



Newsletter

Number 278, March 2022

No Community Meeting in March
No Bethany Day in March

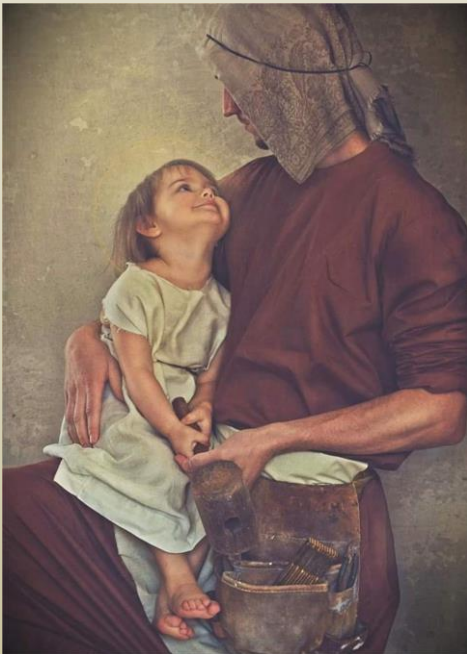
Community Formation

St Thérèse of Lisieux
"Story of a Soul: Study Edition"
(Please continue reading)



Birthdays

Pat Carroll Friday 4 March
Margaret Dwyer Thursday 24 March
Marian Pavletich Thursday 24 March



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

March: Dedicated to St Joseph

Husband of Mary, Patron of Carmel, Feast Day: 19 March

My dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

While working on our OCDS Archives last month, I chanced upon this inspiring letter from our dear Barbara. It is her **reflections on what it means to be a Community** – and I think it is most appropriate for us to ponder upon this at the start of the year.

"I have been thinking a great deal recently about the part of our Secular Carmelite life that involves being a Community. Let us look at what it is and ask ourselves how we are measuring up:

Being a Community is so much more than just coming together for a meeting once or twice a month. It goes on between meetings while we are about our day-to-day living our Carmelite life. It is:

- remembering our Community at our daily Mass and while we are praying the 'Office' throughout the day
- making the time for our half hour quiet prayer each day
- making ourselves familiar with the Constitutions and the Statutes
- preparing well for our Formation and Ongoing Formation sessions, and writing down our responses
- being concerned for each member of the Community, and especially our sick Special Members
- paying attention to the 'little' things – which are really not so little – but important for building a strong Community, for example:
 - being punctual for meetings
 - putting in a personal apology if you cannot be where you are expected to be
 - carefully reading the Newsletter so that you know what is going on and who is being asked to pray for and what we are being asked to do
 - finding a substitute if you cannot be present to perform your allotted task
 - being willingly available to 'help out' when needed.

If we are doing our 'bit' day by day, week by week, it will surely shine out in our Community and we shall grow and learn from each other – together. Our meetings will show it and our Formation sessions will be enriched. We are so blessed in our Community here, under the shelter of the "Peace of Christ" but it will only work if we continue to "work at it", and make our Carmelite vocation the top priority after our family responsibilities."

May God bless our Community with a blessed and joyful Lent.
St Joseph, pray for us.

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

March quote from St Teresa of Jesus:

"Though you have recourse to many saints as your intercessors, go especially to St Joseph for he has great power with God."

PRAYER OF ST TERESA OF JESUS

Lord,
Thou knowest better than I myself
that I am growing older and will someday be old.
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to
straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody;
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom,
it seems a pity not to use it all;
but Thou knowest, Lord,
that I want a few friends at the end.
Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains;
they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person
is one of the crowning works of the devil.
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places
and talents in unexpected people;
and give, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.
Amen.



Prayers for March

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 Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Sr Mary Teresa and our Carmelite Sisters
- Our Special Members, especially Margaret Dwyer. Also Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline and Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Maree Khouri and the consolation of her 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, Fr Arsène, Shaun Hickland (NET Ministries), Mike Doolan, Tess' mum, Helen Noble, Gaynor Nevin (Alzheimer's) and her husband, David

Our Holy Father's Intentions for March:

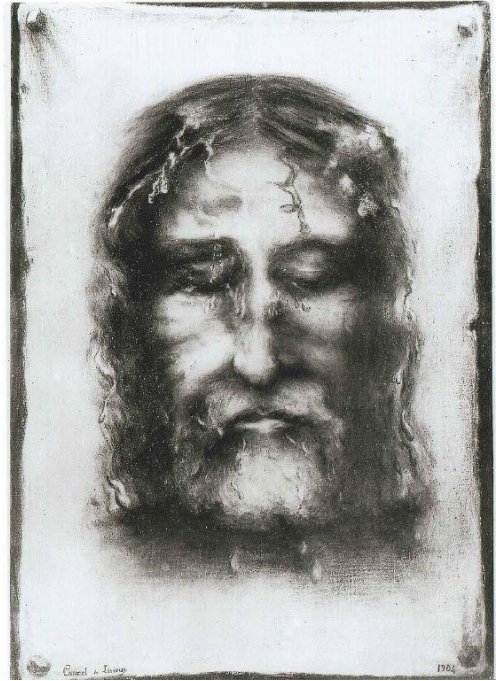
- We pray for Christians facing new **bioethical challenges**; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

NATIONAL STATUTES PART VII – Organisation and Government Section Fourteen – Elections

*"O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame."*

41. The Council convenes the Community for elections, determining the date and time. At least two months beforehand, the President announces the day and time and notifies any absent members. One month before the elections the President reminds members of the forthcoming elections and reviews the procedures as outlined in the Constitutions and the National Statutes.

Lent

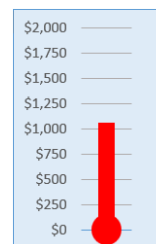


The Holy Face of Jesus as painted by Céline Martin

"O Jesus, who, in Thy cruel Passion didst become the 'reproach of men and the Man of Sorrows,' I worship Thy divine Face. Once it shone with the beauty and sweetness of the Divinity; but now, for my sake, it is become as 'the face of a leper.' Yet, in that disfigured Countenance, I recognize Thy infinite love, and I am consumed with the desire of making Thee loved by all mankind. The tears that flowed so abundantly from Thy Eyes are to me as precious pearls that I delight to gather, that with their worth I may ransom the souls of poor sinners. O Jesus, whose Face is the sole beauty that ravishes my heart, I may not see here below the sweetness of Thy glance, nor feel the ineffable tenderness of Thy kiss, I bow to Thy Will – but I pray Thee to imprint in me Thy divine likeness, and I implore Thee so to inflame me with Thy love, that it may quickly consume me, and that I may soon reach the vision of Thy glorious Face in heaven. Amen." (Prayer by St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face)

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total

(\$2,410 was sent to the Way of Perfection School for Christmas.)



The children in class

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

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