Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus
7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716
Summer 2025 contact@littlerockcarmel.org littlerockcarmel.org Vol. 68 No. 2

Dear Friends,

Summer heat and humidity is upon us, especially here in "Arkan-*sauna*", as we like to say. But, we cannot complain with the long, cool spring we had this year. One of our postulants, Renee, is now seeing the fruits of her labor after patiently nurturing the tiny seedlings under grow lights this past winter and spring.

We were grateful for the rain, as well, but, unfortunately, many of our trees were uprooted due to the soaked ground and heavy winds. A portion of our enclosure fence (the metal kind) out in the acreage came down with a tree. Thankfully, nothing fell on the monastery or any of us! We held in prayer all those who suffered great damage from these storms all over the country.

Our Lent and Easter celebrations were meaningful and blessed, and there was even a full chapel for Easter this year. We are continually grateful for Msgr. Lawrence Frederick, our chaplain of over 50 years, for his selfless attentiveness to our community. Some of our daily Mass attendees, the Divino's and Mr. Bud Jones, acquired and framed for us a very large print of the Divine Mercy image some months ago, and we were so happy to display it for veneration this year on Divine Mercy Sunday.

As we all remember, it was Easter Monday that our Holy Father Pope Francis died, which brought a twinge of sadness to the Easter celebration. We joined the whole world in mourning and in praying for his soul. And when the day for a new pope arrived we joined once again with the whole world - especially the Catholic faithful - in celebrating a new Father and Shepherd. And the first American-born pope! Vive la papa! (Go, White Sox!)

We had our traditional rosary procession and May Crowning on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. We asked our two postulants to crown the statue in our Marian grotto. They were chosen since they will be receiving the habit of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel very soon, on June 15th, Holy Trinity Sunday. We will be sure to have pictures on our website and in our next bulletin. Renee will take the name and title of Sister Beatrice Yona of the Holy Word of God and Angelica will soon become Sister Karith Michael of the Sorrowful Mother. Please pray for them as they take this next step in their religious life.

We also ask your continued prayers for more new vocations to our Carmel. There have been a few showing interest and a young lady recently made a week-long discernment visit. Isabelle moved here with her family from Ohio a year ago, living now in Jonesboro. Please keep her in your prayers!

Our postulants and the two postulants from Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro (Olivetan Benedictines) have been "pen-pals" over the last year and finally got a chance to meet in person when they came to Little Rock for the diaconate ordination of Christopher Elser. The four postulants visited in the speak room while the "grown-up" sisters chatted in another parlor. Bouts of laughter could be heard so we think they had a good time! Surely, the relationships are a support for them since there are so few young religious in our diocese and state.

We welcomed the largest class of senior boys, almost 200 young men(!) from Catholic High for our annual Mass and visit. The girls from Mount St. Mary's Academy also came for a Mass and visit and we always enjoy their interest and questions and the chance to meet the young people from our local diocese.

Last but not least, we would like to invite you to our 75th Jubilee Mass for the foundation of our monastery. Mass and reception will be held here on Sunday, August 3rd at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Anthony Taylor will preside as we offer our thanks and worship to God for his faithfulness all these years here in Little Rock.

We are honored to invite you, also, to venerate the traveling relics of St. Therese of Lisieux coming here from our Carmelite Sisters in Lafayette. There will be two public Masses at Christ the King Church in Little Rock on Saturday, November 8th. St. Therese is likely the most popular saint of our time and of this generation, especially for young Catholics. Many of our sisters came here due to her influence in their lives!

Reliquary of St. Therese

Know of our continued prayers for all of you. Please pray for us, too!

Please Join us for the Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Homilist
Rev. Joseph de Orbegozo, PhL

July 8th - 16th
7:30 pm Every evening
In our chapel

Mary, Mother of Hope

"Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala." (Jn. 19:25) John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, in his Passion account presents a powerful scene: a Jewish mother, along with close relatives and family friends, standing near the cross, beholding one of their own - brutally crucified and cruelly mocked by the crowd of passersby, all under the shadow of Roman occupation. On that day the hopes of many devout worshipers and believers in a promised Messiah or anointed One were dashed. Mary and the others were there receiving the shouted mockeries and scorn, yet remaining close by departing only after the tomb of the crucified Jesus had been sealed with a large rolling stone. The apostles fleeing the bewildering scene of Jesus' arrest, bereft and forlorn huddled themselves together in fear in the upper room. St. Luke recounts in the Acts of the Apostles that after Jesus' resurrection, Mary was with the twelve waiting for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. Without mention of spoken words her very presence among them suffused a firm hope. Like her Son in post resurrection appearances, there was no upbraiding the twelve who had deserted him when accosted in the garden of Gethsemane. Mary, one with them, waiting on the mysterious plan of God to further unfold in their lives, again shines forth as Mother of Hope, one who waits without questioning, waiting with receptivity in the same manner of unquestioning receptivity demonstrated when she welcomed Gabriel's message at the annunciation of the Son of God.

Mary, Mother of Hope by her example and companionship prepares and teaches all of us to wait in confidence as the Creator's plan for our lives unfolds. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, "It is wonderful to think that, when we consider our individual calling, the situations we encounter and the people entrusted to our care, our commitments and responsibilities, and our service in the Church, each of us can say with confidence: 'Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell with in me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his love for others, for society and for the world." (Regina Caeli, Sunday, May 25, 2025)

Let us renew our devotion to Mary
"This is a wonderful moment to renew our devotion to Mary,
in the image of Salus Populi Romani, who has accompanied
the people of Rome through so many of their trials."
"Let us ask God, through the intercession of His Mother,
to bless you all ~ your families, your loved ones ~
and to help us journey together in the Church,
united as one family of God,"
Pope Leo XIV

We invite ALL to celebrate with us
The 75th Anniversary of our Foundation,
The Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus,
on Sunday, August 3rd, 2025
Thanksgiving Eucharist will be at 10:30 am in our Chapel

On this joyful occasion of our Diamond Jubilee we give thanks to God
for His great blessings for our presence in the diocese of Little Rock.