

# BOSTON CARMEL

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



## Newsletter

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

Fall/Winter, 2025

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

### OKTOBERFEST

It didn't take place in Germany. We didn't drink beer. But the month was worthy of being noted as "fest", because we had FOUR Bishops visit us!

October 1<sup>st</sup>. the feast of St. Therese, brought us our very first visit with our Archbishop, Richard Henning. We had Mass and he gave a wonderful homily. A visit with breakfast followed. It was a delight for us, and from "grapevine reports" a delight for him as well!

The next October Bishop to visit was Bishop Mark O'Connell, a monthly visitor and long time, good friend of our community. Shortly after that Mass and visit we found out he has been made Bishop of the Diocese of Albany. It is a great blessing for them and a big loss for us. May the Holy Spirit fill him with wisdom, courage, and grace as he follows Our Lord in his new role in the Church.

On the solemnity of St. Teresa of Jesus, October 15th, we were privileged to have Mass and a visit with Bishop Robert Reed, of Boston Catholic TV fame! He loves St. Therese and he has a beautiful singing voice which added to our big feast.

The last visit was an unexpected surprise! Bishop Cristiano Barbosa celebrated a funeral Mass for a parishioner at St. Patrick's, our

parish, down the block. He managed to squeeze in time for us to have some lunch together. His special caring pastoral presence for the suffering poor was an inspiration for us and our life of prayer.

### MIRACLES

We live in a world overflowing with miracles! St. Augustine alerted us to the constant miracles of God's creation that are like seeds becoming trees. We might think of our own bodies: isn't it a miracle how our bodies - lungs, heart, eyes, and all our body parts - do their work 24/7 automatically for us without our controlling them? Such things are like ordinary, taken-for-granted miracles. It would be good to ponder others so we could thank God more often! But there are extraordinary things that get our attention from God more readily, like when Jesus turned water into wine at Cana. Such miracles are not a thing of the past, they still happen! A recent one was just approved this year by Rome. In Kerala, India, when the Host was elevated at Mass, the face of Jesus started to appear on It! "Lord, let your Face shine on us and we shall be saved!"

### INNER CITY WILDLIFE

How sad life would be without birds, trees, squirrels, turkeys, hawks, and raccoons! We have them all! One of our Sisters

deserves the name 'Hawkeye'. It is amazing how she 'bumps' into hawks and even gets pictures to show those of us who have not seen them! The antics of the squirrels are a delight even though they devour our birdseed. How could the turkeys not remind us of Thanksgiving? Raccoon families are so cute but the damage they do to our garden is not appreciated! All creatures of our God and King, bless the Lord!

### LEAKS

Lately, and too often, there have been many leaks in our country affecting national security and other concerns. We were not involved, but we were victims of a leak—a water leak! And was it huge! One of the joints where we get water for the garden broke and was not discovered for so long a time it made things swamp like! It was such a tragedy and loss and what an immense water bill it left us!

### A SENSE OF HUMOR

A Protestant pastor was giving a talk to an assembly in which he mentioned that God had a sense of humor. He noticed some faces that seemed to disapprove, so he said: "If God doesn't have a sense of humor, then I have something God doesn't have!" What a blessing it is to have friends and comedians and those who make us laugh. They have a gift that reveals truth and wisdom in a very

unique way that brings us joy and hope, and courage to look at our inconsistencies that need to be looked at honestly. Good humor is serious business with a smile!

### **A BEAR ENCOUNTER!**

What an experience it was! It wasn't a polar, brown, or black bear. In fact, it wasn't a bear at all! Bear is the name of a lab/poodle dog owned by Fr. Ted, CSsR. Father served in the military and has the need of a service dog. When Father comes for Mass with us, along comes Bear! He is so well behaved and has the disposition of a teddy bear! When Mass is finished Fr. Ted commissions Bear to go on his own to each Sister to be petted, which we were told is a higher priority for him than a food treat!

### **SEASONS**

Do you have a favorite season? Each one is such a special gift from God to us. We had more reason to appreciate them this year since that was the focus for our community retreat. Fr. Ken, SJ gifted us with much food for prayer and meditation and enjoyment of the four seasons not only for this year, but also for years to come!

### **A VERY SPECIAL GIFT**

What a joy it was for our Carmelite family to hear that the Clough School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College has erected a statue of St. Teresa of Avila on their grounds! Friends have shown us pictures and it is beautifully landscaped with seats around it for prayer and meditation. May St. Teresa obtain many blessings for the donors, teachers, and students who learn there!

### **MAINTENANCE WORK**

The entry to our monastery was looking a bit like a wave of bricks because of winter freezes that

made them heave out of alignment. It is all level now and safer for our visitors.

A section of our flat roof also needed redoing which our roofers expertly handled before winter sets in. How grateful we are for those with gifted hands and minds who know how to fix things needing attention!

### **POPE LEO XIV'S "DILEXI TE"**

It is Pope Leo's first document and is addressed to all Christians. Pope Francis started writing it before he died and Pope Leo decided to finish it. Love for the poor is its message, and it offers much to ponder for all believers to 'munch' on. It is easy to read but profound in thought. The Pope skillfully uses history, scripture, church documents, saints and modern experiences to enlighten us. The poor are not the only needy people, we also need them to enlighten and reveal to us messages of God's love in our world today.

### **A PODCAST GIFT**

We don't do advertisements, but there is a podcast you may enjoy watching and subscribe to. It was the brain child of Bishop Mark O'Connell and is called Listening to Catholic Women. It is available on YouTube and Boston Catholic TV may also be airing it. The women come from all kinds of backgrounds and talk about their faith. It is good food for inspiring faith and shows how alive our faith still is today!

### **CHANGED, NOT ENDED**

Our Sr. Bernadette Therese deeply felt the loss of her very dear brother, Andy, who was called home to God in September. He was a very gifted man, so loved by family and friends. Pray for his wife and children whose sorrow is still very great. Andy truly fought the good fight, doing

all he could to overcome the cancer that afflicted him.

In October, Karl Baldwin, OCDS, journeyed home to God. Karl used to drive us for appointments and also answered our phone and door until Parkinson's made it impossible for him to continue doing so. But we did keep in touch. Now may he keep in touch with us in heaven!

### **EUCARISTIC ADORATION**

We still are having Eucharistic adoration on Saturdays from 10:30-11:30. The attendance is not very impressive but we have a few faithful people who come and we keep inviting others to join us. Jesus is a great friend to share our joys and sorrows and needs with and He doesn't mind if we cannot do the entire hour. Even short visits are pleasing to Him.

### **OUR FARMSTAND**

It is amazing how much one can grow in the little places of our raised garden beds! God blessed us this year with fresh and tasty lettuce galore, kale, carrots, basil, and tomatoes.

### **STARS**

Once again, we are called to journey to Bethlehem in faith to celebrate mystically and liturgically the mystery of how much God loves us and gives us in Jesus, His divine and human Son! Once again, it is time for us to look up at stars and sing with deep faith and adoration, "Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright...Guide us to thy perfect light"! Oh, how we need Jesus, that Perfect Light, THE Bethlehem Star, to shine on us and bless us with hope and joy! May your Christmas days be filled with awe and wonder and love that last all year long!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PEACE!

*Your Carmelite Sisters of Boston*