

# BOSTON CARMEL

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston, MA 02119



# Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2007

[www.carmelitesofboston.org](http://www.carmelitesofboston.org)

## WITH OPEN ARMS

Can you imagine how Simeon and Anna welcomed the newborn Christ when Mary, His Mother and St. Joseph brought Him to the temple for the first time? We had a little taste of it on that feast, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we welcomed with open arms our new postulant, Judy Lewis, who came to present herself as a gift to the Lord.

Judy has come with many gifts that are already enriching us. Her skills as an organizer are doing wonders in our provisory! She has a great love for the liturgy, and since our postulants wear secular clothes until they enter the novitiate, we have enjoyed how she attires 'liturgically' by wearing, for example, the same color as the vestments of the day. But the prize was on Earth Day. Although that was not a liturgical feast, we enjoyed Judy's skirt with animals and trees! Pray for Judy, that if it be God's will for her, she will be a great Carmelite.

## TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

The blood, the sweat, the tears... the waiting and pleading... the trials and disappointments... the many years of it all... have borne fruit: **THE WORK ON THE CELLS OF THE MONASTERY IS DONE!** Rejoice with us and give thanks to God with us! We will be getting in touch with those who have donated cells to finalize the wording on the plaques to be put on the doors.

## AN 800<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

This year Carmel celebrates the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **RULE OF CARMEL**. Isn't that awesome? This

document is a magnificent one. It is a real gem of spirituality that spells out our way of life basically in scriptural terms. A few years ago a Dutch artist was asked to do the Rule in calligraphy. To say he was inspired with what he produced, is putting it mildly! We have in writing his own words explaining how he decided to do it. It is fascinating reading that moves one to meditation! To share a bit: he used a goose quill to do the calligraphy which must be done in one sitting. It takes some 7 to 8 hours. The printing is in the form of a cross with a variegated gold circle in the middle that is empty. The circle symbolizes many things, among them center and space. "Through the Rule of Carmel I am being led into the space of God." Five hundred copies were made from the original through a silk screen process. Every copy is numbered and signed, and the golden circle is gilded by hand on every single copy. And blessing of blessings, we have one, thanks to the generosity of someone who loved Carmel! Does it need to be said that it is one of our treasures?

## MORE CELEBRATIONS

The Order of Carmel is also commemorating an anniversary of 100 years of St. Rafael of St. Joseph (Kalinowski). He was a great inspiration to Pope John Paul II and was canonized by him. St. Rafael wore many hats and had many interesting life experiences as an engineer, a soldier, a prisoner in Siberia, a teacher. He might be a good

saint to pray to for our soldiers in Iraq.

The final anniversary does not call for world-wide celebration, just a local one: our Sr. Mary Teresa will be celebrating 50 years in Carmel on October 6.

## A NEW GARDEN

Perhaps you'd like to know a little about our garden. We have several: an Angel Garden, a St. Therese Garden, a St. Mary Magdalene Garden, a Mater Dolorosa garden. Each of the Sisters (except our two seniors) has her little plot to care for; results vary. Some provide pictorial food for Gospel stories about weeds. Others seem tinged with some of the Garden of Eden's glory. We are excited about the new garden that has been started. Want to guess what it is? Here's a hint: we celebrated her centenary last year. If you guessed Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, you win! (Sorry, there's no prize!) A friend presented us with a marble slab engraved with Blessed Elizabeth's picture on it for this garden and it is just beautiful! Another friend has made a butterfly house for it. We want butterflies and birds to feel at home there, too, because Blessed Elizabeth loved nature. Deborah Bernard of YEW AND I is designing it and working on it for us. May Blessed Elizabeth help all who pray in her garden to attain great intimacy with the Trinity as she did!

## PRaising GOD WITH DANCING

"Praise God with drums and dancing" says psalm 150. There were no drums, but we had a

lovely group of young women from St. Catherine's parish in Norwood worship Our Lord with graceful movement and gesture in our choir as a communion meditation on December 8. It was a prayerful experience for all of us. God bless Fr. Currie, the principal and teacher who made it all possible for us.

#### **A SPECIAL EVENING**

Lent brought Fr. Matthew, CSM, and members of his adult group from Mission Church to us for a prayer service and for sharing about our life. The young adults were lively, very interesting and wonderful. We had a very lovely evening together.

#### **OUR LADY OF IRAQ**

Another gift! This time a woven rug hanging of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that was made in Iraq. There is a square on the bottom of the front that tells the name of the place where it was made in that country. It is quite striking. We have it hanging in our front entrance. It seems fitting to call it OUR LADY OF IRAQ. May Mary intercede for her many children who are suffering there and bring peace to that land and to all of us.

#### **CARMELITE VISITORS**

Scattered through the past months we had several visitors—each bringing Christ to us in their unique way.

During Lent some of our Sisters from Beacon Carmel stayed overnight because of doctor's appointments in the Boston area. Sr. Teresa Keohane, one of the founders of Zing Carmel in Africa, visited us once again. She never fails to amaze us with her unbelievable feats, stories and experiences while there. We also found out that the priests and bishops there affectionately call her Mama T.

Father Stephen Watson, OCD, came from Rome and shared news about the Order worldwide.

Sr. Anna Maria came from Tubingen Carmel in Germany to stay with us for a few days to attend our Carmelite meeting at

Campion Center in Weston. It is wonderful belonging to such a huge family embracing so many peoples and cultures—and, really, even when we do not know each other, there is a strong familial bond that one feels. It is a very impressive grace.

#### **OUR SHRINKING WORLD**

Do not panic...this is not the newest calamity discovered by scientists! It is just the reality of how easy it is to hear news about things happening just about anywhere in our world in minutes! And also the fact that we really do impact not only the one who lives across the street from us, but also one who lives thousands of miles away!

This was brought home very clearly by a lecture given to us by Professor Jean-Marc Ela who was born in Cameroon. (Father has three doctorates!) His talk was a challenge to face the facts of globalization and marginalization and how these should challenge our ways of living the Christian faith. "God always makes himself known in history and nowhere else", he reminded us. As an African theologian, he feels the call to make Africa the place for his theology but in a way that involves all of us because we are our sisters and brothers keepers. "Africa is mentioned only when catastrophes, massacres and famines hit people....This apocalyptic discourse on Africa does not...point out the effects of global politics and economy on African countries...Let's also mention the effects of international markets due to the break down of fairness in trade.. Poverty is not natural it comes from the violent nature of injustice which has been set up as a social and economic system...the cruelty of this system appears when millions of Africans are excluded from the feast of life." May God help us as Christians to do what we can to end injustice in our world and to continue 'bringing good news to the poor and

announcing the liberation of the oppressed'.

#### **THE FIRE OF PENTECOST**

It was early in the morning when the tongues of fire appeared over the heads of the disciples on the first Pentecost. Our experience happened in the evening on Pentecost, 2007. We also were at prayer, Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. We were just about to sing the Our Father when the fire alarm went off! Yes, the fire department came. Thank God they had no fire to extinguish. The culprit was the smoke from our incense ascending to God!!!

Nor did Pentecost end with that event! We were at prayer again. This time, Night Prayer. We will never forget who descended on us. (Understandably, if others had been present and observed some of the behavior they might have thought we were drunk too, like the first disciples for some made strange sounds, others made strange movements, when a bat descended on us!!! God bless the Sisters who were filled with the Spirit's gifts of fortitude and courage and who immediately went into action to show the critter the way to the great outdoors!

#### **YOU ARE INVITED**

We hope you will come to our public lecture this year on November 18 at 2 p.m. We are very happy and honored to have as our lecturer Dr. Susan Muto, an expert in literature and spirituality. You may have read some of her books. In fact, she is recommending that one of her books, PATHWAYS OF SPIRITUAL LIVING, be read in preparation for her lecture. We have a few copies for sale, if you are interested. Dr. Muto's lecture is entitled: WHAT DOES THE RULE OF CARMEL HAVE TO SAY ABOUT SILENCE IN OUR NOISY WORLD?

#### **A CLOSING WORD**

From a church sign: Celebrate God's green Earth. Reduce, reuse, recycle, rejoice!