

# BOSTON CARMEL



## Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2022

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

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### FOCUSING

Things have been tough. The Covid pandemic, the loss of truth by lies and fake news, the rising up of hate groups and prejudice, the atrocities taking place in the Ukraine, shootings all over our country...the list can go on and on. In the midst of all this chaos, spring and Easter came! Do you think that this was God's way of inviting us to focus on hope? To enlarge our vision and remind us every Good Friday of our lives has to end in an Easter Sunday? This is our faith. May God help us put it into practice!

### ALMOST

We almost made it...When Covid raged and spread in our midst, our community was spared. Who wasn't relieved when its grip lessened and restrictions were eased. Churches and public places opened, celebrations and parties possible again. It seemed like Covid was conquered or at least in its eleventh hour, ready to depart for good. Then a new wave came. This time we were not spared. One of our Sisters became a victim of it. She did it solo and recovered. We are hoping there will be no major side effects and that history's chapter on Covid will end very

soon for the good of all our world.

### ICE CAPADES

Christmas morning. There was no practice. No music. No tickets were sold. There was no audience. It was quite unexpected and unplanned. If you remember, this past Christmas was quite icy and chilly. One of the nuns was opening our gate and managed that, but on her way back to the steps, being a never-before-ice-skater, she fell, unceremoniously, with no skill to rise from the ice. So, she sat on the ice, in wonder! (Not a bad attitude for Christmas!) Then two miracles happened. First, an Angel appeared! Clothed in summer-like garb, with bare feet in sandals, without wings she was able to successfully move across the ice! She contacted the Sisters who completed the rescue mission. The second miracle? The "ice capade star" suffered no injuries!

### CARMELITE BITS AND PIECES

Our Carmelite General, Fr. Miguel Marquez Calle spent Holy Week in the Ukraine visiting Carmelite Friars and nuns living there and going to the places where war was waged. He listened, hugged, prayed, and wept with the

people there and shared his chronicle with the Order, calling it A VOYAGE TO THE HEART OF HORROR AND HOPE. His chronicle is too lengthy to quote entirely, but you may find some excerpts enlightening and helpful for prayer. After celebrating the Easter vigil, he wrote: "...today, Christ has risen for me in the faith of a people, in their hope." As he ended his journey these were his words: "We are all at war. And together we need each other. We must be prepared with the weapons of light, let no one erase our smile and hope, it is the greatest treasure I bring from the Ukraine. They are not poor massacred people, they are a people that will rise from their ashes because they have Faith and in their wound, they awaken us all to live and to stand up."

May brought our Provincial to us for Mass and a visit. Fr. Michael Berry, ocd is a very good homilist, singer, and brother to the nuns. We had a great time sharing stories and concerns and laughter and promising prayers for each other.

This May, another Carmelite was canonized: St. Titus Brandsma. A Calced Carmelite,

he lived in the dangerous time of the Nazis and wore many hats. As a journalist he courageously spoke out against Nazi propaganda. It led to his martyrdom at Dachau. Fr. Micael O'Neill, Prior General of the O. Carms, so rightly said of his canonization: WE HAVE THIS CELEBRATION AT A TIME WHEN TRUTH AND INTEGRITY IS SUFFERING SERIOUSLY IN THE MAJOR CONFLICTS THAT NOW THREATEN THE PEACE OF THE WORLD. St. Titus himself said, "The Nazi movement is the black lie. It is pagan." We are dealing with so many lies in our times. May we not be deceived by them. To those trying to overcome the lies of our time St. Titus offers this advice: "Those who want to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come into conflict with it." A dangerous mission indeed. Lord, raise up, and be with, those who are trying!

#### GREENING UP

The woes we have inflicted on our environment are so overwhelming we might be tempted to wring our hands in despair. But that is not the road to travel. One does what one can and little things add up and mean a lot. One new step we have taken involves our laundry wash. We are using a new detergent product called EARTH BREEZE. It comes in a cardboard package instead of a heavy plastic jug and has 60 sheets that dissolve in cold or hot water. You may like to try it, too. and take this little step with us that could lead to a big

one for our planet as we do what we can to help our polluted environment. (We don't get a commission!)

#### CHRISTMAS HAT SHOW

An interesting phenomenon happens in our cloister courtyard when it snows. A large statue of Jesus as an adolescent is in the center. When it snows, His head becomes a sacred mannequin of sorts for hat designs! Sometimes the design looks like a beanie, sometimes like a Czar's hat with a cape, sometimes like a tower! It is quite entertaining and a different way that Jesus brings joy into our lives!

#### CRACKED

We all know about cracked eggs and have described some people as cracked. But ever hear of a cracked toilet? We had one. Some water on the floor was discovered by one of the Sisters and after searching for the source, the culprit was the tank. We were grateful that the entire tank didn't let out all its contents to make a flood before it could be fixed.

#### LOOKING FOR GOLD

Did you know that primary gold is found in rocks and secondary gold in rivers? Would you like to know about another place to find gold? Try the psalms. The Liturgy of the Hours is an important part of our prayer life and it consists mostly of the psalms that were written centuries ago but are as current as the daily newspaper! They are a goldmine for times when we are struggling to find words to help us pray, or when we are

looking for words to console someone who is suffering. They supply us with words of praise, of thanksgiving, of lament, of hope and more! They even give us images of awe and wonder to ponder. The riches in them are more stocked than the shelves in a supermarket! May you find many golden nuggets in the psalms to make you richer in mind, heart and spirit.

#### GARDEN UPDATE

We have been blessed with the songs of new birds in our garden, but they remain a mystery because we cannot identify them. They are hidden souls! But we so love to hear them. Talking of birds, when we are praying the Liturgy of the Hours some birds join us with their singing. It is delightful and enhancing!

We have leaping koi! It is not a frequent occurrence but it is quite exciting to see! Could they have some dolphin genes in them?

The red hawks are seen less frequently, but do surprise us once in a while. Wild turkeys have visited again and happily have not stayed. Let us not forget the presence of our resident skunk(s) who occasionally fill the air with their powerful perfume! All creatures on earth, bless the Lord with us!

#### GOING LIVE!

After our long hibernation because of Covid we are planning to have our public celebrations for Our Lady and St. Therese live this year. We hope you will come.

*Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston*