



Newsletter

Number 297, November 2023

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 5 November 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.210)

2:30pm Father's Teaching

Divine Office in Chapel

Leader: Eddie, Reader: Maureen

Afternoon Tea

Prep. & Serving: Christine & Megan

Dishes: Pat C. & Karen

4pm Council Meeting



Bethany Day

Tuesday 21 November 2023

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:15pm BYO Lunch

Birthdays

Gay Wednesday 8 Nov.

Barbara Saturday 11 Nov.

NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

November: Dedicated to the Holy Souls

Dear Carmelites,

Am penning this November newsletter (dedicated to the Holy Souls), with a few thoughts around our upcoming retreat, and some thoughts as your Formator.

We joyfully received Catherine,

Ann-Marie and Therese into Formation with a Liturgy at our October meeting.

Let us continue to pray for vocations to our Community and reflect on how we can examine the quality of our response to our Christian and Carmelite vocation...

how am I responding generously, charitably, faithfully, zealously? Am I making my best effort daily to do so, or do I find it easy to make excuses?

Does a vocation to Carmel fulfil my inner longings to be holy and to love God more? Do I love the Carmelite life, becoming my heaven on earth? Am I blind to my faults... am I aware of my faults?... feel free to also ask yourself any further questions ☺

Please continue to keep our November Retreat and Fr Michael-Thérèse in your prayers to ensure a truly blessed spiritual time. Here's a thought from Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta...

"The aim of taking a retreat is to advance in the knowledge and love of God, to purify ourselves, and to reform and transform our lives according to the life of our model, Jesus Christ. It is not so much a looking back on the achievements and failures of the past, as a looking forward to a more generous imitation of our Lord himself."

Let us also reflect on the quote from St Thérèse for our Retreat...

"since He has shown me that He alone is perfect happiness."

How much our world needs to take that thought to heart in these increasingly troubled times. His Mother Mary, as a humble daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit entrusted a great gift to all the world in Bethlehem... let us continue to await His coming again... Deo gratias!

Our group study Formation continues with **"Story of a Soul"** and am including these recent words from Pope Francis as his letter on St Thérèse also arrived on our Feast Day of St Teresa of Avila. Pope Francis says that St Thérèse is a **"Doctor of synthesis"**, leading the Church to an understanding of the essentials of the Gospel to what is **"essential and indispensable"**. And the first line quotes the little Saint: **"C'est la confiance et rien que la confiance qui doit nous conduire à l'Amour."** (**"It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love."**)

The bishop of Rome stressed that St Thérèse **"lived devoted to God, forgetting about herself, loving and consoling Jesus, and interceding for the salvation of all."** The 150th anniversary of her birth and the 100th anniversary of her beatification are celebrated this year.

For the occasion, the Holy Father has granted a Jubilee Year in honour of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus that will last until Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, and has the theme **"For trust and love"**, the last words of her autobiography, **"Story of a Soul"**.

Blessings in Carmel,

Megan Emery, OCDS

(Formator, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



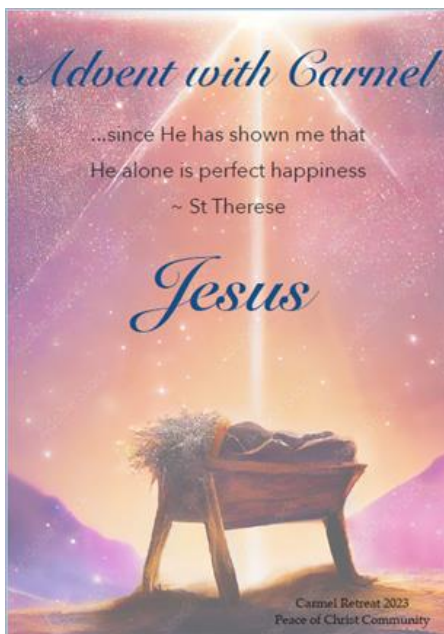
November quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:

"I am certain that even if I had on my conscience every imaginable crime, I should lose nothing of my confidence; rather I would hurry, with a heart broken with sorrow, to throw myself into the Arms of my Jesus."



OCDS RETREAT 2023

University of Canterbury
Rochester & Rutherford Hall
24 – 26 November



Retreat Director:
Fr Michael-Thérèse, CSJ

Retreat Timetable

Friday 24 November

11:00am to 12.30pm Arrival, sign in & collect room keys
12.30pm Welcome & lunch
Housekeeping details

The silence of the retreat begins.

1.30pm **Spiritual talk/Conference 1**
2.30pm Adoration
2.45pm - 4.00pm **5 x 15-minute slots**
4.30pm Mass
6.00pm Evening meal
7.00pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm **Spiritual talk/Conf. 2. Night Prayer**
8.30pm - 9.30pm **4 x 15-minute slots**

Saturday 25 November

7.30am Breakfast
8.00am - 8.30am **2 x 15-minute slots**
8.45am Morning Prayer
9.00am Mass
10.00am Morning tea
10.00am - 10.45am **3 x 15-minute slots**
11.00am **Spiritual talk/Conference 3**
12.30pm Lunch
1.30pm Adoration
1.45pm - 3.15pm **6 x 15-minute slots**
3.30pm **Spiritual talk/Conference 4**
4.30pm - 5.30pm **4 x 15-minute slots**
6.00pm Evening meal
7.00pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm **Spiritual talk/Conf. 5. Night Prayer**
8.30pm - 9.30pm **4 x 15-minute slots**

Sunday 26 November

7.30am Breakfast
8.45am Morning Prayer
9.00am Mass followed by
Adoration/Benediction
10.15am – 11.00am **3 x 15-minute slots**
11.15am **Spiritual talk/Conference 6**
12.30pm Lunch
Closing comments & blessing
by Fr Michael-Thérèse
Photos and farewell

*(15-minute time slots are times for
Consultation/Reconciliation with Fr Michael-Thérèse.
Time slots can be booked in at retreat.)*

Prayers for November

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:

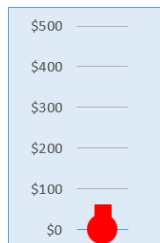
- All the people of the Middle East and the Ukraine, suffering from the terrors of war
- Our dear Carmelite Sisters, especially Sr Teresa of Jesus, Sr Elizabeth and Sr Dorothea
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy 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, especially Kelly Hutton, Nicki, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially Fr Arsène, Fr Deeney, OCD, Terry Jordan (treatment for cancer), and Karen's friend's daughter who has been diagnosed with breast cancer

Our Holy Father's Intentions for November:

- We pray for the **Holy Father**; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total
(\$2,000 sent to Goma)



Displaced children in Goma

Our November Carmelite Saints

- 6 Mon. St Nuno Alvares Pereira (religious)
Bl. Josepha Naval Girbes (virgin)
- 7 Tue. Bl. Francis Palau y Quer (priest)
- 8 Wed. St Elizabeth of the Trinity (virgin)
"Let yourself be loved." ❤️
- 14 Tue. All Carmelite Saints
- 15 Wed. All Carmelite Souls
- 20 Mon. Bl. Denis of the Nativity and
Bl. Redemptus of the Cross (martyrs)



Catherine, Ann-Marie and Therese admitted to Formation Carmelite Monastery, Sunday 1 October 2023

OCDS CONSTITUTIONS

PART VII – Organisation and Government

44. The Spiritual Assistant to each community is usually a friar of the Order. [We received permission from our Regional Delegate of the Order to invite Fr Michael-Thérèse to be our Spiritual Assistant.] His duty is to give spiritual aid to the community so that its members may be guided in their vocation and may correspond with it as perfectly as possible... At the invitation of the Council, he may attend meetings of the Council, without a right to vote. At the different stages of formation of the candidates, he will be available to interview them. The Council may consult him about the suitability of the candidate to assume the responsibility of the vocation to the Secular Order. He will support the formation of the community by his availability to the director of formation. However, he may not be the director of formation. The Spiritual Assistant must be well-versed in Carmelite spirituality and well-informed in the Church's teaching concerning the role of lay people in the Church.

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

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