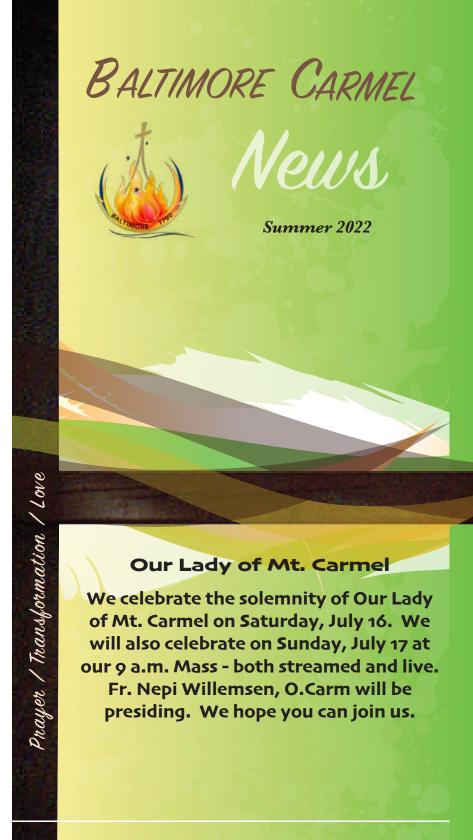


OUR BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS



Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore 1318 Dulaney Valley Rd Baltimore, MD 21286



Just before the solstice, which opens our summer season, we celebrate our newest federal holiday, Juneteenth, on June 19. This remembrance of Juneteenth calls us to think again on our country's history of chattel slavery. It is another reminder of our struggles for freedom and liberation, justice and equality in 2022.

As we begin preparations for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our hearts' desire for all people to be free of

oppression
is part of
what we pray for,
marking this feast on July
16. Our Lady of Mount
Carmel is venerated in
countries around our earth.
She is multicultural: dressed
in the garb of Carmel with
different features in different
colors. She belongs to
everyone. She is a sign of
care and protection.

Mary is the one who accompanies us; she is always with us in



By Sr. Marie Celeste, OCD (Reno Carmel)

relationship and friendship, close in prayer. Mary is mother, friend, sister, companion on our pilgrimage of life. She is the mother of Jesus and is beside him---in the scriptures and in our most holy liturgical times. Mary prompts her son at the wedding feast of Cana, is close to the cross, and stands with the disciples of Jesus on the feast of Pentecost.

As we celebrate Our Lady of Mount Carmel this year, we---all of us Carmelites --- are beside Mary in the foundations of our relationship to her and to one another, all the people of our earth, especially marginalized groups.

Our contemplative hearts share in the calamities of our world; we are distressed by the violence in our own city



and the intransigence of imagination that blocks ways to help. Continued war in Ukraine, attacks here at home on our democracy and "the truth," the financial struggles of so many, and the consequences of endless divisions worry us for the future.

As Mary helped form a new

with the Apostles and disciples of Jesus after Pentecost, we are challenged to do the same. We must, for the sake of all life and the life of our planet, help to shape communities of love, faith, hope and inclusion. Working towards communion and common sense emerges as a spiritual and cultural priority for our time. We might call this "a sign of our times." So we live and pray, hoping for a future full of the fire of God's love in a new Pentecost for our church and world.



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## LECTIO DIVINA CONTINUES

Lectio Divina takes place 2 p.m. ET on Zoom. There is a commentary by a theologian or scripture scholar followed by small group discussions on the gospel text.

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:
EVENTS. BALTIMORECARMEL.ORG

August 13 Dr. Jaime Waters

September 10 Dr. Bonnie Thurston

September 24 Lyn Osiek, RSCJ

October 8 Fr. Bryan Massingale

October 29 Craig Morrison, O.Carm.

November 5 Pat Parachini, SNJM

