Carmelite Bulletin

Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus

7201 West 32nd St. Little Rock, AR 72204-4716

Autumn 2025 contact@littlerockcarmel.org https://littlerockcarmel.org Vol. 68 No. 3

Dear Friends,

It has been a full Summer here! We pray yours was full of blessings along with some rest and a little vacation time. You have been in our prayers each day.

On the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 15th, our two postulants were clothed in the Carmelite Habit. Renee Kendall received the religious name Sister Beatrice Yona of the Holy Word of God and Angelica Dizon's religious name is Sister Karith Michael of Sorrowful Mother. They are beaming with joy and we are deeply blessed to welcome these fervent novices into our community. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of their Carmelite journey.

Our novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel this year was truly blessed! Most evenings the chapel was full! This is quite unusual for us, and we were so happy for the unexpected attendance. We enjoyed having Fr. Joseph de Orbegozo for seven of the Masses, with Msgr. Lawrence Frederick, our local chaplain, for two of the nights. Our Carmelite Seculars joined us throughout the nine days, as well. Bishop Anthony Taylor was the main celebrant for the solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. We customarily offer Enrollment in the Brown Scapular after Mass on this final night. It was most impressive to see so many come forward to be enrolled (we almost ran out of scapulars!). Thank you to all the local parishes who helped us get the word out beforehand by announcing it at the week-end Masses. Surely, our Lord was pleased to see so many attend!

Soon after the Novena we were happy to welcome two Carmelite nuns from Covington, Louisiana Carmel to our monastery for almost a month. They shared with us their Vietnamese culture via our "cajun" Covington Carmel. What joy they brought to our community with their smiles, laughter, and love - as well as Vietnamese cooking. They were actually just in time for a week of deep monastery cleaning!

On August 22nd, 1950 the first Mass was celebrated to begin the Carmelite nuns' presence in the diocese of Little Rock. We had the 75th anniversary celebration on Sunday, August 3rd, which was a joyous day. We made sure Bishop Taylor would be there to celebrate the Mass, and were delighted to have our Discalced Carmelite friars Fr. Luis Castenada, OCD and Fr. Ralph Reyes, OCD join us. Plus, our chaplain of over 50 years, Msgr. Lawrence Frederick, concelebrated in the Mass. Special friends assisted at the altar, with music and flowers, and with the reception. It was a happy occasion to meet Br. Vladimir Guadalupe, OCD who is a novice for our Semi-Province. We posted a video on our YouTube channel to commemorate the occasion (google "little rock carmel youtube").

This Summer and continuing in the Fall is, obviously, a full schedule for us. It is a yearly tradition to have our seminarians over for Holy Mass and a visit to begin their annual retreat. What a blessing to keep in close contact with them not only through prayer, but also in personal interaction and fellow-ship. Oftentimes we see them return to say one of their first Masses after ordination, and to visit us in the speak room, like newly ordained Fr. Joel Brackett.

Summer is also time for honey harvesting! This year our little flying friends produced over 100 pounds of delicious honey. Our novices, Sr. Beatrice and Sr. Karith Michael, worked hard all day, with some help from Sr. Anu Maria to extract the honey. Much is involved in the process. Our "animal kingdom" is thriving! Toby has finally finished his heartworm treatment and is happily reunited with Sadie. In the courtyard, many baby turtles have appeared, and our hens are faithfully laying eggs each day. Down by the pond, the koi are growing steadily, while the goldfish continue to multiply. Truly, creation is alive and flourishing around us!

Believe it or not, with all the activities here, we still make sure to live our life of prayer and silence. Several sisters have taken their private silent retreats recently, and we maintain our daily horarium (schedule) with the complete Liturgy of the Hours, personal prayer hours, spiritual reading, and on-going formation courses. Each month our federation of Carmelite communities, *Mary, Queen of Carmel Association*, meets on Zoom with Fr. Marc Foley, OCD, one of our Carmelite friars of the Washington Province, for his presentations on St. Therese of Lisieux.

Let us be united in prayer for each other and for the whole world!

Novena Days:

September 23rd - October 1st

Please join us for the Mass of Saint Therese and the Blessing of the Roses

Sunday, September 28th at 7:30 am.

Mass of Saint Teresa on Wednesday

October 15th at 7:30 am

Novena Days:

October 7th - 15th

St. Therese, Steadfast in Love and Hope

As we prepare to receive the relics of St. Therese in our missionary diocese of Arkansas, it is noteworthy to recall her title as Co-Patroness of the Missions alongside of St. Francis Xavier, great missionary to India. Both of these saints, little in their own eyes, but filled with a consuming love and undaunting hope, pursued differently, their inner visions as true apostles. While St. Francis Xavier, a Jesuit missionary traveled widely, St. Therese hid herself in a cloistered convent and chose the love of God toward a few companions in a small communal setting. Both succeeded admirably to love others as Jesus Himself loved them. Both experienced trial and hardship but were unwavering in their pursuit to love without counting the cost.

Therese, a talented young nun took the pen in hand. Possessing a style of her own and the wisdom that flowed demonstrated a remarkable 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. St. Therese carried a small copy of the Gospels over her heart that she might readily refer to Jesus as Wisdom Incarnate. As a young adult she found herself living in a culture where strict social mannerisms were displayed by word and example. Holding fast to her baptismal gift of hope, she rapidly advanced in virtue and displayed by word and example a child-like simplicity and steadfast confidence in a merciful God full of love and compassion.

Patience and struggle are a means by which to strengthen and enlarge our capacity to trust. Our modern culture would have us believe otherwise, offering various plans for personal achievement and fulfillment. Admittedly, generational gaps exist between Therese's life and our own present culture. However, our Catholic faith teaches us that God has a magnificent plan for each of His sons and daughters. To escape the disaster of an unreflective life these questions might be posed: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? How do I get there?

St Therese bridged the distance between the merciful compassion of God the Father and ourselves. Through her openness to the Holy Spirit in her own unique manner, she left a legacy revealing universal love for humankind. Would that all of us might avail ourselves of such marvelous teachings to become light to the world replacing despair with hope. In the words of St. Therese, "Everything is a grace." Her autobiography, "Story of A Soul" has been translated into several languages and serves as a means of teaching and guiding people of all ages and cultures. We welcome the reception of her relics to our diocese as a great blessing this November.

The 100th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Therese of Lisieux
and the Jubilee Year
The relics of St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower)
will visit the Diocese of Little Rock
You are invited to come venerate the relics
at Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock
On Saturday, November 8, 2025
from 10 am till 5 pm
Special Eucharistic Celebrations: 10 am and 5 pm