



Newsletter

Number 296, October 2023

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 1 October 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: Study Edition"
(Community Study: Chapter 6, from p.206)

2:30pm Chapel

Ann-Marie, Catherine and Therese
are admitted to Formation

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Lyn, Reader: Megan

Afternoon Tea

(Please bring a plate.)



Prep. & Serving: Eddie & Claire

Dishes: Marian & Maureen

Bethany Day

Tuesday 17 October 2023

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:15pm BYO Lunch

Birthdays

Stephanie Saturday 28 Oct.



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

October: Dedicated to the Holy Rosary

"With Open Hands"

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

A few weeks ago, in a conversation with Barbara H., our talk turned to Father Miguel's recent letter, our Constitutions and how we live them. I was very moved by Barbara's words and asked her to put them in a document to me so I could share them with everyone (p.2). I have prayed and pondered much on all she has said – two thoughts came very strongly to mind for me...

"With open hands" (trust and faith in the Holy Spirit), and...

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

In conclusion, I think of the quotation Megan gave us recently:

**"Christ does not force our will,
he takes only what we give Him.**

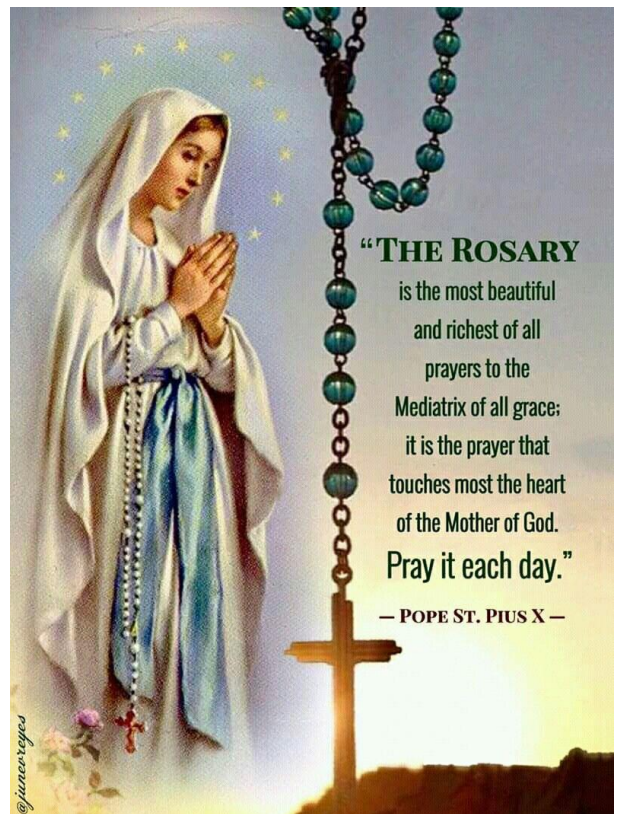
**But He does not give Himself entirely
until He sees that we yield ourselves entirely to Him."**

St Teresa of Jesus

Please bring your **retreat money** to our October meeting, if you have not already paid (cash or online payment). OCDS members pay a reduced rate.

Also, please bring a **plate for afternoon tea**, following Ann-Marie, Catherine and Therese's Admission to Formation.

Blessings,
Mary O'Boyle,
OCDS
(President,
Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



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

"By the Rosary you can obtain everything..."

As long as people pray it, God cannot abandon the world, because this prayer moves His heart powerfully."

Today, at last, I got to read Father General's letter to the OCDS, marking 20 years of our Constitutions. I am so pleased I had waited for a time when I could read it quietly and thoughtfully without having to rush it.

Father Miguel really seems to value and appreciate the place of us Seculars in the Carmelite Order. We are indeed blessed. What an amazing letter.

It really got me to renewed thinking of my own Carmelite vocation. For that and other reasons too. Among them my renewed hope of returning to Christchurch in the (hopefully) near future, the troubles in our Holy Mother Church and the upcoming General elections.

What a gift a call to Carmel is. I think my mainstays are:

"And the Lord passed by in the murmur of a gentle breeze." (Elijah)

**"And Mary treasured these things, and pondered them in her heart."
(Our Lady, Queen and beauty of Carmel)**

"Prayer is a conversation with the One whom we know loves us." (St Teresa of Jesus)

"Where there is no love, put love, and you will find love." (St John of the Cross)

To me, the singular focus of the Carmelite charism and the call to Community are priceless. No matter how complicated or busy life becomes, there is the blessing of Retreat into your "heart-room" with God.

The call to Community is so gentle and fulfilling. To consciously be able to totally throw yourself into the providence and loving will of the Holy Spirit is mind-blowing! I think this manifests itself especially in the times of our Community elections.

Unlike the elections in a country etc, where candidates put themselves forward to be elected, our Canonical elections encompass all of our members, allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work.

This freaked me out at first, but then I came to know that service is a very important part of Community life, and that if the Holy Spirit gives you a job to do in, and for the Community, He gives you everything needed and more, to fulfil it.

I remember when I was elected President and very nervous, I was giving Fr Jolliffe, SM (our Spiritual Assistant at the time) a ride home from our meeting, I told him how nervous I was and that I did not feel worthy. He laughed and said, "Who said you had to be worthy?" That really put it in perspective for me. I just had to be willing to serve.

So, they have been 39 happy and blessed years since I first presented myself to Carmel. It has been a grace to see our Community grow and to become Canonically erected, and to contribute to the writing of our Statutes for our Constitutions after their acceptance 20 years ago. To have been able to serve as Councillor, President and Formator, and National Convenor and Treasurer has been a privilege and I thank you all, my dear ChCh Peace of Christ Community, for trusting me.

Barbara Hempseed, OCDS

Sister Barbara Marie of the Blessed Sacrament

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, all our priests, religious and seminarians, and the welfare of our diocese
- Our Provincial, Fr Jim Noonan, OCD, our General, Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD and all our Carmelite 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:

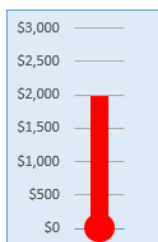
- Our Ukrainian Carmelite nuns, friars & seculars, and all the people of Ukraine, suffering from the terrors of war
- All those suffering from the recent earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya
- Our dear Carmelite Sisters, especially Sr Teresa of Jesus, Sr Elizabeth and Sr Dorothea
- Ann-Marie, Catherine & Therese admitted to Formation
- 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 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 Fr Arsène, Fr Deeney, OCD, Annette (recovering from a bad back), Terry (treatment for cancer), Tracy (healing and discernment in coping with cancer), Matthew (discerning a vocation), and Ann-Marie's dad (complications after an operation)

Our Holy Father's Intentions for October:

- We pray for the Church [Synod], that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



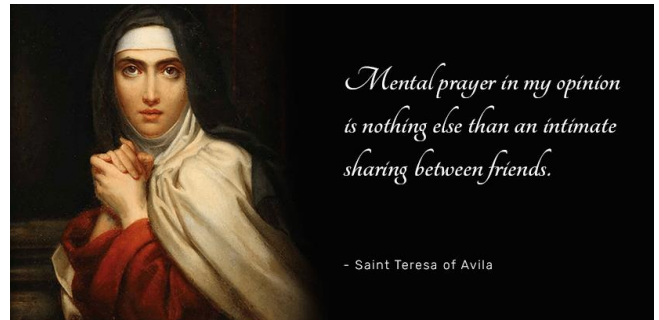
Displaced people and children

Our October Carmelite Saints

1 Sun. [St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (virgin, doctor)]



15 Sun. [ST TERESA OF JESUS (virgin, doctor, our Mother)]



30 Mon. Bl. Maria Teresa of St Joseph (virgin)

CARMEL RETREAT

"Advent with Carmel"

Retreat Director: Fr Michael-Thérèse Scheerger, CSJ

November 24th – 26th 2023

Rochester Hall, Canterbury University, Ilam

Live in cost \$240 Day only \$120

(Reduced rate for OCDS members)

PRE-FORMATION

Enquirers attend Bethany Day if possible and/or monthly Community Meetings, joining the Community at the Spiritual Adviser's talk, followed by Evening Prayer in the Chapel, thence afternoon tea.

A time of 6 months is the recommended time so they can become familiar with Community members. This also gives the Formator and Council time to discern the suitability of the Enquirer to progress to formal formation in the Secular Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Teresa of Jesus.

Before moving onto formal formation, i.e., First Promise Formation, the Enquirer is prepared for this important step by guidance in the daily life of a Secular Carmelite, i.e., praying the Divine Office and familiarising themselves with the 6M's, plus reading of the Aspirancy formation guide.

After discernment by Enquirer, Formator and Council, an Enquirer can make a formal request of the Council to progress to the next stage (First Promise) by writing a letter stating why they wish to progress.

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

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