

*Our visit
to the
Carmel of
Baltimore*



It is a very long time ago that I met Sr. Connie Fitzgerald for the first time in the Carmel of Woodhall, UK. From that time we have been friends. She has invited me over and over again to visit her Carmel. After many years I was so glad I had the possibility this year in April of spending some days in Baltimore Carmel before the CCA Meeting at the Bon Secours Conference Centre. I visited the Carmel together with Fr. Benedict, ocd, who went with me to the CCA meeting.

It was special for me, a great gift, to be in this Carmel and to taste the real Carmelite spirituality in an environment very different from my own Carmel in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Of course I was very grateful to meet Connie again and to meet all her sisters as well. I noticed a real Carmelite silence in the house, which made me feel at home immediately. It is the genuine Carmelite silence in which we all are seeking God.

In the meantime I experienced a sisterly friendship in Carmel. It is so special to have the experience in which we can feel united in diversity. So thank you, Sr. Connie, and all the sisters for your great hospitality and Carmelite friendship. And thanks to Sisters Mary, Judy and Celia who spent a wonderful day with us in the Amish country, so special!

In our prayers we are together, worldwide.

Sister Lucia

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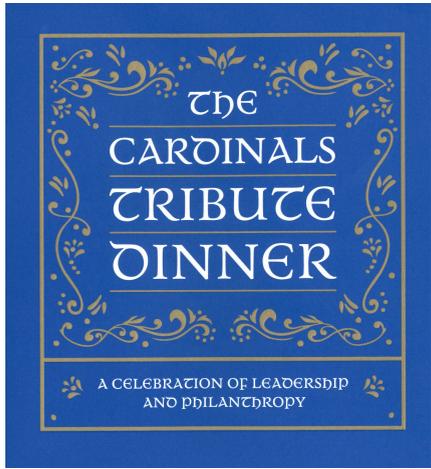
*Prayer * Transformation * Love*

BALTIMORE CARMEL News

Summer 2018



Please join us as we celebrate
the Solemnity of
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
at our Sunday Eucharist on
July 15 at 9 a.m.

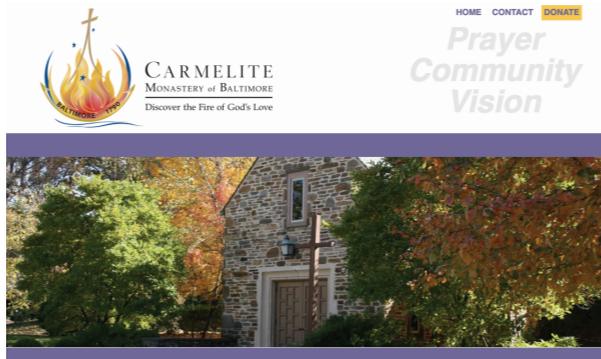


On June 4, at the invitation of Father William Harry, O. Carm., Sisters Connie and Colette participated in the *Cardinals Tribute Dinner* at the Catholic University of America. This was a wonderful celebration for the benefactors of CUA which paid special tribute this year to the Carmelites

Friars of the Ancient Observance, Chicago Province. Their generous, historic gift endowing a Chair and establishing a Center for the study of Carmelite Spirituality at CUA answers a deep need and fulfills a long-standing dream. It promises an enduring place in Academia where degrees will be conferred and many students of all ages will be able to immerse themselves in the contemplative tradition of Carmel: Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, Titus Brandsma, and other Carmelites. A splendid video on the Carmelites and the tribute read by Cardinal Joseph Tobin put the spotlight on Carmelite life for the many people in attendance. It was a privilege and a joy to be a part of thanking our Carmelite brothers for their gift of five million dollars. We applaud their vision and hope for the future of Carmelite Spirituality.



We are delighted to announce that we have a new website that is mobile enabled and can be viewed from any computer or mobile device! We've added new content, which includes photos and a description of what inspired each of the beautiful tapestries that hang in our chapel, the writings of our nuns, *Why I am a Carmelite*, recordings of the Call to Worship and homilies from our Sunday Eucharist, as well as a section on the history of our community. If you've never read *The Carmelite Adventure*, a diary chronicling the journey of four Carmelite nuns and two Jesuit-trained priests from Hoogstraet and Antwerp in Belgium to Charles County, Maryland in 1790, you can find it under Sr. Connie's writings. On the calendar you will find updated information about the liturgical celebrations and other special events. There are also places to leave prayer requests, inquire about spiritual direction, making a retreat, or using our Loft. We hope that you will take a few minutes to explore baltimorecarmel.org and we encourage you to help us promote it by sharing it with young women as well as family and friends!



Welcome to the Sacred Space of Carmel

Seized by the unconditional love of Jesus, the Christ, and allured to the mountaintop, we embrace the mystical flame of contemplation as our life's grounding.

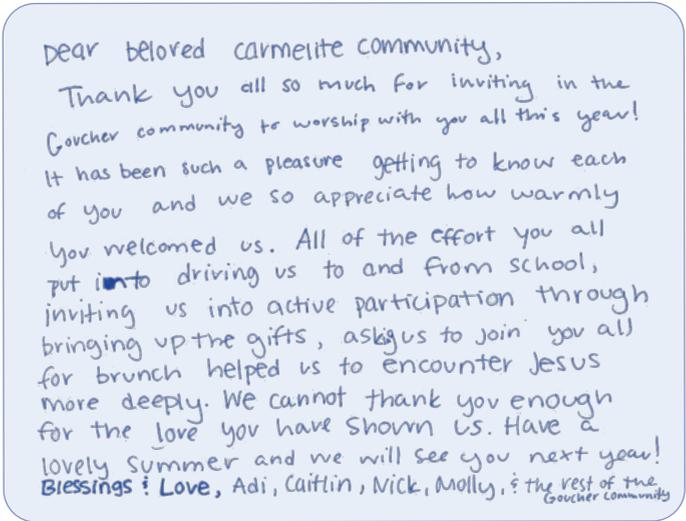
The silence and solitude of our life of prayer immerse us in a deep communion with God that draws us into a full and willing participation in the unfolding of a new and transformed consciousness. Such radical openness to the power and meaning of this union of love calls from us nothing less than everything and propels us toward total communion with one another, with all people and species, and with the entire creation.

This is the vision that we desire to live for the life of the Church and on-going emergence of humanity and our planet earth.

Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore Vision Statement

We invite you to enter this sacred space.

Pope Francis has spoken of creating spaces where the voice of young people can be heard. Several years ago we had a series of presentations on education for prayer, which reached out particularly to college aged women and men. It proved a wonderful forum to hear the desire for God of young Catholics and others. This year we decided to approach Goucher College, located very near our monastery, and invite the students to Sunday Mass on a regular basis. It was a relatively simple and small gesture of inclusion but, as you can see from their thank-you, it was deeply appreciated. And we hope formative for their lives.



It is a constant challenge to figure out how to connect with high school and college aged youth and share with them the riches of our Carmelite charism. One of our main ministries is to pray for these young people and the graces they need to find their place in life and faith. We also search continually for ways to open up our faith and the riches of Carmelite spirituality in today's world and culture. With young people in mind we are trying new plans on how to share this precious core of our life in God.