

**IMAGINE!**

The word comes to us unbidden as we contemplate the unimaginable of our time: The Covid-19 pandemic, death and illness worldwide --- lockdown, separation, isolation, job loss, schools closed. The murder of George Floyd: endless thousands in the United States and around the world marching for justice and peace. *Black Lives Matter!* Questions about the strengths and failures of our democracy: Is our U. S. Constitution in danger?

**IMAGINE!**

How is all this changing our consciousness, our desires for new social structures that honor freedom, equality, inclusion, generosity, compassion? How is this changing our consciousness about knowledge of God, desire for God, how the human community prays and celebrates its sacred sacraments of life and death? How might communion among peoples and nations emerge in the life and lives that surround us? How save our Earth as species go extinct, glaciers melt and our breathing apparatus of trees in the rainforests are systematically destroyed?

**IMAGINE!**

We, as one community of Carmelites, are imagining. We are not stepping aside from the pain and sorrow and awareness in our hearts. Rather our efforts to share prayer with those who might ordinarily come to our Chapel, and those others of our families, friends and colleagues with whom we share life, has taken a distinct shape. Helped, we believe, by the amazing array of technology available in this age, we are profoundly united with the pain and fear, the loss and lament, the protest and determination. The entire community has been engaged, via Zoom, in sharing a Tuesday afternoon Vesper Service and a Saturday afternoon Lectio Divina Prayer which includes a commentary on the

gospel for Sunday and small breakout groups for sharing and reflection. The Lectio, in particular, has attracted over two hundred people in recent weeks from all over our country and far beyond in England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. As participation grows and women and men, week after week, reflect deeply on the scriptures and together probe the meaning of their lives, the life of our/their country, human life, in the light of the Gospel, we realize we are weaving around the earth a beautiful web of communion that we trust is contributing to the evolution of human consciousness. Each week the vocation team “meets” and studies with four women exploring the possibility of Carmelite life in our community and draws them into the pattern of solidarity we are weaving. We stand in a long tradition of Carmelite prayer that leads us to believe that whenever these experiences of deep communion happen, new energies infuse the currents of world consciousness and the transformation of the human community is more assured.

**IMAGINE!**

So, what can we say about the experience of our community during this time of “lockdown” and worldwide protests? It seems to be a time of solidarity with the human journey and an expressing of that solidarity, communion, by trying new ways of prayer. These efforts not only bring people together and embrace their desires for God and their hopes for a better world order, but they also nourish a “spiritual resistance” born of the Gospel. They help us to support one another and those who join us to struggle against the attack on human flourishing and to stand up for the changes needed to “repair the torn fabric of creation” and shape a future earth. We think of racism, climate change, healthcare needs, education disparity, food insecurity, the unadulterated anguish and

exclusion caused by our laws and structures. This is not easy. Paul Lakeland, in his presidential address to the Catholic Theological Society of America, June 2019, suggested: *Theology may at times be beautiful and elegant, but today it must also be dangerous. The defense of true humanity in a world that is our home has to confront the awful reality of the anti-human systems under which we suffer, even as we in some ways benefit from them.* (Commonweal, June 2020) We pray. We watch. We listen. We stand with. We act. We imagine. We hope.

*No one can deny that a network (a world network) of economic and psychic affiliations is being woven at ever increasing speed which envelops and constantly penetrates more deeply within each of us. With every day that passes it becomes a little more impossible for us to act or think otherwise than collectively.*  
*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ, The Formation of the Noosphere*



Sr. Mary During Lectio Zoom

**Lectio Divina**

Our Lectio Divina Page on our website ([events.baltimorecarmel.org](https://events.baltimorecarmel.org)) contains all of our previous materials and the Registration Link for future sessions.

Upcoming Lectio Divina Sessions

**June 27 -13th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter: Robert Leavitt, PSS

**July 4 - 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
No Lectio Divina

**July 11 - 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter: Bryan Massingale

**July 18 - 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter: Barbara Green, OP

**July 25 - 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
No Lectio Divina

**August 1 - 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter to be determined

**August 8 - 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter: Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM

**August 15 - 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
No Lectio Divina

**August 22 - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter to be determined

**August 29 - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter to be determined

Previous Lectio Divina Sessions

**March 28 - 5th Sunday of Lent**  
Presenter: Brad Milunski, OFM Conv

**April 4 - Palm Sunday**  
Presenter: Brian McDermott, SJ

**April 18 - 2nd Sunday of Easter**  
Presenter: Sandra Schneiders, IHM

**April 25 - 3rd Sunday of Easter**  
Presenter: John Donahue, SJ

**May 2 - 4th Sunday of Easter**  
Presenter: Robert Leavitt, PSS

**May 9 - 5th Sunday of Easter**  
Presenter: Brad Milunski, OFM Conv

**May 16 - 6th Sunday of Easter**  
Presenter: Sandra Schneiders, IHM

**May 23 - Ascension of the Lord**  
Presenter: Dr. Bonnie Thurston

**May 30 - Pentecost**  
Presenter: Dr. M. Shawn Copeland

**June 6 - Most Holy Trinity**  
Presenter: Brian McDermott, SJ

**June 13 - Corpus Christi**  
Presenter: John Donahue, SJ

**June 20 - 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
Presenter: Dr. Bonnie Thurston



*What are People Saying About Our Lectio Divina?*

Just my heartfelt appreciation for your sharing of this treasure with the rest of us ... a lifeline in dark times. Thank you!

So 100% grateful: The lectio divina renews me for the whole week of prayer. A great service of our contemplative sisters to the world for prayer and a new way of being community.

This experience has been a beautiful gift! Thank you for your thoughtful creative response to a need for prayerful connection with others during this time.

Thank all of you at Baltimore Carmel for the wonderful time you are providing for us to hear the Gospel and then hear a commentary on the reading. The break out sessions are especially meaningful. We get to hear how others have interpreted the reading and commentary. We are so blessed to have you as part of our lives. Thank you!!

I am very appreciative and profoundly grateful for the opportunity these sessions present to "be" with others (albeit technologically!) to have spiritual enrichment in these difficult times.

Thank you for organizing and hosting these beautiful and spiritual services each week. The prayers, poems, readings, commentaries, visuals, and music have collectively brought calm and peace to my covid19-restricted world.

This is vital to my spiritual life.

CARMELITE MONASTERY  
1318 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, MD 21286



Sr. Celia Behind the Scenes at our Vespers

*Join us in praying Vespers on  
Tuesdays at 5 p.m.*

The Link can be found on the  
Current Event section of our Website  
[events.baltimorecarmel.org](https://events.baltimorecarmel.org)

Prayer + Transformation + Love

www.Baltimorecarmel.org

# BALTIMORE CARMEL News



SUMMER 2020



Please join us for our  
Celebration of  
*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*  
Thursday, July 16 at 10 a.m. (ET)  
(by Zoom)

Introduction to Liturgy by  
Sr. Constance FitzGerald, OCD.

Reflection by  
Dr. M. Shawn Copeland



To Register  
[events.baltimorecarmel.org](https://events.baltimorecarmel.org)