Carmelite Bulletin

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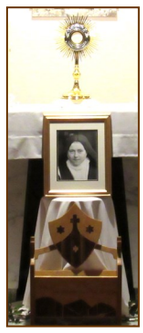
Dear Friends,



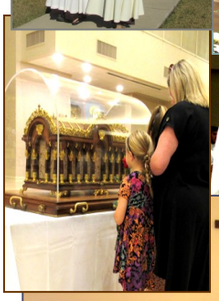
God has poured out his mercies upon us, and blessed us so much since our last bulletin. At that time we were preparing for the Novenas to St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Teresa of Jesus. So that more people could attend, we had the Blessing of Roses on Sunday, September 28th. St. Therese's actual feast day is October 1st. For most of the Church she is celebrated as a memorial. We have always had the privilege of celebrating her as a solemnity because we belong to the semi-province St. Therese in Oklahoma City. It is a blessing that we can pray the full Divine Office of St. Therese with the prayers, psalms and readings that belong exclusively to her feast.

The solemnity of our Holy Mother (foundress of our Order) St. Teresa of Jesus, and patroness of our monastery, comes two weeks after her follower and daughter in Carmel, St. Therese, who was named after St. Teresa of Jesus. Therefore, these two saints are sometimes referred to as "big Teresa" and "little Theresa". If you are local and have been to our monastery in the last few months, you have seen the new bronze statue of St. Teresa on the front lawn of the monastery grounds. She appears to be climbing up the hill with her staff in hand. In due time, when the stonework has been done on the base structure, you will see her higher up on one of the pedestals next to the, also new, bronze sign. These, along with the new statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the chapel narthex, a statue of the Holy Family, and new stations of the cross were a gift from the family of Sr. Cecilia, in memory of her late parents Mr. And Mrs. Chun. They were specially made with the details we requested, and all are so very beautiful.

At the end of October our two novices and their novice mistress (Sr. Lucia) attended the triennial Formation Seminar put on by our association of Carmels, Queen of Carmel Association. The seminar was held in New Orleans this year, so our sisters could drive instead of fly. They enjoyed meeting many other young sisters in formation from 15 different Carmels around the US and one Carmel located in Canada. A Benedictine monk, Fr. Jerome Aubert, OSB, presented the talks on Obedience, which the sisters all said were very good. We are now listening to the recordings for our "table reading" at the noon meals. Our sisters also had the opportunity to visit the Covington, LA Carmel and had a blessed time there with our sisters. Sr. Lucia is from Houma, LA and was able to visit her family. All 13 siblings were present for the occasion! It turned out that she was home for her birthday and brought two cakes home with her (plus some Mardi Gras decorations!).

After a happy reunion with our sisters the very next day the Relics of St. Therese would be here! The evening of November 7th we welcomed the traveling Reliquary of our sister in Carmel, St. Therese of Lisieux, to our monastery. The tour of her Relics to the US started in Michigan on October 1st and would travel to many locations before returning to Lisieux, France December 8th. Our Carmel and city of Little Rock were blessed to be included, thanks to our friars in San Antonio who provided the opportunity.

On the evening of November 7th, the Religious of our diocese and our local Secular Carmelites were invited to pray Vespers and to venerate her relics. We are grateful for our seminarians at the Formation House close by and our friend, Tom Humphries, who transported the large, heavy Reliquary from the van to our chapel, and at other needed transports.



The next day, November 8th, all eleven of us nuns piled into two cars for the 10 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Church in west Little Rock (yes, for this special occasion we left the cloister!). Almost all of us returned back for the second Mass at 5 p.m. Our Bishop Anthony Taylor presided at both Masses. The crowd of people was astounding, especially at the 5 p.m. Mass and we were told there was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day to venerate the relics. Our Secular Carmelites helped give away books from the Institute of Carmelite Studies to spread Therese's story and doctrine of her "Little Way". We also gave out holy cards commemorating the occasion.

The experience of being so close to the remains of one who is widely declared to be the most popular and well-loved saint of modern times was a gift we will treasure for years to come. Our prayers were continually offered for all the intentions given to us (and many more). St. Therese, we know you showered down roses! And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Let us pray for one another as we strive to be witnesses of God's merciful Love.

May you have a Blessed Advent,

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please join us for the Christmas novena
December 16 ~ December 24

Christmas Mass Schedule
Wednesday, December 24th, 7:30 a.m.
Carols 11:45 p.m. Mid-night Mass 12:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 25th, Christmas, 10:00 a.m.

Breaking News ~ The Lord Is Coming

It happened with a clarion call from the shallow waters of the Jordan river, when John the Baptist appeared on the scene announcing, "make ready the way of the Lord." It was joyful news indeed to the poor in spirit who recognized themselves as broken pieces of humanity in need of healing. It came as refreshment to others who had longed for the cleansing power of a spiritual renewal.

In his gospel, St. Luke narrates how Mary and Joseph prepare to respond to the "breaking news" of Augustus Cesar's announcement for registration according to family ancestry. As the birth of the Jesus takes place in the environs of Bethlehem's cave dwellings, some commonplace shepherds keeping a night watch are the recipients of the "breaking news." How joyfully the announcement is made by the glorious heavenly visitors amidst musical fanfare! After responding to the invitation to go and see, they themselves become bearers of the "breaking news" of the Savior's birth.

As the holy family enters the temple forty days after the Child's birth, both Simeon and Anna are quietly alerted to his longed-for arrival. They, themselves, break the news to others in their roles as faithful messengers.

The annual season of Advent in the calendar of the liturgical year fittingly reminds us of Christ's coming among us in his infancy and final coming in glory at the end of time. In the daily scripture readings, the hosts of prophets attune the ear to his approach. We see how John the Baptist listened to the voice of the Spirit and made his own preparation in the desert to be herald of the Anointed One. Establishing some quiet time in our daily routine to read and savor seasonal passages of scriptural content, enables us to be open to the unexpected "comings" of Christ in our lives. This formative manner of "listening to his word" opens the heart in receptivity to welcome and keep Christ present. In whatever form or manner some unexpected "breaking news" invades the privacy of our own interiority, we can experience peace and security in knowing that a loving Father is watching over us and the Spirit of wisdom is at work to guide, heal and unify all for his glory.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

We wish you a very blessed Christmas!