

# BOSTON CARMEL

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



# Newsletter

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

Fall/Winter, 2023

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

## BUSY AS BEES

St. Thérèse lived only 24 years on this earth but what an inheritance she left to us in her autobiography, letters, poems, plays and example! So how could we not want to celebrate as best we could her 150<sup>th</sup> birthday this year? It was so easy to THINK of ways to celebrate but to put them into reality took time and planning and lots of work! And work we did!

Three Masses were planned in her honor. We hunted for sentences to put on holy cards with her picture while some spent time preparing a summary of her 'LITTLE WAY' to make it better known and easily distributed in a trifold format. A book for young teenagers written by a Carmelite hermit and friend is in process of being printed.

We worked in private too! We all spent spiritual reading time on a book on St. Thérèse by Bro. Joseph Schmidt, FSC and met once a week to share our insights and inspirations with one another. This was so enriching and rewarding for us as a community. All these efforts took energy and love that yielded honey for our minds and spirits! We hope

many others have tasted honey from our busy bee efforts too!

## WEATHER TALK

Ever been frustrated carrying an umbrella around when the predicted rain never came? Or hurrying to the supermarket to prepare for a huge blizzard that never happened either? Ever think of looking at weather from a spiritual viewpoint? Two Carmelites have something to offer us here. Saint Teresa of Jesus gives us this: "You must realize that in the spiritual world, as in this world, there are different kinds of weather." Carmelite Sister and poet, Miriam of the Holy Spirit has this beautiful thought to offer: "Humility is to be still under the weathers of God's will... It is to have no troubled care for human weathers anywhere... Humility is to have a place to hide when all is hurricane outside." So, "when the weather outside is frightful" as an old song says, may we all flourish "under the weathers of God's will!"

## CALLED TO HEAVEN

Our Lord has come several times recently to take to heaven people very near and dear to us.

Our Sister Agnes is mourning the death of her beloved

brother Ambrose. His death was such a shock and so unexpected.

It must have taken the angels a long time to read the book of good deeds done for us over the years by Lee McKenney when he stood before heaven's gates! Those gates must have opened with music and joy to welcome him!

Mary Saccone, OCDS was one you may have talked to on the phone or met when she opened the door for you if you came to our monastery. Mary suffered cancer heroically and will be a strong advocate for the unborn in heaven!

May they all be rejoicing in heaven and be praying for us!

## OUR GREY BRICK ROAD

Who has not heard from their doctor how necessary exercise is to have good health? In our effort to obey this good advice we have a new grey path in our garden that will promote the exercise of walking for the young, the middle aged and the old among us! Now the challenge is to make time!

## BUNNY REPORT

Our bunny not only survived the winter, we now have at least three of them: a big one, a medium one and a small one! It is such a delight to see them

hopping around. They are so cute. We expect they will continue to increase and multiply. Hopefully not to the extent that we will have to move out!

#### THE MIRACLE OF GROWTH

Watching seeds sprout in our two raised garden beds was akin to watching a miracle. To see tiny seeds come forth from the earth with luscious growth to produce basil, tomatoes, peppers and other veggies is truly a spectacle to behold and makes one praise God, "from whom all blessings flow!"

#### A LESSON IN LEAPING

You have heard us talk about our fish pond that has koi and goldfish. They have been doing well and are getting bigger and bigger! However, one of the koi overestimated his leaping ability and jumped to his death. He was a beauty and is missed. On a happier note, did you know that koi are friendly and can be petted? A foretaste of the heavenly kingdom where people and animals and birds and fish will all be friends of one another!

#### REPORT CARD

We had our concerns about how well our three days of celebrations for St. Thérèse would go. But with the help of our OCDS friends the word got out and we were very blessed each of those days with wonderful homilies and attendance. Over one hundred people attended each of the first two days and we estimated about 250 the third...an overflowing crowd for us! Some were in our choir loft and some in the choir with us. May St. Thérèse reward all

those who helped us and those who came to honor her.

#### FASTING AND PRAYER

Remember when Jesus said after releasing a boy from a demon, how this kind could only come out by prayer and fasting? We spent two days fasting and praying as requested by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and by Pope Francis for peace in the Holy Land. May God answer all prayers for peace there and in Ukraine and parts of Africa and our own city streets, and cast out the demons of war and hatred everywhere.

#### THE GROANING OF CREATION

Ages ago, St. Paul wrote "all creation is groaning," in his letter to the Romans. Pope Francis has been attentive to these groanings that have increased so tremendously in our day from land, sea and air. In his effort to enlighten us and help us and for creation to "be set free from slavery and corruption," he has written a second document on the topic: LAUDATE DEUM. It gives scientific data and inspirational motivation and reminds us how serious the climate crisis has become. Every individual effort is helpful but a global response from politicians and industry is of even greater need. Who is not moved by these words from Pope Francis: "...there is mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face...the world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" Shall we not put our minds, hearts and hands to work and pray for this urgent need?

#### VOCATION WORK

We are not twiddling our thumbs waiting for vocations! We have had some nibbles, but no catches yet. We are also getting educated in the area. We zoomed classes on vocation discernment and promotion given by the National Religious Vocation Conference. The talks were excellent and helpful.

#### ANOTHER LOSS

To our sorrow and dismay, the rains and winds brought death to our treasured centenary tree, an American Red Bud. It toppled over from weight and strain on its roots. It was so vibrantly alive! This was our second centenary tree, our first, a Japanese Maple, also died either because it was not healthy or planted correctly. We are not giving up... we will plant a third!

#### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Three members of our Association's leadership team met here to do some necessary work regarding members of Carmels which have been closed. It is a painful and difficult task. Sisters Colette and Mary from Baltimore and our Sr. Jeanne Marie labored lovingly and their efforts were fruitful and greatly blessed by God.

#### GIVING THANKS

Thanksgiving Day is such a wonderful fall holiday. But don't you think we should always be giving God thanks whether it is spring, summer, or winter? May this year's thanksgiving overflow into your Advent and Christmas and New Year and... never stop!

A Blessed Advent & Christmas!

*Your Carmelite Sisters*