

BOSTON CARMEL

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



Newsletter

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

Spring/Summer, 2024

www.carmelitesofboston.org

CALLED TO ROME!

Imagine being called to Rome for a meeting? Well, every Carmelite was not invited because of limitations, but about 50 from all over the world attended to represent us all. Not only were numbers limited but so was time, for their immense task: to update our Constitutions! Our Father General was there with some of our Friars and other experts to assist. The challenges of language and culture did not impede them, and the meeting was very blessed and fruitful-- a huge sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit!

A committee will be formed to start the work involving our Constitutions. The entire Order will be kept up to date with proceedings and will be involved in the process.

A special surprise was given to the participants: a private audience with Pope Francis! In his talk to the nuns he said:..."LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH EVANGELICAL HOPE, WITH UNSHOD FEET, THAT IS, WITH THE FREEDOM BORN OF ABANDONMENT TO GOD. LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH ROOTS IN THE PAST. MAY YOUR COMPLETE IMMERSION IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE ALWAYS FILL YOU WITH THE JOY OF SISTERHOOD AND MUTUAL LOVE. MAY OUR LADY ACCOMPANY YOU ON THIS

PATH. WITH ALL MY HEART, I BLESS YOU.....AND YOUR COMMUNITIES. His closing words revealed some pain in his heart: "I ASK YOU, TOO, TO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ME; FOR ME, NOT AGAINST ME."

All these Nuns are back in their monasteries now. Many returned with a new problem: COVID! May they all recover, Amen!

BACK HOME!

Our Sister Eileen Mary was not one of the attendees at Rome. Her journey was different. She had another fall at Christmas that resulted in a broken hip. Her trips were to the ER, hospital and rehab places. She is a living reminder to us of St. Paul's words about how we are called to complete the sufferings of Christ in our own bodies. After many weeks away, we are happy to have her back with us.

BLACK, WHITE AND BROWN

As you know, Benedictines wear black, Dominicans white, and we Carmelites, brown. Well, we have had an unusual sighting in our cloister of a pigeon who wears our Carmelite brown! He, or she, is quite stunning in its warm brown attire and fits in well. Was it our color that attracted her to come to us?

A LENTEN JOY

It was an undertaking worked on by the three parts of our Order: friars, nuns and secular members.

We planned a retreat day for young women at our monastery. And God blessed it so abundantly with graces galore! We had lectures, confession, adoration, Mass, lunch, and even a raffle! The graces were evident in joy and tears and camaraderie! Brother Vladimir, OCD, played a big part in organizing and making it happen. We pray the fruits of this day will continue to grow in all who took part in this event. Plans for another one are on the drawing board!

QUESTIONS

You apply for a job and are given a questionnaire. Go to the doctor, another questionnaire! If you want to go to college, more questions to answer! And what child does not seem to perennially ask, "Why?"

The Bible is full of questions, too! On the sacred pages you will find questions asked not only by creatures but also by God.

If you are looking for an interesting project, try reading the Bible and take notes of all the questions that are asked there. You may not get a degree for this research, but you will be enriched, challenged and even amused, for example, when God is questioning Job in chapters 38-40. It is a masterpiece of a questionnaire. You may find yourself not only awed by the questions, but also

chuckling at them! And then, like Job, also grow in humility!

ADORATION

Our weekly adoration on Saturdays from 10:30 -11:30 has been going on for several months now. Hordes have not been attending, but we have a few regulars. At times we are the only ones there. However, there have been some highlights. Occasionally, parents have brought their children. Our Lord must have been very pleased with their attendance. It was a delight for us to have them too. "Let the little ones come to me."

INFIRM INFIRMARY

In an effort to keep our ailing or aging Sisters with us as long as we can, we have started updating our infirmary. At first things were cruising along so wonderfully and then, problems arose, red tape got involved and things came to a halt! One of the surprises that showed up was this: though we have been in Boston since 1890, we were not listed in the city's records as existing! But they know now, and we hope renovations will resume soon again. Our hope was to have it ready for Sr. Eileen Mary when she returned home to us. God is inviting us to grow in patience! May we pass the test!

WARRIOR

What comes to your mind with the term: warrior? King David slaying Goliath? The Vikings? The Crusaders? How about St. Therese? Well, St. Therese said, "I want to be a warrior...there is no heroic deed I do not wish to perform. I feel as daring as a Crusader ready to die for the Church upon the battlefield." One of her heroes was St. Joan of Arc. She dressed as St. Joan in a play put on in her Carmel. This is the picture on the cover of a book

we are publishing for young teens entitled: GOD'S BOLD WARRIOR. It was written by a Carmelite Hermit, who is a good friend of our community. We hope it will inspire youth, giving them a good model to befriend and bond with as they grow up in our very troubled world.

NEW EXTERNS

Have you noticed new voices as you call our monastery? Some of our old friends and helpers have not been able to continue this wonderful service for us and some new ones have come to our rescue! We cannot thank enough Jennifer, Magdalena, Elaine, James, Brenda, Pauline and Liz. The faithful and hard worker behind the scenes for getting these generous souls to help us is Virginia who takes on many extra days herself! For all who have helped us in the past and all the new ones who have come on board, may God reward you in ways beyond our imagining to ask.

A SURPRISE VISITOR

Our God is a God of surprises, and God gave us one this May. Bishop Oswaldo, ocd from El Salvador came, thanks to our good priest friend, Fr. Carlos. The Bishop came for the ordination of a member of his diocese. None of us speak Spanish, so there was a language barrier, but Fr. Carlos handled that difficulty with flying colors, {being very fluent in Spanish}. The meeting was short, but warm and a blessing for us.

ANOTHER LOSS

We have not here a lasting city and many events remind us of that fact. One recent one was the death of a dear OCDS friend of our community: Julie Di Scipio. She was gifted in so many ways and her last days were spent in much darkness. May she now be

overwhelmed with the light of God's love in heaven!

TROUBLES

Our Lord told us we would have trouble in this world. Everyone has theirs, we have ours. They come in all shapes and sizes, personal and communal, little and big! But Jesus also spoke about them being overcome! But, of course, He was not speaking about bell towers which is one of our current troubles. It is a real challenge to work on it. Workers' ailments, scaffolding difficulties are some of the challenges confronting that project. With God's help, may they be overcome!

HUGGING

Do you know how important hugging is? Did you know "it is the perfect cure for whatever ails you? No movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups. Low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation-proof, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting, and, of course, returnable.

Hugging is healthy: it relieves tension, combats depression, reduces stress, improves blood circulation, and it has no unpleasant side effects!" This valuable information came from the Claretian Tape ministry. There is one more additional point that adds weight to hugging's importance: it is scriptural! Jesus embraced the children. The father embraced his prodigal son. Let us not cheat ourselves or others from hugging's blessings- the more we give the greater the benefits!

We send to each and all of you our loving hugs and prayers for a good summer.

Your Carmelite sisters of Boston

he message given by the entrance antiphon for Laetare Sunday. And 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!

Have you noticed the above pattern in your life? Aware or unaware, no one is exempt. It is a pattern we hear everyday in letters and phone calls asking for prayers. The joy of life, the pain of death. Everyday it goes on, life/death/life/death/life. It is like the strong, persistent left/right marching step of an army. It is the mystery of Jesus' death and rising touching our lives incessantly in big or little ways. But note how the pattern goes....it ends with life, not death! Jesus is our resurrection and our life, not our death! We experienced this pattern so strongly since our last letter, and we come to share it with you.

We celebrated a big life event with music and joy on August 15, the feast of Our Lady's Assumption. That day was the occasion of our Sr. Juanita de la Madre Dolorosa's first profession of vows. It was a grand day for her, her family and us! Sister's family is very musical and they led some of the singing and playing for the liturgy on that blessed event using songs composed by Sister Juanita's Father. LIFE.....

When September came, we were shocked by death. Our Sr. Therese of the Queen of Carmel fell on Labor Day, breaking her

hip. Surgery was performed and she was sent for rehabilitation. While there, she aspirated and died a few days later on September 17th. Sister Therese was an active member of community even though she was our oldest. It is so hard to believe she is gone. DEATH....

Enter October. That meant another celebration of life, this time 50 years in Carmel for Sr. Mary Teresa of the Sacred Passion. Many relatives and friends traveled in body or spirit to celebrate that day with Sister and the taste of life was good and rich. LIFE....

October still...The day after the jubilee celebration our Sr. Catherine was taken to the hospital for an infection and pain. To our dismay and sorrow, we were told we will no longer be able to care for her at the monastery because of her present condition. This is like another death blow to us. Sister has been such a joy to care for, so cooperative, so grateful for every little thing done for her. Our Sister Catherine is not in immediate danger of dying, but we see that mystery drawing close to her as it does to all of us. However, we must say for all her mental and physical diminishment she shines with resurrection light and life! She proclaims so loudly to us by her attitude that this is what life/death/life/death/life really is all about!

May God help us live faithfully the paschal pattern of life/death/life!

MOTHER AND SON

We are very familiar with the most famous mother and son pair, Jesus and Mary, but we met another pair in Kathy and Ryan! They are a guitar and singing duo! And are they good! We were absolutely delighted with the

little concert they gave us. In a little while they may grow into a trio as a younger son,.....gains expertise with his violin.

WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Maybe we should start a wildlife show! We do not have alligators or lions but we do have interesting experiences every now and then. For example, anyone would have been envious of our ringside seat to a robin's nest outside our choir window! It was an amazing experience to see from day to day. We could almost reach out and touch the baby robins in the rose of Sharon tree! The nest is still there. We would be delighted if they came back to do it again next spring!

Then there was the day one of the Sisters went to water the impatiens in the planter of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity's garden. Halfway done, she spotted 2 eyes looking up at her from behind the planter. She stopped watering in her tracks. What was it? Well, it was an opossum! There was talk about trapping it in a have-a-heart trap; there was research about opossums. Opossums have a web site! And guess what? They are marsupials, i.e. they carry their young in their front 'pockets' like kangaroos and they are the only marsupials in North America. But better still, they are called garden sanitation engineers and great helps for gardeners because they eat all kinds of insects, slugs and snails, and are not dangerous. So be good to opossums if you have any! Unfortunately, ours was found dead the next day from unknown causes.

OUR HERMIT LIFE

"Insofar as it is possible, they will keep the custom...to spend short desert periods of solitude in

hermitages so that they may more intensely apply themselves to contemplation 'just like our Holy Fathers did'. " This is a quote from our Constitutions. And so, to help us fulfill this precept, we have a new hermitage! Like most things we have undertaken, it was long in the making! But now it is done and we owe this blessing to you, our benefactors and friends. May God reward you and may many fervent prayers go up in thanksgiving and petition and adoration and praise from this place for the glory of God and the good of all.

SHAPING UP TO CLIMB MOUNT CARMEL

Carmelites are mountain people. St. John of the Cross talks about the spiritual life as an Ascent of Mt. Carmel. Spiritually we are striving to do that mountain climb. However, here we say it with tongue in cheek because we received a gift of some exercise equipment to keep us physically in shape! But don't look for us on Carmel's slopes! We are only trying to follow doctors' orders to exercise and to keep in shape to do our daily chores with strength and vigor! God bless our generous benefactor with spiritual and physical strength as well.

OUR NEW PORTRESSES

Porter, Portress is an old monastic term for those who answer the door of the monastery. Modern ones answer phones as well. We have been blessed by several women who do this task so generously for us. In thanksgiving we ask God to bless: Barbara, two Virginias, Sr. Claire, Sr. Jon Julie, Sr. Mary Ann, Margaret, and Lori for sharing our Portress duties. We pray that the door of heaven will always be open to them to hear their needs and intentions.

PLAQUES

By now all those who donated cells during our fundraising drive should have received letters from us to confirm the wording they want on their plaque. If you have not received a letter from us and donated a cell, please get in touch with us.

NEW BLESSEDS

To our delight our number of Carmelite Saints and Blesseds increased by 37 this past October 28 at a beatification ceremony in Rome. The total number beatified was 498, and all were martyred during the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish Bishops have emphasized that these men and women are not martyrs of the Spanish Civil War but of the religious persecution in Spain at that time. Our friars are particularly excited because two of the new blesseds, Fr. Lucas of St. Joseph and Fr. Eduardo of the Child Jesus had actually lived in their houses in Tucson AZ and Washington, D.C. They also had become American citizens, so that should make us feel blessed as well.

ONE NEVER KNOWS

We've all heard, and maybe even used, the expression: "All's well that ends well." We had first hand experience of that quote regarding our public lecture this November. We were quite excited about having Susan Muto be our public lecturer this year. Unfortunately, just a few days before the date, we were notified that she would not be able to come! Fr. Adrian Van Kaam was taken seriously ill and because of her obligations to him, she had to cancel. She was very kind to send the paper she had prepared and one of our Sisters from Barrington Carmel most graciously agreed to deliver it. Sr. Vilma not only did a marvelous job of that but also led the sharing

afterwards in a very enriching way for all who attended. You may have seen the report about it in the Pilot. So what could have been a disaster for us, ended well. Thank you, God!

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2008 those of us who are members of the Archdiocese of Boston will be celebrating our 200th birthday! Let us rejoice and be glad and celebrate!

The new year will also bring us a presidential election. May God enlighten us and raise up for us good leaders who are upright and God-loving and truly want to make our country and our world a better place.

Pope Benedict has also declared 2008 the YEAR OF ST. PAUL. His writings are such a treasure. We would be so enriched if we spent some time reading them.

What 2008 holds in ways of joys and sorrows remains to be seen. But to quote Pope Benedict: "...we must be apostles who are filled with hope and joyful trust in God's promises". AMEN!

a world without hope. wrote: challenges blessings, sufferings, tragedies 2008 are yet to un

Year of St. Paul

made full contributions member what made it quite unique was that many of the songs were written by her Dad whose picture was up front who died a short time ago and sometimes it is more evident than others. That is how it has been for us these past months. LIFE: How full of life and joy we all were on August 15 of this year when our Sr. Juanita de

la Madre Dolorosa made her first profession of vows! It was a glorious day for us and for her family. Sister comes from a musical family so

Can you imagine how Simeon and Anna welcomed the newborn Christ when Mary, His Mother and St. Joseph brought Him to the temple for the first time? We had a little taste of it on that feast, February 2nd, when we welcomed with open arms our new postulant, Judy Lewis, who came to present herself as a gift to the Lord.

Judy has come with many gifts that are already enriching us. Her skills as an organizer are doing wonders in our provisory! She has a great love for the liturgy, and since our postulants wear secular clothes until they enter the novitiate, we have enjoyed how she attires 'liturgically' by wearing, for example, the same color as the vestments of the day. But the prize was on Earth Day. Although that was not a liturgical feast, we enjoyed Judy's skirt with animals and trees! Pray for Judy, that if it be God's will for her, she will be a great Carmelite.

TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

The blood, the sweat, the tears... the waiting and pleading... the trials and disappointments... the many years of it all... have borne fruit: THE WORK ON THE CELLS OF THE MONASTERY IS DONE! Rejoice with us and give thanks to God with us! We will be getting in touch with those who have donated cells to finalize the wording on the plaques to be put on the doors.

AN 800TH BIRTHDAY

This year Carmel celebrates the 800th anniversary of the RULE OF CARMEL. Isn't that awesome? This document is a magnificent one. It is a real gem of spirituality that spells out our way of life basically in scriptural terms. A few years ago a Dutch artist was asked to do the Rule in calligraphy. To say he was inspired with what he produced, is putting it mildly! We have in writing his own words explaining how he decided to do it. It is fascinating reading that moves one to meditation! To share a bit: he used a goose quill to do the calligraphy which must be done in one sitting. It takes some 7 to 8 hours. The printing is in the form of a cross with a variegated gold circle in the middle that is empty.

The circle symbolizes many things, among them center and space. "Through the Rule of Carmel I am being led into the space of God." Five hundred copies were made from the original through a silk screen process. Every copy is numbered and signed, and the golden circle is gilded by hand on every single copy. And blessing of blessings, we have one, thanks to the generosity of someone who loved Carmel! Does it need to be said that it is one of our treasures?

MORE CELEBRATIONS

The Order of Carmel is also commemorating an anniversary of 100 years of St. Rafael of St. Joseph (Kalinowski). He was a great inspiration to Pope John Paul II and was canonized by him. St. Rafael wore many hats and had many interesting life experiences as an engineer, a soldier, a prisoner in Siberia, a teacher. He might be a good saint to pray to for our soldiers in Iraq.

The final anniversary does not call for world-wide celebration, just a local one: our Sr. Mary Teresa will be celebrating 50 years in Carmel on October 6.

A NEW GARDEN

Perhaps you'd like to know a little about our garden. We have several: an Angel Garden, a St. Therese Garden, a St. Mary Magdalene Garden, a Mater Dolorosa garden. Each of the Sisters (except our two seniors) has her little plot to care for; results vary. Some provide pictorial food for Gospel stories about weeds. Others seem tinged with some of the Garden of Eden's glory. We are excited about the new garden that has been started. Want to guess what it is? Here's a hint: we celebrated her centenary last year. If you guessed Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, you win! (Sorry, there's no prize!) A friend presented us with a marble slab engraved with Blessed Elizabeth's picture on it for this garden and it is just beautiful! Another friend has made a butterfly house for it. We want butterflies and birds to

feel at home there, too, because Blessed Elizabeth loved nature. Deborah Bernard of YEW AND I is designing it and working on it for us. May Blessed Elizabeth help all who pray in her garden to attain great intimacy with the Trinity as she did!

PRAISING GOD WITH DANCING

"Praise God with drums and dancing" says psalm 150. There were no drums, but we had a lovely group of young women from St. Catherine's parish in Norwood worship Our Lord with graceful movement and gesture in our choir as a communion meditation on December 8. It was a prayerful experience for all of us. God bless Fr. Currie, the principal and teacher who made it all possible for us.

A SPECIAL EVENING

Lent brought Fr. Matthew, CRR, and members of his adult group from Mission Church to us for a prayer service and for sharing about our life. The young adults were lively, very interesting and wonderful. We had a very lovely evening together.

OUR LADY OF IRAQ

Another gift! This time a woven rug hanging of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that was made in Iraq. There is a square on the bottom of the front that tells the name of the place where it was made in that country. It is quite striking. We have it hanging in our front entrance. It seems fitting to call it OUR LADY OF IRAQ. May Mary intercede for her many children who are suffering there and bring peace to that land and to all of us.

CARMELITE VISITORS

Scattered through the past months we had several visitors—each bringing Christ to us in their unique way.

During Lent some of our Sisters from Beacon Carmel stayed overnight because of doctor's appointments in the Boston area. Sr. Teresa Keohane, one of the founders of Zing Carmel in Africa, visited us once again. She never fails to amaze us with her

unbelievable feats, stories and experiences while there. We also found out that the priests and bishops there affectionately call her Mama T.

Father Stephen Watson, OCD, came from Rome and shared news about the Order worldwide.

Sr. Anna Maria came from Tübingen Carmel in Germany to stay with us for a few days to attend our Carmelite meeting at Campion Center in Weston. It is wonderful belonging to such a huge family embracing so many peoples and cultures—and, really, even when we do not know each other, there is a strong familial bond that one feels. It is a very impressive grace.

OUR SHRINKING WORLD

Do not panic...this is not the newest calamity discovered by scientists! It is just the reality of how easy it is to hear news about things happening just about anywhere in our world in minutes! And also the fact that we really do impact not only the one who lives across the street from us, but also one who lives thousands of miles away!

This was brought home very clearly by a lecture given to us by Professor Jean-Marc Ela who was born in Cameroon. (Father has three doctorates!) His talk was a challenge to face the facts of globalization and marginalization and how these should challenge our ways of living the Christian faith. "God always makes himself known in history and nowhere else", he reminded us. As an African theologian, he feels the call to make Africa the place for his theology but in a way that involves all of us because we are our sisters and brothers keepers. "Africa is mentioned only when catastrophes, massacres and famines hit people....This apocalyptic discourse on Africa does not...point out the effects of global politics and economy on African countries...Let's also mention the effects of international markets due to the

break down of fairness in trade.. Poverty is not natural it comes from the violent nature of injustice which has been set up as a social and economic system...the cruelty of this system appears when millions of Africans are excluded from the feast of life." May God help us as Christians to do what we can to end injustice in our world and to continue 'bringing good news to the poor and announcing the liberation of the oppressed'.

THE FIRE OF PENTECOST

It was early in the morning when the tongues of fire appeared over the heads of the disciples on the first Pentecost. Our experience happened in the evening on Pentecost, 2007. We also were at prayer, Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. We were just about to sing the Our Father when the fire alarm went off! Yes, the fire department came. Thank God they had no fire to extinguish. The culprit was the smoke from our incense ascending to God!!!

Nor did Pentecost end with that event! We were at prayer again. This time, Night Prayer. We will never forget who descended on us. (Understandably, if others had been present and observed some of the behavior they might have thought we were drunk too, like the first disciples for some made strange sounds, others made strange movements, when a bat descended on us!!! God bless the Sisters who were filled with the Spirit's gifts of fortitude and courage and who immediately went into action to show the critter the way to the great outdoors!

YOU ARE INVITED

We hope you will come to our public lecture this year on November 18 at 2 p.m. We are very happy and honored to have as our lecturer Dr. Susan Muto, an expert in literature and spirituality. You may have read some of her books. In fact, she is recommending that one of her books, *PATHWAYS OF SPIRITUAL LIVING*, be read in preparation for

her lecture. We have a few copies for sale, if you are interested. Dr. Muto's lecture is entitled: **WHAT DOES THE RULE OF CARMEL HAVE TO SAY ABOUT SILENCE IN OUR NOISY WORLD?**

A CLOSING WORD

From a church sign: Celebrate God's green Earth. Reduce, reuse, recycle, rejoice!

Your Sisters of Boston Carmel

brought the girls

to our Lord to As Carmelites, we think in threes when it comes to elections because that's how long a term lasts for a Prioress.

We do not have primaries or campaigns for this event! And no speeches or mudslinging! Besides prayer, we prepare for our elections by having a visitation. This means someone appointed or approved by the Cardinal comes to the monastery and speaks to each of the nuns to see if we are being faithful to our Rule and Constitutions. Each Sister is free to say whatever she wishes regarding life in the monastery. Our visitator this time was Fr. Salvatore Sciarba, OCD, who sends a report to the Cardinal. In case you would like to know, our Carmelite "health" is very good!

It was on November 18 that we had our elections. We were specially honored to have our Cardinal Sean O'Malley come to preside at them. We are happy to share with you the results: Sr. Eileen Mary was reelected as Prioress and Sr. Mary Teresa and Sr. Mary Clare were elected as Councillors.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS??!!??!!

How do you speak about time? Does it fly for you? Disappear like magic? Or do you have another expression? Well, as year by year goes by, and our renovations still continue, there

have been musings like, "How long has all this been going on for us anyway?" The answer seems to really be about 25 years! But this is one silver jubilee we are not thinking of celebrating!

The last wing, our novitiate, is still being worked on and day by day we plead and beg for completion. It is close, but there is a fear to say when, because so many deadlines for completion have come and gone like leaves on the trees!

For those of you who gave donations for cells, please do not think we have forgotten about the memorial plaques for the doors. We are waiting for all cells to be completed. We will get in touch with you when that happens!

We have had more work done on our enclosure wall. The section chosen for this year was started in the beginning of October by the Folan Company and they have been working steadily as the weather permits. We are happy to announce the good news that they have finished their work for this year before the frosts came. For this we are very grateful.

SOME THINGS GOT FIXED, OTHERS GOT 'BROKE'

Talking about things getting fixed brings to mind things that broke. One was our elevette. Of course, it happened when needed most! We really cannot complain too much though. It has been a very faithful instrument for our community since the 1950's when it was installed! About 10 years ago the cables needed to be replaced and aside from that and a periodic adjustment and oiling, it has been on duty 24/7 without major difficulties! (As you know, they don't make things to last that long anymore!) It had been giving

us signs of trouble and after our ingenious troubleshooter, Lee McKenney, did all he could, which was a great deal, we had to get professional help.

There is humor to this story. One of the sisters overheard a repairman talking to his boss saying, "This elevette is so old you don't want to get involved with fixing this one!" But it did get fixed. We could not afford a new one. So a new motor has been installed and it is working fine again. Thank you, God!

Another breakdown occurred in our fish pond: our big pump died. Since we turn it off for the winter, we will wait until next spring to fix or replace it.

The final break was a window. It just fell down! Not from top to bottom like when a sash cord breaks, but out and down! We are grateful it did not fall on one of the Sisters, which would have been a major calamity. We hope it, and all the others, stay put unless one of us opens or closes them!

SPARE PARTS

As we all know, it isn't only gadgets and things that need fixing but also ourselves from time to time! Who would ever have thought a 100 years ago that we humans could get spare parts for our hips and knees? Well, one of our Sisters knows about this first hand! Sr. Mary Teresa had a total hip replacement on June 5 and a total knee replacement on June 13! Both parts are working but she does hope no more replacement parts will be needed!

NO NINE LIVES

This will be our last report about Dunkin, our frog, who survived a few winters and some near death experiences with our dogs. We were beginning to think maybe frogs had 9 lives too, like cats. Not so...at least not for Dunkin. One

summer day it all ended for Dunkin and it wasn't the dogs who did it. The tragedy was caused by one of the nuns who accidentally stepped on Dunkin who was doing his/her usual roaming around the garden! The animal lovers among us think we will meet him/her in heaven.

On a happier note, we did receive as a gift some additional inhabitants for our fish pond: some koi and goldfish who have already increased and multiplied in their new home!

A SPECIAL GIFT

Remember our mentioning that November 9, 2006 is the 100th death anniversary of Carmel's Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity? Well, we have a friend who is very gifted in many ways. One of those ways is musically. She has composed for us a Mass in honor of our Blessed. We sang it for the first time on her feast day, November 8th. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir we are not, but we hope our love and joy made up for what we lack in musical expertise!

HEAVEN COMES TO EARTH

Good music is something that has a special link with heaven. Who of us has not been moved to prayer when certain music reaches our ears and hearts? On September 3, it really seemed like heaven came to earth for us when we were treated to a piano and violin concert by Fr. Robert Congdon (piano) and Jagan Nath Khalsa (violin). They performed works by Vaughn Williams, Bach, Grieg, Brahms, Schumann, Saint-Saens and others. We are so grateful to them for sharing their God given talents with us.

KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR

We have had several inquiries from women interested in our life. Several have visited us

and are still discerning. The best news is that one will be entering early next year. We will tell you more in our next newsletter.

GOD PLUCKS ANOTHER ROSE FOR HEAVEN

We have all been delighted by flowers on this earth. Ever think of what flowers in heaven might be like? Eye has not seen, sort of says it. But we have some clues. Did you ever think what kind of flower your favorite saint might be like? We all think of St. Therese as a rose, and she herself reminded us some of us are like daisies, or other flowers and all give glory to God. Well, we feel there is another rose besides Therese in heaven. Our very good friend and benefactor Rose Mc Colgan was called to her heavenly reward on November 10. She had just celebrated her 95th birthday two days previous. Before her death, Rose and her daughter, Sally Ann, belonged to the category of saints we call 'suffering servants'. Their lives have been so filled with crosses. But they also were among the most joyful people we knew. They have truly incarnated the death and resurrection of Jesus in their lives so powerfully and have inspired us. May Rose be in glory and help us live as joyfully for Jesus as she did.

CALENDARS

We all know that our Jewish brothers and sisters have their own calendar as do some other religious groups. But did you know that older Religious Orders, like the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans and Carmelites have their own calendars, too? This calendar is not entirely different from the regular calendar, what makes it different is that it includes Blesseds and Saints of the

Order not celebrated by the universal Church. Some events are also incorporated. For example, St Teresa in her writings told about her heart being pierced by the dart of an angel. We celebrate that event on August 26. With all the Church we rejoice on the solemnity of All Saints, but on November 14, we celebrate the feast of All Saints of Carmel and on November 15, All Souls of Carmel. These and other Carmelite memorials and feasts and solemnities are special days of joy for us as we remember these holy members of our family.

CHRISTMAS TREES

That wonderful time of year has come again when trees become part of our indoor life! Whether you decorate your Christmas tree with ornaments, candy, fruit, popcorn or some other thing, may it remind you of all the joys we receive from Christ our newborn Savior!

Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston