



# Carmelite Newsletter

Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

Feast of All Carmelite Saints  
14 November 2023



It is with great joy that, once again, I address you, brothers and sisters in Secular Carmel, a pilgrim family, attentive to the Lord's voice in present day realities. There is an anniversary that occasions this letter that I am writing to you: it is the 20th anniversary of the OCDS Constitutions, which are much more than a simple legislative and organizational text: they embody a project that combines continuous renewal and bringing up to date.

Ever since the beginnings in Holy Land, Carmel has made its own a spirituality based on the prophet Elijah's spirit, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the close discipleship of Jesus (*obsequium Jesu Christi*). Central to the Carmelite charism are prayer and contemplation, lived in communion/community. This spirituality has inspired generations of men and women in many parts of the world, motivating them on the path towards sanctity and in their quest for union with God.

The life of the present day Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite is inspired and defined by the genius of Teresa of Jesus, along with the first discalced Carmelite, St John of the Cross, whose experience sprang from the old tree of Carmelite life. And we know that the treasure of their spirituality and the richness of the ways of St Teresa and St John are neither exclusive nor destined only for friars or nuns but fundamentally describe an experiential journey towards God and a way of fraternal prayer that are the foundation also of the lay vocation of Secular Carmel lived in community.

The charism of a religious family doesn't remain defined by or exhausted by its founders. Rather it grows in richness and is continuously renewed through the experience of new sons and daughters who deepen the experience of the founders, in creative fidelity to them but without mimicry. Thus, open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, we strive to live the Carmelite charism, with the freshness, the passion, the risk and the grace that inspired our founders. Today we are in great need of listening one another, laity, nuns and friars, so that the charism may live more strongly and so that it may drive and nourish our contemporary identity. Let us not be afraid to listen to one another! [Letter to the OCDS from Miguel Marquez Calle OCD, 15 August 2023]



SAINTS OF CARMEL, PRAY FOR US

The poster of the Carmelite Saints is available for purchase at: <https://www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/carmelite-saints-print>



### REPORT ON THE FRIARS' REGIONAL CHAPTER AT VARROVILLE

The friars from the Region attended along with Fr Christianus Surinono OCD, General Definitor for East Asia on the General Curia in Rome, and Fr. Jim Noon OCD, the Irish Provincial. Faced with few vocations for the friars from the Region (Australia, New Zealand and Oceania) and an aging group of current friars, the Chapter had to consider seriously the future of the Regional Vicariate. While it is tempting to see these issues part of a general trend amongst religious orders in Australia, the friars were, however, encouraged to consider how the Discalced Carmelite charism would find new expression. What became clear was that the venture into new expressions of being Carmelite men in Australia (and indeed the world) must honour and preserve the essence of the rich Carmelite tradition without doggedly clinging to nor rejecting our religious and spiritual heritage.

There was a call, thankfully heeded by the Chapter delegates, to work closely and collaboratively with our neighbouring Carmelite brothers and sisters from other cultural and national traditions. And indeed there was a great hope among the friars with regard to working towards a multi-cultural, synodal and faithful Carmelite way of life that would lead other to intimacy with Christ. As a concrete expression of this Fr Ransom Rapirap OCD, from the Philippines Province, and Fr John Paliipanda OCD from the Malabar Province, were elected as Councillors of the Region, heralding a new and truly diverse leadership team for the Australia Region. Fr John is also the local prior for the Morley Carmelite community where he will serve in the parish along with Fr Greg Burke OCD (parish priest) and Fr Adalbert Imperial OCD. Fr Bernard Hancock OCD was re-elected for a third term and this was confirmed by the General Curia in Rome.



### Apostolic letter of Pope Frances - *C'est la Confiance*



*"The good God does not need years to accomplish His work of love in a soul; one ray from His Heart can, in an instant, make His flower bloom for eternity..."*

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus,  
O.C.D.  
Discalced Carmelite Saint, Doctor of the Church



*It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love. These striking words of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face say it all. They sum up the genius of her spirituality and would suffice to justify the fact that she has been named a Doctor of the Church. Confidence, 'nothing but confidence', is the sole path that leads us to the Love that grants everything. With confidence, the wellspring of grace overflows into our lives, the Gospel takes flesh within us and makes us channels of mercy for our brothers and sisters.*

*It is confidence that sustains us daily and will enable us to stand before the Lord on the day when he calls us to himself: 'In the evening of this life, I shall appear before you with empty hands, for I do not ask you, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is stained in your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in your own Justice and to receive from your Love the eternal possession of yourself.'*





## REPORT ON EXTRAORDINARY DEFINITORY FROM BERNARD HANCOCK OCD, VICAR PROVINCIAL



The Extraordinary Definitory took place in Lisieux France from Sunday 27 August 2023 and concluded Saturday 2 September 2023. Discalced Carmelite superiors from all over the world attended this meeting. The main focus of this Extraordinary Definitory was the issue of bringing life and vitality back to those regions that are struggling, mainly due to lack of vocations. Our Fr. General, Miguel

Marquez Calle OCD, wanted us to work with the other circumscriptions (provinces and vicariates) in our various regions to come up with concrete proposals for effective collaboration to ensure new life can be breathed back into our respective regions.

As a result of negotiations with our brothers of the East Asia/Oceania region, Australia will look to build up closer ties with the Filipino province as well as looking at the possibility of having friars from Indonesia spend time working and studying in the Australian region. The Australian friars will also look at ongoing collaboration with the Indian provinces.

We had one free day where we visited Les Buissonnets, the family home of St Thérèse, in Lisieux and in the evening celebrated Mass in the Basilica dedicated to St Thérèse. We also visited the Carmelite monastery of nuns located right next door to the retreat centre where we were staying. On the Wednesday we were joined by Carmelite bishops from all over the world and listened to the challenges of being a bishop in the world today. Our own Bishop Greg Homeming OCD joined us for the day. Our Fr. General will visit us mid-2024 to listen to our progress as we work with other circumscriptions on reviving our region.

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CARMELITE SECULAR ORDER IN LAUNCESTON

We have been meeting here at the Carmelite Monastery in Launceston for the past 20 years and this has helped our OCDS members build a more intimate relationship with God through prayer and reflection.

As Seculars (Carmelites living in the world) we share the same charism and traditions as the nuns and friars; however, our mission in Carmel holds a different place from the nuns or the friars, who each have their own ways of living the charism. Whether we are young adults, middle-aged or elderly, married, widowed or living a single life, we live our faith and Carmelite vocation in the midst of and through the present situation that we find ourselves in. In our families, in our work and professional lives, in parishes, in nursing homes, in the supermarket, on buses, wherever we are, as prayerful people, living in awareness of God's Presence, we bring this Presence into all these situations and therefore bring this Presence to others.



It is quite amazing to think that the Discalced Carmelite Order was founded by a woman, St Teresa of Avila, back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century! In the world of the Spanish Golden Age, society was not very inclined to the 'independence of women'; rather, it was just the opposite. A few powerful men were in control, and women had to adapt. St Teresa found she also had to contend with the Spanish Inquisition, which scrutinised her writings throughout her life as a Carmelite nun. Nonetheless, she attracted many vocations throughout Spain during her lifetime. Clearly Divine Providence was at work in her reform movement and the Discalced Carmelite Order has now spread to every part of the world.

Carmelite spirituality is not so much about *doing* certain things but rather about *being* a certain kind of person and so it affects every aspect of our lives, and every relationship or interaction we have with others. In such ways we contribute to the Order the benefits proper to our secular state of life.

The nuns here in Launceston have been offering us their prayerful support and the use of their Monastery for our monthly meetings throughout these past 20 years for which we are truly grateful.

Whilst the friars are not located in Tasmania, they do bring spiritual direction to us here whenever we ask them. They also provide a weekend retreat for us here each year at the Emmanuel Centre. It is then we invite people from around the State to join us on these weekends so that they too can learn more about the Carmelite spirituality. This year our retreat will be held on the weekend of 24 to 26 November.



## News from the Nuns' Association of Our Lady of the Southern Cross



It had been six years since the last General Assembly of our Association, because of lockdowns and international border closures caused by the Covid pandemic. The prioress and one delegate from each member monastery in Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Wallis-Futuna and Hong Kong - nineteen sisters from 10 Carmels - met at the Retreat Centre, Varroville, from late September to early October. Fr Paul Maunder OCD, our Religious Assistant, facilitated the Assembly. Fr Rafal Wilkowski OCD, Secretary for the nuns at the General Curia in

Rome, [see insert] joined us for the first five days, giving valuable input from his vast experience of Carmel worldwide. He then visited our Sisters in Launceston and Auckland before returning to Rome briefly before his next assignment in Russia and Belarus. The Association Council was elected: Sisters Moira (Ormiston), Maria (Goonellabah), Cushla (Christchurch), Jocelyn (Toronto), and Antonina (Auckland).



## St John of the Cross Community - Melbourne

Last year, the St John of the Cross community, Melbourne, was so overjoyed to have Fr. Paul Maunder, OCD conduct our annual retreat that we invited him for a comeback. He graciously accepted our invitation, and we were generously rewarded with St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Edith Stein's deep insights into the spiritual theology of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila. We believe that last year's retreat set the foundation for this year's new experience.



This year, our annual, weekend long retreat was held in October, at the Salesian Retreat Centre in Lysterfield, as usual. The retreat also included time for silent prayer, Eucharistic adoration, Holy Mass, confession, spiritual direction and leisurely walks in the countryside and retreat centre grounds.

Here are the joyful participants at the retreat (attached photo), who made comments like: 'wonderful and spiritually enriching Retreat', 'thought provoking discussion', 'peaceful and well organized... we had time to pray and reflect... and spiritually benefit from it'.







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**"Every day in Carmel is a first time. Every Eucharist is a first celebration. Every day is a victory in God's love to overcome difficulties and darkness. Simplicity, generosity and trust not only in victory but also in failures and in the successes of life's uncertainties. We allow ourselves to be born in every difficulty."**

VERY REV. FR. MIGUEL MARQUEZ CALLE, OCD  
SUPERIOR GENERAL  
ORDER OF THE CARMELITE DISCALCED



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**"The past, present and the future come together in every liturgy to celebrate the history of God's love. A yesterday of grace; today as the beginning and birth; and, the future of trust in the mercy of God."**

VERY REV. FR. MIGUEL MARQUEZ CALLE, OCD  
SUPERIOR GENERAL  
ORDER OF THE CARMELITE DISCALCED



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**"The mission of Carmel is consist in silence and gratuitous love. Carmel would like to offer love without reward and even without others noticing it."**

VERY REV. FR. MIGUEL MARQUEZ CALLE, OCD  
SUPERIOR GENERAL  
ORDER OF THE CARMELITE DISCALCED



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**We thank the Lord for 100 Years of faithfulness and love for his people through Carmel for his love endures forever!**

VERY REV. FR. MIGUEL MARQUEZ CALLE, OCD  
SUPERIOR GENERAL  
ORDER OF THE CARMELITE DISCALCED



Annette Goulden, OCDS, President, National Council of OCDS communities in England & Wales sent us their June 2022 Newsletter, *The Vine*, featuring this art work from Kathy Twist OCDS, of The Holy Spirit group in Welshpool, England.

The quotation from St Teresa reads: *The more you travelled IN to Jesus, the more you travelled OUT to others.*

Kathy writes: *'This is a picture I have recently finished showing how Teresa was able to follow two roads: In to Jesus and out to others, inspired by a talk by Fr Matt [Blake].'*

Kathy's wonderful quote, and her picture, prompted me to respond personally to her: *'It reminds me of another quotation which sounds to be just the opposite but is in fact complimentary. I can't recall it exactly but it's something like: I left my house at daybreak minded to wander just for a while. But I found myself tarrying until the evening, finding that the journey out was also the journey in.'*



## The use of Zoom for prayer and preaching!

During the long Covid 'Lock Down' the New Zealand OCDS communities began to gather on Zoom for Evening Prayer. Initially this was once a week but quickly it became a daily experience. We gather at 4.30pm from all three communities: Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch – sometimes we may be 10-12 praying Vespers together on Zoom but always at least the 6 core members.

This Zoom Vespers has continued since Lockdown as we found it a precious time to pray together and to meet for a short time after Vespers to share news, alert ourselves to needs in our communities, our country, our world and also to share the 'nothing' chat about small things, bringing laughter into our evening.



The photo above shows Father Chin OCD, in New Zealand visiting the Chinese Catholic Communities in Auckland and Christchurch. He was introduced to our OCDS Holy Family Community by Lucia Wong. We couldn't find a time for all of us to gather, so Father Chin suggested we meet via Zoom. We shared over an hour together on Zoom when Father Chin spoke to us on Carmelite prayer and then answered questions from the group. It was a really blessed time – Carmelites together from around New Zealand - from Waitaruke in the Far North to Christchurch in the South.



### Reflections in a Monastery Garden

By Sister Teresa Kelleher OCD  
First Published in 2016



FIRST BOOK PUBLISHED BY OUR  
CARMELITE MONASTERY  
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Christchurch 8025, New Zealand



## Historic Anniversary in Christchurch Carmel

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Solemnity of St Teresa of Jesus, our own Sister Teresa of Jesus made history in our Carmelite Monastery in Christchurch, New Zealand, as the first nun to reach 75 years of Religious Profession. Our private celebration of the anniversary combined with our honouring St Teresa.

Pamela Kelleher was born in Auckland but moved with her family to various locations before reaching Ashburton. At 17, she entered the Carmel of Christ the King, less than two years after the end of World War II. She settled into the life of prayer and eighteen months later she made her first profession.

Sr Teresa featured in the 1969 documentary on the Carmelites, discussing contemplation with presenter Bernard Smyth while milking a cow. A decade later, Sister Teresa spent a year assisting a Carmelite Monastery in Australia. At the airport on the way home, she met up with one of her nephews for the first time. She was delighted when he later joined the Carmelites and is now Father Shane Kelleher OCD.

Sr Teresa has used her many talents over the years, playing the organ, tending the gardens and painting. Her good friend, Fr Miles O'Malley, impressed by her talent, encouraged her to print her paintings in a book. Sadly, he didn't live to see the day that *Reflections in a Monastery Garden* was printed. She

is a prolific reader and looks forward to the arrival of *L'Osservatore Romano* and any new books. Sister Teresa has had a lifelong interest in seismology, after remembering being caught up in the Gisborne earthquake as a pre-schooler.

On Pentecost Sunday this year Sister Teresa suffered a stroke and spent more than a month in Burwood Hospital recuperating. She was so happy to come home again and now resides in our infirmary, while taking a full part in the life of our community. Her prayers for all those near and far continue.

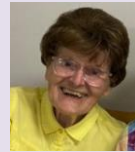




### St Elijah Community - Varroville

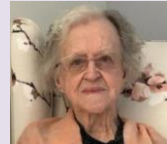
Three of the members of the St Elijah OCDS Community recently went home to God.

**Patricia Reynolds** (25/6/1935 - 12/9/2023) was our first President and attended our meetings faithfully for the past 40+ years, her last one being on 6 August. The day Patricia passed away, a member from our Community was on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land in the Church (Stella Maris) praying for all Carmelites and especially our St Elijah Community.



**Sennie Masian** (23 8 1942 - 22 9 2023) attended as often as illness permitted, 'a larger than life character'.

**Ena McMillan** (14 11 1925 - 8 11 2023), an original member of our Community and always so faithful.



The St Elijah Community in Varroville has had a number of professions of Promises in 2023.



• On 1 May 2023 **Matthew Delasey** and **Lyra Villafaña** made their First Promises.

On 7 May 2023 **Cliff March** and **Maureen Playdon** made their First Promises.



Each of our gatherings was full of joy as we celebrated these brothers' and sisters' desire to answer God's call to a deeper spiritual life. Please pray for each of them.



On 5 November 2023 (our annual Reflection Day), **Mary Ricipito** made her First Promises.

Also on 5 November 2023, **Editha Jeon, Mary Kelly (of the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel), and Barry Morkel (George of St Elijah)** made their Definitive Promise.

We sang a new hymn for our Community at Mass on our Reflection Day (two verses as an introit and three verses as our recessional). Lyrics by Barry Monkel.

#### **Journeys - The journey Inward, the journey Outward and the journey we Share**

1. Precious Lord, as we now **journey**  
On the **road** that lies before,  
Help us choose the **narrow gate**, Lord,  
May it be an **open door**;  
For we need you, Lord, beside us,  
**Walking** with us on the **way** -  
With your Word as **map** and **compass**,  
By our side we pray You'll stay.

2. As we **journey deeper inward**,  
On the **route** where we are bound —  
Fill the void with Your dear Presence,  
In communion with You found —  
For **our journeys are a shared one**,  
In this blest Community —  
Call us to a deep commitment,  
Help us be both real and free.

3. While we're on the **journey inward**,  
And our faith is growing strong,  
We're compelled to serve You, Jesus,  
In Your calling we belong.  
As we **journey further outward**,  
And our Promises obey,  
Help us serve in Your good vineyard,  
Giving of ourselves we pray.

4. As You **blend** and **merge** the **journeys**,  
On the **inward road**, and **out**;  
As we **walk** with Your dear family,  
Cast away all fear and doubt.  
May the **road** be of renewal!  
Cleanse us Lord, and deal with sin.  
May we be restored, redeemed, Lord,  
May our spirits burn within.

5. Dearest Mother, Carmel's Lady,  
We entrust ourselves to you.  
Fill us with Elijah's courage.  
Carmel's Saints please keep us true.  
Blaze the **trail**, O Holy Spirit,  
May you our **Pathfinder** be —  
Lead us **on the way** with Jesus  
To the Father's majesty!

**Alternate Tunes: [8.7.8.7.D. metre]**  
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus;  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling;  
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing;  
Glorious things of Thee are Spoken;  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus;  
Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee.



## **Joyful jubilee as Carmel celebrates 75 years in Tasmania**

Peace and joy radiated from the Carmelites of West Launceston as the wider Catholic community joined them for a jubilee Mass of thanksgiving in June. Friends, relatives and supporters travelled from around Tasmania and interstate as the Discalced Carmelite nuns marked 75 years in Tasmania.

The celebrations were also an opportunity for personal renewal, according to the Prioress, Mother Teresa Benedicta OCD. “We used the Jubilee, not only to give thanks to God for all that has taken place in these first 75 years of our history, but also as an opportunity for personal renewal, re-committing ourselves to living our Carmelite vocation with hope and confidence in God as we move into the future. Gratitude to God for His blessings in the past opens us up profoundly to all that He longs to do for us now and in the future.”



The Carmelite Auxiliary, who help the nuns, assisted with morning tea following the jubilee Mass: from left, Brian Khan, Dot O’Connor, Frances Bailey, Jill Baker, Judy Khan and Carol Duda. Photo: Wendy Shaw.

The Prioress said she hoped those from the wider Catholic community who attended the jubilee celebrations came away with a deeper sense of the importance of the contemplative life of Carmel at the heart of the Church, and of the hidden but essential role Carmel has played in the Church in Tasmania over the past 75 years. “A life ‘hidden with Christ in God’ in Carmel, is a life of profound joy and peace,” Mother Teresa Benedicta said. “I hope that peace and joy radiated to all who celebrated our Jubilee with us. “I also hope that our own sisters were enriched with a deeper appreciation of the love that so many people in Tasmania have for Carmel. I am certain we were all humbled by the beautiful and gracious words that people shared with us as they came to meet us and I hope this will encourage our community to live our vocation ever more radically and faithfully, trusting in the Lord who has called us and knowing that the people we serve are grateful for our prayerful support.”

One of the most moving parts of the three-day jubilee celebration was a ‘beautiful and intimate’ sung Requiem Mass that Fr Ted Tyler offered in the burial vault for the repose of the souls of 17 deceased sisters on their Foundation Day, 15 June.

“We have been so blessed to learn from the wisdom and experience of these women of deep faith, courage and great love for the Lord and His Church” the Prioress said.

The Carmelites are a great blessing to the state, according to Archbishop Julian Porteous, who was the principal celebrant at the jubilee Mass on 17 June at the Carmelite Monastery. The Mass was a chance to “rejoice in the gift of the Carmelites here in our midst”, he added.

In his homily, the Archbishop explained that God is active in the world, and a contemplative spirit is needed to sense the silent action of God. “May your life of silence and prayer lead you to know more fully the wonderful works of God that continue among us today,” he added. “May your witness to contemplative prayer inspire many in Tasmania to learn how to sit in silence and ponder the saving work of God.”



*Archbishop Julian: Tasmanian Catholics ‘rejoice in the gift of the Carmelites here in our midst’.*

*Photo: Wendy Shaw*

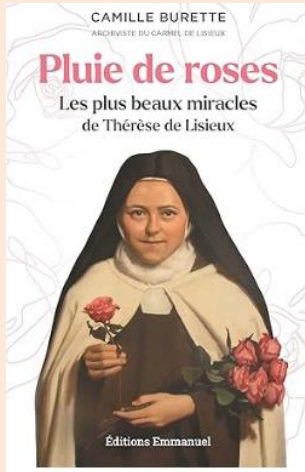


Mother Dorothy and Sr. Cushla of the Christchurch Carmel watch as their cat explores life outside the cloister.





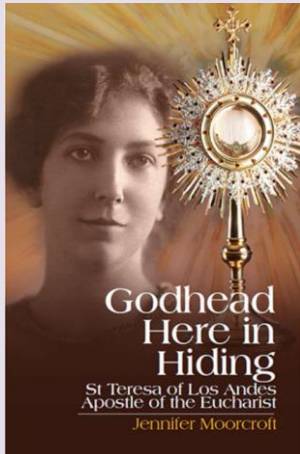
***I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth.***



That's certainly what Thérèse has done! In the entire history of the Church, no saint has performed as many miracles as St Thérèse. 'The greatest saint of modern times' (St Pius X) appears, converts, consoles, advises, soothes. From amongst the forty thousand testimonies that have been received at the Carmel of Lisieux since her death, Camille Burette, a passionate young archivist, has chosen the most beautiful and the most significant. As with the Gospel miracles, they nourish faith. From the healing of Edith Piaf to the conversion of Grégory Turpin; from the battlefields of the First World War to mission fields at the far ends of the earth, and up to the families of today, Thérèse hasn't stopped responding to those who seek her help, and sometimes in spectacular ways, but with one purpose: *To love Jesus and to make him loved!* Camille Burette has a Diploma from the French National School of Archivists and has been working in the archives to the Lisieux Carmel since 2018 to preserve the legacy of St Thérèse.

This book in French is available [Editions Emmanuel](#).

***Godhead Here in Hiding***



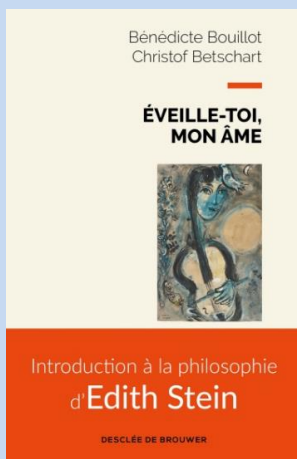
The Carmelite, St Teresa of Los Andes (1900-1920), awakens our hearts anew to the beauty and transforming power of the Eucharist. In *Godhead Here in Hiding*, Jennifer Moorcroft first introduces us to the fascinating life and engaging personality of this young Chilean saint, who made a difference to people's lives through her lively faith, her care for those in need and the depth of her love of God, which was nourished by prayer and the Eucharist.

The book next leads onto St Teresa's Eucharistic spirituality by presenting carefully selected quotations from Teresa's writings, accompanied by prayerful reflections from the author on such themes as the Mass and the paschal mystery, prayer before the tabernacle and the Heart of Jesus, all of which open our eyes to see Christ as Teresa did.

As our complacency is shaken and our spirits are reignited, we discover in a way that is personal and profound that St Teresa of Los Andes is

rightly called an 'Apostle of the Eucharist'. Jennifer Moorcroft TOC is a Third Order Ancient Observance Carmelite. This book is available from [The Carmelite Bookstore](#), Oxford UK.

***Awake, My Soul - Introduction to the philosophy of Edith Stein***



***Eveille-Toi, Mon Ame.* by Bénédicte Bouillot & Christof Betschart OCD**

Edith Stein is known for her exceptional career as a German intellectual: a Jewish convert to Christianity, who became a Carmelite nun and who was murdered at Auschwitz.

This book is intended to fill a gap by providing a general introduction to her philosophy. It addresses a double challenge: to make accessible her thought, which is known to be difficult, and at the same time showing its vigour and relevance through the renewed approach it offers to the notion of soul.

In the 20th century, philosophy, the human sciences and theology considered the notion 'soul' to be outdated, inappropriate and unnecessary for speaking about the human person. By contrast, Edith Stein shows that if one renounces the concept of soul one cannot consider certain fundamental aspects of human life.

By combining phenomenology, metaphysics and mysticism, and through her descriptive talents, she draws attention to the lived experience of the soul but also to the tragedy of a life devoid of soul. She thus awakens in us the desire for

this "additional soul", which gives existence its depth, its vitality, its colour and its flavour ... like the soul of the violin which, though barely visible, ensures the unity of the instrument and deploys its resonances throughout the body. **Bénédicte Bouillot**, is member of the Chemin neuf community. She is professor of philosophy at the Jesuit faculties of Paris (Centre Sèvres). **Christof Betschart, OCD**, is dean of the Teresianum theology faculty in Rome, where he teaches theological anthropology.



## **God guided Sr Marie Ange of Jesus to her final vows**



Sr Marie Ange of Jesus of the Auckland Carmel chose a path less travelled, one of contemplation and spiritual devotion. She made her profession of solemn vows on 9 September 2023 before dozens of friends and religious, fully confident of her vocational journey with Christ as her spiritual spouse.

Her journey is a testament to faith, perseverance and the profound calling of the divine. At first glance, one might wonder if Sr Marie Ange misses the world beyond the monastery's walls. To this, she responds with a resolute 'No'.

In the cloistered community of 11 sisters - one resides with the Little Sisters of the Poor – Sr Marie Ange found a sense of belonging and purpose. Reflecting on her lifelong commitment to this way of life, she expressed gratitude for the support she has received, especially during moments when her family could not be present during her final profession. She finds solace in the warmth of the community, which has become her spiritual family.

Sr Marie Ange's journey to the Carmelite Monastery began with a profound sense of calling at the age of 15. 'When I used to go to Mass, after everybody had left, I used to stay by myself in the chapel. Only me in the chapel with the Lord in quiet. I liked that time very much.' Her attraction to the peaceful and prayerful presence of the sisters in her parish stirred her heart. She shared her innermost desire with Jesus, saying: 'I want to help you carry your cross.'

After searching the web, she was led to the Carmelites in Saigon, South Vietnam. She decided to embark on a journey that would ultimately take her to New Zealand. Sr Marie Ange entered Carmel in 2013. She faced internal struggles and doubt, feeling as though falling flat on the ground. She turned to the psalms, crying out to God for strength when she had none left. 'I had no strength left in me to continue.' She remembers the pivotal moment when she surrendered to God's will, acknowledging his strength and authority.

Soon afterwards, the prioress asked Sr Marie Ange to learn English. She joked about not liking to learn the language [who needs to in Vietnam?] but she accepted, as part of her commitment to follow God's plan for her life. This decision ultimately led to her journey to New Zealand, a place she knew little about at the time. Sr Marie Ange's arrival in New Zealand was marked by trepidation, due to her limited English; however, her fears were soon dispelled by the warmth and friendliness of the people she encountered.

Her daily routine is a testament to her unwavering commitment. Her day begins at five in the morning and ends at ten at night, doing all sorts of things including divine office, meals, recreation, solitary prayer and spiritual readings. This rigorous schedule reflects the dedication required to live a contemplative life. The path leading to her final profession was not an easy one. Sr Marie Ange emphasised the importance of discernment, both on her part and within the community. She acknowledged that it takes time to ensure that a person can commit to their vocation for life, in her case 10 years.

Sr Marie Ange believes that God guides people who allow Him the freedom to do so. She is grateful for surrendering control to God and allowing his will to prevail, as she jokingly says: 'He has His way anyway, so might as well.' As she matured in her walk with God, the desire to do God's will eventually sprang from her love for God too.

Her remarkable journey of faith and resilience is a reminder of the enduring power of faith and the transformative nature of surrendering to a higher calling. Within the Carmelite monastery, Sr Marie Ange of Jesus has found her purpose, her community and her profound connection with God.





## First Chapel of St Thérèse of Lisieux Celebrates First Centenary



St Thérèse of Lisieux Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Highgate, Perth, which was the first Australian chapel dedicated to St Thérèse, celebrated its centenary on Sunday 2 October. The Mass was organised by Catholic Mission in partnership with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

Fr Greg Burke OCD, was the main celebrant with Fr Brian Lucas, National Director for Catholic Mission, Fr Nelson Po and Fr Nino Vinciguerra.

The commemorative Mass was also attended by 42 including members of the Fellowship of St Thérèse of Lisieux who were affirmed for their on-going support for the Missions in the spirit of St Therese of Lisieux.

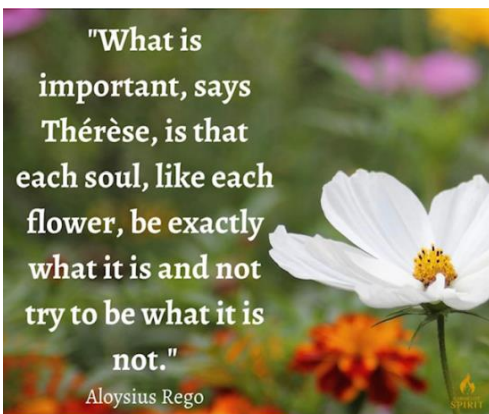
The chapel was part of the Convent for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, now known as the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Every sister of Our Lady of the Missions made her religious profession in this chapel.

St Thérèse was proclaimed the Universal Patron of the Missions in 1927 by Pope Pius XI and became the Patron Saint of Catholic Mission. Sr Marie Therese Ryder RNDM then gave a moving and inspirational reflection on the spirituality of St Thérèse.

Sr Marie Therese Ryder RNDM said that "St Thérèse has been an important person on my life since my secondary school days here in Highgate and over the years I have continued to deepen my understanding of her life and her relationship with God." she said.



"It is something of a mystery to many people as to what it is that makes Thérèse saintly considering the apparent ordinariness and restricted milieu of her short life.



"St Thérèse possessed an authentically missionary heart. She longed to bring the message of God's love to others." She quoted St Thérèse's own words:

*In the beginning when I first entered Carmel, I tried very hard to be perfect, to become a saint but then I was given the grace to see that I had it back to front, that what is important is knowing, receiving God's love – holiness consists in letting God be the God that Jesus revealed – the God of love.*

"St Thérèse teaches us that to focus on extraordinary things is to miss the point... holiness or faithfulness to our calling, consists in letting the energy, the power, the dynamism of God's love be alive."

*But O my Beloved, one mission alone would not be sufficient for me, I would want to preach the Gospel on all the five continents simultaneously and even to the most remote isles. I would be a missionary, not for a few years only but from the beginning of creation until the consummation of the ages.*



### Our Lady of Mount Carmel Varroville Fiesta - 16th July 2023

The timing was right! The feast day of our parish patron, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, fell on a Sunday, the Lord's Day, in 2023, on the edge of the Scenic Hills of Varroville in the city of Campbelltown NSW. It was time to celebrate our community, it was time to rejoice in our identity as a Carmelite parish since and it was time to invite the wider community to that celebration. The memories of Covid pandemic lockdowns since 2020 and the reluctance of some to come back to church was still fresh, but numbers of people in church were slowly returning to pre-pandemic times. We listened to the invitation one Sunday in early May to stand up if we had experienced any of the feast day celebrations held in the parish since 2012 and when the majority stood up, we were told to look at those seated and share with them what our feast days were like. It prompted us to remember and to reignite our sense of community. In that sharing we became aware again that we had something worth celebrating and consequently the group that gathered to begin the plans for our fiesta in 2023 included a couple who had attended at our church for the first time that Sunday!

The planning committee room was filled with enthusiasm to make this celebration the best ever. New promotional materials were designed: a new banner with the theme of **Celebration of Community** was launched and stood invitingly in the foyer, flyers were dropped at the local Catholic high school, in letterboxes, and given by catechists to State school children. The fiesta was the last day of a two week school holiday break. Parishioners were asked to invite family and friends and were asked to join together to complete one of the myriad of tasks to be done before the day and on the day itself.

Prayer was an essential ingredient to the success of our celebrations. The feast day was included in our intentions in the Prayers of the Faithful in the weeks preceding and a nine day novena of nightly Masses marked the lead in to 16 July. Different parish groups organised the music and readings and different Carmelite priests led the worship. Each Novena Mass focused on a different theme related to Carmelite charism and spirituality and concluded with the community chanting *Flos Carmeli*. At one of the novena Masses, hosted by the Alpha and RCIA groups, the Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate for two mothers and their children was celebrated. It was a timely reminder that in the midst of our faith community there are always those who are searching.



A sure test of community spirit is the generosity of time, talent and finances. One hundred and forty volunteers were formed into groups to complete the many tasks: cooking food,

organising the concert and children's activities, cleaning the church and preparing the grounds, setting up the stage and international food stalls and decorations, putting up signage to designate disability and visitor parking, preparing and rehearsing the liturgies and the procession of the statue of our Lady of Mount Carmel. Finally, all was in place to commence our day of celebration. Clouds gathered and the forecast was for rain after days of sunshine but Father Shane, our parish priest, was confident Elijah wouldn't let us down and that it wouldn't rain. So far, every year he had been proven right.



Bishop Brian Mascord of Wollongong came to lead the community in worship and the church overflowed with both people and songs of praise led by the Varroville Gospel Choir. Our Lady of Mt Camel was honoured in a procession of song as the statue, with its floral tributes arranged by our Carmelite Missionary Sisters, was carried through the church grounds, led by Bishop Brian and the Discalced Carmelite Friars. At the stage where the procession ended, Carmelite scapulars were blessed by the Bishop and an opportunity was given for members of the gathered assembly to join the apostolate attached to the Carmelites.



After the Bishop's Prayer of Blessing over the food, the party began. Free food and entertainment that catered for all ages: our parish is diverse in nationalities and the food was representative of that: stalls served Samoan and Islander foods, Filipino and a mix of European foods with the Aussie barbecue remaining popular and the tea and coffee stall with cakes well attended. The wonderful range of talent for the concert was provided by friends and families in the parish and by the Mount Carmel College students, Pacific Islander dances mixed with Irish dancing and Filipino dancing, classic guitar performers with rock bands, solo singers with duet harmonies. The music sound system was provided by a former parishioner who ran Macarthur Entertainment. The

lively Master of Ceremonies kept the audience interested with interviews of different parishioners involved in





various parish ministries and groups to create awareness for visitors of what the parish had to offer to those who belonged to our community, as well as the upcoming events such as the launch of Alpha and the St Vincent de Paul winter sleep out to raise funds for the homeless.



The elderly were especially catered for by our Pastoral Team who brought food and drinks to them as they sat watching the concert. Children could picnic with their families, play soccer, have their face painted by the volunteer students from the College or climb aboard the Rural Fire Service truck organised to be the First Aid station by a parishioner. Parishioners took selfies with a frame designed for the occasion that promoted how many years they had been a part of the parish. Raffle tickets were sold to raise funds for the proposed church extensions. Even the sun shone its rays through the clouds and seemed to favour the scene of festivity, until 30 minutes before it was due to end, when a rumble of thunder gave its

warning note and as the first drops of rain fell. We all marvelled that the storm had held out so long!

The fiesta was no doubt all that we had prayed for: a tribute to our patron, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and a wonderful celebration of the Community that was rising again from the ashes of Covid pandemic lockdowns. It has given us the impetus to continue to dream big and plan ahead and to continue to rely on God's graces as we work together to build the future for our parish.

### New from Auckland OCDS community

#### Reception of Ronald and Maria into the Holy Family OCDS community in late 2022.

Sister Ann-Mary (Keating) OCD has for decades been the Spiritual Assistant for the OCDS Community of the Holy Family. Sister Anne-Mary was an extern sister in the Auckland Carmelite Monastery of St Thomas the Apostle since the 1960s. She moved inside the monastery as her health deteriorated and recently Sister Anne-Mary moved from our Auckland into care with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Ponsonby, Auckland.

Sister Anne-Mary has long been a loving, wise and joyful presence in all our lives at Carmel, in the chapel at daily Mass and with our OCDS group.

Sister Anne-Mary tells us she keeps us all in her prayer-and we know she does. In this group photo at the reception of Ronald and Maria are (from left to right) Ronald, Dianna, Sister Anne-Mary, Leonila, Teresa and Maria.



### News from the Ormiston Carmel in Queensland

After all the rain of the past year added to our regular humidity we needed an army to tackle the rooms invaded by mould. We finally found a good formula using oil of cloves in hot water, and left on for 24 hours, followed then by a water/vinegar solution.

On the Eve of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Stephanie began her postulancy. Stephanie comes from a background of radio journalism.





### In Memoriam Jean-Leon Shanks, OCDS



My memories of J-L are that he was a man of interior prayer, humility and gentleness. He was an encyclopedia of our Catholic faith, and then subsequently of Carmelite spirituality, especially John of the Cross. He translated from French into English and published (for us Carmelites) the book by Fr. Guido Stinesson OCD., "Show me Your Presence". He made it available to us, to the Friars and to the Nuns. The book is about learning the teachings of John of the Cross, who outlines the mountain that must be scaled and the plains that must be abandoned in our hope of the dawn when God who is never far away, comes close.

He took to heart Edith Stein's "The Science of the Cross" which we studied in ongoing formation.

Who can forget his Treasurer's statements, which were always a mystery to me. Like St. Thérèse, he did not want to be a "saint by halves". I had the privilege of being his Formator and I was (as we all were) invited into his life.

His marriage to Jackie was a gift of love to us all. He has now had seen the Face of God, but in the communion of Saints, he is still with Jackie and all of us. In the Preface of *Show my Your Presence* are the words (referring to John of the Cross) "The Glory of John was God". These words applied to J-L "The Glory of J-L was God". Now he lives in the Presence of God. May he rest in peace.



### Thoughts for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day and for November commemorations of the dead

by M Whittam, OCDS from our Brisbane community.

There were 5 girls in my family – myself the youngest. My younger memories were of my older siblings caring for me. Now, as the youngest, the roles are reversed. Over the past years, I have had the privilege of being able to share some of the inmost parts of my sisters' lives and deaths.

November is upon us – The Feast of All Saints and the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

The most recent to depart was my oldest sister (a twin) on 13 October. In these later years of my own life, I have been drawn to St Therese as my companion. My sister's death was a gradual deterioration over the span of a year. St Therese wrote much poetry. Three of my favourites are *To Live of Love*; *Jesus Alone*; and *An Unpetalled Rose*.

*An Unpetalled Rose* is the faithful image of a heart that wants to immolate itself for Jesus. In my sister's and indeed my own life I can see the unpetalling of our lives as God calls us to follow His steps on our own journey to Calvary and to Death and into the life of His Resurrection.

He has called us by our name at Baptism, the same name he calls us at our death. I see my (and my sister's) lives as an unpetalling of the Rose (flower) that grew in the garden of God's Merciful Love. My sister's name was Freda Rose.

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Jesus, Mary and Joseph welcome you to Advent!







# Teresa of Jesus

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023



To all the Order of the Teresian Carmel, Nuns, Friars, Secular Carmel, family, friends, associated congregations and groups:

HAPPY FEAST OF SAINT TERESA OF JESUS, our mother.

As one heart and one soul, rooted in Teresa's passion for Jesus, for the Church, for humanity, we unite all together without delay, without withdrawal, with determined determination to follow the Captain of Love, Christ and to pray for Peace.

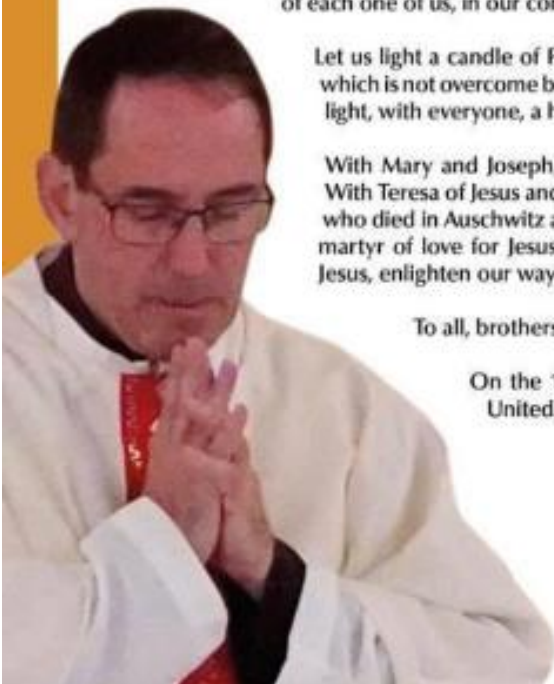
Today Teresa's words are more meaningful and more heartfelt: *"The world is on fire... this is no time to treat with God for things of little importance"*. (Way of perfection 1,5).

Today Teresa's transverberated heart for the passion of Jesus becomes in each one of us a heart pierced and wounded by the evils and sufferings of the world. Today the ecstasy and union with God becomes an embrace of every human being threatened, mistreated and displaced by the cruelty of war. Our prayer leaves no one out, it excludes none of God's sons and daughters.

I invite you, my brothers and sisters, to pray in truth, justice and Peace, for the halt of all violence and the surrender of arms. We pray together that the destructive forces of evil and vengeance may be transformed into expansive seeds of new life. May the deadly virus of hatred within the hearts of many may transform into an antidote of reconciliation and hope.

I invite you all, brothers and sisters, to transform the rage and horror for every dead child, for every abused elderly person, for every displaced family, for every mutilated body, for every abandoned child, to transform all this pain into a relentless struggle for a new world.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem has invited us all to a day of prayer and fasting. Next Tuesday, the 17th, we will join in this cry for Peace in the land of Jesus. With the Palestinian people and with the Jewish people. Those who pray together are sowing peace. And may this peace begin in the heart of each one of us, in our communities and families.



Let us light a candle of Peace in our communities and homes as a sign of that light which is not overcome by the darkness of this world. Let us humbly and courageously light, with everyone, a hopeful cry for peace, the fruit of justice and truth.

With Mary and Joseph, let us join hands and hearts in a silence of communion. With Teresa of Jesus and all the Saints of Carmel. With Edith Stein, Jewish Carmelite who died in Auschwitz and with Mariam Bahuardi, daughter of the Palestinian land, martyr of love for Jesus and humanity. Edith and Mariam, daughters of Teresa of Jesus, enlighten our way towards a promised land of brothers and sisters.

To all, brothers and sisters, my blessings and my kiss of peace.

On the 17th of October 2023, next Tuesday, our lamps and hearts United, lit for Peace.



15<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
fr Miguel Márquez Calle  
Father General ocd



### LIFE AND THOUGHT OF ST MARIAM BAOUARDY - THE CARMELITE 'LITTLE NOTHING'

A 19th century Palestinian mystic can do much to heal the world's divisions and teach us about love, says Cristina Leontini, a Sydney Catholic who has completed the first English translation of an extraordinary biography. She launched the translation of *Life and Thoughts of Mariam Baouardy*, 'the little nothing' by Italian priest, Fr. Francesco Zampini, with a prayer service hosted by Melkite Bishop Robert Rabbat at St John the Beloved Melkite Catholic Church on the 26 August, the saint's feast day.



Bishop Rabbat described the life and example of the Disalced Carmelite nun, whose religious name was Sr, Mariam of Jesus Crucified, as 'a pearl of great price' and thanked Ms Leontini for her commitment to the task.

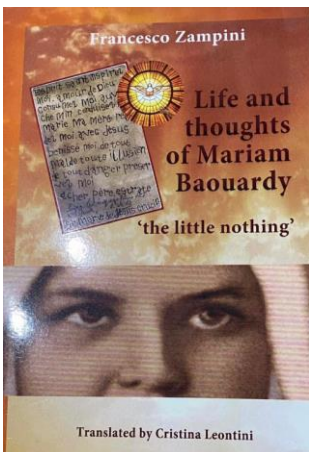
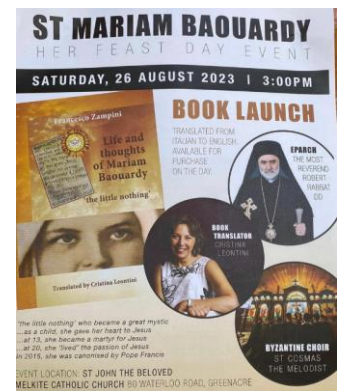
"Mariam Baouardy the 'little Arab', or to use her own self-description, the 'little nothing' has not been well-known in the West or as well-known as she deserves in the Middle East," he said.

"She was a privileged soul and from her earliest years a true mystic, not only conscious of the supernatural but one for whom the divide between the earthly and the heavenly was of no consequence. She dwelt uninhibited in an interwoven reality reserved for the very greatest spiritual mothers, and this from her childhood."

Born to a Greek-Melkite Catholic family in a small village near Nazareth called Ibillin, Mariam was orphaned at a young age and later miraculously survived a murderous assault. By the time she died, aged 32, she was a Carmelite nun, in the Roman rite, who had also worked, travelled and was instrumental in founding a Carmelite monastery in Mangalore (India) and one in Bethlehem.

Bishop Rabbat said he hoped that St Mariam would intercede for all people who share a common Arabic heritage, regardless of their religious affiliation, to bring about "what the world cannot provide - fraternal harmony, regional peace and mutual respect."

Ms Leontini said that it is not the extraordinary phenomena St Mariam experienced - such as receiving locutions and stigmata - that matters most, but her humble message and the bridge she represents between the Eastern and Western churches.



Ms Leontini volunteered for a year with Carmelite nuns in a convent in Haifa, teaching English. It is where she learnt about St Mariam through the prioress, Sr Mary Josephine, who also asked her to translate the book.

"God uses the little nothings in this life, and all of us at some stage in our life have felt perhaps like a little nothing , when we've lost jobs or loved ones, or a house, or there's been sickness in our life, but it's the little nothings that bring home that Gospel message ... to perhaps touch even that one person that God has given you as part of your mission," Ms Leontini said at the launch. She hopes readers will apprehend through St Mariam's story something of the love of God that makes all hardships and sacrifices easy.

She met that love of Jesus when she was about six years old and his words [of love] remained with her to the end," she said.

"It was love that motivated her and love made any burden the easiest thing because it was God's love that motivated her."

To order the book email [mariam.littlenothing@gmail.com](mailto:mariam.littlenothing@gmail.com)

### Sunday Mass with Greg Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYxOjNyku4JCl08vfeTq-fQ>







## SAINT ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY, HEAVEN IN FAITH, FIRST DAY, EARLY AUGUST, 1906

*Father, I will that where I am they also whom You have given Me may be with Me, in order that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, because You have loved Me before the creation of the world. [John 17:24].*



Such is Christ's last wish, His supreme prayer before returning to His Father. He wills that where He is we should be also, not only for eternity, but already in time, which is eternity begun and still in progress. It is important then to know where we must live with Him in order to realize His divine dream.

"The place where the Son of God is hidden is the bosom of the Father, or the divine Essence, invisible to every mortal eye, unattainable by every human intellect" [Kavanaugh/Rodriguez translation: "The hiding place of the Word of God is, as St. John asserts [Jn. 1:18], the bosom of the Father, that is, the divine essence, which is alien to every mortal eye and hidden from

every human intellect], as Isaiah said: *Truly You are a hidden God. [Is 45:15]*

And yet His will is that we should be established in Him, that we should live where He lives, in the unity of love; that we should be, so to speak, His own shadow [Ruysbroeck: *Our shadow accompanies us everywhere. . . . That is the way love follows God. . . .*].

By baptism, says St. Paul, we have been united to Jesus Christ [Rom 6:4–5]. And again: *God seated us together in Heaven in Christ Jesus, that He might show in the ages to come the riches of His grace. [Eph 2:6–7]* And further on: *You are no longer guests or strangers, but you belong to the City of saints and the House of God. [Eph 2:19]*

The Trinity - this is our dwelling, our 'home', the Father's house that we must never leave. The Master said one day: *The slave does not remain with the household forever, but the son remains there forever. (St. John) [Jn 8:35]*

From: <https://carmelitequotes.blog/2023/11/07/sabeth-hf1/>

## News from Holy Land Communities



### Carmelites of Nazareth

Thanks for worrying about our situation and asking how we're doing. There has been no change since our last news on October 12, we lead a normal life. Nazareth is far from fighting in the South and a little far from the Northern border. So far we have been spared We continue to count on your fervent prayers to the Holy Family for us. We send you hugs.

**Carmelites of Jerusalem** Many ask us how we are living the tragic events in our country these days. Intensifying our brotherhood: with the victims, the bereaved families, the people of Gaza under bombings, with the Christians of Gaza refugees in the parish premises, day and night, their faith and courage are impressive. In our neighbourhood there is a lot of silence: people avoid going out, the construction sites have stopped, there is no more party music... and a moment of riots during a confrontation with the police, following



Carmélites de Jérusalem

the attack carried out by a young man from our neighborhood. Tire fires and firecrackers against tear gas grenades and 'whore' water, we benefit from both right under our windows. And let us pray that this does not escalate;

So far no one wants the escalation of violence. Young people want to continue their studies, the vendors walk their businesses, families visit... We want to intensify our brotherhood by praying together: the days of prayer and fasting, in communion with the entire Church have been strong times that weld us in worship, and our hope is that our brotherhood shines beyond the monastery walls: "Yes Lord, you hear" the prayer of poor, deploy the strength of your arm and disperse the superb! Disband the peoples who love war and give peace to those who count on you! "Our hope is that evil outweighs good: a new living together for all on this Holy Earth.



Carmélites de Bethléem



**Carmelites of Bethlehem**

We're doing fine. Bethlehem is on lock, practically from the beginning... But at the moment we're not missing anything, and everyone is trying to help us if we lack anything... Yesterday's heavy rain filled up our almost dry tanks. From time to time we hear the sound of rockets falling or even feel the earth shaking when it's not far away, but not very often.

We're thinking especially of the people here who earn their lives through pilgrimages and will quickly find themselves with nothing, because the situation doesn't seem to end quickly...

The community is peaceful, while carrying in prayer the huge myth!

**Carmelites of Haifa**

We are in great communion with you all! Now we come to tell you only one word about our today. To be honest, we don't have so many things to say, we just keep quiet before the Lord, He knows everything. We renew our full trust in Him in what He does, He, the Lord and the Messiah. The situation is very complex and only God knows how it will turn out. We sincerely thank you for your support, thank you also to the communities that have agreed



to accommodate those of us who didn't feel like staying here, because of this very tense climate.

However, we live through this time in trust and peace, supported by prayer and the brotherly affection shown to us by everyone close to us. We feel together with all those who are suffering. We consider them a little like our children, since they are given to us by God to carry them like a mother carries her child along the way. We are built by the testimonies of great collaboration everywhere.

The people of the country have a

great capacity of resilience, self-outgoing, and a desire to help. We are really moved by this mutual understanding between Arabs and Jews.

Seeing events unfolding, we've asked ourselves to stay here. But overall, we felt - as someone put it in reference to the biblical figure of Ruth, the Moabite, a foreign woman like the rest of us - (only one sister from our community is from the country), we feel that this is also our country. We don't see each other anywhere else! So our response to Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, owner of this monastery, is: "Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16) We have experienced several shares from what we are feeling. We listened to our elder sisters, heard their measured words. They have already lived other wars, and from their childhood, and were able to testify, without much words or information, how we can live this war time that is given to us now, and live it with full conscience.

We also talked about the origins of our Order here at Mount Carmel. We feel like our first hermit brothers. We are here to live "In obsequium Iesu Christi in solatium Terrae Sanctae". They too have known war, violence and suffering, and it is in this context that our Order came to light. They chose other weapons, and for a much bigger and more important battle, the kingdom of God.

Last Sunday, in communion with our local Church, we had the joy of consecrating the Holy Land to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Palestine. Finally we humbly welcome the present moment...

We entrust you to our prayers and most of all we entrust to you all who are suffering in our Holy Land!



**Parish of Haifa**

We are in the parish of three frailes. The priest will return from his land towards the end of the month. We're all fine. There is no destruction or violence in Haifa as a result of the war. Haifa is calm and life goes on almost normally. Schools are closed as a precautionary measure against attacks that could happen. The population in Haifa follows instructions from the authorities advising to avoid crowds of people as soon as possible. In fact weddings, baptisms, scheduled to be celebrated in a party hall are cancelled. Authorities order to have shelters ready in case missiles, drones arrive....

**Stella Maris Convent**

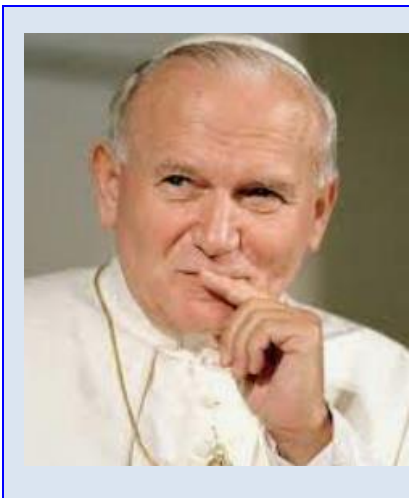
How do we live this war? Looks like we're in a quiet zone. Although some military wanted to see part of our land, I had to tell them it was private property and that for anything you need permission from Rome, they have gone and never returned. The city is very quiet, people are afraid that Hezbollah will continue to send missiles that actually fall into the sea because there's an anti-missile center nearby.





Locals come to pray. What a contrast to the thousands of pilgrims and non-stop masses, we find ourselves in such a strange atmosphere, silent with people full of sadness, some with great hatred and anger... The nights are filled with noises of planes and helicopters wanting to protect us from the coast of Lebanon that is in front of us... We are at peace, some brothers are more nervous with this environment, but in community, we keep good humor and serenity. Some miles away, we know that there is so much pain and suffering that befalls us, whether we like it or not. We share very deeply the suffering of this land divided in two. For Israel, they have lived it as another form of the Holocaust and in their surprise and horror they want revenge, Palestinians have taken revenge of suffering so much for years that they have created deadly chaos and are paying for it very hard. We live intensely in prayer and intercession, we are in the Lord's hands, there is a voluntary abandonment in His hands, in the midst of this disability. Here, things can change from any moment to the next, and we are waiting for what will happen, but calm, interceding for our people, sons and daughters of both sides. We put our whole people under the protection of Mary and Our Father, St. Elijah, who is so revered by Jews, Muslims and Christians. It's amazing how people put themselves under Elijah's protection. We are very close to all the Order and all the victims of hate and terror.

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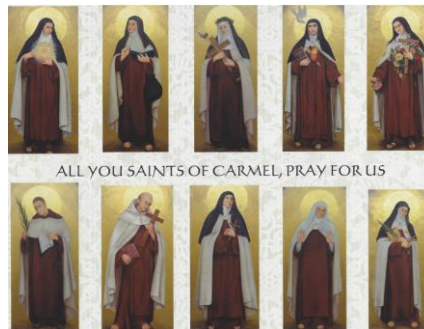
The Church finds joy in attesting to that ... [St John of the Cross] continues to bear through the example of his life and the light of his writings. Indeed, his person and his teachings draw the interest of people from the most diverse religious and cultural surroundings. He understands them and speaks to the deepest aspirations of the human person and of the believer. ...

This message, meant for everyone, is the special heritage of the Teresian Carmel which rightly considers St. John of the Cross its Father and Spiritual Master. It is also its pressing task. John's example makes him the pattern of Carmelite life. His writings are a treasure to be shared with all those who seek the face of God today. His doctrine speaks to our times, ... I myself have been especially attracted by [his] experience and teachings .... From the first years of my priestly formation, I found in him a sure guide in the ways of faith. This aspect of his doctrine seemed to me to be of vital importance to every Christian. Apostolic Letter: *Master in the Faith* .

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This print features 10 of our beloved Carmelite Saints and Blessed. It is a replica of a painting in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA.

1. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity
2. St. Maravillas de Jesus
3. St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi
4. St. Teresa of Avila
5. St. Therese of Lisieux
6. Bl. Titus Brandsma
7. St. John of the Cross
8. St. Teresa of the Andes
9. St. Mariam of Jesus Crucified
10. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.



Prayer on the front of the print: All you Saints of Carmel, Pray for Us

*Lord, may the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, and the prayers of all the saints of Carmel help us to walk steadfastly in their footsteps, and by our prayers and good works ever further the cause of your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Carmelite Saints Print - \$10.50 - 8.5" x 11" print ready for framing. Semi-gloss finish, 53 lb. acid-free poster paper. Limited quantities are available. The price of \$10.50 includes shipping and handling within the Continental United States.



# CARMEL



## Secular Discalced Carmelite Order OCDS Holy Family Community, Auckland



Photo with Bishop Steve Lowe, Auckland, 16th July 2022

**Secular Discalced Carmelites,  
living ordinary lives,  
joyfully and prayerfully united with Jesus,  
pondering Holy Scripture in the way of Mary,  
praying the Divine Office of the Church,  
celebrating Mass, together on the Way...**

**OCDS Meetings 2nd Sunday of each month, 12-3pm  
venue: Carmelite Monastery, 636 Mt Albert Rd, Auckland  
contact Dianna Fouhy: [diannaf@cda.org.nz](mailto:diannaf@cda.org.nz)**

**'Come and See'**

This poster was produced by the Auckland community of Secular Discalced Carmelite Order to alert people of their presence. It shows only some members of the community gathered with Bishop Stephen Lowe, the Bishop of Auckland since December 2021. Left to right: Back row: Maria, Gloria, Bishop Lowe; Middle row: Mary, Flora, Leonila, John, Teresa, Paul, Nel; Bottom left: Dianna.