

# BOSTON CARMEL

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119



# Newsletter

For CARMEL'S BENEFACTORS, RELATIVES, & FRIENDS

Fall, 2003

## ALTHOUGH 'TIS FALL.....

Fall in all its beauty is around us as this is being written but when you receive this, Advent/Christmas will be very much in our minds and hearts. The seasons are such a blessing to us from God. They invite us to celebrate and contemplate and rejuvenate ourselves as the mysteries of life process before our eyes in nature, as the mysteries of our faith are put before us during the liturgical year.

Who could paint all the colors in the falling leaves? Who of us does not marvel at a tiny bird who can withstand freezing temperatures with its coat of feathers? Ever try to count the number of leaves on a tree or the number of seeds in one pumpkin? Do you know how a tree can still have its sap running through its trunk in the coldest of winters without freezing? When looking at the stars in the sky or on your Christmas cards, let this fact amaze you: There are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all our seashores!!!

The liturgical seasons tell us how rich the poorest of us are! All Saints, All Souls, Christ the King, Advent, Christmas....they speak to our deepest yearnings and desires, they give meaning to our lives, they remind us how blessed we are to be human beings made in the image and likeness of God; they proclaim how very deeply God loves us.

## A CHANGE

To those of you who have sent us Mass requests in the past, we want to let you know that we will no longer be accepting them. However, we offer an alternative. It would be very helpful to our Carmelite Friars if you would send your Mass intentions to them. Their address and phone number :

Discalced Carmelite Friars  
166 Foster St.  
Brighton, MA 02135  
1-617-787-5056

We will still offer our prayer cards and perpetual enrollments.

## WHEN YOU ARE FEELING COLD

..you might feel better and even thank God you are not in Zing, Africa where temperatures can reach 146 degrees and there is no air conditioning! There is a Carmel there and we really don't know how our Sisters do it. It is a foundation of one of our Carmels in Ireland. Sr. Teresa, who visited us once before, visited again this year and told us such incredible stories about life in that mission land. She herself almost died from malaria and other complications while there. She was sent out to get treatment and recover her health. But she is back there now! Oh, do pray for those in mission lands. They are so heroic.

## A SPECIAL JOY FOR US

Did you know there is a 'new' parish in our archdiocese named after St. Edith Stein? The ceremony took

place in Brockton on August 9. Fr. James Flavin, the pastor graciously invited us to attend, which was not possible, but we were happy to make little 'loans' and contributions of things pertaining to our Carmelite Sister/Saint for the occasion. May she obtain many blessings for all the members of that parish!

## ANOTHER JOY FOR US

On August 15, Sr. Jeanne Marie of Merciful Love, renewed her vows for another year. This is Sister's third renewal. It is usually the year after this renewal that solemn vows are made, if the Sister and the community discern that this is God's will for her.

## A LITTLE APOSTOLATE FOR US

As you know one of Carmel's 'jobs' is to pray for priests. Some years ago we were asked if we would allow a group of priests to use our chapel and outquarters for a day of prayer and sharing once a month. We were very happy to do this little service. They still come.

## A LOSS FOR US

On August 31 we lost a very dear friend. Mary Murphy was 100 years young when she died and she was such a treasure to us and so many others. She knew more nuns who lived in our monastery than those of us who are living here now! A Roxbury native, Mary used to live across the street from us. She became a lawyer and served our community until she was about 97

years old! She was a real blessing for our community through all the years of her life. May God reward her and give her a thousand welcomes into his heavenly kingdom!

### **AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE**

When we received a call from the chancery to attend Archbishop Sean's installation service and to be part of the group representing the religious of the archdiocese, we were a bit nonplussed. Should we or shouldn't we? We never attended one before nor were we ever asked. We decided it would be a good thing to do since St. Teresa always wanted us to be true daughters of the Church and this would be a way of witnessing to that reality in our times. So Sr. Mary Teresa and Sr. Bernadette Therese attended. Not only were they both happy to be there, so was the entire community glad for them. It was a special grace for all of us.

We all know what a very difficult task our new Archbishop has and we pray for his Excellency every day. He also said he would pay us a visit sometime in the future.

**IF.....**

there was such a thing as a Metropolitan Opera House for dogs, our Missy would qualify to be the Beverly Sills of the dog world! She sings with our tower bells—not just one note howls, but with an amazing range of pitches! And sometimes we even get duets when Cha-cha decides to join her with her alto voice! It is a performance that always makes us smile.

### **EVERY OTHER YEAR**

One of the changes Vatican II brought about for us cloistered communities was the forming of federations and associations. There are several of them in the United States. We belong to the one called the CCA which stands for Carmelite Communities Associated. The Holy

Spirit is our patron. We meet every other year in various parts of our country where a suitable and reasonably priced place is available. This year was 'the other year' and the place chosen was Dover, MA. That meant we were the host monastery where those attending the meeting could come to visit on the free day. Because of the location all of us were able to attend the meeting for at least one day as we took turns. It is always a joy to meet our Sisters from other monasteries. Carmel is really one big family even though we live thousands of miles apart! Sometimes Sisters from other associations and federations also attend. At this meeting we had a Sister from Spain and one from Germany.

### **OUR JULY VISITOR**

On July 8 we were very happy to meet with the archdiocese's Delegate for Religious, Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ. It was a tent meeting i.e. we met in our garden tent which we enjoy during the summer months! We had a lovely get-together sharing stories and ideas about things that might promote vocations. Sister also shared about her work and the diocese. Sister has been very kind and helpful to us when various questions and issues come up about our life in the archdiocese of Boston.

### **PROGRESS!**

It isn't happening as fast as we would like, but work is being done on the monastery and here is an update.

Our front entrance wall has been totally rebuilt! The steps have been sandblasted and ground bricks reset in sand. The wrought iron has been repaired and painted.

Our main bathroom is getting close to the finish line! We have been without it for a year...what a penance! As this is being written it is being tiled. We keep hoping...and

guessing...will we be able to use it by Thanksgiving? Christmas? Lord, surely before New Year's day?!

Our third floor corridor has been freshly painted and the floors sanded and varnished.

The first floor corridor was painted and we are waiting to have our front stairs done which means sanding and varnishing.

Our backstairs are metal fire stairs. They carry the stigma of our Sr. Therese's near fatal fall several years ago. The stair treads there were a real danger because of their age and wear. We are getting them replaced. We have contracted for the back stairs to be painted which will happen very soon. (Hope blooms eternal!)

No estimates on updating our fire alarm system have arrived. The price tag is not something we eagerly await!

### **COMING UP**

In January we are expecting a woman from New York who will be coming for a live in. This is the step before applying for entrance. Donna Nikola is a psychiatric nurse. We look forward to her coming to see if this is where God is calling her.

### **SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER..**

Pope John Paul has celebrated his 25th anniversary, Mother Teresa has been beatified, the Red Sox lost the pennant, the Yankees the world series, our soldiers and so many are still dying in Iraq, our country prepares for another presidential election. So many things to celebrate and prepare for and mourn as day follows day in our time in history. It is good for us to remember in all these things of the past, present and future, the message Christmas proclaims: "I am Emmanuel, always with you, always loving you, unconditionally and forever." Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!

Your Sisters of Boston Carmel