!



Carmel of the Incarnation
Beacon, New York

Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

July began with the return of Fr. Don Buggert, OCarm. He had not finished his promised input last November, so arrived here July 1 and gave us three more days on Rahner's anthropology and everyday mysticism. An intellectual feast! We finally said good-bye when Bro. Darryl Moresco, one of the OCarm novice masters, picked him up for the trip to the novitiate in Middletown.



*Srs. Michaelene, Marjorie,
Bro. Darryll, Fr. Don Buggert,
Srs. Aletha, Mary Theresa, and
Marita*

Our celebrant on Sunday, July 7, Fr. Dennis Polanco, an Atonement Friar, proposed an interesting exercise after his homily. He asked that we all stand, pick a partner, and bless each other, as is done during the RCIA. Most entered into it very willingly and found it a moving experience.

The next Sunday we were happy to hear at Mass that Cardinal Dolan had told the priests in New York to speak about the plight of refugees and immigrants. We pray constantly for these people.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel was suitably celebrated by Fr. Mario Esposito, OCarm, four concelebrants, and about 100 people overflowing our small chapel.

The last week in July, those of us who still drive had a road test, arranged through our insurance company. This was due, and even overdue, according to the driving policy we developed some years ago. Happily, all six passed!

In August, Sr. Marjorie helped facilitate the Newer Members meeting. She greatly enjoyed it and found a wonderful energy there, as I had two years ago in the 2017 one.

We have long been open to having apostolic sisters come for a contemplative sabbatical, and this September welcomed Sr. Florence Kennedy, a Sister of St. Martha from Antigonish, Nova Scotia, for the month. A sister who had been our facilitator was the facilitator for the St. Martha's chapter, and when Florence asked about places for a sabbatical, recommended us. Florence came late, since the day she was supposed to fly from Halifax to our local airport was the very day hurricane Dorian hit Nova Scotia. A twenty-hour trip got her here the next day. She was a quiet, friendly, and very appreciative presence during her time here.

Also in September, we welcomed Srs. Susan Weber and Hilary Case for our CCA sisterly visit. We appreciated their truly sisterly presence and facilitation of our meeting. They helped us to move some in our consideration of our future. They stayed a day extra, and Sr. Marjorie took them and Sr. Florence to the 9/11 museum, now open in lower Manhattan.



Srs. Miriam, Jeanne Marie, Michaelene, and Marjorie before Jeannie's transfer to Ozanam.

In previous newsletters, I have mentioned the nursing home of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Connecticut where our Sr. Jeannie has resided for some years now. The sisters are selling their large property there, so it became necessary to place all the sisters then in the nursing home. After much planning, that transfer occurred at the end of September. An agreement had been reached with the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm, who manage good homes, to place the sisters from Connecticut in their home, Ozanam Hall, in Bayside, Queens (part of New York City). Sr. Jeannie is adapting well to her new home.

With good wishes and prayer for all.



Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Boston, Massachusetts

Sr. Mary-Clare Doherty

Eileen Mary celebrated 60 years in religious life this September with a day-long celebration. She had been a Sister of Charity of Convent Station for 35 years before transferring to our community in 1994. As a Sister of Charity, Sister had volunteered to cook for us during the triduum of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel when the Lord invited her to Carmel.

Judy Murray and Roz were with us for a very enjoyable and very fruitful sisterly visit. Thank you both for the gift of your presence.

Luis Giron Negron our first presenter for the ICF program this year, is a professor at Harvard in the Department of Comparative Literature and is also on the Religious Commission there. He spoke on John of the Cross' use of the Bible in the original languages and the way John rewrites the Song of Songs in his Canticle. There was not a second's hesitation in his responding to our questions and remarks. And with a beautiful voice he sang for us in both Spanish and Hebrew. **Sr. Catherine** came down from Concord by bus to attend the lecture. We really appreciate her being with us for these talks.

Kate Asselin met with Bernadette Therese and also with the chapter to look at possibilities for common or shared resources in areas of need. We were grateful and fortunate for her visit.



Kate Asselin with Community

Fr Bill Brown, OVM celebrated our triduum in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. One of the concelebrants was from Saudi Arabia, and was returning there after the Mass. And one of the seminarians attending was from El Salvador, having had to leave there after experiencing an attack by gang members who cut his throat. Gratefully, he was able to enter our country. It was the first time that we experienced so many people bringing roses for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's feast. We received over 100, really beautiful roses.

Bernadette Therese returned from her visit to Eldridge Carmel with a cast on her right arm. It was only then that we found out she had tripped at our own front door upon leaving here at 4AM. She then continued on to Iowa where they took her to a clinic, and an x-ray revealed a broken wrist.



Fr. McHugh, Bishop Hennessey, Srs. Bernadette Therese, Agnes, and Germana

Sr. Germana, FSP our new delegate for religious, and **Fr. Brian McHugh**, who is the new vicar for our region, came with Bishop Hennessey and two of his priest friends for Mass and lunch. We had been forewarned that it was Fr. McHugh's birthday. One of the friends brought a huge cake, and we supplied the ice cream for what turned out to be quite a lively party.

Fr Bart Geger, SJ one of the lecturers for our ICFP, was the presider and homilist at our Mass for St. Therese and the Blessing of Roses. A local florist donates well over 200 roses each year for this occasion.

Maria a young woman in her early 20's who attended the Mass, spoke with Jeanne-Marie regarding discerning a vocation to Carmel. We are praying for Maria.



Fr. Iain Matthews with Srs. Marieleth and Maria

Fr. Iain Matthews came for our retreat, giving eight full days as well as a day for a public lecture. Before the lecture took place he met and had lunch with the Carmelites from Concord, Barrington, Danvers, and Fr. Mark Joseph from Brighton, who were here for the occasion. We can only describe this day and our retreat as being a very special blessing.



Sr. Helene (Danvers) with Srs. Bernadette Therese, Maria, and Fr. Mark

Agnes and Marieleth attended and enjoyed the Newer Members Meeting in Baltimore. Marieleth shared her power-point of the group's history with us on returning.

Bishop Mark told us, after Mass one day recently, that he was joining a walk through the city in support of the immigrants at the border and that the last time he did this he lost over 100 followers on his twitter account. He will be attending a bishops' meeting and an ad limina visit with Pope Frances soon. When he has such meetings, he consults beforehand with 50 people, 25 men and 25 women of different backgrounds, and includes us in this opportunity

Mother Beatrix and Companions our foundresses, accompanied us as we celebrated our foundation day, processing to our garden shrines while praying Vespers and reading an account of our sisters' arrival here from Baltimore.

Mary Teresa Since last June, Sister has been dealing with a deep, virtually constant, cough from a bronchial condition which, apparently, has no cure. She would appreciate a prayer.

Fr. Tom Stegman, SJ one of our presenters and Mass presiders, and a friend of our Carmel for quite some time, has recently been diagnosed with a glioblastoma tumor. Fr. Tom is dean of the school of theology and ministry at BC and beloved by many people, including us. Please keep him in your prayers as well. He is asking for a cure through the intercession of Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ.

Michael a young man who joined us one day for Mass, and has since become a good friend, is a neuroscientist doing research at Harvard. One of his projects is to track the response of the brain during prayer. A great lover of Carmel, he has made himself very familiar with OHM's writings. He has a discussion on Facebook, "Carmelite Neurospirituality Discussion Group."



Carmel of the Holy Family

Cleveland, Ohio

Sr. Maria Viatori

Dealing with the Forces of Nature

No sooner were we settled in our new monastery when on June 20 we heard the snap, crackle, pop of one of the massive oak tree limbs crashing 20 feet from our statue of Saint Joseph. Barb immediately called a tree service, and they planned to come the next week to take down the entire tree. Several days later we heard the familiar sound again and witnessed another segment fall in between the branches of another massive oak on the tree lawn. This time the culprit faced the street and houses across the way. The police were called, and the Cleveland Heights forestry service came to try and resolve the problem, but they didn't have the right equipment. Eventually, our original tree service came with two cranes, a branch chipper, and a flatbed truck to haul away the log sections. People from the neighborhood gathered to see the all-day spectacle. The tree was so tall and expansive that another crane was called in to expedite the situation. It was touch and go, however, and we were grateful that no one was hurt and that the house was not damaged in any way.



On Friday, September 13, at 9 pm we experienced a microburst in the neighborhood. After losing power, most of us waited out the storm in the basement recreation room while one sister was peacefully sleeping in her bed. It was pitch black, and we could not ascertain the extent of the damage. When morning came, we were shocked by the devastation. Trees were uprooted, cars were smashed by flying tree limbs, gaping holes could be seen in some roofs, fallen tree limbs blanketed lawns. We lost power on Friday evening at 9:00 pm and it was restored on Tuesday at 12:15 pm. We were grateful that our own property came through the event with only one large fallen tree limb, branches strewn on the landscape, and a few broken roof tiles from the garage. Utility crews came from as far as Maryland to help restore the power grid. Luckily, we had power and a working refrigerator at our Fairmount Blvd. monastery, so we shuttled back and forth for breakfast and lunch. We had candles, flashlights, and a gas stove at Arlington which lightened the burden of days without electricity. When the lights came on, we praised God and congratulated one another for the way we handled this unexpected challenge of nature.

Our Sisters at Regina Health Center



Prayer with our sisters at Regina Health Center

On August 7, Patty Virant, Vera Lea's sister, drove Vera Lea and Pat O'Brien from Regina to our new monastery. We had an exciting tour of the house! Pat O experienced the ride of her lifetime on our outdoor lift. It worked like a charm! Bernie cooked a delicious meal, and we had a terrific time chatting in the sun room which faces Bernadette's raised vegetable beds. Anne Joan could not make the trip on that day; however, a future excursion is in the works. Patty Virant took a multitude of pictures so that Anne Joan could be part of the community celebration.

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Mary K., Barb, Pat, Bernadette, Vera Lea, Maria, and Donna in our sun room

Newer Members Meeting

Donna and Maria drove down to Faulkner, MD, to participate in the newer members meeting. Celia, Agnes and Teresa Susan did a marvelous job in planning and executing the workshop. Kudos to Connie Fitzgerald for her series of outstanding presentations on our early Carmelite history. What a privilege to receive such input from our own monastic theologian. Fr. Steve Payne drove in from Washington to give us an insightful session on "Teresa and Adaptability". Steve stayed with the group for the entire day. Three cheers to Colette for being the pilgrimage coordinator and Margie for being facilitator.

The atmosphere was charge with beauty from Marieleth's power point and visual display of our CCA monasteries, Kirkintilloch, and Mexican federation. Sa Ra also gifted the participants with 2 copies of her paintings. Grateful thanks to Mother Virginia and the Port Tobacco community for their hospitality and welcome. Fr. Brian McDermott was a wonderful chaplain who was present from beginning to end.

Each day we traveled to sites that were influential to our history. At one point we all gathered at a chapel that was being restored in Old Saint Mary's City and sang the "Salve Regina." It was a wonderful testament to the sisters who had gone before us and the legacy that is cherished by a new generation.

Some laughter and joking prevailed as we realized that our caravan drivers were really testing out their certification skills for Uber. Donna even received a coveted prize of a very large container of M&M's for being one of the drivers.

To top off our Maryland adventure, we stopped at Baltimore Carmel. We had a wonderful repast, and then Connie showed us the extensive archives and highlighted some pertinent historical information. Thank you, Baltimore sisters, for your gracious hospitality. We were buckled up in the car by early afternoon and drove back to Cleveland energized by all that happened at the gathering.

Reversing Positions



For months we were living at the old monastery and getting the Arlington monastery ready for occupancy. Now we are living at the new place and going back and forth to Fairmount to ready the building and property for purchase. The work has to be done and we see light at the end of the tunnel.

We had planned to take the beautiful marble statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with us to Arlington. For years the statue was in the outside quadrangle garden. At the time of the

chapel renovation in 1992, the statue was refurbished and was situated in the main chapel. Now the statue is a welcome sight for visitors at the port cochere entrance to the monastery.



New Ways of Connecting with Friends

One of the primary concerns we had in the move was to maintain good connections with our worshipping community. One day a week we ordinarily have liturgy at 5 pm. We are now inviting small numbers of people to join us for the Eucharist. Our morning liturgies are early; however, some of our friends have come at the dawning of the day to worship with us.

Our phone number remains the same so that all of the people who counted on our prayers would not have to scramble to track us down.

This year, Gesu Parish hosted our Therese Novena Liturgy on October 1. The lovely Marian Chapel was the site of our celebration with Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, presider and homilist. The Gesu parish community has been such a welcoming presence for us during this transition.

Bernadette, our good will ambassador, has always shared the bounty of her garden with friends of the community. This tradition continues and has grown with the addition of recipients from the neighborhood who are now beneficiaries of her green thumb.

Visit from Bernadette Therese and Cecelia



Maria, Bernadette Therese, and Cie helping with dishes

We were thrilled to have Bernadette Therese and Cecelia with us for a few days in early September. It was exciting to show them our new monastery and talk with them about the vitality and vibrancy of our community. They were impressed with all that we had accomplished in settling in to our Arlington monastery as well as all the work done in preparing our Fairmount monastery for future sale. We are grateful for the ways that CCA has supported us especially through these years of major change and transition. We have every confidence that our sisters who have gone before us are showering down graces and blessings as we move forward in living out our Carmelite charism.



Cie, Bernadette, Barb, Donna, Maria, Bernadette Therese, and Mary K. pose in our living room.

Our Sisters from Latrobe



Srs. Shirley, Mary, Marie Elizabeth, Barb, Mary K., Donna, Bernie, and Tanya

In the past we have had great gatherings with the sisters from Latrobe. Every other year strategic plans resulted in our mutual get-togethers. We had to take a hiatus for a while; however, we are back in the swing! On October 16, Mary, Marie Elizabeth, Tanya, and Shirley came for our autumn Cleveland-Latrobe bash. A great time was had by all especially when we sampled the delicious homemade blueberry pies that our Latrobe sisters brought to the party.

We continue to pray for our country as we face numerous crises in our history. May civility, integrity, and compassion for the poor be restored to our troubled land.

Peace and blessings to all during these autumn days.



Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Concord, New Hampshire

Sr. Hilary Case

As I write, we are in one of the most beautiful times of the year, the two weeks between the Feast of St. Therese on October 1st and the Feast of Our Holy Mother, St. Teresa on the 15th. We are grateful for both the natural beauty and the liturgical beauty of this season. Both kinds of beauty provide a real oasis from the violence and corruption we see and hear about every day. We may find ourselves getting frightened or depressed by all that. If so, St. Therese calls us to remember the reality of our journey: “Your soul ... is called to raise itself to God by the elevator of love and not to climb the rough stairway of fear.” She anticipated FDR, who said, as he tackled the Great Depression, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”!

Before giving you the highlights of our news, we want to thank Elizabeth McCabe and Sisters Claire Sokol and Celia Ashton for their leadership of Women at the Well. Working our way through the preparatory materials, we are looking forward to our small and large group discussions on October 22. In addition to giving us a practical training in discernment, our sessions let us know that no community stands alone as all of us look at our situations. In September, Kate Asselin, the project manager for CCA’s emerging collective for shared services, came to visit us. She impressed us all with her competence in needs assessment, but more than that, she was friendly, upbeat, and encouraging about the improvements we have already made. After the meeting, she shared her insights electronically with our facilitators, Sisters Mary Boretti and Ellen Keane, both SNDdeN.

Moving back to our summer activities, in July, Claudette and Hilary participated in the Fiat Days, an overnight program for high school girls held at Catholic Northeast College and sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester. We joined Fr. Matthew Mason, diocesan Vocation Director, and the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love, who coordinated the event. The vocations of marriage and religious life were both considered. Our part consisted of speaking on contemplative religious life for half an hour, then returning the next day to form part of a “religious life panel” with two of the Daughters of Mary. You can see our beaming faces in the picture provided (!). Seriously, we were impressed by the girls’ maturity and energy. We are also happy to be connected with the Daughters, who plan to come and visit our community soon.



Two Daughters of Mary join Hilary and Claudette for the Fiat Days

Our Triduum Eucharists for Our Lady of Mount Carmel were graced by Fr. John Sullivan, M.S., celebrant and homilist. Father John is a missionary priest of La Salette and is now serving as director of the La Salette Shrine in Enfield, NH. As a missionary, he worked with the poor in Argentina for 18 years. Fr. John generously shared this experience and his insights with us and our neighbors during each evening Mass of the Triduum.

August held the Newer Members' Meeting at Faulkner, MD. Sisters Katharine Mary and Hilary represented Concord. This meeting was so rich in content that it is hard to know where to begin. In the afternoons, we were able to visit several of the places known to and lived in by the earliest Carmelite Nuns, who came to this country in 1790. In the mornings,



*Newer Members tour
the Port Tobacco
monastery*

Sr. Connie Fitzgerald gave lectures of great power that related our history to the evolution of the collective consciousness, a journey of transformation taken honestly by each of the foundresses of Carmel in our country. We ourselves, in our time, are engaged in the same journey and doing our best to move forward. All of us, whenever and wherever we live, have strengths to contribute and vulnerabilities to work on, both as individuals and as members of a particular culture with its strengths and weaknesses. Connie left us with much to think about, and we thank her. On the final morning, Fr. Steven Payne joined us to give a presentation on St. Teresa's flexibility, which is a model for us today. As we struggle with the need to change yet hold our core charism, Fr. Steve reminded us of Holy Mother's saying: "Do that which best stirs you to love." May we all find that path as we look toward the future.

That is our news from June through September. We're looking forward to a community retreat led by Dianne Bergant, CSA, and we will tell you about that next time. For now, know of our love and support. We wish you a grace-filled fall season, and we hope to see many of you at Session 4 of Women at the Well.



Sr. Miriam Hogan

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

This quarter Eldridge has been very committed to the process of discernment concerning our future. Hence, there have been numerous meetings and reports of meetings. Above all, however, St. Therese of Lisieux's words bring special comfort: "Everything is a grace . . . Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events—to the heart that loves, all is well."

First, reporting some good news from June, we were happy to celebrate our Sr. JonFe's becoming an American citizen. Some of us were able to be with her at the Court House in Davenport, where she was sworn in. Then we had Fr. Joseph Sia, who recently became a citizen from the Philippines, and Frs. Ed O'melia and Harness share in a special brunch at the Monastery.



Sr. JonFe, our new American citizen



Srs. Jeannette, Teresa Susan, Joan, Marjorie, JonFe, Bernadette Therese, and Miriam

Second, we all rejoiced in the sharing of the Sisterly Visit in August. Srs. Bernadette Therese and Marjorie brought us special peace and encouragement. The well prepared prayer sessions and liturgies were a treat as well as the sharing and company of our sisters in Carmel.

Third, we recently shared in the Feast of St. Teresa with our OCarm Kahl Home Sisters. They joined us for vespers and supper. These are the people that took care of our Srs. Mary, Helen, Maria, and Sr. Mary Jo before they passed away. Needless to explain, they have a very special place in our hearts.



Srs. Jeanette, Teresa Susan, Constance, and James



Srs. Jockoline, JonFe, Lois

We wish all of Sisters a beautiful Fall season and a Blessed Thanksgiving. Peace and Love, Sr. Miriam



Carmel of the Assumption

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Sr. Marie Elizabeth Krug

This has been a very busy and eventful summer here in Latrobe. The day after Pentecost we had our canonical visitation with Fr. Jude Peters and with Sr. Bernadette Therese (according to *Cor Orans*). This new experience for us began with some uncertainty on our part, which was quickly put to rest. As we proceeded with each interview, we found it a good experience to include one of our sisters in our visitation.

Sr. Rosalyn from Reno arrived the last day of the visitation and we had several days of “sisterly visits” with her and Sr. Bernadette Therese. These, too, proved to be helpful, especially through our sharing on *Cor Orans*. They were also fun and we spent longer times at meals while sharing with and enjoying our guests.



Fr. Jude Peters and Sr. Bernadette Therese

We began preparing at the end of July for Sr. Joann’s 25th anniversary of Profession. The celebration was on August 3. All of Sr. Joann’s siblings were able to attend, which made for a long-awaited family reunion. Other family and friends added to the celebration, and none more than her two grand-nieces, Mia and Callie, who are always a delight. Five of our Benedictine Fathers concelebrated the Eucharist.

Sister Shirley had a “patch and repair” procedure on the surgery she had last year, which required two days in the hospital. This went much better than the surgery, and recovery time was considerably shortened.

Sr. Marie Elizabeth’s brother, Leo, who had cared for his ill wife for ten years, had been planning a trip from Oregon to visit all his family in Pennsylvania. His wife passed away late last year, so he was free to make an extended trip to see his siblings and relatives. He arrived at the Monastery for a visit on August 5 and asked to do something that might help us with our outdoor improvements. Three days later he had done a week’s worth of work: weeding the gardens, picking up branches and brush, trimming trees, and moving some giant logs with the front-end loader. Our enclosed area took on a neater look. With his white hair and beard he reminded one of Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* movie. He is hoping to come back next year and stay longer.



Leo doing a week's-worth of work

We did not get all the rain we did last year, and our garden did much better. We even had a minor drought that caused some of the trees to lose their leaves early, and those left on the trees continue to turn brown. Our blueberry bushes were exceptionally prolific. We may have harvested over 100 pounds of big berries, freezing the greater part but having all the fresh ones we wanted. It was a rare spring that we were spared late frosts, and this contributed to the abundance. Eating our own home-grown food is a cause of thanksgiving to God for the favorable weather and His provident care over us.

On September 14th we began our two-week community retreat. Instead of a person to give us conferences, we decided to use a set of conferences on CD on the Gospel of St. Mark from Augustine Institute. We spent one hour each day of the first week listening to Dr. Tim Grey's excellent instructions on the shortest Gospel. We find listening to Dr. Grey both enjoyable and informative as well as deeply penetrating spiritually and would recommend them as part of initial and ongoing formation.

October has already been eventful and enjoyable, but that is for the next issue.

We send our love and prayers for a blessed Thanksgiving, a holy peaceful Advent, and Christmas graces and peace.



Sr. Jean Alice

Carmel of the Resurrection

Oldenburg, Indiana

Our Sr. Anna Mary had been in the health care center of the Franciscan Sisters for about four years, ever since the beginning of her memory loss. In spite of being 100 years old, she had excellent health. Thus it was a surprise when we got a call from the head nurse on August 16 letting us know that she thought Anna Mary was "going south" (or beginning the dying process). She was better the next day, but on the 19th, as we were sitting by her bed, she very gently breathed her last. Because she was cremated, we were able to delay the funeral until September when family members were able to come. It was a beautiful and joyful occasion with many friends coming from Indianapolis and Cincinnati. Our Sisters in Terre Haute joined us, and many guests were able to stay for lunch.



Sr. Anna Mary

We regard a friend of ours, Mary Jo Weaver, a retired professor of religious studies at Indiana University, as our community historian. She wrote a book about our history many years ago and has continued to write a brief biography for each of us. An amusing paragraph in Anna Mary's eulogy was the following: "She had her own special niche in community with a creative thirty-year job as the sister in charge of correspondence. Her letters let Anna Mary connect the needs of hundreds of people with the prayers of the community. She was also a thrifty character who gave much of her monthly allowance to charity while refusing to spend much on herself. One of the sisters once took her to Goodwill where she found a great pair of shoes for \$5. 'Well,' she said, 'I will never pay more than \$5 again for shoes.' And she didn't. Anytime one of the sisters took her to a shoe store, they alerted the clerk to tell her that the shoes cost \$5. So, indeed, she never again spent more for shoes."

In the middles of all this, on August 17, we hosted the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Association of Contemplative Sisters (a few months before CCA came into existence). This was the same date as the opening of the original meeting in Woodstock, MD. Members and former members came from Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Louisville. The morning was given to prayer and the sharing of memories. After a catered dinner we did faith sharing on the living of and meaning of contemplative life for each of us and for the world at this time. It was a day "full of grace."

I go to the YMCA in the nearby town of Batesville each Monday for arthritis exercises in the pool. I noticed on the bulletin board that there is a weekly class on contemplative prayer! I was quite surprised by this even though the YMCA is a real center of Christian faith and its outward expression in many of its programs.

Preparing for the feast of OHM, we have had our usual ten-day quiet retreat. Sr. Marcie had to miss part of it as her brother John recently died in Dallas after a long illness. We ask your prayers for John and the family.

Wishing you all a very Happy Feast.



Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains

Reno, Nevada

Sr. Marie-Louise Bishop

Carmelite life here in Reno continues to confirm what St. Teresa modeled in her own life: the deeper one's prayer goes, the wider one's reach. It is a contemplative way to feed the

hungry. So many hunger and thirst for what is genuinely life giving. We are discovering over and over that opening to that need has drawn us deeper into our vocation.

We continue to share with our sisters in Scotland via Zoom each month or so. Each community alternates in planning the topics and process. These discussions and reflections with them on a wide variety of various continue to be a source of nourishment and support for both of our communities.

Four of our sisters have been involved in CCA's sisterly visits among our member communities. Roz had the privilege when she visited Latrobe and Boston Carmels in June. Whenever sisters have returned home we thoroughly enjoy their sharing the experiences and often pictures of their trip. Cecelia visited Cleveland Carmel in September and had the opportunity to visit the sisters in their new monastery. Seeing them so content in their beautiful and smaller home was a joy to us, especially with the long preparations for the historic move. Susan had the privilege of visiting Beacon and Baltimore; Ann joined her to be with our sisters in Baltimore and had a very sisterly visit with the sisters in Danville. Each one came home enthused by the family feeling the experienced.



Srs. Johanna and Marie Helen who took Ann and Susan on a tour of the highlands in Scotland.

June saw more travel with Ann and Susan's long planned visit to three of the European Carmels we have grown close to over the years. They went first to Scotland where our Kirkintilloch sisters welcomed them enthusiastically. The tours of the surrounding country and to Edinburgh were added attractions, and they certainly got to know a bit about Scotch history and culture. They then flew to France to spend time with our sisters in Le Havre and share their plans for the monastery remodel. Touring a bit of the country they drove to Paris and saw the devastation of

Notre Dame cathedral after the fire. Their final stop was in Germany visiting the Dachau community where they had a warm reception and a moving experience visiting the camp. They were thrilled to spend one afternoon with Sr. Teresa Benedicta. Sr. Johanna was a marvelous tour guide to the surrounding area as well.



Sr. Johanna showing Ann and Susan around Germany

Visits here from friends and family very often fill the summer months and this year was no exception. In July, Sr. Marietta Fahey, a Holy Family sister, who had grown up as a neighbor of our sisters Ann and Susan, came to visit. Sr. Pat Kozak, CSJ, another longtime friend of theirs was also here. Some of you may have read some of the articles and reflections she has had published. Among others places, she has been published in *Give Us this Day*. Claire's sister Jenny also visited and she gifted us with sharing her visit to Lourdes. She is a published author of articles for the Catholic press and her visit was in preparation for an

article she was writing on Lourdes. We so enjoyed the insider's tour, photos, and narrative, as she was invited into places tourists do not usually get to see!

Our community retreat was the end of July and always provides nourishment and refreshment for all of us. It is a continual source of amazement that in total silence we can always sense a deepening of bonds with one another and all in the world around us. Communal prayer alone in solitude is a source of life for all of us.

We have continued our cooperation with the Reno music community, and one of the prominent vocal ensembles, Bella Voce, was here for their annual "retreat" in August. They gather to sing, plan upcoming events, and share time and good food with each other.

Roz had her needed knee replacement surgery in August, followed by intense physical therapy and made remarkable progress, largely due to a good doctor, her determination, and inspirational dedication to physical therapy.

Cecelia and Sara attended the Newer Members meeting which has grown from smaller beginnings to embrace a broader contingent. They shared their enthusiasm and gratitude for Sr. Connie Fitzgerald's wonderful presentations on the history of Carmel in America. We were also treated to remarkable pictures and accompanying narrative when they returned home. We felt like we had been there with all of them.



Viewing a replica of the ship that brought our Carmelite nuns to Maryland in 1790

Every year at the end of August we invite our Saturday evening Mass congregation, as well as other friends of the community, to an annual potluck in our courtyard after Mass. Several of those who regularly attend weekend Mass here at Carmel are the planners and organizers. The number coming continues to grow. The food is wonderful and varied, the company, superb, and the enthusiasm contagious. It has proven to be a great community builder as those who might not sit in the same area at Mass have the opportunity to really get to know so many of the others.

Each year we host the first of the monthly meeting for the priests, sisters, deacons and their wives, and those in various lay ministry positions for the diocese. It's always the first one of the year and has the largest attendance. We prepare the prayer service, and after introductions of anyone new to diocesan service, we serve the meal that our community has prepared. It provides a wonderful opportunity to bond with old friends and meet new ones.

Danville's news will follow shortly.

San Rafael will send news next time.