

# BOSTON CARMEL



## Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2008

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

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

### **REJOICE!...BE GLAD!...**

Such is the message given by the entrance antiphon for Laetare Sunday. We obeyed it! It wasn't hard, because on that day our postulant, Judy Lewis became our new novice, Sr. Elizabeth Therese of the Blessed Trinity! It was truly a day of rejoicing and gladness for us giving us a foretaste of Easter joy that was coming.

### **INCREASING & MULTIPLYING**

We are very grateful to God for another new member, Sr. Gabrielle. Sister is a Sister of Christian Charity who has asked to transfer to Carmel. So, on April 22 we began our mutual discernment together to see if this is where God is calling her.

Other women have also been in touch with us to our delight. One spent Holy Week with us, another several days in May and another is in the inquiring stage. Pray with us that these inquiries will bear fruit for our garden of Carmel.

### **THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Prioress, Sister Eileen Mary, went to the hospital for a 'simple' medical procedure: an arthroscopy. The simple procedure turned out to be very complicated and mysterious. Since April 4<sup>th</sup> Sister has not been able to return to the Monastery to her dismay and ours. So many things went wrong, even death was mentioned! And

doctors were puzzled by some of the issues. She suffered greatly physically, mentally and spiritually, but thank God, at this writing things are looking resurrection-like! One doctor said that in 3 months all she went through will just be a bad memory. We hope so! She is so grateful for all the prayers said on her behalf.

### **NEW PATRONS FOR PARENTS**

Later this year the parents of St. Therese will be beatified! This will be only the second time in Church history that a married couple have been beatified together. The first couple was beatified in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. As you can see this is a very recent phenomenon in our Church!

In preparation for this event, the remains of Louis Martin and Zelig Guerin have been moved to the crypt of the Basilica of St. Therese, their famous daughter.

What an example this holy couple have left us of married and parental love. Their lives touch our contemporary world in powerful and unique ways. As so many fight and struggle with cancer in our times, we have the inspiring example of Zelig who died of breast cancer in 1877. Louis, who died in 1894, was in a mental institution for a time. He is an inspiration for those who suffer mentally in our day.

### **A SAD DAY IN CHILE**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is the Patroness of an amazing number of countries: Spain and all the countries of South America! She is Queen of Chile and General of the Army! But a sad thing happened there. A statue of her was burned in the El Sagrario de Santiago parish. A special Mass of reparation was celebrated in the metropolitan cathedral and all the Bishops of the country took part.

Desecration of a sacred image is not unique to Chile. We have had desecrations happen here as well. As the Cardinal in Chile remarked such an act 'requires us to look deeper' into the problems in society.

### **NOTHING LASTS FOREVER**

It was for 1990, our centenary year, that our chapel was painted. Of course, we would have been delighted if it lasted until the parousia! But, alas, there were some glaring signs of its needing attention now! As part of the process, because the walls of the vestibule where we had our little gift store were in very bad condition, the work started there. Our little gift store is being moved to what was formerly called "the breakfast room". It will provide more space for browsing and keep the chapel vestibule clear for coming and going. We hope all will be mostly

ready for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel triduum.

The chapel painting lasted almost 2 decades, water heaters don't! The way this problem was revealed was by the brown water coming from our hot water spigots. We are grateful for our new heater and hope it has a longer life!

#### **OUR NEW CARPENTER**

We have had many carpenters since we began our renovations. We are very happy with our new one. He is a hard worker, cares about doing a very good job and is also quite a chef! He has brought some of his culinary work to us. We are very grateful to David for his generosity and expertise. He is a gift from God to us.

#### **DEATH IS ONLY AN HORIZON**

Death is never easy and when it involves a parent it is most difficult. Please remember Sue Huang, our Sr. Bernadette Therese's Mom who died just before her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. "Death is only an horizon and an horizon is just the limit of our vision."

#### **WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT.....**

**MYSTICISM, UNBELIEF, MARK, TRINITY, PARABLES....** So goes a long list of books published by Paulist Press. Did it ever enter your mind to ask what they might be saying about extraterrestrial intelligent life if it was ever found on another planet? Dominican Fr. Thomas O'Meara, gave us a lecture about what role Jesus might have if such was found. (Some fascinating facts: in 10 years 200 planets have been discovered in our solar system! There is a radio telescope in San Francisco that has as its main purpose to search for life in outer space.) Someday, maybe not too far into the future, human beings really might meet some ET's!

#### **ROBINS, SPARROWS AND MOURNING DOVES**

Psalm 84 says: "The sparrow has found its home at last, the swallow a nest for its young..." How excited we were to have ringside seats to nests of robins, sparrows and mourning doves in our cloister area this spring! It is amazing what these flying creatures without hands can do so well for their little ones. And if you've ever seen what goes into some bird's nests, you would give them very good marks for recycling!

#### **THINKING/ACTING GREEN**

How can we **not** think green when spring and summer surround us so lavishly with it in grass and trees? In our time, green has taken on new meaning for we have come to a time in history when our thinking and acting for the good of the environment is not an option but a necessity. Here at the monastery we have been trying to do our bit to help the effort. We are using recycled paper products for one thing. We recycle everything we can. We have been changing bulbs to fluorescents. All this is a new form of discipline and mortification for us as we look for other ways to come to the aid of our ailing planet. May God come to our assistance in this area for as we all know by experience, without God, we can do nothing!

#### **WILD TURKEY**

One day a wild turkey was spotted in our garden. We are very happy to be visited by different birds. Fortunately, it did not stay long enough for Chacha and Missy to set their eyes, or teeth, on it, otherwise, this turkey might have been their Thanksgiving dinner....out of season, because Thanksgiving was months away!

#### **PARISH TIES**

Since we have our own chapel many may not know that we belong to a parish. For us, it is St. Patrick's which is down the street from us. Being cloistered, we do not go to Mass there, but we 'link up' together occasionally. For example, on Good Friday, the parish makes us one of the stations where parishioners join us in prayer and reflection. When possible, the priests celebrate Eucharist with us, usually on Saturdays. In June we had a different kind of get-together. Once a year, Fr. Waldron, the pastor, has a special Mass when former parishioners gather for Mass and then visit some place in the area. We were the "place" this year. Former and current parishioners of all ages came for a little refreshment on what was a very hot day. May God bless all parishes in our archdiocese with a true sense of community.

#### **AFRICAN BROTHERS**

The foundation our Carmelite Friars made in Kenya some years ago is flourishing! They are getting many vocations and have many wonderful stories they share with us. Fr. Dennis Geng stopped by to visit us when he came back to the States to visit family and friends. He told funny stories, sad stories and dangerous stories which gave us a little taste of missionary life.

In June we were visited by 3 of our native African Carmelite brothers: Fr. Thomas, Fr. Nicholas and, soon to be ordained, Brother Abed. Our joy together must have pleased St. Teresa in heaven.

#### **SUMMER BLESSINGS**

May God's love burn in your heart more strongly than the rays of the summer sun!

*Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston*