



Newsletter

Number 306, September 2024

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 1 September 2024

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: Pat C., Reader: Claire

Council Meeting



Bethany Day

Tuesday 17 September 2024

(10:30am – 1:00pm)

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

11:45am Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:15pm BYO Lunch



Birthdays

Rosaline Monday 30 Sep.

NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz

September: Dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

Looking at our Carmelite motto from our Father and Founder, St Elias, he is described as *"consumed by zeal for the Lord, devoted to observing and restoring the worship of the one true God in this spiritually feeble age"*.

[[Web Link](#)]

Father Gabriel, *"Divine Intimacy"*, says:

"True apostolic zeal is the spontaneous result, of the normal fruit of the intimate contact of the soul with God through love. The more a soul is united to God by love, the more it becomes enveloped in the flame of His charity participating in His infinite love for men, in His eternal zeal for their salvation; thus it necessarily becomes apostolic."

St Paul in his letter to the Romans, wrote:

"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."

Our Holy Mother, St Teresa of Jesus, says:

"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."

I ask myself...

How zealous is my Carmelite spirit, am I prepared to serve to the point of discomfort or worse if necessary?

Am I zealous in obedience and service to my Lord?

Am I zealous in serving my brothers and sisters in my Community when called upon?

Am I zealous in serving my wider community?

Lord, that I might see, open my heart wide that I might be wonderfully zealous in love and service.

Blessings,

Mary O'Boyle, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)



September quote from Blessed Mary of Jesus (Lopez de Rivas):
"Sisters, it's a great crime not to have trust in God. He is omnipotent!"



READING OF THE WRITINGS OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS (2024: MANUSCRIPTS B&C) Text 8: In the arms of Jesus (Ms C, 35v-37r)

Suggestion for the Community meeting:

1. Read the text together.
2. One of those present, having prepared a contribution in advance, discusses the text using the commentary (and other aids, if necessary).
3. Community dialogue on the text.
It would be helpful to have made individual readings and reflections on Thérèse's text before the community meeting.

MANUSCRIPT C, 35v-37r

Mother, I think it is necessary to give a few more explanations on the passage in the *Song of Songs*: "Draw me, we shall run," for what I wanted to say appears to me little understood. "No man can come after me, unless the FATHER who sent me draws him," Jesus has said. Again, through beautiful parables, and often even without using this means so well known to the people, He teaches us that it is enough to knock and it will be opened, to seek in order to find, and to hold out one's hand humbly to receive what is asked for. He also says that everything we ask the Father in His name, He will grant it. No doubt, it is because of this teaching that the Holy Spirit, before Jesus' birth, dictated this prophetic prayer: "Draw me, we shall run."

What is it then to ask to be "Drawn" if not to be united in an intimate way to the object which captivates our heart? If fire and iron had the use of reason, and if the latter said to the other: "Draw me," would it not prove that it desires to be identified with the fire in such a way that the fire penetrate and drink it up with its burning substance and seem to become one with it? Dear Mother, this is my prayer. I ask Jesus to draw me into the flames of His love, to unite me so closely to Him that He lives and acts in me. I feel that the more the fire of love burns within my heart, the more I shall say: "Draw me," the more also the souls who will approach me (poor little piece of iron, useless if I withdraw from the divine furnace), the more these souls will run swiftly in the odour of the ointments of their Beloved, for a soul that is burning with love cannot remain inactive. No doubt, she will remain at Jesus' feet as did Mary Magdalene, and she will listen to His sweet and burning words. Appearing to do nothing, she will give much more than Martha, who torments herself with many things and wants her sister to imitate her. It is not Martha's works that Jesus finds fault with; His divine Mother submitted humbly to these works all through her life since she had to prepare the meals of the Holy Family. It is only the distress of His ardent hostess that He willed to correct.

All the saints have understood this, and more especially those who filled the world with the light of the Gospel teachings. Is it not in prayer that St Paul, St Augustine, St John of the Cross, St Thomas Aquinas, St Francis, St Dominic, and so many other famous Friends of God have drawn out this divine science which delights the greatest geniuses? A scholar has said: "Give me a lever and a fulcrum and I will lift the world." What Archimedes was not able to obtain, for his request was not directed at God and was only made from a material viewpoint, the saints have obtained in all its fullness. The Almighty has given them as fulcrum: HIMSELF ALONE; as lever: PRAYER which burns with a fire of love. And it is in this way that they have lifted the world; it is in this way that the saints still militant lift it, and that, until the end of time, the saints to come will lift it.

Dear Mother, now I would like to tell you what I understand by the odour of the ointments of the Beloved. Since Jesus has reascended into heaven, I can follow Him only in the traces He has left; but how luminous these traces are! How perfumed! I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels and immediately I breathe in the perfumes of Jesus' life, and I know on which side to run. I don't hasten to the first place but to the last; rather than advance like the Pharisee, I repeat, filled with confidence, the publican's humble prayer. Most of all I imitate the conduct of Magdalene; her astonishing or rather her loving audacity which charms the Heart of Jesus, also attracts my own. Yes, I feel it; even if I had on my conscience all the sins that can be committed, I would go, my heart broken with sorrow, and throw myself into Jesus' arms, for I know how much He loves the prodigal child who returns to Him. It is not because God, in His anticipating Mercy, has preserved my soul from mortal sin that I go to Him with confidence and love.

Introduction to the text:

Now we are at the last page of Manuscript C, Thérèse is finally at the end of her strength, and will leave this manuscript unfinished.

"To be united in an intimate way" (Ms C, 35r): Thérèse has now passed onto the mystical plane, with this comparison of the iron that desires to be identified with the fire.

"The more these souls will run swiftly in the odour of the ointments" (Ms C, 36r): "It is through herself being so totally drawn into the flames of the love of Jesus – to the point of being incandescent – that Thérèse became so attractive. That is how she is still drawing so many men and women to Jesus throughout the world, by demonstrating through her life, as through a clear mirror, all the fascinating and alluring beauty of the Love of

Jesus.” (François-Marie Léthel, *Thérèse de l’Enfant Jésus, docteur de l’Amour*, Venasque, 1990, p. 114).

“A soul that is burning with love cannot remain inactive” (Ms C, 36r): transcription of a line of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

“It is only the distress...” (Ms C, 36r): from this word on, the text is written in pencil. On 8th July, Thérèse was taken down to the infirmary. She wrote a few more lines, but her weakness prevented her from finishing her manuscript.

“Was it not in prayer” (Ms C, 36r): prayer is the last word, Thérèse’s last teaching, because it is the key to everything, the way to union with God, the lever which “*lifts the world*”.

“I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels” (Ms C, 36v), until the very end, Thérèse retained her sensitive and wondering love of the person of Christ.

“The traces He has left; but how luminous these traces are! How perfumed! I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels and immediately I breathe in the perfumes of Jesus’ life” (Ms C, 36v): cf. *The Living Flame*, Verse 3.

“Has preserved my soul from mortal sin” (Ms. C, 36v): Thérèse is referring here to the solemn declaration of Father Pichon (cf. Ms A, 70r), but in order to reinforce her last message, which is that, even if she had committed “*all the sins*” possible, she declares that she would nevertheless go to throw herself into the arms of Jesus.

For community discussion:

1. *What is the text saying?* Understanding the content and initial meaning of Thérèse’s text.
2. *What does the text say to us today?* Discern the present-day relevance (social, ecclesial, spiritual...) of the text.
3. *What does the text say to me / us?* Consider the personal and community relevance of the text.

The purpose of this process is to allow Thérèse to speak to us herself, to question and encourage us, and to open us up to her clarifying and confirming our own personal and community path. The questions suggested are only indicative, and could perhaps be used in individual meditation and community sharing.

Questions:

1. Concerning the *Song of Songs*, 1:4: what kind of prayer is Thérèse insisting on here, as she is coming to the end of her last manuscript? What does this verse of the *Song* express for us?
2. How are we affected by her teaching on prayer? What realities is she stressing? How does this passage illumine our own life of prayer?
3. Thérèse expresses here in her own way the accomplishment of the spiritual life. Compare Thérèse’s commentary with that notably of Teresa of Jesus in the *Seventh Mansions*, where we find again a reference to Martha and Mary.



Prayers for September

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:

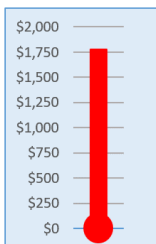
- All the people of the Middle East and the Ukraine, suffering from the terrors of war
- Our dear Carmelite Sisters, especially Sr Teresa of Jesus, Sr Elizabeth and Sr Dorothea
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma mission to build another school, for displaced children (\$1,780 raised)
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea, Stephanie (and family), and Rosaline
- Therese, Catherine and Ann-Marie making their First Promise to the Secular Order of Carmel
- **Bishop Michael has asked us to pray a daily 'Hail Mary' for vocations and for our seminarians**
- Matthew Clark, from our Diocese, joining the seminary
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently and the consolation of their families and communities, especially Ken's sister-in-law, Johanna, Fr Benito, Dunstan Jnr and Peb
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially Karen and Lois

Our Holy Father's Intentions for September:

- We pray that each of us listens with our hearts to the **cry of the Earth** and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

To help Fr Jérôme, OCD in building **another school**, for the displaced children in Goma, due to terrorism



New Total



Displaced people and children

Our September Carmelite Saints

- 3 Tue. First meeting of St Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross
- 11 Mon. Bl. Mary of Jesus (virgin)
- 17 Sun. **St Albert of Jerusalem**
(bishop and lawgiver of Carmel)



St Albert hands over the scroll containing the Rule of Life

CARMEL RETREAT

"The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit."
(St Teresa of Jesus)

Retreat Director: Fr Adalbert, OCD

November 15th – 17th 2024

Remembering **Peb Simmon's** soul as one of our beloved dead, it's a timely reminder on our call to prayer.

NATIONAL STATUTES

PART IV – Serving God's Plan

Section Eight – Our Beloved Dead

Page 8 (further requirements listed there)

...Because "it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins" we will remember those who have died:

- On the death of a member, or isolated/special member attached to the Community, the President shall inform the Community and send a written obituary notice to the other communities within our region of New Zealand, Australia and Samoa. Besides attending the funeral Mass, if possible the Community will arrange to have another Mass offered at which the Community takes part. Members will pray one of their daily offices such as Morning or Evening Prayer and include a petition in the intercessions...
- For a deceased Spiritual Assistant, Carmelite sister or friar within New Zealand each member will pray five decades of the Rosary or pray the Office of the Dead. If possible members will attend the funeral Mass...
- On the Feast of All Carmelite Souls where possible each member will attend Mass and pray according to his/her devotion for deceased members of the whole Order of Carmel...

Blessings in Carmel, Megan (Formator)

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

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