



Newsletter

Number 264, November 2020

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 1 November 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 2, from p.50)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Christine, Reader: Claire

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Eddie & Mary

Dishes: Odette & Megan



For Goma and
Tonga Carmel

Council Meeting

Bethany Day

Tuesday 17 November 2020

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

Birthdays

Gay Hailes Sun. 8 November

Barbara Hempseed Wed. 11 November



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

November: Dedicated to the Holy Souls

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

October has indeed been an eventful month. We witnessed the ordination of the newest priest in our Diocese, Fr Anthony Tang, and we were privileged to be present at his first Mass at the Carmel Monastery a couple of days after. What joyous occasions for us!

It was also in this month's feast of our Founder-Mother St Teresa of Jesus that we joined the Church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Teresa's doctorate: she was declared Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970. St Teresa wrote much on the subject of contemplative prayer and is an outstanding example of how the contemplative life can overflow into action.

Christchurch Show Day weekend (13 – 15 Nov.) is our annual retreat weekend – please pray for the participants and especially for our Spiritual Director, Fr Philip Suelzer, CSJ. (A copy of the retreat programme is included in this Newsletter.)

Trust you all are working hard at writing your thoughts down on "Our Charism and Mission in Today's World" – a line or a paragraph, whatever you wish to express. Bring them to our next meeting in November. Together let us present a paper for the National Council Retreat in Wellington in February 2021.

As we remember our deceased relatives and loved ones during this month of the Holy Souls, please keep in your prayers too, all our deceased members, Friars and Sisters. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Blessings in Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



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

"No, I am not afraid of purgatory. I know that I am not even worthy to enter that place of expiation with those holy souls, but I know also that the fire of love is more sanctifying than the fire of purgatory."

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER” – THOUGHTS ON ST THÉRÈSE

By Fr John Grennan, OCD



Considering that a lot of us are currently staying at home, and the pressure that that can put on relationships, I thought it might be helpful to share with you some examples of how St Thérèse related in love to her sisters within the voluntary lockdown of Carmel from her time of entry at the age of 15, until her death 9 years later.

She was a novice with **Sr Philomena**, who was 45 years of age when she entered; partly for that reason, she found the going difficult and the work tiring. Thérèse, whose room was next-door, recognised her struggle and used to wait every night in silence for her to come along, and as she did, would give her a beautiful smile. Philomena would later say how *“That smile of Thérèse used to compensate for all the hard work of the day.”*

At a deeper level she helped her too. One day, Thérèse remarked that it pained her that she was afraid of the good God, and in time she taught the sister to love and have confidence in God. Sr Philomena tells us the result in her own words: *“I have come to believe that God is good not only as a father, but like a grandfather; the older he grows, the better he becomes.”*

Another sister in the community, **Sr Hermance**, had a strong aversion to the scent of flowers; today we would probably call it an allergy. For this reason, Thérèse was careful not to put flowers with a very strong perfume in front of the statue of the Child Jesus, which she had charge of. One day, just as she was about to put a rose in front of the statue, she heard **Sr Hermance** calling her by name and she knew why.

Recalling what followed, Thérèse wrote: *“My first reaction was to let her go ahead and complain and then tell her it was only an artificial rose. But at that moment I felt Jesus was tugging at my heart for a sacrifice of this little selfish satisfaction, and he won. So, I held up the rose and I said happily, ‘Look Sr Hermance, how well they imitate nature these days. Wouldn’t you think this rose had just been picked in the garden!’”*

Then there was **Sr Teresa of St Augustine**: Without mentioning her name, Thérèse writes in her Autobiography: (She) *“has the faculty of displeasing me in everything, in her ways, her words, her character, everything seems very disagreeable to me.”*

Thérèse responded as follows: *“I told myself that charity must not consist in feelings but in works; then I set myself to doing for this sister what I would do for the person I loved the most. Each time I met her I prayed to God for her... I took care to render her all the services possible, and when I was tempted to answer her back in a disagreeable manner, I was content with giving her my most friendly smile, and with changing the subject of the conversation...”* Finally, (and I think this is encouraging for us), Thérèse says, she *“used to run away like a deserter whenever my struggles became too violent.”*

Then, one day, Sr Teresa asked: *“Would you tell me, Sr Thérèse, ... what attracts you so much towards me; every time you look at me, I see you smile?”*

Another member of the community, **Sr Mary of St Joseph**, was a woman of unstable temperament and frequent temper outbursts, to the extent that nobody wanted to work with her. Thérèse stepped into the breach, helping her in the linen room. She also wrote several notes to her trying to encourage and cheer her up; she often praised her lovely soprano voice.

When two sisters were talking about how difficult she was, Thérèse spoke up: *“I can tell you this, that I pity her deeply and if you were as close to her as I am, you would soon realize that she is not responsible for some of the things she says and does. I think if I had an illness like hers, I wouldn’t do any better and I would despair because she is suffering so much morally. It’s not her fault that she’s so poorly gifted; she’s like a poor clock that needs winding every quarter of an hour. Oh! How we have to practice charity to our neighbour!”*

When Thérèse was dying of tuberculosis and couldn’t be visited for fear of contagion, Sr Mary placed a little violet on the window sill of the infirmary. The night after Thérèse died, the scent of violets filled her room and she understood it to be Thérèse’s presence.

Although never officially appointed, Thérèse carried out the duty of Novice Mistress for the final years of her life. Not being able to visit her during her illness was a source of deep sadness, especially for one of her novices, **Sr Marie of the Trinity**. She tells how Thérèse reached out to her from her wheelchair:

"One day, I went to take a walk in the garden, and I saw her in her wheelchair under the chestnut trees. She was all alone and she made a sign for me to approach. 'Oh! No, they would see us, and I have no permission.' I entered the grotto of the Holy Face where I began to cry; lifting up my head, I saw with surprise little Sister Thérèse seated on a trunk of a tree at my side. She said: 'I haven't been forbidden to come to you, and even though I should die of it, I want to console you.' She dried my tears and placed my head on her heart. I begged her to return to her wheelchair, for she was trembling with fever: 'Yes, but not before you have laughed for me!' This she did before helping Thérèse back to her wheelchair.

Thérèse once observed how St Paul *"rejoiced with those who rejoiced and wept with those who wept"*, but she added: *"I should always try to 'change the tears into joy'"* (Jn 16:20). And that is what she did for Sr Marie, and at no little cost to herself.

Last year, while visiting the Carmelite nuns in Madagascar, Pope Francis spoke of an act of love St Thérèse used to carry out during her early years in Carmel. She used to accompany an old sister with serious arthritis, **Sr Peter**, from the choir to the refectory. Thérèse herself describes the 10-minute daily odyssey:

"When I saw Sister shake her hour-glass I knew this meant: 'Let's go!' It is incredible how difficult it was for me to get up, especially at the beginning; however, I did it immediately, and then a ritual was set in motion.

I had to remove and carry her little bench in a certain way, above all I was not to hurry, and then the walk took place. It was a question of following the poor invalid by holding her cincture; I did this with as much gentleness as possible. But if by mistake she took a false step: ... 'Ah! My God! You are going too fast; I'm going to break something.' If I tried to go more slowly: 'Well, come on! I don't feel your hand; you've let me go and I'm going to fall! Ah! I was right when I said you were too young to help me.'

"Finally," (Thérèse continues) *"we reached the refectory without mishap; and here other difficulties arose. I had to seat Sr Peter and I had to act skilfully in order not to hurt her; then I had to turn back her sleeves (again in a certain way), and afterwards I was free to leave.*

With her poor crippled hands, she was trying to manage with her bread as well as she could. I soon noticed this, and each evening, I did not leave her until after I had rendered her this little service. As she had not asked for

this, she was much touched by my attention, and it was by this means that I gained her entire good graces, and this especially (I learned this later) because, after cutting her bread for her, I gave her my most beautiful smile before leaving her all alone."

Like so many Popes before him, Pope Francis has great devotion to St Thérèse. While referring to this old nun during his visit to Madagascar, he went on to share, and I quote: *"The same Thérèse now accompanies an old man. ... she has accompanied me at every step of the way. ... Sometimes I am a little irritable and I send her away, as Sr Peter did. Sometimes I listen to her; sometimes my troubles keep me from listening carefully ... But she is a faithful friend. That is why ... I ... share with you my experience with a saint, and in doing so, to tell you ... what a saint can do, and about the path to becoming saints."* End of quote.

In the enclosure of her Convent, these are some examples of how Thérèse loved. What was her secret? She tells us quite simply: *"It is Jesus ... and the more united I am to Him, the more also do I love my Sisters."*

Near the end of her Autobiography and Life Thérèse wrote: *"You know O my God, I have never desired anything but to love you, and I am ambitious for no other glory. Your love has gone before me, and it has grown with me, and now it is an abyss whose depths I cannot fathom. Love attracts Love, and my Jesus, my love leaps towards yours"* (S 256).

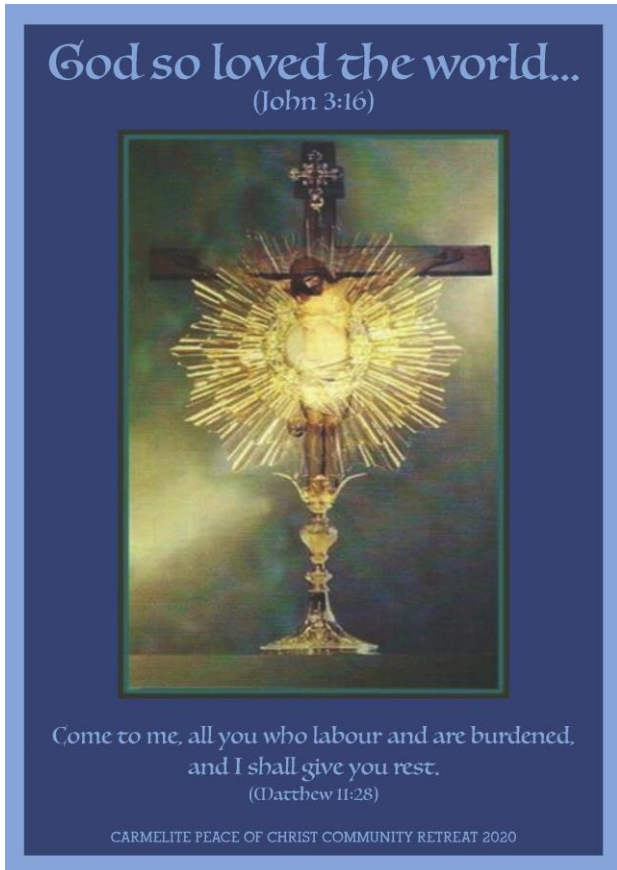
She had carved on the lintel of her door what was imprinted in the depths of her heart, *"Jesus is my only love"*, and that is the love she channelled to others through her prayers, her words and her actions; and let us not forget her smile, the radiance of the One she loved and a blessing for all who received it. Her love is the reason that the Lord could work wonders for her that surpassed her desires. May she channel that same love to all of you, and your loved ones whom you are praying for during this Novena. Amen.





OCDS RETREAT 2020

University of Canterbury
Rochester & Rutherford Hall
13 – 15 November



Retreat Director:
Fr Philip Suelzer, CSJ

Please bring your retreat money to our November meeting, which makes our planning easier. Costs, which include our donation, are:

\$220 for those booked to live in, and \$100 for the day retreatants.

Retreat Timetable

Friday 13 November

11:00am – 12:30pm Arrival, sign and collect room keys
12:30pm Welcome & Lunch
Housekeeping Details

The silence of the retreat begins

1:30pm Spiritual Talk / Conference 1
2:30pm Adoration
2:40pm – 4:00pm 4 x 20-minute slots
4:30pm Mass. Evening Prayer
6:00pm Evening Meal
6:20pm – 7:20pm 3 x 20-minute slots
7:30pm Spiritual Talk / Conference 2
Night Prayer

Saturday 14 November

7:30am Breakfast
7:40am – 8:40am 3 x 20-minute slots
8:45am Morning Prayer
9:00am Mass
9:40am – 10:40am 3 x 20-minute slots
10:00am Morning Tea
11:00am Spiritual Talk / Conference 3
11:40am – 12:20pm 2 x 20-minute slots
12:30pm Lunch
1:10pm – 3:10pm 6 x 20-minute slots
1:30pm Adoration
3:30pm Spiritual Talk / Conference 4
6:00pm Evening Meal
7:00pm Evening Prayer
7:30pm Spiritual Talk / Conference 5
Night Prayer

Sunday 15 November

7:30am Breakfast
8:45am Morning Prayer
9:00am Mass
10:00am – 10:40am 2 x 20-minute slots
11:00am Spiritual Talk / Conference 6
12:00pm Dinner
Closing Remarks & Blessing by Fr Philip
Farewell & Photographs

**Consultation/Reconciliation
with Fr Philip Suelzer, CSJ**

(Above time slots can be booked in at retreat.)

Prayers for November

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
- Mother Teresa, OCD and the Tonga Carmel
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Fr Anthony Tang Phan on his recent ordination to the priesthood
- Our Special Members, especially Stephanie Tabley, Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- Our November retreat
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Aid to Lebanon after the explosion
- Those who have died recently, especially Mrs Joan Noonan (mother of Fr Jim, OCD), Fr John Morrison, Henry van den Bogaart (Cecelia Carshalton's husband), and the consolation and support 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), baby Carter, who has no immunity (prayers for a miracle healing), John Garvey (with terminal cancer), Fr Benito (diagnosed with cancer), Mary Siew (with her new job in Beijing), Wendy Harte (for knee treatment), Katherine Stocks (for the grace of a happy death) and Kelvin Hempseed (for a good recovery after his fall)

Our Holy Father's Intentions for November:

- We pray that the progress of **robotics and artificial intelligence** may always serve humankind.

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. ... Each community will have a Mass offered on the death of one of its member's immediate family.

Our November Carmelite Saints

- 6 Fri. St Nuno Alvares Pereira (religious)
Bl. Josepha Naval Girbes (virgin)
- 7 Sat. Bl. Francis Palau y Quer (priest)
- 14 Sat. All Carmelite Saints
- 16 Mon. All Carmelite Souls
- 19 Thu. St Raphael Kalinowski (priest)

"May my life be a continual prayer, a long act of love".

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



Feast Day November 8

"For in everything, O Lord, you have exalted and glorified your people"
(Wisdom 19:22)

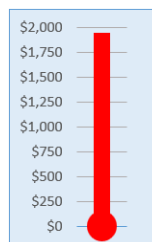
"Vâng, lạy Đức Chúa, Ngài đã làm tất cả cho dân Ngài được vĩ đại và vinh quang"
(Khôn Ngoan: 19:22)

Congratulations
Father
ANTHONY TANG DINH PHAN
Ordained priest on 10.10.2020

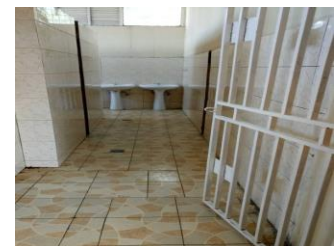
Chúc Mừng
Tân Linh Mục
AN-TÔN PHAN ĐÌNH TĂNG
TTN phong Linh Mục 10.10.2020

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



Sanitary facilities in the new school

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

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