Carmelite Bulletin

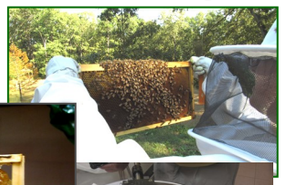
Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus
7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716
Autumn 2023 lrcarmel@comcast.net http://www.littlerockcarmel.org Vol. 66 No. 3

" Love alone have I ever given to the good God; with love He will repay me."

Dear Friends,

We hope that you all have had a wonderful summer. Ours has certainly been eventful. We were delighted to have Fr. John Paul Hartnedy celebrate his first Mass with us at the end of June. We enjoyed his insightful homily and are so happy to see his vibrant love for the Sacraments and serving the people of God. Our prayers are with Fr. John Paul as he begins his new assignments in southwest Arkansas.

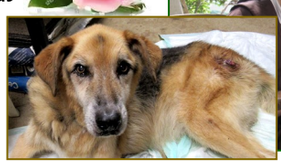
Our July Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel with Fr. Michael Woods was very enriching. Father's preaching, with his delightful Irish accent, brought new lights to familiar scripture readings. His energy and enthusiasm were contagious and we were inspired to encounter the Lord in a deeper way through His Word. Fr. Woods is a great friend of the Chun family and some of Sister Cecilia's family came to Little Rock during the Novena. The day after the Novena Fr. Woods celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the Chun family as this year was the 50th anniversary of their coming from South Korea to America. It was a joy to visit again with Sister Cecilia's family, her dear friend Young Ae and Fr. Woods.



After some trial and error the last few years, this year our bee keeping sister, Sr. Josefina, was able to harvest 60lbs of honey with the help of our local beekeeping expert Jon Zawislak and his daughter Jessica. The day chosen a month in advance turned out to be a stormy one which is not an ideal time to open a hive. But Sr. Josefina and Jon were able to get the frames out of the hive before there was a downpour. It was a lot of fun to extract the honey and delicious to eat. Sr. Bernadette even came down to the kitchen in her electric wheelchair and watched the whole process.

Just a little over a week later we got to meet Jon's son Philip at our annual Seminarian Mass and luncheon along with seven other new seminarians. We heard that another one has joined since then! We are so blessed that these men who come from all sorts of backgrounds responded to God's call to discern the priesthood for our diocese. It is always an encouragement to our life of prayer to talk and share with them.

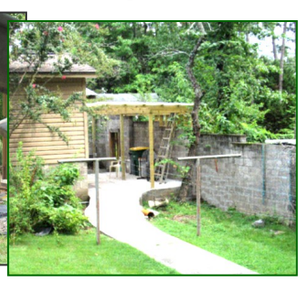
In late July we had a young woman, Renee Kendall, come for a few weeks for a live-in experience and have two others who will come later this year. It was a delight to have her with us. Thank you for your prayers for vocations and please keep those who are discerning with us in your prayers.



Our hearts are a little heavy since we had to say good bye to our beloved Paolo in August. He was an excellent watchdog and protected us on many occasions. He was always a puppy at heart and the addition of Sadie and Toby certainly helped him stay young. We thank God for his fourteen years of loyal canine love. On a lighter note our feral cat Matatu was put in the courtyard to see if he will stay there to keep down the rat population. Right now it is a work in progress so patience ….. He still has time to learn!

We recently had some concrete work done out in front of our chapel. Our dear friend, Michael Schumacher, helped us remove the concrete so we could have a new slab poured. We also have a new walkway near our greenhouse. We are so grateful to our generous friends who made this possible.

Next time we will tell you about a 100th birthday celebration and our triennial Mary Queen of Carmel Association meeting which will occur in October. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare to host this meeting.



May God bless you in a special way through the intercession of our two great Teresa's with deep friendship with Christ and childlike trust in His merciful love.

"I can nourish myself on nothing but truth."

- - All quotes on this Bulletin are from St. Therese

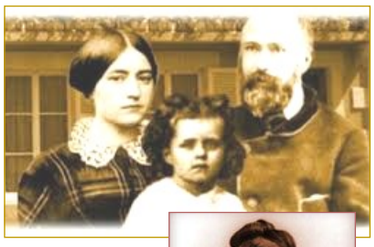
PLEASE JOIN US

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

"In the heart of the church I will be love ."

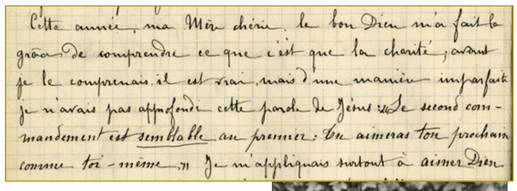
St. Therese – 150 Years

The door opened and the family physician emerged with a smile to announce that a baby girl had been born to Louis and Zelie Martin. Her name was to be Marie Francoise Therese. The date was January 2, 1873. Therese grew up in a loving and caring family but suffered the loss of her mother at the tender age of four. Her older sister Pauline took charge of the training of young Therese and her sister Celine until Pauline entered the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux, France.



Although Celine was older by four years, the two became inseparable companions. Therese was later to write in her autobiography, "Story of A Soul", a composite of vivid memories of early childhood attesting to a firm and devout family life amidst the ordinary hurdles encountered in most households. Her clear-sighted vision with unwavering determination to please God alone and to draw others to do so led her to pursue Carmelite life at the age of fifteen. Two of her older sisters, Pauline and Marie, had already preceded her.

In Carmel Therese found in her companions a garden of sorts, a whole variety of flowers and as it were, of roses amid thorns. With eyes fixed on Jesus, her beloved, Therese sought to love them as Jesus loved, the words of the gospels becoming her chief source of spiritual nourishment. In her memoir, Celine writes of her sister that devotion to the Holy Face was the crown and complement of her love for the Sacred Humanity of our Lord.



Gradually, she came to learn and appreciate her own nothingness and utter dependence on him. She saw herself as one of the little children so loved by Jesus. Therese realized that this teaching of childlike dependency was to be passed on through her to others by way of example and words. Through her own autobiography and other writings this has come to fulfillment. Her expansive love for all of humanity unfolded as she recognized her personal call to be "love in the heart of the Church." His great love must be repaid by love alone. Therese sought to carry out these inner promptings of the Holy Spirit by numerous acts of love unseen by others. By this means she spiritually accompanied priests and fulfilled her strong missionary aspirations. Thus today, she is called Co-Patroness of the Missions alongside of St. Francis Xavier.

As her physical health declined, her understanding and hope grew stronger while enveloped in darkness. Abandoning herself to merciful Love the veil parted for her entry to eternal glory on Sept. 30, 1897. In his apostolic letter "The Science of Divine Love" – Oct. 19, 1997, Pope St. John Paul II wrote "The reception given to the example of her life and Gospel teaching in our century was quick, universal and constant – as if in imitation of her precious spiritual maturity, her holiness was recognized by the Church in the space of a few years." To diffuse the wealth of her wisdom, Pope St. John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church in 1997. Today, some one hundred and fifty years later we can join with her parents, Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin, to celebrate her birth which took its origin in the overflowing goodness of God. She gladly imparts favors and wisdom to all who come to know her and seek her powerful intercession. From the garden of Carmel our Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus who initiated the Discalced Carmelite life in Avila, Spain joins her in glory for a festive "Happy Birthday." Here at Carmel we will keep the feasts of our two Saints, both now doctors of the Church, preceding each with a novena to include all your special intentions.

"When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth."