

BALTIMORE CARMEL News



Fall 2024

Prayer / Transformation / Love

*The Renovation Continues
(as does our Contemplative Life)*

Renovation Update

We want to take this opportunity to update you on all that has happened since our Spring 2024 Newsletter. Our project is quite complex, and we do need your help.



Phase 1

The first phase of our project encompasses the work to the monastery proper as well as our access road. There are 6 parts to Phase 1.

Part 1, which is focused on our West Wing, the Original House, and the Hermitage, the residential part of our monastery, began in February 2024. The asbestos abatement in this area was done in March and September. In August, the demolition crew began their work, and our superintendent has been collaborating with our architect and engineers to layout our new bathrooms. The planning for the new HVAC systems in this area is nearly complete. We anticipate that the mechanical contractor will begin work on-site in the coming weeks. Due to the age and unique character of our monastery, extensive planning has been required.

Part 2 involves the work along our 1/2-mile private road – the replacement of our failing waterline, as well as repairs to the stormwater pipes that go under our road. While we have encountered some challenges with Baltimore County, it is our hope that this work will be completed by year end (before the pipe springs another leak).

Part 3 is focused on the replacement of the HVAC equipment in our Archive area, Chapel, and Conference Room. The archives require a special climate-control unit, an added complexity.

Part 4 is focused on the replacement of the HVAC equipment in our East (Guest) Wing as well as the replacement of the East Wing roof. The HVAC work in the Archives and East Wing will entail asbestos abatement and new flooring.

Part 5 will make our Infirmary Bathrooms and Kitchen in the original 1929 house more accessible and safer for our aging sisters.

Part 6 will focus on the Chapel: replacing the lighting and speakers and updating the Chapel bathrooms.



We have completed or are near-completion of several “smaller” projects, including:

- replacement of our gate
- repair of our walkway wall to stop the water intrusion into the building



- replacement of the major components for our walk-in freezer and refrigerator
- repair and maintenance of many of our windows
- repair of slate and tile roofs. We are managing the leaks and addressing these roofing needs as we are able
- ongoing masonry work to repair broken stones around our roofs and in other walls on the monastery property

For more information and photos please visit our website: <https://www.baltimorecarmel.org/renovation>



Galvanized Steel Waterline Removed from Crawl Space

We need your Financial Support to accomplish this Renovation Project

We have undertaken it with a three-fold purpose: to provide for our community's future, to create safe living conditions for our sisters, and to make the monastery as energy efficient as possible.

Two Fundraising Goals

- ▶ \$1,500,000 from our benefactors matching our community's contribution.
- ▶ \$2,500,000 in the form of grants from various Foundations

Contributed Funds October 2024

- ▶ \$1,500,000 – our community
- ▶ \$765,563 – our benefactors, including bequests
- ▶ \$66,673 – grant funds

We still have quite a way to go to finance our Renovation which has turned out to be even more extensive than we originally planned simply because of the age of our building and the unknown complexities that turn up as walls and floors are opened and systems are engineered within an existing structure.

We need your help!

It is unusual for us to ask for financial support. We do not take up a collection during Sunday liturgy. We do not have specified fees for our various contemplative ministries. Throughout our long history in Maryland, however, we have been consistently supported by our relatives, friends and benefactors who value our contemplative life and prayer ministry. Generous donations enable us to offer Sunday and special occasion liturgies for all who join us, our Saturday Lectio Divina sessions on the Sunday Gospel, spiritual direction for many who minister to others throughout the city, a quiet, peaceful space for personal retreats and hermit days, and a place for day meetings and various gatherings. Above all, we walk with many in deep friendship and faithful companionship holding in our hearts and prayer our people's lives and concerns, their joys and sorrows.

As the year draws to a close, please consider recommending our project to your friends and business associates who might consider the Carmelite Monastery Renovation in their end-of-year giving.

For more information about donating to our project, please visit our website:
<https://www.baltimorecarmel.org/renovation>



*Scenes from
around our
Home and
Grounds*



We had a visit from Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, General of the Discalced Carmelites, who celebrated Sunday liturgy with us and engaged in discussion about our worldwide Order and our community. The Carmelite Friar's Provincial, Fr. Daniel Chowning, our longtime friend, accompanied Fr. Miguel.



Like our saints... we, too, are invited to listen to the bell that tolls for New Life, awake and attentive to what is important at the right time... On this path of rekindling the Living Flame of Love, without reserving anything for ourselves, I trust in a Carmel full of the freshness of the origins... Let us listen to ourselves in silence; let us listen to our brothers and sisters in community; let us listen to the Church; let us listen to the cry of the poor and the groaning of the world that speaks an urgent word to us and calls us to recover the "hidden source" (Love), as our first and essential task.

Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD, Superior General
14 December 2022 Feast of St. John of the Cross





Sisters Mary and Colette, along with some other members of our Carmelite association, participated in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) annual conference, the theme of which was *Our Time is Holy: Who Shall We Be?*



Lectio Divina

Later this month (October 26), we will conclude our Zoomed *Lectio Divina* for the year, our 5th year of *Lectio*. Little did we know when we started it, how important it would be in the lives of our participants.

We began *Lectio* when COVID hit, requiring us to close our chapel. We felt a strong need to continue to provide enrichment to the spiritual lives of you, “our people.” Out of the nudge of the Holy Spirit, came the idea, “Why don’t we try on-line *Lectio Divina*.” Our first session, a trial session, was held on March 21, 2020, with a limited group of participants. It proved so meaningful we invited a larger group, mostly people who worship with us on Sundays, but the word got out and participation grew and grew, and, especially during COVID, became a lifeline, a real experience of community.

Although we do not have *Lectio* as often as we did during COVID, people continue to express gratitude for the way this experience enriches their lives, both spiritually and intellectually. We are so grateful to our faithful *Lectio* participants and scripture scholars for making this happen.