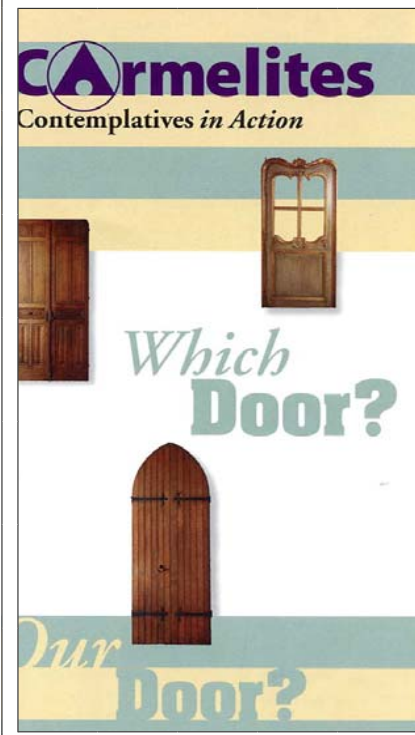


Carmelite Friars - Vocations



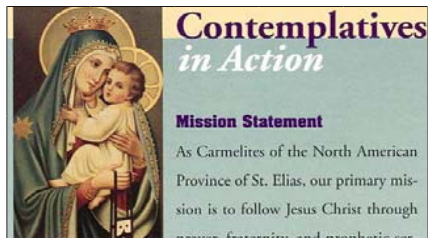
The Carmelite Call

There is nothing as confusing as the search for the community which will best nurture your calling and desire to live the Word. You ask yourself, "Which Door?"

We are the men who follow the Rule of Carmel. Some as priests. Some as brothers. We join together in prayer, fraternity and service living in the Spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our lives and our ministry are the means we use to live this out.

We invite you to "listen" to some of the "whys" of our members. Call for a brochure to hear our stories. See if they resonate with you. If so, we look forward to you coming through our door for a visit, a chat and your consideration of life as a Carmelite Friar.

Father John Horan, O. Carm.
Vocation Director, Saint Elias Province
(845) 344-2225



Mission Statement

As Carmelites of the North American Province of St. Elias, our primary mission is to follow Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternity, and prophetic service and presence in the spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our chief means for fulfilling this mission is by our lives and ministries. Therefore, we need to develop and encourage a sense of contemplative service to all God's people, with special attention to the poor and to developing lay participation in the Church.

Carmelites
Contemplatives in Action

Carmelite Vocation Office
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VOX ELIAE

Provincial Newsletter of the North American Province of Saint Elias
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Vox Eliae

Provincial Newsletter of the North American Province of Saint Elias

Fall, 2004



The Flavor of *Toute Bagai* in Trinidad



Hot and Tasty Corn Soup at *Toute Bagai* at St. James Parish in Trinidad

statue of Mary was strategically placed and hymns in honor of Mary were sung. The *Toute Bagai* was underway. Father Garth blessed the game booths, about 30 in all: Wheel of Fortune, Shave the Balloon, Light the Candles, Face Painting, Religious and Plants, and many more. There was "on the spot" cooking of wontons, bake and shark, pholourie (fried dough) and corn soup. There was a hot, sweet and tasty breakfast, a sumptuous Sunday lunch and as evening drew near, tea was served to complete the day. During the day's event there was live entertainment from Father Vincent (Sunny John), O. Carm. who showed his unbelievable talent as a magician. Other entertainment consisted of choirs from different parishes singing a song or two. A fashion show with the latest styles and fashions was well received. Those who organized the event were deeply thanked for all of their hard work as well as those who contributed to and supported the event especially Father Garth, who sat in the dunking booth and eventually got dunked!



Father Vincent (Sunny John), O. Carm., from India, who assists our Carmelite Friars in their ministries in Trinidad, performs his "magic" to the delight of all.

On the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother, St. James Parish in Trinidad came alive with a difference. The Parish of St. Mary's, Mucurapo/St. James excelled in the celebration of this beautiful Feast Day, with *Toute Bagai* (translation: *Anything and Everything*). Yes, it was a truly blessed day! The Feast Day began with the celebration of Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. with Carmelite Friar, Father Garth Eversley, O. Carm., presiding. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers befitting a queen, with banners of blue, white and gold depicting the Queen ship of Mary. Father Garth touched the parishioners with his homily based on the woman called Mary showing the deep relationship he has for her and why we, too, should develop our own relationship with Mary. The rain many feared, which would have hampered the day's proceedings, did not delay the procession to the St. James' Amphitheatre. The Rosary was recited along the way. Fully decorated with flowers of different colors, the statue of Our Lady of the Assumption was majestically carried on the shoulders of young boys, while the young girls dressed in white strewed rose petals as they processed. At the amphitheatre the



Father Garth Eversley, O. Carm., Pastor of St. James Church in Trinidad, waits to be "dunked" at *Toute Bagai*.

High School Students Honor Father Zalewski



Father Thomas professed Simple Vows on June 11, 1975 at St. Albert's in Middletown, NY, and was ordained to the priesthood on November 24, 1979 at the Church of the Transfiguration in Tarrytown, New York.

Father Thomas arrived in the Diocese of Palm Beach in 1980 to begin his ministry in Pope John Paul II High School along with six other Carmelite Friars from the Saint alias Province.

He has served at the High School in various teaching capacities. He founded the School's Chapter of the National Honor Society and served as moderator for nine years.

Father Thomas has guided students in outreach projects and is instrumental in directing the diocesan programs of "Sharing the Faith" and "Echoes of the Faith." He is the only Catholic priest in Florida to be honored as a finalist for the prestigious Dwyer Award for Educational Excellence.

While ministering at Pope John Paul II High School, Father Thomas also manages to play a major role in the St. Elias Province as Provincial Councilor, and is the President of the Region which encompasses the two Provincial Councils in the Provinces of St. Elias and the Most Pure Heart of Mary. He is also the local Community procurator of St. Elias Priory in Boca Raton. Over the years he has served on various Provincial Commissions: Ministry Commission, Congress on Mary Centennial Commission, Preparatory Commissions, Liaison to the Retirement Commission, and Liaison to the Interprovincial Commission on Lay Carmelites.

Father Thomas' membership participations include the National Arbor Day Foundation, Who's Who Among America's Educators and is an Associate Member of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

Born in Peckville, Pennsylvania, Father Thomas is the son of Mrs. Marcella Zalewski in Dickson City, PA and the late Thomas A. Zalewski. Congratulations!

During a Mass and reception held on Monday, November 23rd, the students at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, Florida honored Father **Thomas Zalewski** for his 25th anniversary of Ordination (Silver Jubilee) in the Carmelite Order.

Can You Guess Who Came to Dinner?



The Wizard of Oz Team at St. Joseph's Church in Troy, New York (L-R): Jane White (cook) as the Scarecrow; Chuck Wojton (Business Manager) as the Cowardly Lion; Father Albert Pavlik, O. Carm. as Dorothy with Toto, (note the red shoes); Marylou Kane (Faith & Formation Director) as wicked witch; and Father Romaeus Cooney, O. Carm. as the Tin Man. (Taken 10/31/2004)

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Communication Corner



visit to 28th Street in New York many years ago. Thanks for the wonderful memory of a great man."

Father **Timothy Ennis**, O. Carm. was the Celebrant and Homilist at the Holy Mass with Blessing of Roses on the Feast of St. Therese, October 1, 2004 at the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, New York.

Father **Patrick McMahon**, O. Carm. (PCM) was a guest speaker at a St. Teresa of Avila Lecture speaking on "Teresa: A Woman and a Castle." on Sunday, October 10, 2004 at the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, NY.

Special thanks to Father **Brocard Connors**, O. Carm. for faithfully serving the Province the past eleven years as Provincial Delegate to Lay Carmelites. Father Brocard has relocated to Our Lady of the Scapular-St. Stephen's Priory, 142 East 29th Street, New York, NY 10016 where he resides while ministering as part-time Chaplain at Bellevue Hospital and assisting at the Parish.

The Annual **St. Albert's Alumni Picnic** is already scheduled for 2005: mark your calendars- Saturday, July 9, 2005 with a rain date of Sunday, July 10th.

The **St. Albert's Alumni Classic Golf Tournament** was a huge success this year and the Alumni Committee wishes to thank all the supporters of the event. Next year's Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2005 at the Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, Long Island. For more information about this year's Golf Tournament, go to the website: www.carmelites.com and click on the St. Albert's Alumni button.

We received a letter from Father **Kevin Shanley**, O. Carm. (PCM), former editor of the Carmelite Review who writes: "Thanks so much for the fine article on "Sean Reid's Political Involvement" by Fr. Alfred Isacson. The article was an excellent tribute to a great Irish Carmelite. Michael Shanley, my father, was a member of the Irish Volunteers in the Easter Week Rebellion in 1916, and later served with the IRA in the Black and Tan War of 1919-21. When he came to America I 1926, he tried to stay in touch with Irish activities. One of the reasons he did so, was having met Fr. Sean Reid in New York and admired him greatly not only for his interest in Ireland, but also Fr. Sean's great interest in bring people together from various ethnic groups. My father was greatly impressed when I had met "the" Fr. Sean on a

Mass of Thanksgiving remembered the living and deceased members of the Class and gave thanks to God for the gift of their lives, and for all the people and events that shaped them, including the many Carmelite Friars who ministered in Auburn years ago.

Please visit some of the recently developed websites on the Carmelite General Council level:

www.carmelites.info = Index of Carmelite Websites by topic;

www.carmelites.info/citoc = Website of the Order's Office of Communications (including links to the newsmagazine CITOC for reading it online);

www.carmelites.info/edizioni = Website of the Order's Publishing House;

www.carmelites.info/ngo = Website of the Carmelite NGO (affiliated with the United Nations). There are mirror sites in Spanish and Italian. It is quite a resource.

Vatican City: October 3, 2004. Benedictine nuns will assume the next 5-year assignment at the Vatican's Mater Ecclesiae Convent this week, a house occupied over the past five years by Carmelite Nuns praying for the Pope and the Roman Curia. The Vatican commended the Carmelite nuns for "an admirable example of consecrated life according to the spirituality of Carmel." The Convent of contemplative nuns in the Vatican was founded by Pope John Paul II in 1994 to enrich the Curia with the presence and prayer of nuns totally dedicated to contemplation.

And speaking of vocations, just a reminder that **Vocations Awareness Week** is January 9-14, 2005.

There was a 35th Reunion Celebration of Mount Carmel High School, Class of 1969 held at the Church of St. Alphonsus in Auburn, New York on July 31, 2004. The



The first snow of the season fell on the Feast of All Carmelite Souls in 2004. Carmelite Cemetery, Middletown, NY

HAVE YOU READ ANYTHING GOOD LATELY?

(Note from the Editor) The Ratio Institutionis Vitae Carmelitanae reminds us that formation is ongoing and in number 19, section (b) we are encouraged to set aside time for reading and study. With that in mind we are inaugurating a section of the Vox Eliae where readers can share what books they are reading—books on scriptural, theological, pastoral and spiritual themes, and especially on Carmelite spirituality. We have asked Father John Horan, O. Carm., to kick off this column and tell us what he is reading these days.

“Refocusing the Vision, Religious Life into the Future” by Barbara Fiand, SND

I came upon this book in preparation for some talks I was asked to give to the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in Harrisburg, PA as part of their annual Triduum in honor of the Immaculate Conception. When I asked the Sisters what topics they wanted to explore, they said they wanted to reflect on Mary’s discipleship and the vows and their meaning for us today. With that in mind, I came upon “Refocusing the Vision” and knew that I had come upon something useful for my personal reflection on religious life and for my time with our

Sisters. I would like to suggest that this book could be very useful for local community discussions and Provincial gatherings such as AGM’s and the Chapter.

In the preface, the author states that the book is a reflection on the vowed life. Sister Barbara explains that the book is about what she writes: “The title of this book evolved over a number of years that for me, as for most of us in religious life, were spent rewriting constitutions and reformulating government plans and community policies, in other words, *looking at ourselves*. Like others during these years, I kept wondering about the meaning of it all even as I was engaged in the process. I saw us expend a great deal of energy as we met, planned, and debated for hours. I saw the documents that resulted. They were read and then neatly put away on our shelves or in our drawers as we went about discussing, debating, and rewrite further documents. I found the experience interesting, useful for good organization and management. I kept wondering, however, whether in looking at ourselves we were recalling seeing, whether in expecting the questions we were asking about ourselves to be answered we were really questioning, whether we were in awe of the rim of our lives together and were using our yearning for deeper vision, our quest for the center. Somehow in our discussions together I kept

hearing questions that no one (including myself) were asking aloud; I kept sensing concerns about issues that we were not raising; I kept experiencing a hunger that none of our meetings and documents could satisfy; and I kept feeling that I was not alone in this. And so I decided to write and probe into the meaning of vision.”

It is interesting to note that when we receive inquires in the Vocation Office, the men who contact us are interested in knowing what our vision is—our vision of religious life, ministry, Church and our place in the world today. In reading about the importance of vision I am reminded of what we read in Scripture—without a vision the people perish. I also recall the remarks the Prior General made at our last Provincial Chapter when he encouraged us to make sure we devote time to vision. Fiand helps us to articulate our vision.

This book is challenging and thought-provoking. Each chapter concludes with questions for focus, reflection and discussion. While we may draw different conclusions than those drawn by the author, she certainly presents the reader with much food for thought. There were times I found myself in complete agreement with Fiand and other times I felt myself at odds with her positions—those became time for in-depth reflection on what I hold important and central to religious life and why.

At the gathering of vocation directors I have been attending, we have devoted much time to discussions and reflections on “paradigm shifts” as they apply to religious life. Fiand discusses these and constantly calls us to see the larger picture. She reminds us that creation is ongoing and that conversion is always necessary and transformation and deeper levels of holiness are possible. Isn’t this what we as Christians and Carmelites believe and strive for?

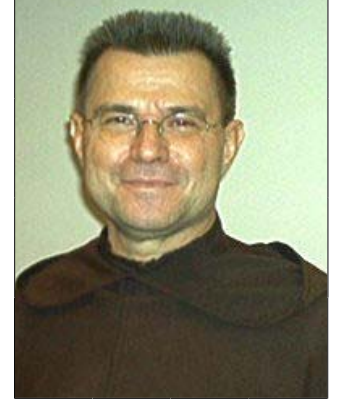
P.S. About 15 years ago there was a “book discussion” group that met a few times. Is anyone interested in getting one going again?

(Editor’s Footnote): Please submit your own review of a book that you’d like to share in the Next Vox Eliae. Please email your review to: proelias@frontiernet.net or mail to: Vox Eliae Editor, P.O. Box 3079, Middletown, NY 10940, or fax to: (845) 344-2210. The Editors of the Vox Eliae reserve the right to edit the review accordingly.



What have YOU read lately?
Please send us your review for publication in the next Vox Eliae.

Lay Carmelite Office Reorganization



The New Lay Carmelite Team: (L-R) Father John Horan, O. Carm., Provincial Delegate; Ms. Dianne Massiello and Mrs. Rose Mary Lancellotti, Assistant Provincial Delegates; and Father Raymond Bagdonis, O. Carm., Assistant Provincial Delegate

“The Lay Carmelite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (historically known as the Third Order) is an association mainly of laypersons. Its members responding to a special call of God, freely and deliberately commit themselves ‘to live in the following of Jesus Christ’ according to the traditions and spirit of Carmel under the authority of the Prior General of the Carmelite Order. The members, though not in Religious life, choose to live out their baptismal commitment according to the spirit of the Carmelite Order.”
(Statutes for the Lay Carmelites of the Provinces of Saint Elias and the Most Pure Heart of Mary).

The Provincial Office of Lay Carmelites in the St. Elias Province recently transitioned from Provincial Delegate, Father Brocard Connors O. Carm., who held this position since 1993, to a Lay Carmelite Team consisting of Father John Horan, O.Carm., Provincial Delegate, Mrs. Rose Mary Lancellotti, TOC, Assistant Provincial Delegate, Mrs. Dianne Massiello, TOC, Assistant Provincial Delegate and Father Raymond Bagdonis, O. Carm., Assistant Provincial Delegate. The new Team assumed the responsibilities of the Lay Carmelite Office on September 1, 2004.

On Saturday, November 21, 2004, the Team hosted a Lay Carmelite Gathering consisting of Regional Coordinators, Directors and Formation Directors of each Local Lay Carmelite Chapter in the St. Elias Province jurisdiction. Approximately 85 members participated in the day-long gathering. The meeting gave the local Chapter leadership an opportunity to meet the new Team, learn of its focus and direction, and share areas of concern and commonality.

The room was filled with positive energy as the meeting began with a welcome from Father John and introductions were made. Father John and Rose Mary gave talks on The Carmelite Charism and The Carmelite Vocation, followed by the members breaking into groups to do a reflection period. Individuals then shared with the group their responses to: “When did you first discover you had a Carmelite heart?”; “What does being a Lay Carmelite mean to you?”; “What are the greatest joys/blessings of your present position of service in the Lay Carmelites?”; “What are the greatest challenges you face in your role of service?”; and “What can the Lay Carmelite Office do for you?”

The voices heard spoke of the individuality of Chapters, the joyfulness to

meet others in leadership positions and to know that you share many of the same joys/blessings and challenges. The opportunity of networking took place.

The group feasted on a sumptuous lunch provided and served by the staff at the National Shrine. The afternoon session took care of the business at hand. Rose Mary spoke of the internationality of the Order and how the Lay Carmelites are an integral part of the Carmelite Family. Dianne gave an overview of the procedures for formation in Carmel and guidelines for a Lay Carmelite Chapter meeting. Father John stressed the importance of vocation promotion. Time was given for questions and answers. Father Raymond led the group in Lectio Divina before final departure. The gathering was fruitful and a good beginning for the New Lay Carmelite Team. Congratulations!



The Lay Carmelite Gathering at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY on November 21, 2004.

Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm Celebrate Diamond Jubilee of Foundation

submitted by Sister Mary Gabriel, O. Carm. And written by Joan M. Fredericks



when he came to the United States. When he came, he was so impressed with the group and worked on the affiliation as soon as he returned to Rome. It was granted on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, 1932. Through this affiliation, many graces have come to the Congregation of Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm for the past 75 years.

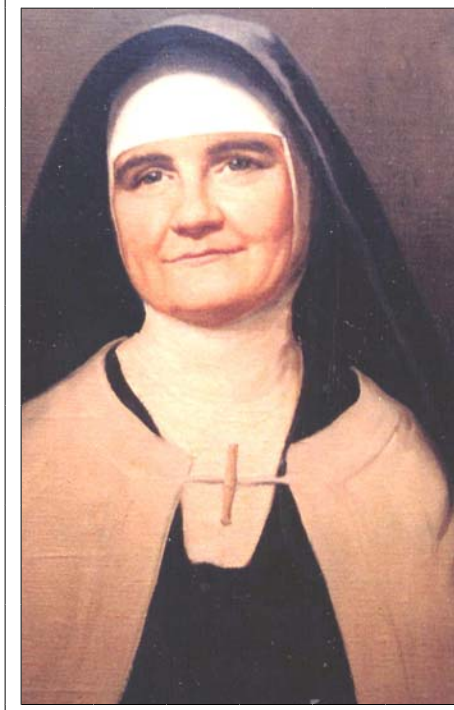
When the 75th Anniversary was approaching, Mother Mary Suzanne, O. Carm., the Superior General, convened a committee who were assigned the task of organizing and implementing a year-long celebration during the year 2003-04. Celebrations were encouraged in each of the communities and residences of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Several mini and three major celebrations occurred. The first was the Opening Celebration for the year. The second major celebration took place at St. Teresa's Motherhouse in Germantown on Sunday, September 12, 2004, the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. God blessed us with ideal weather and the Chapel was filled to capacity with visiting Sisters from most every community, Carmelite Friars including pre-novices, novices and students, members of Mother Angeline McCrory's family, and other friends.

Father Michael Kissane, O. Carm., Prior Provincial of the St. Elias Province was the principal celebrant and homilist.

On September 3, 1929, we're sure that the seven Sisters who had just moved into St. Elizabeth's vacant rectory, never dreamed that in 2004, their names would be immortalized in the many Sisters who had followed them on the road to Carmel celebrating the "Diamond" Jubilee of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm!

Many of us who are still around to tell the tale, can hardly believe that the years have passed so quickly. In 1936 the Community was still not too well known. What attracted young vocations was the fact that it was "Carmelite." Here were Carmelites you could see face to face. Some families would not hear of the cloister. But here were "Carmelite" Sisters who were in an active apostolate—the care of the Aged and Infirm.

From the beginning, Mother Angeline Teresa and her six companions were most grateful to Very Rev. Lawrence Dionysius Flanagan, O. Carm., first Commissary Provincial and then Prior Provincial of the St. Elias Province. When Mother Angeline told him what Cardinal Hayes had said to her: "You might have to start a new community." Father Lawrence said: "Why don't you become Carmelites?" He also told her he would bring the Prior General, Most Rev. Elias Magennis, O. Carm. to visit her



He was joined by concelebrants, Father Romaeus Cooney, O. Carm., Father Timothy Ennis, O. Carm. and Father Joseph Mahon, C.P.

Among the visiting Sisters were the Sparkill Dominicans. When Mother Angeline Teresa and her companions started



Mother Angeline and her six companions in 1929:
(L-r) Mother M. Alodie, Mother M. Alexis, Mother M. Louise,
Mother M. Angeline Teresa, Mother M. Leonie and Mother M. Colette.

Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm Celebrate Diamond Jubilee of Foundation

submitted by Sister Mary Gabriel, O. Carm.

the Congregation, it was the Sparkill Dominican Sisters who gave them hospitality and aided them in making their first habits in the new community. Mother Angeline never forgot their kindness.

At the Jubilee dinner in Carmel Hall, Father Romaeus Cooney, O. Carm. gave the following toast in honor of the 75th Anniversary:

*In nineteen hundred twenty nine,
A new ray of light began to shine;
As Mother Angeline and a small band
Started a new ministry in our land.*

*"Well, who knows," did the Cardinal say
Perhaps you may lead the way"
As many others may follow someday
To share your vision for the sick and gray.*

*And so the little group, with a vision
grand, From the Bronx and Manhattan
began to expand. Nursing homes and
centers with manors they manned,
In the States and in Holy Ireland!*

*Throughout the years they have been blest,
For the aged and infirm—they are the best.
As they took to heart the Foundress' request
To treat each person as a guest.*

*To Mother Suzanne and Sisters all
Who have answered Carmel's call
Happy Seventy Fifth Jubilee
We look forward to celebrating
your centenary!*

The Closing Celebration began at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on Saturday the 23rd of October. Most Rev. Robert A. Brucato, Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York officiated at the Mass with a filled capacity. Sisters joined the procession by carrying three banners representing the 75 years of the Community's existence. In the background of all three banners were the names of all the foundations as well as other sentinel events of the Congregation. The first banner represented the first 25 years showing Mother Angeline and her six companions above their first foundation, St. Patrick's Home in the Bronx, NY. The second banner portrayed "Avila", the beloved home to all of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and the statue found in St. Teresa's Chapel of patroness, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The third banner depicted a sculpture of "old people"

and the rendering of the newest facility named in honor of Mother Angeline, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor. Father Mario Esposito, O. Carm., Postulator for the Cause of the Servant of God, Mother M. Angeline Teresa McCrory, O. Carm., was the homilist. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated in style with a choir of angels and golden trumpets. The celebration was just what Mother Angeline would have wanted as she so loved the Holy Eucharist and all it embodied.

After the conclusion of the Mass, more than 900 people stepped out onto the glorious, sunny sidewalks of Manhattan and made way to the Hotel Pierre where a grand and gracious luncheon reception was waiting. Following the delicious fare, Mother Mary Suzanne, O. Carm. spoke to the group about the past 75 years and the hopes and dreams for the next 25. A highlight of the afternoon was a presentation made by Father Michael Kissane, O. Carm., who symbolized the first meeting of Mother Angeline McCrory and Father Lawrence Flanagan during the triduum of the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux on October 3, 1929 when he gave Mother Angeline a bouquet of red roses which she took as a sign for the future. Father Michael

presented Mother Suzanne with a bouquet of red roses with the wish that the close relationship enjoyed between he Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and the Carmelite Friars of the St. Elias Province would continue for another 75 years. A special Apostolic Blessing was unveiled and presented to Mother Suzanne and the Sisters commemorating their 75 Years of Foundation. The Papal Blessing was specially hand-done with the Carmelite Shield painted on one side. A special thanks was given to Father Edmund Caruana, O. Carm. From San Alberto (CISA) in Rome, and for his assistance in securing the Blessing and having it personally signed by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm have lovingly carried on the work of Mother Angeline. They are well known for their excellent daily care of nearly 5,200 elderly men and women who reside in their 24 long-term care facilities that provide skilled nursing, assisted living, and independent living services in 9 States and Ireland. To learn more about the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, you can visit their website: www.CARMELITESISTERS.COM



Mother Mary Suzanne, O. Carm. Accepting a bouquet of roses from Father Michael Kissane, O. Carm., Prior Provincial of the St. Elias Province in honor of the 75th Jubilee of Foundation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm at the Hotel Pierre, NYC on October 23, 2004.