



 Carmelite Monastery
1950 La Fond Dr.



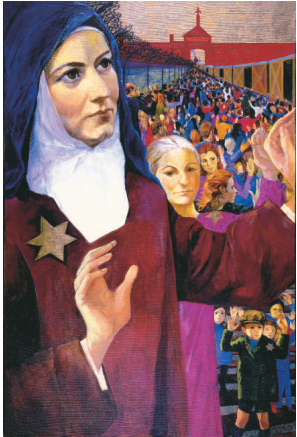
FRIENDS OF CARMEL 2021
THE SISTERS AND SEASONS OF RENO CARMEL



The journey began on a train ride, a very long train ride from Indiana to Nevada. The Carmelites knew the treasure they carried but, not yet, the blessing of this new and unfamiliar place of deserts and mountains. They carried in their lives a very long heritage of prayer and contemplation. They came in full habit, from total cloister, and steeped in the theology and philosophy of their time. But, with a legacy reaching back to the twelfth century, they also possessed insights, which included the future and which, by their efforts, a monastery, founded in 1954, they carried their heritage into the 21st century with a vision which holds past, present and future as guiding realities.



The Sisters came to Nevada with a monastery template that resembled the 16th century when St. Teresa created the first houses in Spain, but they were open to the era about to be born. The II Vatican Council (October 11, 1962) would take place within eight years, but there were already signs of a changing mentality.



Forward thinking Nuns like Sr. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein) had written in Germany in the 1930's:

“The Church as a dwelling of God in this world, should reflect changes in human thought. Only by accepting each age as it is and treating it according to its singular nature, can the Church bring eternal truth and life to temporality.”

Edith Stein-Died: August 9, 1942, Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Oswiecim, Poland

The Carmel of Reno was founded at a crossroads of change: ...it was the era after World War II - a time of upheaval in the world and profound change in con-

templative communities.

... the Holy Father was urging the convents to seek remunerative work in the aftermath of World War II with its devastation in Europe and its effect on cloistered nuns.

...it was the era when the Scriptural renewal and the findings of contemporary scholars began to be recognized and taught throughout the Church.

...the Liturgical movement was gaining broader acceptance and would culminate in the document Sacrosanctum Concilium.



Our Community 1982

With the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life (Perfectae Caritatis) in 1965, a new era in Religious life and in the Carmelite Order began. The manner of living, praying, and working were to be “suitably adapted everywhere...to the modern physical and psychological circumstances of the members.”

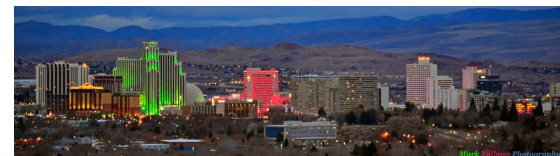
In our own country, forces were being discovered which would change the face of American Society: the civil rights movement, an emerging Feminist spirituality, new dialogues with authority.

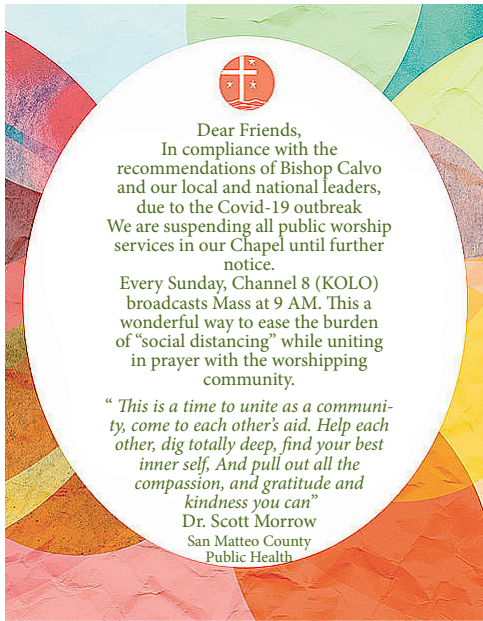
The societal changes took place outside the cloister but also shaped the vision of this new community. Years later, our collegial form of leadership, our printshop, the form of the divine office, our embrace of the principle of unity in diversity, our outreach to the community outside the monastery continue to testify to our place in a unique moment in history. ‘Reflecting changes in human thought and the signs of the times,’ the Sisters set about building bridges to the changed time and found that this perspective didn't intrude



top:Marie+1955 Joan A.+1983 Anne+1997 Jean+ 2004 Marie-Celeste+2005
bottom:: Pat +2007 Lauren+ 2010 Rose + 2012 Joan +2017 +Michael 2020

on the monastic life but rather connected it to reality and extended our conversation with God to the community, which surrounds Carmel in the ‘Biggest Little City.’





With that “ vision which holds past, present and future as guiding realities,” our common experience of the Covid-19 Pandemic strengthened our bonds with our neighborhood, our nation and the world. Together with the global community, we entered uncharted territory and there was no certain path that would lead to the resumption of our former lives. It was soon clear that our life of prayer really embraces a wider perspective than 1950 La Fond Drive. Through “Constant Contact”, Zoom, and Mailings we focused on reaching out to the wider community which looks to our Carmel as their spiritual home. As soon as State

and Diocesan protocols allowed, we initiated the celebration and sharing of our Saturday 4pm Mass. Through scorching Summer days, on into Autumn, our friends, masked and distanced, happily



and Diocesan protocols allowed, we initiated the celebration and sharing of our Saturday 4pm Mass. Through scorching Summer days, on into Autumn, our friends, masked and distanced, happily

gathered until the snow began. It was probably premature when we opened again in Spring as there were some really frosty days in April, but the entire experience was a testament to the ties which bind us to our friends.

Yes, the months were different with recorded and live-streamed Masses - yes, we needed to live the period without receiving Holy Communion. But through it all, the powerful memory of Jesus continued to speak the saving message in our hearts. God’s response to human tribulation is compassion. In Jesus, God comes to take a place beside us with the message: “peace be with you” A byproduct of this enforced separation led us to” live-stream” our Mass so that friends unable to attend might have a virtual presence at our services once the Services had begun again. Through



grants from the EL. Cord Foundation and the Robert G. Hawkins Foundation, we purchased the necessary soft-ware and hardware. The learning process had its ups and downs and our only claim to progress was that: “at least we are not making the same mistake twice”...with all the parts to learn this was not a swift process ... we lost sound but streamed the picture, we lost the picture but the sound was fine... and on and on it went till now, when the live-stream works reasonably well. Our “Saturday Mass at Carmel” can be viewed in real time 4pm PST. To view the live-stream go to:

UTUBE

Go to:

Carmel of Reno



Past celebrations can also be viewed this way. Shortly before Easter, Claire received phone calls from both the Oxford Carmelites and the Carmelite Institute of North America with the same request: could she/the Carmel of Reno provide something musical for an evening of reflection for their virtual symposiums —both in July. From this invitation arose Teresa’s Four Waters in Word, Image and Song: a tapestry of 4 songs Claire composed accompanied by Sa Ra’s original art and footage of gorgeous natural scenery woven throughout a 38 minute

video presentation. This magnificent musical and artistic offering invites you into a deeper awareness of God’s presence of beauty, peace, and love within you and within all creation.



“THE WELL AND THE WATER WHEEL”
 These two painting are part of SaRa’s collection:
 “ST. TERESA’S GARDEN WATERING”

Each of the four songs reflects the dynamic progression of Teresa’s response to God – from her first awakening to the Spirit dwelling within her in the First Water– to the experience of God as Fire in the Third Water – ultimately soaring into the wholeness and Oneness of Love with the Source of all Being in the Fourth Water. But this isn’t only about Teresa’s experience. It’s Teresa’s invitation to ALL of us to open our hearts to connect with the Sacred Spirit of Love that dwells within each of us and to share that Love with our world.

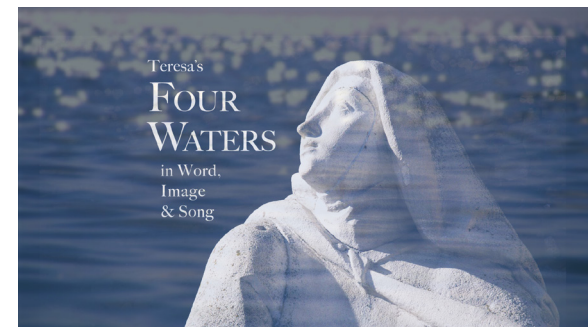
Rosalind’s narration began each segment of the 4 waters:

“... prayer may be likened to watering a garden in four different ways:...to draw water from a well...to water by means of a water wheel... to irrigate by water flowing from a river or stream... the fourth water of prayer is like rain falling from the sky.”



Teresa’s Four Waters went far beyond the expectations of those who invited Claire to present ‘something musical.’

With funding from Lynn Bremer and Chris Donovan, the program was assembled, presented in Oxford and the USA and is now available in DVD formats (both disc and digital) and as a Digital Download. We are in the process of planning an on-line Premier. Information regarding registration for this event, and to order DVD’s, is available on our website home page: www.carmelofreno.com.



In 1996, Bishop Straling resumed our Diocesan newsletter and for many years it was published as part of the Reno Gazette Journal. He invited us to submit a monthly column, and so we have been part of this outreach for many years. Recently, the Diocesan changed



to self - publishing as the 'High Desert Catholic' and continues to carry columns from us under the title 'Wisdom from Carmel.' Over the past year, Chris Donovan has been sharing her insights.

In the Lenten issue Chris wrote of Mary...

"like any good friend, Our Lady arrives when we need her most — ready to walk with us and provide the ever-present gift of friendship and guidance when we find ourselves on the margins of our cultural, emotional, intellectual and spiritual communities that provided the meaning and nourishment in our lives."

In her Summer Column, Chris reminds her readers:

"The invitation to move deeper into the mystery of Christ is an invitation to move deeper into the mystery of our daily lives and the world in which we live. If we open the eyes of our heart as we gaze upon a flowering tree, a snowcapped mountain, a blooming flower, a soaring hawk, the evening sky, the evening news or into the eyes of someone we can't quite understand, our minds may be opened to the awe and wonder that the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ lives and breathes in everyone and everything around us. Perhaps in ways that may astound and amaze us. There's no need to wait for the extraordinary moments of life and death, love and loss or special days and seasons of worship to seize our attention, stop time and transport our perspective to a bigger reality."

Chris regularly joins our community and is a frequent speaker on Scripture and Spirituality. She holds two Master of Theology Degrees and a Post Master's Certificate in Spiritual Formation from

Boston College. In addition to the High Desert contributions, Chris regularly publishes her reflections, and if you would like to be on her list, there is information on our website: www.carmelofreno.com.

It is our wish that the simple contemplative life lived in our community overflows to you. Our monastery is both a place apart and a committed part of the contemporary world and its needs and suffering. The metaphor of contemplative space is concretized among us not as separateness but as a harmony between the central meaning of life and life lived every day in its ordinary rhythms. We hope to be a sign of our God, Who though transcendent, is very near to us.

In our community prayers and in our prayers in solitude, we gratefully remember each of you and hold your intentions in our hearts and prayers.



EASTER SUNDAY MORNING SUNRISE 2021

We thank you for your presence 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.”

