

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

for Carmel's Benefactors, Relatives and Friends
Spring, 2002

DON'T FENCE ME IN? DO FENCE ME IN?

We have been getting some new fences around the monastery: a fence for our "farm", a fence for St. Therese's garden and a fence for St. Mary Magdalen's garden.

These new additions remind us that fences and walls are a part of our life as Discalced Carmelite nuns. Some think we have them to keep the world out, others think we have them to keep the nuns in! It depends on a person's theology one might say. And, funny as it may seem, there IS some 'theology' about fences and walls! 'Fence theology' is about cloister. And, believe it or not, cloister is not just for cloistered monks and nuns but all of us! The latter have a physical cloister, but everyone is called to have a spiritual cloister in their hearts. It's the space/place we need for silence and solitude so we can be more fully focused on God. Whenever you see a fence let it remind you of the cloister your heart needs. And may you experience, as we do, that fencing ourselves in with God is not being fenced in at all!

ON SEEING AND HEARING

We are appreciating our sight more these days. In May all the windows on our first floor have been covered with opaque plastic because of the masonry work being done on our cloister. So when we look out these windows we cannot see anything! It will be a joy

when the work is done and we can 'see' again!

We 'heard' Mass in a new way when Father Joseph Bruce, S.J., came to celebrate Mass for us. Father was born deaf. It was 12 years before his parents heard him talk! Father not only "said" the Mass but also signed it. When addressing God, he would reach up and tap God on the shoulder! It was such a powerful gesture. The effort it took him to talk, the joy so evident in his person, the sign language that was so expressive gave us new ears to hear with!

ENVIRONMENT

If you are into liturgy, you are aware that liturgists have been advocating creating 'environments' not only inside places of worship, but also outside. We have been trying to do this within our limited abilities. So for this past Lent, we had a large cross of tree trunks draped in purple for our outside entrance and inside we had a cross of purple cloth over our heads. Getting the cloth up was a feat! Our gifted friend, Mr. Del Pico came to the rescue by making us spring-loaded poles made of PVC pipe, so we didn't have to go climbing up very high ladders.

For Easter the inside cross was changed to white material. Outside we had a large wooden cutout of Our Lord with sheep on top of a large base of styrofoam surrounded with flowers and a sign overhead that said HE IS RISEN. (Again, Mr. Del Pico to the rescue to do the woodworking. Mr. Joseph Juster

did the painting.) We were wondering if our outside decorations were making any impact on the people who would pass by. The answer came when Easter was over and Mary Fernald was asked by a little boy, "What happened to the sheeps?" He was pretty sad about their disappearance!

SOON & VERY SOON...!

So goes the words from an old spiritual. We borrow the words to tell you we hope to be on the web soon! It is a gift that comes to us through the goodness of several people. Jennifer, the young woman who is actually creating the site for us, is doing it in thanksgiving for the nuns who taught her in Connecticut. When we have our 'address' we will let you know so you can visit. We are hoping it will be a way of promoting vocations.

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

In February, we were happily invaded by several professional men who pretty literally looked over every nook and cranny of the monastery to see what work needed to be done. They were so kind and generous with their expertise. After their visit they produced a reference book that will be immensely helpful to us in planning necessary maintenance work. They are still working with us to give ideas and help. God bless and reward you, Joe, Bill, George, Neil, Pat, Bob and Larry!

ANOTHER NEW SAINT!

One of the greatest joys a religious family can have is when one of its

members is canonized. That joy is ours once again. Pope John Paul II is going to canonize one of our Spanish Sisters, Mother Maravillas of Jesus. We have a little link with her through a young relative of hers who visited us a few years ago. He was studying in the area and brought us some relics and holy cards and a book of her life. The canonization date is yet to be announced. It might interest you to know that from what we heard from Rome, she is a great miracle worker.

LIVE THE TRUTH IN LOVE

This is the motto on the coat of arms of Bishop Richard Malone. We were very privileged to meet His Excellency for the first time and have him celebrate Mass and visit with us on May 29. We had many laughs together and had a delightful visit.

CARMELITE MOVING CO.

We really haven't been licensed to be a moving company and we are not advertising for work as one, but we are getting experience in this type of work! We have and are still moving lots of books back to our library which is now officially finished being renovated with new electrical wiring and windows and fresh paint and varnish and carpeting! Supply closets are being emptied for painting and four Sisters have moved from their cells and gone elsewhere (in the monastery, of course!) so that work could begin on their cells. We are excited about this. We will be even more excited when all will be finished!

A ROXBURY RETURNEE!

Did you know that George Washington slept in Roxbury? So we have heard, but cannot offer proof! But he is not the one who has returned! Our 'returnee' is Sr. Mary Augustine of the Holy Spirit who once lived in Roxbury, then entered the Little Sisters of the Sick Poor. Some of you may remember the home the Sisters had on Dudley Street. Sister has been discerning a call to Carmel and so with the permission of her superior in the Little Sisters and the

approval of our community, she joined us to see if this is what God is asking of her. On May 31, the feast of the Visitation, she received the habit of Carmel. Sister brings many gifts with her and many experiences. We are truly enriched by her presence. We invite you to share our joy and ask you to pray with us as we strive together to do God's will.

HEMLOCK WATCH

It looks so pretty...like snow on evergreen branches...but this 'snow' is a killer blight affecting hemlock trees in MA. We are concerned because we have a lot of hemlock trees. We watch and wait and hope they can be saved!

AFRICAN CARMELITES

On the feast of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs of Africa, we were visited by two of our brothers from Africa. One is already ordained and the other will be making his solemn profession on July 16, feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It is very wonderful to belong to a family which has members all over the world!

COMING EVENTS

We are having our annual three day celebration of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on July 14, 15, 16 at 7:00 p.m. Monsignor T. Moran, pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Medway will be celebrant the three nights.

On September 29 Father Russell Best will be celebrating our annual Mass in honor of St. Therese with blessing of roses. We are also looking into the possibility of selling some St. Theresa rosebushes on that day. For new readers, this is a new rose named after St. Therese. It was the brain child of St. Theresa Parish in Cumberland, PA. If you have a garden, you might start looking where you'd like to plant a St. Theresa rosebush!

November 17 we will be privileged to have Professor Dolores Leckey with us to give a lecture entitled: THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE AND POETRY OF JESSICA POWERS (Sr. Miriam of the

Holy Spirit, OCD). Professor Leckey personally knew Sr. Miriam.

UNSOLVED MYSTERY IS SOLVED!

Isn't it a lot of fun to solve a mystery? We recently had that joy. Our mystery needingsolution? Two cellar leaks. For more than 30 years we have been trying to solve this problem. We consulted roofers and architects and plumbers. Walls were jack hammered open, volcano ash was injected into leaky places, leaders were cleaned out... but the water still came in! And then there was the video of the insides of drain pipes! To be honest, it was not an exciting movie, but it played its part in solving the mystery. As we look back now, we can see how close we were to ending the leaks, but we just stopped too soon! (Isn't that a lesson for our spiritual life? We should beware of giving up too soon; what we are searching for may just be a step or a breath away!)

Back to our mystery...it was Paul, our plumber who did it! He not only solved the mystery, he also fixed it! The leaks were caused by filled up drain pits that caused water to rise above the wall level which would then seep into the cellar. We have to check the drains periodically to keep them freely flowing. And a future job will be to fix the cellar walls that need to be repointed and waterproofed to keep things dry.

A LOW IQ?

We hate to admit it, but it seems to be true. The nuns are divided over it. We mean our dog Cha-cha's IQ. The stairs to our cloister were removed and she went down and then was unable to get back up. It was quite a feat getting her out. But we thought she learned her lesson. Not so. She did it again, and again! But some nuns feel this is evidence of a high IQ. She loved the attention she got and that's what made her repeat her action. Low IQ or high IQ, she is a very good dog!

Your Sisters of Boston Carmel