



# Newsletter

Number 265, December 2020

## **Carmel OCDS Community Meeting** **Sunday 6 December 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.58)

### **2:30pm Father's Teaching**

#### **Divine Office in Chapel**

Leader: Maureen, Reader: Marian

#### **Afternoon Tea**

Prep. & Serving: Ken & Claire

Dishes: Pat C. & Karen

(Please bring Christmas gifts for our Carmelite Sisters & Community of St John, and a small plate to share for our Christmas afternoon tea.)



For Goma and  
Tonga Carmel

### **Note: No Bethany Day in December**

#### **Birthdays**



Odette Wilson	Thursday 17 December
Claire Tier	Sunday 3 January
Lyn Fahey	Thursday 14 January
Tess Rooney	Saturday 30 January

**NZ OCDS Website:** [www.carmel.org.nz](http://www.carmel.org.nz)

### ***December: Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception***

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

What a great weekend we had at our annual retreat!! As Lyn remarked, "Fr Philip did a grand job and the whole atmosphere, including the weather, was great. I am sure everyone went home with new resolutions and walking on air!" Thank you for your attendance and prayers. For those of you who could not come, be assured that you were in our prayers.

Thank you, dear Megan, for all the hard work you have done this year, and in previous years, to make our retreats such a success.

My deepest gratitude to our Council members, the team behind the success of our retreat, who worked joyfully and silently about: to Lyn for ensuring that registration on the day went smoothly; to Marian for keeping us well-fed and cared for during our tea breaks and for the numerous trips you made to show people to their accommodation, to Karen for diligently keeping tabs on the accounts, and to Christine for doing so much – preparing and printing of retreat leaflets, the Prayers of the Faithful for Holy Mass, song sheets and sacristan duties at the retreat. You are all so amazing and I thank God for giving me such a wonderful team to work with. Thank you, Team.

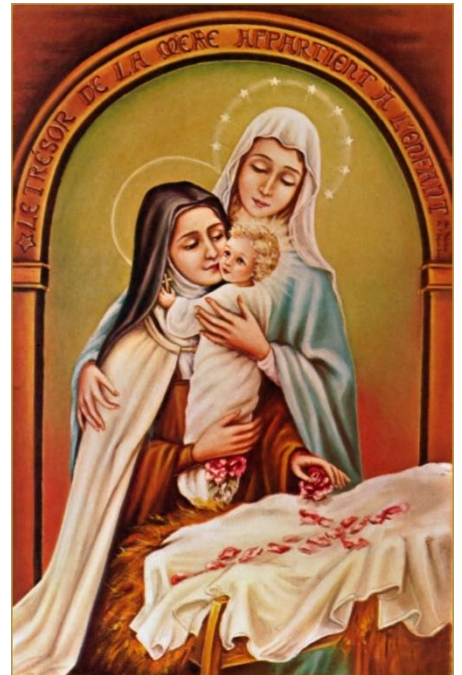
How quickly the year has gone by! As it is our final meeting for the year, please remember to bring a plate for our special year-end afternoon tea. Also, a gentle reminder to get gifts for the Sisters and contributions for the friars of the Community of St John – our show of gratitude to them for all the support and love they have showered on our Community.

Please note that there shall be no Bethany Day in December.

May God's Joy and Peace be with you, your family and loved ones this Christmas!

Happy Christmas.  
God bless.

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



December quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:  
**"The little Jesus demands only a sweet caress from you. Give Him your love."**

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR RETREAT

### “God so loved the world... (John 3:16)” with Fr Philip Suelzer, CSJ

God is creator, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is good. He is love. He loves His creation. We are included in this love. But there was a fall... pride, rebellion, sin – a separation from God. The ‘good news’ is that we are redeemed in Christ.

Christ is a bridge between humanity and the divine, a bridge to come back to the Father. Reconciliation is complete trust and surrender to Jesus. When dealing with a particular sin, name it, bring it to the light immediately, and with great trust, open yourself to God’s mercy and grace. Let us rejoice in Christ in the depth of our souls. Let us come back to the Father with thanksgiving, adoration and praise, our soul overflowing with joy and love.

**The resolution of the retreat is that it is not about us and what we are doing. Rather, it is about what God has done for us.**

Love is the central place of our prayer life. It is a receiving and giving.

**“Let yourself be loved.” (St Elizabeth of the Trinity)**

Then we can love in return. We can say it (even when we don’t feel like it), and we can act on it by doing many acts of love for Jesus (like St Thérèse).

Fr François Jamart, OCD, gives a summary of St Thérèse’s spiritual childhood:

- 1) To fully recognise our spiritual poverty (weaknesses)
- 2) To have recourse to God (confidence)
- 3) To believe in love and practice love

**“To love is to give everything and to give oneself.” (St Thérèse)**

Abiding in Christ (John 14-16) gives rise to missionary work. It is the overflow from our spiritual life. Abide in Christ and live a life of love and charity. Receive the love of God and give love back to God and neighbour. Let us give ourselves completely to God and let Him shape us into what we were created to be.

**“...my sole occupation is loving.” (St Elizabeth of the Trinity)**

Obstacles to abiding in Christ include the cares and anxieties of this world (Matthew 13), that is, avoiding to trusting completely in God. Also, a strategy of the enemy is to place a ‘good’ in front of ‘The Good’, to divert us, to lessen our focus on God, to lessen our time, resources and energy on God and His will. Beware of this! We need to have an undivided heart for God, to decide radically for the Gospel. We need to remain spiritually poor and rely fully on God.

#### **Silent Prayer**

<b>A</b>	<i>Adoration</i>	<i>Coming before God</i>
<b>C</b>	<i>Contrition</i>	<i>Due to obstacle/barrier</i>
<b>T</b>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Attitude of soul</i>
<b>S</b>	<i>Supplication</i>	<i>Intercessions</i>

*Going deeper...*

<b>A</b>	<i>Abandonment</i>	<i>Surrender</i>
<b>C</b>	<i>Conversation</i>	<i>Speaking from the heart</i>
<b>T</b>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Phil. 4:6-7</i>
<b>S</b>	<i>Silent presence</i>	<i>Open to presence of God, Resting on His heart</i>

#### **Lectio Divina**

<b>R</b>	<i>Read</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Reflect</i>	<i>What is God saying?</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Respond</i>	<i>Conversation</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Rest</i>	<i>Contemplation</i>

#### **Discipleship Wheel**

##### **The heart and habits of a disciple of Christ**

- *Centre = Christ & Sacraments (Communion with Christ)*
- *Vertical Spokes = Scripture & Prayer*
- *Horizontal Spokes = Community and Evangelisation (e.g. OCDS)*
- *Rim = Obedience to conscience/God’s will (This holds everything together.)*



## Prayers for December

*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
- Our Special Members, especially Stephanie Tabley, Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Aid to Lebanon after the explosion
- Those who have died recently, especially Terry Hailes, and the consolation and support of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus, including Fr General Saverio, Fr Daniel Chowning and other OCD friars in the General House. 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 (brain tumour), Fr Benito (diagnosed with cancer), Richard (heart surgery), Judy (osteoporosis arthritis), Deacon Ben and Marina (for a new job)

### Our Holy Father's Intentions for December:

- We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and **a life of prayer.**

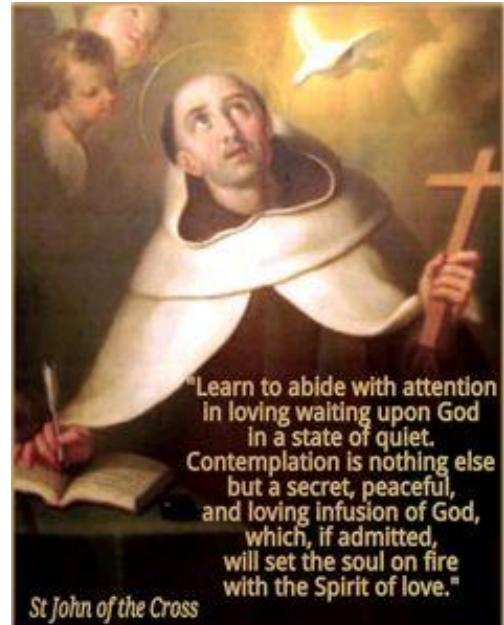
### NATIONAL STATUTES PART VI – FORMATION IN THE SCHOOL OF CARMEL Section Ten – Formation of Members

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you." (Jeremiah 1:5)*

**21. Formation in the Secular Order of Carmel, initial and ongoing, strives to assist its members reach both human and Christian maturity in their apostolic lives according to the spirit and charism of Carmel under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

## Our December Carmelite Saints

- 11 Fri. St Maria Maravillas of Jesus (virgin)  
14 Mon. **St John of the Cross**  
(priest, doctor, our Father)  
16 Wed. Bl. Mary of the Angels (virgin)



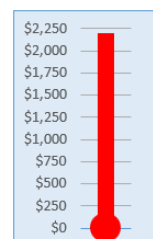
## Our January Carmelite Saints

- 8 Fri. St Peter Tomas (bishop)  
9 Sat. St Andrew Corsini (bishop)  
27 Wed. St Henry de Osso y Cervello (priest)

**The Beatitudes Community warmly invites you to**  
*Our annual 'Festival of Lights'*  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**Sanctuary of Fourvière, 67 Leithfield Rd, Leithfield**  
**Begins at 6pm: Holy Mass with Bishop Paul**  
**Sausage sizzle – Bring your own picnic**  
**Candlelight procession – All night Adoration**

### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



**New Total**



**Provision of two grottos at the school for St Teresa and Our Lady of Mt Carmel**

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

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