

Remarks for Donor Reception

Welcome to our new Mother Angeline Heritage Center. We are so happy today to honor you, the donors, who made this day possible. This building is truly built of love, and our hearts are full of gratitude. The Heritage Center lobby with its adjacent Video Room is the first point in the journey through the life of Mother Angeline and her six Companions, who began our Congregation in 1929. Our lovely image of Mother, painted by local artist Robert Whelan, seems to express Mother dreaming of being able to care for her beloved elderly in the American spirit. Across from the portrait we see Mother in prayer and the beginnings of making the dream a reality.

In the connector we see an image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel blessing Mother and the Foundresses with mountains and a stream in the background. This is the Catskills and the Hudson – or the Mount of Carmel with the spring of Elijah, depending on your perspective, and the buildings are some of the nursing homes built during Mother's time of leadership in the Congregation.

In the connector there is also a timeline of the Congregation and some panels dedicated to its works. The Heritage area which follows contains albums and artifacts as well as some quotes and information on the Six Companions. Mother's room/office is also replicated, using her actual furniture and other personal artifacts. The Reflection Room offers us the Risen Christ and a beautiful view of the cemetery where Mother and many of her daughters are buried. Leaving the building by the North door you encounter a peaceful grotto with a statue of Mother in prayer before the Monstrance. The path from this area leads you to her grave. It was only through prayer that Mother accomplished all you see in the Center itself.

The Heritage Center is meant to inspire as well as inform, and we hope you go away with a better idea of who the Carmelite Sisters are – our spirit and our philosophy of care.

Again we return to the Lobby and look toward our donor panel, which speaks of contributions large and small. There are also plaques by many of the major areas and exhibits. Our larger donors appear on the stationary panel, and the two small screens constantly flash the names of virtually every donor to the project. We thank each and every person who gave us the wherewithal to tell our story and honor our Foundress. May God bless you abundantly, and I hope you enjoy touring during our time together.