Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus
7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716
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Dear Friends,

We hope you all have had a blessed summer. It has been an eventful summer for us. This year for our novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel we had four different priests preach with our Bishop Anthony Taylor celebrating Mass on the feast day. What a joy it was to have Fr. Tony Robbins and Fr. Balaraju Desam from St. Joseph's in Conway as our main preachers, Fr. Ed Graves for a Mass mid novena and Fr. Jerome Early, OCD preach for the feast. Fr. Tony attended our novena faithfully as a seminarian and so having him here to celebrate Mass during the novena was especially touching. Each of the priests reminded us of Our Lady's care and intercession for us and directed us to turn to her in our need. Fr. Tony's story of how our Lady helped to free him from addiction was particularly moving. We were also very blessed this year to have our Secular Carmelite members help as lectors. At the Mass for the feast our Carmelite Fathers Jerome and Bonaventure were able to concelebrate Mass so the whole Carmelite family was present.

This year we were finally able since COVID to have Mass and lunch with our Bishop and seminarians. Last year we just had Mass and a quick visit at the grill. It was wonderful to be able to sit down with them and share in their journey. What a grace to see the diversity of men the Lord is calling and to see them respond. They certainly encourage us in our vocations and we keep them in our daily prayers. We were also blessed to have Fr. Jaime Nieto stop by for his first Mass with us since his ordination. He shared with us what he loves doing as a priest and how he got his vocation. Continued blessings and graces for him as he begins his priestly ministry at Saint Theresa's in Little Rock.

The highlight of our summer occurred on the Feast of the Transfiguration when our Sister Marie Therese of Christ the Redeemer made her First Profession of vows. It was a wonderful celebration with our chaplain Msgr. Frederick presiding and Fr. Jerome Early, OCD as the homilist. Fr. Jerome gave a stirring homily in which he connected the feast of the Transfiguration, a moment of joy and a profoundly deep experience for the disciples, with Sister as she now joyfully professes her vows. He then encouraged us that we have to keep moving and go down the mountain to live out our vocations in all the ordinary moments of our daily lives. We were so glad to have our local Missionaries of Charity and Daughters of Charity sisters present to witness the gift of self of this newest bride of Christ. We are grateful for the witness of their vocations which inspires us in our own calling. Sister Marie Therese's brother, Gary Purkey, flew in from Orange County, California for the profession along with some close friends of hers. It was lovely to see him again and to meet these dear friends of Sister Marie Therese. We thank God for all those who have accompanied her on her journey to Carmel. May God bless each of them. Check out our YouTube page, **Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus**, to see a video compilation from the profession made by our sister webmistress.

Our 'original' vegetable garden by the pond finally produced lots of cucumbers this summer. We enjoyed eating them just fresh from garden or pickled sweet and sour cucumbers with onions and garlic. Sr. Cecilia even made some Korean cucumber Kim-Chee! The weather has been very hot but we hope to start a Fall garden soon.

In Late August Sister Cecilia with our two sisters in formation, Sr. Marie Therese and Sr. Josefina Rose drove to St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana for our Associations formation seminar. They were greatly enriched by the talks given by Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB and Fr. Steven Sanchez, OCD and the fellowship with other Carmelites from around the country. They were also able to visit and share a meal with our Little Rock seminarians studying at the seminary there. On the way home they made a detour to the Abbey of Gethsemane, made famous by Thomas Merton, joining the Monks for midday prayer. It was a rich experience for them to participate in the Divine Office in both the Benedictine and the Trappist tradition. You are in our prayer as we pray here in the heart of the Church.

May God bless you abundantly!

PLEASE JOIN US

Solemnity of St. Therese and Blessing of Roses
Saturday October 1, 7:30 A.M.
and
Solemnity of Saint Teresa of Jesus
Saturday October 15, 7:30 A.M.

The Eucharist in Our Life

Our United States Catholic conference of Bishops has inaugurated a three year Eucharistic revival culminating in a national Eucharistic Congress in 2025. The first year of this revival focuses on our Catholic belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. For many of the "cradle Catholics" this can bring to mind an early catechesis on the Eucharist in preparation for First Holy Communion as a child in elementary school. At whatever stage in our pilgrimage of life the belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist took root, an ongoing renewal is necessary in order to strengthen and keep alive this presence, to be fully present to Him with mind and heart, both loving Him and letting oneself be loved by Him. How comforting it is to be perfectly understood by the one who fashioned us in his own image and who understands the innermost thoughts and desires of the human heart which words cannot adequately express. Christ loved us and freely handed himself over body and soul to cruel suffering and death for our sins. He was victorious over death rising in glory. This Resurrected Lord is the one who meets us in Holy Communion as Guest under the appearance of bread and wine.

In the words of St. Teresa of Avila, "Receiving Communion is not like picturing with the imagination, as when we reflect upon the Lord on the cross or in other episodes of the Passion, when we picture within ourselves how things happened to him in the past. In Communion the event is happening now, and it is entirely true. There's no reason to go looking for him in some other place farther away. Since we know that Jesus is with us as long as the natural heat doesn't consume the accidents of bread, we should approach him. Now then, if when he went about in the world the mere touch of his robes cured the sick, why doubt, if we have faith, that miracles will be worked while he is within us and that he will give what we ask of him, since he is in our house? His Majesty is not accustomed to pay poorly for his lodging if the hospitality is good." *(Way of Perfection Chap, 34, para. 8)*

St. Therese as a child of ten made an admirable preparation for her First Holy Communion along with her classmates at the boarding school at the Benedictine Abbey in Lisieux. Both of her sisters, Pauline and Marie aided the ardor of the young Therese. She writes in detail about her preparatory retreat. "I listened with great attention to the instructions Father Domin was giving us, even writing up a summary of them." (*Story of a Soul, Chapter IV).*

The words of the liturgy on the night the Church commemorates the institution of the Eucharist speak to us of the Mass as the re-presentation of Christ's unique Sacrifice on the Cross, the reception of Christ truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and the marvelous effects of communion in those who receive this gift. The bishop's pastoral letter, "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church" provides a summary of the Church's doctrine on the Eucharist and is intended to be a catalyst reigniting catechesis and evangelization in anticipation of the Eucharistic revival.