

BOSTON CARMEL



Newsletter

61 Mt. Pleasant Ave.-- Boston, MA 02119

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

Fall/Winter, 2008

www.carmelitesofboston.org

HOME AT LAST.....

Thank God, our Prioress, Sr. Eileen Mary, is home at last after four months of grueling health/medical experiences! To the very end dates for her return had to be juggled and changed because of new problems and difficulties that arose. The last challenge that needed to be overcome was pneumonia! But August 11, the day of Sister's return, finally came to the joy of us all. Sister is still on the mend, but is making progress.

A STEP CLOSER

On August 15, we had the happy event of Sr. Juanita de la Madre Dolorosa renewing her vows for another year. Pray for Sister and all those in formation for religious life and priesthood as they get closer and closer to the time of final commitment. We all need God's special grace to discern His will and to persevere in our vocations.

A CRASHING EXPERIENCE

It was a lovely Sunday afternoon, all was bright, when suddenly a loud noise broke the silence barrier. One Sister checked to see if someone had fallen, but all seemed fine. It was not until the evening that we found out what caused the crash. The tiled ceiling in our shower had fallen down! We were grateful it happened when it was empty so that there was no human injury. It is all

fixed up now, without a tile ceiling. We wanted to avoid a repeat performance!

A SPECIAL LINK

In August of this year we celebrated our 118th anniversary in Boston. For all those years we have had a special link with the Redemptorists at Mission Church who have been our faithful chaplains since our monastery was founded in 1890. Fr. Charles Currier, CSsR. played a big part in getting us here. But Carmel's link with them goes back to their founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori who was very devoted to St. Teresa, our founder. It would take more than this entire newsletter to name all who have served us all these years. The nuns who have gone before us have handed on to us their own deep gratitude by frequent reminders of how much we owed this religious family of St. Alphonsus. We mourn with them the loss of several who have died recently and miss those who have been reassigned elsewhere, particularly Frs. Bennett and Allman. We welcome Fr. Raymond Collins who has just been installed as new rector, and the others newly assigned to Mission Church. We pray daily for this religious family to whom we owe so much. May God bless each and all of them, both the living and deceased!

TALE OF A TAIL

Who doesn't know that dogs have tails? But there are tails and there are tails! A dog expert could go into all the science of balance and whatever else tails do for dogs. This is not about that kind of information. This tale is about our dog Cha-cha's tail. For one thing, it is quite strong. Sometimes a Sister has gotten in its wagging way and cried, "Ouch!" Some have wished it could be harnessed for some work in the monastery to make it helpful. This is not about such a discovery either. What in heaven's name is it about then, you may ask! It is about expression! A dog's wagging tail expresses joy and happiness and excitement. Cha-cha's tail seems to wait in readiness to wag at the least acknowledgement. It is such a delight to experience. It could be a look, a calling of her name, she never fails to acknowledge your presence to her with her tail! Isn't that a wonderful lesson for us? Oh, that we would really be present to each other, how different the world and even families would be! Even better, wouldn't it be wonderful for us to be so attentive and present to God that we vibrate with joy in whatever way He comes or contacts us?

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH

It has been quite an experience for us. We are growing not only in

numbers but also in nationalities and cultures! We presently have Sisters not only with Irish, English, Scottish, Carribean, Polish roots but also Vietnamese and Korean ones! Our newest addition is from Korea. Sister Agnes is in the process of transferring to our community. We are very happy with our 'international growth' which gives us a real sense of how universal the Church is.

PARDON & PATIENCE

For those of you have donated cells during our fundraising endeavor, please forgive our tardiness in getting the plaques. We did not hear from all the donors, and then other circumstances prevented us from getting to them as quickly as we wanted. Please do not lose heart, we will get them done and we hope to have a picture of it to send to you.

RESEARCH PROJECT

In July we participated in a project to collect information about Discalced Carmelite Nuns in America. It was a voluntary endeavor and the principal investigator, Denise Marie Hanusek, Th.D, knows Carmel well. The study is basically looking into the changes that have occurred since Vatican II and how different monasteries have responded and what that might mean for the future of Carmel in America.

KEEPING UP WITH THE PSALMISTS

The book of psalms in the Bible is amazing. The psalms touch every human emotion, are astoundingly relevant in every age. One can never exhaust their richness. We were reminded of this in July when Father James D'Souza, OCD came to our monastery to give us a series of talks on the psalms.

Father is from India and is studying in Rome for his doctorate. Research at Harvard is what made it possible for him to share the riches of his study with us. An excellent teacher, we were so happy to have him give us some days of input. Here's a tidbit from Father's book: *"Psalm 150 is the last among the five "praise the Lord psalms"... the invitation to "praise the Lord" is repeated 10 times in this psalm. It is interesting to note that in the creation account (Book of Genesis) the phrase "and God said" is repeated 10 times. and on Mount Sinai, God gave 10 commandments to the people of Israel. Therefore, this psalm intentionally invites us 10 times to "praise the Lord" as a response to the 10 words of God in the book of Genesis and 10 commandments of God at Sinai. In this way, the entire psalter becomes a response of Israel to the God of creation and of history."*

SURPRISE VISITOR

Many of us get surprise visitors every now and then. We were most surprised to get a visit from Robert Le Gall, OSB, the Archbishop of Toulouse in France! He was here for the Magnificat magazine's Pilgrimage of Hope held in Boston this year. Unfortunately, the visit was so speedy only our Prioress got to greet him for a very short time. He visited our chapel.

BCTV, ST. THERESE &.....US!

It isn't every day we get calls from TV stations. What a surprise when we got one from Boston Catholic TV! They were planning a series of talks on St. Therese to be given by Fr. Lenny Tighe and Father suggested that maybe a good place to film the programs would be at a Carmelite Monastery....ours! We were more

than happy to oblige! Have you seen any of the programs? If so, we hope you enjoyed the scenery. We are sure you enjoyed Father's talks!

TWO MEMORABLE DAYS

Part of Carmel's vocation is to pray for priests. In this time of few priestly vocations, two seminarians we had been praying for were ordained this year. And they gave us the joy of coming to celebrate the Eucharist with us after their ordinations. Fr. Arlen Harris ofm.cap, a native of Brooklyn, NY, came on June 22nd and Fr. William Lohan, a native of West Roxbury, came on July 3rd. May the fire and zeal in their hearts never burn out as they work in the Lord's vineyard!

A NEW PRESIDENT

November 4 was an historic day for our country and, as in all elections, some are pleased and others are not. But now that the decision has been made, let us all pray for our new president that he will strive to be a servant of God and have the light of the Holy Spirit to do what is necessary and right to make our world a better place not only for our own citizens, but for all the world.

AN ADVENT WORD

It will still be advent when you get this, so let us close with a thought from Pope Benedict XVI. "Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope." - *Your Sisters of Boston Carmel*