

Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus

7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716

Summer 2015

lrcarmel@comcast.net <http://www.littlerockcarmel.org>

Vol. 58 No. 2

Dear Friends,

Where shall we begin? There are big events ahead to keep in our prayers. For us in the United States the good news is: Pope Francis is coming! What a blessing for us all! On Ascension Sunday, May 17th, he canonized our Carmelite sister, **Blessed Mary (Mariam) of Jesus Crucified**, sometimes called “the little Arab”, born in Ibillin, (a small village of Galilee, between Nazareth and Haifa) Palestine. Let us ask her to intercede for wise solutions and peace in the Middle East. She is known for her constant communion with the Holy Spirit.



Our Holy Week and Easter liturgies were spiritually rich and full with the Church’s liturgies. We welcomed back, the reverently silenced use of the “Alleluia”, at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and sang it enthusiastically all through the Easter morning Eucharist. We practiced well for all the music parts with our excellent music teacher, Paul Vogler. Our Easter altar was gorgeous with flowers – our garden surprised us after all the cold and rain with beautiful colors and blooms.



On May 10th, **Mother’s Day**, we honored our Lady and prayed for all mothers by having a rosary procession, as we visited our Marian Shrines in the monastery. We ended by crowning our Lady in the courtyard. Of course, the crown was made with the beautiful flowers from our garden. We sang hymns and renewed our consecration to her.

A high point in our very rainy and cold spring was a cookout supper to which we invited our Bishop. The Lord provided a perfect and clear night with mild temperatures. We warned Bishop of wood-fire smoke and sparks flying so he came dressed for the occasion. Besides the usual cookout menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salads etc., a pot of hot soup was in the campfire crockpot which we received as a gift. Making S’mores has become our favorite during these campfires. It was very interesting with many laughs to see how we managed the challenge of toasting big marshmallows on fire and eating S’mores. Bishop tried a solution of his own which worked well! Everyone had a wonderful time which included singing and telling stories. Not only is



Bishop a Good Shepherd of his people he is also a charming cookout supper guest!

Paulo and Gracie found Sr. Mercia’s special vegetable garden with fresh rich soil to be a very comfortable place in which to snuggle down oblivious of her newly seeded ground! Blue Eyes is his winsome kitty self and the turtles have emerged from their winter hibernation. They look up to us for a slice of apple. The large beautifully colored Koi in the pond, also get their food. We found they like Cheerios too. All creatures, great and small, bless the Lord!

The Cathedral Hand bell Choir and Catholic High Boys Schola (9 members including 3 soloists) came and presented their spring concert. It was skillfully directed by Allan Pieroni and thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was a full chapel and a standing ovation was given.

On Ascension Sunday our Lord came for our wonderful friend and faithful Eucharistic Minister, Elizabeth La Borde. Please pray for her and her dear family. We miss her greatly already.

We have two new church bells to go with our present small one, (119 lb, tone “C”), which we learned is a valuable one made in Holland over 50 years ago. The new bells are medium, (154 lb, tone “A”) and large, (254 lb, tone “F”) size. Michael Schumacher, our loyal friend, built a bell tower designed by our Sr. Lucia. He also sand blasted our old small bell to match the brightness of the new bells. All being ready the large crane lifted the tower upright over the wall and the one wing of our monastery. Each leg of the tower has a base plate with 4 holes and these holes had to match perfectly with the bolts in the foundation. Amazing!! None of this enormous project was possible without the marvelous team work of all involved. Our Lord’s constant help and the



Please join us

Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

*Wednesday July 8th — Thursday, July 16th
Celebration of the Eucharist in our Chapel
each evening at 7:30pm*

Homilist:

Reverend Paul Koenig, OCD

**Discalced Carmelite Friar of the California-Arizona Province
Of Dis**



MARY, A Sheltering Presence

In the early part of the 13th century, a group of lay Christians several of them crusaders, banded together to live an eremitical style of life in a wadi or valley looking outward toward the Mediterranean Sea in the **Holy Land**. The wadi 'ain es-Shiah as it is called is just a few miles from the top of Mount Carmel where Elijah, the prophet prayed. These hermits took him as a model for their eremitical way of life imitating in earnest his zeal for the glory of God. In the midst of the cave hermitages carved out of the rugged hillside, they built a tiny chapel dedicated to Mary. Here, in the simplicity of their dedicated life of prayer, they experienced the **sheltering presence of the Mother of God** and soon became known as “**Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel.**” Under her maternal influence they were nurtured in faith, hope and love amidst the trials of life, fears and disappointments.

Just as in Old Testament times the Ark of the Covenant was the center of Israel’s worship, so this tiny chapel became the place of worship where the hermits gathered for the Eucharist. Mary the new ark who carried Jesus, the Word Incarnate in her womb was pleased to become a presence of gentleness and compassion, directing their gaze and their energy to him to whom they had pledged allegiance.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we find the Mother of the Lord present in the upper room united in prayer with the newly formed little college of Christ – the Apostles awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. Here favored with her sheltering presence, they drew from her example steadfast hope, strength and encouragement and learned the precious lesson of patiently waiting on the Lord. From the cross Jesus had bequeathed the care and companionship of his Mother to St. John the Evangelist, and through him to all of us. Ready to receive her children fresh from the baptismal font, she willingly accepts each son and daughter in her role as Mother of the Church.

One of the signs in the tradition of the Church from many centuries ago is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is a sign approved by the Church and accepted by the Carmelite Order as an external sign of love for Mary, of the trust her children have in her, and of commitment to love like her. The word scapular indicates a form of clothing which monks wore when they were working. With the passage of time, people began to give symbolic meaning to it: the cross to be borne every day as disciples and followers of Christ. In some religious orders, such as the Carmelites, the Scapular turned into a sign of their way of life. The Scapular came to symbolize the special dedication of Carmelites to Mary, the Mother of God, and to express trust in her motherly protection as well as the desire to be like her in her commitment to Christ and to others. Thus it became a sign of Mary.

The Blessed Virgin teaches us, to be open to God, and to his will shown to us in the events of our lives; To listen to the Word of God in the Bible and in life, to believe in it and to put into practice its demands. To pray at all times, as a way of discovering the presence of God in all that is happening around us; To be involved with people, being attentive to their needs. It leads us into the community of Carmel, a community of religious men and women, which has existed in the Church for over eight centuries.

It calls on us to live out the ideal of this religious family; Intimate friendship with God in prayer. It reminds us of the example of the saints of Carmel, with whom we establish a close bond as brothers and sisters to one another.

It is an expression of our belief that we will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayer of Mary. People are enrolled in the Scapular only once, by a priest or authorized person. Enrollment in the brown scapular will take place in our chapel at the close of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 16th.

Saint Mariam of Jesus Crucified (Saint Mariam Baouardy)

*Extraordinary Mystic, Stigmatic and Victim Soul,
The Lily of Palestine (1846-1878)
canonized on May 17 in Rome by Pope Francis*

