

The Restorers of Mount Carmel Inc.

Fellow Restorers & Friends,

Here we are with St. Patrick's Day and Easter coming upon us quickly. Hope your Lenten Season is fulfilling and inspiring. This is a wonderful time to renew your spiritual health.

The construction of the Monastery should be wrapped up for the dedication happening on Sunday, April 21st. The nuns are hoping many will come out to see the wonderful work and space dedicated to their devotion to God. As a result of the much needed expansion, insurance costs will be impacted. We are working on events that will allow a lot of fun and camaraderie all while raising funds to cover the insurance costs of the campus. One great event will be the horse races - stay tuned for upcoming information!

Please encourage friends and family to become members of the Restorers or consider giving a membership as a gift!

Thanks for all you do as members and supporters.

Best,

Jay Lilly

RoMC Mission Statement

The Restorers of Mount Carmel (RoMC) was formed to carry out religious, charitable & educational activities. The principle purposes of the RoMC, besides the spiritual, are to (1) provide financial assistance to the Nuns at Carmel of Port Tobacco, La Plata, Maryland; (2) help maintain the two historic buildings of the original monastery; and (3) help pay the property insurance for the entire Monastery campus.



carmelofporttobacco.com

5678 Mt Carmel Road

La Plata, MD 20646

An Irish Blessing

**May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine always warm upon
your face, the rain fall soft upon your
fields, and until we meet again, may
God hold you in the palm of his hand.**



Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 21st at 1pm: Rededication of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday, May 4th: Market Day at the Port Tobacco Courthouse. Plan to purchase handmade items from the Nuns.

Board Members

President	<i>Jay Lilly</i>
Vice-President	<i>Mike Schreyer</i>
Treasurer	<i>Suzanne Stuart</i>
Secretary	<i>Sandy Woodward</i>

Committee Chairs

Finance	<i>Beth Hungerford</i>
Membership	<i>Steve Spadafora</i>
Spiritual	<i>Beth Hungerford</i>
Maintenance	<i>John Coleman</i>
Hospitality	<i>Suzanne Stuart</i>
Historical	<i>Mary Beth Chandler</i>

restorersmtcarmel.org

2023 Night at the Races Recap

The Restorers would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helped make our Fall 2023 "Night at the Races" a huge success. This annual event is a major fund raiser for the Restorers of Mount Carmel's primary mission of paying for the Carmelite Monastery's annual insurance premiums and keeping this holy and solemn place open to the public.

Every year well over 100 people attend this dinner and create a rousing racetrack atmosphere that makes it a truly enjoyable night to remember. This year's event raised around \$7,600 which will be used to support over half of the 2024 Insurance costs.

Special thanks to:

- Our fabulous Chef Steve Urso for preparing the delicious dinner!
- Lourdes Barrett & the Sacred Heart Church Sodality for providing the sweetest assortment of home baked desserts!
- Sacred Heart Parish for their support and use of the friendship room!
- SMO for their rapid response the afternoon before the dinner to swiftly assess and clear the Friendship Room for continued use for the event!
- To everyone who assisted in serving dinner/drinks, clearing tables and cleaning-up the Friendship Room after the event!
- The Sisters for donating the Horse Quilt for the Raffle!
- Harry Fraunfelder (Horse Creator) for donating the Second Raffle Quilt!
- The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Neale Council for their support!
- Finally, to EVERYONE who supported this fundraiser for the Carmelite Sisters, the Restorers recognize that this would not be a true success without your untiring assistance!



A BIT OF CHAPEL HISTORY *by Mary Beth Chandler*

As some of us will recall the chapel at the "Old Monastery" was built in 1954. At the time the nuns had not yet returned to Mt. Carmel. When in 1974 they did arrive, a choir extension was haphazardly added to the side of the Chapel for the nuns to attend Mass separately from the main publica.

In 1950 Father Lawrence Kelly wrote in his book, *A Carmelite Shrine in Maryland*, "a chapel would be built on the Monastery grounds. The estimated cost would be \$25,000. The resources to meet this cost will be the annual fees of active and honorary members, memorials and perpetual memberships, appeals to the devotees of Our Lady and the friends of the Carmelites in this country.

To repeat a wish already expressed or intimated, who knows but that, in God's providence and with the gracious favor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, after the chapel has been built the nuns will return again to Port Tobacco some day in the not too distance future and another Carmel will rise to grace that sacred spot."

It took another twenty-four years before the nuns did return to this sacred ground. The seventy-year-old chapel is now being renovated to include a proper choir enclosure for the nuns.

The chapel will be rededicated on Sunday, April 21st at 1:00 pm, you are cordially invited to attend. Visit the website www.CarmelofPortTobacco.com for more information on the renovations.



Photo: Pixabay

Wishing you a Blessed Easter Season

HISTORICAL RESTORATION OF OLD MONASTERY *by Angela McConkey*

During the fall of 2022, restorative work was undertaken to beautify and preserve the original, historic monastery. Under the strict tutelage and supervision of Bill Hoxie, Carmel of Port Tobacco's dedicated master carpenter and groundskeeper, volunteers were set to work. Cobwebs were cleared from every crack and crevice; soot and dirt from the old fireplace vacuumed out; the windows wiped clean; and the wood walls and furniture were given a good polish. Damaged floorboards were replaced and stained. The old floors, original to the renovated monastery, were first scrubbed clean by hand, then mopped, before a mixture of linseed oil and wax was applied to freshen and preserve. After a couple of days of letting the polish application dry, the floors were buffed to a renewed and healthy shine. New signage was added to the Blessed Saints' pictures to identify and memorialize their importance to Mount Carmel for visiting pilgrims.

The Winter 2022 Port Tobacco Tidings Newsletter described the work that was completed: *"Eighty-seven years has taken its toll. This enforced lull in our plans seemed like a good opportunity to give it some tender, loving care. With the help of some friends, the floor has been repaired where needed and brought to a beautiful shine. Signage has been improved, with more work to follow."*



Photos by: Angela McConkey

Rows 1 & 2: Pictures of restoration work done in the Old Monastery

Row 3: Additional restoration work and the Mathews Family Tree

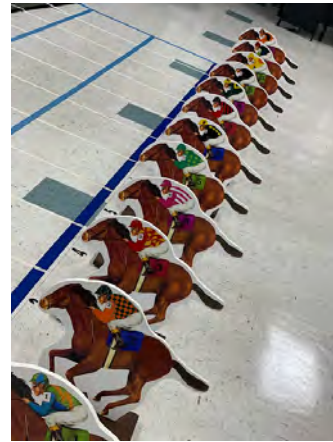
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE *by Steve Spadafora*

As part of an effort to improve our communication ability and reduce costs, the Restorers of Mount Carmel (RoMC) are moving to electronic mailings for newsletters and announcements.

If you received this spring newsletter via the postal mail, would you please send your name and email address with the Subject "RoMC Email Update" to Stephen Spadafora, RoMC Membership Chairman at spadaforasj@gmail.com. We appreciate your help in this endeavor.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THE NIGHT AT THE RACES

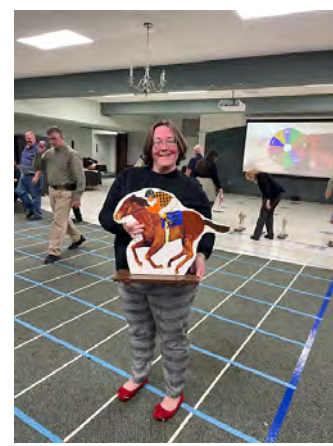
Photos L to R: The delicious main course; Kitchen prep plating dinners - Chef Steve Urso on right; Horses ready to run; Board Member Steve Spadafora selling horses



Photos L to R: A lone horse & his jockey stuck at the gate in the dust; Board Member Suzanne Stuart & fiance; The 'money managers' counting the pay-outs; Money Managers - 'hey we got some money here - are you a winner?'



Photos L to R: Three happy horse owners sporting smiles after a big win; The odds men calculating the pay-out



Photos L to R: The odds men - 'pew - got that race calculated'; First course - a mixed greens salad



Photos L to R: Jockeys and their horses - who's taking the lead next; More delicious dinners being created for the hungry race crowd

Be sure to watch for the next 'Night at the Races'. Become a horse owner for a night! We are always in need of jockeys too! It's a fun time had by all!



Membership Form

Type of Membership

(Please Check One)

- Annual \$50.00
 Perpetual. \$300.00
 Donation only

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please make checks payable to:
The Restorers of Mount Carmel

Return to:

The Restorers of Mount Carmel in Maryland, Inc.
P.O. Box 1795
La Plata, MD 20646



MEMBERSHIP

Consider paying your 2024 Annual Dues now.

Also, kindly think outside the box when trying to come up with a perfect present for someone. An annual membership could make a great birthday, anniversary, a special Easter Basket surprise or early Christmas present, for example.

Or just pass along the form to other family members and friends for them to sign up.

Both are a great way to support our Nuns at Mount Carmel - a unique gift that helps to provide continued insurance to a beloved, historical presence in our 'backyard'!