Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus
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Fall 2018 lrcarmel@comcast.net http://www.littlerockcarmel.org Vol. 61 No. 3

Dear Friends,

It has been a full summer; lots of happenings! We pray yours was full of blessings along with some rest and a little vacation time. In July we held our community elections which occur every three years. The delegate to the nuns of our province, Father Luis Casteneda, presided. Sister Lucia of the Mother of Grace is our new prioress. It is a heavy burden of love to bear. We will try to lighten it by striving more and more to become good Carmelites. Sister Andrea is sub-prioress and Sisters Mercia Mary and Stephanie are councilors. Your prayers for them are greatly appreciated!

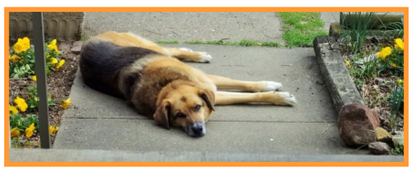
We have had heavy storms resulting in the loss of three trees on our property. We also had to cut down three others that were dying. Now it looks quite bare on that part of the horizon.

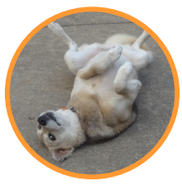
Our Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel was wonderful. Conducted by Father Terrence Cyr, O.Carm., he shared much on our Blessed Mother along with personal experiences and some humorous stories that held the attention of our congregation. Each parish of our area participated fully and beautifully each night. Thank you, each one. Bishop Anthony B. Taylor presided at the solemn closing night with six priests and a deacon filling the sanctuary.

Fr. "Terry" Cyr, O.Carm. with newly ordained priests Fr. Joseph de Orbegozo and Fr. Stephen Hart.

Our seminarians came for their annual Mass and luncheon before going on to Hot Springs for their retreat. They have now resumed their studies at their respective places for the fall. What a group of very fine young men (see photo below)! May God bless them with faith, love and perseverance. Our whole diocese is proud of the eight newly ordained priests this year. Some of them came to celebrate Mass in our chapel already.

Our animals are doing well. It seems the most popular places for happy and well fed animals in our yard are at the bird feeders. We see many different kinds and various entertaining behaviors: aggressive hummingbirds chasing and harassing the bigger birds and the twirling Cardinal on the suet feeder trying to hold on long enough to get a bite.





Our fig tree produced a good crop and the birds had their share there, too. We had to pick a very large pumpkin even though it was too early. Sr. Anu Maria has been caring for it, along with a second smaller one, making sure they get the sunshine they need to ripen.

On August 22nd, the feast of the Queenship of Mary, we accepted Sr. Anu Maria of the Good Shepherd for Solemn Profession of vows, That will take place November 25th on the Solemnity of Christ the King at 11 a.m. in our chapel. All are invited! She will receive the black veil (she now wears a white veil) and will be a full member of our community. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this final commitment in religious life.

You are invited!

Solemn Profession of Vows and Veiling

Sr. Anu Maria Jose of the Good Shepherd

Sunday, November 25, 2018 11 o'clock a.m.

May the fall season be happy with the joy of the changing of seasons and the promise of cooler days ahead! We share in our farmers' gratitude for the gift of rain we had this summer. Their crops are so important to all of us. We have also been praying for all those around the world experiencing tragic natural disasters, as well as the great needs of our Church at this difficult time.

We keep you all in our *grateful* prayers, THANKFUL for your *great* goodness to us always!

Novena Days:
September 23rd—October 1st

Come, join us for the

Solemnity of Saint Therese
Mass with Blessing of the Roses

Sunday, September 30th
at 7:30am

Novena Days:
October 7th—15th

Letters of Wisdom and Love

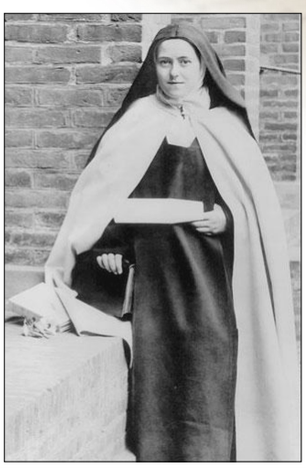
The art of letter writing has a long and well established history as a means of communicating information and sealing bonds of relationship. St. Paul authored several letters in our recognized canon of sacred scripture. These were written expressly to offer instruction, encouragement and sometimes correction to the newly formed Christian communities in an effort to strengthen their baptismal graces. These Christians were living among unbelievers some zealous and hostile seeking to undermine the doctrine and teaching authority entrusted to the apostles. At one point, Paul writes to the Christian community in Corinth noting that they are a letter written on his heart, shown to be a letter of Christ. (2 Cor. 3: 2-3)

The Carmelite Rule written in the early part of the 13th century is a carefully crafted letter written in the formalized style of that period. Its contents hold the light and wisdom of sacred scripture as a backdrop, a robust source and design for a simple manner of life from which the whole family of Carmel draws inspiration and normative value.

St. Teresa of Jesus, as great reformer and mother of the Discalced wrote numerous letters to a variety of persons from the nobility to ordinary folk. Among the most treasured are those to her nuns and friars in an effort to solidify and confirm their newly established charism and apostolate in its given aspects of complementarity. The deft and bold strokes of this gifted nun demonstrate a magnanimous personality and determined character occasionally spiced with a touch of humor. Teresa wrote quickly and in the colloquial manner of speaking common to her time and place. Two volumes of her letters are resourceful for their wisdom, tactfulness and prudence. They also portray a person who never minced words and quickly set forth her personal desires and state of mind.

In another era closer to our times, a talented young sister and saint of ours, Therese of Lisieux, also took the pen in hand. She too, possessed a style of her own and the wisdom that flowed from her pen demonstrate a wisdom and maturity far exceeding her youthful age and limited education. The nuns of her community especially those who came to know her more intimately saved her small notes exchanged among themselves. Today, two volumes of these including numerous letters have been published. Her utter simplicity of manner and bold trustfulness in the mercy of God in an age of doubt and uncertainty provide words of wisdom to many persons of all classes and nationalities.

These two nuns—both saints and doctors of the Church—continue to nourish the mind of the faithful with their timeless values in an ongoing stream of light, love and encouragement. Today, modern technology offers us new ways and means of rapid communication. One question among others arises that we might address for personal reflection: Can emails and text messages that one sends or receives communicate long lasting and worthwhile words of wisdom to nourish mind and spirit?



Fifth letter to Mother Agnes of Jesus, St. Therese's sister:

I desire no sensible consolation in loving; provided Jesus feel my love that is enough for me. Oh! to love Him and to make Him loved...how sweet it is...

Excerpt from Letter 42, written to Sister Teresa de Jesus, Carmelite in St. Joseph's Convent at Avila (St. Teresa's niece):

With regard to the aridities you speak of, it seems to me that our Lord deals with you as if He considered you one of the strong, since He wishes to try you, in order to see how much you love Him, and whether your love is the same in aridities, as when you abound in consolations.