

BOSTON CARMEL

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119



Newsletter

For CARMEL'S BENEFACTORS, RELATIVES, & FRIENDS
Spring, 2003

www.carmelitesofboston.org

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OUR MAY DAY

May is always a special month with its beauty and feasts, but it was even more special for us this year. On its 17th day, Sr. Marie of the Incarnation professed her solemn vows in our monastery before a full chapel of witnesses! Such an event says so much to us. It tells us God is very alive and is experienced so strongly that one who is called is willing to sell and give not only all one has but all one is to Him. We all need such witnessing to inspire us on our own spiritual journey. We are grateful to Sr. Marie for being such a witness to us on her profession day. God even worked a 'miracle' on the 17th: rain was predicted, foretold and awaited by all. But God had His own forecast for that day: sunshine inside and out! How grateful we were to God for this blessed gift.

Among the moving moments of the ceremony was a letter read powerfully by Sister Marie's aunt, a School Sister of Notre Dame. It was written by an Anglican priest who taught Sr. Marie Latin and had hoped to be here for her solemn profession but was not able to come because he is dying of cancer. We quote an excerpt. (He is referring to a poem someone gave him): *"The poem, like much of our great literature, comes from that great writer, 'Anonymous'. It is entitled:*

WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO

Cancer is so limited-----

*It cannot cripple love
It cannot shatter hope
It cannot corrode faith
It cannot destroy peace
It cannot kill friendship
It cannot suppress memories
It cannot silence courage
It cannot invade the soul
It cannot steal eternal life
It cannot conquer the spirit.*

....I am a realist, and cancer has prevented me bodily from being present at your profession on May 17, but it cannot and has not prevented me from sending thoughts and prayers of "love", "hope", "faith", "peace", "friendship", "memories", "courage", "soul", and "eternal life" and "spirit".

May all of those qualities be a part of your religious life for all eternity."

Father Roger, who wrote the letter, brought a special gift by his spiritual presence that day. Sister Marie's brother and his family's gift was the sacrifice of not being able to come. Among those who were physically present, and the ones who brought Sister most joy were her parents and sisters and relatives and friends who came all the way from Canada to share in the celebration.

For the blessings and graces of May 17, we thank you, Lord!

THIS OLD SHED

Do you watch THIS OLD HOUSE? We don't but know about it and it brings to mind OUR OLD SHED! OLD it was! Probably the oldest

thing on our property with its wooden nails. Truth was it needed fixing more than any building appearing on THIS OLD HOUSE. In fact, after investigation we found out its crescent moon shaped flat roof and saw dust footers on no foundation, and its odds and ends of old crate innards just added up to a no fix situation. No historical society was going to come to the rescue of this former chicken coop and garden storage shed! Only God knew how many times it had been patched and altered and moved.

It was hard to put nostalgia aside for this old 'relic', but for safety sake, it was torn down and a new one was built in its place. We like the new one very much and are hoping to elevate its use to a hermitage.

A NEW FATHER GENERAL

Back to May, the General Chapter of the Discalced Carmelite Order took place in Avila, Spain during this month. For the first time in its history the Nuns from all over the world were invited to participate in a limited way. One Sister, Mother Maria from the Carmel of Alhambra in California represented all the Monasteries in the United States. The nuns gave reports on the situation of Carmel in their regions. During this meeting a new Father General of the Order was elected: Father Luis Arostegui Gamboa who is from the province of Navarre in Spain.

NAMES WE ARE CALLED

Remember when we shared with you some ways mail is addressed to us? We have some new ones that may bring you a chuckle:

CONVENT CARMELITE

OR, RESIDENT SMOKER (No one qualified for this but we didn't return it to the sender to save on postage!)

COMPANY (When you don't know how to address someone, just call them 'Company'?!?!?)

CALCED CAR M MONASTERY OF DIS (How is that for a mouthful of marbles?)

ONE THURSDAY AFTERNOON....

On March 27, we were blessed with a visit from Sr. Mary Johnson, SND and students from Emmanuel College. It was a time spent in sharing and questioning and discussing which we felt they enjoyed as much as we did. We ended our visit by praying together. We were quite impressed by these young people and pray that God will help them and all young adults to use their God-given gifts and talents in a way that will make our world a better place for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world!

R.I.P.

Please remember Sister Mary Clare's Mother, Nora Doherty in your prayers. God called her to Himself on March 1. She was 97 years old and ready to go to God. Shortly before she died, Sister asked her Mother what she wanted and she said, "To go to heaven". Parents are so special. We owe them so much and no one can replace them. May she rest in peace and joy and love!

SPRING SPRUNG US A LEAK

After all the droughts we have been having in Boston, how welcome rain and snow were to us, but then came the leak! It sprung forth from a wall in the cellar.

Remember the story about the boy who stuck his finger in the hole in the dike to stop the flowing water and became a hero? Well, one of

the Sisters thought a pencil would do the same trick. It didn't! In fact it made the whole bigger and more water came in! It took a bit of shoveling and vacuuming to get it up and guess what? It was just about all up when it started raining again outside and leaking inside!

After consulting with our plumber, we found out the problem is a broken or worn out leader pipe. We need to have it dug up and replaced. We are grateful it can be fixed.

FROM WATER TO FIRE

The company that services our fire alarm system wrote us a letter to say they can no longer provide parts for our system. It is too old. So we hope it all holds up for a while and needs no replacements. Getting a new system will cost a great deal. Now we need to get estimates.

WE MEET A SAINT

One never knows what surprises a day will bring from the Heart of God. June 19 was one of those extra special days. We received a call two days before from Elaine, a secular Carmelite who 'bumped' into an Archbishop of Thailand. On hearing she was a Carmelite, he said he would like to visit the cloistered Carmelites. So, June 19 was set as the date. Little did we know what we were in for! The Archbishop was just delightful—a great sense of humor, easy to be with and such an ardent disciple of Jesus and His Church! His story is just incredible. A plague struck Thailand and death claimed 3 of his brothers. He was pronounced dead at age 5 and they were going to bury him but his mother pleaded that they wait until she got the priest who was everything to the villagers: pastor, teacher, doctor, etc. A new medicine had just arrived and the priest injected yet-to-be-archbishop Lawrence and he slowly began to move his fingers. His mother promised he would go to the

seminary in thanksgiving for this favor. At age 7 his parents were both dead. His grandmother let him go to the seminary when he was 8 and when he was 13 persecution broke out. The seminary was torn down and all were sent home. He was called for interrogation and promised good things of this world if he would adore Buddha, say prayers to him and deny Christ. He refused. So his head was repeatedly banged against the wall to make him conform—but he did not. He was also beaten with a heavy stick which broke from the severity of the beating. Because he was in the seminary he was looked upon as a leader. Often the Christian children were asked to deny Christ. When they would not, they were beaten, forced to stare at the sun and then told if their God was real why wasn't he sending a cloud to cover the sun for them? The most moving story of bravery was of the 7 martyrs of Thailand: two religious Sisters, a male catechist and 4 young girls, the oldest of whom was 16. The Archbishop gave us relics of them which we will treasure.

How wonderful God is in His saints and some of them are still living! We promised to pray for Archbishop Lawrence Khai and, blessed are we, because he promised to pray for us, too!

OUR WEBSITE

Yes, we do have one! We would be happy to have you 'visit' us at www.carmelitesofboston.org. Hope you like it!

SUMMER WISHES

Let the beauty of the flowers and trees and birds and all of nature make a Beethoven out of you, moving you to compose songs of praise to God in your heart!

*Our loving gratitude for your support,
Your Sisters of Boston Carmel*