



### Sr. Kelly del Niño Jesús

Colombia. I arrived on March 19, 2001, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and throughout my time of initial discernment I felt much peace and joy. I made my first profession on July 4, 2004, and my final profession at age 24 on July 1, 2007.

#### My Path to Baltimore

In 2014, my community joined Carmelites around the world in creating a virtual choir for the centenary celebration of St. Teresa of Avila. I was one of five sisters in my community who participated in the project. (Check out YouTube to listen to the Carmelite virtual choir perform "Nada Te Turbe") Through participating in the virtual choir project, I came to learn about more contemporary expressions of Carmelite life. A few years later, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was able to get to know the Baltimore Carmel by participating in their Sunday liturgies, Vespers, Lectio Divina, and the Christian Mediation group -- all over Zoom. I felt very drawn to

their contemporary expression of the Carmelite charism. So, after a great deal of prayer and discernment, I came to Baltimore in 2022 to discern transferring to Baltimore Carmel. I'm delighted to share that I have since begun my transfer process. I feel as if I have already lived here for many years. I am very happy here!

#### Come and See

If you are interested in learning more about our life, I want to share with you one of my favorite quotes from Pope Benedict XVI, "Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives everything!" Come and experience our life for a day, a week, or for several weeks and discover the call of Jesus, the Beloved, who is knocking on the door of your heart. **Come and see!**



Tenebrae Service during the Triduum

Hi, I'm Sister Kelly! I'm from Barranquilla, Colombia. I've been in Carmel for twenty-two years, and I love my Carmelite vocation!

#### The Call

In 2000, when I was 17 years old, I felt God calling me to explore a vocation to religious life. I didn't know anything about religious life. The only thing I felt in my heart was a very great desire to give myself to the Lord forever, to be only for Him and to live a life of service for Him and His people. During this time, I watched an EWTN series on St. Teresa of the Andes -- "La Juanita" as she is known in Spanish-speaking Carmels. She is a wonderful saint! It was through this program on St. Teresa of the Andes that I learned about Carmelite spirituality and Carmelite life. This program led me to discern a Carmelite vocation with the Discalced Carmelite nuns of San Jose Monastery in Bogota,

### Monastic Experience

This summer we will be inviting young women between the age of 18 and 40 to experience Monastic Life in our community. The invitation is for a day, a week, or up to 6 weeks. We will provide room and board, and a stipend, recognizing that women will have to take time off work in order to participate in this experience.

So far we have had several inquiries and have accepted 3 women to visit.

Please extend an invitation to any young women you know who may be looking to deepen their spiritual life and learn more about monastic living.

For more information, contact Sr Judy Murray:  
[judymurray@baltimorecarmel.org](mailto:judymurray@baltimorecarmel.org)

### Dare to Experience Monastic Living this Summer with the Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore!

We invite women between the ages of 18 to 40 to stay with us for a day, for a week, or for up to 6 weeks between June 10 and July 21, 2023.



Live in community with women who have given themselves totally to God and connect with other young women who seek God in an immersive monastic experience.



Carmelite Monastery  
1318 Dulaney Valley Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21286

We invite you to share in the beauty, joy, and love of contemporary Carmelite monastic life this summer with our community of 15 nuns. You will participate in our prayer, work, study, meals, and recreation. Through this experience you will expand your understanding of contemporary religious life while having the opportunity to deepen your own prayer.

Room, board, and stipend provided.



To learn more, or request an application, contact Sr. Judy Murray at [judymurray@baltimorecarmel.org](mailto:judymurray@baltimorecarmel.org)



Spring Flowers



Carmelite Monastery  
1318 Dulaney Valley Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21286

www.Baltimorecarmel.org

# BALTIMORE CARMEL News



Summer 2023

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*

*Join us for Eucharist on Sunday, July 16,  
as we celebrate Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.*

*We are happy to announce that Bishop  
Bruce A. Lewandowski, C.Ss.R. will be  
presiding.*

*Mass at 9 a.m. ET. Join in-person or  
online.*

## LECTIO DIVINA CONTINUES

LECTIO DIVINA TAKES PLACE 2 P.M. ET ON ZOOM. THERE IS A COMMENTARY BY A THEOLOGIAN OR SCRIPTURE SCHOLAR FOLLOWED BY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE GOSPEL TEXT.

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:  
EVENTS.BALTIMORECARMEL.ORG

JULY 8 COMMENTARY BY SARAH KOHLES, OSF

AUGUST 12 COMMENTARY BY DIANNE BERGANT, CSA

SEPTEMBER 9 COMMENTARY BY DR. JAIME WATERS

SEPTEMBER 23 COMMENTARY BY SANDRA SCHNEIDERS, IHM

OCTOBER 7 COMMENTARY BY DR. SHAWN COPELAND

OCTOBER 21 COMMENTARY BY PAT PARACHINI, SNJM

*Prayer / Transformation / Love*



## *Sr. Bridget of Holy Mystery*

### *God Has a Sense of Humor*

The first time I drove to the monastery – to attend Sunday Mass with a friend who worshipped regularly at the monastery – I asked myself, “Now, who would want to be a Carmelite nun?” **God has a wonderful sense of humor!**

### *My Discernment*

I started discerning with the community in 2019. At the time, I was living in the Washington D.C. metro area and working for a government consulting firm. Given my relative proximity to the monastery, I was able to come for monthly visits. However, after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, visiting in-person was no longer possible. The community was wonderful about creating opportunities for me to continue my discernment with them virtually. In 2021, I took a one-year leave of

absence from work to live with the community – an extended monastic experience of sorts. Sharing life with the sisters for a year was invaluable to my both vocational discernment and overall life, as I know it has been for other women who have come to spend time with the community, even those who discerned a different path. Throughout my time living with the community, I would find myself saying time and again, “I have never felt more me” – See our website for [a video](#) that shares more about my experience. And so, in November 2021 I applied to enter Baltimore Carmel; I officially entered in January 2022.

### *A Mystery*

While the “how” and “why” of my presence here is – and likely will forever remain – a mystery to me, my sense of what initially drew me to Carmelite life in this Carmel and of what continues to draw me during this time of formation is the accent on prayer

and communal living for the sake of the transformation of the world. I believe with the full force of my being that our personal and communal prayer, as well as our living peacefully in community, contributes to the unfolding of our present and our future toward greater wholeness. And, in a time of seemingly unprecedented fragmentation, nothing feels more “me” than to give all of myself to the work of whole-making.

If you are reading this because you feel drawn – if even just a little – to some aspect of our life, I hope you’ll consider learning more. As our late Sister Veronica once said, Carmelite life “is a life of infinite possibilities.” **What possibility might God be calling you to explore?**



Bridget with her parents, Nancy and Kevin

## Other Community Milestones

In April, the chapel was full for the three-day Triduum,



and for Easter Sunday. We started each day with Tenebrae., the Divine Office for the Triduum. On Good Friday, Dr. Jaime Waters gave the reflection, and the Easter Vigil was a joy-filled celebration with Dr. Kim Harris as guest singer, and Meghan Meros as liturgical dancer.



Just a couple weeks after Easter, our association, Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA), convened its first in-person meeting in 5 years. The 5 day meeting at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, MD, was filled with great energy and hope, even as our communities face the reality of an uncertain future.

recognized her with a lifetime achievement award for her life-long scholarship. Sr. Colette was elected President of the association, and Sr. Mary, First Councillor. Our community has always been active in our association, and will continue to do so.

Sr. Connie gave one of the talks, and the Association



In May, Bishop Bruce Lewandowski presided at the Mass of Confirmation of our new Prioress, Sr. Judy Long. In his homily he acknowl-

edged the daring that our life takes, daring to be like the women at the tomb, to be friends of Jesus.