

BOSTON CARMEL

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119



Newsletter

For our BENEFACTORS, RELATIVES, & FRIENDS
Spring/Summer, 2005

www.carmelitesofboston.org

FAREWELL, POPE JOHN PAUL II

There are so many achievements and blessings that came to our world through the 27 year pontificate of John Paul II. He was truly a man of God who not only preached the Gospel, but also lived it. As he lay dying one reporter said, he "showed us how to live and now he is showing us how to die." How numerous and how very remarkable were his accomplishments for the Lord. Perhaps you would find it enriching to ask your friends, family, acquaintances, and yourself, what deed of his impacted you most. Was it his forgiving the man who tried to kill him? Or maybe it was his asking forgiveness for all the sins of the Church in the past? Perhaps his visiting so many countries was what astounded you? The answer of some might be his humility in letting himself be seen in all his physical infirmity as he came to the end of his life? What a litany of wonderful deeds we would come up with and what a blessed way to remember him, celebrate his life and thank God for the blessings given to the entire world through him.

For us Carmelites, John Paul II was a Carmelite Pope. He applied two times to enter Carmel and on the 40th anniversary of his priesthood told a group of Carmelite friars from Poland, "I was so close to being one of you..." Carmelite spirituality was an important part of his life. He himself confessed to another group of Carmelites: "Carmelite spirituality has strongly influenced me during certain experiences of my life and in the different periods of my life." He always wore his brown scapular. There is

so much more we could say, but let us end this 'farewell' by thanking him for the canonization of 4 Carmelites, the beatification of 20, and for making St. Therese the youngest Doctor of the Church.

WELCOME, POPE BENEDICT XVI

Like so many others, we waited and prayed and guessed who would be the successor of Pope John Paul II. And now that we know, we welcome and pray for our new Holy Father, Benedict XVI, who has a brilliant mind and has already inspired us by his words and deeds. One can readily sympathize with the immense burden laid upon the shoulders of this 78 year old man of God. His own words spoken at his inaugural Mass say it so well: "At this moment, weak servant of God that I am, I must assume this enormous task, which truly exceeds all human capacity."

Since this is a Carmelite newsletter, we trust you will not mind our focusing on Carmelite things by quoting from a talk by then Cardinal Ratzinger about Pope John Paul II: "...two women from the Carmelite Order can help us understand the sapiential dimension which supports the theological reflection of this pontificate...a saint whom he declared a Doctor and a doctor whom he declared a Saint. The first, St. Therese, is a girl who made sanctity transparent by the simplicity of her young love and, thanks to John Paul II, has been revealed as so wise that she has been proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. The second, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, better known as Edith Stein, is a young philosopher who learned through the cross even unto

martyrdom knowingly accepted, that mysterious wisdom which is born of a lived sanctity... Both experience that wisdom which is only revealed to those who have found in the cross the key to the whole of their existence...in the sublime union between wisdom of the heart and the cross, we find the genuine origin of the hope that inspires John Paul II...

Through the suffering lived in his own flesh, (he) has re-evaluated the wisdom of the cross. It is not possible to think of him without seeing his face, in which are imprinted, in an indelible manner, the marks of suffering, a suffering he offers to introduce the Church into the third millennium...This is precisely the wisdom that was needed in a world which hides suffering as though it were a disgrace."

During Pope Benedict's inaugural ceremony, 12 people from 8 countries gave their act of obedience to the new Pope; one of them was a Discalced Carmelite priest. May we too, give our obedience to our new Shepherd and pray for him as he himself requested: "Let us pray for one another, that the Lord will carry us and that we will learn to carry one another."

GIFT FROM STATEN ISLAND

On February 20, Donna Nikola entered our community as a postulant. Donna worked as a psychiatric nurse before joining us. She was recently able to use some of her skills on a sparrow who, we suspect flew into one of our windows and was 'out of it!' She provided a box and some water and food and he seemed to be recovering.

Since he is no longer around we presume he had a full recovery!

A SHRINKING WORLD

Do you experience the world getting smaller? We hear news from the other end of the world at the time it is happening, as if it were down the block. We can travel to other countries in hours instead of days, or even in weeks as it was before planes came into existence. We experienced the world shrinking several ways these past months. For example, the priest who celebrated Holy Week with us is stationed in Siberia! Fr. Anthony Corcoran, S.J. was in this area studying, so he didn't really fly in from Siberia, but through his inspiring stories of faith from that land, we felt closer to it. He also shared stories from Texas, his home state. It was a blessing to have him celebrate the sacred triduum with us.

We had visitors from our Carmels in Spain and Germany who came to participate in the biennial Carmelite Association meeting held this year in Maryland. Language barriers were no problem in making us feel that the bonds of Carmel truly make us one family, no matter what country one comes from. These Sisters are experiencing a lack of vocations which is such a big hardship for so many religious communities here and abroad. Do pray for vocations.

A VICTORY OVER CANCER

Our Sister Therese was diagnosed with cancer on her chin late last year. A rather intense regimen of radiation treatments 5 days a week began on January 11. On February 18 she had her last one. How grateful we were to hear that the treatment was successful! After the last round of radiation the staff where she went for treatment, poured confetti over her in celebration! So join us in praising God who continues to heal His people through those in the medical profession.

OUR 'FIERY CHARIOTS'

You know the story of Elijah going to heaven in a fiery chariot? Well, there are times when we have need, not of going to heaven, but to different places on earth like to doctors and dentists! There are several

good people who have done the great charity of taking us to appointments. Some, like Henry McAuliffe and Leo Jamieson, have already gone to God for their heavenly reward as Elijah has! Others, namely, Mary Fernald, Ruth Drohan, Mary Jamieson, and Jim McCarthy are no longer able to render this service, but we gratefully remember their generosity. To our current 'chariot' drivers, Mary Burge, Martha Leddy, Barbara Gerbick, and Jim Nicholson, we offer our profound gratitude. May God richly bless you all and give you a special reward not only in heaven but also here on earth!

UP AND RUNNING

Our new fire alarm system is in place and on duty! There are still some things needing completion but the bulk of the work is finished and has been approved by the Fire Department. Our hope is that it will never go off! Lord, hear our prayer!

WINTER MEMORIES

You just may be sweating bullets as you read this, so the idea of snow may be refreshing! Some of us loved all the snow the winter provided this past year, others were, let us say, less than happy. Several times we had to settle for a communion service because no priest could conquer the snow. One of our Christmas gifts was a delightful book on snowflakes that was truly exquisite and made one want to praise God for the wonders of this creation. And tough as we may have thought this winter was, our fish survived it in our fish pond! Another survivor was Dunk-in...remember him/her? That is the name we gave our frog who hadn't been seen since last summer, on our service gate road. Well, he/she has grown immensely! We are very happy he/she is still with us!

WANT TO HELP MOTHER NATURE?

Slowly, but surely, we are becoming more aware of the world we live in. We are learning that, like us, it has limits. Since God made us stewards, not owners of creation, and because scientists are revealing to us the consequences of our lack of care in the polluted air we breathe and the impure water we drink, some concerned

people are trying to help us be better caretakers.

It has come to our attention that the KIMBERLEY CLARK COMPANY, makers of KLEENEX tissues and other paper goods are cutting down prime forests in Canada for their products and do no recycling whatever. If you find this offensive, perhaps you would like to protest to this waste of earth's resources by writing or calling the company asking them to make recycling part of their production. Perhaps you could also buy MARCAL brand products instead, a company that does recycle. It is not Christian to exploit the earth. Our children's children have a right to inherit a healthy earth. May your summer days be filled with much love and abundant spiritual growth!

Your Sisters of Boston Carmel