



# CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL  
UNITED STATES AND PHILIPPINES

JANUARY, 2013

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From January 17-21, 2013 the Sisters of Mount Carmel will convene for a General Chapter to review its mission and future direction, and to elect its general leadership for the next four years.

In this issue we reflect on the meaning of the Chapter in the life of the Congregation.

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## General Chapter 2013

*The Gift You Have Received, Give as Gift.* Mt. 10:18

**The Figure in the Center** represents each sister of Mount Carmel. Her hands are raised in a gesture of praise and thanksgiving. She stands before the backdrop of several art symbols that are familiar and meaningful to every Carmelite:

**The Carmelite Shield** is an open shield, welcoming everyone. Etched upon the shield are words invisible to the eye, words that tell the story of Carmel since its beginning to this moment—the General Chapter 2013.

**The Mountain** is where the story begins and where the blessings and graces continue to flow in abundance. In prayer, we come to this holy mountain and ask that the spirit of Elijah may rest upon us.

**The Crown** symbolizes Mary, our patroness, our mother, our sister, our queen of heaven and earth. *Salve, Regina...*

**The Stars** are our connection to heaven and heaven's connection to us. We ask our Carmelite saints and our beloved sisters who have gone before us to lend an ear to our requests during this Chapter gathering.

We gaze again at The Figure in the Center. From within her comes forth wealth of insight, wonderful unique gifts ready to be shared (symbolized by the overflowing lines) and confidence in our amazing God who is the giver of all our gifts. In this Chapter we are called to look within, each one and together, to discover how and where God is calling us. We respond to God's call as we pray our chapter quote, Matthew 10:8. **The Gift You Have Received Give As A Gift.**

*Logo and reflection by the artist, Sister Catherine Martin, O. Carm.*



# Looking Forward!

We all have events we look forward to—birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Christmas, happy occasions or anniversaries of deaths. As I write, the sisters look forward to our General Chapter which will take place in January, 2013. Our Constitutions define the General Chapter as a celebration and a call:

*a celebration of God's gifts to our community and  
the gift our community is to the church.  
a call to renew fidelity in the mission of the church and  
to revitalize the life of the congregation.*

This Chapter is especially meaningful to us as we also celebrate and answer the call of Vatican II during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The church council in 1962 called for a return to our sources, our roots of identity and charism, and an openness to the signs of the times that would enable us to understand and serve the needs of the church. We found our source of life in the Carmelite Order: contemplative prayer that moves us to compassionate service. Our charism is lived with the faith and courage of our foundress, Mother Therese Chevrel, the vision of Mother Clare Coady who brought about a professional and spiritual renewal in the early 1900's, and the humility and simplicity of Mother Dolores Delahoussaye who initiated the renewal of Vatican II in the early 1960's.

For twenty-two years from 1963 the year of our first special chapter for renewal, to 1985 when our new constitutions were written and approved, we met often, researched Scripture and Carmelite documents, delved into the history and writing of our foundresses, discussed, prayed intently and intensely. We grew in awareness of needs that formerly we felt were not ours to meet. And changes came about: dress, more flexibility in apostolates, opening our doors more freely to visitors and people in need, broadening our lines of communication with persons outside our convents, both religious and lay. From nursing and teaching, we sent sisters to the Philippines; we formed a non-governmental organization with other Carmelites to work at the United Nations; we allowed sisters to work in apostolates suitable to their talents and interests and as an answer to God's call.

During this time, what was not as directly observable was the prayer life of the sisters and the change that was taking place within us. Deepening the sense of our contemplative vocation, we moved into different retreat forms such as eight and thirty day directed retreats; community prayer allowed time and space for meditation and personal contemplative prayer. Some of you know this through your experience with our sisters as women of prayer, or working with them as spiritual directors and retreat directresses. The request for prayers that come to individuals, local communities or the development office enable us to live this aspect of contemplative prayer as a service for our people. It is a bond that deepens our own lives in prayer.

We officially began to prepare for the January 2013 Chapter with an assembly in March 2012. Our prayer, our readings and discussions, and our assembly in November opened us to the work of the Holy Spirit, not just during the days of the official meetings, but through this time of preparation. We focus once more on our call that we might answer with enthusiasm and faith, and we celebrate with gratitude and love the work of the Holy Spirit guiding us into the next four years and beyond. We invite you to join us in prayer, as you always support us in our lives and ministries, that we may be receptive and responsive to God's grace within us.

*Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm. serves as an Executive Councilor, Assistant to the Motherhouse Administrator and an assistant in the congregation Development Office.*



## Message from the Administration

*The gift you have received, give as gift.*  
(Mt. 10:8.)

Deeply embedded in my memory is an event when, before access to GPS, I entered a fast food restaurant to ask directions to a church where I was to give a talk. Across the empty room I saw a lone patron and walked up to his table to get assistance. After getting his help and thanking him, I began to leave when I was surprised by the elderly man's astuteness in addressing me as, "Sister." He asked if I knew a sister he named who had taught him. I did not know her and felt the poverty of not knowing her when he said, "she found the good in me when no one else was looking." These twenty years later, I still hear the aged gentleman, I still see him, and I am still touched at the core by his words. What a gift his teacher had—the beauty and power in finding the good in another, especially when everyone else is overlooking it or takes no interest to seek it! The teacher had the gift to release the talents in him which were hidden from the expectations of others. The recognition he received from his teacher for his giftedness undoubtedly released in him the gift to offer openness and kindness to others just as he did to me. That man lives in my heart and his gift to me is released now and again as I seek the hidden gift in another. He gifted me with a strong desire to be like his teacher...to find the good when and where no one else is looking.

We believe as Sisters of Mount Carmel that the Spirit of love works within and among us to mold our members with common vision and goals. (*Constitutions 61*) To coordinate the variety of gifts of each sister in pursuit of our common vision, we elect a general council of five members. We refine our vision and elect officers to implement the vision at the work of the General



Participants in the Discernment Weekend as nominees for leadership were: (standing from left) Sisters Lena Collins, Catherine Martin, Andree Bindewald, Anne Leonard, Lawrence Habetz, Kathy Farrelly, Jane Remson and Barbara Breaud. (seated from left) Sisters Mary Ellen Wheelahan, Alice Abate, and Paula Derise. Participating by Skype from the Philippines was Sister Sheila Undang.

Chapter which convenes each four years. From January 17-21, 2013 we will undertake these events once again. We ask you, our friends and benefactors, to join us in prayer as we elect our leaders and release the variety of gifts among us that will be effective in our lives and ministries. Please pray, too, that we may have the courage and daring to find the good in our world where it is hidden because no one else is there looking for it.



*Sister Andree Bindewald, O. Carm. serves on the Executive Council as assistant to the President, Corporation Secretary and Development Director.*

# Looking Back

Looking back, I have spent fifty years in religious life. Fifty years!! Do I feel it? Sometimes I do feel it, other times I don't. Physically, I feel I am limited with my movements and am short of freedom to move around wherever I want. Flexibility is curtailed. Minor aches and pains are felt every now and then. Yet as a person of service I can still be productive despite a long number of years on this planet earth. I want to say many things about the past 50 years of my religious life, but what can I say now?

At this stage of my life I can only say a few words to express my sincere thanks to the great, loving and forgiving God. I chose to commit my life to the God I longed for since the start of my religious life. I am not saying that trials like rejection, pain, brokenness, and feelings of injustice were absent. On the contrary, these are realities that are present in all aspects of life. However, I feel the difference now compared to initial formation of a new member. The entrants usually undergo a process of formation in order to embrace a vowed life of obedience, poverty and chastity and to follow the constitutions and customs of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are then formed to love God more, to hope in God more, to know God more and live life to the fullest as a religious. St. Teresa offers insights in moving toward silence and solitude in our prayer journey. On that journey, I connect with God in everything I do and stay with God everywhere and anywhere or whenever and wherever I will be.

Being the Coordinator of the Development Office for the Philippine Region, I continually pursue

and deal with people. As I stay connected with them, especially those in need, God draws me to deeper humility and endurance through painful experiences when I am appealing for help for the poor in our outreach/scholarship programs and in the pastoral ministries of our sisters in the poor rural areas. For the past two years we had a Christmas drive for the poor. The parents of SMCCS students and officers of the student council donated assorted goods and assisted in repacking them. Initially, this was started by Sr. Rosalinda and Dolly by giving candies and a few coins every Christmas to poor children who were caroling. Last Christmas Day, we gave out 2000 bags of assorted goodies to the mothers, elderly, and children from the squatters' areas. The gift giving activity reminded me of the LORD JESUS



**Sister Bernardine Juarez** organizes the Christmas distribution at the Regional Center in Fairview, Quezon City, Philippines.

feeding the five thousand by the multiplication of bread. The leftovers were shared with our poor neighbors, parishioners and the poor people in Mount Carmel Village, Bagong Silangan, where Sr. Remy works.

Three months prior to Christmas, I always have the feeling of excitement and anxiety hoping there will be a generous response. My feelings of anxiety ease when there is an outpouring and generous response from various companies and people who sincerely share their resources. Constant connections are already established. God's blessings continue to overflow. I believe that we sisters are only conduits and instruments of God's many blessings to be shared with those who have less in life.

How can I balance this experience and stay connected with my past painful experiences to enable me to make a difference at this stage of my fifty years of religious life? St. Teresa seems intent on helping us realize that trials have an important role to play in our life of prayer, in embracing darkness, and at critical and significant movements in the journey towards divine union. It is helpful to count on a friendly relationship to talk about God to others. This is actualized in my pastoral care ministry in FEU-NRMF Medical Center in dealing with the sick, the depressed and the dying patients I encounter in the hospital wards.



Area children enjoy their treats on Christmas Day provided by sponsors of the sisters' project in Quezon City.

We are not what we are now had it not been for what we were yesterday. We continue to live today and in the days to come, leaving the future to God. We are also aware that the mission to tell the story of JESUS is always connected with Jesus in prayer, our apostolate, and our ministry to the poor. If this remains connected it is only then that the spirit of Jesus flows. St. Teresa's gift to us today is to help us bear the burden of our incompleteness, and to find in prayer a sacred vessel that keeps away distractions, negative energy, anxiety and fear. Our completion is in God. God is present to both our fullness and our emptiness. Everything exists in God. The whole creation, along with persons of every race, color, and religious belief, have a home in God.

This is my reflection of my fifty years in religious life. Can I say more? No, only God knows and I always pray that there will be connections in everything I do and in everywhere I will be.



*Sister Bernardine Juarez, O. Carm. is coordinator of the Philippine Region's Development Office and works part-time in pastoral care services at Far Eastern University Hospital. Sister currently resides in the Elijah Community, Quezon City, Philippines.*

# In Memory Of

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**Sisters of Mount Carmel  
Office of Development**

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Lacombe, Louisiana 70445-1160

(985) 882-7577 or (504) 524-2398

e-mail: [development@sistersofmountcarmel.org](mailto:development@sistersofmountcarmel.org)

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# In Memory Of

**Landry, Jr., Mr. J. W.** by Mr. and Mrs. Ewell V. Landry  
**Langford, Mrs. Amy Robichaux** by Mr. and Mrs. John Battaglia, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd C. Hebert, Sr.  
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**Lasseigne, Mrs. Winifred Rivet** by Mr. and Mrs. Errol Delahoussaye, Mr. and Mrs. George Guidry  
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**Leonards, Bobbie** by Leonard Buck Leonards  
**Lessard, Mrs. Lucille Savoy** by Mr. and Mrs. Kellis Buckland, Jr.  
**Levron, Sr., Mr. Rodney** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Braud  
**Long, Mrs. Shirley** by Mr. and Mrs. Don Wall  
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**Maracic, Mr. John** by Mr. Melvin Niemiec  
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**Marinello, Patricia Fraiche** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassreino  
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**Martin, Mrs. Odette Melancon** by Mr. and Mrs. Craig A. Durio, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gossen, Sr.  
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**Melancon, Agatha Bearb** by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hernandez  
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**Miller, Sr., Mr. Arthur** by Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Lewis  
**Mineo, Mr. Frank P.** by Molbert Family, Staff of Gifted Nurses  
**Minor, Brice** by Ethel and Darrell Gregory  
**Mire, Mr. John** by Ms. Georgia C. Merryman  
**Mongue, Roy and Cecile** by Ann Woodruff  
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**Moreau, Dorothy Walters** by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith Landry, Sr.  
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**Perrodin, Brenda Ann Merrill** by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gossen, Sr.  
**Pete, Mr. Gene** by Ms. Barbara Istre, Mr. and Mrs. Art Merryman, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader  
**Petitjean, Mrs. Jane "T-Dee" L.** by Mr. and Mrs. Obrey "Toboy" Benoit, Jr., Bernice and Mary Ann Breaux, Mrs. Cecil Hebert, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Bryson,  
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**Sandoz, Therese H. Delcambre** by Ms. Therese M. Segura  
**Saunier, Ms. Gerri** by Mr. Mike Saunier  
**Scheerle, Mr. Fred** by The Molbert Family  
**Schexnider, Catherine Spaetgens** by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony E. Cramer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gossen, Sr. Mrs. Wenzel Habetz



# In Memory Of

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**Schexnider, Mrs. Kathy** by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Comeaux  
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**Schultz, Mary Misuraca** by Mr. and Mrs. James Benoit  
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**Simmons, Mallory** by Mrs. Rosalie Marcello  
**Simpson, Mr. Siguard** by Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Hebert  
**Skrmetta, Mr. Raphael** by Staff of Gifted Nurses  
**Smaihall, Louis** by Mrs. Leona Berken Smaihall  
**Smith, Mrs. Mary Lourd** by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Denison,  
Sister Donna M. Girard, O. Carm.  
**Spaetgens, Charles** by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Comeaux, Mr. and Mrs.  
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**Steiden, Lee** by Mrs. Joyce S. Edwards  
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**Stelly, Mary** by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stelly  
**Stelly, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel** by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stelly  
**Stelly, Mrs. Daniel** by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Landry  
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Sister Judith Hebert, O.Carm.  
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**Vay, Sue** by Mrs. Jeanne F. White

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**Vincent, Onelia and Dua** by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Vincent  
**Vorhaben, Baby Ethan** by Sisters Gwen Grillot and Ursula  
Diasselliss, O. Carm.  
**Waguespack, Deacon Kenneth** by Mrs. Louise M. Cousin, Mr. and Mrs.  
Wayne Delcambre, Ms. Joan Derouen Ellender, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Forrest,  
Mrs. Theresa Babineaux Guidry, Ms. Martha Landreneau, Mr. and Mrs. T.  
R. LeBlanc, Ms. Georgia C. Merryman, Mrs. Sherry Bjuard Molbert, Mr.  
and Mrs. Norris Rader, Sisters of Mount Carmel  
**Ware, Judge George Bradford** by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gossen, Sr.  
**Werffeli, Mr. Curtis** by Mrs. Therese H. LaBorde  
**White, Mr. James R.** by Mrs. Audrey Beilman  
**Whittaker, Mrs. Helen Kay** by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cormier  
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**Willis, Mrs. Helen** by Immaculate Conception, T.O.C, Ms. Sonya A. Trebucq  
**Wofford, Mrs. Kathleen** by Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Galbraith  
**Yeargain, Mr. Frank** by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yeargain

# In Honor Of

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**St. Anthony** by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Greco  
**Adams, Mr. Tommy** by Mr. and Mrs. Larry LeBlanc  
**Bercier, Ms. Suzanne** by Mr. and Mrs. Larry LeBlanc  
**Bergeron, Mr. Jay** by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Landry  
**Bond, Mary** by Mrs. Kathleen Broggi  
**Braud, O. Carm., Sister Barbara** by Rev. Msgr. Lanaux J. Rareshide,  
Sisters of Mount Carmel Shalom Community  
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**Call and Family, Marianne** by Ms. P.K. Scheerle, R.N.  
**Campbell, O. Carm., Sister Camille Anne** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles  
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**Duhon, Danna** by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Vincent  
**Eck, Ivan and Sue** by Sisters of Mount Carmel

# In Honor Of

**Englehart, Jeanne T.** by Shirley Wehr

**Fanguy, Ryan and Tanya** by Mrs. Kathleen Broggi

**Farrelly, O.Carm., Sr. Kathleen** by Rev. Msgr. Lanaux J. Rareshide,  
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**Frazer, Barbara** by Mrs. Barbara Gerami

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**Frederick and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Al** by Ms. Nell Roberts and  
Mr. Otis Roberts

**Frederick and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Brian** by Ms. Nell Roberts and  
Mr. Otis Roberts

**Fredric, Mariam** by Mrs. Shirley Salvatore

**Garcia, Ms. Karen** by Mrs. Louise Ziebell

**Garrity, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond** by Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Moore

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**Hebert, Katie L.** by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.

**Hebert, Nelwyn** by Mary Lou Bodden

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**Laughlin, Mr. J.L.** by Mr. and Mrs. Nason Leger

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Sisters of Mount Carmel Shalom Community

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**Van Cleve, Nona** by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

**Vidrine, Mrs. Jennifer** by Cathedral Carmel School

**Vincent, Mr. William M.** by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Landry

**Waguespack, Mr. and Mrs. Charles** by Ms. Janelle V. Landry

**Wehr, H. J.** by Jeanne Englehart and Shirley Wehr

**Wehr, Mr. Earl** by Jeanne Englehart and Shirley Wehr

**Wehr, Shirley** by Jeanne Englehart

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**Williamson, Cindy** by Ms. P.K. Scheerle, R.N.

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Congregation of our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Office of Development  
P.O. Box 1160  
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445  
985 882 7577  
[development@sistersofmountcarmel.org](mailto:development@sistersofmountcarmel.org)

# News of Note

**Sisters Celebrate Jubilee**--Six sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel were honored in celebration of the anniversary of their religious professions at a liturgy and reception on Saturday, September 22 at St. Angela Merici Church, Metairie, LA. Pictured from left to right with **Sister Beth Fitzpatrick** (center) are **Sister Therese Gregoire** (50<sup>th</sup>), **Sister Margaret Safford** (60<sup>th</sup>), **Sister Barbara Breaud** (50<sup>th</sup>), **Sister Hilary Hernandez** (70<sup>th</sup>), **Sister Josephine Deveras** (50<sup>th</sup>), and **Sister Kathy Farrelly** (25<sup>th</sup>). Not shown are two sisters of Mount Carmel



who were also honored this year and celebrated in their local places of ministry: **Sister Catherine Martin** (60<sup>th</sup>) in Lafayette, LA and **Sister Maryphilip Surban** (50<sup>th</sup>) in Dumaguete, Philippines.



**Sister Ann Carmel Segura**, seated far right celebrated her 99th birthday at St. Leo Convent in Lafayette.

Celebrating with Sister Ann Carmel are: (standing from left) **Sisters Robert Joseph Mier, Catherine Martin, Vera Vives, Odile Theriot and Hilary Hernandez.** (seated from left) **Sisters Janet LeBlanc and Laura Melancon.**

Scholars at both the elementary and high school levels attend Sisters of Mount Carmel Catholic School (SMCCS) in Quezon City, Philippines through the generosity of sponsors and benefactors of the Sisters of Mount Carmel.



# News of Note

**Sisters Elma Calajatan and Lilibeth Espiritu** (4th and 5th from left) renew their vows prior to the Jubilee at the chapel in the Formation House, Balugo, Philippines.



Below: **Sisters Remy Natonton** and Regional Coordinator, **Gina Yabo**, pose at the reception banquet held at the College of St. Catherine of Alexandria (COSCA), Dumaguete City, Philippines



Sisters of Mount Carmel gathered for the 50th Jubilee of the founding of the mission in the Philippines, Dumaguete City.



Left: The Formation Community in Balugo poses with some of the SMCCS faculty. Thirty-two members of the faculty, staff, and maintenance personnel attended the jubilee celebration in Balugo, enjoying a series of events which included retreat days, visiting schools in the area, and sightseeing.

Right: At the Jubilee liturgy held at St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral in Dumaguete, **Sister Andree** poses with (left to right) **Riza Daaco** of SMCCS, **Sisters Lizeth Gomez Archaga** and **Marion Feeney** of the Sisters of Providence of La Pommeraye, our sister congregation of France with whom we share connecting history.

## Jubilarians of 2012



**Sister Hilary Hernandez, O. Carm.** celebrates 70 years of vowed life. Sister was born in White Castle, LA and is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 7 children born to the late Robert Hernandez and Marie Foret. She entered Carmel in 1940 and professed first vows in 1942. Sister Hilary received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Loyola University in 1963. Sister Hilary taught at schools in Abbeville, Carencro, Lafayette, New Orleans and Rayne. She was principal at St. Joseph the Worker, Marrero, LA and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Westwego, LA. She has also served as Novitiate superior, Motherhouse superior and treasurer, Congregation maintenance manager and ministered to the people of St. Dominic parish, New Orleans, from 1983-2001. Sister Hilary currently resides at St. Leo Convent, Lafayette.

Celebrating her 60th jubilee, **Sister Catherine Martin, O. Carm.** was born in Lafayette and is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 5 children of the late Albert Anthony Martin and Mattie Mary LeBlanc. She entered Carmel in 1949 and professed first vows in 1952. Sister Catherine received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Loyola, New Orleans, LA. Sister taught at elementary schools in New Orleans, Lafayette, Marrero, Rayne and Westwego. She also taught art and prayer for over 20 years to adults in Lacombe and beyond, and to children in summer programs in Lacombe. She served the Congregation as affiliate directress, temporary professed directress, vocation co-directress, was a council member from 1989 to 1997 and Assistant to the President from 1993-1997. Sister Catherine currently resides in Lafayette where she continues her art ministry and is mission effectiveness representative at St. Joseph the Worker, Marrero.



**Sister Margaret Safford, O. Carm.** who celebrates 60 years in religious life was born Hilda Margaret in Baton Rouge, LA, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 children born to the late James Clarence Safford and Hilda Levert. She entered Carmel in 1949 and professed first vows in 1952. Sister received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Loyola University, New Orleans, a Masters' in Education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO and a masters' degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago, IL. Sister Margaret has been active in elementary and secondary schools for over 25 years and served as principal at Vermilion Catholic High School, Abbeville. From 1977-1981 she was Assistant to the Superior General of the Congregation and from 1985-1993 was President of the Congregation. She was also house manager, teacher, and spiritual director

at Blessing Place for 14 years. Sister Margaret currently resides at the Carmelite Spirituality Center, Lacombe, where she is a member of the support staff.

**Sister Barbara Breaud, O. Carm.** was born in New Orleans, LA and is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 children of the late Elvin Stevenson Breaud and Mary Theresa Wetta. She entered Carmel in 1959 and professed first vows in 1962. Sister Barbara attended St. James Major and Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Loyola University, New Orleans, a Master of Arts degree in Religion and Personality from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA and a Master of Science in Mathematics from Notre Dame du Lac, Notre Dame, IN. Sister Barbara taught religion, mathematics and science. She served as director of Blessing Place, Lacombe for fourteen years, coordinator of direct services and adult education in the St. Thomas Housing Project at Hope House in New Orleans and as Executive Councilor and Assistant to the President of the Congregation. Sister has spent many years teaching spirituality to adults, giving retreats and days of recollection and offering spiritual direction as well as serving as Director of Initial and On-Going Formation for the Congregation. Sister Barbara currently resides in Lacombe and is Executive Director of the Carmelite Spirituality Center. Sister celebrated 50 years of vowed life.



*continued on page 14*

## *Jubilarians of 2012 continued from p.13*



**Sister Josephine Deveras, O. Carm.** was born in Imus, Cavite, Philippines is the 7<sup>th</sup> of 9 children of the late Antero R. Deveras and Antonia Luna. She entered Carmel in 1960 and professed first vows in 1962. In Quezon City, Philippines sister attended St. Joseph's College where she received a Liberal Arts Degree in English. She received a Master's degree in Religious Education from Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans. Sister's past ministries includes business administrator at Holy Child Hospital, Dumaguete City, Philippines, teaching at Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans and Cathedral Carmel, Lafayette, and retreat ministry in Louisiana and the Philippines. Sister Josephine currently resides at Our Lady of Wisdom, New Orleans and ministers to members of the Philippine community in the greater New Orleans area. Sister celebrates 50 years of vowed life.

**Sister Therese Gregoire, O. Carm.** was born in Lowell, MA and is the oldest of 3 children born to the late Lionel Gustave Gregoire and the late Gertrude C. Houle. Sister began her religious life as a member of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa entering in 1960 and making first vows in 1962. She transferred vows to the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1982. Sister Therese attended Lowell State College where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a minor in Mathematics, and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux for computer education. She taught in grades 1 through 12, in schools in Lowell and Haverhill, Mass and Ogdensburg, NY and well as in Louisiana schools in Abbeville, Kaplan, and New Iberia. She left teaching in 1998 when she was asked to assume the dual positions of Congregation Treasurer and Congregation Archivist, positions she continues to fill. Sister Therese currently resides at the Motherhouse in New Orleans. She has been a religious for 50 years.



**Sister Maryphilip Surban, O. Carm.** who also celebrates 50 years of religious life, was born in Calolbon, Catanduanes, Philippines, is the daughter of the late Andres B. Surban and Carmen Soner. She has two sisters and seven brothers. She entered Carmel in 1960 and professed first vows in 1962. Sister Maryphilip is a graduate of San Juan de Dios Hospital School of Nursing and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Cebu Velez College of Nursing. Sister Maryphilip has worked as infirmiry nurse at the Sisters of Mount Carmel Motherhouse, New Orleans and in the healthcare ministry in Thibodaux and New Orleans and Mount Carmel Mobile Clinic and Holy Child Hospital Dumaguete City, which is a ministry of the Sisters of Mount Carmel. She has also served as Philippine Regional Coordinator, postulant directress, formation team member. Sister currently lives at the Formation House, Balugo, Dumaguete, Philippines where she is Canonical Novice Formator and Coordinator of the Novitiate House.

Celebrating 25 years of religious life, **Sister Kathy Farrelly, O. Carm.** was born in New Orleans, LA and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 children of the late John Harold Farrelly and June Rose Boyer. She entered Carmel in 1984 and professed first vows in 1987. Sister Kathy received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Business from University of New Orleans, a master's degree in Social Work from Southern University, New Orleans and is certified in spiritual direction and retreat work from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Sister has served as social worker at St. Bernard Elementary, Cathedral Carmel Elementary, Lafayette, where she was religion administrator, and Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans, where she also taught freshman religion. Sister Kathy currently resides in Lafayette and ministers in counseling and spiritual direction, is the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Lafayette, an independent social worker for the Office of Community Services, Lafayette Parish and is part time Vocation Director for the congregation.



*...There was a tiny whispering sound.*

1 Kings 19:12

Just recently I had the honor and privilege of celebrating my 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee – 25 years as a professed sister. I use the words “honor” and “privilege” because it was so very humbling to experience the gift of God’s love through the presence of the many people that came to share with me the renewal of my vows as a Sister of Mount Carmel. As I prepared for my celebrations, it was such a grace filled time for me. As I reflected on the many ways that God has spoken to me in the tiny whispering sound of love, the love God showers me with through my personal experience with God and through the many ways others have loved me, enabling me to continue to grow into the best person that God has created me to be.

We have the tendency to complicate our lives in ways we try to hear God, to experience God and seek to discover what God is asking us to do each morning when we awaken. But in reality, it is very simple. God is asking us to love, especially the ones that can challenge us. I know that on some mornings I don’t feel so loving, but if I just allow myself to be still and ask God to whisper that love into my heart, my whole being changes. I can better see in a whole new way. I am loved and therefore I can give love.



*Sister Kathy, 2nd from right, celebrating her Jubilee with friends in Lafayette in September.*

We can also complicate the way we show this love to others. It isn’t about what we buy for someone or the many things we do for someone. It is about the way we show respect to others, that enables them to feel that they are special. Our actions need to allow others to feel their own dignity and integrity. All of the above can be expressed through a warm smile and a friendly hello. Again, our actions are expressing love, a love that comes from hearing the tiny whispering sound of God’s voice. I truly believe that when we look at one another the way God looks at us and act with God’s love, our world will be such a loving and gentle place to live.

Sometimes it is hard for me to believe that I have just celebrated 25 years as a professed sister of Mount Carmel. I am not quite sure where the time has gone. However, I do know that I am a better person because of you. You have truly reflected God’s love to me through your gentle ways. It has truly been a privilege and an honor to walk with you, no matter how long or short the journey has been. I am a better person because of you, for which I am truly grateful. Hopefully, along our journey, I too, have reflected God’s love to you.

*Sister Kathy Farrelly, O. Carm. ministers in counseling and spiritual direction, is the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Lafayette and a social worker for the Office of Community Services, Lafayette, LA. Sister also serves as vocations co-director of the congregation.*

# CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

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The **Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel** is a community whose prophetic call moves the sisters to be in active ministries that help bring about a more peaceful, just and loving world. They are nourished by contemplative prayer, community and devotion to Mary, a woman of simplicity and faith.

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## Share the vision; be a *Contemplative in Action*

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