



### OFFICERS

President: Dan Bowes  
 Vice President: Jay Lilly  
 Treasurer: Jane Kemp  
 Secretary: Trish Lane  
 Chaplain: TBD

### DIRECTORS

Suzanne Carr  
 Beth Hungerford  
 Ruth Runyan  
 Mary Brooke Fitzpatrick  
 Bob Price

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

SPIRITUALITY: Suzanne Carr  
 FINANCE: Beth Hungerford  
 HOSPITALITY: Ruth Runyan  
 MAINTENANCE: John Coleman  
 HISTORIAN: Mary Beth Chandler

### THE ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the Restorers of Mount Carmel is to sponsor religious, charitable and education activities. We provide a yearly Retreat; assist in maintaining the two original historic buildings on the property; fund the insurance for the Monastery; and assist with tour groups and other activities as needed by the community and the Carmelite Sisters.

[www.RestorersMtCarmelMD.org](http://www.RestorersMtCarmelMD.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Restorers and Friends,

I hope everyone had great Christmas and Easter seasons and that you are off to a prosperous 2017.

Well, Spring is in the air and that means the annual fundraiser, the Night at the Races and Italian Dinner is not far away. The date is June 3, 2017, so mark your calendar to attend. If you will not be able to, please send a tax-deductible donation to the Restorers of Mt. Carmel to aid in our commitment to pay the insurance coverage on this nationally historic property. This year alone we will need \$11,000 to handle this expense. Please be generous with your support. More attention will be paid to this fundraiser elsewhere in the newsletter.

While we mourn the passing of some of the newest saints, we hope that they, and you, will continue to pray that new members will be added to our organization. Among our most recent supporters in heaven are Miriam Matthews Cappers, Joanne MacGregor, Mary Ellen Starkey, Margaret Price, Bob Vacin, Peggy Posey Stone and Deirdre Murphy. Hopefully they will continue to work for the Restorers upstairs.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Peggy Goldsmith for all her years of dedication to the Restorers and particularly for her impeccable recordation of our minutes as Secretary. I also am pleased that Jay Lilly has agreed to be our new Vice President and that Trish Lane is our new Secretary.

Before closing, I want to seek your help with a personal goal of mine. First a little background information. Typically Masses are celebrated on Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 A.M. and Monday through Friday at 7:15 A.M. If you are not aware, twelve Masses are offered specifically at Mt. Carmel annually for the intentions of both the living and deceased members of the Restorers. While some people might assume that as a monastery these masses would not be open to the general public, that is not the case. What could be more inspirational than to offer a remembrance of the Last Supper under the same roof as the Carmelite Nuns? Many a priest who has said Mass at Mt. Carmel has recognized such an experience. But there is more.

Variety is the spice of life. A minimum of three different priests leads the celebration each week. There are times when a visiting Carmelite or another traveling priest will officiate. Sometimes we are blessed by a Bishop or even a Cardinal. I do not think a pope has been here, but there are rumors. Do people have a favorite priest? Is Mt. Carmel boring? What a place to celebrate! But let me reflect. A few years ago when I started attending daily Mass at the monastery, the number of people in the lay congregation might be six or eight at the most. Part of that original group now sings in the heavenly choir. A few still join us on the hill daily. But there has been a significant change. Our daily Mass group who I call family, and not counting the nuns, is approaching thirty in number. What can I do to increase that attendance?

During Holy Week I fell twice and experienced severe pain. The Man on the Cross fell three times and still went to work to save mankind. I have received some motivational words from our Mt. Carmel clergy that I will pass on to you. Fr. Gill's request, "God, what can I do for You today?" Fr. Plummer's pronouncement, "The Mass is the most beautiful and perfect prayer." Not to be outdone and from the pulpit, Fr. Swink, "It would be nice for all retired people to attend daily Mass."

My personal goal for 2017 is to see at least fifty people attend daily Mass at Mt. Carmel.

May God bless you all real good!!

Dan Bowes

## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jordan J. Burick  
 Neal Collins  
 Robert C. Cvetic  
 Catherine A. Fairlie

Clare Jenkins  
 Jeff & Trish Lane  
 Marian J. Proctor  
 Stephen Spadafora

# Winter and Spring News

## OUR ANNUAL DAY OF RETREAT

For the past 12 years, we have sponsored a retreat for our members generally in the Springtime. This year we will be having our retreat in the fall. Please watch your email for further details.

*Suzanne Carr, Retreat Chairman*



## YOUR CONTRIBUTION COUNTS

It is with joy that together for another year, we have been faithful in helping our beloved Carmelites meet their annual insurance obligation. It is a formidable mission and through your united generosity, the sisters are able to pray, work, and live in the security of knowing their home will shelter and keep them for now and hopefully far into the future.

Currently the 2017 Membership Dues received covers approximately 12% of the 2017 insurance liability. Many members knowing the Sisters' needs have lovingly and generously added supplementary donations adding up to an additional 12%! We are blessed through your prayers, membership, and involvement in our other fund raising endeavors, especially the Italian Dinner and Night at the Races Event, which covers approximately 66% of the annual insurance cost. With the gifts and funds received from your support and participation in the Spiritual Mini Retreat and memorial remembrances, the remaining 10% of the responsibility is covered for this year.



**A LOOK**  
*at the*  
**BUDGET**

We are indebted to all our members and the Holy Provision that God has willed to Carmel of Port Tobacco to be used and dedicated for this great mission. May you and your families be abundantly blessed as you draw closer to God Who desires all His obedient and precious children to know His heart.

*Jane Kemp, Treasurer*

## GOING GREEN!!

We continue to add and update email addresses to our directory and hope to soon be keeping you abreast of our activities via email.

If you have not already done so, please forward your email address to our secretary, Trish Lane, at [trishlanemusic@yahoo.com](mailto:trishlanemusic@yahoo.com).

*Mary Beth Chandler, Communications*



## Winter and Spring News

### THE HORSES ARE AT THE STARTING GATE...PLACE YOUR BETS NOW!!



On Saturday, June 3, 2017, the annual Night at the Races and Italian Dinner will be held in the Friendship Room, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 201 St. Mary's Ave, La Plata, MD. Doors open at 5:30pm; buffet Italian Dinner will be 6:00-7:30pm; and the races are 7:00-10:00pm. \$20.00 Admission includes dinner and races. Gourmet Italian Buffet dinner includes a variety of taste-tempting entrees along with Caesar Salad, Fresh-baked Garlic Bread, Coffee, Tea, 'to die for' Desserts and 'racing' snacks. A cash bar is available for beer, wine, and softer drinks. Dinner is \$20 per person and to buy a horse is \$20. You name the horse, select the race and post position and you jockey the horse.

To buy a horse or make a dinner reservation, please call Sharon Vaughan, 301-934-2983 or Dan Bowes, 301-934-2451. Please complete the reservation form on the enclosed flyer and mail to Sharon Vaughan, 1348 Redwood Circle, La Plata, MD 20646.

*Ruth Runyan, Hospitality Chair*

### IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of seven of our members during the past year. Miriam Matthews Cappers, Mary Ellen Starkey, Peggy Posey Stone, Deidre Murphy, Joanne McGregor, Margaret Price and Bob Vacin. Miriam, Mary Ellen, Peggy and Margaret were dedicated to the preservation of the Old Monastery Building and assisted with the many historic pilgrimages, and they were great supporters of the sisters upon their return to Mt. Carmel in 1976. Deidre, with her husband, was a mainstay for the sisters providing transportation, furniture, household goods and eventually the purchase of a van for them. Joanne chaired many Christmas Holiday events raising several thousand dollars for the improvements of Pilgrim Hall. Bob was the voice of our annual horse racing event.

They all shared a special bond with the sisters and will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and we continue to pray for them. They were truly part of the backbone of the restorers for decades.

### PRESERVATION FUND CAMPAIGN NEWS

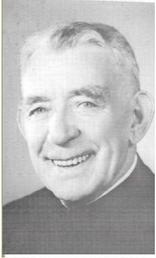
The investment of our Preservation Funds with American Fund has done well this year. We continue to receive donations to the fund periodically. If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the Restorers of Mt. Carmel Preservation Fund, P.O. Box 1975, La Plata, MD 20646. The historic "Old Monastery" Building will need some refreshing in the near future. Contact Mary Beth Chandler at [MBC900@comcast.net](mailto:MBC900@comcast.net) for any questions or assistance.

*Mary Beth Chandler & Suzanne Carr - Co-Chairs*

IN MEMORIAM

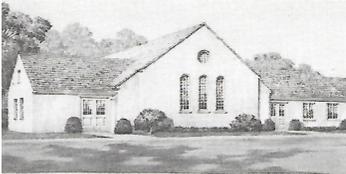


## “THE OLD MONASTERY” BETWEEN THE DASH 1933-1976



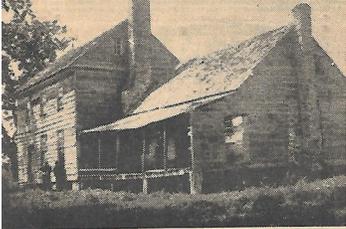
Did you ever wonder what took place at “The Old Monastery” after the restoration in 1936 and prior to the return of the nuns to Mount Carmel in 1976? What kept the Restorers motivated to continue to protect and preserve this sacred ground that was home to the first order of religious women in America?

We know that when the 20+ nuns were transferred from Mt. Carmel to Baltimore in 1830 because of poor living conditions, the property was sold to the Sanders family and tenants occupied the buildings for several decades. Fast forward 100 years and what remained of “Monastery Hill” were two small buildings (thought to be the infirmary and kitchen) that had been connected, the Chapel foundation and ruins of the priest cottage.



PILGRIM HALL  
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL  
CHARLES COUNTY MARYLAND  
EDWARD J. LOONEY, AIA, ARCHITECT  
PHILIP FROHMAN, FROHMAN, PALL, GARDINER ARCHITECTS

It was in 1933 that the dream of restoring the “Old Monastery” was conceived by Mrs. Cecilia Hamilton Talbott and her daughter Isabelle Hagerty. This would become their lifework and they drew together the resources necessary for “The Carmel Project.” Negotiations began with the Sanders family for the purchase of six plus acres of land with a right-of-way from the county road. The contract for the property purchase was drawn up by a local attorney, Mr. James Matthews of La Plata. Mr. Matthews, was a lineal descendant of Mother Bernardina (Ann Matthews), Sister Mary Aloysia (Ann Teresa Matthews) and Sister Mary Elanora (Susanna Matthews) three of the original nuns from Charles County who had returned to Maryland from Belgium in 1790 to found the Monastery.



In 1935, Mr. Phillip Frohman, designer of the Washington Episcopal Cathedral, was persuaded to do the restoration, and the “Restorers of Mount Carmel of Maryland” organization was established.

The restoration was completed in 1936 and the first Mass was celebrated. The following year, a crucifix was added to the grounds. In 1940, three hundred pilgrims attended the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the arrival of the nuns to America.

Above, the Carmel in 1936.

In 1949, the outdoor Stations of the Cross, which remain on the property today, were erected and the Restorers continued to sponsor three pilgrimages yearly. They worked diligently to keep the dream alive of the Carmelite nuns returning to the property.

In 1954, the growing number of pilgrims inspired the building of a chapel. This was designed by Mr. Frohman and built of Maryland Rose brick near the site of the original chapel.

There were many chapters of the Restorers throughout these years that contributed to the effort of keeping this historic religious site viable. The Boston Chapter donated the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel that is above the Chapel doors. There were also a St. Mary’s County, A Bel Alton-La Plata and a New York Chapter.



In 1955, the original well was destroyed during hurricane Hazel, so for ten years water was brought to “The Hill” from Bel Alton by Brother William Carley, S.J. for the pilgrimages. Brother Carley resided at St. Ignatius Chapel Point in the Manor House. He oversaw the property and many of the events that took place at Mt. Carmel. In 1962 a new artesian well was drilled which served the Monastery until recently. In

1968, the Restorers undertook a major project to build what would be known as “Pilgrim Hall.” It would be used for luncheons, bazaars and conferences. Once again, Mr. Frohman was consulted for the design. Mr. Edward L. Middleton oversaw the construction and many local contractors donated time and energy to the project.



In 1973, through the efforts of Mrs. Margaret Brown Klaptor, Curator in Early American History at the Smithsonian, Mt. Carmel was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

And so, it was on March 19, 1976, the Feast of St. Joseph, through the efforts of Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, and the Restorers of Mt. Carmel, that the nuns returned to this hallowed ground. They were greeted by Mr. F. Brooke Matthews and his three sisters, Mary Clare, Laura and Miriam Matthews Cappers, completing the circle of their family lineage and opening a new door in God’s plan.



Today, we, the Restorers of Mt. Carmel, continue to work ‘hand in glove’ with Our Lady of Mount Carmel to aid the nuns in the preservation of “Monastery Hill.” It is a marriage made in Heaven!

