



# Newsletter

Number 285, October 2022

## Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 2 October 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.191)

#### 2:30pm Community Study

Letter to OCDS  
from our Superior General

#### Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Lyn, Reader: Christine

#### Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Pat C. & Marian  
Dishes: Karen & Megan



#### Bethany Day

Tuesday 18 October 2022

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:15pm BYO Lunch

#### Birthdays

Patricia Sutherland Thursday 20 Oct.  
Stephanie Tabley Friday 28 Oct.

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

## October: Dedicated to the Holy Rosary

"Only one family: walking together"

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Last month, along with our September newsletter, you received excerpts from **Letter to OCDS by our Superior General, Father Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD**. Please bring this to our coming meeting, your Council believes it important that we give time to absorbing and embracing Fr Miguel's exhortation. It is fortuitous that the period "Father's Teaching", due to Father Michael-Thérèse being on holiday, will give us the opportunity to do this. It would be helpful if we could all familiarise ourselves with it beforehand. Megan, as Community Formator, will lead and guide us.

Please also bring your **retreat money** to our October meeting if you have not already paid: \$230 live in cost, or \$110 day only.

October – month of the Holy Rosary:

*"The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next.*

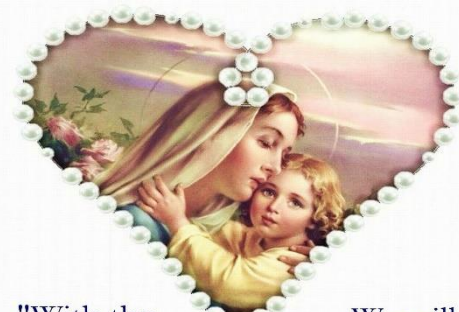
*The power of the rosary is beyond description".*

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Blessings in Carmel,

Mary O'Boyle, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



"With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves.

We will console our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

--- Sister Lucia ---  
seer of Fatima

October quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:  
"The Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty."

## EXCERPT FROM THE DECLARATION ON THE CARMELITE-TERESIAN CHARISM

by the Discalced Carmelite Friars (Rome, 15 October 2021)



### IV. A. THE LIFE OF PRAYER

#### 21. *An experience of love* [C 15a, 49, 55]

From this fundamental reality, which is friendship with God, many essential elements of the Teresian experience and proposal take on meaning: attention to interiority, contemplation, unceasing prayer. The content of prayer is a personal encounter with the living God. On the path of prayer everything depends on love: *“The important thing is not to think much but to love much, and so do that which best stirs you to love.”* (4M 1:7; cf. L 8:5.9; W 21,1). It is a relationship of friendship, a reality of theological life (faith, hope, love), which we recognize present in its fullness in the person of Mary, model of our vocation.

#### 22. *Seeking God and not oneself* [C 54]

The search for inner peace, meditation as a way to personal serenity, silence, and interiority, often without any religious content or reference, is widespread in modern society. However, as good and positive as this search may be, it should be emphasized that Carmelite (and Christian) prayer has an interpersonal character and is always an experience (or at least a desire) of an encounter, a conversation, and a relationship. Prayer cannot be limited to a search for inner peace, serenity or well-being, and even less can it be a mere obligation to be observed.

#### 23. *Friendship with God as a permanent state* [C 2, 15c, 66]

Our relationship with God is not an occasional experience, but must become a permanent state, like any true friendship or love. We are called to loving union with God, which marks the whole of life in all its dimensions and in all its moments. In our tradition, which goes back to the prophet Elijah, we often speak of *“living in the presence of God”*. This expression indicates the goal towards which we are striving, that our whole life becomes prayer, remaining constantly before the face of God.

#### 24. *Listening to the Word* [C 65]

Constant listening to the inner guest translates, among other things, into attention to the Word of God. The Carmelite tradition emphasizes the importance of the Word of God received, meditated upon and lived. It is enough to recall the invitation of the Rule to *“meditate day and night on the law of the Lord”* (Rule 10), and the testimony of all the Saints of Carmel who recognize the voice of the Lord himself in Scripture and in personal prayer.

#### 25. *The community that prays* [C 56-61, 78]

The relationship with the Lord is lived not only in community, but also as community, particularly in the celebration of the liturgy. Each individual member needs the company of his or her brothers and sisters in order to present himself or herself before the Lord as the Church which says to her Bridegroom: *“Come!”* (Rev 22:17). A privileged

expression of the communal encounter with him is the concelebrated Eucharist. The same is true of celebrating together the prayer of the Church in the Liturgy of the Hours and of practicing mental prayer together.

#### 26. *Mental prayer* [C 64]

To maintain a personal relationship with God and to be faithful to the Teresian charism we cannot do so without mental prayer. For each person and each community, it is essential to devote a specific time daily to it, free from other occupations, as well as to have a suitable place for this type of prayer. This is a fundamental requirement of our vocation which is constantly reaffirmed and renewed, and of our mission in the Church and the world.

#### 27. *Solitude and silence* [C 68]

The need for solitude and silence in our contemplative vocation remains imperative, the need to *“take time frequently to be alone with Him whom we know loves us.”* (L 8:5). It is necessary to have the experience of the desert, allowing a large space to remain empty and a long time to spend in silence so that the presence of God can occupy it. In the digital age, it is not so much physical solitude that frightens us as being “disconnected,” not connected to that sort of *anima mundi* that has become the virtual world of the internet and social networks. The absence of connection (and not of relationship) causes anguish, projects us backwards in an inescapable confrontation with ourselves. In the silence of information, images and contacts, the emptiness of an unexplored, unfamiliar, and yet our own interior region opens, and for this reason it is disturbing.

#### 28. *Detachment* [C 25, 30, 33, 67]

One of the elements most emphasized in our tradition, beginning with Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross, is detachment which is absolutely necessary in order to become free and to be able to find our true wealth in God alone and to experience that *“God alone suffices.”* Detachment must be above all interior, but also exterior. In a society oriented towards consumerism, even we religious are easily tempted to possess or use so many things and to always have new experiences. Without a radical detachment and a sober lifestyle, it is not possible to live the contemplative-community life: *“prayer and comfortable living are incompatible.”* (W 4:2).

#### 29. *Passion for God*

Our communion with the Lord gives meaning and vigor to our charismatic life. It must be cultivated and nourished every day so that the flame of love is not extinguished, and life does not become gray and routine. Acedia is undoubtedly one of the dangers of our present situation, often hidden under the guise of activism and multiple ever-changing interests. Only a renewed passion for God can protect us from such risks.

## Prayers for October

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, and Sr Lauren receiving her habit on 15 October.
- 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 Patrick Keenan, OCD and the consolation of his Community and family
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially Fr Arsène, little Carter, Kathleen (stroke), 12-year-old Felix O'Byrne (long covid), little Indi (cancer), little Elliot (covid for second time), a relative of Eddie's (cancer), Mary (cancer), Sr Marie (cancer) and John Hoare

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

- We pray for the **Church**; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and **welcome**, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

**NATIONAL STATUTES**  
**PART II – Following Jesus in the Teresian**  
**Secular Carmel**  
**Section Four – The Monthly Meeting**

*"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20)*

**9. The members of the Community highly value the traditional monthly meeting as an important grace and give it priority in their lives. It is an occasion to pray together, to further spiritual formation, to grow in fraternal charity and to transact the business of the community.**

## Our October Carmelite Saints

**1 Sat. St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (virgin, doctor)**



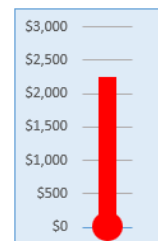
**15 Sat. ST TERESA OF JESUS (virgin, doctor, our Mother)**



**CARMEL RETREAT**  
**"Mystical Love with our Carmelite Saints"**  
**Retreat Director: Fr Carl Telford, SM**  
 November 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 2022  
 Rochester Hall, Canterbury University, Ilam  
 Live in cost \$230 Day only \$110

### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



**New Total**



**Sanitary facilities in the new school**

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

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