



Newsletter

Number 284, September 2022

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 4 September 2022

12:00pm Formation Groups

1pm 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 5, from p.183)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Megan, Reader: Mary

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Claire & Eddie

Dishes: Maureen & Ken

4pm Council Meeting



Bethany Day

Tuesday 20 September 2022

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:10pm BYO Lunch

12:30pm Study: St John of the Cross

Birthdays

Rosaline Closel Friday 30 September

NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

September: Dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

We are Blest.

We have a new Council, a good strong one, thanks be to God.

Our retiring Council... how can we thank them sufficiently for their steady guidance throughout the ongoing Covid lockdowns and giving of their time and talents unstintingly as we seek to grow evermore in the charism of Carmel. We must not forget those who are not elected but serve us quietly and faithfully, Claire guiding us in our whole Community study, Karen, our money lady, i.e. treasurer, Megan, our Retreat pied piper of Hamelot. Please God, I haven't forgotten anyone, if I have, mea culpa.

We are truly grateful.

Our new Council is experienced in guiding our Community, the faces are very familiar, they have responded willingly to the call of the Holy Spirit to serve our Peace of Christ Community for the next three years.

Yes, we are truly blest, our Council for their generous spirit of service and our brothers and sisters in our Peace of Christ Community for the love and support given so freely. So let us see what the future holds.

Blessings in Carmel,

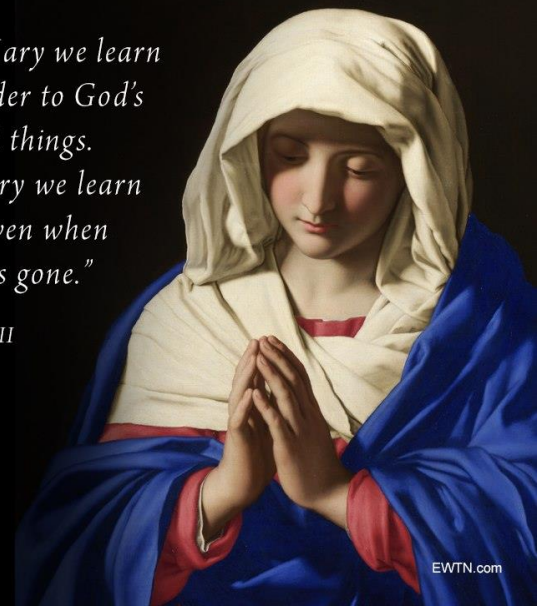
Mary O'Boyle, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)

OUR LADY of SORROWS

*"From Mary we learn
to surrender to God's
will in all things.
From Mary we learn
to trust even when
all hope is gone."*

St. John Paul II



EWTN.com

September quote from St Elizabeth of the Trinity:

"I come to you by passing through the pierced Heart of the Mother of Sorrows."

EXCERPTS FROM LETTER TO OCDS FROM OUR SUPERIOR GENERAL (Rome, 29 July 2022)

Only one family: walking together

Dear brothers and sisters: PEACE!

...

THANKS

My first feeling, since I was a General, when thinking of the Secular Carmel, is one of admiration and sincere gratitude. Wherever I go and meet local OCDS communities or when Provinces have assemblies, I receive the impact of a joy and enthusiasm that reminds me a lot of the passion in the heart of Teresa of Jesus. What is comforting and encouraging is your dedication and your interest in forming yourself, to walk as a family, to continue on as a community that is local, provincial, as well as an Order. You are always an injection of life, even when you yourselves ask to be accompanied and encouraged, precisely for that reason. Thank you, because in recent years the Secular Carmel has grown, not only in number, but also in structures of coordination and collaboration, of animation and synodality, apart from the richness of the Constitutions, the enormous effort of the different regional or provincial Statutes. I congratulate you on that path accomplished. As well, I encourage you not to stay in the letter of the law. Not to get caught up in useless dialogues about legal nuances or casuistic interpretations. A legal structure is necessary, it protects us and the community taking care there is not arbitrariness, improvisation, and, in many cases, manipulation. We need standards of life that express our purpose of life. And we need to regain the sense of Teresian obedience, which is a precious value well understood. Obeying is everyone's duty; we need to regain the ability to allow ourselves to be guided and welcomed by God's plan in tune with those who hold the position of servants of the community and with our superiors. Just as those who encourage have to do so detached from themselves, and never clinging to their positions. Governing well is obedience to God and not to oneself.

I hope you do not have the time to discuss things of little importance, as Saint Teresa lamented at the beginning of the Way of Perfection. Secular Carmel needs, throughout the world, an evangelical leap, a Teresian audacity, risking to live a deep experience of God, a deep prayer, an authentic community life, with the irresistible appeal of evangelical simplicity, without disguises, or educated distinctions, but with frankness and transparency, true love for one another. That in our communities the 'look at how they love each other' is transparent. When someone new comes to our community they are not surprised by the great organization we have or the beautiful Constitutions, what they observe is how you pray, how you communicate, how you love each other. See to it that there are no rivalries or misgivings, that there is a community in which those who have the position of guiding are at the service of all and if the latter also have the chance to express how they feel, observe your empathy with the suffering of our environment.

ONLY ONE FAMILIA

...Here comes the quote from the OCDS Constitutions, numbers 1, 2, 37 and 38: When speaking of the laity, nuns and friars they say: "**It is one family with the same spiritual possessions, the same call to holiness (cf. Eph 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15) and the same apostolic mission.** Secular members contribute to the Order the benefits proper to their secular state of life." (Const. 1). They take part in the charism and spirituality of the Order as part of it (cf. Const. 2). "**It is an integral part of the Discalced Carmelite Order**" (37). In addition, "**it will be arranged that representatives of the Secular Order are present when the apostolic service of the Order is planned in a geographical area, at a local or provincial area, at a local or provincial level, or when serious study is made on the situation in the Church or in society.**" (38)

These very clear points of your Constitutions open us to the challenge of creative collaboration at so many levels, and that begins with a true communion in the same vocation within the great Teresian family. A charism shared from the special characteristics of our state of life, assumed with full awareness that responding to the call of God, each one living in fullness their vocation, for the richness of the whole body. That is, the richness and fullness of **spirituality, charism and belonging** are a whole gift for lay people, nuns and friars, without levels of importance. This truth that constitutes us as a single Order, rather than being a 'privilege' or a vain 'pride', roots us in the sense of a true vocation in the Church, calling us to live in daily listening to the Word, in community, willingly yielding to God in our lives, to the breath of the Spirit, seeking the truth together.

Number 38 of the OCDS Constitutions says something very beautiful: "**The friars and nuns of the Teresian Carmel consider the lay community of Secular Carmel an enrichment for their consecrated life. Through mutual interaction the friars and nuns wish to learn from the Secular Carmelites to recognize the signs of the times together with them.**" I want you to know that this is how we also feel, as a word of God for the whole Order, for all of us. I would like to insist on this 'mutual learning', which concerns us all equally and which is an essential part of being Carmelites: discernment in community, which constitutes one of the challenges that all of Carmel has today. We are aware of the reality inside and outside of us, we are attentive to the signs of the times, walking as humble apprentices in the communal listening to the Word, listening to the cries of the present, praying in the heart of the wounds of our world. True prayer makes us contemplate God in the pandemics and the sprouts of new life in our world.

SYNODALITY AND COMMUNITY

We are immersed in an ecclesial process of deep listening to God, to the present moment, with the challenge of

learning to live synodality in Carmel. Aware that the program is as beautiful as it is arduous. I do not want to hide from you my concern about the situation that is perceived in many communities of the OCDS, in which the richness of 'love first', of the gift received in the call, of the Teresian enthusiasm of the charism, is, on some occasions, hampered by internal conflicts, power struggles, lack of serene and sincere dialogue, ambitions disguised as truth, difficulty for communion in diversity. On some occasions, the beauty of life in community is threatened by the lack of trust and freedom, by the desire to impose one's own vision of things, by the lack of Teresian acceptance of each and every one, without discrimination.

When a charism and a personal gift is good and comes from the Spirit, it helps to build community. If there is sincere prayer, my silence is a deep listening to the other. Community is built in and out of meeting time, it is built on what we talk about and what we do not say, it grows in polite interest in the other. I encourage you that the formation shared in the communities be solid and well-founded, a formation for life, not to accumulate theories. To make it a life that helps us to be witnesses to the Gospel in your environment, messengers of the doctrine and experience of our Saints of Carmel.

Not all are called to live in community, not everyone has the capacity to establish bonds of respect and welcome to others, in a path of collaboration and true listening. It is essential to perceive if the person who wants to enter Carmel has this openness and ability to assimilate a lifestyle in community. The ability to be accompanied and guided with maturity, sincerity and dialogue is key at all periods of formation, and ongoing formation. We need to open in our communities processes of serene self-criticism, without fear, starting with the animators, continuing with those in formation, and including the assisting priests. For a community to be healthy it needs to free itself from illusions (Life 16:7).

Among ourselves, we need to accompany each other, and ask for help. As an example: the way Saint Teresa thought the relationship between friends of God. She always allowed herself to be helped, and included a fundamental key to discernment: "We do not know ourselves as well as others who observe us, if they do so with love and concern for our progress." To let ourselves be seen means, in the style of St Teresa, to allow oneself to be confronted, to open the windows of the house, of the community, to be strengthened and confirmed in the path undertaken. We have to read again the Way of Perfection, to learn to be community. "Humility, detachment and love for one another...", the three pillars of the Teresian way of prayer, continue to be our inspiration to create authentic praying communities. That our communities might smell of fresh air, trust and creative dialogue. Carmel does not want, above all, to be a school of legal or moral 'perfection', but a school of communion, in which perfection is lived as an integration, with that Teresian joy that made its nuns want to be holy, by the fire of love that they carried within and that their mother Teresa, with her sisterly love infected them.

IN THE SCHOOL OF OUR ORIGINS

This path always draws nourishment from the experience of our origins. We must go back deeper into the beginning of Carmel, the Rule and the 'propositum', (intention), that moved those first hermits, gathered together around the Fountain of Elijah and under the protection of Mary, to give their lives for a common ideal of holiness, keeping nothing for themselves. Return to the beginning of the Teresian adventure, with those four 'poor little things', who premiered a new family in the Church, born in love from Teresa's heart. Today the challenge is to rediscover the freshness of the origins, without longing for the past... What was the secret of those hermits? What had been given to them to live so resolutely and courageously as a gift of Jesus Christ? What treasure burned in Teresa's heart? What did she perceive in the Gaze of Jesus?, What adventure was born within her to let herself be moved by the Spirit and change, 'woman and ruin', the history of a spirituality founded on such a beautiful friendship with God and friendship with brothers and sisters?

It is a precious moment for the entire Secular Carmel, as precious as it is challenging. Let us not be carried away by a pessimism that is a sin against the Holy Spirit. God always gave Carmel its best lights in the most critical situations. Today we need each other as a united family, humble and on the way, without boasting, without triumphalism, or defeatism. It is always time to offer yourself as an instrument, you and I who feel so nothing, and to whom God, like Mary, has asked us to give a bold and prompt yes.

I need you and I call you, with Mary, on the road to Ain Karem, to serve so many who need us, with the mystery (contemplation) of God deep in our hearts, in our community. God leading ahead. TRUST AND FAITH.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters of the Secular Carmel, Carmelites in soul and body. Together let us walk!!

God bless you always. May Mary and Joseph take you by their hand.

**Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, ocd
Superior General**

I want to add at the bottom of the page a special, very warm thanks to Fathers Aloysius Deeney, Alzinir Debastiani and Ramiro Casale... General Delegates successively for the OCDS, for the enormous, timely and precious help for so many years to the Secular Carmel of the whole world. God continue to fill you with grace and blessing.



Prayers for September

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

We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Archbishop Paul, SM, Bishop Michael Gielen, and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our Provincial, Fr John Grennan, OCD, our 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:

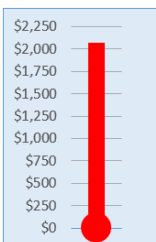
- Our Ukrainian Carmelite nuns, friars & seculars, and all the people of Ukraine, suffering from the terrors of war
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma school mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our dear Carmelite Sisters, especially Sr Elizabeth in hospital and Sr Lauren receiving her habit on 15 Oct.
- Our new President, Mary O'Boyle, and council: Christine, Lyn, Marian and Megan (Formator)
- Our upcoming retreat, and director, Fr Carl Telford, SM
- Our Special Members, especially Margaret Dwyer, Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline and Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Fr Pat Kennedy, Tess' father-in-law, Tom Rooney, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by covid. Also, prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), Annette and her daughter, Stephanie, Marian's son, Stephen, Noeline and Hec, baby Carter, Fr Arsène, Marie, Michelle, Louise, and in thanksgiving for Megan's new baby grandson, Harry

Our Holy Father's Intentions for September:

- We pray that the **death penalty**, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally **abolished** in every country.

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



Another view of the school

Our September Carmelite Saints

- 1 Thu. St Teresa Margaret (Redi) of the Sacred Heart (virgin)
- 17 Sat. St Albert of Jerusalem (bishop and lawgiver of Carmel)

*"We should not be disturbed, whatever the circumstances in which God places us, but let us allow Him to act, uniting ourselves to His intentions; in this way we will love with pureness of love."
St Teresa Margaret (Redi) of the Sacred Heart*



Claire cutting the cake to celebrate "Foundation Day" with Mary O'Boyle, our new President

NATIONAL STATUTES

PART I – Our Identity, Values and Commitment Section Two – Our Heritage

*"The Lord of Hosts lives, before whom I stand."
(1 Kings 17:1)*

4. The glory of the Secular Order is in being part of the whole Carmelite family but the privilege of sharing its spiritual heritage and grace brings with it responsibility for others in our prayers and example as members of the mystical body of Christ, his Church.

5. In faithfully honouring the heritage that is ours, Secular Carmelites:

- look to Mary as the model of their life in Carmel
- honour St Joseph as "master" and teacher of prayer
- cultivate a filial devotion to our Carmelite saints and honour them on their feast days and give due reverence to national, diocesan and parish patron saints
- cherish their vocation and give thanks 'always and everywhere' for the gift that has been given them through the providence of God for their own salvation and the good of the Church.

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

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