



# Newsletter

Number 277, February 2022

## Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 6 February 2022

**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 4, from p.143)

**2:30pm Father's Teaching**

**Divine Office in Chapel**

Leader: Mary, Reader: Karen

**Afternoon Tea**

Prep. & Serving: Claire & Megan

Dishes: Ken & Odette



**Bethany Day**

**Tuesday 15 February 2022**

**(10:00am – 1:00pm)**

10:00am Study

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch

**Birthdays**

Eddie Tuesday 1 Feb.

Dorothea Friday 4 Feb.

Ken Thursday 24 Feb.

Megan Friday 25 Feb.

Elizabeth Saturday 26 Feb.



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

## *February: Dedicated to the Holy Family*

My dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

Welcome back! I do hope all of you had a good break and a real rest – having celebrated a Spirit-filled Christmas with family and loved ones – and look forward to a blessed, happy and healthy 2022.

It will be wonderful when our Community meets for the first time in the new year on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Every opportunity to come together is indeed a blessing. Who knows what this year will bring with Omicron threatening at the door? May the Holy Family (to whom the month of February is dedicated) bless and keep the OCDS Families of New Zealand safe. Let us keep up our prayers for ourselves, our dear Sisters and for all of God's people.

My wish to all in the words of our dear Eddie:

***May your garden develop as you want it to,  
may your life be endowed with joy.***

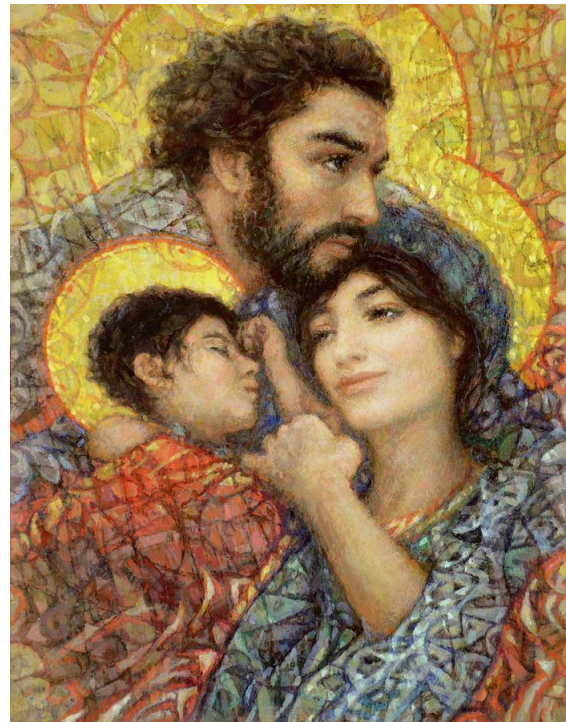
***May kindness and happiness surround your days,  
may your life never encounter any strife. (E. Rodden)***

God bless always.

In Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



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

***"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."***

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR RETREAT

### “A Retreat with Jesus, Mary and Joseph” with Fr Sean-Mary Britto, CSJ



The Holy Family is the Church, where human relationships are lived to the full. God made himself one of us. There is no other religion where God makes himself present to us. He invites himself inside us through the Eucharist and we can choose this. Communion is the internal decision to receive Jesus into our soul.

The Holy Family is the domestic Church. Mary was poor in spirit. With **‘poverty of soul’**, the Holy Spirit can also be present in us. Without it, nothing can happen. Humiliations are therefore blessings from God. We learn adoration from the Holy Family.

The Holy Family is the source of inspiration for the Church and for our lives. In the parable of the rich young man, Jesus *“looked at him and loved him.”* (Mark 10:21) In the same way, Jesus looks at us and loves us. The goal for the Church is to be a Holy Family, that **we look at one another and love one another.**

The Gospel is the source. It reveals relationships in relation to Jesus. The Annunciation, in Luke’s Gospel, gives us **Mary’s perspective.** God revealed his secret of the Trinity to Mary. His Word, or Son, was the fruit of God’s own contemplation, gazing and receiving. At the Visitation, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, expressing the joy of entering into God’s presence.

Matthew’s Gospel gives us **Joseph’s perspective.** It is a moment of crisis for the Holy Family, but St Joseph shows **obedience of faith.** When we surrender ourselves completely to God, God makes us more ourselves. (This is in opposition to the devil, who wants to possess us and take away our freedom.) Another example of this complete surrender is St Thérèse’s Act of Oblation to the Merciful Love of God.

In terms of holiness, Jesus is the most holy, then Mary, then Joseph. But Joseph was the head of the household. He had the authority. The Word of God was subject to St Joseph and obeyed him. Jesus as God created St Joseph, Jesus as man obeyed St Joseph.

Joseph teaches Jesus to be a son and Jesus teaches Joseph to be a father. Relationships are key – the close bonds of family. And knowledge of this is handed down to us through the Oral Tradition. St Teresa of Jesus never left the holy humanity of Christ, the human relationships of the Holy Family.

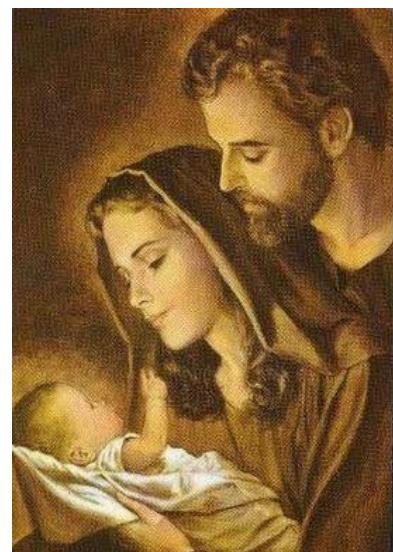
The vocation of St Joseph is to watch over the Holy Family, and the strength of St Joseph comes from embracing the baby Jesus in his arms. St Joseph is faithful to the end.

In the first Vatican Council, in 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph as the patron saint of the Catholic Church. In the second Vatican Council, in 1962, Pope John XXIII had St Joseph included in the canon of the Mass. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII stated that St Joseph was important because of his relationship with the Mother of God. He had the closest relationship possible with Jesus. Joseph and Mary were responsible for Jesus’ growth and education – they raised and gave Jesus to the world.

St Joseph received a grace to live his marriage in this way. He and Mary shared their souls. God’s gift to St Joseph was the dignity and virtues of Mary passed on to him. He is the greatest saint after Mary. He is the guardian of the Son of God and father of his humanity.

St Joseph worked to support his family. This shows us the importance and dignity of work, of working and praying, and the dignity of a lowly life. The attitude of St Joseph and Mary was to get through things with God’s grace. In his encyclical of 1989, John Paul II stated that God entrusted St Joseph with his most precious treasures, Jesus and Mary.

The mission of St Joseph is to watch and pray. Let us pray and have recourse to St Joseph! St Teresa of Jesus tells us that Mary is pleased when we honour St Joseph. He helps us in all things, especially in growing in virtue and in teaching us how to pray. Let us journey with St Joseph to the end of our lives and gain a deeper understanding of him.



*The fruit of the retreat is the gaze of love of the Holy Family on us.*

## Prayers for February

*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 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), Annette and her daughter, Stephanie, Marian's son, Stephen, Noeline and Hec, Gary Miers (cancer) and his wife, Carol, baby Carter, Fr Arsène, his brother, Ben (Covid), Shaun Hickland (NET Ministries), Mother Dorothea's brother, Dennis (heart attack), Mike Doolan, Megan's son, Ben (Covid), Maree Khouri (cancer) and Tess' mum, Helen Noble (unwell with pain and infection)

### **Our Holy Father's Intentions for February:**

- We pray for **religious sisters and consecrated women**; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

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

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

**40. As required by the Constitutions, the election of a Community Council is held every three years. It cannot be anticipated, but for a good reason may be postponed, but not beyond three months.**

## Our February Carmelite Saints

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

24 Thu. Bl. Josepha Naval Girbés (virgin)  
(Secular Carmelite)



**"Souls, souls for God"**

### **OUR GOMA MISSION**

#### **Excerpt of Letter from Fr Jérôme, OCD**

*...I would like to thank you in a special way for the Goma School. This school is now a reality thanks to your support and encouragement. If not for your continued and yearly renewed support, the "Chemin de Perfection" School (Way of Perfection School) would not have been a reality...*

*...I remember, when I was contacting the Manos Unidas NGO to request for funds to build the school, I sent to them the pamphlet you have made to show how you are supporting the school. After seeing it, they decided to help because they were convinced that they are people who are helping. It is really your work, your prayers... Thanks a lot.*

*Since it was during the 5th centenary year of the birth of our Mother Saint Teresa, we entrusted the project to her and she accompanied it. It is her project and that is why it bears the name **Way of Perfection**. I initially thought of building a very modest school but when I saw the positive reaction from the above mentioned and also due to the considerable number of children in need, we made the best building school we could. For me it was a clear sign that Saint Teresa wanted us to support as many children as we could...*

*Once more thank you so much for your support. I beg that you join the Discalced Carmelites of Congo in thanking our Mother St Teresa whose intercession for the school has obtained us more than we were planning...*

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

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