



CCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 40 Issue 2 October 2018



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. Cecelia Kang

Letter from the CCA Leadership Team

Dear Sisters,

Autumn greetings to you. The beauty of the season seems to console us more deeply as we journey through a hard time in our Church, our world and all of creation. The devastation from the fires and floods we witnessed this summer was one of the most severe in its scale and intensity. Even now as I write, Indonesia is suffering greatly by an earthquake and tsunami. In solidarity with our aching world and creation we remain standing with prayerful attentiveness.

Your leadership team has been at work with preparations for our national meeting and other immediate tasks.

CCA 2020 General Assembly

Our next General Assembly meeting during which we will celebrate CCA's 50th anniversary, is scheduled for June 7-13, 2020 (with the 7th and 13th being travel days). The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, MD. Working with Srs. Jean Alice and Colette in the Planning Task Force has been a delight and inspiration. We hope to make the meeting truly a memorable and inspirational event. Soon we will be inviting more sisters to use their gifts in bringing our initial sowing into fruition. Stay tuned!

Nuns and Friars Meeting at Dallas, Texas

At the invitation of the 3 provinces of our friars who were gathering for their Triennial meeting, your Leadership Team joined them for a joint meeting of nuns and friars at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Lake Dallas on Sept 17- 20. The participants included 14 friars from 3 Provinces (Washington, California, and Oklahoma, the hosting province) and 10 nuns from Mary, Queen of Carmel Association and CCA. St. Teresa Association was unable to attend due to their general assembly being held at the same time. During the meeting, however, Mother Celeste, the Coordinator sent us a beautiful letter of support and gratitude. St. Joseph's Association joined us in spirit with their prayerful support and we were very much mindful of their presence as we discussed ways toward mutual collaboration. Thanks to your prayers, our meetings, one day with nuns only and another day with friars, went very well with several positive outcomes. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Oklahoma Province for hosting us with every kindness and care from the beginning to the end in such a beautiful setting.

Mexican Federation Conference (Sept 24 – Oct 1)

In the same spirit of collaboration, Srs. Bernadette Therese and Monika attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Mexican Federation. They truly enjoyed the kindness and hospitality of the Mexican Sisters. Father Saverio and Father Rafal were among the speakers and gave talks on Cor Orans. Fr. Saverio's talk in Mexico has been shared with all through his recent October 1 letter to all Carmelite sisters throughout the world. We will be sharing the other input with all of you soon.

We will have more news on our other initiatives in our next Leadership Team letter.

May our saints of the month, Therese and Teresa, continue to walk with us and inspire us to follow their footsteps with ever-present love, joy, and hope.

Gratefully,
Your sister Cecelia



Carmel of the Sacred Heart Baltimore, Maryland

Happenings

Sr. Robin Stratton

What a summer this has been! Our usual Friday evening patio suppers and Croquet games were lost to the heat and humidity. The garden both gained and lost with the weather. What the tomatoes gained from the hot nights, they soon lost with all the rain.

Judy planted a series of green beans two weeks apart, hoping the bean beetles wouldn't get them all. However, as fate would have it, we had no bean beetles this year – and a huge abundance of beans, offering them to our Sunday congregation, our Secular Order members, and freezing plenty for winter. This was in addition to eating them nearly every day for a good while - which was really a treat. As to the flower beds, Veronica's Elephant Ears would surely take a prize at any State Fair. They reign in their five foot plus splendor surrounded by impatiens and marigolds – which apparently keep the deer away, as well as provide beautiful color to compliment the green of the giant "Ears."

The outside ledge of our walkway has been leaking whenever a heavy rain occurs. Early this year we decided to have it repaired. It appeared to be a straightforward job according to a member of our worshipping community who is an architect. The work would begin shortly after our Pentecost retreat. First, it was the rain. Then the workers discovered rotten wood concealed behind the baseboard. The old tile was removed. The new tile was delivered. Finally, the concrete pad was poured for handicap access to the door. And there it stands awaiting improved weather and available workmen...to be continued....

We celebrated Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday July 15, which occurred at the height of the horrific separation of children from their parents at our southern border. Quinn Conners, OCarm presided and gave a masterful homily. The Gospel was that of Mary and Joseph's loss of their child when he was 12 years old and the theme, "Mary, Mother of Lost Children," was movingly developed by Mary Fleig in her Call to Worship.



*Sr. Celia with Br. Joseph-Mary
Winters, OCD*

On Labor Day, we hosted our traditional Carmelite Family picnic. About 40 Nuns, Friars, and Secular Order members (some with their spouses) gathered at 10:30AM for Eucharist. Steve Payne presided this year (we alternate between the OCD and OCarm Friars each year). The day was hot and humid, but that didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirit. Volleyball, corn ball toss, and ping pong competitions began right after Mass until the picnic was served and continued afterward. Those who didn't play games enjoyed one another's company until we parted with long Carmelite good-byes for another year.

We have engaged Storia Studios, a mother and daughter team, to create three short videos for our website. Rena and Frankie Cerquetti conducted interviews with the nuns and filmed activities of the house and the grounds. They've been wonderful to work with, and we are excited to see the finished products.



Sr. Monika with Rena and Frankie

Ongoing Formation

We've had some fascinating in person and online lectures during the last several months.

Fr. Vinko Mamic, OCD, who has been travelling in the States for several months, gave us two wonderful conferences on "The Spirituality of Jesus' Prayer and Mission from a Biblical perspective."



Fr.. Vinko Mamic and community

We are presently watching a series of Gifford Lectures, which were established to "promote and diffuse the study of natural theology in the widest sense of the term — in other words, the knowledge of God." The ones we're currently watching are by N. T. Wright: "Discerning the Dawn: History, Eschatology and New Creation." He is an excellent speaker and the material is superb. The entire series is available at www.giffordlectures.org

Deacon Joe Jensen, who teaches at Catholic University, has resumed his Monday night

Bible classes which he describes as "Graduate level classes without the papers." The classes are held here, are available to us, our worshipping community, and other interested persons. More than half the community is participating in the 90 minutes' class entitled *Themes in the Gospel of John*.

People and places

Barbara Jean attended the 50th anniversary of the joint conference of the National Black Sister Caucus and the National Black Clergy Caucus in New Orleans from July 28 – August 2. She was a founding member of the group during a period of great difficulty for Black Religious and Priests. The theme: "We've Come a Mighty Long Way" – was, according to Barbara Jean "not only appropriate, but also a resounding call to continue and expand what was begun so many years ago."

Monika, as a member of our leadership team, attended the Tri Council Meeting in Dallas, TX September 17-20

Monika and Bernadette Therese represented CCA at the 50th Jubilee Celebration of San Jose de Guadalupe Mexican Federation in Mexico from September 24-29.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Sister Joan Bourne. Eight of us went to Danville to join the community there for her funeral on August 18. Angela asked Robin to sing "Thicket of God." My arthritic fingers could no longer press the strings on the guitar, so Luisa came to the rescue and accompanied me beautifully. We continue to accompany our Sisters in Danville with our love and prayers.

Leah's mother, Helen Hargis, died on September 6. Leah was able to be with her for some days ahead of time. Four of the Sisters drove to Whitville, Virginia, a four and a half hour trip each way, for the funeral on September 13. They said it was a small but beautiful celebration of her life. Helen's pastor, a Methodist, quoted Saint Teresa several times in his sermon – a very nice touch!

As we enter the Fast of the Order, we join you in trying to intensify our life of silence and prayer, the daily round of community life, and love for the sake of all God's dear people. Let's pray for one another, pilgrims all, trying to bring about the reign of God one day at a time.

Your loving Robin



Sr. Rosann Gillice

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

Barrington, Rhode Island

Peace! As I sit at the computer and look out the window, I see the swaying tree branches above the 3ft. Celtic Cross in St. Patrick's meadow and find hope in the strength and stability of the Cross of Christ. May HOPE fill us with life in these, our times.

As you know, our Sr. Normagene went home to God on July 6th. This October 7th she would have been 87, the feast of the Holy Rosary. The Sisters had gone to the hospital when Normagene was dying to be with her, to pray and to sing hymns. Later on one of the nurses we know told Sr. Sue that many of the staff present remarked that they never had that experience. At the wake and funeral some of the relatives reconnected after many years. Normagene had requested that her body be taken to New Hampshire to be buried in the plot reserved for her Mother, Father, sister (Jackie) and herself. There is a rosary carved on her headstone – Normagene was the only Catholic in the family.

Again, for Our Lady of Mount Carmel's novena we had a variety of priests – diocesan, Dominicans and our Carmelite brother, Father Thomas Mary Gilbert. He is a diocesan

priest from Brooklyn who made his first profession recently. He is living with the Brighton, MA, community until March, 2019, I believe.

After much “checker playing” with the dates, our three communities finally found a day we could meet for our formation party. However, when the day arrived there was a prediction for heavy rain! In the early morning there was an accident in the area of Concord Carmel. Riding in torrential rain for 2 hours plus did not seem inviting, so the sisters had to cancel. We and Boston had cloudy weather, but no rain, so they came. It is enjoyable to be together, so we would like to take a rain-check and set up a time Concord can make it. (The date...!)

The feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a Wednesday, was a day of prayer and penance in the Diocese of Providence. “We come first of all to ask God’s forgiveness of our sins- especially the sins of sexual abuse committed against children and youth – in our diocese, across the country and around the world,” Bishop Thomas Tobin said during a noon Mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. Bishop Tobin took on a 24 hour fast in penance for his own faults and failures as a Christian, priest and bishop, as well as for the sins and failures of all priests and bishops related to the sexual abuse of minors.

The faithful were invited to come for the Eucharist at 12 noon followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 3 P.M. I went (Sr. Roseann) as a presence for our community. Though not packed, the Cathedral was well filled. As one priest remarked and I noticed, many men were present. It was a time of prayer for the helpless victims of sexual abuse, the abusers and for a remedy to the cover-ups through the years. It was so beautiful to see men and women kneeling and kissing the floor before the Blessed Sacrament. Others, barely able to make a bow, were there for prayer. As one young man said, “We need to start with prayer. It’s important to acknowledge the sins that we’ve committed.” Let us pray for the Body of Christ, that we be built up in love.

Sr. Eileen sent a letter at the end of September to up-date us on life in Palestine:

Dear Sister and Friends, How are you all doing? I received the wishes (from most of you) on the occasion of the feast of Saint Mariam Baouardy. I want to thank you for remembering me; it’s a special day for our community, for Bethlehem and for the whole diocese. How do we celebrate the feast some asked. The real date of the feast is the 26th; the Carmelite Order had to put it on the 25th, because of St. Teresa’s Transverberation feast. We follow the diocese and this year it happened to be on a Sunday. Like every year, there’s a Mass celebrated at 5 P.M. in our chapel. Most of the time a Latin Bishop is the Celebrant, sometimes the Patriarch himself, with several diocesan and religious priests. This year we invited the Greek Catholic (Melkite) Archbishop in Jerusalem, so the Mass was in the Byzantine rite with all the singing (St. Mariam was Greek Catholic). The Latin priests were present in the sanctuary, many of them: Carmelites who came from Mt. Carmel to attend the celebration, Betharram Fathers, Salesians, Jesuits, Dominicans and Christian Brothers from Bethlehem University. The religious Sisters from different congregations were with us in the choir. The chapel was full

of people from Bethlehem and surrounding, as well as people from the north of Palestine. Mariam was born in Abellin near Nazareth which is in North Palestine. At the end of Mass some people greeted us at the separation between the chapel and the choir. Refreshments were in the extern quarters for everyone. The Melkite Archbishop, Yaser el Ayyash came inside to greet us with one of his priests, a diocesan Latin priest as well as the superior of the Betharram Fathers. I greeted the Bishop in Arabic and he said to me, "Where are you from? I said, "From Bethlehem, from the Nasser family" (from which family is a question that



Many religious congregations join in the liturgy on St. Mariam's feast.

always comes after). The Bishop almost interrupted me and said, "...and you were a teacher for first grades at the Christian Brothers high school; I (the bishop) was studying in the school at the same time. I recognized you as soon as I saw you today in the chapel (probably at communion). You were teaching and then you left to enter Carmel..." I was really shocked! This was exactly 49 years ago. I left the school in the middle of the year to enter Carmel. I do remember very well a group of students from the Melkite seminary used to come to the school for their studies. I didn't know them personally or their names, but I had always

prayed for them. Sometimes I used to meet them in the street on our way to the school!

The head of the Bishops in Jerusalem, Msgr. Pizzaballa visited us a few days before the celebration. He had supper with us and is always very interesting. The auxiliary Bishops too came, each at a different time. They do that every year around the feast of Mariam. We had news of the diocese, especially the challenges the people go through with the political situation and the different denominations. The Church tries to help. There seems to be a good collaboration among all kinds of authorities that are here, but the immigration of the Christians is increasing dramatically, I would say...

St. Mariam Baouardy is more and more known all over the world. Some of the pilgrim groups who come to the Holy Land stop by our Monastery to venerate her; there are a lot of things involved around her. Some people devoted to Mariam are interested in doing a movie on her. They want to know more about her, to understand what is Mariam's message to the world... There is nothing definite right now.

This month had been busy because of the Association meeting. There were visitors from different Carmels, etc; three sisters from Morocco visited. The Carmels of Morocco, Egypt, and Aleppo are joining our Association. They want to

be members; they live in a same surrounding and the nuns are from different countries like us. We will be seven Carmels in our Association.

Myself, I am doing pretty good! Taking things in little by little and I see my energies coming back! The weather is a little cooler and that's a help.

What are the fruits of this season? We just finished eating the pomegranate. I used to eat about half a one every day; in Barrington we used to share one or two among us all! There is now plenty of almonds; I think we picked up (with the help of the workers) more than 50 lbs. of almonds with the coarse naturally. Next are the olive trees. The olives are picked up all together and sent to a place where there are machines to extract the oil; before that we choose good ones – green and black - and prepare them for eating the year around. This is done at home.

Attached is a picture of the community with Msgr. Pizzaballa; well, I think you will recognize me in the modified habit! (Front row, standing, extreme right)

Please note that my email address is changed. I had been using this new one since I left Barrington. All the emails sent to my old address were forwarded directly to this new one, but soon the old address will be stopped, so please take notice. My new e-mail address is:
eileenhn48@gmail.com



The community with Msgr. Pizzaballa

It's time to send this; I hope we will stay in touch! Know you are all in my heart and my daily prayers and please keep me in yours. Your sister and friend,
Sr. Eileen

On October 3rd, we gave roses to the people at the end of Sunday's Mass in honor of Therese, because more people were present.

Our Sister Mary Gehring is still at St. Elizabeth's Manor and Sister Marian Steffens is at St. Clare's. Please pray for them and all of us.

It is so good to receive the loving, caring letters from our brother Father Saverio. May God be praised for the gift of his life. Happy feast of Teresa, our dear Mother, sister and friend! Christ's Peace!



Sr. Carolyn O'Hara

Carmel of the Incarnation

Beacon, New York

We are still cleaning up and clearing the devastation behind the monastery from the storm of May 15. The process seems endless.

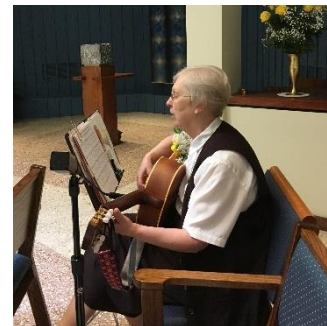
Of course, the damage here pales when we think of and pray for the people affected by the hurricanes in the Carolinas and the fires in California.

In June we had a day of prayer for immigrants. We are well aware that all of us in this country are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants and have been appalled at some of the policies and actions of this administration regarding immigrants.

Also in June, we enjoyed a visit from Frs. John Horan, O.Carm and Bill Harry, O.Carm who had been at the Chapter of the St. Elias province which was held in a retreat house not far from us. John is an old friend, and some of us know Bill from Carmelite Institute meetings.

And June 24 marked the fifth anniversary of the Redemptoristine nuns coming to share facilities with us. Hard to believe it is that long!

The highlight of July was surely Sr. Marjorie's golden jubilee. She elected to celebrate at our usual Sunday Mass on the 29th. One of our Graymoor friends, Fr. Dennis Polanco, did a lovely job as celebrant, and our Sunday regulars were quite touched. The rest of the day was festive, and ended at a party in the evening where we sang a version of the oldie, "My Girl", the refrain of which became, "Talking 'bout Margie." Having given her a guitar for her silver jubilee, the community realized it was past time for a new one and that became her golden jubilee gift.



Sr. Marjorie with her new guitar



*Fr. Craig Morrison,
O.Carm*

The last weekend in August, we had Fr. Craig Morrison, O.Carm. with us. We had liked very much the retreat he gave us several years ago, which combined art and music with input. This weekend he gave us a concentrated introduction to a new retreat he has put together, "Mystical Landscapes." He found it quite appropriate to be doing that here since the Hudson Valley is where this idea was born. The Hudson River School was a mid-nineteenth century art movement which emphasized landscape as "an ineffable manifestation of God," as one of its founders expressed it.

Srs. Michaelene, Aletha, and Marita attended Sr. Joan Bourne's funeral at Danville in late August; then, the second weekend in September, Srs. Marjorie, Aletha and I went

to Danville just to visit our sisters there. It was wonderful to see them, and we all realized that the next visit would have to be more than just one overnight!

On September 15 a small group of Third Order Franciscans met here for a recollection day. They were lovely and prayerful women, some of them friends of ours for many years.



L to R: Srs. Carolyn, Angela, Regina, Aletha, Margaret at Danville

Our community retreat was September 17 to 26. Fr. Don Buggert, O.Carm. was to be the presenter for the first five days, but had to cancel at the very last minute due to a possible health emergency. We were glad to hear after some days that he was healthy, and he promises to come for a few days in November, after visiting the O.Carm. novices in Middletown, NY. Our Redemptoristine sisters were in retreat at the same time and invited us to come to the conferences of their director. That was much appreciated.

And...for animal lovers, an update on Lulu, the errant cow. Much to the relief of our gardeners, her owner donated her to a local teaching farm. Lulu even got her photo in a local newspaper – a feat none of us who have lived here thirty-six years has accomplished!

May we all be richly blessed by our October feasts.



Sr. Mary Clare Doherty

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Boston, Massachusetts

The program . . . Our continuing formation program began this “semester” with Michael Berry OCD speaking on OHM’s CASTLE and offering some very excellent insights. Srs. Catherine, Carol of Eldridge, and Frances came from Concord to join us for the day.



Alexandra Rose, family, and community

The comings . . . Alexandra Rose, our deceased Sr. Rose Lopez's brand new grandniece, came with her family for a visit. Sr. Bernadette Therese's brother Mark and his family visited from Canada, and Sr. Roseann from Barrington made her retreat here.

Magdala, a first-year medical student and a new neighbor, joined us for Mass and introduced herself. Though

born in the States, she speaks Polish fluently and three friends from Poland who happened to be attending Mass were more than happy to have the opportunity of talking with her. We enjoyed having Fr. Mark Joseph OCD with us for our canonical visitation. And Sr. Maria's friend from the Philippines, Bishop Louie Galbines, who was returning from a meeting in Rome, surprised her with a visit.

Sr. Mary Clare's friend, Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury, came from Bangladesh with



Bishop Louie Galbines and Sr. Maria

his wife and a friend who had worked there with UNICEF. Zafrullah had come to the States to



Steve, Zafrullah, and Shireen with some of the community

address a group of doctors in NY, and continued up to Boston to visit despite his being on dialysis.

The goings . . . Sr. Bernadette Therese was in Dallas for the joint meeting of the nuns and friars and later with Sr. Monika at the meeting in Mexico for the 50th anniversary of the Mexican federation, where they were able to hear Fr. General give input on Cor Orans.

Srs. Mary Teresa, Maria, Jeanne-Marie and Mary Clare went down to Barrington for the funeral Mass of Sr. Normagene, and at a later date Mary Teresa, M. Clare, Maria, Marieleth, and Bernadette Therese returned to Barrington to have some special time with our sisters there.

The celebrations . . . Our triduum for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was celebrated by one of our Redemptorist fathers and by a chapelful of people

And on the 27th of August, our own foundation day, we celebrated Vespers while processing to our garden shrines.

At the Mass in honor of St. Therese, this year, we had a number of seminarians attending from the diocesan and national seminaries as well as religious.

A community celebration of Sr. Mary Teresa's 60 years in Carmel (actually 61) was held with great rejoicing.

The outreach . . . A group of young people attending summer camp in the area came to the monastery to take part in the prayer program Sr. Jeanne-Marie had planned and, at a later date, a dozen young Latina women came for the experience.



Young people at the prayer experience

The parish . . . Our "new" pastor has been reassigned and our "very new" pastor, originally from Roxbury, is quite happy to come "home."

We're happy to have him.

Our parish is now part of a collaborative,

with two other city parishes, mainly Cape Verdean, English and Spanish speaking

The "Farm" . . . We had a great crop of cherries and grapes and made juice with the latter. We have figs on our fig tree And we have homegrown tomatoes, many, many homegrown tomatoes though grown at other people's homes.

The raccoons are back and their relocation process has begun. Two bats also spent a few days with us.

The street . . . was closed again for more "digging practice."

The nice things our friends do . . . One of our volunteer externs was late because she saw an elderly Brazilian couple walking on the highway carrying suitcases. Their car had broken down on the way to the airport. Liz took them there and the woman cried she was so happy.

Mark, Sr showed up (at his insistence) few days after back surgery to assist with parking during our public events, and his son Mark, Jr drove two hours from Maine and two hours back the same night to help him

The superior from Mission walks here for Mass –a half hour each way. One morning the gate was still locked, and he didn't have a phone, so he walked home and called us, then drove back.

The mistake . . . For those who may have noticed: in the last newsletter we said that our community was watching a video of David Senior's. It's Donald, the same Fr. Senior that Oldenburg was watching speak on a different subject. But you probably knew that.



Carmel of the Holy Family

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Milestone Moments

Sr. Maria Viatori

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is always an exuberant occasion because we also celebrate Sister Mary K Keklak's birthday.

This year she joyfully marked her 90th birthday. Her niece Michele came and had a wonderful reunion discussing the genealogy of the family. Michele has spent long hours investigating the family history and had extensive findings to show Mary K.

One evening Mary K was having a conversation with our regular hairdresser. He was commenting on his disbelief that Sister Pat O'Brien had reached the golden age of 90. Mary K looked at him with a twinkle in her eye and said, "Jeff, I just turned 90 myself! Jeff was in utter shock at the revelation. It seems that Mary K secretly has taken a sip from the fountain of youth.



Mary K's niece, Michelle, Mary K and Bernadette celebrate Mary K's 90th



Fr. Mike Woost, Mary K, and Barb with Secular Order members

We had a lovely liturgy that morning and several members of the Secular Order came to worship with us. We are blessed that our Secular Order is growing in the Akron area of Ohio.

On-Going Formation

Barb suggested that we schedule a week for reflection and quiet from July 22 to July 29. Renovations would begin in earnest at our Arlington Road house so time would be at a premium for all of us to gather for a solid block of quiet. We decided to focus our attention on "The Charter of Life." Maria prepared an outline of reading segments and questions for reflection. During that week we met four times for community sharing.

Dr. Sally Wilson continues to work with our community and is now conducting a series of segments entitled, "Relaxation, Reflection, Resilience." This program blends

spiritual, psychological and physical insights that help to maintain a well-rounded and healthy perspective in life.

Latest News



Mary K, Donna, Bernie, and Barb all agree the paint in the "new" house is wonderful.

We all sent up a cheer in thanksgiving that the Landmark Commission and Architectural Review Board approved the last round of renovation improvements for our new location. We do see light at the end of the tunnel and hope that we can move before the snow flies. All we can say is that when the work is complete, we will be able to call the moving trucks.

Part of the activities of the community has been to celebrate the feast of All Saints in late September. Barb and Donna collected statues and religious pictures from all the nooks and crannies in the house and carted them to the refectory. All the saints were literally eyeing us while we ate dinner. We had discussions of what statues would move with us and those that would have to find a new home. On the feast of Saint Therese Barb invited the people who attended the liturgy to stop by to see the statue collection. We could see smiling faces as people departed with statues in hand.

Reunion with Friends

Many years ago Father Marty Amos, Pastor of Saint Dominic's in Shaker Heights, would come to celebrate liturgy with us. He would often talk to Bernadette about his wood-working and paschal candle making. He then became bishop and led the church in the Diocese of Davenport. Our sisters in Eldridge know him well. He is now retired and has returned to the area. Bernadette, our priest scheduler, tracked him down and invited him to celebrate with us. Our worshipping congregation was thrilled to have him back in Ohio.



Our friends Judy and Bob Carr, Bishop Marty Amos, and Maria after Sunday liturgy



*Donna Bernie, and Mary K getting ready for
St. Therese*

Saint Therese Novena

All hands were on deck to help Donna prepare for the Liturgy the evening of October 1st. We have a custom, as many Carmels do, to have the blessing and distribution of roses at liturgy. That afternoon Donna called the florist because the roses had not yet arrived. The florist asked Donna if delivery on October 2nd would be sufficient. She laid down the law, said a quick prayer to Therese, and the

roses finally appeared at 3:30 pm. Thank you Saint Therese and Donna!

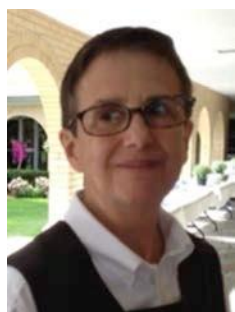
News from Regina Health Center

Our sisters continue to do well at Regina Health Center. *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* recently cited the best 25 nursing facilities in the State of Ohio. Regina Health Center was rated # 3. We are grateful for the quality of care that our sisters receive and are thankful to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine and the staff for their outstanding commitment to the elderly and those in need.

United in Prayer

We continue to pray for Pope Francis during this turbulent time in the Church. May the Holy Spirit guide him in all the decisions he has to make. Our hearts go out to the people of Indonesia as they recover from the tsunami.

May this harvest season bring blessings and peace to all.



Sr. Hilary Case

Carmel of Our Lady and St. Joseph

Concord, New Hampshire

As I write we are celebrating St. Therese's Feast and indeed, her life. She lived only 24 years, but she faced several difficult situations: the death of her mother when she was only four, her childhood illnesses, the entrance of both of her older sisters into Carmel before she was grown, the onset of her final illness, and her searing trial of faith--to name just a few. Her world kept changing, demanding that she find

new strength to grow spiritually through the transitions she was required to make. This she did with the help of Jesus, who taught her to trust him and to give all of her concerns to him. It wasn't easy, but she grew into the saint we know through one transition after another. Writing about these with a mixture of seriousness and humor, she is a good example for those of us who are facing transition and the need to trust God. I will share some of our transitions in our news.

In early June Sr. Hilary entered a program of education and training for new formators, ForMission. This two-year program is coordinated by the Religious Formation Conference in partnership with Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. The participants meet in person for a week twice each year. Between each of the in-person sessions those in training write two papers, engage in a study group, and join a peer supervision group to help them grow in their ministry of initial formation. Our community has now formed a study group, and we are studying a series of articles on the vows in a new book written by the Newer Members of various congregations: *In Their Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World*. As these newer sisters share their journeys and cultural transitions, we are deeply moved and renewed by their dedication to the meaning of their vows and to their choice of religious life in our time of rapid change and secularization.

In July, Fr. Timothy Ennis, O.Carm served as celebrant and homilist for our Triduum for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We benefited from his scholarship, experience, and wisdom, and we are grateful to the sisters of Beacon Carmel for directing us to the friars of Middletown, N.Y. as a resource for our Triduum.

August saw us welcoming two sisters. Sister Carol Strzynski came from Eldridge Carmel to visit us for three months. During her visit she is serving as Refectorian and helping with reception. We feel closer to our Midwestern cousin Carmel through Carol's friendly presence. Also in August, Mary Louise Mure returned to our community, having left for Arizona in 2016 to be near her family and to work in health care and animal rescue. We were pleased to welcome her back and to accept her into the Novitiate on August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption. She will now be known as Sister Mary Francis of the Holy Family. Thus far, she assists Sr. Claudette with liturgy and takes care of the Vestry.

In September the New England Inter-Formation Program kicked into action with Fr. Michael Berry's presentation on *Self Knowledge in the Works of St. Teresa*. Sisters Katharine Mary, Mary Francis, and Carol joined the sisters of Boston Carmel for this day on September 24th. They returned home full of joy at the depth of the talks and the sharing afterward. We thank Sr. Mary Teresa of Boston Carmel for coordinating this program and expanding it to include sisters in both initial and ongoing formation. We also thank the Boston sisters for their hospitality and friendship. It is always energizing to study the works of our Carmelite tradition together and in so doing, find the Lord's direction in our lives.

As we move toward our Holy Mother's feast, we wish you a blessed and gloriously beautiful fall. Sr. Louise watches every evening for "Chuck"--that's our current woodchuck--and wonders when he will need to hibernate. We consider doing the same, eating voraciously during October and November, then bedding down until late March. But we don't. We have prayer ahead of us and much to do. Anyway, fall and winter are too beautiful in this neck of the woods. Many blessings until next time from your sisters in Concord!



Sr. Angela Pikus

Carmel of the Sacred Heart and of the Holy Face

Danville, Pennsylvania

Autumn thus far has brought more overcast skies than brilliant foliage, but with the lower temperatures in recent nights, the hillsides are taking on muted fall colors. With the frequent downpours of rain, we were spared flooding, while some areas and road locally had moderate, brief flooding. Now, with cool nights it's beginning to feel like fall.

Sr. Joan of the Cross' death on August 10 was very peaceful after the almost ten years of slowly progressing diminishment, physically and mentally. Eight days earlier (August 2) her family came for a visit and found her alert between the constant fallings off into slumber. Her funeral was truly a glorious celebration of her life, with family, friends, and 15 Carmelites filling the Chapel to standing room. Our Sisters from Baltimore had planned to come at the same time for a Sisterly Visit; this became their visit with eleven Sisters coming and with Sr. Robin offering two solos, one of them being her own composition, a favorite of Sr. Joan's, "The Thicket of God". Four Sisters from our Carmel in Latrobe made the long five-hour journey (one way) in one day! We were blessed with an outpouring of sisterly love and support.



Sr. Joan Bourne

In June Fr. Steven Payne who was traveling in the area stopped by for dinner and an early afternoon visit. And, our Provincial, Fr. Jude Peters, also in the area came for an afternoon visit.

For the feast of St. Therese, we had the joy of a visit from Fr. Salvatore Sciorba, O.C.D. and Brother Robert Sentman, O.C. D. They had been at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius for our local Secular Carmelites who were making a

weekend retreat. After the retreat they came over for supper and a visit, and on the feast of Therese, Fr. Sal offered Mass for the Community.



Sr. Margaret and Sr. Angela and the forces of nature

Early in the summer our area experienced a “straight line wind,” a strong blast of wind, brief but destructive. It uprooted the huge, deciduous tree which was healthy and in full leaf. Happily, no one was out on the grounds at the time. The uprooted tree was an eye-catcher and even made it into the local newspaper (without our picture!).

Sr. Angela had a silent, two weeks’ retreat at Beacon Carmel in June, which was refreshing spiritually and physically. Wild life is abundant in the area and she had some entertainment watching the guinea hens, the Canada geese who had a blessed event of three goslings, the turkey buzzards, and the graceful young deer. Oh yes, an hour before Angela left for home, Lulu, a 14-month old Angus cow from the neighbors’ property, appeared to say goodbye.

Members of Sister Joan Lundy’s and Sr. Regina’s family visited in the past weeks and numerous local friends stopped by for prayers.

Sr. Margaret Kob observed her 70th anniversary of Profession on September 14th quietly. She does very well in praying the Liturgy of the Hours with us despite her very poor eyesight. At age 91 she still takes her daily walk for as much as an hour outdoors with her sturdy cane.



Sr. Margaret on her daily walk

We are reflecting on and studying the material of Vultum Dei quaerere and Cor Orans and are grateful for the various commentaries and question-and-answer papers offered us by our Association. Dialog and assimilation will take much time. In

all this we recognize the appreciation that Pope Francis has for the contemplative life and his desire to see it flourish into the future.

United in Spirit as we celebrate the feast of our OHM St. Teresa, we offer the following reflection by our Sr. Margaret in a spirit of Teresian festivity.

The Tambourine

*Isn't the tambourine wonderful, after all?!
just a simple, happy shout, without need of words.
It might feel envious of the exquisite tones
of the harp, the flute, or the violin ---
might blush at the thought of taking a place
with a glorious symphonic orchestra.
But the tambourine has a charm all its own
which even our father David did not spurn.
It was there when he brought the Ark of God to Zion
dancing, twirling, making music for the Lord.
The tambourine!! It gives voice to the sparkling Gihon
as it makes its way from Eden to the great King's city.
It possesses a freedom unknown to the grander instruments,
unhampered by the discipline of note and measure.
Its music is the prayer of joyful abandon ---
the prayer of the child within.*

2Sm 6:5
Sir 24:25
Jr 31:4-



Sr. Miriam Hogan

Carmel of the Queen of Heaven

Eldridge, Iowa

It has been a good but slow news quarter in Eldridge. We are especially praying for the local farmers to be able to harvest their crops before the rain makes the fields too soggy to navigate with the tractors.

Some of us were able to attend a Serra Club meeting that concerned vocations for our diocese. At that time, the Humility Sisters told us that they were singing the song, "Rain Down," because it was so dry. How quickly things seem to change!

Nevertheless, as we approach Thanksgiving, we joyfully count our blessings and give thanks for what looks to be a good Harvest Season.

Our own garden has supplied us with tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, beans, beets etc., thanks to the skillful work of Sr. JonFe.

Fr. Ed Omelia has not only offered Mass for us on most days of the week, but he also gathers rosary beads (Job's tears) from JonFe's garden.



After Mass with Fr. Ed Omelia



Part of our turkey flock

Finally, we need to mention

that the monastery has been adopted by seven wild turkeys (a mother and six little ones). They seem to circle around the property sometimes showing up outside the chapel in the garden. Sr. Lynne says, "They are turkeys that we are not going to eat" at Thanksgiving or Christmas. However, they might be

eating Father's rosary beads. When it dries out, he will check on them.

We wish all of our Sisters a Happy Feast of Our Holy Mother Teresa and a Happy Thanksgiving.



Sr. Teresa Susan and Sr. Jeannette prepare for a prayer service.



*Sr. Marie
Elizabeth Krug*

Carmel of the Assumption

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

At the risk of sounding like a character from a Shakespearian play, I ask: "Who could believe the heavens could contain so much rain?" As I write this we are in the midst of another heavy downpour on what promises to be another wet day. Our longest period of sunshine this summer has been five consecutive days. Our garden suffered, with produce rotting before it ripened and some of the root vegetables perishing. What we were able to use was a real treat but so much of Sr. Tanya's hard work was for merit only. While we had no direct flooding, our larger area was afflicted, with people losing their homes due to mudslides, and roads that collapsed under the deluge of rain. Coupled with scheduled road repair, many roads were closed and getting to the Pittsburgh airport or hospitals was a challenge.

Our first news, not new - but one that we are still trying to adjust to, is the unexpected illness and death of our Sr. Ellen Jane O'Donnell. We have sent an obituary write-up to our sister Carmels, so I won't repeat what was in that communication. Ellen was a bright light in our days. It bothered her that she could not do more to relieve the burden of labor in the community, so she was determined to do as much for herself as she could, despite her mental diminishment. You might find her at 4 a.m. at the choir music board that was near her cell, trying to figure out what day it was and what was the next thing she was expected to attend. She had spent some time the night before, carefully checking her music books that the hymns for the Eucharist were marked and ready. During the day she would always meet us with a bright smile and would voice her continued appreciation for everything, including the daily hot meal, which she considered a special treat, always encouraging us, with a mischievous twinkle, to save room for dessert. She wanted to be with her Sisters, and persuading her that she ought to forgo recreation and retire early was difficult, no matter how tired she seemed. We believe she will continue to love and pray for us from her place in the eternal life of the Trinity, whom she loved.



Sr. Ellen Jane's funeral with her brother, Fr. Tom O'Donnell, officiating

On August 17th Srs. Mary, Tanya and Marie Elizabeth drove to Danville to be with our Sisters at the funeral of Sr. Joan Bourne. Joan had been in the novitiate in Loretto with some of our founding Sisters. She meant so much to many of us in our Association and the various times we were together, and it was a special grace to join with her family, her Sisters in Danville, and those from Baltimore and Beacon Carmels to say “until we meet again.”

We observed our community retreat from September 14-28. We had decided to have conferences on St. Mary of Jesus Crucified. In the last four years, she has been our community patroness three times, so we decided that she was trying to teach us something we needed to learn. We were directed to Fr. Thomas Mary, OCD who was in the Monastery in Washington, DC and had studied St. Mary extensively. He readily agreed to come. Then Father was transferred to the Monastery in Brighton, MA and felt that he would not be able to make it. We were looking for other alternatives when Father called and said he felt he would be able to come after all. It seemed that St. Mary definitely had something to share with us! Father had a wealth of material on St. Mary of Jesus Crucified and our daily conference didn't exhaust all his resources.

With the help of a benefactor, we were able to install ductless air conditioning/heat units in our four major common rooms: kitchen, refectory, recreation room and library. Three of the rooms have vaulted ceilings and tend to be hot in summer and chilly in winter. Previously, we had a large window air conditioner in the recreation room, but its operating noise made it impossible to talk over it, so we would shut it off during meetings and recreation. The ductless units are virtually noiseless. The four rooms and the general area became evenly and comfortably cool. We are waiting to see what difference the heating part of the unit will make this winter. What a blessing it has been.

One of our surprises in feeding the birds came this year because of the incessant rain. We were unable to frequently mow the area around the bird feeder. We noticed that some plants were sprouting that looked like corn. As they grew we realized it wasn't corn but sorghum. Soon the palm-like seed bracts appeared and proceeded to ripen, much to the delight of the turkeys who eat the seeds. Most of the Sisters had never heard of sorghum and some knew what it was but had never seen it growing. We also had several small volunteer sunflowers that the goldfinches devoured.



Sr. Shirley and her father, Henry

Please pray for Sr. Shirley and her family in the death of her father Henry, age 99. Henry was a career Army man, serving in active duty during World War II as a pilot. He was part of the Berlin airlift. Until recently, he still spent his winters in Florida with the help of caregivers. Though he had been in the hospital and expected to die, he was moved home (with hospice care) and rallied as he had so many times in the past. But, he surprised everyone

when he slipped away in the night. We thank God for his peaceful passing.

We are almost at the feast of St. Therese and we remember all our Carmelite family celebrating this Saint with us. May your Autumn be blessed with joy and peace as we commemorate all our heavenly family.



Sr. Jean Alice McGoff

Carmel of the Resurrection

Oldenburg, Indiana

The trees in our area are just starting to take on a bit of fall color. Some days, when there is a strong breeze, there is a shower of golden rain as some leaves decide that it is time to let go. I think back to my eagerness in May to see the leaves emerge on the bare trees. Suddenly, in the course of a week, the miracle happened. I recall again what David Ruhmkorff (process person who helped us give a structure and articulate a vision for CCA) said in the early seventies, "The myth of the universe is life, death, and resurrection."

Here at the Franciscan motherhouse, there have been many deaths with the accompanying liturgies of thanksgiving and farewell. On the feast of St. Francis in October the chapel was filled with young boys and girls from the academy here on campus. A special surge of life filled the air. The town is already getting ready for Halloween and getting volunteers for the "Holiday Under the Spires" that takes place the first Saturday of each Advent. "Hope springs eternal."

We have managed to incorporate You-tube into our television set. Under the category of education there are some excellent lectures available. The faith-sharing group that comes here monthly has watched some good ones by Elizabeth Johnson including "The Evolution of the Earth and the Spiritual Quest."

We have had the joy of celebrating in August Terese's 65th Profession anniversary and in September, Helen's 60th.

Marcie attended the fall meeting of the Association of Contemplative Sisters in Belleville, IL. The main speaker was Don Bisson, a Marist Brother with a doctorate in the area of Jung and Spiritual Direction as well as many other degrees. He is an international speaker and got rave reviews from the participants. Marcie brought back a series of his lectures on tape, *Jung, Politics, and Religious/Spiritual Response*. We plan to have our annual long retreat after the feast of OHM and will use these tapes for our reflection. We continue (in the words of Vatican II) to believe that "our God moves through history and is not absent from its development." These tapes promise that

“looking through Jungian lenses, to name some of the collective forces at work and from our Religious Structures and Spiritual Traditions, suggest ways to rediscover conscience and the search for truth.”

In line with our appreciation of the beauty of our God’s creation, during the holy time of our retreat we will drive down to one of the places where Indiana meets the Ohio river and delight in the miracle of the turning leaves before they surrender to the coming of winter.

Carmel of Our Lady of the Mountains

Reno, Nevada



*Sr. Marie-Louise
Bishop*

The close relationship between prayer and its reflection in the arts has long been central to our Carmelite mission and evangelization in Reno. Originally that expression was found primarily through our print shop and the art work that went into designing and printing our greeting cards. It has gradually expanded even more into sharing that religious evangelization through exhibits and concerts and recordings.

Our larger Reno community has partnered with us even more this summer.

The University of Nevada, Reno, (UNR) invited our Sr. Sa Ra to stage an art exhibit, entitled “Contemplation Through Art,” in one of their galleries on the university campus. It was open to the public. Many of her paintings were for sale. There was a public reception for Sa Ra in the exhibit hall July 1st and it was well attended with enthusiastic reviews of her work.



Sr. Sa Ra discusses her art work in the gallery with drop in visitors in the days before the celebratory close.

Music, too, was part of the summer activities. Each year during the summer, our friend Dolora Zajick, runs an Institute for Young Dramatic Voices. Her gifted young opera students come to join us for Vespers and also sing at the end of the service. Then we host a pizza party for them and their teachers. Their talent is more than impressive. The dedication of the instructors to opera and its future singers is inspiring

August was ushered in with our community continuing the Carmelite tradition of prayer and support for priests and seminarians. Four of our sisters attended the barbeque hosted by the Serra Club at our Lady of Snows for our current seminarians. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know them and to show our support.

Visits and retreats by longtime friends usually mark the summer months. Joe Aspell is one of those. He is a well-known sculptor. Some of you may have seen his work as he did much of the design of Pope John Paul II's visit to San Francisco. He shared with us his current projects that are always inspirational, and our conversations always open up another insight into how art can be revelatory of the divine.



Dolora Zajick (center facing conductor) sings with some of her youthful voices at the end of Vespers.



Sr. Susan at the lectern during the prayer service for victims of abuse with the priests, religious, deacons and wives in our chapel

We enlarged upon this theme of prayer in late August for those serving in our diocese when we again hosted the first of eight monthly gatherings of the "Priests and Sisters." This now includes our bishops (current and retired), priests, religious (most of which are us), and deacons and their wives. The gathering always begins with a prayer service and is followed by dinner that we prepare. This year we created a special prayer service for the victims of the sexual abuse crisis. All present were deeply grateful for the opportunity to be praying together for healing of this deep and painful wound. This was particularly appreciated as there is no retreat house in the diocese and no place

where they can "come away" for any time of silence and prayer that is so needed for healing and conversion.

The pain of this scandal was so deeply felt by our extended community that we also held an evening prayer service in our chapel for anyone wishing to come to pray for the

victims and for their healing and that of the church. Our chapel was quite full that evening, September 14th. It was a very fitting day to pray. Our extended community from the wider Reno area gathered as a faith community in a time of pain and crisis. We called it "A Prayer Service for Healing: Renewing our Commitment to the Gospel Message."

As part of our pledge to build community among ourselves, but also among those who worship with us, we host an annual Pot Luck each year for those who come to our chapel. Originally it was on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, but when that turned out to be too hot to use our courtyard, we changed it this year to Labor Day weekend. It is always a joyous affair. A wide variety of food (plentiful, delicious) appears and always with a smile. We provide all the set up and place settings, tables and chairs. Our friends do the rest of the organizing and bring the food. Every year there are some new faces and opportunities to connect with someone we haven't had extended conversations with before. It's a wonderful community building experience.



Both sisters Cecelia and Rosalind attended the Tri-Provincial meeting in Dallas with the friars and nuns of Mary Queen of Carmel and CCA Associations in September. The opportunity to meet face-to-face, exchange experiences and share conversation is always as important as formal agendas. Bonds continue to be built and strengthened each time we share with one another.

Friars Tri-Provincial, QofC, CCA meeting in Dallas

As the season changes we pray for positive change, growth and renewal for ourselves, for our Carmels, for our Church, and for our world.



Sr. Anna Marie Vanni

Carmel of the Mother of God

San Rafael, California

Greetings to all our Sisters! We begin our newsletter with the month of July and our Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Father Jose Luis Ferroni, OCD and Father David Costello, OCD gave us an extraordinary Novena, with Father Jose giving the first half of the Novena and Father David the last half. They both gave us excellent homilies based on the latest Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete Et Exsultate" of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness in Today's World,

which is based on the Holy Father's reflections on the Beatitudes. Father Jose Luis took the first four and Father David took the second four Beatitudes. They both also wove into their homilies, their devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The Chapel was full of our friends each evening. This first picture includes Father Jose Luis at the Altar, with Father David on the left of the Altar and Father Pepin Dandou (from the Congo, Brazzaville) on the right and Father Samuel Musiimenta (from Uganda) on the left of Father Jose Luis.



On July 1st, Father Pepin Dandou, a good friend of ours for several years, came to stay with us for the month of July before his assignment to the Sacramento Diocese. We first met Father Pepin, when he came from France three years ago to study English at City College in San Francisco. Father came to stay with us for several weeks as things were getting set up for him to stay at St. Cecilia's Parish in San Francisco. Because we were the first to welcome him to the United States, he felt that this was his first home. Father would return each month and offer one or two Sunday Masses for us. After three years of study (in both the English and Spanish languages), Father was then able to receive full faculties in the Sacramento Diocese, east of the San Francisco Diocese. His new work has entailed becoming the new Chaplain for the Carmelite Monastery of Holy Family and St. Thérèse in Georgetown, CA; helping out at the Parish of St. James in Georgetown and the Parish of St. Patrick's in Placerville. The Pastor of both Parishes is thrilled to have Father helping him with both English and Spanish Masses, as well as being with some very joyful Nuns.



Father John Rossi, another wonderful friend of ours, for about 15 years now, also came in July, toward the end of the month for his annual retreat. Father has come 5 times now to visit and stay for his retreats. The two Fathers enjoyed offering Mass together and were together for Father Pepin's "last" Mass with us on August 3rd. It was great to have a picture of us with both of our dear friend Priests, for this historic Mass.



Mother Dolores

Then, on August 25th, Mother Dolores and Sr. Anna Marie shared their Jubilees together. Mother Dolores celebrated 70 years of Entrance into Carmel and Sr. Anna Marie celebrated 40 years of Clothing. It was such a joyful celebration with three Priests concelebrating with Bishop Daniel Walsh, who has been a Community friend for over 40 years and Father David Pettingill, the homilist and close friend of Sr. Anna Marie's family for 50 years! The two Sisters

renewed their vows together, sharing in every way this glorious day. For all of these lovely events, Sr. Immaculates's bouquets for the Chapel were exquisite!



Sr. Anna Marie with her sister and brother-in-law, Rita and Tom Detar

In September/October, we had another very special Novena, this time to St. Thérèse, ending on her Feast Day. Father Brian Costello, the Pastor of Our Lady of Loretto Church just north of us and our own Pastor, Father Mark Reburiano, of nearby St. Isabella's Church, shared the days of the Novena. The themes with accompanying quotes of the Saint were: Confidence, Abandonment to God, Love of God, Prayer, Zeal for Souls, Holiness, Patience in Suffering, Perfection and the Mission of St. Thérèse. Both Priests shared their study, love and appreciation of St. Thérèse with all of us, in their inspired homilies. This year, the Gatti Family Florists, outdid themselves by bringing an overabundance of exquisite roses for the blessing of roses on the last night of the Novena. Everyone took away two or three roses!



Mother Dolores and Sr. Anna Marie

May you all have a very pleasant Fall, with beautiful weather, soft-lit days and crisp nights, bringing the gorgeous colors of the hardwood/deciduous trees. Much love and prayers, your Sisters of San Rafael.

