



## Newsletter

Number 269, May 2021

### Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 25 April 2021

**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 3, from p.97)

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

**Divine Office in Chapel**

Leader: Eddie, Reader: Claire

**Afternoon Tea**

Prep. & Serving: Ken & Mary

Dishes: Pat C. & Karen



### Bethany Day

Tuesday 18 May 2021

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

### Birthdays

Patricia O'Connor Monday 10 May

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

### *May: Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Trust you all had a blessed and happy Easter. Personally, I felt immeasurable joy to be able to fully participate in the Easter celebrations this year. Thank you, dear God.

Many thanks, everyone, for graciously accepting the sudden **change in the meeting date for May**. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April – same place, same time.

The Solemn Profession of **Sr Anne Teresa of St Joseph** is on 1<sup>st</sup> May at 11am. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. A big thank you to those who are able to assist in hospitality on that day.

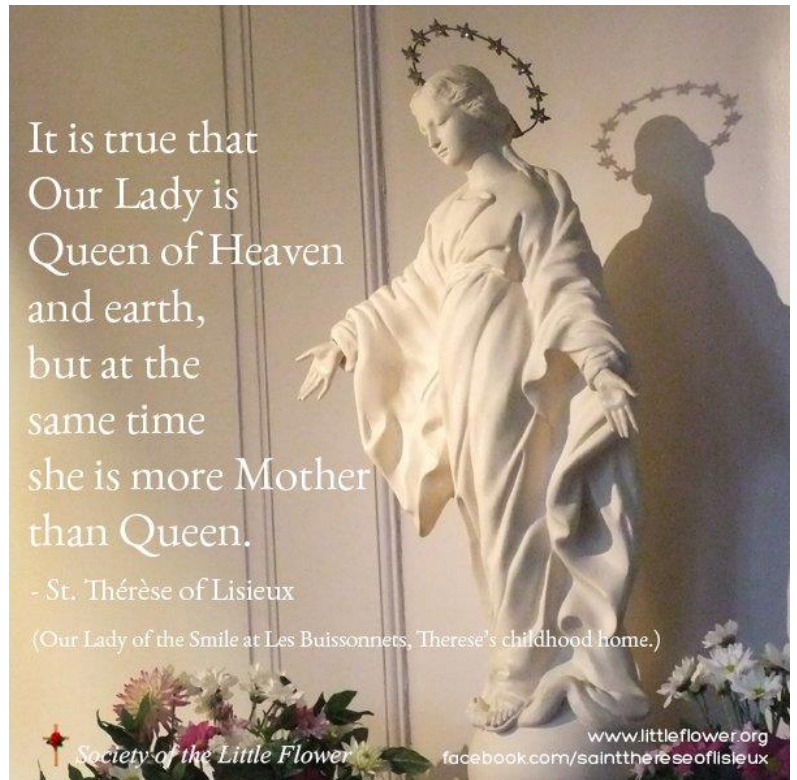
May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We ask of Our Lady to pray for love in our families, unity in our Church and peace in our beautiful country.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

Blessings in Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



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

**"My dear Mother Mary, I think that I am more happy than you.**

**I have you as a Mother and you haven't the Blessed Virgin to love as I have."**

# EXCERPTS FROM “MARY, OUR SISTER: PONDERING HER LIFE IN THE SCRIPTURES” By Anne Harriss (“Mount Carmel” Magazine, July – September 2019)

## Belonging to Mary

*Totus Marianus Carmelus est* - Carmel is totally Marian, Carmel belongs totally to Mary.

The very first Carmelites placed themselves under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. An early Carmelite document, the *Rubrica Prima* from the Constitutions of 1324, states that as the community constructed a small chapel on Mount Carmel in honour of the Blessed Virgin, they chose Mary for themselves as their titular head and called themselves the 'Brothers of the Blessed Mary'.

They saw her as their Patroness. As these were feudal times, the understanding was that having someone as patron meant having an advocate. It also meant belonging totally to that person. So, in choosing Mary as Patroness, they saw themselves as belonging totally to her and considered her their advocate. Devotion to Our Lady is still a main characteristic of Carmelites. The inspiring poem *'Why I Love You, O Mary!'*, as well as other remarks by St Thérèse of Lisieux in her autobiography and final conversations, make it clear how lively this devotion has continued to be, throughout the centuries, among Carmelites...

## Our Sister

Perhaps the most unexpected title that Carmelites give to Mary is that of 'Sister'. It might sound like a very modern approach to Mary. But in fact, this expression dates from the early days of the Order. In the works of the Dutch Carmelite author Arnold Bostius, who was born seventy years before St Teresa of Avila, the titles 'Mother' and 'Sister' are frequently joined when he discusses Our Lady, as when he says: *'Mary is Mother and Sister of Carmelites.'*...

Recently, I discovered a piece of writing online in the Archives of the Lisieux Carmel, from the funeral notice of Sr Geneviève of the Holy Face, who was St Thérèse's beloved sister Céline. This was quoted from her private papers, where she wrote on October 9, 1935:

*"Yesterday evening, during the great silence, I felt ineffably united to my Mother in Heaven. I experienced an indefinable feeling that one hardly dares to express. It seemed to me that the Blessed Virgin was one of us, that she was my sister, my friend. There was a familiarity between us, a sort of equality, as part of the family. Oh! How sweet it was!"...*

## Mary's love for Joseph

Later, when Mary went back to Nazareth, Joseph could see that she was expecting a child. Warned by an angel that there was no objection to his living with Mary, Joseph took her to his home. Theirs was a real marriage, based on a mutual and total self-giving consent to the sacred vocation that God had given to Mary and, indirectly, to Joseph. We sometimes forget that Mary, our Sister, led a normal life

as we do. She was a married woman, involved in all the chores, joys and activities of home-making while her husband earned their living.

Mary did love and still loves Joseph. We have a glimpse of this in the following event related to us by St Teresa: one day, shortly before she made her first foundation, *San José* in Avila, St Teresa had a vision of Our Lady with St Joseph, both of them vesting her in a white garment; and the Blessed Virgin gave her a precious necklace, as a token of the grace being given to her, and took Teresa's hands in her own and told her how happy she was to see St Joseph being served by Carmel (cf. L 33:14). I love to think of this, and of Mary's deep love and affection for Joseph, which still gives her joy, in heaven...

## In imitation of Mary

...In imitation of Mary, we ourselves need to be more focused on understanding the history of salvation and praising God for it. This is a call to know our faith more deeply, focusing above all on the Scriptures, the liturgy and the Catechism, thus making ourselves ready to understand and respond to God's calls. This approach is deeply embedded in the Carmelite *Rule* and tradition.

Furthermore, praise should be the very first movement of our prayer life. I confess that praise, during periods of uninspired daily life, needs a certain amount of effort. This effort undoubtedly pleases God. But tiredness or dullness tend to lead one to cynicism or laziness. Remembering the words of St Paul, we could ask the Holy Spirit to help us fan into a flame the gift of God which is in us (cf. 2Tm 1:6), and start again, with gratitude leading at the fine point of our souls.

The community formed for a short while in Ain Karim by Mary, when she visited Zechariah and Elisabeth's household, somehow resembles any ordinary community of faith to which we ourselves belong. Again, this is something given to us by God. May we rejoice in it, and ask God to let us see his salvation – right where we live, and within our own families.



## Prayers for May

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

### We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Archbishop Paul, SM, the appointment of a new bishop for our diocese and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our 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
- Sr Anne Teresa, OCD: Final Profession on 1<sup>st</sup> May
- Sr Anne Mary, OCD: Final Profession on 15<sup>th</sup> August
- Mother Dorothea's hip surgery at the end of April
- Our Special Members, especially Stephanie Tabley, Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently 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 Fr Benito (cancer), Karen's cousin, Rose (motor neurone disease), Annette's daughter, Stephanie, Noeline and Hec, Maureen's son, Gerard (broken knee), Tommy, Laura and new baby, Willow, Mary Kennedy, John McDrury, Frank Willis, Nola, Pat Murphy, Fr Arsene (Nigeria), Anggha (France), Megan as Burwood Chaplain, and all Chaplaincy work

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

- Let us pray that those in charge of **finance** will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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

22. Ever desirous of preserving the Teresian spirit in our communities it is important that: ...

- before being admitted to Formation and Promises aspirants have the acceptance of their families regarding the commitment being undertaken including regular attendance at the monthly meeting...

## Our May Carmelite Saints

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



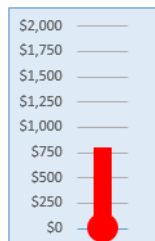
**Margaret Dwyer's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**



**Margaret with her six great grandchildren**

### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



**New Total**



**Another view of the school**

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

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