



Carmelite News

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Come Follow Me

The words of Jesus spill across our landscape---well over 200 years from Baltimore Carmel's foundation: *Come follow me*. For 40 years (1790-1831), women joined our community in the farm setting of Port Tobacco, MD. We still use their bread pans! With the move to Baltimore city, Aisquith Street (1831-1873), it was necessary to conduct a "school for young ladies of all faiths" to help support the community. For 20 years five Sisters taught an array of subjects and "skill sets." Then the long, stable time at the monastery on Biddle Street (1873-1961) saw Sisters set out to found Carmelite monasteries across the United States and in the Philippines. The time at our Dulaney Valley home (1961-present) bears other characteristics. In the spirit of Vatican II, we treasure a renewed contemplative life and the search in prayer for union with God. Our prayer is motivated by the longing for justice, peace and reconciliation in our world, and we hold a commitment to sharing our contemplation with God's people. To this life, this spiritual adventure, we welcome Celia Ashton and Olivia Steback with their hopes and desires. We cherish this next generation in our community---sign of God's abundant love and care.

God's Greatest Word is Love *Celia Ashton*

Greetings! My journey to Carmel has been a bit longer than most, which is why I am so happy and excited finally to be here. I am "homegrown" as they say -- born and raised right here in Baltimore (Bawlamer, hon!). With that comes my love of the Orioles, the Ravens, and of course, steamed crabs. After basic schooling in the Baltimore area, I went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where I played field hockey and received a minor in Theology. In 2003, I received my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Obviously the thought of becoming a Carmelite nun didn't surface until later in my life. I was fortunate to enjoy a very full professional life prior to coming to Carmel. During my career I worked as an associate dentist, and then started my own practice, I purchased an existing practice, and I completed my career by selling both my offices and working in corporate dentistry. I love being a dentist, and I feel incredibly privileged to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people.

Throughout my life I have played many sports and I really enjoy watching sporting events. I like most any outdoor activity, especially biking, running, hiking, and playing golf. Here at the monastery, I have been known to win a few ping-pong matches. I am also very interested in nutrition science and exercise, and the environment and sustainability.

I am the oldest of three girls, and I am so blessed to have a very large extended family that is supportive of my desire to become a Carmelite nun. When I was growing up, my parents taught my sisters and me to love God; they taught the importance of helping others.

They provided many opportunities where we could "lend a helping hand" to those in need. Religious life is very familiar to our family: I had one aunt who was a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia until she died, and two aunts who are Sisters of Mercy. Together with our parents, my aunts taught me the importance of prayer. They also taught me to love our Church (all the people of God) and to understand fully the Church's humanity. I have a deep love of Scripture, prayer and liturgy, and I am most excited to explore each of these areas in great detail.

The greatest word God has ever spoken to me is that of love. My hope is that my presence here might reveal something of God's love to our world. For I believe we are called to love God, to love one another, and to live within the brokenness of our Church, our world, our families, and our communities.

Someone once said, "[o]ur desire is to banish waiting time in order to get on with our life! But what if our life can be found within the waiting?" After six years of discernment, I come to this point in my life filled with great joy, and I continue to trust God each day. My journey thus far has required much sacrifice, trust, hard work and determination. And I have learned just how much our lives can be molded and shaped, even found within the waiting. I have no idea what the future holds, but I trust that God will continue to be there for me. I arrive at this moment bringing the totality of my past, and I stand here ready to give my present and my future unconditionally to God and to this Carmelite community. Please pray that I will be given the grace, the faith, the resilience, and the tenacity to respond generously to God's call.

In Solidarity With All Creation *Olivia Steback*

During the months of January and February, I lived with the Carmelite Sisters in Baltimore discerning a call to contemplative life within a religious community. Since the readers of this newsletter share in this community, I wish to introduce myself and to share some of the reasons I feel drawn to contemplative life. In the past, I worked as a teacher and with immigrant women and children. While working in these capacities, I lived out a call to a deep prayer life and to journeying in solidarity with those who live on the margins. A call to contemplative religious life was slowly forming during this time.

My first contact with Baltimore Carmel was through this newsletter. The community's commitment to justice and to solidarity with the poor through prayer was clearly expressed in several articles. I was inspired to contact the nuns and to begin examining the draw I felt to a contemplative vocation. As I reflect upon Carmelite life, there are several aspects of the life that touch me deeply and continue to draw me into discernment.

As contemplative life is committed to listening in silence and prayer, it allows the individual and community to hear the pain and joy of others; to hold all life as sacred and to live in solidarity with all creation. I envision this solidarity to extend especially to those on the margins. By choosing to depend upon God alone a contemplative chooses displacement, to live vulnerably. By being present to this reality and refusing to live a life of accumulation, the contemplative stands in solidarity with all peoples, living a life that is transient, fragile and prophetic. (*cont'd below*)

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I understand prophecy to be integral to the listening heart. It is within this fluid state that God's plan is able to arise and be lived. I have always been inspired by the phrase, "be a voice for the voiceless." In the past, I worked literally to speak for those who could not speak for themselves. Living contemplatively, I hope to be graced with the humility to hear God's voice of love, which is often silenced and marginalized. I wish to live at the intersection where the voice of those living on the margins and the voice of God meet. I ask your prayers as Celia and I continue this time of discernment and express my gratitude to this community. Their prayers, deeply rooted in God, are a gift to all.

Palm Sunday	March 24		Good Friday	March 29	
Lauds	8:00 a.m.		Tenebrae	8:00 a.m.	
Eucharist	9:00 a.m.	Leopold Glueckert,	Liturgy	3:00 p.m.	
Vespers	5:00 p.m.	O. Carm.	Holy Saturday	March 30	
			Tenebrae	8:00 a.m.	
Holy Thursday	March 28		Vespers	4:30 p.m.	
Tenebrae	8:00 a.m.		Easter Vigil	9:00 p.m.	Joseph Lingan, S.J.
Eucharist	5:30 p.m.	Brian McDermott, S.J.	Easter Sunday	March 31	
			Eucharist	11:00 a.m.	John Donahue, S.J.
			Vespers	4:30 p.m.	