



# Newsletter

Number 293, July 2023

## Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 2 July 2023

### 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"

(Community Study: See Newsletter, pp.2-3)

### 2:30pm Father's Teaching

#### Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Eddie, Reader: Maureen

#### Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Megan & Elizabeth

Dishes: Pat C. & Karen



### Bethany Day

Tuesday 18 July 2023

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:15pm BYO Lunch

### Birthdays

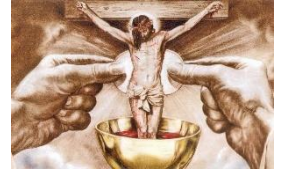
Peb Tuesday 4 July

Annette Sunday 16 July



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

## *July: Dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus*



Dear Secular family,

It's hard to believe that July is around the corner, I feel I've known that July is the month of the Precious Blood forever, but I realised I didn't know why, so I searched it out and here it is, note it was instituted to aid the "end of a war". Let us pray that again in July 2023 our prayer will aid the end of a war... in Ukraine.

The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. Over time, the Church developed various feasts of the Precious Blood, but it wasn't until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a universal feast was established.

During the First Italian War for Independence in 1849, Pope Pius IX went into exile to Gaeta. He went there with Don Giovanni Merlini, third superior general of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. While the war was still raging, Merlini suggested to Pope Pius IX that he create a universal feast to the Precious Blood to beg God's heavenly aid to end the war and bring peace to Rome. Pius IX subsequently made a statement on June 30, 1849 that he intended to create a feast in honour of the Precious Blood. The war soon ended and he returned to Rome shortly thereafter.

On August 10, he made it official and proclaimed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July will be dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Later, Pope Pius X assigned July 1 as the fixed date of this celebration.

After Vatican II, the feast was removed from the calendar, but a votive Mass in honour of the Precious Blood was established and can be celebrated in the month of July (as well as most other months of the year).

For these reasons the entire month of July is traditionally dedicated to the Precious Blood, and Catholics are encouraged to meditate on the profound sacrifice of Jesus and the pouring out of his blood for humanity.

Below is the opening prayer of the votive Mass, as well as an additional prayer that can be used as our own personal meditation/prayer during July:

*"O God, who by the Precious Blood of your Only Begotten Son have redeemed the whole world, preserve in us the work of your mercy, so that, ever honouring the mystery of our salvation, we may merit to obtain its fruits. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."*

*"Admitted to your sacred table, O Lord, we have with joy drawn water from the fountains of the Saviour: O may his blood, we beseech thee, become within us a fountain of water springing up to eternal life."*

Blessings, Mary O'Boyle, OCDS (President, Peace of Christ Comm., Chch)

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

***"Was it not when I saw the Precious Blood flowing from the Wounds of Jesus that the thirst for souls first took possession of me?"***



## READING OF THE WRITINGS OF ThÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS (2023: MANUSCRIPT A)

### Study guide 6: On the waves of confidence and love (Ms A, 80r-81v)

*Prior note: texts studied in worksheets 6, 7 and 8 (Ms A, 80r-84v) together form the conclusion of Manuscript A. It may be useful to do a complete first reading of these pages.*

#### Proposal for the Community meeting:

1. Reading of the text.
2. One of the participants, who has already prepared his contribution, presents the text with the help of the reading schedule (and other supports, if necessary).
3. Community dialogue on the text.  
It would be good if the community meeting was preceded by a personal reading and meditation on the text of Thérèse.

#### MANUSCRIPT A, 80r-81v

[ICS English translation pp. 173 – 175]

The year that followed my Profession, that is, two months before Mother Geneviève's death, I received great graces during my retreat. Ordinarily, the retreats that are preached are more painful to me than the ones I make alone, but this year it was otherwise. I had made a preparatory novena with great fervour, in spite of the inner sentiment I had, for it seemed to me that the preacher would not be able to understand me since he was supposed to do good to great sinners but not [80v°] to religious souls. God wanted to show me that He was the Director of my soul, and so He made use of this Father specifically, who was appreciated only by me in the community. At the time I was having great interior trials of all kinds, even to the point of asking myself whether heaven really existed. I felt disposed to say nothing of my interior dispositions since I didn't know how to express them, but I had hardly entered the confessional when I felt my soul expand. After speaking only a few words, *I was understood* in a marvellous way and my soul was like a book in which this priest read better than I did myself. He launched me full sail *upon the waves of confidence and love* which so strongly attracted me, but upon which I dared not advance. He told me that my faults caused God no pain, and that holding as he did God's place, he was telling me in *His name* that God was very much pleased with me.

Oh! how happy I was to hear those consoling words! Never had I heard that our faults *could not cause God any pain*, and this assurance filled me with joy, helping me to bear patiently with life's exile. I felt at the bottom of my heart that this was really so, for God is more tender than a mother, and were you not, dear Mother, always ready to pardon the little offenses I committed against you involuntarily? How often I experienced this! No word of reproach touched me as much as did one of your caresses. My nature was such that fear

made me recoil; with love not only did I advance, I actually flew.

O Mother, it was especially since the blessed day of your election that I have flown in the ways of love. On that day Pauline became my living Jesus.

[81r°] I had the happiness of contemplating for a long time the *marvels* Jesus is working by means of my dear Mother. I see that *suffering alone* gives birth to souls, and more than ever before these sublime words of Jesus unveil their depths to me: "*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it will bring forth much fruit.*" What an abundant harvest you have reaped! You have sown in tears, but soon you will see the result of your works, and you will return filled with joy, carrying sheaves in your arms. O Mother, among these ripe sheaves is hidden the little *white flower*; however, in heaven she will have a voice with which to sing of your *gentleness and your virtues* which she sees you practice every day in the darkness and the silence of life's exile!

Yes, for the past two years I have understood very well the mysteries hidden from me until then. God showed me the same mercy He showed to King Solomon. He has not willed that I have one single desire which is not fulfilled, not only my desires for perfection but those too whose vanity I *have understood* without having experienced it.

As I have always looked upon you, dear Mother, as my *ideal*, I desired to be like you in everything; when I saw you do beautiful paintings and delightful poems, I said to myself: How happy I would be if I were able to paint and to know how to express my thoughts in verse and thus do good to souls. I would not have wanted to *ask for* these natural gifts and my desires remained *hidden away* at the bottom of my *heart*. *Jesus hidden* also in this poor little heart was pleased to show it that *everything is vanity and affliction of spirit under the sun*. To the great astonishment of the Sisters, I was told to paint, and God permitted that I profit by the lessons my dear Mother gave me. He willed also [81v°] that I write poems and compose little pieces that were considered beautiful. And just as Solomon, when he *considered all the works of his hands in which he had placed so much useless toil, saw that all is vanity and affliction of spirit*, in the same way I recognized from EXPERIENCE that happiness consists in hiding oneself, in remaining ignorant of created things. I understood that without love all works are nothing, even the most dazzling, such as raising the dead to life and converting peoples.

Instead of doing me any harm, of making me vain, the gifts which God showered upon me (without my having asked for

them) drew me to *Him*; and I saw that He alone was *unchangeable*, that He alone could fulfil my immense desires.

### **Introduction to the text:**

*"During my retreat"* (Ms A, 80r): these are the Exercises preached from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1891 by Father Alexis Prou, a forty-seven-year-old Franciscan recollect from Caen. This renowned preacher had given over one hundred retreats to men and women religious of all Orders in the West of France.

*"Ordinarily, the retreats that are preached are more painful to me"* (Ms A, 80r): Let us keep in mind that starting from Father Alexis's retreat, Thérèse was freed from her worries, but until her death she kept a strict eye on herself, avoiding the slightest fault.

*"On the waves of confidence and love"* (Ms A, 80v): Mother Agnes recounted that *"although she felt attracted to the path of love and abandonment, Thérèse took it with total confidence only after Father Alexis had confirmed that she was on the right path, something that several previous directors had not said"* (from the Apostolic Process).

*"Since the blessed day of your election"* (Ms A, 80v): Sister Agnes of Jesus was elected prioress on February 20, 1893. Manuscript A gives very little indication of Thérèse's spiritual evolution during her novitiate, from September 1890 to February 1893, apart from the Spiritual Exercises of Father Alexis Prou; to find out more, consult the correspondence. The time her sister (Mother Agnes) was prioress was for her a period of undeniable growth and maturing, but she will not let herself be chained by family belonging, especially when the two prioresses, Marie de Gonzague and Agnes of Jesus, clashed, sometimes violently.

*"How happy I would be if I were able to paint"* (Ms A, 81r): at the end of her office as sacristan, Thérèse received the task of painting on the occasion of the election of Mother Agnes. Among other things, she painted the fresco in the chapel in June 1893. Then, probably in September, she was appointed assistant turn-sister.

*"He willed also that I write poems and compose little pieces that were considered beautiful"* (Ms A, 81v): her first poem, *The Divine Dew*, is from February the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1893, 18 days before the election. Previously, it was Mother Agnes who composed poems, hymns and recreations for the community. For these works, Thérèse could have only one hour from noon to 1.00pm and another from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

### **For the community dialogue:**

1. *What does the text say?* Understanding the content and primary meaning of Thérèse's text.
2. *What does the text say to us today?* Grasping the relevance (social, ecclesial, spiritual...) of the text.

3. *What does the text say to me / us?* Making relevant and applying the text to personal and community life.

The purpose of doing things in this manner is to allow Thérèse to speak to us, to question us, to encourage us, and to welcome her to shed light upon and confirm our personal and community journey. The questions proposed are therefore only indicative and can possibly accompany personal meditation and community sharing.

### **Questions:**

1. Thérèse is very sensitive to human mediations and to those of events. What is the main spiritual fruit of her acceptance of mediations? How is this reflected in our personal, community and apostolic life?
2. When Thérèse is asked to exercise her gifts at the service of the community, how is her desire transformed? How do we put our gifts at the service of the community and others?
3. Thérèse establishes here a connection between God's merciful action and the fulfilment of her desires, especially her spiritual ones. What place do our desires have in our relationship with God? Does our relationship with God through our history participate in the expansion and transformation of the nature of our desires?



***"St Thérèse's Dream of the Child Jesus"***  
***Painting by St Thérèse***



## Prayers for July

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, all our priests, religious and seminarians, and the welfare of our diocese
- Our new Provincial, Fr Jim Noonan, 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:

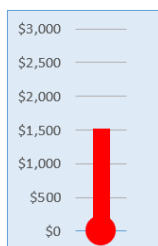
- Our Ukrainian Carmelite nuns, friars & seculars, and all the people of Ukraine, suffering from the terrors of war
- Our Carmelite nuns in Aleppo, and all those suffering from the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey
- Our dear Carmelite Sisters, especially Sr Teresa of Jesus in hospital
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline & Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Fr Tom Keyes, Fr Willy Moran, OCD, Raewyn's husband, Tony, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially Fr Arsène, Fr Deeney, OCD, Fr Chris Alar, Br Samuel in Spain (making his Temporary Vows), Tess, and Tony Tully (recovering from major surgery)

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

- We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the **Eucharist** at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

#### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

To help Fr Jérôme, OCD in assisting the displaced children in Goma, due to terrorism



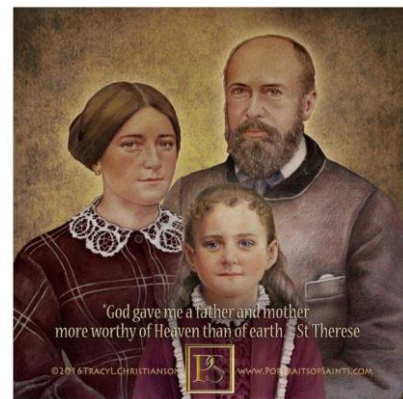
New Total



Displaced people and children living in makeshift shelters

## Our July Carmelite Saints

- 12 Wed. **Sts Zélie and Louis Martin (spouses)**  
*(The Parents of St Thérèse)*
- 13 Thu. St Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes (virgin)
- 16 Sun. **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** 
- 17 Mon. Bls Teresa of St Augustine and Companions (virgins and martyrs)  
*(The Martyrs of Compiègne, France)*
- 20 Thu. St Elijah (prophet, our Father)
- 24 Mon. Bls Maria Pilar, Teresa and Maria Angeles (virgins and martyrs)  
Bl. Maria Mercedes Prat (virgin and martyr)
- 27 Thu. St Titus Brandsma (priest and martyr)
- 28 Fri. Bl. John Soreth (priest)



Saints Zélie and Louis Martin



Thérèse entering into Formation

**"The father through the action of the holy spirit, calls us to a spiritual experience of deep attraction to, and love for Jesus Christ." (Ratio)**

**"The contemplative attitude which enables us to discover God present in people and in the events of ordinary daily life, also helps us to value the mystery of each member." (Ratio)**

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

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