

The Restorers of Mount Carmel in Maryland, Inc.

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Website www.restorersmtcarmelmd.org

March, 2004



*The original Carmel
1933*

Chaplain

Rev. Edward J. O'Connell,
S.J.

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*The Restored Carmel
1976*

President's Message

Gerry Brosco



Dear Members,

I hope that each of you is well and looking forward to Spring when the beauty of God's crea-

tion will be shown to us once again.

I want to thank Father Ed O'Connell, S.J. on behalf of all of us, for accepting the position of Chaplain for our organization. The Jesuits have been a significant part of the history of Southern Maryland and that of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery and so we are blessed to have Father continue to be a part of this historic site.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your annual dues bill. Because your dues are important to the operation of our organization I ask that you pay it as soon as possible.

In the coming months some major changes will be made to our organization. The first is the restructuring of the annual dues. A single membership of \$20.00 is planned. Existing perpetual memberships will continue to be honored. The three types of voluntary donation will be retained. Following is an explanation of their purpose.

Types of Donations

Memorial Fund — a donation, in an amount of your choosing, in memory of a deceased or living family member or friend, whether member or not, places their name on a prayer list which entitles them to share in the daily Mass and prayers of the nuns of Carmel of Port Tobacco for one year. Please remember that we don't pay someone to pray for us—this is just

Chaplain's Message

Father Ed O'Connell, S. J.



My Dear Men and Women,

Advent was considered a penitential preparation for Christmas and purple vestments seemed appropriate. But Advent is also a time for joy, anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. God is already in our midst, e.g., in opportunities for grace in serving others. This is what the prophet Zephaniah claims. He is speaking to a people who were enduring war, destruction, and becoming refugees. In the face of this, the prophet says "Shout for joy." With God in their midst, they have nothing more to fear. He cares about us.

Unfortunately, our world is not very different from theirs. With war, destruction, and families losing their homes, our hopes have been dashed. We are probably as skeptical of peace in the Near East today, yet Paul calls us to rejoice because the Lord is always near his people to help.

What can we do to help? John the Baptist doesn't ask us to join him in the desert for penance, but he calls us to fidelity in the circumstances of our lives. If you have much, share with those who are in need. Be honest. Don't take advantage of the vulnerable. Parents, watch over your children. Spouses, be faithful. Neighbors, live in peace. And we might add, children, stop complaining and pitch in and help.

We sometimes wonder if the world's sorry state is not when poorer nations perceive the richer as arrogant. Nations less fortunate are sometimes overlooked.

Resentment turns to hatred and hatred breeds violence. But, this does not have to be. It is up to us to turn to God and trust in his ways and in his promises made to us. God is in our midst helping and encouraging. So Rejoice! A better world will come.

another way for all of us to help the nuns financially.

Equal Share of Insurance—helps to pay the property insurance for the entire monastery. The current annual premium is \$4,998.00. Our membership is currently 198 members so the suggested equal share is \$25.00 but any amount that you wish to donate will be very much appreciated.

Restoration Fund—This fund supports the maintenance of the two historic buildings and the grounds around them for normal “wear and tear” i.e., painting, termite control, mowing the grass, etc. Damage to the buildings by storm, etc. is covered by the property insurance.

As you can see there are many ways each of us can contribute to the financial assistance of the 15 nuns of Carmel of Port Tobacco. The decision is yours and we sincerely thank you for your continued generosity over the years.

Be assured that your dues and donations are properly used for their designated purpose. We are also very prudent with operational expenditures. For example, if you look closely at your envelope you will notice it is recycled. The printing of the newsletter, the dues bills and the envelope address labels are done at no cost, by myself. We have no control over the cost of postage and, as you well know, it is very expensive.

In order to avoid having our mail returned because of an incorrect mailing address, please e-mail me at gerricho@aol.com or write to Peggy Goldsmith, membership director, at her address which you'll find in her article on page 3 should you relocate or for any other reason.

The Support Historic Mount Carmel Fund, has been designated, at the nun's request, as the source from which the property insurance for the entire monastery will be paid, has a current balance of \$28,087.57. This has been accumulated, with careful management, over the years from 1997 from various activities and has guaranteed the payment of the property insurance for the nuns for at least the next 5 1/2 years.

Our web site is being revised and it is also being expanded. You can access it by using the following web site address: www.restorersmtcarmelmd.org Your comments about the site will be very much appreciated. You can make your comments easily by clicking on the “sign in” check mark on the Guest Icon found on the lower left side of the first page you see when you access the site. Then just follow the instructions.

May God bless all of you for your continued generosity and loyalty for helping the nuns.

Gerry Brosco

TREASURER'S REPORT



Happy New Year to all of you! It will be exciting to watch and participate as 2004 continues to unfold. With the coming of Spring, we are looking forward to a time of growth and improvements. I'm hoping that you have had a chance to view the Restorer's Web site which Gerry Brosco has been diligently working on to update and to keep members informed and connected!

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank all our members for their faithful support of our dear Carmelite Nuns. We are delighted to report that we have been able to maintain our modest balance despite the fact that the entire nation has been suffering from rising unemployment. It is without a doubt that many of you have continued to give sacrificially and I know the Nuns join us with gratitude for each individual member.

General Fund

Activities for August 2003 through 12 March 2004

*July 31, 2003 Balance.....	\$3,162.45
*Income.....	<u>1,665.00</u>
*Subtotal.....	.8,531.16
*Expenditures.....	<u>1,095.29</u>
*July 31, 2003 Balance.....	<u>\$3,732.16</u>

The income breakdown is as follows:

*Dues.....	\$ 955.00
*Donations to Insurance Account.....	10.00
*Donations to Memorial Fund.....	10.00
*Donations to Restoration Fund.....	30.00
*Profit from Bus Tours.....	<u>660.00</u>
*Total Income.....	<u>\$1,665.00</u>

Expenditures:

*Transfer to Historic Fund.....	\$750.00
*Postage & Pilgrimage Supplies.....	148.37
*Maintenance (Chair protective tips)	106.92
*Chaplain Stipend.....	<u>100.00</u>
*Total Expenditures.....	<u>\$1,095.29</u>

Your ongoing and generous donations help to keep the Carmelite Nuns in Port Tobacco, Maryland—ensuring that there will be funds available when the insurance bill arrives. We have the greatest of confidence that the insurance needs will be met through your loving response.

During this Lenten season, we reflect on the life of Jesus and His loving sacrifice for us. We pray that this will also be a time of spiritual growth and healing for our nation. Please keep us and the Carmelite Nuns in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

Jane Kemp



MEMBERSHIP

Our website continues to bring in new members from different parts of the country, the newest being from Flushing, New York.

At our Board of Directors meeting in April, it was voted to have only two categories of membership: Annual at \$20.00 and Perpetual at \$200.00.

It's dues renewal time. . . don't let your membership lapse. We need your support to continue our work with the Carmelite Nuns.

Let's increase our membership in the new year. Encourage your friends and relatives to join. Thanks for your support.

EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER!!

Peggy Goldsmith

Memorial Fund



Several years ago, in partnership with our friends, the nuns of Carmel of Port Tobacco, the Memorial Fund was initiated as a way to remember, in prayer, our loved ones both living and deceased, because of our belief in the miraculous power of prayer. Jesus asked us to "pray without ceasing" Thessalonians 5:17 and said "...whatever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22.

Having recently lost my own father, I know how difficult the feeling of loss is! One of the most comforting things was the fact that the nuns of Carmel of Port Tobacco were praying for him and for our whole family in our time of grief.

We have the Memorial Fund and this is the nicest way to have the nuns pray for your loved ones too. At this time of the year especially, this is an appropriate way to remember our loved ones and with a donation of your choice we can provide financial assistance to the nuns also. Please visit our web site at www.restorersmtcarmelmd.org, click on Memorial Fund and follow the instructions or contact me via my e-mail address, Annecladdagh, to have your loved one(s) remembered in daily prayer throughout the year by the nuns.

Thank you for doing so and may God Bless you.

Anne