

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119

For CARMEL'S BENEFACTORS, RELATIVES, & FRIENDS
Fall, 2004

www.carmelitesofboston.org

A Beautiful Day

The weather was bad—in fact, hurricanes Bonnie and Charley were wreaking their havoc with the weather at the time and kept the sun and even some people away on August 15. This beautiful day was about 'Doing something beautiful for God,' as Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta would say. For this was the day that Sr. Jeanne Marie of Merciful Love took her solemn vows and joyfully gave her life to God, forever.

It is always a privilege to witness such an event which shows so wonderfully that the power of grace is very much alive and at work in our world. It strengthens our faith. It also reveals God's desire to have the most intimate relationship of love with ALL of us and EACH of us—no exceptions!

Involved in a special way with Sister's offering were her Mother and her sister who by their ready acceptance of Sr. Jeanne Marie's commitment also did 'something beautiful for God' by accepting the things asked of them by Sister's commitment

There was a beautiful concert for a half hour before the ceremony, AND the choir came all the way from Philadelphia!!! God bless Lucy Carroll, the choir director, and her choir for such a special gift. (They sing every Sunday at the Carmel of Philadelphia which was founded by our monastery.) The solos

of Taras Leschishin gave further beauty to the day.

By their presence, Bishop Boles, and many priests, religious, benefactors, relatives and friends, also had their part in adding to the beauty of Sister's profession day.

May Mary, Queen and Beauty of Carmel, on whose Assumption feast all this took place, pray for each of us that we may not only do but also BE something beautiful for God.

Holey, Holey, Holey....

The above is no misprint! We really mean holey, holey, holey—only not just three times but many, many times! There are holes all over walls and ceilings here as the new fire alarm system is being installed. You may remember this was not a choice but a necessity as there are no longer parts available for our present system. It was also pointed out to us, when we were getting estimates, that some places were not protected and the sounding alarm could not be heard in all locations. We will be so happy when this work is finished!

Once In A Blue Moon

Father Tom Clark, SJ, used that phrase as a refrain in his homily here on August! That day we were given a very special opportunity to do something for our sisters and

Brothers in the African-American community.

Because the parishes of St. John-St. Hugh's and St. Francis de Sales were to be joined as one, the pastors, Fr. Russell Best and Fr. Tom Clark, SJ, thought it a good idea for both parishes to come and meet together and celebrate Eucharist in a neutral place. The place was our monastery. We were happy to offer hospitality and afterward they used our tot-lot in which to have a picnic.

The singing was wonderful, the liturgy very rich and so reverent. It was truly a blessing for us to have them celebrate here.

By the way, do you know what "Once in a blue moon means"? Having a full moon two times in one month!

On The Road

It isn't us. None of the nuns are taking to the road to perform somewhere....This 'on the road' has to do with our frog, Dunk-in. The last time he was seen was on the road...the road of our service gate! Whether he left to find the ocean or died a natural or violent death, we will never know. It was fun having him (or her) with us. And who knows, maybe he will return or show up again!

Two Special Gifts

Getting one statue of St. Therese was wonderful, but what do you say when you get two? Those of you who came to our public celebration for St. Therese this year saw one of the statues of her in our sanctuary. This was really a double gift: one of the statue itself and then the repainting of it which was exquisitely done. The second statue is in our garden. A pedestal was specially built for it and it looks elegant in its new place- a circle of flowers which is quite fitting for the saint called the Little Flower. May God richly bless the givers of these gifts.

Our New Postulant

On August 6, the feast of Our Lord's Transfiguration, we were given a special joy. On that day our new postulant, Norma Inez Kuilan, came to join us! Norma is from Lowell and most of her family came with her to support her and encourage her! It was so good to meet her warm and loving family. God bless them all for their sacrifice, especially her Mom and Dad.

Our Archbishop Visits

On St. Therese's feast, October 1, we had the blessing of our first visit from Archbishop Sean O'Malley. We had a beautiful Mass at which His Excellency gave a wonderful homily. Afterward we had breakfast together. Our Archbishop looked thin and we know he is heavily burdened, but we hope his visit with us brought him some refreshment and comfort.

A Time Of Worry

Our dog, Cha-cha, had a swollen pad on her back foot and was unable to put much weight on it. Our vet came and did not find an infection there. Cha-cha was then put on an antibiotic and we were told if

the swelling didn't go down she would need x-rays as it might be cancer. We were so worried. Cha-cha is a very special dog, very obedient and so gentle and good. To our delight and joy, the antibiotic worked and she is running around as usual with Missy. Thank you, Lord!

Church Bells,

Monastery Bells

Isn't it true that the only purpose of church bells and monastery bells is to call us to prayer and praise and worship in a most delightful way? Isn't it beautiful to hear Christmas carols played from some church steeples at Christmas time and don't we find our hearts joining them in song to praise Our Lord who became flesh for our salvation? All through the year, church bells proclaim the Incarnation and Resurrection to us when they ring out the Angelus and the Regina Coeli as reminders to us to say these prayers that express our faith in these sacred mysteries that are so important to our spiritual life. . Even when a bell tolls as on All Souls Day to remind us of death, doesn't it express grief like a heartbeat, praying in hope of resurrection for our departed?

Making bells is quite an art and quite a feat! The church has a special rite for the blessing and consecration of bells. Like every human being, they are made solely for the glory of God. Think of that when you hear a bell ringing from a church!

Let us tell you about our monastery bells. We have two. They were put up in the early 1900's, about 10 years after the monastery was built. One bell is dedicated to Our Lady and the other is dedicated to the angels. They both have

inscriptions on them in Latin. The one to Our Lady says: FROM THE YEAR OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DOGMA OF THE IMACU- LATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM--50. LET THY VOICE SOUND IN OUR EARS, FOR THY VOICE IS SWEET.

The bell dedicated to the Angels has this inscription: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. LET ALL THE ANGELS OF THE LORD PRAISE HIM.

If your parish church has bells, you might like to find out what is inscribed on them. Then your tongue could join the tongues of your parish bells in praising God!

May your hearts ring with joy this Christmas and may you proclaim with your lives the breathtaking mystery of God so loving the world that He sent His only begotten Son to be flesh of our flesh and bone! Amen!

With love and gratitude,
Your Sisters of Boston Carmel