



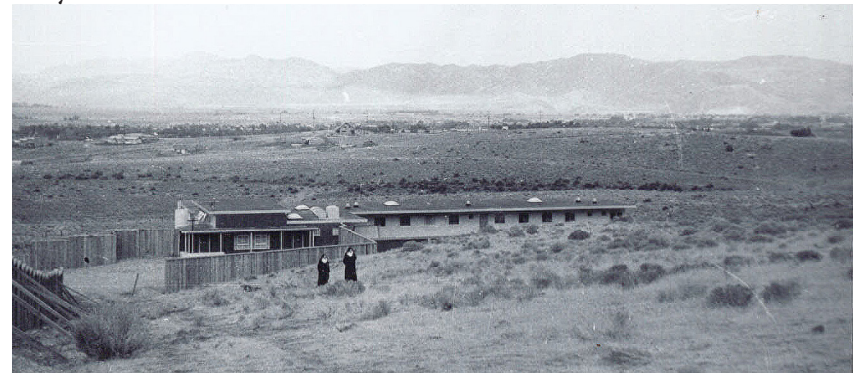
FRIENDS OF CARMEL 2019 THE SISTERS AND SEASONS OF RENO



WHERE THE DESERT
MEETS THE MOUNTAINS



Our monastery nestles in the southwest hills of Reno, where the Desert meets the Mountains, and has solidly occupied its place for the past sixty years. The great western sky adds scale as the building blends into the sage and sequoias. Its form in relation to its surroundings is familiar to all who pass by or receive our brochure. Driving up La Fond hill, many have been reassured by the quiet presence that shelters the contemplative life within. The basic plan took form in the concrete blocks, which rose from the desert hills, and the basic plan continues to define the visible structure we see today.





Carmel is a place apart and, at the same time, closely involved in the culture of the second millennium. The life within is overwhelming in its simplicity, based on the Primitive Rule of Mt. Carmel, re-interpreted in the light of daily life in Nevada and the world of today and tomorrow. It is a life of prayer, a pilgrimage, harmonizing the points of the Rule. Between fidelity to prayer in quiet and a commitment to the building of community in Christ, there flows a current of mutual creation and dependence that goes to make up the life-style of our Carmel.

As with all human communities there

is always the skillful balance of autonomy and accountability and there are also the responsibilities of working and living in interdependence and incorporating new insights. Together in community we share our lives, and together in silence we share our solitude. We share our lives with one another, and in the spontaneous service of contemplation, we open our hearts and Chapel to the local and broader community of the People of God, in liturgy and common prayer. On this common pilgrimage with them, we find a meeting place where many lives and pathways cross in mutual enrichment. The more we share, the more we see the communality of our goals and aspirations. The more we see the communality, the more we aspire to create authentic community.

Through this intersecting journey our Carmelite spirituality has grown and been transformed with the realities of this time and place. The Sisters who brought Carmel to Nevada had a vision, which opened and flourished in the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council. This vision was passed on to us as a way of life with the potential to be faithful to our roots and at the same time to deepen a faith that is open to the Spirit today.



top: : Marie+1955 Joan +1970 Joan A.+1983 Anne+1997 Jean+ 2004
 bottom:: Marie-Celeste+2005 Pat +2007 Laureen+ 2010 Rose + 2012 Joan +2017

To the casual observer, Reno might seem a most unlikely place to nurture a contemplative monastery. Reno's tourist orientation invites gambling but the city of Reno also supports its own Philharmonic Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, an Opera company, a University, a Medical School and a National Judicial College (where newly minted Judges come to learn how to be Judges.)



When we arrived in the Diocese there were over 50 Sisters representing 5 Religious Orders. There were convents of Teaching Sisters, Hospital Sisters, Catechetical Sisters, Social Service Sisters...now we are the only Convent left in Northern Nevada ... and we look on this situation as a sacred trust to preserve a continuous, visible presence of Religious life in this far-flung diocese, which reaches from the Great Salt Lake Desert to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

This past year, with this "sacred trust" in mind, we have continued to discern together:

How does our community continue
creating itself now and in the future?

Who are the prophets of today and what are they saying to us?

How do we invite others to share our life?
How do we bring the fruit of contemplative life
into the lives of others?

As we are in the midst of a paradigm shift
how do we redefine traditional concepts
and translate them into a new reality?

What bridges do we need to build to implement our vision?

As we share these thoughts with one another and with our extended community, we keep in mind the words of Pope St. John Paul II:

"You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things."

(APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, Vita Consecrata)

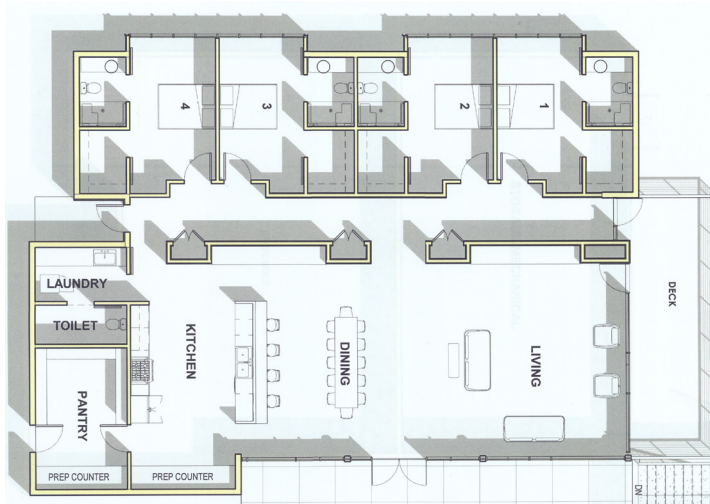
History comes to us as dates and places and events. History also comes to us in the lives and stories of the people who lived the dates and places and events. We are grateful to the Carmelites of the past for the rich tradition that has brought us the structures of our lives and the marvelous rhythms that mark the seasons: fruit of the experience of countless generations. We are grateful for this gift, which implies that we live that tradition today and make it our own. Our rootedness in the 800-year history of the Carmelite Order gave us a strong identity and this has given us the courage to try new things. We sensed that our roots were too deep to be pulled up by the process of experimentation. The present testifies to the rightness of our decision. As the stories are retold in our lives, the tradition lives on, develops, and understanding grows. As understanding grows, the life and prayer of those who have gone before us become a living and dynamic reality of Carmelite life in our own day and place.

Guided by our communal reflections on this past history and assessing our present reality, which is rapidly becoming our future, we have made the commitment to remain on this property and continue our mission of the contemplative life and to construct a

Guest House. For the near future, this facility will help us in extending our ability to welcome persons interested in sharing our contemplative life and in the future can serve as a dwelling for the Sisters if our numbers become few and the present Monastery too big. This project can both broaden our outreach to the Reno Community as a place of Spirituality and Prayer and at the same time assure our continued residence on La Fond Drive.



VanWoertBig



“May your lived experience, the little and the great things, that happen on your human journey express something that has concrete meaning for the modern world. May your communities be places of authentic human and spiritual growth, radiant with the truth and beauty that is experienced within them” ...from the words of our Father General Saverio Cannistra

SO.... as we diligently envision our future we also celebrate the events of day-to-day living... and the significant milestones in our community’s history. This year of 2019 marked the Golden Jubilee of Rosemary’s life in Carmel and the Sixty Years of consecrated religious life of Ann and Susan.



circa: 1994 Rosey Susan Ann

In April, we joined with Rosemary’s Family and friends to celebrate her Fifty Year Journey of faith and commitment in Carmel. In her company, we have truly been blessed by that “authentic human and spiritual growth, radiant with truth and beauty” which has been the presence of Rosemary among us through the decades.



Rosey with her family at Pyramid Lake April 2019

In a National meeting, which took place in April 2017, Fr. Saverio noted for the assembled sisters:

“The present reality of the Order that reflects the present reality of the universal Church makes it very clear to see: it is not time to remain isolated; it is not time to walk alone. It is time to walk together!”

Throughout the fifty-year history of our National Association (CCA), we have consistently strengthened our connections with communities in the United States. In recent years, we have extended our outreach to include several communities in Europe. Sisters



from various Associations abroad have enthusiastically responded and have taken part as guests in our Bi-Annual Association Assemblies and while in the United States we welcomed these Sisters to Reno. Travelling to Scotland, France and Germany, Ann and Susan took the opportunity of their jubilee year to return those visits and deepen our bonds of friendship.

top left : Scotland /Jenny -top right: Ann and Susan
bottom left: Germany /Ann and Susan/ mid right: France /Christine
bottom right: Germany/ Johanna and Teresa Benedicta

*How do we invite others to share our life?
How do we bring the fruit of contemplative life into the lives of others?*

This past year these are some of the events shared with the people who gravitate to the monastery's spirituality...how we are inviting others to share our life.

SHARING OUR PRAYER



SHARING OUR LECTURES

Dr. Elaine Park has a License in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and a Doctorate in Biblical Theology from the Gregorian University, also in Rome. In preparation for the celebration of Pentecost she spoke in our chapel on May 25th...

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came like the rush of a mighty wind, and appeared to the community in tongues as if of fire. What did that mean to the believers gathered in the upper room, and what does it mean to us today?



SHARING THE ARTS



The Bella Voce group spends a day at the monastery practicing their repertoire. This group has been singing for over 30 years and is known for excellent vocal technique, beautiful sound, and high quality performances of both classical and contemporary music.

Based in Reno, the performers of Bella Voce come from a variety of professions, musical training, and musical backgrounds.

In viewing the reality of the community involvement, which characterizes the Carmel of Reno, we are aware of the expanding boundaries of our contemplative life. The view from our chapel, which embraces the city of Reno and the distant mountains, is a constant reminder that the Holy Spirit beckons us beyond our borders. The circle of our community has led to larger circles, which in turn have become an essential part of who we are. The intersection of our lives with our extended community expands our capacity to hold all peoples in our hearts...“we are not our own, we are God’s community.”

We thank you for your presence in our lives and your support which makes our contemplative life possible in this time and place...enabling us towards the vision laid out by Pope John Paul II: *“participating in humanity’s joys and hopes, anguish and sadness and to be, at the same time, contemplatives in love with God.”*

CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

