

## Communication Corner

### Please Pray For:

- Fr Brocard Connors, O.Carm.
- Fr Robert Tracy, O.Carm.

### Rest in Peace:

- Mr. Donald Boyd, brother of Fr Ambrose Boyd, O.Carm. (RIP).
- Mrs. Margaret Holahan
- Fr Daniel Lynch, O.Carm.
- Fr Ernest Larkin, O.Carm. (PCM)



### Important Dates

- February 2-3, 2007 ~ Provincial Council meeting.
- March 13—14, 2007 ~ Provincial Council meeting.
- April 11-12, 2007 ~ St. Elias Province Annual General Meeting
- April 11—12, ~ 2007 Provincial Council meeting.
- July 6—8, 2007 ~ Lay Carmelite Convocation, Chicago, Illinois.
- July 26—29, 2007 ~ Carmelite Institute Convocation
- Sept 4—22, 2007 ~ General Chapter of the Carmelite Order, Sassone, Italy.

### Provincial 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 our 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.

This Mission will require: respect for the Church's expectations of all religious to Her sense of the Gospel, assessment of our resources especially financial and personnel, discernment of the viability of current apostolates, evaluation of and decisions about established and discontinued apostolates, Provincial and individual ones, and those based either internationally or in the United States of America.

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# Vox Eliae

Provincial Newsletter of the North American  
Province of Saint Elias

Fall / Winter 2006



## New Provincial Office Building Dedicated

On Sunday, November 19, 2006 the new Provincial Office building was dedicated. The new building was constructed on the property of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and overlooks the beautiful lakes that are on the property. The new Provincial Heritage Room was also dedicated (see attached article).

This building will house the Provincial Administration offices, which include the Provincial's Office, the Procurator's office, the Vocation Director's office and offices for several Lay staff that work in the Provincial Administration. It also includes space for the Development Office of the Province.

A Lay Carmelite Office was also created out of existing space in the main building of the Shrine.

About 125 people gathered in St. Albert's Chapel for the prayer service, which was followed by a blessing of each room. After the blessing, everyone present had time to walk through the building and see the work that was done.

This building was made possible due to the hard work of many people. It was built by Building Corp II located in Fair Oaks, NY. Mr. Robert Stormes of Building Corp. served as the Project Forman and saw to the daily work that needed to be

accomplished. The building was designed by Mr. Peter Cirillo of Habig & Cirillo Architects. Mr. William O'Connor of Professional Project Management served as the Project Manager during the construction. Finally, Ms. Joan Fredericks, the former Provincial Secretary served as a "Clerk of the Works" and saw to it that all parties were kept informed about the daily progress.



During the dedication ceremony, Fr. Michael Kissane, O.Carm. gave a reflection on the Gospel that was chosen for the occasion (see article on page 3). Fr. Alfred Isacson, O.Carm. talked about the history of the property at St. Albert's (see article on page 5). Fr. Francis Amodio, O.Carm. then shared with everyone the present use of the

property, which is the home of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Retirement Residence for the St. Elias Province.

During the dedication, many benefactors to the building were recognized. A memorial wall of donors has been installed at the entrance of the building that lists the names and intentions of the many donors that gave to the building campaign.

As this Provincial Office center was dedicated, everyone prayed that God would continue to bless and help all the benefactors. We prayed that God would sanctify the building and that all who enter and work in the building in years to come will be encouraged to love and serve God.

Carmelite Friars - Province of Saint Elias  
Celebrating 75 Years of Service to God's People

## Carmelite All Souls Celebration

One of the most venerable traditions in the Church, equally observed in the West as in the East, is the commemoration of the departed in our liturgical prayers. It is the constant teaching of the Church since Apostolic times that our prayers, offerings and good deeds can help the departed. For this reason, each year the Carmelites of the St. Elias Province gather to remember their deceased.

On Saturday, November 18, 2006 many people gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, NY for the celebration of All Carmelite Souls

About 150 people gathered in the chapel for the 11:00 a.m. Mass that was followed by a procession to the cemetery across the street. During the liturgy, the name of each deceased member of the Province was spoken and each grave was blessed when everyone arrived at the cemetery.

This celebration helps us to remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of

faith. It gives us a sense of our history. Fr. Michael Kissane, O.Carm. reminded us in his homily that by remembering loved and revered ones who have passed on, we remember our own eventual death and contemplate why the dead are called "blessed."

During the luncheon that took place after the ceremony, many shared stories and memories of those who are buried at St. Albert's.



Carmelite Friars await the arrival of the congregation before the blessing of the graves in St. Albert's Cemetery



A view of the lake at St. Albert's. Recently, the brush that had grown around the lakes on St. Albert's property was cleaned out. The property is conducive to prayer and reflection for those who come on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

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It was not until May 23, 1918 that Conboy argued the demurrers before Judge Learned Hand, regarded as one of the finest jurists in American history. He was also favorably inclined to Irish interests. This was at the United States District Court, New York Southern Division located at Cadmon Plaza in Brooklyn. On June 18, Hand ruled out the perjury charge but let the conspiracy charge stand. Not quite a year later, May 1, 1919, Liam Mellows and Patrick McCartan were indicted a second time for the same incident. This time the charge was only for conspiracy to defraud the United States. They withdrew their non guilty pleas for the previous charges with the understanding that no prison time would be served on the new charge. May 14, both pleaded guilty before Judge Hand on the conspiracy charge and he fined them each \$125. A *nolle prosequi* was issued for both of them on May 21, 1920.

The second case of Liam Mellows was his refusal to register for the World War I draft at his New York City Local Board 129. There is no record of his registration in the board's Docket Sheet, a chronological list of registrants. His record is also not present among the registration cards. Mellows explained to the board that he owed allegiance only to one country, Ireland, and could not serve in a war on the side



Liam Mellows speaking at Bodenstown

of England. He also gave as an additional reason the silence of the United States on the freedom of Ireland and its acquiescence to the British occupation of Ireland. When he was asked how, as an immigrant, he came to the United States, he refused to answer because it would reveal to the British how he escaped their clutches. Refusal to register for the draft was a federal criminal offense and a search of Federal Court records show no record of a trial indicating that Mellows was not indicted for this charge. It would seem that Mellows had hearings before a United States Commissioner who dismissed the charges. The dismissal of these charges could be an attempt on the part of the Woodrow Wilson administration not to displease the Irish, a large part of the New York City population. Possibly, political influence was involved in the dismissal.

The third New York legal involvement of Liam Mellows was for a minor matter we do not know the specifics of. He had to appear before Judge Abraham Meyer, a justice of New York's City Court in March, 1919. This court dealt with minor matters and after the court revisions of 1962, this court ceased to exist and its records were destroyed.

In the three legal encounters he had in New York City, Liam Mellows stood by his convictions and dutifully endured the processes they subjected him to.

Conclusion:

Mellows secretly returned to Ireland in 1920 as a "mess man for the oilers." Because he was anti-Treaty, he joined those forces that sought to make life as unpleasant as possible for the Treaty supporters. With other anti-Treatites, Liam occupied the Four Courts in June, 1922. After a bombardment utilizing British cannons, the anti-Treaty forces surrendered and were sent to Mountjoy Jail. When Sean Hales, a member of the Free State Dail, was executed on a Dublin street, four imprisoned anti-Treatites, including Liam Mellows, were selected by the Free Staters and executed on December 8, 1922 in reprisal.

## Liam Mellows' New York Court Cases

By: Alfred Isacson, O. Carm.

(The following article was published in "New York Irish History," the Journal of the New York Irish History Roundtable in Volume 19, 2005. It is reprinted with permission)

When Desmond Greaves was researching his book on Liam Mellows, he made a serious attempt without success to do research on Mellows' legal entanglements in New York City. Today with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on line, it is fairly easy to find the proper record groups, their location and contents. This paper is the result of such research. It will deal with all the New York legal cases involving Liam Mellows that we have been able to uncover.

Sometime after the April, 1916 Rising, Liam Mellows came to the United States on a munitions ship out of Liverpool using false seaman papers in the name of Edward Moore. A web site dealing with Liam Mellows has him and Patrick McCartan arrested in New York City on the charge of participating in an Irish-German plot to sabotage Allied efforts in World War I and then being imprisoned in the Tombs, New York City. There are no records of such charges and chronologically with other arrests these are not possible.

One point to keep in mind is that throughout this entire period, both the Carmelite, Peter Elias Magennis living at Our Lady of the Scapular, East 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan and Liam Mellows were under surveillance by the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. The basis for this was "Irish Activities." The index of their record is in the group, "Old German Records, 1908-1922 (OG)." A perusal of this material illustrates the hysteria of the time against anything that had a hint of not being totally anti German and pro American. Though both Magennis and Mellows are in the index indicating



they were investigated, the results of this surveillance are not present in the record group. Archives personnel indicated to me that these were probably sent to a court for evidence in a case or were destroyed. Magennis was involved in no court cases and since Mellows' court files have no such results, the surveillance records probably were destroyed.

For a reason that is not apparent, Liam Mellows, Patrick McCartan and James Clarkin wanted to return to Ireland in 1917. Because they had all left Ireland surreptitiously, they could not return through the normal channels. They all filled out forms, using aliases and fictional data but enclosing real pictures of themselves, to obtain seamen certificates of American citizenship from the New York Collector of Customs. Liam chose the alias of Patrick Donnelly. Once granted, these certificates could be used to travel to Ireland as seamen.

In November 1917, McCartan was arrested in Halifax, Canada while Mellows was apprehended in New York City and both were placed in the city prison, the Tombs. The two along with James Clarkin were indicted on December 3, 1917 for perjury and for conspiracy to defraud the United States. Both charges resulted from the falsity of their applications for seamen certificates. Clarkin was never apprehended and his case was *not proessed* on February 1, 1932.

On December 13, 1917, Mellows pleaded not guilty and was released on bail but the amount was not stated. McCartan did the same a week later and his bail was set at \$7,500. An undated and unsigned memo in the case file describes Liam Mellows as a "menace." Martin Conboy, Mellows' lawyer, filed a *demurrer* on December 27 for each of the two counts. These did not dispute the truth of the allegations against Mellows but denied that each one was sufficient grounds for legal action.

## Homily Given at Dedication

(The following is the homily given by Fr. Michael Kissane, O.Carm. at the Dedication of the new Provincial Office Building)

I would like to begin by welcoming all of you to the celebration of the Dedication of our new Provincial Office Building. This day has been long in coming! I remember that it was soon after I was elected Provincial that conversation began about building office space at St. Albert's.

Yet, in fact, the idea of having the Provincial Administration at St. Albert's is not a new one. When Matthias DesLauriers became Provincial he moved the offices from Purchase, New York to St. Albert's in the hope that they would be permanently located there. The property at St. Albert's had become our "motherhouse" and it was there that many believed the offices should be built. It was here that we wanted to put down our "roots."

Yet, during Matthias' time, things grew. A number of Lay staff were hired to do tasks that traditionally Carmelites had done in the past. They needed offices. The Development Office began and they needed offices and space. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was transferred from our Parish on 28<sup>th</sup> Street to St. Albert's in Middletown. During the time of the Provincialate of Gary O'Brien the Council began talking seriously about building Provincial Offices on the property. The need was clear and evident. When Mario Esposito became Provincial this talk was put into action and actual plans were drawn up to construct a building beyond the barn that would serve as office space for the Provincial Office and Development Office. A building fund was also started. I was on the Council at the time and remember there was a lot of excitement about building. The plans were good and the building very nice. Yet, this never became a reality because of the cost of building at that time and the limited resources of the Province. So, the decision was made to rent space for the Provincial Offices on the other side of Middletown which is where we have been until now.

When I became Provincial, I more or less immediately began talking to the Council again about building offices on the property of St. Albert's. After considering all our options, we decided to move ahead.

I bring all this history up to remind us all that what we gather today to celebrate has been **long in coming!** This new building will serve as the offices for our Provincial Administration and the Development Office. It will enable us to do our work right here on the property that we own. Yet, contrary to the challenge of the Gospel reading we just heard, planning and constructing this building was not done without worry!

The reading we just heard from the Gospel of Matthew challenges us not to **worry** about tomorrow. It challenges us to trust in God and be about the business of building up the

Kingdom of God. Well, as we all know, that is not an easy thing to do. Somehow our human fears kick in and it **paralyzes** us. I have to admit, from the first time this project was conceived, **worry was part of the picture.** We asked many questions, some of which had no answers: Where are we going to get the money to pay for this? How much will it really end up costing? Where should we build it? Is the building going to meet our needs? How are we going to make sure the building is built as planned? Who should we hire to design and build the building? All these questions led to **worry** and challenged us to trust in God and at the same time seek out answers to all these questions.

I remember clearly that once we decided that the building was needed and would better enable us to administer the Province, we decided to move ahead despite the sometimes unanswered questions and fears. We did not let "worry" paralyze us. We eventually did trust in God.

Because of this, things seemed to fall into place. We hired Peter Cirillo to design the building and Building Corp II, a local building company based in Fair Oaks was chosen to build it. Through the hard work of Joseph Gringas, Kevin Babcock and Robert Stormes and their crew of workers the beautiful building that we will bless in a few moments was built. Joan Fredericks volunteered to watch over the everyday progress of the building and act as a "communications director" with all the different entities. And, the wisest decision we made was to hire Bill O'Connor as the Project Manager to make sure the building was constructed as planned and to handle any difficulties that arose. After all, what did anyone in the Provincial Administration know about architectural designs, building plans, permits, etc., etc.? I was reminded once again that good leaders are not ones that have to know everything and be on top of every detail. They need to be people who can surround themselves with, and use, knowledgeable people to fill in the gaps of what they don't know. We were very lucky to have many knowledgeable and competent people working on the building.



Memorial Wall in the vestibule of the new Provincial Offices

What makes a good office building is not just the structure of the building. How it is arranged, where offices are located, the furniture that is chosen, the color of the paint on the

(Continued from page 3)



**Fr. Michael blesses each room of the new Provincial Building**

walls and even the color of the tiles in the bathroom all had to be chosen. I am especially grateful to Wilma Ward, Kathy Webb, Anne Gacek and Rose Mary Lancellotti for handling this. I would hate to think what the building would look like if I picked out the furniture and the color of the paint on the walls! They also worked very hard to make arrangements for the moving of all our stuff from the old building. I had to be away much of the time and will be eternally grateful for all that they did.

You may notice in a few moments that my office is quite a bit larger than the office I had in our old building – and quite beautiful. Well, it's really only by coincidence that I ended up in that office. I was originally going to have the Procurator's Office, which is right next to the Provincial Secretary's office. However, one day I was cornered in my office by Anne and Wilma. They sat me down and explained to me that I am the Provincial (believe me, I already knew that!) They said that since I was Provincial, I should have the largest office! They said it only made sense and that everyone agreed that I should take it.

I had planned on having the smaller office. My theory is, the more space you have the more you fill it with junk! But, upon reflecting on their proposal, I called to mind that my time as Provincial is only limited and one day someone else will occupy the office and have the distinct pleasure of being Provincial. From that point on, the planning of the building was done, keeping in mind the fact that the offices have to be set up not necessarily to our own desires but have to be practical for the long term. So, I got the larger office!

Because of the dedication of all these people and their companies, we have the wonderful opportunity to bless this beautiful building. I have to admit that I was quite surprised that despite some difficulties in the beginning with oil tanks, gas lines and all sorts of construction debris being buried on the site of the present building, this new building was finished on time and exactly how we wanted it.

I do want to mention that Patrick McGuigan is really responsible for handling many of the day to day problems that

arose as the building progressed. He attended the weekly building meetings regularly and kept me up to date on the progress. He often had to be the one to meet with the various contractors when problems arose. Without his help and support, we would not have been able to stay on top of the progress.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank all the many benefactors who made contributions to our building campaign. I would especially like to thank April Murphy who donated the cost of renovating and setting up our Heritage Room, which will also be blessed today, in memory of her husband William Murphy. It's not complete but it is certainly on its way.

A few years ago, we decided to create a Heritage Room here at St. Albert's. It was evident to us that there were a number of historical documents and artifacts that were simply stored in the archives that should really be displayed. The Heritage Room helps us to remember our past – something that is quite important as we move into the future.

The funds we collected in the building campaign helped to finance this building. Without the support and dedication of our many benefactors, we as Carmelites would not be able to continue to minister in the many places we do so today. You will see that all the donors to date have been honored on our Memorial Wall as you enter the building. If anyone is interested in making a further donation in memory of a deceased member of their family or any intention, please see Kathy Webb. Know that all of our benefactors will always remain in our prayers and thoughts as we use this building.

The reality that this building exists reminds us of the same message that we find in the Gospel we just heard: "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." It reminds us that if we trust in God and put all our worries aside, we can accomplish great things. I know I need to keep this in mind as I continue in my role as Provincial for the next few years. May God bless those who made this building possible – our benefactors, those who built the building and those who planned it. And, May God enable all those who will work in this building in the many years to come to trust in Him alone and not worry about tomorrow.



**The inside of the Heritage Room dedicated in memory of Mr. William Murphy.**

## Donations pour into church where Grinch stole gifts for poor

(The following article appeared in the Middletown Times Herald Record on December 14, 2006)

Whoever it was — and they know who they are — came in the backdoor of the sanctuary, by the stained-glass glow of the prophet Elijah.

Sometime between Monday and Tuesday afternoon, someone walked into Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and stole 10 bags of gifts for Bronx kids that were donated by parishioners.

The gifts were in black garbage bags by the front door, said Nancy Miller, coordinator of religious education. She came in a little after 1 p.m. Tuesday and found a big empty space.

"I just stood there, like, 'What?'" she said. "Where is everything? What happened?"

If the gifts had just vanished — just disappeared into that void where all things heartlessly stolen go — the indignity might have been tempered.

But the thieves dragged their loot out back, not 200 feet from the church's backdoor, and ripped apart the gifts. They took what they wanted — toys and maybe some cash — and left mostly clothes.

"It's like they were sitting on that fallen tree and going through them," said the Rev. Frank Dixon, peeking out the backdoor in the woods behind the church. The door's lock was no good, and has, of course, been fixed.

Hand-sized chunks of paper — with snowflakes and snowmen — bits of ribbon and foil bows littered the wet dead leaves in the woods behind the church.

Yesterday, parishioners shook the leaves off the clothes and started putting Christmas to-

gether again. About 10 volunteers were rewrapping the gifts, busy with scissors and masking tape and crinkling paper.

The gifts were purchased for specific kids — people knew the name and age and size of whom they were buying for. The hardest part was matching the tags with the discarded clothes; putting a large Gap sweater with the correct 12-year-old girl.

Donations, mostly money, have poured into the church since the story was published in yesterday's Times Herald-Record. Miller said they've received more than \$1,500 in donations, the bulk of that coming from one parishioner. The Pocatello Fire Department donated toys and other gifts. Whatever else is needed, Miller said, they'll go out and buy before the packages are picked up Friday morning.

The gifts will be delivered to the boys and girls who were meant to tear into them — hopefully with no idea that someone almost ruined Christmas but failed. Town of Walkill police are investigating, but say they have no suspects yet.



geometry. He was a teacher teaching generosity.

Many years later he contacted me to say he was taking a course in Washington. He came to our house a few times. In some ways he was the same as I remembered him. He still had his dry sense of humor. But he had become very austere. He was striving very hard to know the Lord better, to follow Him more completely. Again his example was teaching me.



Although there were long gaps in our contact, he was a good friend. I'll have Masses said for him.

Hani Lynch Andrews (we weren't related that we knew of)

Dear Ms Ward,

I met Dan some years ago when he and my brother, Brendan Grady O.Carm, were studying in Washington DC. I stayed with the Carmelites and dear Dan lent us his car so that Brendan could take me to see the sights. On a number of occasions Dan came with us and his knowledge of the history of the area and his company was invaluable.

Dan came to stay in England and I remember sharing a great Bowling day with him. He was such fun and I became very fond of him.

Strangely, I had been thinking about Dan quite a bit over the last week and when I saw my brother on Saturday, I asked if he had heard from Dan recently. Brendan said that he hadn't but that he must get in touch soon!!! And then on the Sunday, Brendan received your email and passed it on to me.

Dan is very much in our prayers and in our hearts. A great man, an exceedingly generous and friendly man, who I am sure will be much missed by all who knew him.

With my best wishes to you,

Ann Moloney

## Heartless thief steals gifts from Middletown church

(The following article appeared in the Middletown Times Herald record on December 13, 2006)

Somewhere in the Bronx lives a 7-year-old boy named Manuel Vazquez Jr. with a pants size 8 and a shirt size Large waiting for Christmas.

And sometime between 3 p.m. Monday and 1 p.m. yesterday, someone — police still don't know who — almost ruined it for him.

Nancy Miller, the religious education coordinator for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, said that someone broke into the Wawayanda Avenue church between that time, stole bags of food and at least 266 gifts purchased by local families.

The thief ripped open most of the wrapped presents, discarding the wrapping paper and those items he or she did not want in the woods behind the church, Miller said.

The presents were part of a charity event aimed at giving 300 Bronx families who needed clothes, food and other necessities for Christmas.

They were expected to be picked up Friday by a representative of St. Simon Stock, a Mount Carmel sister church in the Bronx, Miller said. Police are investigating the case.



## St. Albert's History

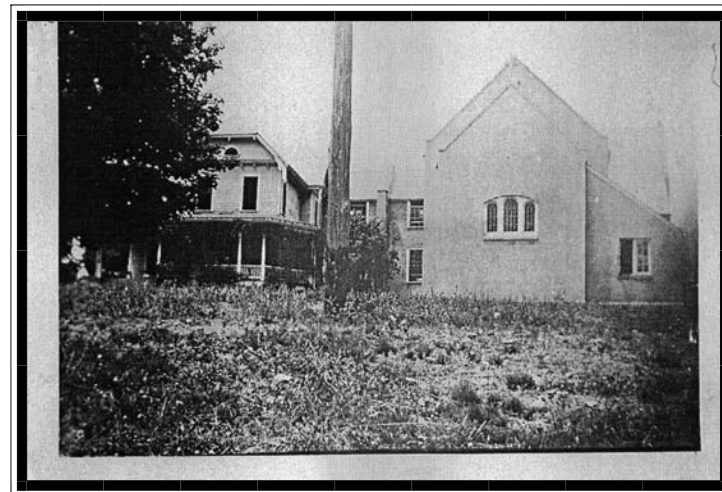
(The following is a talk given by Fr. Alfred Isacsson, O.Carm. at the Dedication ceremony.)

When Al Smith, a Democrat, was the Governor of New York, he went to the former Sing Sing prison in Ossining to make an inspection. The inmates were gathered in the yard to be addressed by the Governor. Whether it was true or just the force of habit, we don't know, but he began his speech, "My Fellow Democrats." His aides said to him, "They're not all ours. Start over." Al then said, "My Fellow Americans." His aides rushed up and told him, "Most of them lost their citizenship by being in prison. Start over again." Governor Smith then said "It's so good to see so many of you here today."

That is the way we feel today seeing so many of you here. Your presence is an affirmation to us Carmelites of your support of who we are and what we do especially in this Middletown area.



It would be nice to say that we are standing on hallowed ground but I think this is only partially true. The location of this building are the grounds owned before us by Romer Grey whose home was on this site, as well as a small cabin on the shore of the second lake. It is said that Romer's more famous brother, Zane Grey, used to visit him here from his home over on the Delaware. Zane is supposed to have written "Sage Brush" during a stay in the cabin.



The Carmelites purchased this land in 1921 when they owned only their original purchase, the present Brandsma Hall. The Grey property adjoined what they already owned and they were looking for a site for a Novitiate, a place for the spiritual formation of candidates to the Carmelite Order. After the Carmelites bought the Grey property, they constructed the Novitiate as an addition to the Grey house. This was a two story dormitory, chapel and classrooms. Patrick Hughes was the builder and his son, Donald the veterinarian, was married in that chapel and was a neighbor for many years.

The halls and stairways of that structure were padded by the feet of those trying to decide the direction of their lives. From Carmel Lynn and Elias Holland to Thomas McGinnis, the prayers of those Novices rose to above from this site.

The Grey residence was used for the kitchen and dining room facilities for the entire property until 1943 when a fire destroyed the Grey residence. New kitchen and dining room facilities were then built on this site.

Known by the Saint Albert's students successively as the White Building and the Red Building, depending on its color, this site was the chapel, dormitory, dining room and kitchen for Saint Albert's until 1958. The basement contained the property's furnace with its automatic stoker that the students, under the direction of Brother Bernard Godfrey, filled every day.

After the High School at Saint Albert's was closed in 1978, the building on this site was surplus and was torn down. This land then only harbored oil tanks beneath its surface until these were removed. This was then just part of the landscape until this building was erected.

Those of us who persevere will rest forever in our adjoining cemetery. How we live will now be guided much by what will go on in this site. This will now be the center of our government and administration. May we all and the people of this area benefit from what takes place on this site.



Fr. Alfred Isacsson, O.Carm. talks about the history of St. Albert's

## Lay Carmelites Attend International Congress in Rome

By Neila Todd, TOC

*(The following article appeared in the "Catholic News" - the Archdiocesan newspaper for the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, Trinidad. The St. Elias Province of Lay Carmelites was represented at this meeting by representatives from the United States and the Caribbean.)*

Lay Carmelites of all ages from 24 countries, ranging from Timor Leste to Trinidad; Brazil to Britain; Portugal to Puerto Rico journeyed to *Instituto Il Carmelo* in early September.

They went to the Carmelite spiritual centre in Sassone, situated just outside Rome and set in a lush landscape of vineyards, pine, rosemary and oleander. For seven days their home was a well-appointed edifice of marble, stone, statuary, sculpture, paintings and glass, all made more comfortable by housekeeping services of which Italy is proud.

In this setting, free of distractions from the secular world they sought to achieve the objectives of the Congress. The relevant theme for these times was **Formation and Communication at the Service of Community.**

The stated intentions were also for this international body of Lay Carmelites to rekindle relationships, get to know each other, share our hopes and dreams as well as our plans for the future.

That it was the meeting of the Carmelite Family was everywhere in evidence. We were privileged to have Prior General Joseph Chalmers, O Carm in attendance together with the Carmelite hierarchy of friars, enthusiastic seminarians, nuns, sisters, members of the Third Order, and Carmelite lay movements, and a representation of the domestic Church - an Italian couple and their children.

The Congress viewed *Formation* as a gradual journey to transformation along the path of Carmelite spirituality in order to be fully conformed to Christ. Secondly, *Communication* among ourselves and with others was expected as a response to our calling as children of God who has revealed Himself to us so that we may know Him.

The theme was deconstructed through meticulously chosen topics and delivered by erudite presenters followed immediately by small group workshops. Carmelite spirituality was reviewed through "The Values and Fundamentals of living the Carmelite Way".

The heights of contemplation were approached through the masterly teaching of St. John of the Cross, and in another offering there were suggestions for translating the call to contemplation into the everyday life of lay people.

The topics of formation were also dealt with comprehensively with the sharing of various experiences of eight participants from countries as culturally different as the United States, Kenya and Indonesia.

There was explication of the important area of communication among Lay Carmelites and what can be done in the future; the different possible contexts for communication also being outlined.



The presentation at the final plenary session looked at "Mary and Elijah" - two lives transformed by God's spirit and the eloquence with which they are able to speak to one and all, at all times and in all places. These two inspiring lives have become increasingly relevant for us, their spiritual children in today's world.

We were resolved to improve our formation practices as in the group sessions there was a plethora of suggestions and experiences which when distilled can help us to find a new impulse in order to move ahead together along the same path and with the same purpose.

We were also resolved to communicate more and better among ourselves, so that our sense of family will increase and enable us to enjoy full communion; and with others so that we can all appreciate the good news that God looks after each one, that He wants us to be fully alive and happy; that He wants us to be sisters and brothers without distinction of language, race, religion or culture.

Some proposals were also outlined:

**Carmelite Friars - Province of Saint Elias**  
**Celebrating 75 Years of Service to God's People**

brated on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Fr James Hess, O.Carm., who along with Bro Dominic Dang, O.Carm. assisted Fr Daniel in his last months preached the homily. Fr James focused on Daniel's quest for knowledge, his ability to "stir the pot" and his great love for Carmel. He reminded all that Fr Daniel is an example to all of us of what it means to be a Carmelite. "He always supported the brotherhood" James Hess noted. Fr Daniel made an effort to visit all our men on a regular basis.

Fr Daniel Lynch was buried at St Alberts Cemetery. Fr. Daniel requested that butterflies, symbols of everlasting life be on his holy card.

A number of friends and former students of Fr Daniel emailed the provincial office upon his death and shared their memories of him.

Dear Ms. Ward,

*Thank you for notifying me of Father Dan's passing. I was very fond of him after getting to know him at St. Jude church, Boca Raton, FL. Father Dan was very kind to me and my family while my husband and I were parenting our little ones. Once my husband was away while I brought my infant and toddler to church myself. Father Dan helped me keep the kids happy while I prayed they wouldn't disrupt the service. My children are now 7 and 9 and we have all enjoyed Father Dan's friendship through the years. He always politely ate the broccolli I served with our meals though I know it wasn't his favorite part! When the kids were little, I struggled with the decision of whether or not to send them to Catholic school. Father Dan convinced me that Catholic school is always worth the financial sacrifice and he was right! My children are thriving at St. Jude school while I work as a nurse during the day. I love watching them grow in their Catholic faith on a daily basis. I am most proud of my motherhood when I see them growing in their relationship with the Lord. Father Dan has always prayerfully supported our family and I will be forever*

*grateful for that. I will always pray that Father Dan is eternally blessed in heaven. I cherish his memory and his blessed soul. Please forward this e-mail as my condolences to Father Dan's family. I know he had some nieces and nephews he lovingly spoke of. I will miss him.*

*Prayerfully, Liz Cercone and family*

*Ms Ward,*

*I appreciate your sending the news of Fr. Daniel's passing.*

*The 2 previous Sundays at Mass overwhelming thoughts of Fr. Dan came to me. It was a strange experience, an unfamiliar feeling. I told my husband that I thought Fr. Daniel had died.*

*My father taught me, "If you think of people, say a prayer for them. They need your prayers." Naturally I did pray for Fr. Daniel.*

*Fr./ Daniel was my math teacher at Mt. Carmel in Auburn, NY. I was the only senior girl wanting to take math, so I was in the boys class. Second semester there was a conflict with girls religion being taught the same time as solid geometry. Father checked my schedule & found that he was free when I had study hall. He spent that time teaching me solid*



Altar: St. Josephs Church, Troy, New York

## Rev. Daniel Lynch, O.Carm.

Fr. Daniel Lynch, O. Carm., a member of the Order of Carmelites and of the North American Province of St. Elias, died Sunday, December 17, 2006. He was 77 years old. Father Dan was born in the Bronx, N.Y. on May 22, 1929. He is survived by his brother, Joseph Lynch.

Father Daniel entered St. Albert's Junior Seminary in Middletown as a young teenager. He Professed his Solemn Vows on September 8, 1951, in Auburn, N.Y., and was then ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1954, the Marian Year, at Saint Simon Stock Church in the Bronx, N.Y.

Graduating from St. Bonaventure University Olean, N.Y., Father Daniel earned his Bachelors degree in Philosophy and Mathematics in 1954. For the next ten years Father Dan taught Religion, Mathematics, Biology, and Mechanical Drawing at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School in Auburn, N.Y. He was transferred to Nativity High School in Pottsville, Pa. in 1964, where he taught High School Mathematics and Religion.

In 1969 he was transferred to McQuaid High School in Rochester, N.Y. where he continued to teach high school students the rudiments of Mathematics and Religion. It was during this time that he desired to continue his own education and between 1971 and 1972, Father Dan earned his Masters Degree in Theology and a certification in Counseling at New York Theological.

It was in 1972 that he was transferred to Our Lady of the Scapular Priory on 28th Street in Manhattan where he resided while ministering as a Chaplain at Bellevue Hospital for the next five years. In 1977, he began working as a Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Montrose, N.Y.

For the next 11 years he resided at the Carmelite Priory in Scarborough, N.Y. while traveling daily to Montrose, N.Y. for his ministry. In 1988, following the renovation of St. Albert's Priory in Middletown, Father Dan was one of the first Carmelites to move into the newly-renovated Senior Community. He continued to commute to Montrose V.A. Medical Center for the next 10 years until his retirement in 1998.

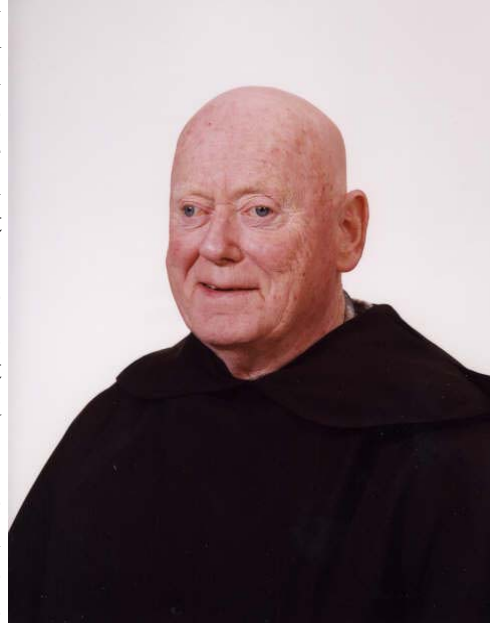
Ever longing to learn, Father Daniel was granted a one-year sabbatical as he attended the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. from 1998-99 where he earned a Certificate in Carmelite Studies. He returned to the Saint Albert's Community in Middletown, where he enjoyed his retirement.

During his retirement, Fr Daniel kept himself active by volunteering in the Carmelite Development Office, as well as giving talks for the Lay Carmelites (Third Order), and days of recollection/retreats for the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

He was always eager to learn and to teach and he was a much-sought after lecturer on the topics of John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, Teresa of Avila, as well as contemplative prayer.

A wake service was held on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (St Alberts) in Middletown. In his homily, Francis Amodio, O.Carm., the Prior of the St Alberts community, reflected upon how Fr Daniel lived the Advent season. He noted that during the past few weeks as he was dying, Fr Daniel lived in "hope and expectation" of everlasting life.

The Mass of Christian Burial was cele-



(Continued from page 6)

- To continue the efforts to organise the Carmelite family at an international level through the work of the General Commission.
- Develop the International Secretariat so that it promotes increased communication among all parts of the Carmelite family, in the most suitable ways open to the new possibilities offered by technology, so that the Secretariat can continue its work. Funds must be identified to pay for its work.
- Improve our formation along agreed lines. To this end we would encourage the publication of a guide for formation which indicates the essential framework for the process and which could be adapted and fleshed out in each region or province according to various cultural contexts the needs of both the Church and society.

The Congress was a truly spiritual occasion and the planning and preparation of all activities ensured that there would be unforgettable moments for the delegates. The four languages spoken by the largest attending groups: English, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish were used at every conference presentation or liturgy.

At the latter there was always the official language of the Church with the *Pater Noster* said every time. Anthems to the Blessed Virgin - *Flos Carmeli*, *Salve Regina*, *Ave Regina caelorum* were sung in Latin. The liturgy was also further enriched with Spanish, Portuguese, and English offerings. The musical accompaniment of organ, flute and guitar always elevated our spirits.

The Rosary on one afternoon was prayed in the various languages, dialects and vernaculars of the participants with *Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae Amen* completing the prayer after the first part.

This was a practical demonstration of globalisation which the Church facilitated two thousand years ago at Jesus' command. *Lectio Divina*, as an inspiring prototype skillfully delivered, left us with the Word through the text Matthew 11: 25-30 in our hearts and in our mouths.

Lay Carmelites, on the auspicious occasion of their Congress, were also privileged to be invited to a General Papal Audience, where we were ushered up close to the dais where the Pontiff officiated.

The sheer magnitude and scale of St. Peter's is always a reminder of man's mortality and the eternal quality of the city. Pope Benedict XVI mentioned us Carmelites by name and gave the Apostolic Blessing to us and to our families all over the globe.

Evening Mass at Sancta Maria in Traspontina was an opportunity for us to worship at this ancient Carmelite Church with its tapestries and frescoes. The coach ride back to Sassone took us through ancient and modern Rome, past fashionable shop windows.

The group of ten persons representing the Caribbean region, two from St. Lucia and the rest from Trinidad, led by the Regional Director, Sr. Adriana Noel did the region proud on culture night. There was appreciative applause and congratulations for our Caribbean offerings which gave a sampling of the rich and diverse heritage of the region.

All too soon came the time for Solemn Mass with Final Message and Renewal of Commitment, which was, appropriately on the birthday of Our Lady. After the Mass at the *Capella Grande* we moved in procession to the grotto in the gardens with vigil lights in procession preceded by Our Lady's icon which was then positioned on a textile-blanketed table.

Tokens were distributed and there was much camaraderie later at the dinner where presentations were also made to the leaders of delegations.

Another Congress had ended but the delegates were indeed forever transformed. Personally, I have been moved by the silence we observed so religiously every day and which nourished the soul yearning for peace in this boisterous space. As I ease back gradually into the secular world, I seek to hold on to the sentiments and purpose of

*Ubi caritas, et amor, Deus ibi est – where there is charity and love, there is God.*



## Avila Foundation Honors Lady Thelma Hochoy

*(The following Article was written by Sheryl Sadaphal and appeared in the "Catholic News", the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, on November 26, 2006.)*

On November 5, the Avila Foundation held a fundraising dinner honouring Lady Thelma Hochoy, friend of Carmel. The evening started with the National Anthem sung by Jean Marc Tardieu, followed by an opening prayer.

Fr. Garth Eversley O.Carm., Prior of the Carmelite Community in Trinidad and Tobago, then gave a short welcome and greeting to Fr. Raymond Maher, O.Carm., Assistant Provincial of the North American Province of St. Elias, who represented and brought greetings from Fr. Michael Kissane, O.Carm., who unfortunately was not able to attend.

Fr. Garth also welcomed Carmelite Sisters Antoinette Dickie and Petronilla Joseph, the Chinasing family of Lady Thelma Hochoy, family and friends of Carmel, and specially invited guests.

After, Tony Lee, Master of Ceremonies of the evening, called on Fr. Raymond Maher to unveil the Avila Foundation logo fashioned by Derry Lee Loo. A musical interlude of songs beautifully rendered by Jean Marc Tardieu followed.

The next item on the programme was a multi-media presentation of the Avila Foundation displaying its aims and aspirations. One of these aims being to provide support in establishing, and developing the Carmelite way of life in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Essentially, the Avila Foundation acts as an advisory board of the friars, giving advice in specialized areas such as finance and investments, legal, strategic planning, and acquisition of property. The Foundation also seeks, through ministerial outreach, to find new ways of serving the needs of the poor and marginalized in our society.

"Elijah's Bread" and the social outreach ministry of the friars are two sub-categories of the Foundation, which not only help in fundraising efforts, but also support the formation and training of friars.

In the near future, the friars hope to establish a Carmelite Youth Centre, as well as an Employee and Corporate Outreach Centre, both of which will be supported by the Avila Foundation.

The Foundation will continue to host similar fundraisers in an effort to achieve its objectives. They have also established "The Avila Foundation Award", which aims to recognize and express gratitude to "Friends of Carmel" for their support, prayer and contribution to the Carmelite Family.

As such, the first Avila Foundation award was given to Lady Thelma Hochoy, a Friend of Carmel, who established the Lady Hochoy Home for special children. Mrs. Chinasing accepted the award on behalf of Lady Thelma Hochoy.

Fr. Gerard Tang Choon, O.Carm. went on to recognize the Carmelite Sisters for their dedication to the children of the Lady Hochoy Home. They were lustily applauded in recognition of their service. After the formal segment of the evening, a delicious dinner topped off by a choice of desserts was served. Accompanying dinner was the lovely Christmas music of *José y Amigos* and *Amantes de Parranda*.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks given by Ann Garcia to all those who made the fundraiser such a success.

On behalf of the members of the Avila Foundation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the event, and look forward to sharing with you the progress of the Foundation.



## Carmelites Transition Out of Pope John Paul II High School

The St. Elias Province of Carmelites, which has staffed Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, Florida since its opening in 1980, will be transitioning out the High School effective the Summer of 2007. This decision is part of the overall planning process that the Province has been engaged in for a number of years.



Michael Kissane, O.Carm., the Provincial of the St. Elias Carmelites explained that the decision was made because of the declining number of men in the Province that are available for this ministry.

The Carmelites began the school. The construction of Pope John Paul II High School was begun in February 1980. The first classes were held the following August. During the first year, the school consisted of 300 freshmen and 150 sophomore students. The second year, classes were held for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. The third year, 1982-1983, was the first year as a four-year high school and saw the first graduating class. Originally, the school operated as part of the Archdiocese of Miami. However, in 1984 the school became part of the newly formed Diocese of Palm Beach.

There are presently three Carmelites at Pope John Paul II High School—Fr. Guy Fiano, O.Carm., Fr. Thomas Zalewski, O.Carm. and Bro. Robert Chiulli, O.Carm. Each will be moving into another ministry within the Province. In the past, there have been as many as nine Carmelites staffing the school at one time. However, due to the declining number of men in the Province and the increase in the median age, the number of Carmelites present in the school has gone down.

The Diocese of Palm Beach, which owns the school, will work with the present administration of the school to plan for its future which is bright. The many dedicated faculty members, alumni, benefactors and supporters of the school will work with the Diocese to see to it that the school continues to provide a sound Catholic education for its students.

Recognizing the unique dignity and rights of each person, Pope John Paul II High School encourages the development of self-esteem and personal potential. Students are afforded the opportunity to deepen their spiritual, affective and physical talents, while seeking academic excellence. A student's relationship with God, others and with our global community is nurtured through this holistic approach to education. In keeping with these ideals, Pope John Paul II High School enables the student to be courageous in promoting social justice and steadfast in securing its attainment.

A good number of men in the Province have served at Pope John Paul II High School over the years. These years of service will be recognized in a ceremony that will be planned with the Diocese sometime in the Spring of 2007.

While the physical presence of the Carmelites will no longer be present on a daily basis at the school, Fr. Michael Kissane, O.Carm. assured the faculty and staff that the Carmelites will continue to support the school and be a part of the Pope John Paul II family.

The Carmelites would like to thank the many people who supported them and the school over the years. We greatly encourage everyone to continue to support the school in the future.

