

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

for Carmel's Benefactors, Relatives and Friends
Fall, 2000

FOREVER

Was it in the 60s that young people started having trouble saying "forever"? Whenever this phenomenon happened, we can be grateful for its making us aware, though such was not the intent, of how awesome it is for our frail human nature to make such a commitment. Such a commitment was made in our chapel on October 1, and it was fitting that those celebrating were deeply moved when our Sister Bernadette Therese of the Cross proclaimed the "forever" of her vows to God. There were tears of joy ... tears of awe... tears of love on that glorious day filled with so many graces.

Bishop Mc Namara presided at the liturgy with many of our priest friends concelebrating. Sister's Mom was well enough to come from the Philippines and beamed with joy and pride as she played her unique role in giving her daughter to God. (Parents, never underestimate your very special God-given role in the church and world!) Her brothers and sisters came (she is one of 10!) from the Philippines, Canada, and the U.S. (You should hear them sing together! Fantastic!) The weather was heavenly perfect and now we have a new solemnly professed chapter nun! Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TWO WINNERS?!?!?!?

It happened on October 13. We gathered and prayed that Our Lord would help us pick the winner of the trip to Fatima to whom it would mean most. Mrs. Gertrude Leonard was picked! We excitedly went to call her

only to be told she could not accept because of her age and handicaps. No lamenting her inability from this good woman! We were so touched by her cheerfulness, her wonderful spirit of love for her family and the world family. Talking to her was like making a pilgrimage ourselves, the shrine being her pilgrim heart full of faith and hope and love. Our community was the 'winner' of that pilgrimage!

After hanging up, back we went to pray and pick another name. This 'winner' was a long time friend of our Carmel who is a secular Carmelite. Another gift was ours when we heard Elizabeth Senecal's joy and elation as she sounded forth magnificent-like her praise and thanks to God for this unexpected present.

DOING THEIR JOB

One summer day, very early, before the darkness was fully overcome by the sun, Lucky and Chacha, our dogs, were on alert, as usual. We are very blessed that they do not break the silence of the monastery too easily. Lucky does like to 'sing' with our tower bells, and occasionally she and Chacha will let out a little noise in their rough play,

but otherwise they are very good monastic dogs, unless they have a job to do. That summer day they did. An intruder had gotten into our garden and the barking let us know there was a problem. The police came and searched but apparently our 'police dogs' let the intruder know he was trespassing and he decided to go elsewhere on his own. Needless to say, Lucky and Chacha got extra pats and special treats for their good work!

80 AND 60 in 2000!

We are not talking about lottery numbers here but about our Sr. Therese of the Queen of Carmel who celebrated in August not only her 80th birthday, but also her 60th entrance day in Carmel -all in this very special jubilee year 2000! We had a very special birthday party with prayers and games and a festive meal! Her 60th anniversary was a more subdued affair as we are planning a public celebration in 2001 which marks her 60th clothing anniversary. A few years ago it was Sister's funeral we were beginning to plan after her fall down our iron staircase; how happy we are to be planning this diamond jubilee instead!

CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME FROM ROXBURY?

We, quote the above with apologies to our Roxbury neighbors whose goodness we know, but the fact of the matter is many minds,

unfortunately, do think the above when they hear 'Roxbury'! Let us share a recent event with you. A Sister from Australia has been studying in Boston. She was preparing to go to Lithuania to teach catechetics. She is very devoted to St. Therese and asked her superior if she could stop at Lisieux on her way to Lithuania. To her disappointment, her request was denied. Being a good religious, she accepted. Some friends mentioned there was a Carmel in Roxbury where a public celebration for St. Therese was scheduled for October 8". They asked if she would like to attend. Busy with studies she doubted it and felt a tinge about Lisieux being one thing, Roxbury something else! Being a sufferer from migraines throughout her life, she felt one coming on that October 8th, and knew study was useless so decided to come to honor St. Therese in Roxbury Carmel. She was not expecting what happened to her. She felt relief from her migraine and was weeping at the graces she felt she was receiving here. So it seems St. Therese is with us here in Roxbury, too! Blessed be God and his gifts!

OUR VISITATION

After every three years, the term of a Prioress, It is recommended by our laws that a community have a visitation. For us this means the Cardinal or his delegate comes to visit the community to see if we are living faithfully according to our vocation. One of our Carmelite Fathers, Father Salvatore was the one assigned to do this for us this year, shortly before our elections. It is a time of grace and challenge as each Sister meets personally with the visitor to answer questions or say anything she wishes. The

visitor also meets with the community as a whole to make recommendations or suggestions at the end. He also sends a report to the Cardinal. We do not get report card type marks for visitations, but we can assure you that we take our vocation very seriously and are trying our best to be faithful Carmelites.

A MANY ELECTIONS YEAR!

Before our country got into its very unusual presidential election in November, we had our own little unusual community election in August. Bishop Allue was assigned by our Cardinal to preside. The unusual part was that the election resulted in a postulation. Unless you are a canon lawyer, you may be wondering what "postulation" means? Well, to make it simple, because our prioress had two terms of office, she could not be reelected. However, two-thirds of the community asked for a postulation, meaning they are asking for a third term for the same person. Permission is then asked from the Generalate in Rome and everything is 'on hold' until the reply is received. We received a favorable answer, so Sr. Mary Teresa of the Sacred Passion is our Prioress again. Sr. Catherine of the Trinity was elected first councillor again and Sr. Mary Clare of Jesus, second councillor.

ANYBODY SEEN WHOOPI?

One daily routine at the monastery is opening and locking up. This involves going out to our entrance gate and the Sister doing this often gets greetings from neighbors and children. This time one of the children had a burning question for Sister. "Does Whoopi Goldberg live in there?" Well, not yet, but if she is

a good Catholic, has a vocation and wants to apply she could come and live with us!

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

We are very blessed by a good friend and benefactor who provides lecturers for us every year. A graduate of Boston College, his family has founded the McCarthy Chair at that institution. He and his wife (she is now in heaven) stipulated that the lecturer was to come to our monastery to talk to us as well. What a gift! We have had such wonderful men and women here to enrich us with their expertise in theology. We could never thank Dr. McCarthy and his family (once our neighbors) enough for this amazing opportunity for us!

This year the lecturer was Professor Michael Lawler from Creighton University. He is a married man who is also doing research on marriage and family matters for the Bishops of our country. Our meeting with him was very enlightening and though we often pray for family life in our country, he added more fire to our desire to do so.

LASTLY...

The fall/winter seasons give us many family feasts to celebrate: Halloween, All Saints, All Souls, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas. May each and all of them strengthen your family ties as you celebrate and remember all the good things God has done, is doing and will always do for us! (Do keep celebrating the jubilee until Epiphany, January 7, 2001!)

With love and gratitude in Jesus,
Your Sisters of Boston
Carmel

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OUR MAY DAY

May 17th this year was the 75th anniversary of St. Therese's canonization. For our Carmel, it was a first, for on that Wednesday in Eastertide Sister Marie of the Incarnation made her temporary profession of vows. It was an event that added to our Easter joy and occasioned her Mom's very first plane trip and her Dad's first in 43 years! (Sister hails from Canada.)

Her parents were able to stay in our guestquarters for a few days to make this trip worthwhile. It also enabled them to have a longer visit with their daughter. Of course, we all visited with them a bit to share our joy on this happy occasion.

Boston also contributed to this happy event. On the day of their arrival, a good friend of one of the nuns was able to take them around for a little tour of Boston's sites which they enjoyed. Temporary profession is another step on the journey before final, solemn vows.. Mother Church, in her wisdom deems it wise to allow a candidate for religious life to spend a period of time with vows before they make their final commitment for life. For Carmelites, this period lasts for three years. Each monastery decides whether the vows be taken for a period of three consecutive years or for one year at a time for three years. Our community has chosen the latter option. So next

year on May 17th, God willing, Sr. Marie will be renewing her vows for another year.

INTRODUCING...

Allow us to introduce our two new postulants! Marie Frances Demopoulos joined us on February 19th. She is from Dorchester. March 19th brought Young Therese Whang. to us. Young is originally from Korea. Rejoice with us and thank God with us for sending us these hopeful new vocations.

LITTLE VISITORS

We do not get to see children too often but we had a special treat in March when a group of 14 CCD children came from Rhode Island. They had been praying for our novice, Sr. Jeanne Marie and had asked to visit her and the community. We had a wonderful visit of sharing and praying together with them, their six adult companions and bus driver!

ASCENSION DAY

On this 'going up' feast of Our Lord, we happily experienced a 'going up' when we celebrated Eucharist that day with our regional Bishop, John Boles. His Excellency has a special way of encouraging us in our vocation when he celebrates liturgy with us. So our spirits felt a raising up, a lifting up, an ascension with Our Lord! Thank you, Bishop!

SOMETHING MIGHTLY BIG IS COMING UP

This jubilee year has given us so many things to make jubilee about: our two new postulants, our temporary profession and an event that is yet to come on October 1st! On that day Bernadette Therese of the Cross will be making her solemn vows! What a special gift for us, for the Church, for the world! Pray for Sister as she prepares to take this momentous step and pray that her Mom, who has not been well, will be strong enough to make the trip from the Philippines for that day.

"DE SPRING is SPRUNG DE GRASS IS RIZ..."

I wonder where de flowers is? Some of our flowers are under the staging that is up around another section of our monastery building. It is because of the generosity of you, our benefactors and friends, that we are able to do some more masonry work this spring. In this phase we were able to finish pointing on three chimneys and to take one down. Masonry work is presently being done in area of the nuns cells and on the choir side of the monastery. What remains to be done after this phase? The area of the cloister walk, our front entrance and walls within the enclosure. When will it be done? As God and His helpers provide!

SOAR-ING

Our fundraising committee suggested that we apply for a grant to SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious). They only fund projects that benefit elderly religious so we applied for funds to renovate our infirmary bathroom for the benefit of older Sisters. (This bathroom is really far more decrepit than any of our Sisters!) In our petition we mentioned our Sister Therese who miraculously resurrected from a terrible fall. After sending it in, a SOAR representative called asking some more questions about our need. We were also told that the call was just for additional info and did not mean we were getting funds. Some time later we were called again. This time we were asked if we would be willing for our request and story to be used by SOAR. As part of the agreement, we would have to send photos of the monastery and of Sister Therese-within two weeks. (Holy Week was very close then!) We said yes and made the deadline ... so that means they will give us a grant for our infirmary bathroom! We are so grateful to this very dedicated group who do so much for senior religious. Perhaps you have received mailings from them and are one of their contributors. May God bless them for this wonderful work!

A GATHERING OF CARMELITES

In March two of our nuns went to Belleville, Illinois to meet with our Father General and 80 other Carmelite nuns from around the country. It was a very fruitful meeting. We are blessed to have a very fine Father General. Father Camilo Maccise was born in Mexico of Lebanese parents. He could not have been more generous with his time. He gave two talks a day and

then saw nuns individually until 10 p.m. each night!

On that trip our Sisters had occasion to be part of a modern Good Samaritan story. They were having a drink (milk & cocoa!) when a little boy fell and hit his head on a machine, bleeding profusely. Neither being blessed with nursing skills, one Sister went out to get help in huge O'Hare airport! Well, just at that moment a group of our Carmelite Sisters from Danvers arrive on the scene ... two of them nurses! They played their nursing part and, then, oh, something very special happened. A stranger, pushing his little daughter in a carriage saw the trouble and took his little girl out of the carriage to comfort the little boy. It was so touching to see this expression of human compassion. The little boy, held so lovingly in his mother's arms, was calmed, the bleeding stopped, and airport personnel arrived with professional services. God is always watching over us. True, we still struggle with pain and suffering and tragedy but is there such a thing as chance for us who believe that God is love? May God help us see in all events of our life how He is loving us!

NOAH & THE FLOOD

It happened. In March ... we had a flood in our cellar ... not as big as the one Noah had to deal with, but we needed to do some shoveling! (For those with raised eyebrows, it was water not snow that was shoveled ... an old plumber taught one of the nuns this trick on another flood occasion!) The cause? Not the heavens but a defective turn off valve! And guess what? This wasn't from old plumbing but new!!! Our rainbow was the plumber who came quickly to fix it.

HEAR YE NOT ANGELS SINGING?

A young woman getting her degree at BU is helping us to sing to the Lord better! We were given funds specifically for this. Jennifer Kaye is young and vivacious and has a beautiful voice. No one in heaven or on earth has told us we sound like angels yet but hope blooms eternal!

PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES...

One of the things the jubilee of our Lord's birth calls us to do is "proclaim liberty to captives..." A friend who volunteers at a prison has been our helper in this jubilee effort. Prisoners who wish are enrolled in our prayers and they in turn pray for us. Sometimes we send a little spiritual gift. We have discovered through this outreach how much Our Lord suffers in prisoners. 'Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you are also in the same body.' (Heb. 13:3)

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL!

We would be very happy if you would come to our special events this year:

- July 14, 15, 16 at 7 p.m. to honor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- October 8 at 2 p.m. to honor St. Therese
- November 12 at 2 p.m. For our public lecture on St. Elijah the Prophet

Have a wonderful summer!

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Carmel

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OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

The plan was to go out and meet her with lighted candies and prayer. Instead it was with tools! That's what happened on October 23, 1999 at around 10 p.m. when St. Therese's relics were brought to our monastery!

Interesting that St. Therese, who gloried in her littleness, should be too big for our doors!

She had a wonderful sense of humor and she showed it to us that night! So, we put down our candies, and got a ruler, screwdriver and hammer! The ruler "ruled" supreme that night. One by one it knocked over, like bowling pins, the possible doors that came to mind. There was a sigh of relief when one doorway measured wide enough ... if the door was taken down! Hammer and screwdriver almost accomplished their task of removing the door's pin hinges when the ruler now revealed that before coming to the wide doorway there was another door, and guess what? It was too small!

No one was giving up. The van was unparked, drove to the back door of the chapel and, at last, to our great delight, the relics of St. Therese made their way into our monastery.

As you will see from our welcoming prayer, we "brought" all of you who are part of our lives into this special event for us: "Welcome to our Carmel, our very specially loved Sister, Therese of the Child Jesus

and the Holy Face! What joy for us to have you visit us and our neighborhood that need so much to hear your message of God's great love and mercy. May your presence among us be a grace not only for our monastery but for all those who live around us, for all of Roxbury, for all our benefactors and relatives and friends who make our life possible here, for all of Boston and Massachusetts and all our country! Pray with us these few hours we are privileged to be together, obtain for each of us and all who touch our lives, the gift to love Jesus as you loved Him, with total abandonment and trust, until we can sing with you face to face of the merciful love of our God that has loved us even unto folly! Amen."

Then each of us took a rose, venerated the relics and left the rose at the reliquary. We had Mass, prayed the rest of the night with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, had Mass in the morning at 7 a.m. and then at around 8:40 a.m. St. Therese's relics left us to go to the Cathedral.

What a blessed night, what a happy night, what an unforgettable night! Blessed be God and His gifts!

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Our name, Discalced Carmelites, bewilders people. To prove it here are some examples of how our mail comes addressed. Sometimes we are DISABLED CARMELITES,

sometimes we are DISCALED (like fish)! Some, understandably try to avoid 'discalced' and write CARMELIGHTS or CARNELITE NUNS. (We personally prefer Canelite to CARNALite Nuns.) At times the 'creativity' focuses on the monastery aspect. One of the best is: MONSTERY! (imagine what life would be living with monsters!) Ah, and then there's STERY MONA! One of the nuns must have written awfully illegibly one day because now one of our 'aliases' is: CARMELITE MONTGOMERY. Our Irish friends will love this one: M. O'NASTERY! Computer limitation is probably the cause of the following unique address: MONASTERY OF DI. (Princess Diana has never been here!) The latest one to arrive as this is being written: CARMELITE MONAS! Personally, the nuns have been addressed as Mr., Ms., Mrs...but the favorite is ST.!(Would that canonization was so easy to attain!)

In case you are wondering, we are Discalced Carmelites. In the time of St. Teresa religious orders that were reformed were called 'discalced' because they went barefoot or wore sandals instead of shoes. It was a sign of reform in those days. 'Discalced' means shoeless. There has been talk of dropping the term Discalced because it bewilders so many. One suggestion was to have

us called Teresian Carmelites. But no official change has been made, and so we still are Discalced Carmelites.

WILD KINGDOM

No doubt about it, we are in the city. However, we do have some interesting wild kingdom experiences every once in a while. One happened rather recently. Upon going to the cellar for a little job, a sister had a very unusual encounter ... with a snake! It wasn't a python, thank God, but it was alive. She got it into a bucket and put it in the garden. It was a good snake, not the kind that did so much ill to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It didn't say a word and didn't try to bite!

A NEW NOVICE

On August 15, the Assumption of Our Lady, our postulant, Jeanne-Marie Graham, became Sr. Jeanne-Marie of Merciful Love. The ceremony for entering the novitiate usually takes place at Morning Praise - with just the community present. We were doubly happy that day celebrating Our Lady's solemnity and our new novice!

WE KNOW NOT THE DAY OR THE HOUR

On Saturdays, the priests from our parish, St. Patrick's, celebrate Eucharist with us. On November 6th, Fr. Pio Gottin, OFM Cap was the celebrant. Little did we know that this would be the last time Father would come to us. Our Lord came for him the next day, November 7th. Fr. Pio ministered to the Cape Verdean people tirelessly and wholeheartedly. He was a holy man who will be greatly missed. One thing we know for sure: Fr. Pio was very ready to go to God.

On October 28 we received a fax from Archbishop Gregory Ganaka

from Nigeria. He was a guest of one of our friends, Bill Reynolds, and was looking for a book on Carmelite spirituality. Happily, we had the book. The next day Bill brought the Archbishop, who was on his way to the airport, to our monastery to pick up the book. We had a lovely visit with this gentle and softspoken man who told us he was in our country for two years waiting for a heart transplant. What a shock we received when Bill informed us that the Archbishop died in his sleep on November 11th!

Eternal rest grant unto them and all our faithful departed loved ones, Lord.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

From August 8 to 12 we were very happy to have with us Sr. Mary Lucy Cyr, RSM. You may remember that Sister was the one who helped care for our Sr. Mary Elizabeth when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Sister is now stationed in Rome and shared many things with us. It was a real blessing to be together encouraging each other to be faithful to our vocations in the Church.

On August 12th we reluctantly had to say another goodbye ... this time to Sr. Jon Julie Sullivan, S.N.D. Sister helped answer the phone and door for us in the mornings from Monday to Friday. A real New Englander, no snow ever stopped her coming to us, even if no one else ventured out of their beds! Her creativity was truly phenomenal and she shared it generously. She videotaped Sr. Mary Elizabeth and Sr. Joseph for our archives, she photographed for us, she helped us sort photos in our archives, etc, etc. What wonderful things she would 'invent' to help her own retired Sisters in Worcester! You can't hide a light under a bushel basket, so it was inevitable that her

religious community rightly called upon her to do things that would help them celebrate their 100 years in Boston. May God bless her new work and reward her for all the ways she enriched us!

HOLY DOORS

The millennium is not only just coming, it is almost here! Some fear it because they think it means the end of the world! Profiteers are using it to make all kinds of trinkets and gadgets as mementos, others have been engrossed in trying to make sure computers are Y2K ready. Holy Mother Church is telling us it is a time of jubilee, a time of joyful celebration. Isn't that the best idea?

One of the unique ways the Church celebrates jubilee years is by using the symbolism of a door. We could learn a lot from meditating on doors and gates. Jesus Himself told us, "I am the door" (Jn. 10:7) He left heaven's gates to come down for our redemption. Sometime when you are out walking look at doors--many are so constructed that they have a cross in the middle, the sign of our salvation! We have "sealed off" from use one of our doors to make it our "holy door" during the jubilee year. It is a bit inconvenient not using it, but after we decorate and bless it and meditate about it, going through it is going have new meaning! We would like to encourage you to make a holy door in your home, too. (One article suggested it could even be a closet door!) Decorate, bless, make some door in your home a symbol of your heart that wants to open wider to Christ who stands at the door of our hearts knocking ... to celebrate 2000 years of His unconditional, saving, total love! We wish each and all of you a very happy and blessed jubileeyear! Your Sisters of Boston Carmel

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Spring, 1999

BEGINNING RIGHT

We began the New Year with a special blessing. On January 10, we received our new postulant, Jeanne - Marie Graham. We all look up to her because she is the tallest member in our community! She is a delight and

shares very generously all the gifts God has bestowed upon her. We are very happy God sent her to us. The trip from her home to our enclosure door was not very long ... she comes from Quincy.

A PARTY

Well, what better to do when one is blessed with a 97th birthday, on no less a feast than St. Joseph's, as our Sr. Joseph of Jesus and Mary was, than to celebrate? So party we did on this momentous occasion with ice cream and cake and, of course, Irish music and dance, since Sister comes from Glenamaddy, Ireland!

Because Sister's care involves more that we can give, she is at Marian Manor. (The Sisters there are so very good to her and us.) She was able to come home for this big occasion, thanks to the invention of the wheelchair van!

Sister is one who very truly is "praying always". When we visit her every week, we keep her informed about prayer intentions for the Church, the world and you, our friends. After all, Sr. Joseph brings the power of more than 70 years of Carmelite, life to her prayers!

ANOTHER DONE

Our outquaters (the place outside the enclosure where retreat masters and guests stay when they are with_ us)_ are finished! And we might add, it looks quite nice! Our guests have been very pleased, too. God reward you for your generosity to us which made this accomplishment possible.

TALKING ABOUT MAINTENANCE

The Folan Company has done more repointing on our monastery this spring. This time 3 sides were repointed ... that leaves 6 more sides to go before getting to cloister-ceiling, other walls and steps. We are very pleased with their work. Again, it is you, our benefactors, who have made this possible, so our heartfelt thanks...

WOW!

Can you believe it? EIGHT-women have expressed interest in our Carmel and have been visiting us! They have come from Canada, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, and, yes, Massachusetts. This has kept us very busy, but happily so. We are very aware it is a great blessing. Do pray with us as we try to discern with these women ... It is a long, slow process as each one interested and our community try to discern if this is where God is calling them to serve Him. All will not enter, but we wanted you to share our joy in having so many inquiries at this time.

GUESS WHAT'S COMING?

From October 4, 1999 to January, 30, 2000, the relics of ST. Therese will be in our country. The most exciting part is that they may be coming to our monastery! There is such a demand that those in charge are having difficulty scheduling everyone who wants them into the time available. However, even if we cannot invite you here for that privileged event, we want you to know that the relics will be at our Cathedral on October 24th of this year. You will be able to venerate them there.

EQUAL TIME

We have shared with you about our pooch, Muchacha. Well, in all fairness, our senior dog, Luckv Stripe/Lucky the Lick, deserves to be introduced. Her lineage is complete mystery to us and so is her appearing! We just found her in our garden one day! We doubt she leaped over the wall, chances are she was dropped over it. We really did not need another dog at the time. We tried to find a home for her but had no success, so she stayed. Luckv is black and the little white under her neck has increased as she gets older (it seems even dogs get gray with age!). You won't meet friendlier dog and she would surely want to shake your hand and give you a lick if this introduction was in person!

PROJECT ROSE

St. Theresa's parish in New Cumberland, PA has undertaken a

rather wonderful and unusual project: a national campaign to have a new rose named in honor of St. Therese. They have asked us to pray for the success of this endeavor which, God willing, will be available in the year 2000. The rose is "very fragrant, a small peach and ivory patio shrub with an upright pattern of growth.

"FAMILY" VISITS

Carmel is a worldwide family and so we may have a visit from one of our brothers or sisters from just about anywhere in the world. Since our last newsletter, we had a visit from Father Dennis Geng, OCD who came from Nairobi, Kenya ... Father originally comes from CA but has been on missionary assignment to this new foundation of Carmel. This was Fr. Dennis' first trip to the States after several years in Africa. He shared marvellous pictures of the wildlife of Africa and moving stories about its people.

Mother Mary Elizabeth and Sr. Marie Bernard, two of our Sisters from the Carmel in New Franken, WI visited us on a different "mission": to get ideas for building their monastery. They wanted to see ours because they heard it was beautiful. (We agree!)

Fr. Jude Peters, OCD, chaperoned them. Not long afterwards, Fr. Jude was elected Provincial so it was nice getting reacquainted with him in a more leisurely way than being Provincial allows!

Sr. Patricia McEvoy spent a few hours with us bringing love and news from the Carmel in Baltimore.

SPECIAL PEOPLE

We are all blessed with special people in our lives. We would like to mention one of ours in this newsletter: "Mary F." It would be easier to say what Mary is not than what she has been for us, but let us try. She has been friend, benefactor,

nurse, chauffeur, non-profit mail expert, door/phone woman, veterinarian, gardener, seamstress, handyman, accountant, shopper, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny! A secular Carmelite, she has truly given of herself to us as a family member through thick and thin for the last 27 years. How does one say "Thank you" for all that?

DO CARMELITES GO TO SCHOOL?

One of the important things Vatican II reminded religious about is the need not only for those just entering to be taught about religious life, but also for the need of ongoing formation for all the members in the community. For cloistered communities this usually means, the teachers come to us instead of our going to them! Our last talks were on prayer, discernment, examen, and the sacrament of reconciliation. Our very wise and experienced teacher was Fr. Paul Lucey, S.J.

On a personal level, Sr. Bernadette Therese is taking music lessons so she can share the responsibility of playing at liturgy with our present organist, Sister Catherine. Her teacher originally came from the Ukraine.

CAN WE?

We sometimes get calls or letters from people with special requests. A student photographer might ask to take pictures of the nuns or the monastery. Another person may ask if we have a place for them to stay while they are in the area. We received a different one recently. An architectural student planning to do his thesis on the chapel of an urban monastery, asked if he could do ours. This makes us quite happy as we will probably learn many things about our chapel from him that we do not know at all. God blesses us in all kinds of ways!

ANOTHER NAME IN THE CARMELITE LITANY OF SAINTS

In July of this year OFH John Paul II will be beatifying more than a hundred poles who died for their faith at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. One of them is a Carmelite Father: Fr. Alphonsus Mary. May he and all who are being beatified with him pray that we may be delivered from all forms of hatred that cause war.

INVITATION SUNDAY

Every year our Parish, St. Patrick's, celebrates "Invitation Sunday" on Pentecost. Our Pastor, Father Waldron, invites back to the neighborhood those who once lived in the area. A Mass is celebrated at the parish after which some spot in the parish vicinity is visited. This year we were asked if they could come to our monastery. So, with permission, they came to our chapel for Midday prayer and then to the garden for refreshments provided by St. Patrick's. It was a red letter day as many wore red in honor of Pentecost. As you know brown is our Carmelite color, but: it goes very good with red, and so it was that we were a good match with our guests that day!

CLOSING WORDS

Summer is at our doorsteps bringing with it ways to enjoy nature unique to this season. As nature enraptures and refreshes you with her beauty and gifts, may these words of St. Edith Stein move your soul: : NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE WORKING OF GRACE IN A SOUL.

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Fall, 1998

A VERY, VERY, VERY B-----I----- --G EVENT

You will not find it on the first page of the Globe. It is not taking place in Washington, D.C. The date is November 14, 1998, feast of All Saints of Carmel. On that day, in our chapel, Sister Eileen Mary of the Heart of Jesus will be making her solemn profession! Can you feel our joy?

Sister was born in the Bronx, entered the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station and worked for Our Lord in New Jersey as a teacher and principal before hearing the call to Carmel. She enriches our community with her simplicity, childlikeness and generosity, inspires us with her deep love for Our Lord and delights us with her stories! Pray for Sister as her special day approaches.

COUNTING LIVING BLESSINGS

Our Sisters in formation are real blessings to us! You might like to know we have two novices: Sister Magdalen of the Mercy of God and Sister Marie of the Incarnation; and one temporary professed: Sister Bernadette Therese of the Cross.

God willing, in the beginning of the year we will also have a new postulant. Her entrance was postponed because of a death in the family.

On October 1st, the feast of St. Therese, Sr. Bernadette Therese renewed her vows for another year.

(Before one makes solemn profession there is a three-year period of temporary profession.)

BATS IN OUR BELFRY???

Well, we do not know where they really come from but every so often one of these creatures will break our enclosure and come in, i.e. fly in! Then, of course, there is lots of excitement as each responds in her own way to its presence by ducking, running, closing doors, putting out lights, getting "weapons", giving orders (to others!) about what to do, yelling (in a Carmelite way) or just staying put as if a dove from heaven was flying around!!! It is always a great relief when the "invader" is captured and freed outdoors to fly in the wilderness of Roxbury! Our bat stories would make a great comedy show.....

DID YOU SEE US?

It wasn't for long, but we were on television... At least two of us were! It happened this way: a phone call came from Caterina Bandini of Channel 7 news. They were doing a piece on the canonization of Edith Stein, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Would we be willing to have them come to the monastery to have us answer some questions? Two, Sister Mary Clare and Sister Mary Teresa, were brave enough and they found it an interesting experience. (They have not been offered any TV contracts since then!)

More TV

We have a piece of property adjoining hours that is totally separate from our enclosure. We use it for parking when we have big public events and in the summer it becomes the Mount Pleasant TOT LOT which is run by our wonderful next-door neighbor, Mrs. Mildred Daniels. Reporters came from the Boston Catholic Television Network to video Mrs. Daniels and the tots. It was to be a segment shown on: THE CONCRETE GOSPEL. Unfortunately, none of us have seen it because it was not known when it would be aired. Did any of you see it?

Next, Terrel Harris came from Channel 56 asking if he could do some videotaping in the TOT LOT because they were doing a feature on City year. This wonderful organization of youth has met in our TOT LOT and has helped Mrs. Daniels in the past. It was for this reason that Mr. Harris wanted to do some filming there.

And then there was the BBC! They were doing something on our newest saint, Edith Stein. They asked to use our chapel to do filming and promised us a copy of their finish work. We hope they do not forget...

NEW THINGS...

When our enclosure wall was being done, the contractor said they

could put in recessed designs, so on the outside crosses were recessed into the concrete and on the inside 14 niches were made for stations of the Cross. Thanks to Sr. Bernadette Therese's sister, Claire, we now have the Stations which were put up this spring.

Praise the Lord with cymbals and trumpet and drums and...you name it! That's what we can do with our new keyboard, that is, when Sister Catherine, our organist and the rest of us learn how! It is the gift from a bequest...

AND OLD THINGS MADE NEW...

We are quite excited about our infirmary porch. Its "holy" screens and deteriorating floor and rail needed major surgery. Thanks to a bequest, we were able to consider having it fixed and now the work is almost complete.

OH, WHAT A GIFT!

Would you believe that our kind benefactor who donated our other pilgrimage tours has given us another to help us in our fundraising endeavor? May God bless her a hundred times, as he said! (See enclosure for details.)

MEMORIALS

If any of you were present at Emmanuel College's blessing of its renovated chapel, the vestments worn by the concelebrants were made at our monastery and were given by the Muse Family in memory of our Sister Mary Elizabeth Stanton, an alumna of the College.

When we make vestments in memory of someone, we put the name inside the vestment so they will be remembered. You may like to do something similar for a departed loved one.

DEPARTED ONES:

Remember in your prayers, Josephine Tierney, the sister of our deceased Sr. Marie of Jesus and

Deacon Henry Dean, brother of our departed Sister Laurence of the Cross. Both of them were called home to God this year.

We will be happy to remember your loved ones in our prayer this November. You will find a slip enclosed for this.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Because expenses are high and our maintenance funds are low, we have slowed down work to avoid not being able to pay for it! But we have done and are doing things, thanks to your loving generosity!

"Done" Department:

Remember our scaffolding? Well, it is all down and the chapel area of our monastery is all repointed like new. We are very pleased by the work done by the Folan Company. When we have more funds, we will do other parts of the building.

At last the new handicapped bathroom is a reality.

"Being done" Department:

The BIG project right now is what we call our outquaters. This is the place where retreat masters or guests stay who come from a distance. It became a priority when the bathroom had a leak and the floor had to be torn up to fix it. Our good architect who never charges us, drew up plans for renovation. (We wanted to do some re-arranging to give greater comfort for our guests). The new and added plumbing work and materials were donated by PATRICK J. KENNEDY & SONS, INC. We received additional help from the CATHOLIC GUILD. A friend and benefactor removed old plywood from the walls and ceiling of one bedroom; another, assisted by one of the nuns, prepared the torn up floor for finishing and is putting up fiberglass panels on the walls of the bathroom and teeny kitchenette. This is how we are trying to keep costs down.

The electrical work has been started. Much remains to be done--painting, new ceilings, windows, blinds, but we have begun!

VISITORS

Some come by invitation or appointment, some are surprises, each brings a grace... In the past six months or so we have had Eucharist with Bishop Boles and Bishop Irwin; prophetic vision sharing from Bishop Labayan, a Carmelite Bishop from the Philippines; a "trip" to the Ukraine with Father Peter, a Polish Carmelite and Brother Jon Benedict, a Carmelite novice, who fascinated us with the story of our Order in Berdychev where there is real need and real danger as they try to bring Carmel back to this land and its faith filled people; contact with a new founder, Sister Jeanne Mary whose new religious community in the Philippines, is called the Missionaries of Eucharistic Love.

THE BEST WINE

For us the canonization of our Sister, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, by Pope John Paul on October 11th is like a special wine that gives joy to our hearts. And guess what? Sr. Mary Lucy who nursed Sr. Mary Elizabeth in her last illness was at the canonization and so was our priest friend, Father Nichols. They both sent us souvenirs already of that memorable occasion. God is so good to us! What a wonderful model for our age St. Teresa Benedicta is! May she help us all!

With our love and prayers,
Your Sisters of Boston Carmel

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

for Carmel's Benefactors, Relatives and Friends
Spring, 1998

LIFE AND DEATH

As this our second newsletter comes to birth, it is fitting that it is being written on the feast of the Blessed Trinity, because we want to tell you about our Sr. Mary Elizabeth of the Trinity (Stanton) who went to God on May 8th.

We have known since last July that Sister had terminal cancer.

The shock of that information, the hospital stays, the chemo treatments, doctors visits and two near-death experiences along with our struggle as to how much care we could provide, all became part of our daily lives. Two nuns from other Carmels came to help us at different times, and God will surely reward Sr. Miriam and Sr. Helen as only He can. Then our Cardinal came to our aid by asking the Sisters of Mercy of Alma if they could help us in our need. Their Superior, Mother Mary Quentin, responded by sending Sr. Mary Lucy. She proved to be an Angel of Mercy! A skilled nurse, a dedicated religious, we could never adequately thank or repay her or her community for the services rendered to our dying Sister and our community during the months she was with us. May God reward them a million fold! We had no idea how long Sr. Mary Elizabeth would be with us but we had many "hopes"! The first was that she would be with us for Sr. Bernadette Therese's first

profession....and she was! The next was that she would still be with us for Christmas, and she was! Then we hoped she would be here for Lent and Holy Week and Easter ...and she was! But during Lent we knew the cancer was getting the upper hand, and as time went on we felt sure that it would be during Easter time that she would be called to God...But we had another hope- that she would be with us to celebrate Bonnie's entrance into the novitiate...that was close- but when that happy event took place on May 3rd, she was with us!

There were many graces scattered along the way for Sister during her last months. For example, she was anointed by our Cardinal at Evening Prayer I for Palm Sunday; on April 26 we celebrated together very specially her 62nd entrance anniversary into Carmel.

Sister was very faithfully with us at prayer and community acts after her chemo treatments were finished. The only exception was Midday Prayer when she took some needed rest. The day she died was the only day she was not able to attend Mass with us, but she did receive Our Lord and was very aware of doing so.

About 4 p.m. her condition changed and we gathered around her to pray and sing hymns. At 5:30 the community left for supper, leaving Sr. Catherine to keep watch

with her. It was during this first watch, around 6:15 p.m. that Sister breathed her last so peacefully that Sr. Catherine was not aware she had died. We all gathered around her again in prayer and as we stood there in awe of the mystery of life and death that was embracing all of us, we became aware of something else....the birds! They were singing with all their little hearts as they shared that sacred time with us in their way!

Before the public ceremonies our community had its own day of prayer with Sister; visiting hours and the wake service for the public were held on May 11. We were blessed to have Bishop Boles preside at the wake service. The Mass for Christian Burial was celebrated on May 12. Cardinal Law presided, Bishop Riley preached the homily, and Sister's nephew, Fr. Thomas Stanton, was the main celebrant. About 35 priests concelebrated and our chapel was filled with family and friends and faithful.

From this one can easily see how greatly loved Sister was. She was such a dynamic, gifted person, very bright, so knowledgeable about Carmel's history...she will be greatly missed. But death is "only an horizon and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight". Eternal rest, and peace and joy and love

grant unto her, O Lord, forever and ever. Amen!

WANT TO SHARE?

It has been suggested that perhaps some of you have some remembrances of Sr. Mary Elizabeth that you want to share. If you do, we would be happy to have you share them with us.

MOI

Are you stumped about what 'MOI' might mean? They are the initials of our new novice! On May 3 Bonnie became Sr. Marie of the Incarnation. She is doing very well. Pray for her.

UP, UP, UP

It all began on April 23...that was the day the scaffolding for the bell tower began ascending piece by piece. It is still up, and the workers are fixing mortar joints that need repointing. They will be followed by roofers and painters and carpenters to do their bit in doing necessary repairs way up there! Pray with us for the safety of all who are working so high up. And God reward you because it is your generosity that makes it possible for us to do these necessary repairs.

A DIFFERENT GARDENER

On July 25 our puppy, Muchacha (her nickname is Chacha) will be one year old. She has grown rather immensely! She has also taken to gardening, unfortunately, not the type we like! She unplants what the Sisters plant! She also must have seen the movie BORN FREE somewhere because any little fence put up to keep her out is quickly taken down... by herself, of course!

FOR SALE

Some friends told us we should let you all know we do sell some things

at the monastery. Here's a little list to give you an idea:

VESTMENTS

BOOKS

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

(mugs, holy water fonts, holy cards, crosses, medals, etc.)

CASSETTE TAPES

SCAPULARS

If ever you visit us, you could ask to see our little 'store' of religious goods.

A BIT OF IRELAND

Well, Fr. Jeremiah Fitzpatrick really came from Rome, but he originally hails from Ireland. He is one of the Definitors of our Order. He paid us a pastoral visit in April. One little tidbit: Fintan O'Carroll of Celtic Alleluia fame was a friend of Father's and he had asked him to compose a Mass in honor of St. Teresa of Jesus. Unfortunately, Fintan was called home to God. Too bad we can't get music from heaven!

MILESTONES

One of our powerhouses of prayer is our Sister Joseph who is at Marian Manor. On the 19th of March, St. Joseph's day, we brought her to the monastery to celebrate her 96th birthday! We all had a wonderful time! On June 5 two of us went to visit Sister on her 70th profession anniversary! We know 25 years are silver and 50 are gold, but has anyone come up with something for 70 years?

NOT ONE, BUT TWO!

We almost forgot to tell you the winner of our pilgrimage to Rome, Turin and France...Mary Dolan was the first one picked but was unable to go, so she returned it for us to have another drawing. This time it went to Asta Aleksonis who was delighted. Congratulations, Asta. We hope you enjoyed your pilgrimage.

Your Sisters of Boston Carmel

PICTURE OF BELL TOWER
SCAFFOLDING

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

for Carmel's Benefactors, Relatives and Friends
Fall, 1997

A FIRST FOR US

We have been encouraged by others to share with you, our benefactors and friends, about our Carmelite life. We want to do so, not because we feel we are special, but because love wants to share and open its heart to significant others and you are that to us. The spiritual and temporal support you give us binds us together in Christ.

We have no grand plans about this newsletter, and at this point it will only come once a year. We hope it will not only give you pleasure but also enrich and uplift and maybe even encourage your hearts and spirits as we all journey day by day toward eternal life in Christ Jesus. So. ISSUE 1 -- LET US BEGIN!

THE WINNER IS..

On August 15th, our community gathered in the infirmary and amidst prayer and song each stirred up the slips of papers holding the names sent in for the Fatima pilgrimage drawing. Sr. Mary Elizabeth, our sick sister, picked the winner: MR. FRANCIS L. MANNIX from Weston, MA.

Congratulations, Mr. Mannix! We rejoice with you and wish you a blessed pilgrimage.

SICKNESS VISITS US. . .

Our Sr. Mary Elizabeth of the Trinity (Stanton) has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. This is a very hard blow for us. Sister's peace and

joyful acceptance of this illness has inspired many. Please pray for her. AND SO DOES DEATH. . .

On August 20th, Sr. Mary Teresa's Mother and on September 9th Sr. Mary Elizabeth's brother, Dr. Joseph Stanton went to God. May these Sisters and all of you who have lost loved ones recently be blessed and comforted by your faith in the power of Christ's resurrection.

3 MORE WINNERS!

Remember the essay contest we had in honor of St. Therese? On September 27th, Cardinal Law awarded the prizes to the winners:

First Prize:

DUCHESS COOK,
Cathedral Grammar

Second Prize:

ANDREW BARTLETT,
JFK Memorial

Third Prize:

MARGARET BERRIO,
St. Theresa's, W. Roxbury

ELECTIONS

On August 11th Bishop Emilio Allue, SDB came to our monastery for an event that happens once every three years--our elections. He came as Cardinal Law's representative. It was our first meeting with Bishop Allue, whose Spanish roots mingled well with our own, since Carmel's Reform began in Spain with St. Teresa. Please pray for those who were elected that day:

Sr. Mary Teresa of the Sacred Passion, Prioress,

Sr. Catherine of the Trinity, First Councillor,

Sr. Therese of the Queen of Carmel, Second Councillor.

THE CENTENARY

This year, 1997, is the 100th year of St. Therese's death. Carmels throughout the world have been celebrating in many and varied ways.

We offered a day of recollection for apostolic Sisters at the Monastery in May. Fr. Marc Foley, OCD's talks focused on St. Therese.

For Catholic students in the area there was the essay contest in honor of Therese.

On September 27th Cardinal Law celebrated Eucharist in our chapel in honor of St. Therese and the Archdiocesan Choir Boys under the direction of John Dunne filled our worship space with heavenly music to lift up our minds and hearts to the Lord.

October 19th brought Fr. Leonard Tighe and Taras Leschishin with friends gifted in music to our chapel for a very special prayer and music event.

However, none honored the Little Flower more than OHF Pope John Paul II when he declared her a Doctor of the universal Church on October 19th, Mission Sunday.

St. Therese is the 33rd Doctor of the Church, the 3rd woman.

A NEW MEMBER

On September 13th, in time for Evening Prayer I of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Bonnie Pember, from Canada, entered our community. We are so happy for this special gift to us. Please pray for Bonnie and for more vocations.

A SPECIAL EVENT

This year the feast of St. Therese was extra special for us for on that day Sr. Bernadette Therese of the Cross made her first profession of vows. Her Mother and sister and our Carmelite family joined with us to share our joy that wonderful day.

A NEW ADDITION

As days began to cool we knew Princess, one of our 'watchdogs' would hardly survive another winter, so we had to put her to sleep. That left our other dog, Lucky, who just appeared over the wall one day some years ago, without a companion. Since it is not good for man (or dogs!) to be alone, we got another dog. She is part shepherd and part lab and was born on July 25th. She is very much a puppy and very cute! We named her Muchacha.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

We are so grateful to you, our benefactors who have been so generous to us. Let us share with you some of the things that have been done and some of the things still needing to be done.

OUR WALL: The condemned portion of our wall has been rebuilt! It was done in poured concrete and has large crosses indented on it at several points. It was also painted with a protective coating in a shade that matches the brownstone on our monastery building. The wall on our side in the back of our property which we call Marydale, has indentations in the form of a little shrine so that we can put stations there eventually. A benefactor is contributing the stations to us.

The parts of the wall that need fixing remain to be done.

ELECTRICITY: Rewiring the monastery is a mammoth task! It proceeds little by little. The first floor is almost completely rewired and some things have been done on the third floor and in the Chapel; the cellar also has been done.

PLUMBING: Some asbestos has been removed from our cellar and the old boiler has been dismantled. Sinks were installed in two cells and new vents and valves were put on all our radiators.

WINDOWS: Slowly but surely our windows are being replaced. We put in about 3 at a time and measure for another 3 for next time. Unfortunately, our windows are not average size so all of them have to be custom made.

ROOF VENTING: Some years ago we insulated our chapel roof and the crawl spaces on our third floor. We were not able to vent them at that time. This spring vents and fans were installed. We were very happy when this was done because not doing so can cause havoc to the structure we have been told.

GARDEN: The terrible storm that hit New England April 1st did a lot of damage to our garden. Special friends did wonders to help us clean up debris but we did have to hire a professional company to do things beyond our power. Nothing is cheap!

SOME THINGS STILL NEEDING TO BE DONE:

One thing we hope to do next is to have a handicapped bathroom available to those who come to our monastery. It is very difficult for the elderly and impossible for a handicapped person to use our present one which is at the bottom of a challenging staircase. Architectural plans will be donated to us and, if the offer still holds, some

plumbers will do the labor for us without charge.

Pointing needs to be done on the monastery building itself. This will be a huge expense. We hope to prioritize what needs to be done and have it done little by little.

We have very precarious pipes in the monastery! We are very grateful they are still holding up! Eventually they will need to be replaced. We hope not too soon!

Sometimes it seems like snow is falling down inside, but it's only peeling ceilings that need painting or replacing.

We have bathrooms inside that need attention...but perhaps this is enough for now.

A FINAL WORD

Fall brings us many special days: Halloween, All Saints, All Souls, Thanksgiving...We pray all of them hold joys and blessings for you and yours.

We invite you to send in the names of your beloved dead to be remembered in our prayers and Masses during November.

We want you to know that you will be very much in our prayers on Thanksgiving Day. To paraphrase St. Paul: We give thanks to God whenever we remember you and pray for you with joy...and hold you in our hearts!

HAPPY ALL SAINTS DAY....

HAPPY THANKSGIVING.....

HAPPY ADVENT.....

Your Sisters of Boston
Carmel