



Newsletter

Number 260, July 2020

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 5 July 2020

12:00pm Formation Groups

12:45pm Community Meeting

Welcome & opening prayers
Roll call & apologies

Minutes of previous meeting

Treasurer's report, Correspondence
General business, General discussion
Closing prayers

1:45pm Community Formation

St Thérèse of Lisieux

"Story of a Soul: Study Edition"
(Community Study: Chapter 1)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Marian, Reader: Odette

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Christine & Eddie

Dishes: Pat C. & Megan



Missions

Bethany Day

Tuesday 21 July 2020

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch

Birthdays

Peb Simmons Saturday 4 July

Annette Wilkinson Thursday 16 July



July: Dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

What a joy it was to meet for the first time after a long time! I felt so blessed when we came together as a Community on the first Sunday in June, which happened to be Holy Trinity Sunday. We finally started on our planned Formation Study on St Thérèse – "The Story of a Soul". We also renewed our Promise, which was long overdue since Easter.

Sr Mary Teresa of St Augustine's 60th (Diamond) Jubilee was celebrated on 5th June. Some of us were present for her special Mass on the day. Many of us got to meet her after the Community Meeting. Sr Mary Teresa holds a special place in the hearts of our OCDS members for her work in our formation. May God continue to bless her.

Congratulations to **Pat Carroll** who shall be receiving the Papal Medal on Saturday 4th July 2020 at Christ the King Church at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass.

Please pray for us as we organise and prepare for our annual **OCDS retreat** in November (13th - 15th). Fr Philip, CSJ has kindly consented to be our Retreat Director. I shall update details as soon as they are available; thank you for your patience.

I am pleased to announce that we have a **NZ OCDS website** www.carmel.org.nz and I invite you to view it. You may want to recommend it to anyone who is interested to know more about the Secular Order in New Zealand.

"May the Precious Blood of Jesus heal us and safeguard us from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in Heaven. Amen."

Blessings in Carmel,
Maureen William, OCDS
(President,
Peace of Christ
Community,
Christchurch)



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OFFERING

O MY GOD, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary (here kiss your Brown Scapular) I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with it the offering of my every thought, word and action of this day. O my Jesus, I desire today to gain every indulgence and merit I can and I offer them, together with myself, to Mary Immaculate... that she may best apply them to the interests of Thy most Sacred Heart.

PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS, Save us!

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, Save us!

SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Have mercy on us!

July quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:
"I resolved to remain continually, in spirit, at the foot of the cross, to receive the sacred drops of Blood and then to apply them to souls."

FR MARIE-EUGÈNE AND ST THÉRÈSE: A REMARKABLE FRIENDSHIP (PART 1)

By Monique Varenne ("Mount Carmel" Magazine, April – June 2020)

...On October 3, 1962, in his homily for the feast of St Thérèse, Fr Marie-Eugène said with simplicity: *St Thérèse of the Child Jesus is like a childhood friend, a little saint who lived close to us and who, in the measure in which we grew, shared her confidences with us and showed us the secrets of her soul.*

Fr Marie-Eugène and St Thérèse could not have met, as he was only three years old when Thérèse died in 1897. But he was a great friend of the Carmel of Lisieux, which he visited thirty-three times during his different missions from 1927 to 1957. From his many meetings with Thérèse's sisters – Marie, Pauline (Mother Agnes) and Céline (Sr Geneviève) – he was able to collect living testimonies from first-hand witnesses, and his own knowledge of Thérèse was enriched. Fr Marie-Eugène often spoke with Sr Geneviève and said that he tried to learn all her secrets about her little sister. Of Mother Agnes he said, *I loved and revered her deeply. She was a very holy soul, and the same was true of Sister Geneviève.* But of Thérèse he said, *In her surroundings, Thérèse was unique... [She] was a giant in comparison [with her sisters], and far surpassed them.* Mother Agnes once said: 'I have never met anyone so much like my little sister as Fr Marie-Eugène'.

In fact, Fr Marie-Eugène first discovered Thérèse in 1906 or 1907, when he was only twelve or thirteen years old, at the junior seminary of Graves in Aveyron, through a 'little book of no consequence'. Entitled *The Unpetalled Rose*, it was a cheap edition of *Story of a Soul*, and he was immediately struck by the power of its message. An amazing friendship was born between Thérèse and the young boy, and it would continue until Fr Marie-Eugène entered into Eternal Life.

In 1913, as a seminarian in Rodez, he wrote to a friend that he found Thérèse's autobiography 'admirable', and he added: *no book has ever made such an impression on me as that one. I have read it several times and I have bought a copy so as to be able to read it again very often. I can find no words to express the impact that it has made on me. It is wonderful.* From that moment, he would always keep this little book with him.

In 1914, the First World War interrupted his studies in the seminary, and he immediately enlisted as a volunteer on the front line, carrying Thérèse's book on him... He always experienced the powerful protection of Thérèse for himself and his soldiers and reported: *Sister Thérèse has so well protected me and my soldiers, she deflected bullets...*

In March 1923, Fr Marie-Eugène made his profession in Carmel and took the name of Brother Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus. In a letter to his sister Berthe ten days beforehand, he wrote: *Little Thérèse will have her share in that, since we shall both be 'of the Child Jesus'. We will be totally brother and sister from now on.*

The years 1923-1925 were marked by the beatification and canonisation of Thérèse of Lisieux. As editor of the review *Carmel* and a preacher, he could communicate and spread the teaching of Thérèse and the saints of Carmel...

...He was convinced that the spirit of Carmel could be put within the reach of everyone and lived in the midst of the world in a form adapted to the needs of our times...

In 1953, Fr Marie-Eugène had the chance to see in Lisieux the actual handwritten manuscripts of St Thérèse's autobiography. It was a revelation for him, as he discovered that many modifications had been made to the original by her sisters and superior. With prophetic vision, he already saw her as a Doctor of the Church and he invited the Carmelites of Lisieux to bring out Thérèse's texts in their integrity. For this, he appointed a team of members of Notre-Dame de Vie [the secular institute he had founded] with Fr François de Sainte Marie. The finished work, a critical edition of *Story of a Soul* – known as the *Autobiographical Manuscripts* – would come out in 1956. This publication has had an enormous significance in the history of Christian spirituality. Fr Marie-Eugène's eagerness for truth was well suited to Thérèse who affirmed: 'I can nourish myself on nothing but the truth'.

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus [[Web Link](#)]

...In complete opposition with her time, she understood the true 'character of God' and sparked a deep revolution concerning our relationships with Him. Through his preaching and encounters, Fr Marie-Eugène quotes and comments her continuously:

God is mercy. He enjoys giving Himself and His joy is proportionate to His gift. In front of God we should not appear with our qualities and successes, but on the contrary like poor people or children. We never hope too much in Him. Thérèse's secret consists in 'using her weakness' with a confidence which never gets discouraged, 'looking obstinately at God in spite of all mists', because He is always there. Then the most ordinary daily life takes on a wonderful significance: the love with which you do everything rejoices God's heart and builds the Church.



Prayers for July

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 and the Provincial Chapter held from July 27-31, 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
- Sr Mary Teresa of St Augustine on her 60th Jubilee
- Our Special Members, especially Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Bishop Basil Meeking, Rachel Dennerly, Sr Christine Chia, SMDM (younger sister of Sr Mary Teresa), and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also prayers for Stephanie & Patricia (Annette's daughter & granddaughter), Stephen (Marian's son), Rosemarie (with Motor Neurone Disease), Tahu (with a brain tumour), Elizabeth, Margaret Shannon, Jean, Anggha, Karen's son, Adam (for his wedding and job), baby Carter (who has no immunity) and Fr Carl and the seminarians on retreat

Our Holy Father's Intentions for July:

- We pray that today's **families** may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

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. ...For the deceased Pope, Father General and his Delegate, Father Provincial and his Regional Delegate and the Bishop of the diocese, each Community will have a Mass offered and each member will pray five decades of the Rosary or pray the Office of the Dead.

Our July Carmelite Saints

- 13 Mon. St Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes (virgin)
- 16 Thu. **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**
- 17 Fri. Bls Teresa of St Augustine and Companions (virgins and martyrs)
(The Martyrs of Compiègne, France)
- 20 Mon. St Elijah (prophet, our Father)
- 24 Fri. Bls Maria Pilar, Teresa and Maria Angeles (virgins and martyrs)
Bl. Maria Mercedes Prat (virgin and martyr)
- 27 Mon. Bl. Titus Brandsma (priest and martyr)
- 28 Tue. Bl. John Soreth (priest)

*For a Carmelite, Communion is heaven;
and she should receive it
with her whole believing soul...!
St Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes*

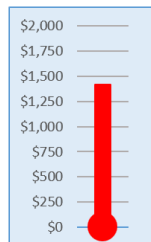


**Sr Mary Teresa
of St Augustine,
60th (Diamond) Jubilee,
Carmelite Monastery,
Friday 5 June 2020**

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



Desks for the children

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

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