

BOSTON CARMEL

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



Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2025
www.carmelitesofboston.org

A LOADED YEAR

Think not of guns and ammunition here but about the number of events and anniversaries that have and will occur during this calendar year of 2025!

First, let us remember Pope Francis who worked so hard to spread the good news of Jesus in word and deed. He literally worked to the end to serve the sheep of Christ's sheepfold. How could we not remember with joy his warmth and courage and messages of love and care? He was truly a good and faithful servant of Jesus deserving the warmest of welcomes in heaven from the Good Shepherd he strove to imitate.

After the death of Francis, we did not have to wait long to hear: **HABEMUS PAPAM!** And what an unexpected surprise it was that he came from the United States! Some said that would never happen, but the Holy Spirit was at work when the College of Cardinals chose Pope Leo XIV of Chicago to be the 267th Pope! Like Pope Francis, he brings Christlike credentials to this Papacy. We welcome him with joy and prayers for the tremendous graces he needs to lead the Church and the world in our troubled times.

A most ancient anniversary occurs this year. It took place in Turkey, in the year 325. It was there that the first Nicene Council convened. The Eastern and

Western Churches gathered in unity for that council 1700 years ago! One of the fruits of that council was the Nicene creed which we still profess at our Sunday Masses. Unfortunately, the Great Schism in 1054 ended the unity of these churches and to this day they are known as the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church with leadership of the Pope in Rome and the Patriarch in Constantinople.

The current leaders of those churches, Pope Leo XIV and Patriarch Bartholomew are planning to meet this year in remembrance and celebration of this council. They will be working to promote unity between these Churches again. Both religious leaders are gifted and holy minded men so let us pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and help them to lead their flocks in promoting the unity Jesus prayed for during his earthly life on earth.

Next, let us be mindful that we are in the midst of a **JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**. Let us promote in mind, heart and spirit this gift of **HOPE** we so need for ourselves and one another.

Carmel is rejoicing this year as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Her life and message have had a tremendous impact on Jesus' message of love

and mercy for the little as well as the great ones among us.

This year also commemorates the 20th anniversary of St. John Paul II's death.

Let us not only call to mind but also celebrate these gifts of time that are part of our salvation history.

AT LONG LAST: THE END!

It is with joy we announce the completion of our infirmary renovation! We do so with gratitude to God and to all our benefactors who made this effort possible for us. And it has a happy inhabitant in Sr. Eileen Mary who had a long wait!

CALLS TO ETERNAL LIFE

So many of our friends have been called home to God recently. The sudden death of Fr. Richard Gross, SJ shocked us. He frequently celebrated Mass with us and was one of our confessors. He was a warm and gifted priest.

A sorely missed faithful and true friend for almost 25 years was Sr. Maryann Souza. She answered the door and phone for us and was so generous in filling in as receptionist for us whenever a necessity arose.

Mother Mary Michael of Christ the King of Danvers Carmel journeyed to heaven on March 1st after 59 years of serving our Lord there. Danvers Carmel was a foundation of Boston Carmel.

Sr. Mary Clare's sister-in-law Ann answered Jesus' call to join

Him in eternity for her first Christmas in heaven on December 17th.

May they all be rewarded with the joy and peace and love only God can give and may they pray for us who still journey on earth.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

Did they migrate? Were they disappointed with our hospitality? Our birds seemed to just leave us! Some think it was a hawk threat, others a family of crows who were protecting their nest. We sure did miss them at our bird feeders! Recently they have returned to our delight, but they were gone for a long time and we may never know why they really left us.

A VISIT FROM ARCHBISHOP

WILLIAMS

The Archbishop didn't rise from the dead to visit us--we were visited by students from the High School named after him! We had a lovely sharing with them and their teacher who initiated the visit. The focus was about women in the scriptures. It was a blessing for us and we hope, also for them. (By the way, it was Archbishop Williams who welcomed us to make our foundation in Boston in 1890!)

FACEBOOK WORK

One of our gifted Sisters does our Facebook page on the internet: bostoncarmel (or scroll down at camelitesofboston.org and click the Facebook icon.) You may like to visit it from time to time. One of our latest posts was a hymn composed by another one of our gifted sisters to welcome our new Pope Leo XIV on his inauguration day. We recorded the song, had no success uploading it, but the words are on our Facebook page. To date, it has garnered 290,000 views! We invite you to sing it yourselves! It was done with love. The words are original; the melody, Ode to Joy,

was borrowed from Ludwig van Beethoven. (Thank you, Ludwig!)

OUR JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

Thanks to our good friend, Bishop Mark O'Connell, we were able to visit 2 shrines that were made sites for obtaining the Jubilee Year indulgence. We went by bus to the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Salem and to our Cathedral of the Holy Cross. We prayed in silence, venerated relics, had adoration and sang! We were also welcomed warmly by Fr. Adam at the Shrine and by Monsignor O'Leary at the Cathedral who treated us to a festive lunch and a tour of the Cathedral.

KEEPING UP

We take very seriously our ongoing formation with theology, Christology, ecclesiology, liturgy and scripture, etc. We cannot thank God enough for the excellent professors from Boston College who come to us and share so generously their expertise with us. They truly feed us with a banquet of heavenly food that nourishes our souls.

SHARING OUR LIFE

We owe tremendous gratitude to one of our Carmelite Friars, Brother Vladimir who is a super-duper, gifted organizer. Through his generosity and with his help, we were able to hold another recollection day for young women during Lent. It was a success, like last year's was.

We also have a group of seminarians and another young adult group who share together on a Carmelite book once a month at our monastery. They do this after Eucharistic adoration on Saturdays.

OUR ASSOCIATION MEETING

Two of our Sisters left for Baltimore to join other Carmels in our association for our meeting which takes place every two years. But those of us remaining

at the monastery were there as well—via Zoom! It was an intense meeting and a rather grueling one schedule-wise and requiring much deliberation and creativity. We were blessed with a gifted speaker and a facilitator who helped us through our many challenges regarding leadership and adaptations for our Association. Now we have to try to put it all into effect!

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

We are living in very hard times in all kinds of ways: personally, communally, in church and state...'who can count the ways', to quote a famous poet who used the phrase in a different context! So many people are hurting. We hear so very many heartbreaking stories of pain and suffering. We want to say that we feel very much for all who ask our prayers. Through our life of prayer, we try to bear these burdens with you and offer our prayers and sacrifices for you and depend on Our Lord's mercy to bring you His mercy, compassion and help. In our sufferings may we never lose heart or hope and help one another in bearing our burdens. Amen.

A FINAL WORD

In remembrance of St. Thérèse's anniversary, we conclude with her last poem to Our Lady, written in May on the year she died. Thérèse proclaims Mary's life as one that was ordinary like ours. Here is an excerpt:

Mother full of grace...
You live in poverty, wanting nothing more.
No rapture, miracle, or ecstasy
embellish your life, O Queen of the Elect!
The number of little ones on earth is truly great.
They can raise their eyes to you without trembling.
It's by the ordinary way, incomparable Mother,
that you like to walk to guide them...

Your loving Carmelite Sisters of Boston