

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

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

Fall/Winter, 2006

www.carmelitesofboston.org

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119

THREE MORE YEARS PASS

As Carmelites, we think in threes when it comes to elections because that's how long a term lasts for a Prioress. We do not have primaries or campaigns for this event! And no speeches or mudslinging! Besides prayer, we prepare for our elections by having a visitation. This means someone appointed or approved by the Cardinal comes to the monastery and speaks to each of the nuns to see if we are being faithful to our Rule and Constitutions. Each Sister is free to say whatever she wishes regarding life in the monastery. Our visitor this time was Fr. Salvatore Sciorba, OCD, who sends a report to the Cardinal. In case you would like to know, our Carmelite "health" is very good!

It was on November 18 that we had our elections. We were specially honored to have our Cardinal Sean O'Malley come to preside at them. We are happy to share with you the results: Sr. Eileen Mary was reelected as Prioress and Sr. Mary Teresa and Sr. Mary Clare were elected as Councillors.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS??!!??!!

How do you speak about time? Does it fly for you? Disappear like magic? Or do you have another expression? Well, as year by year goes by, and our renovations still continue, there

have been musings like, "How long has all this been going on for us anyway?" The answer seems to really be about 25 years! But this is one silver jubilee we are not thinking of celebrating!

The last wing, our novitiate, is still being worked on and day by day we plead and beg for completion. It is close, but there is a fear to say when, because so many deadlines for completion have come and gone like leaves on the trees!

For those of you who gave donations for cells, please do not think we have forgotten about the memorial plaques for the doors. We are waiting for all cells to be completed. We will get in touch with you when that happens!

We have had more work done on our enclosure wall. The section chosen for this year was started in the beginning of October by the Folan Company and they have been working steadily as the weather permits. We are happy to announce the good news that they have finished their work for this year before the frosts came. For this we are very grateful.

SOME THINGS GOT FIXED, OTHERS GOT 'BROKE'

Talking about things getting fixed brings to mind things that broke. One was our elevette. Of course, it happened when needed most! We really cannot

complain too much though. It has been a very faithful instrument for our community since the 1950's when it was installed! About 10 years ago the cables needed to be replaced and aside from that and a periodic adjustment and oiling, it has been on duty 24/7 without major difficulties! (As you know, they don't make things to last that long anymore!) It had been giving us signs of trouble and after our ingenious troubleshooter, Lee McKenney, did all he could, which was a great deal, we had to get professional help.

There is humor to this story. One of the sisters overheard a repairman talking to his boss saying, "This elevette is so old you don't want to get involved with fixing this one!" But it did get fixed. We could not afford a new one. So a new motor has been installed and it is working fine again. Thank you, God!

Another breakdown occurred in our fish pond: our big pump died. Since we turn it off for the winter, we will wait until next spring to fix or replace it.

The final break was a window. It just fell down! Not from top to bottom like when a sash cord breaks, but out and down! We are grateful it did not fall on one of the Sisters, which would have been a major calamity. We hope it, and all the others, stay put unless one of us opens or closes them!

SPARE PARTS

As we all know, it isn't only gadgets and things that need fixing but also ourselves from time to time! Who would ever have thought a 100 years ago that we humans could get spare parts for our hips and knees? Well, one of our Sisters knows about this first hand! Sr. Mary Teresa had a total hip replacement on June 5 and a total knee replacement on June 13! Both parts are working but she does hope no more replacement parts will be needed!

NO NINE LIVES

This will be our last report about Dunkin, our frog, who survived a few winters and some near death experiences with our dogs. We were beginning to think maybe frogs had 9 lives too, like cats. Not so...at least not for Dunkin. One summer day it all ended for Dunkin and it wasn't the dogs who did it. The tragedy was caused by one of the nuns who accidentally stepped on Dunkin who was doing his/her usual roaming around the garden! The animal lovers among us think we will meet him/her in heaven.

On a happier note, we did receive as a gift some additional inhabitants for our fish pond: some koi and goldfish who have already increased and multiplied in their new home!

A SPECIAL GIFT

Remember our mentioning that November 9, 2006 is the 100th death anniversary of Carmel's Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity? Well, we have a friend who is very gifted in many ways. One of those ways is musically. She has composed for us a Mass in honor of our Blessed. We sang it for the first time on her feast day, November 8th. The Mormon

Tabernacle Choir we are not, but we hope our love and joy made up for what we lack in musical expertise!

HEAVEN COMES TO EARTH

Good music is something that has a special link with heaven. Who of us has not been moved to prayer when certain music reaches our ears and hearts? On September 3, it really seemed like heaven came to earth for us when we were treated to a piano and violin concert by Fr. Robert Congdon (piano) and Jagan Nath Khalsa (violin). They performed works by Vaughn Williams, Bach, Grieg, Brahms, Schumann, Saint-Saens and others. We are so grateful to them for sharing their God given talents with us.

KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR

We have had several inquiries from women interested in our life. Several have visited us and are still discerning. The best news is that one will be entering early next year. We will tell you more in our next newsletter.

GOD PLUCKS ANOTHER ROSE FOR HEAVEN

We have all been delighted by flowers on this earth. Ever think of what flowers in heaven might be like? Eye has not seen, sort of says it. But we have some clues. Did you ever think what kind of flower your favorite saint might be like? We all think of St. Therese as a rose, and she herself reminded us some of us are like daisies, or other flowers and all give glory to God. Well, we feel there is another rose besides Therese in heaven. Our very good friend and benefactor Rose Mc Colgan was called to her heavenly reward on November 10. She had just celebrated her 95th birthday two days previous. Before her death, Rose and her daughter, Sally Ann, belonged to the

category of saints we call 'suffering servants'. Their lives have been so filled with crosses. But they also were among the most joyful people we knew. They have truly incarnated the death and resurrection of Jesus in their lives so powerfully and have inspired us. May Rose be in glory and help us live as joyfully for Jesus as she did.

CALENDARS

We all know that our Jewish brothers and sisters have their own calendar as do some other religious groups. But did you know that older Religious Orders, like the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans and Carmelites have their own calendars, too? This calendar is not entirely different from the regular calendar, what makes it different is that it includes Blesseds and Saints of the Order not celebrated by the universal Church. Some events are also incorporated. For example, St Teresa in her writings told about her heart being pierced by the dart of an angel. We celebrate that event on August 26. With all the Church we rejoice on the solemnity of All Saints, but on November 14, we celebrate the feast of All Saints of Carmel and on November 15, All Souls of Carmel. These and other Carmelite memorials and feasts and solemnities are special days of joy for us as we remember these holy members of our family.

CHRISTMAS TREES

That wonderful time of year has come again when trees become part of our indoor life! Whether you decorate your Christmas tree with ornaments, candy, fruit, popcorn or some other thing, may it remind you of all the joys we receive from Christ our newborn Savior!

Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston