



Newsletter

Number 266, February 2021

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 7 February 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 2, from p.69)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Pat C., Reader: Odette

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Marian & Megan

Dishes: Eddie & Mary



Council Meeting

Bethany Day

Tuesday 16 February 2021

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

Birthdays

Eddie Rodden Mon. 1 February

Dorothea McKenzie Thu. 4 February

Ken Orr Wed. 24 February

Megan Emery Thu. 25 February



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

February: Dedicated to the Holy Family

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

A very joyous and safe 2021 to everyone! I can't believe how quickly December and January have gone by and I'm excited as to what this year holds for us and our Community!

2021 is dedicated to **St Joseph** – in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as **Patron of the Universal Church**.

Pope Francis said he was establishing the year so that "every member of the faithful, following the example of St Joseph, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will." The Holy Father said that so many people have made hidden sacrifices during the pandemic to protect others, just as St Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus. "Each of us can discover in Joseph the man ... who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence ... an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the Pope said.

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

– St Teresa of Jesus

Thank you very much to everyone for your generosity towards the **Carmelite Sisters in Tonga**; the sum of \$506.00 was sent to them in December (by our ever-cheerful treasurer, Karen).

The month of February is devoted to the **Holy Family**. A thought on the Holy Family from St Thérèse: "St Joseph, how I love him! What does me a lot of good when I think of the Holy Family is to imagine a life that was very ordinary, just like our own."

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the year on the 7th of February.

Blessings in Carmel,

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



February quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:
"...there is only one thing to do here below. That is to cast before Jesus the flowers of little sacrifices, to captivate Him by caresses."

EXCERPTS FROM “ST JOSEPH, PATRON OF CARMEL” (PART ONE)

A Letter from the Prior General, O.Carm. (P. Mícheál O’Neill) and Superior General, O.C.D. (P. Saverio Cannistrà)
to the Carmelite Family on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the
proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

This year, 2020, we celebrated the feast of St Joseph in the full throws of a pandemic, that forced us to remain in our own homes. Because of that, we felt the need even more to turn to that just and faithful man who knew the meaning of hardship, exile, and worries about tomorrow, but did not lose heart, but continued to believe and hope God, from whom he had received a very unique mission: he was to take care of Mary and the child Jesus, the family of Nazareth, the embryo of the new family that God was giving to the world. Pope Francis, preaching in Santa Marta, reminded us of some of the qualities of St Joseph: the man of clear and practical vision, capable of doing his work with precision and professional skill, and one who at the same time penetrated the mystery of God, beyond all that was familiar to him or was under his control, and in the presence of which he kneels and adores.

It does us good to think about St Joseph, to meditate on him as one whom our tradition has recognised as a patron and a model of Carmelite life. It is something we want to do together, as a Carmelite family, O.Carm. and O.C.D., because in our veneration of St Joseph, and in our constant reference to him, we find one of the most precious aspects of our common heritage and spirituality. This year has the added motivation of a significant anniversary, namely, the proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, by Pope Pius IX, on the 8th of December 1870, 150 years ago.

The place of St Joseph in Carmel

...St Joseph is presented in Carmel’s ancient liturgy as the virginal spouse of Mary, united to her through a real marriage, in which his authority as a spouse, protector and father is seen in his constant service. Moreover, St Joseph is presented in his obedience to God. He is the just one, the worthy master of the house of the Lord, to whom a great responsibility is entrusted, that of giving a name to the child that is born. He gave him the divine name announced by the angel, the name Jesus. By doing this, Joseph became the first one to announce that in the child of Nazareth we are saved by God. In that same ancient liturgy we can detect a wealth of Carmelite spirituality under the image of St Joseph: 1) *puritas cordis* that makes it possible to have a vision of God, 2) union with Mary, and 3) the fruitfulness of the mystical life understood in terms of the conception and birth of the incarnate Word in the soul that is pure. St Joseph for that reason is celebrated as the image and reflection of the Carmelite mystical life in God.

St Teresa and St Joseph

As the heir of a rich tradition of veneration and devotion to St Joseph in Carmel, St Teresa of Jesus would give more breadth and depth to the tradition, to the great benefit of Carmel and of the universal Church. Indeed, it is undeniable

that more than any other, Teresa of Jesus made devotion to Joseph one of the elements that characterizes the spiritual identity of Carmel. Her encounter with St Joseph came about in one of the darkest periods in her life. She was about twenty-five years old. She had been suffering from a painful and endless illness, and the doctors had not only not cured her but made her worse. She was paralysed and worn out, both physically and psychologically. She felt that she was alone, without anybody to help her, when as if she felt something inside pushing her, she turned to St Joseph as her “lord and father” (*Life* 6, 6; 33, 12). For the rest of her life, Joseph would remain for her and her work as the custodian and protector, taking her out of every difficulty that came her way. From being only a personal devotion, her devotion to Joseph would become in time a feature of the Teresian Reform centred on friendship with Jesus Christ. Just as Joseph watched over the relationship between Jesus and Mary, defending it from dangers from outside and protecting the home where they dwelt, likewise, he would watch over the Carmels that just like the family of Nazareth were intended to be places in which the humanity of Jesus would find a home, and Carmelites would live only for that end. For this reason, Joseph is not only a patron, but also the master of all who practice prayer, (*Life* 6, 8) because there is no one who knows more than he what it means to live a life of intimacy with Jesus and Mary, because of the many years he lived with them and the way in which he made possible their life as a family in Nazareth. It is no surprise therefore that ten out of the fifteen Carmelite monasteries that Teresa herself founded bore the name of St Joseph.

St Joseph was so much a presence in the founding activities of Teresa (every time she travelled she brought with her a statue of St Joseph) that he began to be known as the “*Founder*” of the Teresian Carmel.

We should understand by that that he truly helped her in the founding of the Carmelite monasteries of the reform... Fr Giovanni di Gesù Maria explained that veneration of St Joseph is second only to the Blessed Virgin and is followed by devotion to the great prophets, Elijah and Elisha, the “*founders of our Order*”...



Prayers for February

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

We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Bishop Paul, the appointment of a new Bishop, and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our new 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 our Goma school mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our Special Members, especially 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 Dianne Evans, Chris Adam, Matt (Megan's son's friend), Fr Marie, CSJ, from Cameroon, and the consolation of their families and community
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), Anggha (discernment), Dave McDonnell (cancer), Lorraine Fuller (brain tumour), Tam Miller (cancer), Lyn Mack (cancer), Marina (new job), Michael (radiation therapy), Gerald O'Farrell (healing), John Garvey (cancer), John Hoare (depression), Karen's cousin, Rose (motor neurone disease), young dad in Australia (acquittal of criminal charges) and Megan's mother, Josie

Our Holy Father's Intentions for February:

- We pray for **women who are victims of violence**, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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:

- the President is informed in good time before a member brings a visitor to a meeting for the first time
- visitors are warmly welcomed and introduced personally to the President, Council members and the Spiritual Assistant...

Our February Carmelite Saints

4 Thu. Bl. Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus
(priest)

Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus Grialou
Feast Day: February 4
20th c. French Discalced Carmelite

Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus (Henri Grialou) was born in 1894 to a deeply Christian family in southwestern France. His diocesan seminary studies were interrupted by World War I, where he experienced the powerful protection of St. Therese of Lisieux; his life was forever changed. After graduation and ordination, he entered the Discalced Carmelites in 1922. Desiring to make known the teachings of the Carmelite saints, he wrote "I Want to See God" and "I Am a Daughter of the Church." He served the Pope and the Order in leadership roles. Responding to God's call, he founded the Secular Institute of Notre Dame de Vie (Our Lady of Life). He passed from death to life on the feast of Our Lady of Life, Easter Monday 1967. He was beatified by Pope Francis in 2016.



Famous for founding the institute Notre Dame de Vie

@carmelitequotes



Our Lenten Journey with St Teresa of Jesus: Look at Him...

OUR GOMA MISSION

Excerpt of Letter from Fr Jérôme, OCD

...Your financial support, your prayers have been part of this story, they have made this story... Thanks, thanks, thanks...

What I am convinced of is that it is Saint Teresa herself walking in and with this school. It is her project.

The building has been completed with your support, and the support from the NGO named Manos Unidas, the Episcopal Conference of Italy, the catholic Diocese of Stockholm, the Carmelite Monastery of Marienthal and so many people who worked to make the project a reality. To all of you, thanks a million.

The school is at the standards of the European buildings. Poor children are studying with those from rich families. The school makes the poor feel like the rich. Children interact beyond their social status. It is wonderful. This has been made possible by your support and the Catholic Diocese of Stockholm has been sponsoring some poor children with 10000 euros each year. Thanks, Thanks, Thanks... This money you have sent is going to be part of the school fees support for children...

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

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