

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society



1875

2000

125th Anniversary
Commemorative Book



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society

*Post Office Box 182
Hammonton, NJ 08037
609-561-4818*



July 10, 2000

Welcome to the **125th** annual celebration of the **Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**. We thank you for joining us as we enter the new millennium. With this commemorative book, we invite you to take a look back at our history as it has unfolded over the past century and a quarter.

Our feast has undergone numerous changes throughout the years. The names and faces have changed, but one thing has remained constant, the dedication of the membership of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society to perpetuate this feast, from its humble beginning to where we stand today, as one of the oldest continuous celebrations of its kind.

Throughout the years, we have enjoyed unending support from so many different sources . . . Mayor and Council, our local parish churches, town service departments, our religious and civic organizations, the business community and, most important, the people who come out and continue to participate in our procession and feast.

Whether you are visiting us for the first time or you have joined our celebration faithfully throughout the years, on behalf of the entire Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, thank you, for participating in the devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Your Friend in Faith,



George Campanella
President, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society



Established 1875



Dedication

This commemorative book is dedicated to all of the deceased members of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society. Every member is like a brother. We have learned the values that are necessary to perpetuate the feast from the members before us. Their memories will always live on in our hearts.

D. Tanzola
F. DiGiacomo
A. Dracalello
B. Crescenzo
G. Ruberton
C. Tomasco
M. Apalucci
C. Cataldo
M. Campanella
N. Cashan
M. DiFrancesco
S. DeStefano
T. Grasso
P. Jacobs
A. Lupo
J. Landolino
J. Ordille
G. Pinto
G. Ruggero
S. Santelli
S. Virgilio
F. Piscetelli
L. Tomasello
A. Jacobs
V. Pizzi

B. Pizzi
J. Pizzi
A. Vassallo
F. Squillace
P. Carno
F. Campanella
S. Calabrese
A. Capelli
G. Calasurdo
D. Caruso
S. Donio
D. Fanelli
D. Joseph
N. Juliano
P. Luca
D. Longo
P. Persico
L. Pantalone
F. Rescigno
L. Vuotto
F. Jacobs
J. Berenato
J. Gelona
D. DeFrancisco
A. Ingemi
P. Gregori, Jr.

S. De Feo
G. Amuto
Q. Sana
C. Vuotto
G. Ovile
B. Fogletto
D. Campanella
J. Clementi
A. Calasurdo
J. Dani
S. D'Agostino
D. Giordano
J. Jacobs
L. Juliano
J. Lucca
G. Moscarelli
E. Persico
F. Ruggero
A. Scapocchia
H. Virgilio
J. Tomasello
F. Fiore
J. Cavuto
F. Fogletto
F. Italiano

What is the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society?

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society is an independent nonprofit Catholic organization formed in 1875 by Italian immigrants new to Hammonton, who took time to celebrate their safe journey to America and a successful harvest by giving praise and thanks to the blessed Virgin Mary. The Society became a chartered organization in the year 1905, with the goal to perpetuate the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

From those beginnings, the Mt. Carmel Society has continued forward to this day. The Society consists of members of each of the town's three Catholic church parishes and beyond. Since its inception, membership in the society has generally passed from father to son. On occasion, as needs require, membership is increased to include extended family members or devout Catholics sponsored by a member in good standing.



The main function of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society is the preparation and presentation of the feast each July 16th. The Society is also involved in a variety of community activities and charitable endeavors, regularly supporting school, community and church fund raising efforts.

A common misconception is that the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society is affiliated solely with the parish of St. Joseph's Church. Though it works in close conjunction with St. Joseph church to present the annual feast, the Society also participates in the activities of St. Martin de Porres and St. Anthony of Padua churches.

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society of today remains much the same as it began in 1875, a brotherhood of devout Catholics honoring the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.



DIANE DeCICCO

Town Clerk

Business Administrator

Registrar of Vital Statistics



Telephone

609-567-4300

Fax

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TOWN OF HAMMONTON

100 CENTRAL AVENUE
HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY 08037

July 10, 2000

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society
Mt. Carmel Lane
Hammonton, NJ 08037

Dear Members:

I am happy indeed to express my warmest good wishes to the members of the Mt. Carmel Society on the 125th anniversary of such a time-honored event.

You should be honored for preserving a tradition that began in 1875. Your membership has been handed down from father to son and we look forward to celebrating such a legacy each year.

No one can seem to ever talk about Hammonton without mentioning the Mt. Carmel celebration and the 16th of July.

We owe a special thanks to our Italian ancestors for establishing this celebration as a way of saying thank you for their safe journey here and to all of the Mt. Carmel Society members for keeping the tradition alive. It is a unique bit of the Old World transferred right here to Hammonton.

I share your enthusiasm and pride as we continue to celebrate the "16th of July."

Best Wishes

Barbara Berenato

Mayor Barbara Berenato



Embassy of the United States of America

Rome, May 9, 2000

Mr. Louis J Pantalone
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society, Vice President
Mt. Carmel Lane
Hammonton, NJ 08037

Dear Mr. Pantalone,

I would like to thank you and the entire Society once again for the great honor of being part of such a wonderful tradition. Although I cannot be present because of business here in Rome, please remember my spirit is with you.

The 125th celebration is a special one because it brings the festival into another new century, and in this case, a new Millenium. We can revel in the bonds that have been created over the years, from its humble beginnings to its status today.

Your festival is a great example of what makes America beautiful, a tradition strongly steeped with familial roots, your ancestors' homeland, Italy, joined with a wonderful American festival, in an American community, Hammonton.

I hope the festival will continue for another 125 years, still adorning the names of Longo, Pantalone, Jacobs and Tomasello, along with many others, which have strong histories with the Society.

Buona Festa!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Foglietta", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas M. Foglietta
U.S. Ambassador to Italy

The Beginning



A. Capelli



E. Persico



L. Vuotto

The celebration in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel began in the year 1875 in the home of Antonio Capelli at 232 Pine Road. He, along with a small group of fellow immigrants, prayed in front of a painting of the Virgin Mary and formed a procession in front of the home. They prayed in thanks for their safe journey to America, their successful farming season, and for the blessings and good fortune found in their new home in Hammonton.

Pictured are three founding members of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society. They, along with the rest of the original membership, are responsible for the first procession down Pine Road in Hammonton.

The Early Years

In the early years, the feast was little more than a curiosity to the townspeople of Hammonton. The town's Italian population consisted of mainly migrant field workers living on the farmlands. The earliest news records reported only that the Italians had a "celebration" or "yearly celebration." It was not until the feast was some twenty years old that it became more widely known as the "Feast of Mt. Carmel." As the feast progressed into the 1900's, coverage became more widespread. The Republican Newspaper now carried articles detailing plans for the forthcoming feast. Bands from Philadelphia would come to entertain. Crowds began to steadily increase. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society was formally chartered in 1905.



A Newspaper Article from
The Republican, July 1884

The Feast Grows



The Procession on Fairview
Avenue Circa 1920's

As the population of the town of Hammonton continued to increase, along with the entire Southern New Jersey area, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel also continued to grow. Spurred on by the steady influx of Italian immigrants, attendance at the feast rose quickly. Estimated crowds who came to pay tribute to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel swelled from ten and twenty thousand to forty and fifty thousand. Ben Pizzi and David Longo, Sr. were two of the

presidents of the Mt. Carmel Society during this era. The feast carried on during World War II despite wartime restrictions that prohibited the presentation of the carnival and the fireworks display. After the war's end, the feast continued its growth, with bigger and better entertainment for those attending



Past President
Dave Longo

The Mt. Carmel Society Hall



The Mt. Carmel Society Hall
was dedicated in 1956

The year 1956 saw the dedication of the Mt. Carmel Society Hall. The hall was built on grounds purchased by the Society many years before. Some members used their own homes as collateral for the purchase of this land. From a simple block building, the Mt. Carmel Society Hall has undergone several renovations in recent years. The small kitchen facilities were commercialized because of the increased demands of the Mt. Carmel food stand operation. An A-roof attachment was completed in the early 1980's for the same purpose. In 1993, a display case showcasing the history of the Mt. Carmel Society was added.

50th Anniversary Celebration of Madonna del Carmine HAMMONTON. NEW JERSEY

3 DAY CELEBRATION

PROGRAMME

Saturday, July 15th

Morning:

Masses at all hours with special devo-
tions.
At 11 a. m., High Mass and Sermon.
Confessions at any time.

Afternoon:

Special Devotions.
4 p. m., Traditional Procession.
6 p. m., Benediction with the Most
Blessed Sacrament.
9 p. m., Special Devotions.
10 p. m., Splendid Display of Fireworks.

Sunday, July 16th

Morning:

Masses at every hour from 6 a. m. on,
with Sermons and Greetings.

Afternoon:

Special Devotions.

Monday, July 17th

Masses at every hour. Confessions
and Communions.

Afternoon:

Special Services.

EXTRA FEATURES

A tempting Bazaar and popular enter-
tainments, musical programmes, Venetian
illumination.

Parking and train accommodations.

For candles and religious articles apply
at the Church door.

Any offering and articles of discarded
gold will be highly appreciated.

This celebration, as usual, will bring to
Hammonton thousands of people from near
and far, who want to forget their troubles,
meet old friends, relax in the pure air of
our green gardens and breathe a refresh-
ing atmosphere of Faith.

May the Blessed Mother obtain
from her Divine Son the choic-
est blessings for you and yours.

Statua della Madonna del Carmine



3 Giorni di Grandi Festività

PROGRAMMA

Sabbato, 15 di Luglio

Mattina:

Santa Messa a tutte le ore con devo-
zioni speciali.
Alle 11 Messa Solenne con panegirico.
Confessioni a disposizione a tutte le
ore.

Pomeriggio:

Devozioni speciali tutte le ore.
Alle 4 Processione tradizionale colla
statua della Madonna.
Alle 6 Benedizione col SS. Sacra-
mento.
Alle 9 Devozione Speciale.
Alle 10 Fuochi artificiali.

Domenica, 16 di Luglio

Mattina:

Messe tutte le ore con fervorini.

Pomeriggio:

Devozioni speciali.

Lunedì, 17 di Luglio

Mattina:

Messe a tutte le ore, confessioni e
Communioni.

Pomeriggio:

Devozioni specilai.

Un attraente Bazaar (fiara) trateni-
menti popolari, musica e illuminazione
veneziana.

Candele ed articoli religiosi sono ottenti-
bili alla porta della Chiesa.

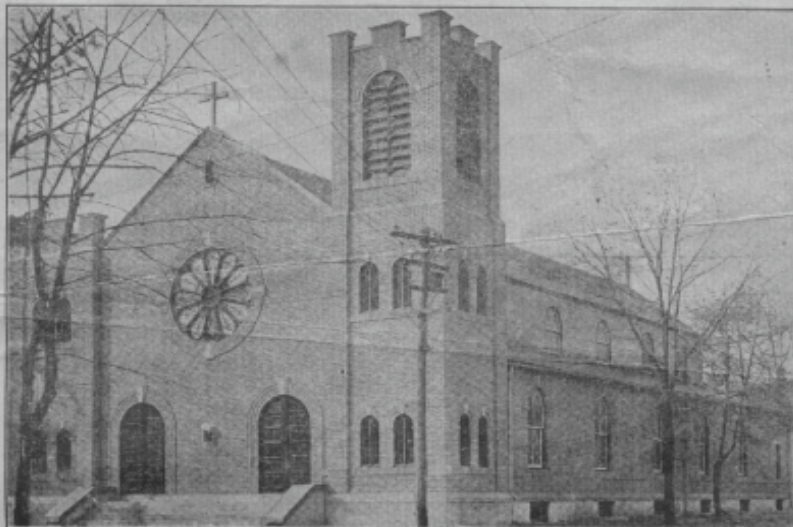
Accettiamo ben volentieri qualunque of-
ferta, anche articoli d'oro usato.

Questa festa porterà a Hammonton
migliaia di persone che vogliono dimenti-
care i guai della vita, visitare eli amici e
respirare l'aria pura del nostrigiardini,
rianimando lo spirito nella rinfrescante
atmosfera della nostra fede.

Voglià La Madonna Santissima
ottenere dal Suo Figlio Gesù' le
grazie e benedizioni necessarie
per voi e i vostri cari.



J. PIZZI
Sec. O. L. M. C. C.



Chiesa di S. Giuseppe



Rev. GUIDO STECCATI
Pastor

Feast Advertisement from 1925

Mt. Carmel Food Stand

It was in the mid-1970's when Amusements of America carnival owner, John Vivona, suggested to Mt. Carmel members that operating a food stand during the feast week might help to offset the steadily increasing expense of presenting the feast. Although some members were a little hesitant, the majority were enthusiastic and it was decided to give it a try. From its initial origin of selling beer



from a half keg, the food stand has since grown into a much



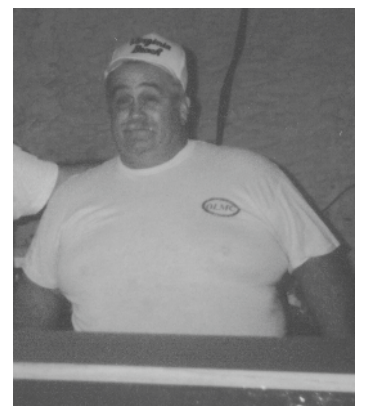
more diversified and efficient operation. Many members fondly recall memories of canvas roofs that leaked during rainstorms or

rebuilding the stand each year with the same materials but somehow always ending up with a different result. Each year since has been a learning experience, but also one that has brought Society members and their families closer together. Many of the younger members of the Society



remember their earliest experience of the feast was helping out at the food stand as children. Today, the food stand operation continues to evolve and improve. In 1999, based on the design of a Mt. Carmel committee led by Frank Italiano, Jr., a new portable cooking grill was

unveiled. The grill has been affectionately named "Big Pete" in memory of Pete Gregori, Jr. (1937-1997) who was a mainstay behind the grill during the festival week throughout his long years of service to the Society.



Pete Gregori, Jr.

100 Years and Beyond

1975 marked the 100th anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. A commemorative booklet was produced to mark the occasion. Plans were made to place a monument where the feast originated on Pine Road on a piece of land that had been donated to the Society. The monument was dedicated the following year.

During the last 25 years, there have been many changes in leadership. In 1975, Anthony P. Jacobs, who had served as the Society's president for over 30 years, retired from office and was succeeded by Louis Tomasello. As president, Louis instituted a variety of changes that increased membership participation, including the delegation of responsibilities and the formation of committees that is still used today.

Upon his death in 1982, Anthony Ingemi assumed the office. In

1984, Carmine Pantalone was

elected president. During his tenure, the members began to hold a procession before the regular feast week on every tenth year anniversary. This procession starts at St. Anthony of Padua Church on Route 206 and ends at the monument on Pine Road. Carmine stepped down due to ill health and Anthony Jacobs was elected president. In 1987, the current president, George Campanella, was elected to office.



Faithful Followers
1940's

There are many notable events that have occurred over the years. The Bishop of the Diocese of Camden has come to St. Joseph's Church on numerous occasions on the July 16th feast day to preside over a selected mass. Governor Thomas Kean visited and participated in the procession in 1981. In 1989, the procession was conducted in a record time of 2 hours due to a rainstorm that brought two inches of rain down on the area. In 1990, the Mt. Carmel Society watched as one of their members, Fr. Joseph Capella, was ordained at St. Joseph's Church. The Society returned to Pine Road in 1995 for the ten



Governor Thomas Kean
visits the feast in 1981



Pictured on platform from left to right:
L. Pantalone, Jim Rodio, G. Campanella,
Mayor Charles Gazzara, Fr. J. Capella, Fr. F. Donio

In the last decade, many of the current Membership's sons have joined and become regular members of the Mt. Carmel Society. It is this constant renewal process that has served to strengthen the Society throughout the years and ensures that the traditions of the feast are carried on by the next generation.

year anniversary procession and ceremony. In May 1999, the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society sponsored a fund raiser to benefit the Hammonton Police Department. The donation was used to train the department's drug detection dog "Shane."



Fr. Umberto Carta with Mt. Carmel
President Louis Tomasello at the
Pine Road Monument dedication in 1975

The Tradition Continues

In November 1989, the sons and junior members of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society arranged a tribute dinner and ceremony honoring their fathers and senior members. Presented was a plaque with a proclamation that read:

Today, with this dinner and this meeting, we honor you...
our fathers and our distinguished senior members.

We honor you today for the many years of dedication
to this Society and devotion to Our Lady.

We honor you today for all the hard work you have done
to make this organization what it is today.

We honor you today for the guidance and leadership you have given us,
within this organization and in our lives.

We honor you today for keeping alive the values and traditions of this Society
that our forefathers and founder and past members began 114 years ago.

We honor you today for showing us how to work together unselfishly
for the common good of this Society and for the camaraderie
that has developed between the membership of our organization.

We...your sons and junior members...assure you
that we have learned our lessons well.

We pledge to continue to work together...with you...and continue
the friendships and goodwill that has helped make this Society what it is today.

We pledge to instill the same values you have shown us
to our children and to the membership of the future.

We pledge to continue your efforts...in working for the feast
and for this Society, in devotion to Our Lady.

To our fathers, our senior members, our friends...we thank you.

It is this spirit, reflected in the words above, that lives in every member of the Society and, with the help and grace of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, that we will continue to practice the traditions of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as we continue forward into the new millennium.

St. Joseph's Church

St. Joseph's Church, the first Catholic church to be built in the town of Hammonton, has been associated with the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for over a century. Three different churches have been built on this site, located at the corner of Third and French Streets.

The first church was built in 1887 with the first mass being said on March 27th, Passion Sunday. The church was operated as part of a mission run by the pastor of St. Nicholas Church, Reverend Anthony Van Riel.



St. Joseph's was established as a separate parish in October 1890.

Rev. Van Riel stepped in temporarily on two other occasions after the separation when St. Joseph's was without a pastor.

In December 1919, a new church was dedicated. This Romanesque styled church contained an altar panel with three niches, the center one of which held a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, while the other two on either side held statues of St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist. The last mass said in this church was on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1963.

Through the remainder of 1963 and early 1964, church services were held in the parish hall located at Third and Pleasant Streets while construction of the new church continued. The current St. Joseph's Church was dedicated on May 23, 1964.

Following is a list of pastors at St. Joseph's Church and the years that they served:

Rev. A. Van Riel	1887-1890	Rev. G. Dahlia, P.S.M.	1912-1919
Fr. C. Ramot	1890	Rev. H. Messina, P.S.M.	1919-1920
Rev. B. Grom	1890-1891	Rev. R. Sorgi, P.S.M.	1920-1924
Rev. A. Van Riel	1891, 1893-1895	Rev. G. Steccati, P.S.M.	1930-1934
Fr. P. M. Barral	1891-1893	Fr. L. Abbate, P.S.M.	1934-1941
Rev. C. Spigardi	1895-1897	Fr. M. Martorelli, S.A.C.	1941-1953
Rev. N. Cerruti	1897-1899	Fr. N. Rinaldi, S.A.C.	1953-1959
Rev. Frassenotti	1899-1900	Fr. P. Schimizzi, S.A.C.	1959-1966
Rev. N. Coscia	1900	Fr. J. Mungari, S.A.C.	1966-78, 1990-97
Rev. P. T. Hendrick	1900-1901	Fr. J. Biermann, S.A.C.	1978-1981
Rev. J. Transerici, P.S.M.	1903-1911, 1924-1930	Fr. P. Amabile, S.A.C.	1981-1988
Rev. V. Marino, P.S.M.	1911-1912	Fr. N. Angello, S.A.C.	1988-1990
		Fr. L. Micca, S.A.C.	1997-Present

July 16th

For a member of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, July 16th is the culmination of a year's worth of preparation. It is a time for prayerful reflection and a time to celebrate. Perpetuation of this feast day is the reason why the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society exists. The day is full of traditional activities in which the members faithfully participate. Following is a brief look at the events that make up July 16th for members of the Society.

In years past, the day would begin with a firework bomb salute, which would continue each hour throughout the day until the beginning of the procession. Invariably, the Hammonton Police Department would find out which residents had recently moved into town because they would call on July 16th reporting explosions. In more recent times, however, due to increasingly stringent state regulations, this practice has been discontinued. Sadly, the traditional fireworks show on the night of the 16th has met the same fate, despite the best efforts of Mt. Carmel committee members, fire officials and town representatives to find a suitable alternative.



President George Campanella,
Joseph Donio and Vice President
Louis J. Pantalone in front of the
monument on Pine Road

The morning of the feast day begins at 8:00 a.m. as members of the Society convene at the monument on Pine Road for a prayer session and blessing, usually conducted by Society Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Capella. The monument, dedicated in 1976, commemorates the original location of the feast. The land for this monument was donated by Jennie and Norman Tomasello. Joseph Donio, a neighbor who graciously helps with the upkeep of the site, is unfailingly there to greet the membership with a toast to the day. Former Hammonton Town Councilman James Garrison, also a nearby resident, frequently attends.



Morning Procession Through the Center of Town

After this brief service, it's back to the Mt. Carmel Hall to prepare for the 9:00 a.m. mass at St. Joseph's Church. The mass is offered in memory of the deceased members of the Society. Mt. Carmel members serve as ushers, and senior members or officers are selected to carry the gifts to the altar.

After mass, members return to the hall for refreshments and to greet members of the Carmine Pantalone Mt. Carmel Society Band, who arrive to participate in the morning procession through the center of town. This long-standing, traditional march includes several stops. The first stop is at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Bellevue Avenue and Schoolhouse Lane. Next, the procession proceeds to the Senior Citizens Center at 310 Bellevue Avenue where the band entertains the assembly.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society greeting Frank Mazza and family of Mazza Furniture

John Celona of Celona's Tire & Auto Center, BeBe Scola of Archie Daubs and the Mazza Family of Mazza Furniture have all hosted the Society for many years. A stop is made at Town Hall, where Police Chief Frank R. Ingemi and Mayor Barbara Berenato continue the tradition of assisting Mt. Carmel President George Campanella in the raising of the flag for the feast.

The morning procession concludes with a march to the Sons of Italy Club located on North Third Street. Their membership hosts the Society in a show of fellowship and brotherhood.



President George Campanella, Chief of Police Frank Ingemi, Mayor Barbara Berenato and Vice President Louis J. Pantalone at Town Hall

After the morning procession, members return to the hall to prepare for the busy afternoon and evening ahead. Most members bring several changes of clothes with them for the day's different activities because the schedule does not allow for time in between events to leave and come back. The Mt. Carmel Society food stand usually opens around noon. It is staffed mainly by family, friends and only the barest minimum of members who will remain at the stand during the procession. After a quick lunch, the members get ready to start the procession.



Our Lady of Mount Camel Society and Band at The Sons of Italy

The Society makes its way towards St. Joseph's Church at approximately 2:00 p.m. Along the way, the Society is joined by members of the Our Lady of Assumption Society and St. John the Baptist Society who will also march in the procession. The American and Italian National Anthems are played at each stop.

After the statues of the saints are taken out from the church and lined up in formation (each one escorted by members of a particular society or church group), the procession is ready to begin. The membership body of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, along with local elected officials, leads the procession. Anchoring the procession is the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, followed behind as always by the faithful, many of whom have made this annual pilgrimage for decades. The pastor of St. Joseph's Church, currently Fr. Louis Micca, along with senior Mt. Carmel Society members, walk with the statue and hand out scapulars to those who make offerings. All monetary offerings collected during the procession go to the benefit of St. Joseph's Church. A



position at the statue is a place of honor for a Mt. Carmel Society member. Those members currently positioned at the statue include: Larry Longo Jr., P. Charles De Stefano, Carmine Pantalone, Louis Pantalone Sr., Anthony Jacobs, Sam Mascioli, Anthony Tomasello, Joseph Monzo and John Zucconi.

The procession moves along slowly. Starting from the church, the procession proceeds on Third Street, turning left onto Fairview Avenue. It moves down Fairview Avenue to Egg Harbor Road. Along the way, many residents kindly offer refreshments on this typically hot summer day. Members of the Sons of Italy provide soothing ice water.



Distinguished members of the
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society walk with the Statue

John Capelli, a longtime resident of Fairview Avenue, has a special fountain set up from his garden hose. Further along Fairview, The Triboletti's, a large family that gathers yearly to view the procession, also provides water. The Panarello Family on North Egg Harbor Road also offers water to all those in need. The procession continues from Egg Harbor Road to the Bellevue Avenue downtown business area, turning back onto Third Street en route back to St. Joseph's Church. As the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel nears the church, the pace slows as the streets swell with people making offerings. The Mt. Carmel members at the front of the procession line the church steps to await the arrival of the statue. Upon completion of the procession, a homily is given by one of the priests present. Fr. Joseph Mungari, pastor of St. Joseph Church during the 1960's and 1970's and again in the 1990's, was known to conclude his passionate sermons with

vigorous chants of "Viva Maria!"

The procession usually takes Mt. Carmel Society members Rocco Kenneth Tomasello serve as parade smoothly. The Hammonton anyone succumb to the heat. The maintains order and diverts traffic.

approximately five hours to complete. Fucetola, Anthony Capella, Sr. and marshals to keep things flowing Rescue Squad is on hand should Hammonton Police Department

Upon conclusion of the members return to the Mt. Carmel food stand which is now in full fledge of visitors to the feast. Many people Amusements of America carnival that to enjoy the multifarious Italian the many stands near the festival

festivities at the church, the Society Hall to begin duty at the operation handling the large influx stay after the procession to enjoy the entertains well into the evening and goodies available for consumption at grounds.



It is not until well past midnight before the activities of the day finally wind down for most members. There are feelings of exhaustion and relief, but also a deep sense of satisfaction that another successful feast day has been achieved and that the tradition has been continued.

The Carmine Pantalone Mt. Carmel Society Band



Carmine Pantalone wanted more. He felt the procession needed another full band rather than the practice of splitting one band into two squads. He recruited a local resident musician, Anthony Guerere, and soon a band was formed. Robert Hitman, another local resident, also participated. A few years passed and this group evolved into the meeting Carmel Society Band, with uniforms provided by the Mt. Carmel Society.

In early 1997, bandleader Herb Roselle requested that the name of the band be changed to the Carmine Pantalone Mt. Carmel Society Band in his honor. The officers of the Society agreed that it was an excellent suggestion and plans were quickly made to implement it. Carmine has been a member of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society for over 50 years. To this day, he continues to dedicate much of his time and energy for the benefit of the Society.



Carmine with son Louis to his left
and son Joseph to his right

In June of 1997, in a surprise ceremony at the Mt. Carmel Society Hall attended by Society and band members, as well as his family, Carmine was presented with a proclamation officially declaring the band's name changed to the Carmine Pantalone Mt. Carmel Society Band. Band members showed off their new logo and uniform. They also performed for the occasion.

All in attendance agreed that it was a fitting tribute to Carmine in recognition for his years of devoted service to the Society, to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and to the feast that we celebrate in Her honor.



Profile: Lawrence Longo, Sr.

Lawrence Longo, Sr. is the senior member of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society in terms of continuous service. He is also the grandson of one of its founding members, Louis Vuotto. In addition to his many contributions to the Society over the years, he is a former Vice President and was also instrumental in establishing the Mt. Carmel food stand.



From left to right: Dave Longo III,
Dave Longo Jr., Lawrence Longo
and Lawrence Longo Jr.

Lawrence joined the Society in 1938, shortly after he had married. "My father was a member, and he told me I was ready. It was something that was expected of you." Lawrence said. The Longo Family, of which Lawrence is the patriarch, has had a long heritage in the Society, including Lawrence's son, Larry, his brother, David, and various nephews and cousins.

Lawrence has observed many changes throughout the years. He recalls, "When I started in the Society, the parade route was at the original Pine Road site, down the White Horse Pike to town. Cars only occasionally came by, disrupting the procession. In the morning, we would walk out as far as Chew Road, wherever anyone would have us." "Rules were strict back then," he added, "No matter how hot it was, if you were carrying the flag, you were expected to keep holding it high."

The wartime years of the 1940's provided some of the fondest memories of the feast. "The town was really packed," he said. "I remember the people coming off the trains from Philadelphia, from all over to attend the procession. During World War II, with so many fathers, sons and family members away, it brought many people back to their faith."

Lawrence is very proud to be part of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, and to see that the traditions and heritage of the Society continue to this day. "It's a great bunch of guys. I like how everyone works together and gets things done."

Faith and commitment remain the strength of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society. This dedication, which has been passed down through the generations, would not be possible without devoted members such as Lawrence Longo, Sr.



President George Campanella
presenting Lawrence with a plaque
for his years of devotion

Feast Day!



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society



Standing Left to Right: Frank Italiano Jr., Mark Krason, Aaron Elliott, Kevin Tomasello, Alex De Silvio, Rocco Fichetola, John Leahey, Bill Eppler, Anthony Capella, Kenneth Tomasello, David DeStefano, Tom Cavuto, Louis Pantalone, George Campanella, Louis J. Pantalone, Joseph Pantalone, Horace Angelo, Bill Monzo, Anthony Jacobs, John Zucconi Jr., David Longo Jr., Lawrence Longo Jr., Rocco Fucetola Jr.

Sitting Left to Right: Fr. Joe Capella, Mike Simonetti, Anthony Tomasello, Bruce Fichetola, Louis Pantalone Jr., Ed Osciak, Anthony Ritz, Randy Ordille, Phil Codone, Charles DeStefano, Carmine Pantalone, Jack Owens, Samuel Mascioli, Joseph Monzo, Ron Virgilio, John Zucconi, David Longo Sr., Lawrence Longo Sr., Rocco Fucetola Sr.

Members not Pictured: George Campanella Jr., Anthony Capella Jr., Peter Gregori III, Nunce Gregori, Matt Melhado, Ed Riley, Donald Staiger



Officers and Chaplin

From Right to Left: Assistant Secretary Tom Cavuto, Treasurer David DeStefano, Chaplin Fr. Joseph Capella, President George Campanella, Vice President Louis J. Pantalone and Secretary Louis Pantalone
Not Picture: Censor Peter Gregori III



Statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Located Within Society Hall was Acquired in 1975

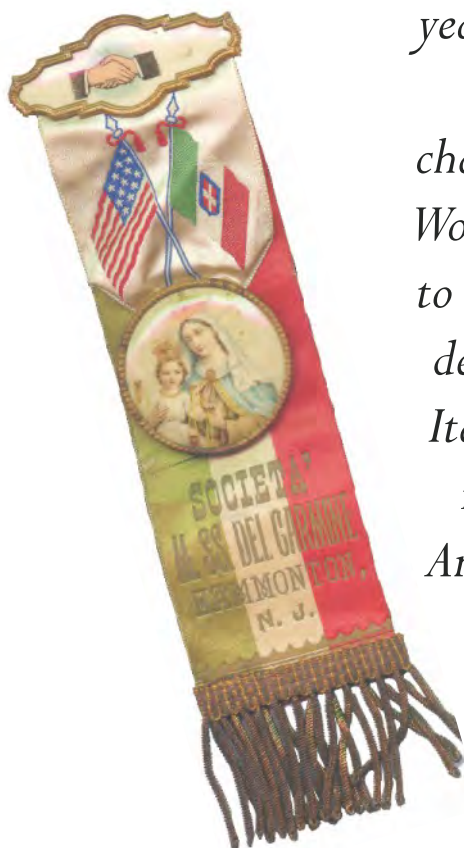
A collage of 15 photographs capturing various moments from the 1997/98 World's Fair. The images show people enjoying rides, food, and performances. Key scenes include a large crowd at a carousel, a puppet show, a food stand with chefs, a photo booth, and people walking through the fairgrounds.

Sash Donated By Bob Strano



Pictured are various styles of badges used by the Society throughout the years. In earlier years the writing was in Italian.

One of the most significant changes in style occurred during World War II when, out of loyalty to their country, the membership decided to replace the original Italian colors, green, white and red, with the more patriotic American colors, red, white and blue.





Father Joseph Capella

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society is proud to have Fr. Joseph P. Capella, S.A.C., serve as the Society's first Chaplain. Fr. Joseph is the only member of the Society to enter the priesthood.

Fr. Joseph is the son of Anthony and Nina Capella of Hammonton. His father and brother, Anthony Jr., are also members of the Mt. Carmel Society.

A 1979 graduate of Hammonton High School, Fr. Joseph went on to study at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, PA, where he received a degree in corporate management. In 1986, he entered the Pallotine Seminary in Hyattsville, MD. Fr. Joseph was ordained as a priest on June 2, 1990 in a ceremony conducted at St. Joseph's Church in Hammonton. He is presently assigned as rector at Bishop Eustace Prep School in Pennsauken, NJ.



Anthony Capella with his son
Father Joseph Capella

As Chaplain of the Society, Fr. Joseph presides over the ceremony held at the monument to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Pine Road and participates in the morning mass that the membership attends on the feast day.

Amusements of America



For the past 40 years, Amusements of America has been providing entertainment at the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Beginning with the purchase of a single ferris wheel from the 1939 World's Fair, the Vivona brothers -- Morris, John, Domenic, Babe and Phil -- built what is

considered to be one of the longest operating, most successful carnivals in the trade. Amusements of America has been consistently recognized as an industry leader and participates in some of the biggest and best fairs in America. Much like the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, the Amusements of America legacy is being carried on by the family's next generation, as the children of the Vivona brothers become increasingly involved in the family business. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society is pleased that the long-standing relationship and spirit of cooperation between these two organizations will continue into the new millennium.



President George Campanella
presenting Domenic and John
Vovona with a plaque of appreciation

St. John the Baptist Society

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society participates in the procession for the Feast of St.



St. John the Baptist Society's 1964 group shot in front of St. Joseph's Church

John the Baptist, which is held on June 24th each year. This feast originated in the year 1910. In 1931, the St. John Society was incorporated as a chartered organization. They continue to perpetuate their annual feast and also sponsor fund raisers to benefit St. Joseph's Church and the community. Current officers in the St. John Society are: Mario Triboletti, President; Tom Mazza, Vice President; Richard Grillo, Financial Officer; Louis LaMotta, Secretary; and John Vaccarella and Joseph Olive, Trustees.

The Assumption Society

The Mt. Carmel Society also participates in the August 15th procession honoring the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into heaven. The Our Lady of Assumption Society was formed in 1921. Samuel DeStefano was the first president. The Society was incorporated in 1923 through the efforts of Silvester and Ralph Santilli. Longtime president Frank Amedio (1922-2000) devoted much of his time and effort to perpetuate the feast. Current officers of the Assumption Society are: Anthony J. Barresi, President; Charles Gazzara, Treasurer; Carmen Cafiso, Vice President and John Merlino, Secretary.



the Saints

by Luke

OUR LADY of Mt. CARMEL



THE FEAST, OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, JULY 16, COMMEMORATES THE APPEARANCE OF THE BLESSED MOTHER TO THE CARMELITE PRIOR GENERAL, ST. SIMON STOCK, IN 1251. OFFERING HIM A BROWN SCAPULAR, SHE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "RECEIVE, MY BELOVED SON, THIS HABIT; WHOSOEVER DIES CLOTHED IN THIS SHALL NOT SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE."

THE PRACTICE OF WEARING THE SCAPULAR HAS INCREASED OVER THE CENTURIES AND TODAY IT IS WORN BY AN ESTIMATED 200 MILLION CATHOLICS. "NO DEVOTION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED WITH MIRACLES MORE NUMEROUS AND AUTHENTIC," BLESSED CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIERE SAID IN THE 17th CENTURY.

ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO THE SCAPULAR IS THE "SABBATINE PRIVILEGE," WHICH PROMISES THE WEARER HE WILL BE FREED FROM PURGATORY ON THE FIRST SATURDAY AFTER DEATH. THE CONDITIONS ARE TO WEAR THE SCAPULAR FAITHFULLY, TO OBSERVE CHASTITY, AND SAY PART OF THE ROSARY EACH DAY, (WHEN ENROLLED WITH THE CARMELITE ORDER.) THE SABBATINE PRIVILEGE ORIGINATED IN A VISION TO POPE JOHN XXII IN 1322, AND ALTHOUGH THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENT CONTAINING THIS VISION IS IN DOUBT, THE PREACHING OF THE PRIVILEGE HAS BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE CHURCH.



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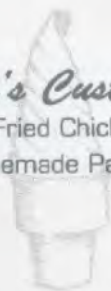
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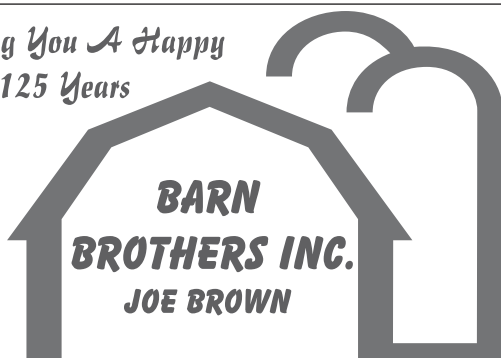
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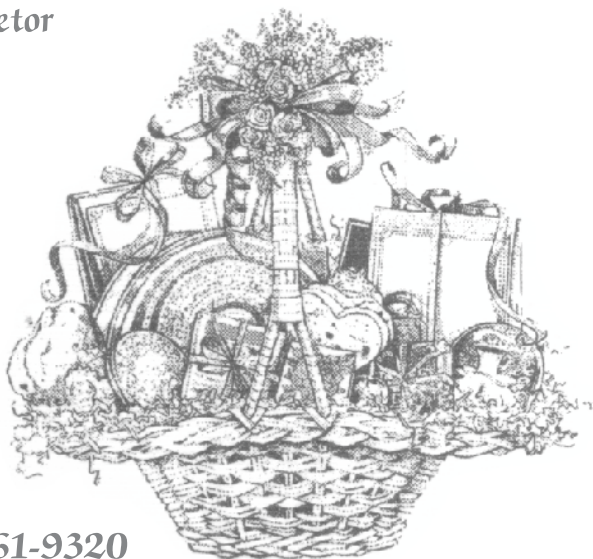
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Credits

This booklet was prepared by the Historical Committee
of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society:

Kevin Tomasello, Chairman

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Louis Pantalone Jr.

The committee would like to thank all those whose help and cooperation contributed to this project, including sponsors, Society members and friends who assisted in providing information. Special thanks to Johnna Tomasello and Carmine Pantalone, without their tireless effort, this project could not have been completed.

The Mt. Carmel Society is interested in obtaining any and all photographs and/or memorabilia (original or copy) pertaining to the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Please call the Mt. Carmel Hall at (609) 561-4818 or contact any meeting Carmel Society member.



OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SOCIETY



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