

# BOSTON CARMEL



# Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2023

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

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

## RUMORS

Have you ever been the subject of a rumor? We have! Actually, we know of two that have been going around. One was that we no longer existed, the other was that our monastery has been closed. Well, both belong to the fake news category! In August we will celebrate our 133<sup>rd</sup> anniversary! So, we are not closed, and with God's help and blessing we hope our Carmel will be alive until Jesus comes in glory!

However, these rumors have made us put on our thinking caps and work aprons to let people know we are here and alive! Therefore, we have gotten a bit more 'techy'. We now have in addition to our website a FACEBOOK page and a TWITTER account.

We also started having an hour of adoration in our chapel on Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 that is open to the public. You are invited to join us!

Another effort was to beef up our vocation work to get new members. Input from some friends and research has been done on that score and we now have a team working more intensely on that effort. We have already met some very wonderful young people

and pray this work will bear fruit.

## HEAVEN BOUND

A very special friend in our lives got his boarding pass for heaven on Holy Saturday to spend Easter in heaven! Fr. Tom Stegman, SJ, a renowned scripture scholar, who often celebrated Eucharist with us, gave us scripture talks, and got many professors to give us ongoing formation classes, is a real loss to us. As his journey to heaven came closer and closer, he visited with us via zoom! Now being in heaven, imagine how much more he knows about scripture! Oh, how wonderful it would be if he could zoom with us from there and share what he now knows! God bless and reward you for your friendship with us on earth, Fr. Tom, and do send us some crumbs from the heavenly banquet table to nourish us with God's word as you know it now!

## A HUGE ASSIGNMENT

During the summer when most of us are thinking of vacations, we were given a huge assignment from Rome! The task: to update our constitutions! No easy thing this and to make it even more difficult, the deadline is October! Truly, for such a hard

task, we, like St. Paul, need God's strength to empower us!

## NOURISHMENT

Did you ever think how big a job it is to provide ourselves with all the nourishment we need to live? Whatever our age, whatever our vocation, we need to nourish our bodies, our hearts, our minds, our souls, but we also need to nourish creativity and hope if we are to reach the fullness of life God made us for! Would it not be advantageous to check out if we are neglecting some area needing nourishment in our lives? Are we providing good food for our bodies? Prayer for our souls? Study for our minds? Love for our hearts? Maybe we need to think about ways to nourish hope? And how about the challenge of nourishing one's creativity? Let us put our hands to the plough and give God glory in these ways!

## OH, WHAT A CLOG!

We can take so much for granted. Like expecting the water we wash our hands with to just go down the drain and cause no problem. Well, we had a different experience with a sink that got tired of doing that! And it wasn't a kitchen sink, but a sacristy one that just has water going

down, no food particles or grease or the like! The problem was huge. No drain cleaner (biodegradable, of course!) nor snaking worked. Down to the cellar the workers went and studied and planned. The plugged drains finally got cleared but not without revenge as they expelled some of their refuse on the workers and walls! Thanks to the courage, perseverance and hard work of these men the drains are working. Dear Lord, let us not take water going down the drain or anything else for granted again!

#### BLESSINGS

From childhood we were all taught to say, 'Thank you' when we were given a gift. The monastic custom says it a little differently: **BLESSED BE GOD AND HIS GIFTS**. This way bids us remember that all good things come to us from God even if given by another. With this in mind, let us share some blessings we are thanking God for since our last newsletter.

In February we learned about praying with women in the Old Testament, a day of input given to us by Professor Jaime Waters of Boston College STM. The same month brought us some young people from an interfaith group called **THE DIGNITY PROJECT**. They enriched us in an ecumenical way as we spoke of ways to overcome prejudice in areas of religious belief.

Another February blessing was a visit from four Missionaries of Charity who joined us for Mass and some sharing.

In March, Gabriel Lee, a recent

graduate from Julliard, sang for us. Particularly moving, powerful, and beautiful was a Korean song he sang for us.

When March marched in, Bishop Mark blessed our new vocation room and the two Sisters who will be doing vocation work.

March 17 was not only St. Patrick's feast, but also the special day Fr. James Laughlin, a good friend of ours, celebrated Mass with us after a long absence. He had been very seriously injured when hit by a car and his recovery has been a great work of God's healing power!

April 13 was the day we were blessed with Eucharist and a delightful visit with Bishop Reed, a good friend of St. Therese. We spoke about her 150<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and invited him to be our main celebrant on her feast this October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Saturday, April 15 marked the start of our weekly adoration with the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel for the public.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> we collaborated with our Carmelite Friars to offer an Intercollegiate Carmelite Day. Forty five people participated. We had Mass, a talk on the Scapular, the investment in the scapular for those who wished, and shared lunch together.

How better to begin May 1 than with the crowning of our Blessed Mother Mary? It was also when Monet Souza, who has her own program on **CATHOLIC TV**, called **ANCHORED**, interviewed and filmed us for one of her future

programs.

May 8 brought Jesuit Fr. Brian Dunkle to us. We enjoyed his talks on **THEOLOGY AND LITERATURE**. Sacred Scripture is our great resource, but other classical writings, ancient and modern, also enlarge our hearts and our minds, he reminded us.

On Mother's Day we had the great joy of feeding the birds! Bishop Mark gave us the great idea and the Sisters who had the birds feed out of their hands are still giving thanks to God for that great gift.

By no means is this an exhaustive list of our blessings. Even being able to sleep and breathe and walk and laugh are things to thank God for. May God hear us often saying, "Blessed be God and His gifts!"

#### ANOTHER FAREWELL

On March 19 God called Sr. Emmanuel of the Virgin Mary to Himself. She was one of God's holy ones who entered here and went on the foundation in Concord NH. Because of physical needs, she needed care and was in a nursing facility. Her gentle, peaceful spirit was a blessing on all who knew her. May she pray for peace in our world and in all hearts!

#### NEW THINGS

A new plum tree has been added to our garden in memory of Sr. Jeanne Marie's Mom. We have new birds singing for us, and new raspberry bushes and 2 new raised garden beds we hope will produce vegetables. But no new sightings of our bunny!

*Have a blessed Summer!*