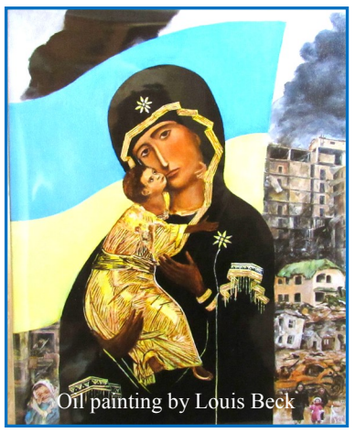
Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus
7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716
Summer 2022 lrcarmel@comcast.net http://www.littlerockcarmel.org Vol. 65 No. 2

Dear Friends,

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with each of you! This Easter we were so pleased to have our Chapel filled to capacity for both the Easter Vigil and Easter morning Mass. We are very blessed to continue to be relatively healthy as a community as we have still remained COVID free throughout the pandemic. Thank God. Our Easter celebration was more subdued this year as our hearts are heavy with all the suffering of the Ukrainian people and the tragedy and evil of war. We pray daily for peace and the conversion of Russia. May Our Lady's Immaculate Heart triumph. On the 26th of March we joined Pope Francis in the consecration of humanity and especially Russia and Ukraine to her Immaculate Heart. We had an hour of adoration and prayed the rosary as a community and at 12:30 pm Sr. Lucia prayed the consecration prayer. May all the prayers and sacrifices continue to bear fruit and bring an end to war.



This spring we enjoyed wonderful weather and the gardens are alive with a rainbow of colors. Before the temperatures heated up we were able to enjoy two cookouts in the newly renovated preau (courtyard). Towards the end of February, Bishop Anthony Taylor came for the inaugural cookout and blessed our recently built fire pit. It was a joy to have him and he got a chance to see all the hidden beauty throughout the preau. After Easter two of our Carmelite friars from Marylake monastery Fr. Jerome Early, O.C.D. and Fr. Stephen Sanchez, O.C.D. joined us for the evening around the fire, sharing stories and fraternal fellowship. We were delighted to have their company.

This year we had our May crowning on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13th. We were united with the bishops in our country in praying the rosary especially for the end to Roe vs. Wade and for the respect of all life from conception till natural death. This year Sisters Marie Therese and Josefina Rose crowned Our Lady together, as each of them is preparing to make their First Profession in the coming months. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to become the brides of Christ and offer their lives to God and for the Church through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

Our animals are all doing well. Paulo who is now affectionately called "Grandpa" continues to try and keep active with Toby and Sadie who are beginning to grow out of being puppies. They aren't nearly as destructive as when we first got them except when they catch the poor turtles. Our preau is a turtle sanctuary and now that the weather has warmed up we can find up to a dozen turtles of all sizes looking for a treat. Once they get rescued from the dogs they live a charmed life with multiple sisters bringing them pieces of apple or grapes. Our cat Matatu continues to thrive in the greenhouse. His life is charmed too except when a sister rescued the baby woodpecker he was about to catch. Sister Lucia is in the process of befriending a snake by the pond in the acreage. At first she thought it was a water moccasin but after another close encounter in which she got a better look she discovered that "Bobbette" is a harmless water snake. Whew! We are so grateful for these creatures which bring joy to our life.

Towards the end of May, Fr. Stephen Elser brought the 5th grade students from St. Paul's in Pocahontas for a visit. We really enjoyed meeting the students and teachers, sharing about how we got our vocations and our life in Carmel. The students came prepared with good questions and were a delight to visit with.

Congratualtions to Little Rock's Fr. Erik Pohlmeier who was recently appointed bishop of St. Augustine, Florida. Our Sr. Mercia Mary has known him since college when they were a part of the Catholic Campus Ministry together. At Sister's solemn profession Mass Father recalled in his homily the time they sat outside the fraternity house, beer in hand, talking over the first inklings of their callings to the priesthood and religious life. Now look what God has done! Our prayers will go with you, Bishop Elect Pohlmeier!

May our Blessed Mother, Queen Beauty of Carmel, intercede for you in all your needs and intercede for all of us both at home and abroad during these difficult times.

July 8th to
July 16th

Carmelite monastery
Every evening
At 7:00 pm

PLEASE
Join us for the Novena
To Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel

Homilists

Rev. Anthony Robbins
Rev. Brian Cundall
Rev. Balaraju Desam

Priests at
St. Joseph Church
Conway, AR

The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

As faith-filled followers of Jesus Christ, our Catholic faith offers us Mary the Mother of God to be our mother also. By entrusting her to St. John standing at the foot of the cross, she became our mother too (Jn. 19:26-27). Both seen and experienced throughout the ages, she has accepted all of us universally with unwavering love and compassion. By looking at her, we find a model of receptivity and ongoing openness to the plan of God as unfolded in her own life. Because of her journey of faith, she is quite familiar with the human feelings of joy and gladness, sorrow and fear and the unexpected events so common to the human family.

Carmelites have felt drawn to her since the 12th century when some western crusaders remained in the Holy Land and together with a few Eastern-rite hermits established a community on Mount Carmel. They would meet together for prayers in their chapel dedicated to St. Mary who they considered as the Lady of the Place, the Lord of the Place being Christ Himself. These hermits became known as the Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

After they migrated to Europe a succession of trials and cultural adjustments followed. Mary continued to demonstrate her patronal protection and at length the Carmelites received papal approval. Members of the laity drawn to Mary of Mount Carmel requested affiliation with the Carmelite Order. At the time, Carmelites wore a kind of apron-like tunic for manual work tasks which consisted of two panels of woolen cloth draped over the shoulders front and back. As others sought affiliation with the Order and the Virgin Mary, a smaller version of the same was offered and became commonly known as the scapular.

Initial enrollment in the scapular is a sign of identification with Mary as Patroness, Mother and Sister. One is encouraged to behold and imitate her in humble receptivity and openness to the plan of God through a journey of steadfast faith, trustful surrender and undivided love. Like the prophet Elijah on Mt. Carmel who sought the living God in solitude and silence, the Carmelite seeks:

-simplicity of life
-prayerful reflection on the word of God
-the sacramental life
-concern for the needs of others.

This points to a renewed hope of encountering God in eternal life with the help of Mary's protection and intercession. The scapular is a SIGN which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries. It stands for the decision to follow Jesus like Mary.

We give thanks to God as we celebrate two First Professions. All are invited to these joyful ceremonies.

Sister Marie Therese of Christ the Redeemer
August 6th Saturday
Mass 10:00 am

Sister Josefina Rose of Jesus
September 10th Saturday
Mass 10:00 am