



Newsletter

Number 270, June 2021

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 6 June 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.107)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Marian, Reader: Maureen

4pm Council Meeting



Bethany Day

Tuesday 15 June 2021

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

Birthdays

Karen Marra Wednesday 23 June



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

June: Dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

***"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
enkindle in us the fire of your love!"***

How quickly the month of May seems to fly by! It has indeed been an eventful month of Solemnities: The Ascension; Pentecost; and The Blessed Trinity.

May 1st was a special day indeed for Sr Anne Teresa of St Joseph, OCD as she made her Solemn Profession at the Carmel Monastery during Holy Mass which was celebrated by Archbishop Paul. It was a very joyous occasion filled with much gaiety; there were loads of food and drinks. Hospitality was tops!!

Our OCDS annual retreat this year shall be held from 26th Nov (Friday) to 28th Nov (Sunday). As in past years it shall be at the University of Canterbury R & R Halls, Ilam Road. Fr Sean Mary, CSJ has kindly consented to be our Retreat Director. The theme is "A Retreat with Jesus, Mary and Joseph".

Please endeavour to be present at this special yearly event, specially prepared for our Community.

***"Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary,
please protect us."***

Blessings in Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



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

***"I only desire to receive Your dear glance, O Jesus.
I wish to smile always, resting on Your heart."***

**EXCERPTS FROM “IMPROMPTU ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER [POPE FRANCIS]”
Midday prayer in the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelites, Antananarivo
 (“OCD Communicationes”, N. 347, September 2019)**

...The reading from the First Book of Kings (2:2b-3) was addressed to Joshua. It begins with an appeal to be courageous: *“Be strong, and show yourself a man!”* Courageous. To follow the Lord, we always need courage, a bit of courage. It is true that the Lord does the heavy work, yet courage is required to let him do it.

I recall something that has helped me greatly in my life as a priest and as a bishop. Late one evening, two nuns, one very young and the other very old, were walking from the chapel, where they had just prayed vespers, towards the refectory. The old nun had difficulty walking and the young nun tried to help her, but the old nun was irritable. She said: *“Don’t touch me! Don’t make me fall!”* God knows, maybe sickness made the old nun a bit irascible. Smiling, the young nun accompanied her. Eventually they arrived in the refectory and the young nun tried to help her sit down, and the old nun said: *“Stop it, you’re hurting me, you’re hurting me here...”*, but in the end, she sat down. A young person experiencing all this surely would have loved to send her packing! But that young woman smiled, took a piece of bread, prepared it and gave it to her. This is not some edifying story; it happened. The old nun was called Sister Saint Pierre, and the young nun, Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

A true story, and one that gives us a glimpse into community life; it shows the spirit with which one can live in community. Charity in little things and in big things. That young woman could have thought, *“Tomorrow I will go to the Prioress and ask if she could send someone stronger to help this old woman because I can’t do it”*. But she didn’t think like that. She believed in obedience: *“I have been given this job and in obedience I will do it”*. With the strength born of obedience, she did this work with exquisite charity. I know that all of you, cloistered nuns, have come here to be close to the Lord, to seek the way of perfection; but the way of perfection can be found in these small steps along the path of obedience. Small steps of charity and love. Small steps that look like nothing, yet small steps that attract, that “seduce” God; little threads that “disarm” God. This young woman was thinking about the thread with which she can disarm God; she was thinking about the cords – the cords of love – which are the small acts of charity. Small, very small, because our little soul cannot do great things.

Be strong! Have the courage to take little steps, the courage to believe that your littleness makes God happy and brings salvation to the world. – *“No, but I think religious life should be changed, it should be made more perfect and more divine, and for this I want to become a Prioress, a Superior, in order to bring about the change!...”* I’m not saying that some of you think like this... But the devil instills these thoughts. If you want to transform and save the world with Jesus – and not just the monastery and religious life – it

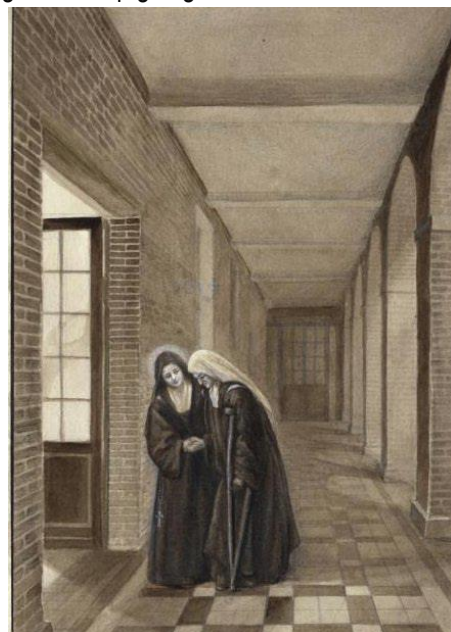
begins with these little acts of love and self-sacrifice, which “trap” God and bring him close to us.

Let’s go back to the story of the young nun and the old nun. One of those nights, before dinner, while they were going from the chapel to the refectory – they used to leave the chapel ten minutes early, to walk slowly to the refectory – Thérèse heard the sound of music from outside the convent, the sound of a party and dancing... And she imagined a party where young men and women were dancing, a nice family party, like a wedding or a birthday. She thought about the music and everything else, and she felt something inside. Maybe she felt: *“It would be nice to be there”*. I don’t know. But immediately, and firmly, she said to the Lord that she would never, ever trade any of her kindnesses to the old nun for that worldly party. Those kindnesses made her happier than all the dances in the world.

...When thoughts of worldliness come to you, close the door and think of small acts of love: these are what save the world. Thérèse chose to take care of the old nun and to keep moving ahead.

...The path of obedience is one that submits you to love, that makes us submissive to love.

...I would like to finish the story of Thérèse and that old woman. That same Thérèse now accompanies an old man. I would like to give a testimony about this, because she has accompanied me at every step of the way. She taught me how to walk. Sometimes I am a little irritable and I send her away, as Mother Saint Pierre did. Sometimes I listen to her; sometimes my troubles keep me from listening carefully... But she is a faithful friend. That is why I didn’t want to talk to you in the abstract; I wanted to share with you my experience with a saint, and in doing so, to tell you about what a saint can do and about the path to becoming saints. Be strong! And keep going!



Prayers for June

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 the people of Goma, following the eruption of a nearby volcano
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Sr Anne Mary, OCD: Final Profession on 15th August
- Mother Dorothea's hip surgery on 1st June
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea McKenzie, Stephanie Tabley, Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Rose and Ben Gibbs, 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), Annette's daughter, Stephanie, Noeline and Hec, Maureen's son, Gerard (broken knee), Gary Miers (cancer), Megan's grandson, George, Brother Jan, Anggha, John Hoare, Fr Arsene, Patricia O'Connor's sister-in-law, Richard (heart attack) and Val, Eddie (shingles), Megan as Burwood Chaplain and peace in the Holy Land, esp. Palestine & Israel

Our Holy Father's Intentions for June:

- Let us pray for young people who are preparing for **marriage** with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

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: ...

- aspirants attend regular pre-formation meetings for a period of six to twelve months before being invited by the Council to be received into the Community...

Our June Carmelite Saints

- 7 Mon. Bl. Anne of St Bartholomew (virgin)
- 12 Sat. Bl. Alphonsus Mary Mazurek and Companions (priest and martyrs)
- 14 Mon. Bl. Maria Candida of the Eucharist (virgin)



Final Profession of Sr Anne Teresa, OCD, 1 May 2021



NEWS FROM GOMA

The government in the Democratic Republic of Congo has launched an evacuation plan for the eastern city of Goma after a large volcano erupted. The school children in Goma are all safe and the tent city is safe. Fr Jérôme is back in Rome. His mother, Aunty and cousin fled to a safe area. Another Aunty and neighbours have all lost their homes. Father thanks you all for your prayers and concern. He said the fire running down the street at night was frightening. **Please continue to pray for Fr Jérôme, the safety of the people in Goma and the preservation of our school.**

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

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