



Newsletter

Number 268, April 2021

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 28 March 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 3, from p.88)

2:30pm Renewal of Promise in Chapel

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Mary, Reader: Karen

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Eddie & Marian

Dishes: Odette & Megan



Bethany Day

Tuesday 20 April 2021

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

Birthdays

Mary O'Boyle Saturday, 3 April

Noeline Sapwell Monday, 12 April



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

April: Dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

How quickly time flies! Here we are with our April Newsletter.

We are now through the fourth week of Lent. As we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week, let us remain close in prayer for each other. This Easter we give special thanks for the gift of the Eucharist; may we never ever have to do virtual Easter celebrations and online Easter Mass. Ever!!

April is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. We recall the words of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus:

"Oh, my darling, think, then, that Jesus is here in the Tabernacle expressly for you, for you alone; He is burning with the desire to enter your heart... so don't listen to the devil, mock him, and go without any fear to receive Jesus in peace and love!"

At our next meeting, we shall be renewing our Promises in the Chapel. Please bring the **Renewal of Promise**, copy of which is printed in this Newsletter. On that day, too, we shall be welcoming **Elizabeth** into our Community as she is formally admitted into Formation. Please bring a plate to share.

God bless everyone with a Happy and Holy Easter!

Blessings in Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



April quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:

"I especially loved the processions in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. What a joy it was for me to throw flowers beneath the feet of God!... I was never so happy as when I saw my roses touch the sacred Monstrance."

Litany of St Joseph

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God, the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
St Joseph, *pray for us.*
Renowned offspring of David, *pray for us.*
Light of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*
Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*
Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*
Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*
Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*
Joseph most just, *pray for us.*
Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*
Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*
Joseph most strong, *pray for us.*
Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*
Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*
Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*
Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*
Model of artisans, *pray for us.*
Glory of family life, *pray for us.*
Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*
Pillar of families, *pray for us.*
Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*
Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*
Terror of demons, *pray for us.*
Defender of Holy Church, *pray for us.*



Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. *have mercy on us, O Lord.*
He made him the lord of his household, *and prince over all his possessions.*

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever, Amen.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

A SPIRITUAL AUDIT IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

It is always a good time for all members to check on our spiritual lives.

Have we progressed in the last year?

Have we been faithful to our Constitutions as Carmelites in the Secular Order?

Is our prayer life developing more each day – each year?

Do the people we come in contact with, know that we are people of prayer?

Do we seek to do God's will in all things?

Is the reason for us being in Carmel:

- That we desire to be drawn to a deeper way of prayer – and not just to belong to a sodality and meet people!
- Do we make an effort to get along with the other members, to encourage them and support them in difficulties?
- Is the Secular Order the main organization in our lives? Or do we just fit it in, when convenient?
- Are we free to practice what our Constitutions require for our way of life, or are our family and others made to suffer through our life?

Are we still willing to carry out our duties faithfully? Attendance at mass, meetings and daily prayers? Or are we growing careless and easy-going, when we do miss? This does not apply to sickness or when no Mass is available.

It is good to think about the year past, and if we are going forward or backwards – for we never stand still!! Change the things that need to be changed – improve on the good things.

Are we acquiring the Spirit of the Order?

Are we growing in the understanding of the life of Carmel?

Are we giving priority to our duties of Carmel and our commitment to it?

If we find that our fervour is lacking, we cannot fulfil our promises, or maybe we feel that God wants us to be in another way of life, then pray about it – and do what God wants us to do – not just carry on because we want to stay!

Talk it over with the Spiritual Assistant, but do not carry on if the heart is not in it. Promises made to God are meant with all our heart, God will help us with His grace to keep them; if we find it is too much for us, or not right for us, God will give us a new way of life to serve Him.

(With thanks to **Margaret Dwyer** for this excellent inventory, 1994)

File ocds:formation

Prayers for April

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, 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
- Sr Anne Teresa, OCD: Final Profession on 1st May
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea McKenzie, recovering from a fall. Also 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 John Garvey and Gerald O'Farrell, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), Karen's cousin, Rose (motor neurone disease), Annette's daughter, Stephanie, Karen's granddaughter, Maisie, Tommy and Laura (safe birth of their baby), Mary Kennedy, Michelle Lonsdale, Gary Miers (cancer) and family, and Fr Eugene McCaffrey, OCD (readmitted to hospital)

Our Holy Father's Intentions for April:

- We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for **fundamental rights** under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

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: ...

- in questioning a candidate, respect for his/her privacy is maintained at all times...

Our April Carmelite Saints

17 Sat. Bl. Baptist Spagnoli (priest)

23 Fri. Bl. Teresa Mary of the Cross Manetti (virgin)



Sunday 28 March: Birthday of our Holy Mother, St Teresa of Jesus, and the Renewal of our Promise



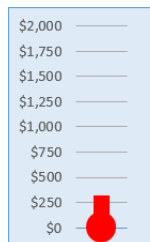
Renewal of Promise

I,,
inspired by the Holy Spirit,
in response to God's call,
sincerely renew my Promise
to the Superiors of the Order
of the Teresian Carmel,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
to tend to evangelical perfection
in the spirit of the evangelical counsels
of chastity, poverty, obedience,
and of the Beatitudes,
according to the Constitutions of the
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites.
I confidently entrust this, my Promise,
to the Virgin Mary,
Mother and Queen of Carmel.



OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



The "Way of Perfection" school

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

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