



Newsletter

Number 261, August 2020

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 2 August 2020
"FOUNDATION DAY"

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

No Community Formation

2:00pm Mass in Chapel

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Pat C., Reader: Megan

Afternoon Tea

(Please bring a plate.)



Prep. & Serving: Karen & Ken

Dishes: Claire & Marian



For Goma and
Tonga Carmel

Bethany Day

Tuesday 18 August 2020

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

Birthdays

Maureen William Wed. 5 August

Christine Pitcaithly Wed. 12 August

NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

August: Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Trust you have been keeping warm and dry this month and that this Newsletter finds you in the best of health.

It's been a very busy July. On Monday 13 July, we joined the Sisters in celebrating Sr Elizabeth's 90th birthday – a truly joyful occasion spent with Sister's family and friends.

Three days later, another celebration – the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was kept low-key this year, but nevertheless, celebrated in a beautiful Mass at the Carmelite Monastery.



Apparition of Our Lady to Sr Lucia of Fatima

1st August is **Foundation Day**

of the Peace of Christ Community. At our monthly meeting the next day (2nd August), we shall celebrate with Holy Mass at 2pm. You are most welcome to invite your family and friends to our Mass and afternoon celebrations. A gentle reminder – please bring a plate for our afternoon tea.

Thank you, dear Carmel family, for agreeing to financially help the Sisters of the **Tongan Carmelite Order**. Their prioress, Mother Teresa, and her charge, Sr Pauline, express their thanks to us and assure us of their prayers for us.

The details for our retreat this year are finalised. Praise God!

The theme is **'For God so loved the world.'**

Dates: 13-15 November. Retreat Director: Fr Philip

Cost: \$220 (Live-in) and \$100 (Day Only)

Please bring your **\$50 deposit** at our August meeting.

Please pray for the success of our retreat.

Let us as a Community pray for the defeat of the referendums on Euthanasia and Cannabis.

God bless,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)

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

"With all my heart I consecrated myself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and asked her to watch over me. She seemed to look lovingly on her Little Flower and to smile at her again."

FR MARIE-EUGÈNE AND ST THÉRÈSE: A REMARKABLE FRIENDSHIP (PART 2)

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

In 1987, Fr Guy Gaucher, OCD, the French specialist of Thérèse, said these words: 'It seems to me beyond dispute that Fr Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus must be ranked among the most important disciples of St Thérèse of Lisieux in the twentieth century... and in the years to come.' *I have understood [God's] Mercy. St Thérèse felt its sweetness, I feel its power*, said Fr Marie-Eugène. He worked so hard throughout his earthly life to make known the most important and central point of Thérèse's message which fulfilled his deepest aspirations: **to know Love, and to make Love known...**



[Fr Marie-Eugène:] To our sophisticated and jaded civilisation, which has lost the sense of the infinite and suffers from this, God has sent a child who, with the charm and luminous purity of her simplicity, brings us once more the eternal message of his

Love, namely, that he has created us in Love, that his Love is still vibrant and all the more eager in [the] face of our betrayals, and that he waits for us to love him and to let ourselves be loved by him like very small children.

At each turning point in history the Holy Spirit places a guide... [It] is simply an expression of my thought and conviction... when I affirm that Thérèse will be, in fact already is, one of the great spiritual teachers of the Church, one of the most proficient spiritual guides of all times...

Thérèse herself tells us that it is love which holds her gaze... It is remarkable to note that the gaze as she describes it coincides completely with the definition of contemplation given by St Thomas... : 'a simple gaze upon truth under the impulse of love'... Her child's gaze is the gaze of high contemplation... What light and encouragement there is for us... ! In the prayer of Thérèse we discover something of our own prayer.

For Fr Marie-Eugène, simplicity and depth are the qualities that make the great masters, and thus Thérèse enters fully into the family of the great spiritual masters of all time. For him, there is no doubt that Thérèse is a 'Doctor of the Mystical Life'...

...As she had written in *Story of a Soul*, her way was 'very straight, very short, and totally new' (SS, p. 207). And she explained to Sr Marie of the Sacred Heart: 'Jesus does not demand great actions from us but simply **surrender and gratitude**' (SS, p. 188);

'what pleases [God] is **that He sees me loving my littleness and my poverty, the blind hope that I have in His mercy...** That is my only treasure, dear Godmother, why would this treasure not be yours?... Oh, dear Sister, I beg you, understand your little girl, understand that to love Jesus,... the weaker one is, without desires or virtues, the more suited one is for the workings of this consuming and transforming Love' (LT 197)...

[Fr Marie-Eugène:] For me, Thérèse of the Child Jesus is above all a spiritual master. With modesty, but with what certainty, she has taught me her little way, has taught me trust, abandon, after revealing to me something of what she herself discovered in the Holy Trinity, namely: that burning heart of Love, that is the Holy Spirit. Thérèse went to the truth without prejudice. With her purity she perceived the essential and with her generosity she lived it perfectly.

In this detachment from all that is not God, we find the all and nothing of St John of the Cross, the act of perfect confidence which attains all. So, spiritual childhood leads to the highest summits of contemplation.

Thérèse presents the divine possession and transformation of our souls as realities which are not remote but available to all. In disengaging the mystical life from all that would draw attention to it exteriorly, she shows that the highest mystical life can be lived in any setting and in all situations, beneath the veil which simplicity casts over its riches.

The little way is quite evangelical, it is not reserved for perfect souls, it is open to all, it is the way to be taken for our times...

One day I visited the Carmel of Lisieux with [the Prioress]. As we passed through the older part of the building she said to me, 'There is the statue of the Sacred Heart where Mother Agnes came to pray on the afternoon of 30 September [1897].' ...Thérèse's temptations against faith were so violent that she was in total darkness... She was close to despair...

Thérèse had forewarned [her sisters]: 'Do not be surprised; I have asked to die the death of Jesus on the cross, when he said, "Father, why have you abandoned me?" She suffered in this manner right up to the last moment. Her final act of love would spring forth from that night... 'My God... I love You!...' (LC, p.206).



Prayers for August

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
- Mother Teresa, OCD and the Tonga Carmel
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Deacon Tang Anthony Phan and his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday 22nd August
- Our Special Members, especially Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- Our November retreat
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Defeat of referendums on euthanasia and cannabis
- Those who have died recently, especially Vincente Velasco, Fr Benito's father, and the family's consolation
- 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, Kathie Douglas, Anggha, Brothers Jan and Jerome, Laura, Tommy, Adam, Maree Khouri, baby Carter (who has no immunity), Fr Frank Kelly, a young girl, Therese, and Louise Tillaart for a good recovery from her stroke

Our Holy Father's Intentions for August:

- We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

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 a deceased Spiritual Assistant, Carmelite sister or friar within New Zealand each member will pray five decades of the Rosary or pray the Office for the Dead. If possible, members will attend the funeral Mass of their Spiritual Assistant, and that of a sister or friar of the local Carmelite community.

Our August Carmelite Saints

- 7 Fri. St Albert of Trapani (priest)
- 18 Tue. Bl. Leonard Duverneuil, Michael Aloysius Brulard, Hubert of St Claude (priests, and their companions, martyrs)
- 25 Tue. **St Mary of Jesus Crucified Baouardy (virgin)**



"Everything passes here on earth.

What are we?

*Nothing but dust, nothingness
and God is so great, so beautiful, so lovable
and he is not loved."*

*St Mary of Jesus Crucified
The Little Arab and Lily of Palestine*

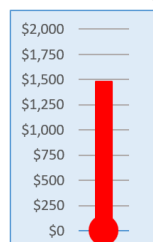


**Sr Elizabeth of the Trinity
on her 90th Birthday,
Carmelite Monastery,
Monday 13 July 2020**

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



The children at school

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

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