



# Newsletter

Number 276, December 2021

## Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 5 December 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 4, from p.132)

### 2:30pm Father's Teaching

#### Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Eddie & Marian  
Dishes: Pat C. & Christine

(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 Musoshi  
in DR Congo



**Note:** No Bethany Day in December

#### Birthdays

Odette Wilson Friday 17 Dec.  
Claire Tier Monday 3 Jan.  
Lyn Fahey Friday 14 Jan.  
Tess Rooney Sunday 30 Jan.



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

## *December: Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception*

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Advent is upon us now. May we prepare well for Our Lord's coming – ever focused on Him amidst our busy-ness. May Jesus Christ, the birthday baby, be the centre of our Christmas preparations.

December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, and we celebrate our blessed Virgin Mary "who was chosen from eternal ages ... and conceived in perfect grace".

It is our annual Christmas get-together at our December meeting. Please remember to bring a plate to share. Looking forward to seeing all of you as we close a very challenging year with a bang.

May God bless you, your families and loved ones with a holy and joyous Christmas and a blessed new year!!

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



December quote from St John of the Cross:

**"There is nothing better or more necessary than love."**



**Let us walk together, Lord!**

## **Message of the 92<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites Rome, 30 August – 14 September 2021**

...In a Marian form of Christian existence and under the mantle of Our Lady, we felt united with all our Discalced Carmelite brothers present in all the monasteries of our Order, as well as with every one of our Discalced Carmelite nuns who accompanied us by their prayers. They carried this Chapter with particular intensity from its preparation until today and will certainly pray that good fruits may arise from it for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. We feel united with our brothers and sisters who continue the incarnation of our charism in all sectors of **secular life**. Our hearts remain close to the members of religious institutes who share the spiritual heritage of the Teresian Carmel. We do not forget the members of the ecclesial movements associated with our Order. It is with all of them that we place ourselves in the Church to deepen more and more who we are. We intend to address a message of encouragement and hope to the world in disarray, borrowing the words of Psalm 121 (120), 7-8: *"The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will guard your soul. The Lord will keep you from the beginning and from the end, from now on and forever."*

...Our attitude towards what is happening in the world is not *"to gather information or to satisfy our curiosity, but to become painfully aware, to dare to transform what is happening in the world into personal suffering, and thus to recognize the contribution that each one of us can make."* *"The world is on fire"*, St. Teresa would say; it needs peace and joy in the midst of so many vicissitudes: the Covid19 pandemic and its unknowns, economic crises of various kinds, world balances that are constantly being recomposed, threats to the peace and security of peoples and the migratory movements that they provoke, etc.

Dear brothers and sisters who recognize that they are with us under the mantle of the Virgin Mary, do we have a solution that we can offer? Our solution is the one that comes from our presence before the Lord like Abraham: *"Walk in my presence and be perfect. I have made a covenant between me and you, and I will increase you greatly"* (Gen. 17:1-2). It was not, therefore, out of routine that our work was punctuated by the Eucharistic celebration, the invocation of the Holy Spirit, and the psalmody of the Church. It is in the deepening of our presence before the Lord that our being and our action in the Church draw all their meaning. St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus summed it up: *"to be love in the heart of the Church."* Before her, St. John of the Cross indicated that *"the love by which she is united to God moves her to the love of God in all things and through all things."* With the *"artisanal"* perseverance of a bee, we strive to extract from the *"wildflowers"*, where they are found, the sweetness (pollen) of love that makes our charism fruitful to love *"God in all things, whether delightful or bitter."*

It is the deepening of this defining element of our charism that has mainly mobilized our energies in this Chapter. It could not be otherwise, for this Chapter is the culmination of

a six-year period (2015-2021) during which we have had the joy of continuing a search undertaken by the whole Order to deepen its specific place in the life and holiness of the Church...

...the Holy Father briefly sketched the features of the Discalced Carmelites that the Church expects today: religious who listen to the signs of the present time, Carmelites who cultivate a sense of discernment and never tire of exercising it; witnesses who let themselves be seen by their joy nourished by a sense of humor; and all of this from the contemplative identity that bursts forth from a **spirituality of friendship with God and human beings**, and holds in horror the invasive worldliness that corrupts all that it affects.

...From all this it can be deduced that this Chapter has been a chapter of listening. Chronologically, we were introduced to this listening by the analysis of the state of the Order given by Father Saverio Cannistrà, our previous General Superior, based on his experience of 12 years at the head of the Order. We thank him and the Definitory over which he carefully presided...

...This listening without borders should lead us along the path of our Mother Saint Teresa in the determination to do the little that is in us to please and help Our Lord. This is what drives us forward into the future and pushes us to place ourselves resolutely under the guidance of our Father General Miguel Márquez Calle, whom the Lord has given us together with the Definitors. It is this determination, inherited from St. Teresa, that impels us to go and live our charism in the various contexts in which the Lord has raised us up and/or sent us, strengthened by a long tradition, and enriched by the uninterrupted multitude of witnesses from all times, all cultural areas, and all ages. In today's world, with its challenges and ways of expression, we carry Christ who dwells in us, drawing us into an ever-renewed covenant through his word, his Sacraments, and his friendship. From this fullness towards which we never cease to strive, we will burn with zeal, making our own St. Teresa's words: ***"Let us walk together, Lord; wherever you go, I will go."***

...We know that we are accompanied by our Discalced Carmelite Sisters who are always at our side in daily oblation and unceasing prayer. We remain in communion with our brothers and sisters of the **Secular Carmel** whose company delights us, and we are supported by the brothers and sisters who share in one way or another the spiritual goods of our great Carmelite family. We do not forget all those to whom the Lord sends us directly and indirectly. May the blessing imparted by the Holy Father to the participants in the General Chapter extend to all of them so that we may keep alive the flame of love that the Spirit never ceases to kindle, either by purifying us, or by making us bear together fruits whose intensity and extent only he knows!

## Prayers for December

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, our new General, Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, 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:

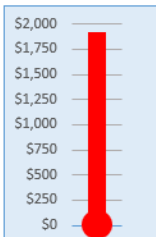
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma school mission
- Fr Arsène, MAFR and his Musoshi project (DR Congo)
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our newly ordained deacons: Monty, Adam and Alfred
- Sr Mary Teresa, Sr Elizabeth (ulcer on leg) and our Carmelite Sisters
- Our upcoming retreat and director, Fr Sean-Mary, CSJ
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline, Margaret and Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Laurie Vallance and the consolation of his family
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also, prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), Annette and her daughter, Stephanie, Marian's son, Stephen, Noeline and Hec, Gary Miers (cancer) and his wife, Carol, baby Carter, Gay (knee), Shaun Hickland (NET Ministries), Karen's daughter, Rebekah, and family (buying a house), Brendon (bone marrow cancer), and Megan

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

- Let us pray for the **catechists**, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



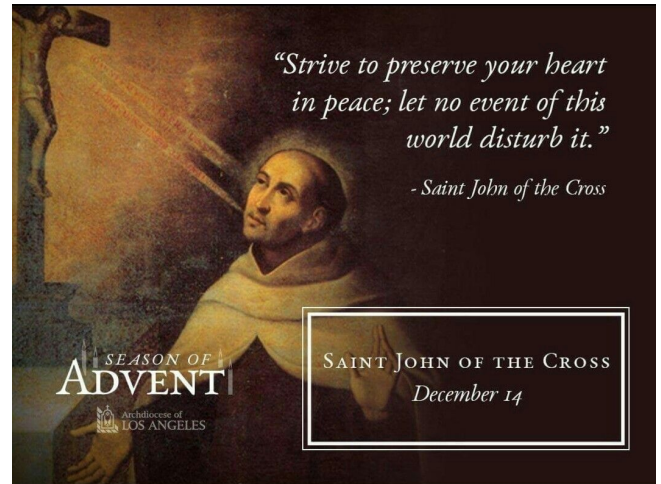
New Total



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

## Our December Carmelite Saints

- 11 Sat. St Maria Maravillas of Jesus (virgin)  
 14 Tue. St John of the Cross (priest, doctor, our Father)  
 16 Thu. Bl. Mary of the Angels (virgin)



## Our January Carmelite Saints

- 3 Mon. St Kuriakos Elias Chavara (priest)  
 8 Sat. St Peter Thomas (bishop)  
 27 Thu. St Henry de Osso y Cervello (priest)

### NATIONAL STATUTES

#### PART VI – FORMATION IN THE SCHOOL OF CARMEL

##### Section Eleven – Ceremonies & Symbols of Carmel

*"I confidently entrust this, my Promise, to the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel."*

**26. The ceremonial scapular representing membership of the Order and symbolising our dedication to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is given at the Ceremony of Reception. The scapular consists of two pieces of brown woollen-like cloth each about 8 cm by 10.5 cm (3 inches by 4 inches) to be worn over the shoulders. Any ornamentation should be kept simple.**

*The Beatitudes Community warmly invites you to  
 Our annual 'Festival of Lights'  
 Saturday 11 December 2021  
 Sanctuary of Fourvière, 67 Leithfield Rd, Leithfield  
 Begins at 6pm: Holy Mass  
 Sausage sizzle – Bring your own picnic  
 Candlelight procession – All night Adoration*

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

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