



Newsletter

Number 258, May 2020

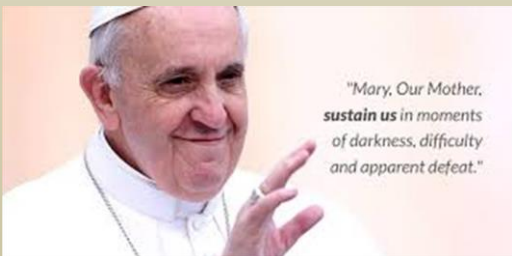
May: Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Community Meeting in May
No Bethany Day in May

Community Formation
St Thérèse of Lisieux
"Story of a Soul: Study Edition"
(Please continue reading)



Birthdays
 Patricia O'Connor Sunday 10 May



*"Mary, Our Mother,
 sustain us in moments
 of darkness, difficulty
 and apparent defeat."*

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Trust this Newsletter finds all of you safe, healthy and happy.

It has been a very challenging month for most of us. Being Carmelites, however, this isolation truly gives us the added time of silence and solitude which we are being called to.

Thank you, dear God, for our Divine Office and time of meditation.

What a greater opportunity to pray and to read the Scriptures (guess some of you would have taken up Fr John Adam's challenge to read the Gospel of Mark during Holy Week).



As we are in lock down due to the Coronavirus, Council has decided not to convene our meeting in May. Please pray for one another, and the immediate end of this pandemic. While we are still in lock down, it would be great if we continue reading "Story of a Soul".

I wish to thank Megan for all the hard work she did for our dear Theresa Siew; from the days leading to Theresa's death till the funeral. Megan was also a source of consolation for Mary, Theresa's grieving daughter, who could not be present. Mary writes:

"...Love and Gratitude to the Carmel Community for their prayers and outpourings of love. I will visit you all when I visit Christchurch in July."

God bless you, dear Megan, for your love, kindness and generosity.

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May our Lady of Carmel bless and protect our country, our Community, all those we love and all who ask of our prayers.

May our Risen Lord bestow His Divine Mercy on us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Love and blessings in Carmel,
 Maureen William

(President OCDS, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)

May quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:

"The Blessed Virgin glowed with a beauty beyond anything I had ever seen. Her face was alive with kindness and infinite tenderness, but it was her enchanting smile that really moved me to the depths."

TWO MIRACULOUS EVENTS – MOUNT CARMEL AND FATIMA – AND THE RAIN OF GRACES

By John Haffert [[Web Link](#)]



Kings and the MIRACLE OF THE SUN, which took place at Fatima on October 13, 1917?

We are still so close to the miracle of Fatima that we may not yet adequately appreciate it in the perspective of the great promise: *“An era of peace will be granted to mankind.”* But we are sufficiently removed in history to appreciate the similar miracle described in the Book of Kings, which marked a high point in the history of the people of God. They had been on the verge of annihilation (this time not from a flood, but from a prolonged drought sent by God as a punishment for their idolatry). By the miracle of Mount Carmel, they were converted and saved.

MIRACLE ON MOUNT CARMEL

Elias, that great prophet with whom Jesus appeared at His Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, had proclaimed to the people that if they did not destroy the idols and return to God, they would be severely punished. When the prophet's words were not heeded, the punishment came. Facing the death of his people, when the King sent for Elias, the holy man said:

“Gather unto me all Israel on Mount Carmel, and with them the pagan prophets who eat at the Queen's table: four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the groves” (1 Kgs: 18:19). Then an incredible “contest” was proposed by the prophet on Mount Carmel “to prove that God is God.”

The 850 pagan priests would erect an altar and place a sacrifice upon it and pray to the pagan gods to send fire from Heaven to consume the sacrifice. And he, the sole prophet of God, would also build an altar and place a sacrifice upon it. He would also fill a trench at the base of the altar with water. Then he would call upon the one true God to send fire from Heaven.

The contest between God and anti-god lasted an entire day. The pagan prophets danced around their altar cutting themselves with lancets, crying out to Baal to prove his power. But hour after hour their sacrifice simply dried under the blistering heat of the sun, which had not been covered by a cloud for three and a half years.

Towards the end of the day, as the pagan priests were falling exhausted around the pile of stones upon which they had laid their sacrifice, Elias looked up to Heaven and voiced a single prayer. Fire came down from Heaven and consumed not only the sacrifice of Elias but the very stones of his altar and the water on the ground around it.

The nation fell to its knees crying: *“The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”* (1 Kng 18:39)...

THE FATIMA MIRACLE

...In the case of the fire which came down from the sky in Fatima, we have the testimony of thousands of witnesses. The present writer (after interviewing dozens of them) wrote a book about this miracle called *Meet the Witnesses*. They all testified: A fireball appeared in the sky which everyone thought to be actually the sun itself. It plunged towards the earth causing the tens of thousands of witnesses to think it was going to consume everyone and everything... All thought it was the end of the world. After it was over, there was an extraordinary climax, almost as impressive to the crowd as the fire itself:

It had been raining for many hours before the miracle. Most of the people's clothing was thoroughly wet. Some of them were standing in puddles of water when the “sun” seemed to plunge from the sky. The Cova of Fatima was a *“veritable sea of water and mud”*. Yet suddenly *“everything was entirely dry.”*

As the miracle on Mount Carmel... the water had instantly evaporated from the heat of the great fire, which came down from the sky over the mountain at Fatima... All the witnesses of this miracle testified that they were at once dry and clean. Thus, the miracle which had been witnessed by so many thousands became completely personal. Each individual had experienced a miracle within himself and herself... the Mother of Jesus had kept her promise to perform a miracle *“so that all may believe.”*

At the climax of the great miracle of Fatima, Our Lady appeared in the sky a final time as **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL!**

Portugal at that moment was ruled by atheists who had vowed to wipe out religion within two generations. They tried to destroy the place of the apparitions. They imprisoned the children to whom Our Lady appeared and threatened them with death. The contest, as on Mount Carmel of old, was between God and anti-god...

Fathers and doctors of the Church have interpreted the foot-shaped cloud seen rising from the sea at the foot of Mount Carmel as a symbol of the Immaculate, rising pure out of the sea of humankind to bring forth the Savior of the world, crushing the head of the serpent beneath her heel and *“bringing the saving rain of Grace”*...

THE SIGN – THE SCAPULAR

By the Mount Carmel miracle in the Old Testament and the Miracle at Fatima in 1917 with the final appearance of “Our Lady of Mount Carmel,” we are brought face to face with the mystery of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a sea of grace, and a supreme manifestation of God's love in the world. Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is practised through the wearing of a small garment, the Scapular. Our Lady gave it as a sign of salvation in 1251 with the words: *“Whosoever dies clothed in this shall not suffer eternal fire.”*...

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

Prayers for May

Thank-you, Lord, for all the blessings you give us each day.

We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Bishop Paul and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our new Provincial, Fr John Grennan, OCD, Fr General Saverio Cannistrà, OCD and all our Carmel family, especially our Carmelite Sisters. Also, vocations to Carmel and to our own Peace of Christ Community **(Please offer a decade of the rosary daily for this, as requested by Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD)**

Special Intentions:

- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma school mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our Special Members, especially Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Shaun and Samuel with NET Ministries in Ireland
- Those who have died recently, especially our dear Theresa Maria Siew, OCDS, Gerald McCulloch, OCDS (Sydney), Danuta Mierzwicki, OCDS (Sydney), Fr Ephraim Ojiekwe, OCD, Fr John McNamara, OCD, Noreen Tod, Brian Eccleton, Bernard Pope, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus, including Joanna and Sr Regis. Also prayers for Stephanie & Patricia (Annette's daughter & granddaughter), Steven (Eddie's son), Stephen (Marian's son), Bishop Basil Meeking, Fr Aloysius Deeney, OCD, Maree & David Khouri and Megan's mum, Josie, to maintain good health through this time

Our Holy Father's Intentions for May:

- We pray that **deacons**, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

NATIONAL STATUTES PART IV – SERVING GOD'S PLAN Section Eight – Our Beloved Dead

*"We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death."
(St Ambrose)*

19. ...On the death of a member, or isolated/special member attached to the Community, the President shall inform the Community and send a written obituary notice to the other communities within our region of New Zealand, Australia and Samoa. Besides attending the funeral Mass, if possible the Community will arrange to have another Mass offered at which the Community takes part. Members will pray one of their daily offices such as Morning or Evening Prayer and include a petition in the intercessions.

Our May Carmelite Saints

- 4 Mon. Bls Angelus Maria Prat Hostench and Lucas of St Joseph Pujol (priests and martyrs, and companions)
- 16 Sat. St Simon Stock (priest)**
- 22 Fri. St Joachina de Vedruna de Mas (religious)
- 25 Mon. St Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (virgin)
- 29 Fri. Bl. Elisha of St Clement (virgin)

*"Alone at the feet of my Crucified Lord,
I looked at him for a long time, and as I looked
I saw that he was my whole life".*

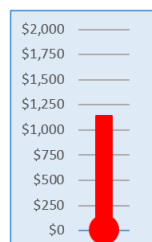
Blessed Elisha of St Clement



OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

To help Fr Jérôme, OCD in providing education for the children in Goma

- The account for donations is:
SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES,
03 1593 0029937 00
- Please put your name and "Goma" in the details for the deposit.
- No receipt is necessary because it is printed on our bank statement.
- No tax refund is possible because we are not a registered charity.



New Total



The "Way of Perfection" school

The Seal of Carmel: "Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum"

"With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts"