

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

For our **BENEFACTORS, RELATIVES, & FRIENDS**

Fall/Winter, 2005

www.carmelitesofboston.org

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119

CAUSE FOR REJOICING

It was July 13, the day Carmel celebrates its youngest saint, Teresa of Jesus (of the Andes). She is the first Chilean to be canonized and was only 19 when she died. Among the treasures she left us was this wonderful sentence: *GOD IS INFINITE JOY!* (Ponder that a while. When was the last time you thought of God in terms of joy?) Some more trivia background: St. Teresa of the Andes' baptismal name was Juanita, and her grandfather was an American.

This 'rolling out the rug' of information is to help you enter more fully into our cause for rejoicing on that day when we had a special celebration for our postulant, Norma Inez Kuilan. At a ceremony only the community attends, she became a novice, receiving her religious name and the habit of Carmel. She is now Sr. Juanita de la Madre Dolorosa. Sister has been a cause of rejoicing for us as she enriches us with her Puerto Rican heritage and genuine goodness.

LET US NOT FORGET

Our world has had so many recent calamities that cannot be healed by taking a few aspirins. We may even have forgotten about some of them, unless we were directly involved. The tsunami, the hurricanes, the earthquakes...these have left such devastation behind them that it will take years to heal not only

the lands but also the hearts, minds, bodies and souls of those afflicted by these events. Let us take to heart the scripture admonition to bear one another's burdens by not forgetting these brothers and sisters of ours. Because they no longer make newspaper headlines does not mean the pain and anguish are over. Money is not the only way we can help. Our prayers, our compassion, our willingness to sacrifice time, comfort or labor for them are also healing and valuable.

Tragedy moves our hearts to love and compassion and makes irrelevant questions like, what is the nationality or religion of its victims. Tragedy brings cameras to focus on the pain of others, who deep down we know, could be us! We really need one another, we really are related to one another, we really are all children of one God. When one suffers, we all suffer. Maybe if we were so busy helping one another we would not have time to hurt or harm and "the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord" who is love and who made us all to be like Him in love.

JUGGLING ALONG

These past few months have made us feel a bit like jugglers--juggling with death and sickness. Our Prioress' Dad was literally at the threshold of death and pulled through and Sister Juanita's Dad is still struggling day by day with

his cancer. Our Sister Catherine had another spell that was frightening and needed a 911 call. (God bless the wonderful people who respond to these calls!). She rebounded well from this incident but more recently more difficulties arose with back pain which sent her to the hospital again. She too is doing better now. Following these events, we received a bad diagnosis regarding another Sister, and then the good news that all would be well after treatment. May the way we juggled and are still juggling all these trials and emotions give glory to God.

THE BIG MOVE

It has finally happened! The 7 cells undergoing renovations for what has seemed like a hundred years, are finally done! With great joy the Sisters 'evacuated' the novitiate and moved into their new cells. That leaves the novitiate, the last wing of cells to be done, open to the capable hands of carpenters, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, painters, etc, to do their thing! Hopefully, in less than a hundred years!

CHARITY PERSONIFIED

Did you know that in the Old Testament when the authors wanted to speak of a virtue, they put flesh and bones to it? So, for example, when they spoke of faith they did not do so abstractly but told us the story of Abraham, our father in faith. This type of incarnation still

happens. Our lives are often touched by people like that and for us, Sr. Ann Donovan was one of them. A Sister of Charity of Halifax, she personified charity to such a wonderful degree for us. And all of you who spoke with her when you called here or met her when you came to Carmel, know how true this statement is. Sister was a true friend and benefactor to our community for many years. As she lived, so she died on July 7, loving Our Lord and leaving us a powerful example. How warmly Our Lord must have embraced her in heaven who was so faithful to His commandment of love on earth! In her charity, may she intercede for us that we too may fulfill the commandment of love as she did.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Like all things here on earth, the year of the Eucharist passed so quickly. One of the ways we celebrated was to have exposition every Sunday. Our saints were all lovers of the Eucharist. The coming year of 2006 being the hundredth anniversary of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity's death, we offer this thought from her writings for pondering: "...Nothing speaks more of the love that is in the heart of God than the Eucharist."

ODDS AND ENDS

On August 17, our newly ordained friend, John Predmore, SJ celebrated Eucharist with us and brought along another newly ordained Jesuit, Fr. David De Marco. We then had a good sharing in the speakroom in conversation that varied from ordination day memories, to current day issues.

Fr. Joe, o.f.m.,cap, is our "newest priest on the block" at St. Patrick's parish. Father works with the Spanish speaking parishioners and comes to us on assigned Saturdays. Brother

Arlen, also a Capuchin friar, who just made his final profession this year, has been coming with him.

Our postulant, Donna Nikola, left us in October having discerned that God was not calling her here. We wish her well.

Judy Lewis, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has visited us twice. She is discerning a call to Carmel. Judy holds degrees in industrial engineering and theology.

Sr. Bernadette Therese is our new vocation director and went to a workshop in Chicago given by Fr. Ray Carey. Father has been working many years with religious communities helping them with vocation work. Two Sisters from Barrington also attended the workshop. These three Sisters shared with us what they learned to give all of us help when it comes to discerning vocations..

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

This profound sounding phrase may sound like we are Rahnerian experts...not so! We have been assigned this task by our former Father General and basically it means reading and meeting together and discussing assigned topics given us in booklet form from the Generalate in Rome. Just as athletes have to keep in shape, so do we in living our life as Carmelites.

WILD & TAME ANIMAL REPORT

Missy our dog now goes into the pen with Cha-Cha instead of preparing to run out the gate when workers come in with their trucks! (Thank you God!)

Our goldfish had quite a few babies, but, unfortunately all of the babies and parents have died. One good thing about this loss is that we no longer have to worry whether they will survive the winter or not!

Dunkin, our frog has not been visible for a while. But Dunkin has wanderlust in his/her veins

so we have not lost hope that he/she may still be alive roaming around the garden somewhere!

We used to see hawks in our big trees, but no more, and we miss this awesome sight!

Apparently, our dogs have decided to make the cloister garden area their burial ground for whatever they capture. They have several big holes ready for their next victims! (God help whoever they are!)

JOY TO THE WORLD

We began this newsletter with joy, let us end it with joy as we celebrate the amazing event of Christmas. Let us not let world tragedies or personal ones diminish our joy, the joy that is 'the echo of God's life within us', as recently beatified Dom Columba Marmion wrote. We conclude with this prayer/wish:

May every Christmas tree remind you of Psalm 96 that says: "All the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord who is coming..." May the lights on the trees scatter whatever darkness is keeping joy out of your heart .

May the candy canes remind you of the joyful times you have tasted the sweetness of the Lord in your life.

May the angels symbolized in Christmas scenes remind you that their tidings of great joy about Jesus' birth were not just for the first century when Jesus was actually born, but for us as well in the twenty-first century.

May Christmas wreaths remind you of the joy that flows from realizing the truth that God's love for you will never end.

May every scene of Jesus in the manger fill your heart with joy that cannot be measured, for He is flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, our God, and greatest lover!

Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston