



Flos Carmeli

Planning the 5th Centenary with Teresian verve

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS

Sioux City, Iowa, community

It's been said that how we do one particular thing is how we do everything. There may be some truth to this, especially as we reflect on how Holy Mother would do things. What might we learn from the way in which Teresa founded her monasteries and worked with her sisters that might help us in our planning process for celebrating the fifth centenary of her birth? How would she approach planning such a celebration? When we look to Teresa's person, what might we learn that would be helpful to our planning process? What would be most important to her? What kind of a celebration would she like?

Truly, might she not wish for all of us to be *joyfully* waiting on the Lord for inspiration, and *joyfully* engaging in our preparation process for her Fifth Centenary celebration?

Imagine a group of nuns singing verses that Teresa herself had written—historically sung at the Carmel of Toledo:

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

His SMILE Is My
Gift! 5

Holy Saturday 10

My Spanish holi-
day 18

The Cemetery at
Marylake Monas-
tery 21

News from Around
the Province 26

(Continued from page 1)

Mother Founder

Is coming to recreation;

Let's all dance and sing

And clap our hands in jubilation.

Appreciate the joy, the light-heartedness, the spirit of fun—the dancing! singing! the delight in celebrating God's Presence! I would think that Teresa would initiate a *joyful* process of planning. The fact that she herself wrote the words that declare her intention to celebrate speaks of her heart and soul with clarity. We hear her say, "Our Loving Jesus within us and among us gives us so much, and lavishes such generous goodness upon us, that we cannot *not* celebrate when we come together!" (Letter 169.1)

Another place Teresa writes about approaching life joyfully is in her admonition that we don't need any more sour-faced saints. Again she points to an uplifting approach as a way of being and planning.

Moreover, she always kept before her a clear awareness of *being inspired by God*. She writes to her brother Lorenzo about establishing the foundation of St. Joseph's in Avila:

"I have already written you a long letter about a matter that for many reasons I could not escape doing since God's inspirations are its source. Because these things are hard to speak of in a letter, I mention only the fact that saintly and learned persons think I am obliged not to be cowardly, but to do all I can for this project—a monastery of nuns . . ."

We learn from her *Life* that Teresa delayed creating the foundation because, as she said, she was perfectly content living in the house of the Incarnation, which was very much to her liking. (L 32, 10) Then she wrote to her confessor, Padre Baltasar:

"One day after Communion, His Majesty earnestly commanded me to strive for this new monastery with all my powers, and he made great promises that it would be founded and that he would be highly served in it. He said it should be called St. Joseph . . . and that Christ would remain with us and that it would be a star shining with great splendor . . . and [he] said I should tell my confessor what he commanded . . . [And so] often the Lord returned to speak to me about this new monastery . . . that I saw it was his will. . . ." (L 32, 11-12)

Teresa's founding of a new monastery was not done on her own initiative. She was sent and commanded by Our Lord. We learn further that, in this and in all her initiatives, she was a woman of inner contentment, who kept her heart open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Her constant surrender was a continuous open-hearted readiness before God.

Teresa's tremendously fruitful activity as founder, referring to her founding of new Carmels, and to her then cultivating them through her spiritual motherly leadership, developed from her intense receptivity to powerful mystical graces, as Tomas Alvarez, OCD, writes in his masterful, comprehensive study *St. Teresa of Avila—100 Themes on Her Life and Work*:

"Overflowing . . . of the sort that [makes] Teresa's soul like a fountain [stands] at the top of [her] experience of Christ . . . She needs to transmit [her experiences] as an ideal and a life into the veins of Carmel . . . This is the dynamic experience transmitted in her writings . . . Whenever there come upon her Carmels moments of crisis, her writings will be the liberating force. They will likewise be a transmitting agent of the Teresian movement through the centuries. Without a living reference to Teresa of Jesus, to her experience, to her salvation history, to her written work, her work as founder, the ideal and charism of her Carmel would be unintelligible." (p. 137)

We might learn from Teresa, then, to approach all in the true *joy* of the Lord, and stay open to *inspiration* throughout all our planning, letting God be the God of our Overflowing—taking our concerns to him, taking his concerns from him, and always talking things out with him. Simultaneously, let's be very connected with our community, harmonizing our own with the spiritual experiences of others, and striving to be for and with each other in a nourishing, upbuilding way, as we share Teresa's message of prayer with the church and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

world.

Teresa's work was done in pure communion with God. She totally lived out of her experience of God. Can we create a fifth centenary celebration worthy of her as a loving, joyful overflow of our own lives with God? She is a great model for us of how to do what we need to do, whatever the task at hand.

“May God who favors truth be praised! . . . May it please His Majesty that this all be for His honor and glory.” (*Foundations*, 28.6)

One way to start planning for the Centenary

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS

Sioux City, Iowa, community

Sometimes the major obstacle to overcome when undertaking any major project is just taking that first step. Once taken, momentum begins...and you're launched. Our Spiritual Director, Father Patrick O'Kane, OCDS, of the Sioux City, IA, OCDS Community of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Raphael Kalinowski of St. Joseph invited the Planning Team to one of his “cluster parish” meetings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a Saturday, and facilitated an effective brainstorming session that helped us launch our planning process.

The Planning Team coordinator opened the meeting by leading everyone in praying Teresa's prayer, “I Was Born for You”, and then shared a reflection she had written about how Teresa may have approached doing major projects. In her instance it was founding monasteries. Team members thoughtfully received and commented upon the input.

Then Father O'Kane invited every person on the Planning Team to share what their vision for the day was—exactly what it was that each person hoped would be accomplished during our time spent together. We were instructed to take this input to prayer as we prayed in Adoration for an hour.

“Just let Our Lord give input to us. It's not our work, it's the Lord's work. Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you. Our goal is to begin the planning for our year of celebration,” said Father O'Kane.

We retreated to the chapel and Father exposed the Eucharist for Adoration. We prayed Morning Prayer together, did our prayer of recollection, and listened for inspiration from the Holy Spirit. After an hour of prayer in Adoration, we re-gathered in the meeting area and Father O'Kane introduced “SWOT”—Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats—for us to look at in terms of our community. We wanted to assess the reality at hand, determine the needs that we might address, and plan a celebration for our community and local church that will meet those needs, as well as personally deepen and effectively share our Carmelite spirituality.

So our Planning Team together named Strengths of our community, i.e. active members, excellent leadership, variety of gifts, prayerfulness, being blessed to pray with Carmelite nuns since we meet at their monastery, etc. Then we named Weaknesses, such as lack of diversity—racially, gender-wise, culturally—lack of younger members, financial restraints, etc. We moved on to naming Opportunities at hand, such as how planning for the upcoming Teresian celebration gives us the opportunity to get to

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

know everyone in our community better, share who we are with the Diocese, educate others, develop our apostolate, publish articles in the diocese newspaper, etc. Then we listed Threats, such as age of members, inability to communicate with everyone electronically, the apathy of fallen away Catholics in the community, our lack of ease with apologetics, etc.

Following discussions on these four areas and holding this information freshly in our minds, we reflected on four additional areas: Community, Message, Prayer Experiences, and Service. Again, we listed what we would like to do for our community within our community, and for the community at large, that appropriately fits in with the strengths and weaknesses and opportunities and threats previously listed.

From this list, we will come to agreement on the ideas we wish to submit to our Council for approval, and then present to our community. Then we will flesh out our plans more thoroughly. We decided that we didn't want to use any us-them language, Planning Team versus everyone else in the community. Instead, we are going to keep our language consistently plural referring to all of us as Carmel together, yet keep a Planning Team that is at once always open for all members to participate in, and is accountable to the community for the final coordinating of the details and follow-through of the centenary celebration. Once the Council approves of our activities, we will plan a year's calendar in which we will focus on one activity a month, and we will design this calendar such that it builds up to a Mass celebrating Teresa's 5th Centenary Anniversary in October 2015. We're looking forward to working through this process and putting together a celebration that would thoroughly delight our Holy Mother Teresa.

Our community will continue to hold this planning process in prayer as we continue to pray for one another, and that indeed God's will be done joyfully.

May Jesus be praised throughout it all!

We have added a new "online library" to our provincial website. This online library will contain links or PDF files of articles relating to Carmelite spirituality that have appeared in publication and are now available online. Please check it out at <http://www.thereocds.org/Library.html>

His SMILE is my Gift!

*By Dorothy Ashley, OCDS
Community of Jackson, MS*

Hello Everyone!

Daddy—Mr. James R. Davis—passed into eternity yesterday (Friday, September 27) at Trinity Mission Health and Rehabilitation Center in Clinton, MS.

The last time I saw Dad alive was Thursday night (September 26). That evening, about 6pm, he was still in bed, but should have been up because it was suppertime. However, because he had been resistive and combative earlier when the nurse assistants had attempted to get him up, they had left him in bed (the patient has a "right" to refuse) and were going to come back later to try again. My middle son, Gerard, and I came near his bed and spoke. He spoke back but did not open his eyes until later. When he did, he recognized us and spoke to my son by his first name.

Using a transfer belt, my physical therapy transfer skills, proper body mechanics, and Gerard's help, we first put his pants and shoes back on, then transferred him from his bed to his wheelchair. Dad was as meek as a lamb. I rolled him to his dining room, got his tray, and fed him. He was a slow eater, and I dabbled in conversing with him, trying to catch him up on some of "the happenings" with me, my husband and children, as well as his siblings. When he finished eating, I rolled him to the "game room" where there is a wall HDTV and introduced him to Gerard's lady friend. He was quite the gentleman as he told her, "Good morning!" (Laugh!) I stood behind his wheelchair and massaged both sides and the back of his neck and gently stretched the tight muscles in the upper part of his neck, especially on the right side.

I rolled him back to his room about 8pm, and my son and I transferred him from his wheelchair back to bed, removed his shoes and pants, fluffed his pillows, and covered him with his spread. I also placed a pink wedge between his head and the bedrail on the right as he would always lean his head and his body to the right and, as a result, would sometimes get his head too close to the bedrail. He already had rubbed a sore on his right forehead from doing this.

He closed his eyes immediately as if relaxed and comfortable and ready for sleep. I had noticed some level of discomfort in his facial expressions and body language when he had been sitting up. Before I left, I began doing my usual "ritual," which I had gotten into the habit of doing after he had come to live with my husband and me in late November, before we had to place him in a nursing home.

When dad came to live with us, he was still walking, talking, and moving independently. After he would go through his bedtime ritual of washing his face, brushing his teeth, and using the toilet, either Ray or I would assist him with taking his clothes off and putting on his PJ's. One of us would also assist him with donning his sleep apnea mask and hooking the mask up to his bipap machine. Then he would lie down, and whoever was on "bedtime duty" would "tuck him in," so to speak, then turn off the overhead light and say, "Good Night."

This was the nightly bedtime ritual. But after a couple of weeks of this, I was convicted (by the Holy Spirit) that something was missing. I knew immediately what it was . . . It was bedtime prayer. Dad had been a man of prayer, but Alzheimer's was slowly snatching his ability to REMEMBER to pray. However, once reminded, he could pray as well as any Missionary Baptist preacher. (Smile!) So,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

as part of the "bedtime ritual," after he'd lain down, I started initiating saying "The Lord's Prayer" and would tell him to just pray in silence with me as Ray and/or I prayed aloud. If I remembered, I would deliberately delay putting on his bipap mask so he could pray aloud with me/us while still sitting on side of the bed. I would continue to pray (sometimes aloud, sometimes silently) holding my hand on his forehead and holding four (yes, four) blessed medals in my hand: the Miraculous medal, the St. Benedict medal—one of my favorite saints and religious namesake—a St. Martin de Porres medal, and the medal of St. Therese, the Little Flower. My silent prayer to Jesus always included these intercessions:

1. Help me be able to take care of my dad at home or as best I could and to give me the wisdom and the means to be able to do effectively.
2. I asked Jesus to allow Daddy to keep his mobility (which would help to ensure #1.)
3. I prayed that his golden years would be joyful.
4. I prayed that he would not have to suffer.
5. I prayed for his eternal salvation.
6. I prayed for him to have a peaceful, happy death whenever the appointed time came. These were always my silent prayers as I touched his forehead each night.

I was satisfied with our added prayers for a few weeks until the Holy Spirit again spoke to me in the quietness of my mind. This time He asked:

"Dorothy, this is a special time of grace that I am giving you and your father as you journey with him in his last days here on earth. Are you doing all you can? Is there anything more that you can do? Will you have any regrets of something that you did NOT do and you could have? I know you want no regrets—this is what will give you peace when that day comes . . . to be able to say truthfully, 'I did the best I knew how to do with my father.'"

Well, there WAS one thing . . . I had not told my father orally that I loved him. Oh, I had given him many cards that expressed that sentiment, and had demonstrated my love and fidelity to him, yet I could not remember saying those words. I didn't grow up saying that to my parents, nor they to me. Intuitively I knew they loved me and they knew I loved them. BUT—for me to express it orally would definitely take me out of my comfort zone and give me a dose of HUMILITY. Thus, I resolved to begin saying "I love you" every night that I assisted my dad with his "bedtime ritual" because I never knew when it might be the LAST time I would see him alive. I WANTED NO REGRETS!!!

So, the last time I saw him alive, on Thursday night, September 26, after we put him back in bed and he fell asleep, I placed my hand gently on his forehead (no medals) to pray silently. He opened his eyes (Alzheimer's patients respond to gentle touch), saw it was me, his daughter, then closed them again. I prayed silently, just me with him. When my prayer was finished, AS USUAL, I bent down and kissed his right cheek, and told him I was leaving to go home. Then I said, "I love you, Daddy." Something connected. He opened his eyes, looked straight at me, and had the biggest grin on his face! After a few seconds he went back to sleep, and we left.

Little did I realize that would be the last time I would see Daddy alive! Jesus gave me that Smile as a Gift from my daddy and from Him. I am so thankful to have been able to share this journey and time of grace with my father, and I can truly say that I did the best I knew how to do and because of this, and God's help, I HAVE NO REGRETS!

Statue of St. Therese receives marker

By Judy Treadway , OCDS

Dallas community

While showing my Vacation Bible School class the statue of Saint Therese and her father near St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Dallas (below), I asked them, "Do you know who these two people are in this statue?" Since no marker was available describing the scene, the class began to guess. "Oh, it's a guy asking a girl to marry him!" was one answer. No one knew, so I had a chance to tell them the story of St. Therese asking her father to become a Carmelite sister. Another VBS teacher passing by heard the story and was surprised to learn about the Little Flower. She later brought her class on a field trip to the statue and relayed the same story.

These were all good teaching moments. But what about the hundreds of people who pass by the statue on their way to church every Sunday when no one is around to explain about the statue. A descriptive marker would be ideal.

God provides! The Dallas Carmelite community heard about the situation and saw an opportunity to promote our Carmelite saint and possibly Carmelite vocations. Since we had money in our treasury, the community agreed to fund installation of a marker telling the story of the Little Flower and her dad, Blessed Louis Martin. The pictures below show the marker being installed and the completed project. The marker was dedicated on September 29th with a Mass and blessing by the pastor, Father Michael Dugan. Thank you Lord!



2014 OCDS Congress
August 21-24, 2014
Atlanta, GA

Blessed is the heart in love, Centered on God Alone



The logo design is a stylized version of a Cherokee Rose blossom, the state flower of Georgia. In the center of the design is a heart, intended to echo the theme of the congress, and five thorns/nails that symbolize the five wounds of Christ. These thorns/nails both radiate outward from the heart, embracing all, and draw inward towards the heart, gathering us ever closer to He Who is love itself.

Congress Website: <http://2014ocdscongress.net/>
Congress Email Address: 2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com

(Continued on page 9)

We Need Your Help!



We Want To Publish Your Favorite Recipes!



The Georgia OCDS communities are collecting recipes from members of the Province of St. Therese to be published in a beautiful, spiral-bound cookbook.

This cookbook is a fundraiser to support the 2014 OCDS Regional Congress. Cookbooks will be available for purchase on the Congress website in 2014 and at the Congress.

This is a great opportunity to share our favorite regional culinary specialties.

**Please send us your favorite recipes
no later than October 31, 2013.**

Send a family favorite, your best potluck dish, grandma's favorite or a recipe you created.

There's no limit, but not all recipes may be included due to duplicates and limited space. Send yours in early.

Please submit your recipes by either emailing them to mshusta@yahoo.com or sending them to Mary Shusta, 220 26th St. NW, Apt. 6411, Atlanta, GA 30309. Please include the recipe, your name and phone number, and your community name and city/state.

Holy Saturday

And now He rests in the cold silence of the tomb.

And Mary waits

In the cold silence of her heart,

In the speechless depths of her sorrow,

In the total trust of her hope,

In her knowledge of her Son Who Is.

She grieves. She hopes.

With what she knows,

She waits in naked faith

Having given her all.

I want to wait with her.

I am waiting with her.

My life is a Holy Saturday of waiting with Mary in faith, hope and
love . . .

For what I love,

For what I grieve,

For what I trust,

For what I believe.

Having given my all, I wait in stillness with the Holy Mother.

For her Son. And for all things to be made new.

In the darkness I hear her whisper to herself what she said long ago to
an angel,

"I am the littlest handmaid of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you
have said." How hard this is to say now.

But she says it with love.

The love with which she has always moved.

And will move again.

I will move with her by His grace.

Pray for me, Holy Mother,

And I will follow after Him

With you.

Shawn Chapman

Austin, Texas, Community



Casa Generalizia Carmelitani Scalzi
Corso d'Italia, 38
00198 Roma – Italy

Definitory Letter (18)

+ September 14, 2013

Very dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,
PEACE.

On 6th September, after having taken part during three day in the IV International Teresian Congress, which was centred on the study of the “Interior Castle”, in CITEs (Avila), Fr General and the Definitors met in Rome for the 18th meeting of the sexennium. Fr George Tambala joined us on the 8th, after having given a conference in the congress. Very much present in our prayers were our brothers of the Order of Carmel, who were meeting to celebrate their General Chapter. On September 12, Fr Fernando Millán Romeral was reelected as their General for another six years.

In the past months, the Definitory carried out the following visits: Fr General was in the Province of South Brazil, Fr Marcos Jüchem visited the Carribean Commissariat and Fr Peter, for his part, visited the General Delegation of Taiwan-Singapore and the Commissariat of Indonesia. Fr Augustine Mulloor carried out a fraternal visit of the Tamil Nadu Province.

Apart from discussing particular questions relating to these areas of jurisdiction, we were able to reflect once again on an aspect—[our practice of prayer]—which to us seems vital and for this reason we want to share with you: building Teresian community . . .

The solution to this problem—[lack of dedication to the practice of prayer]—first of all, is to recognize the causes of the impoverishment of prayer life in our communities. It appears to us that the most important cause is the lack of what we could call a prayer culture . . . To pray together, everyone dedicated at the same time to dialogue alone with the one we know loves us – then finding time to share our experience in prayer – makes us grow in friendship with the Risen One, while strengthening our bonds as a community . . .

To generate this culture demands devoting time to the pedagogy of prayer, not only in initial training but also in life-long learning . . .

During these day, we studied the contributions from various fraternities throughout the world concerning the planned reform of the OCDS Constitutions. For these we are truly grateful. Fr Alzinir Debastiani, the General’s Delegate, worked to make a faithful synthesis of these contributions, which he presented to Fr General and his Definitory so that we can prepare a definite text, which will be presented as soon as possible to the Congrega-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

tion for Consecrated and Apostolic Life, in the hope of prompt approval.

.....

. . . the international commission [for the celebration of the Fifth Centenary of the Birth of Holy Mother] set up at the beginning of the sexennium by the Definitory, continues its work, particularly in what refers to community and pastoral organization. For the first, the text has already been released throughout the Order and the Teresian family for the continued reading of Teresa's writings: a selection of letters and brief writings have been set out. These will be supported by the publication of brochures— as has always been done—which can be downloaded from the web site www.paravosnaci.com. At the same time, there has been prepared a new web page www.lugaresteresianos.com in which, for now, it is possible to make a virtual visit to the church and birth chapel of Teresa of Jesus in Avila— “La Santa”. Later on we will continue adding other places where the life of Teresa unfolded, enabling us to peek at them from the window of the Internet.

In the area of pastoral organization, the commission is preparing an offer of pilgrimages and meetings in Avila, including visits to the tomb of St Teresa in Alba de Tormes, during the centenary year. These meetings will be organized in collaboration with the Spanish Episcopal Conference and the Diocese of Avila, as well as with other nearby Dioceses. Pastoral and catechetical material is being prepared which will help all our areas of jurisdiction to celebrate the centenary and, in brief, the first official commemorative poster will be sent to all the Provinces and monasteries of the Order . . .

Another communication tool is the Centenary's Facebook page, in which is daily offered images and writings of Saint Teresa, in association with a Twitter account (both also accessible through www.paravosnaci.com). Our statistics inform us that this source is mainly utilized by Spanish speaking countries. It would be good if other countries made use of this means of communication by visiting it and sending in material to the Order's directors of communication at ocdinform@gmail.com so that they can make it known and share it with everyone. On the other hand, for the coordination and organization of the pastoral, liturgical and cultural activities, which the celebration of the centenary in Spain will involve, the Order has formed a non-profit foundation based in CITeS, Avila. We are waiting for the creation of a Commission for the centennial by the Spanish Government, as well as the official Constitution of the Commission of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, to begin working together. One of our objectives, as you know, is to have the Holy Father visit Spain for the centenary during 2015. For this purpose, Fr General has maintained contact recently with Mons. Juan Antonio Martínez Camino, Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid and spokesman-secretary of the Spanish Episcopal Conference.

As an Order, we are aware of the responsibility of offering a quality response at every level in the place which will be the “epicentre” of the centenary, which is the Carmelite monastery in Avila, in which is the birth chapel of Saint Teresa. In this regard, we have received with pleasure a letter from the Provincial of Castile, in which he informs us of some efforts already begun in this respect and, at the same time, asking the support of the General House.

(Continued from page 12)

The “La Santa” community must expect an enormous influx of pilgrims during the centenary year. For this reason, we must raise awareness, as an Order, to offer assistance to our friars working there and the first step will be to assure a presence there which can attend to the visitors in various languages, to offer them adequate pastoral, liturgical and catechetical assistance. As the Definitory, following the request of the Provincial of Castile, but also convinced of the need to respond to this just demand, we have also begun to contact some religious and superiors, offering them the possibility to spend that year in the community of Avila. Only in this way, also in collaboration with the CITEs community, can we give a proper and dignified response to help those who, at that time, will want to get to know our Holy Mother . . .

We invite you to visit the Centennial website to keep informed, although we will try to get news to you through all the channels available to us . . .

With sincere affection, we commend ourselves to your prayers, while assuring you of ours. Your brothers in the Carmel of Mary, Joseph and Teresa,

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, Superior General

Fr Emilio J. Martínez

Fr Albert Wach

Fr Augustine Mulloor

Fr Robert Paul

Praise be to God and the Virgin Mary

Fr Marcos Juchem

Fr Peter Chung

Fr George Tambala

Fr John Grennan



MARY'S LITTLE BABY

Two little eyes I've waited to see
Now flutter gently and look up at me.
My child, God's Child, my son, God's Son.
Our glances meet and we are one.

Once heart against heart, now having to
part
Ripping the ties that will open the way
To a Promised Land for all in a future day.

Child of my dreams, God's promise to me
I have but this moment before others will
see
And know how great You were born to be.

The first teardrop sheds from your tiny eye
For the sin of the world is ever so neigh.
Cry not my Baby, for I am here close to you.
Sleep now in peace my little Jesu.

Dorothy Mansen, OCDS

Jesus in the Workplace—The Eagle Press Room

Part 2

By Shawn Chapman, OCDS, Austin community

Continued from the previous issue, summer 2013 . . .

Eventually if the guys at work had something they wanted to say that was “bad,” they would tell me to turn off my headset so that I couldn’t hear them. I would roll my eyes and turn it off. After a while I did not have to turn it off so much. We liked to make each other happy instead.

Richard, one of my coworkers, got me a kid chair to put with everyone else’s in the foreman’s office so I could have my own seat at our morning meeting even though the catcher (my job) is not usually a part of that at all. I didn’t find that out until later. I just assumed the meeting was for me, too, and they treated me like I was supposed to be there. They accepted me. They let me in.

I loved hearing about their lives and Mondays were my favorite days because I missed them over the weekend. One time they were talking about a pretty new girl who was working there up front, and I asked if beauty was kind of healing for them because they liked looking at her so much. They liked this comment a lot. “Yes,” one of them said, “I guess you could say that.” They were all smiling. They thought I was funny. And I thought they were funny, too. We knew how each other was. And it was all fine. I listened intently to their problems, and put Band-Aids on their wounds, and they tried to help me with my troubles, comfort me when I cried, and make sure I didn’t lose my keys.

I got mono one time and they kept calling me to see about me and ask when I was coming back. One time my brother got on the phone, “Get back here! They’re right back to the way they used to be before you started to work here! They’re awful!”

I loved that these guys had been together all their lives, watched each other’s kids grow up, had been there for each other in bad times, had played maybe a thousand or more basketball games together and remembered every one of those games and could tell you about it, as well as every repair they had done on each others’ cars and motorcycles and houses and plumbing and so on. They were honorable guys in so many ways. There was so much good and beauty in each of them. They came to like me, too, and accept my quirks and oddities—like the way I don’t eat meat, or don’t drink, or smoke, or do anything fun as far as they could tell at first, or the way I will cry easily, or the way I daydream and lose count of the bundles coming out or of how many skids I’ve stacked, or the way I blew bubbles on the roof when we were supposed to be putting up the Christmas lights (and people on the busy road were staring at us and the publisher was sure to hear about it), or the way I got bored when people talked about boring stuff like engines, money, or tools, or the way I was kind of sensitive sometimes.

When I made fun of them they thought it was great. One time they went too far teasing me and I went into the bathroom and cried and wouldn’t come out. They were totally freaked out until I came out of there. They tried to get my brother’s secretary, Cindy, to go in after me and get me to come out. When I finally did, they were so sorry and I just wanted them to forget about it and not feel so bad.

On my birthday one year they wrote me a song, “Our Angel,” and performed it for me at our morning meeting. I cried I was so touched. I could barely stay in the room with all that love, appreciation, and acceptance. They had to tell me it was OK, to just listen. One time they had said they wanted to heal my broken heart. I hope they know they did. They brought me out of myself and loved me and helped me be

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

part of life again.

I remember all their middle names. I remember their birthdays. To this day I make them cakes every year for their birthdays, and one of them (usually Mike or Mel) will call me on my birthday on behalf of them all. I ended up marrying the only one of them who was a complete atheist. That was Bob, and he ended up Catholic.

They have fixed my cars, helped me around the house, and are still there for me though I have not worked there officially for a few years now. When I bring a cake for one of their birthdays, they stick to the tradition I started when I was there of singing Happy Birthday to the person and telling stories about him. If I forget, they remind me.

Now and then they remind me that my rosary, which I prayerfully hung on one of the press motors when the press was down one terrible night, is still there, melted into the metal that got so hot during the crisis. I think that is symbolic. We are in each other's hearts.

Looking at them one time, and thinking about who each of them was, I prayed to Jesus about them, that he would bless them and not worry too much about some things because the good things were so good. I reflected that he knew them better than I did and loved them better, too. He brought us together and he knew what he was doing.

By the way, I am certainly not perfect in case you haven't noticed yet. Whenever I showed evidence of my imperfections, they would start laughing and say, "We gonna tell them Carmelites you said that!" Or they would tell me I would have to go to Confession this Saturday if I didn't stop that.

One time Jason, another coworker, said that I never said anything bad about anyone. Everyone agreed. I know that is not true, but it's wonderful that they think it. It's good to have encouragement about something one is striving for. I want to be good for them and they want to be good for me. At the same time we accept one another. I think this is a good balance.

Jesus said, "Whoever hears you hears me." I hope it also means, "Whoever loves you loves me," because I love those guys. And they love me. "Where my disciple is there will I be also." We all turned out to be disciples, even though maybe some of us didn't know we were. "Wherever there is love, there is God," said St. Thomas Aquinas.

So what is the advice in this story? Looking over this, it might be something like "Let love happen," or "Find Jesus everywhere," or maybe, "Don't be so uncool."

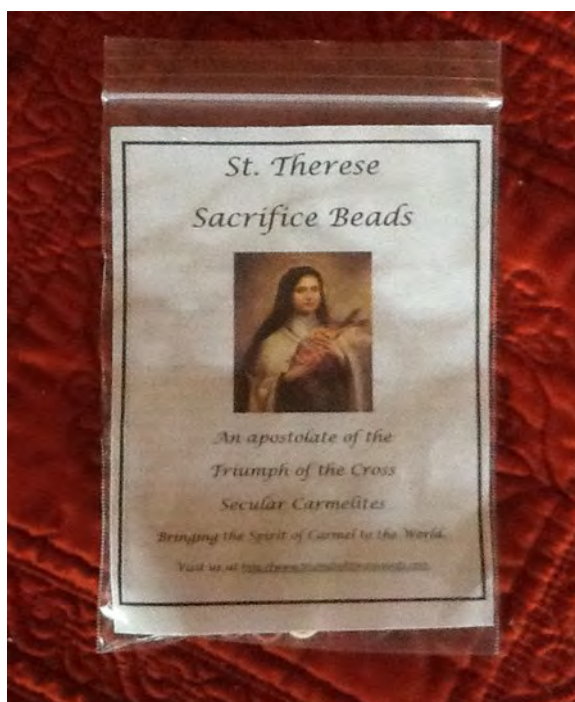
After a while Jesus shines out on both sides. It's easy then.

If you're reading this, guys, I love you! Get back to work too!

Georgetown community plans day of reflection

The Triumph of the Cross Study Group in Georgetown, TX, is sponsoring an area wide “Day of Reflection” at Frizelle Hall located at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown on Saturday, October 26th from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. This special event features Brother Joel Giallanza whose theme will be: “Living the Little Way of Saint Therese in Everyday Life.”

BROTHER JOEL GIALLANZA, CSC, is Executive Director of Holy Cross Institute at St. Edwards University in Austin, TX, and the author of numerous books and articles. He has spoken extensively around the world. He has been involved in formation, retreat ministry, and province and congregational administration. Brother Joel also has provided beautifully inspirational Carmelite retreats for the Triumph of the Cross group.



The study group will provide a light lunch to participants and are making “sacrifice beads” [see photo] that will be available for a free-will donation.

The Triumph of the Cross Community is eager to “show the face of Carmel” to participants and to the world.

My Spanish holiday

By Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

I was in Spain this past September 16-21 to attend an international congress on communications, an event of the Order. Friars from around the world, representing their various provinces, gathered in Avila, at CITEs—which stands for “Centro Internacional Teresiano-Sanjuanista”—to listen to presentations and discuss issues around the topic of communication—communication, that is, both within the Order and the provinces and without, to a waiting or not so waiting world. Of course, using my phone I took a few pictures here and there. First, then, to the right, is a photo taken from the window of my room. As you can see, CITEs is outside the walls of Avila. But there they are, visible from my window, the famous walls of Avila.



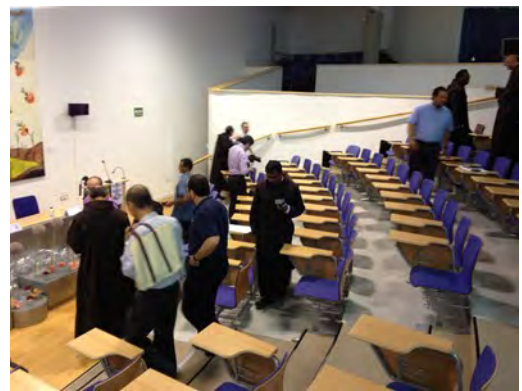
CITEs, as a building, is interesting in its design, to put it mildly. It is star-shaped, with five points and two inner courtyards. It takes a little while, therefore, to get your bearings, and first time guests notoriously get lost. Here is a photo, to the left, of one of the two inner courtyards, the one that



greeted me whenever I stepped from my room into the hallway.

Next is a photo, just below, of the conference room where we met. I took it during a break in the proceedings, with a few of the friars mingling about, having returned from the break room with coffee in hand.

The presentations were translated into four languages, Spanish, Italian, French, and English. That is the way these sorts of international gatherings usually work. Four translators sit in the back of the conference room, nestled in sound-proof booths. They listen to the presentation being delivered



in

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

whichever of the four languages is being used and then translate it into their designated language, speaking into a microphone. This translation is then fed wirelessly out to gizmos each friar has been given, and he is able to listen to it through earphones. All things considered, and given our limitations, the system works pretty well.

The congress in Avila ended on Saturday, September 21. I then returned to Madrid that afternoon to spend a few days downtown, near the center of town, all by myself, enjoying the parks, museums, street life, sidewalk cafés—the whole ambiance of a dynamic, gracious European city.



On Sunday, of course, I went to mass, finding a church, *Nuestra Señora de la Soledad*, near where I was staying. Entering the church I found a seat—there were many to pick from—towards the front and to the left of the sanctuary. I sat down, looked up, and, lo and behold, there before me, above the side altar, was a really quite lovely statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. There, to the left, is a photo.

While the church was certainly not packed for mass—it was, after all, 8:00 PM on a Sunday evening, in downtown Madrid—yet surprisingly perhaps there were quite a few young people in attendance, who then came forward for communion. The liturgy was simple. The cantor sang beautifully. And I could follow the priest as he gave his homily only somewhat, in a piecemeal fashion, for he spoke with a quick Castilian clip.

As I said, I enjoyed the many, many sidewalk cafés of downtown Madrid. Among them were more than a few Starbucks. After spending most of Monday afternoon at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, which houses a huge collection of 20th Century art, I stopped

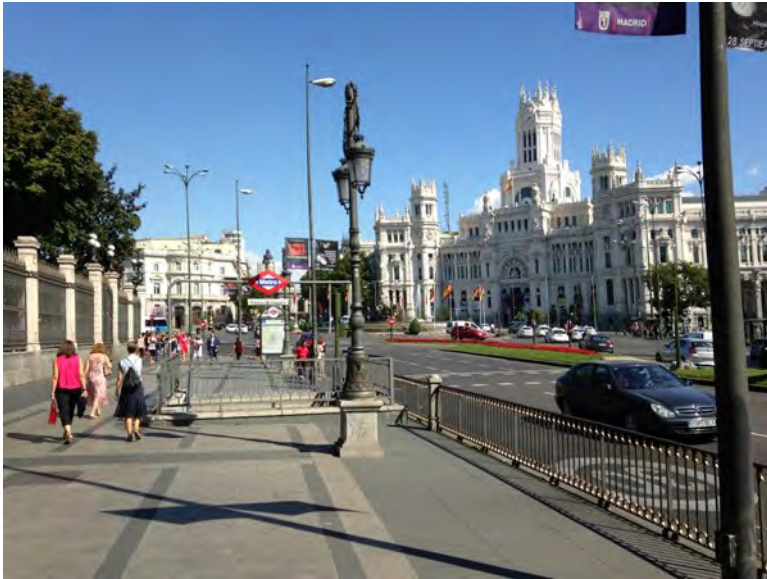
at one of these Starbucks, got myself some coffee—so as to revive the drooping spirit—and then went outside and sat down. At the table next to where I was sitting some previous patrons had left the last few crumbs of a pastry. A pigeon, wanting nothing to go to waste, soon came to help himself to these leftovers. He perched there pecking away just long enough for me to snap his picture. There is, in the photo to the right.



I finish with two photos of Madrid. The first, at the top of the next page, is one of Madrid by day—a view of the Plaza de Banco España, or something like that. The building shown is typical of the rather grand style of governmental and financial and, at times, commercial buildings that line La Gran Vía, La Calle de

(Continued on page 20)

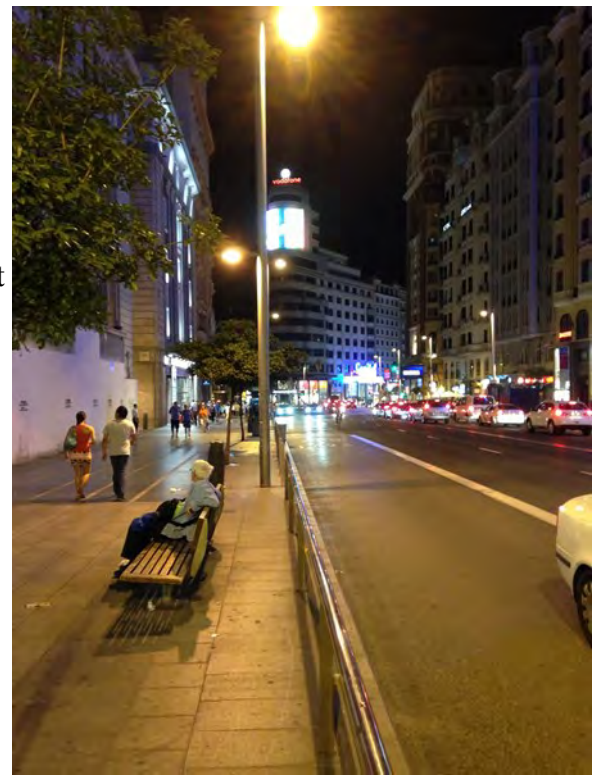
(Continued from page 19)



Traffic along La Gran Vía, consisting mostly of taxis and buses, is constant by day or night. Pedestrians, for their part, come in all shapes and sizes, drawn from diverse ethnic groups and nationalities, as you would expect in such a cosmopolitan city as Madrid. There was even, on one particular occasion, a bewildered American strolling along, hands in pockets, thinking life is good, with no reason to believe otherwise.

Alcalá, El Paseo de Prado—the whole network of streets, both large and small, that twist here and there and always threaten to confuse, comprising the area of downtown Madrid where I was staying.

The second photo, just below, is one of Madrid by night, a view looking east along La Gran Vía—which is Spanish for Broadway, as indeed that is what it is. At the end you can see one of the buildings of the Plaza de Callao.



Deceased Friars of the Province at the PROVINCIAL CEMETTERY Marylake Monastery

~prepared by Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD~



Fr. Juan Molina
1877-1926 at age 48
Spaniard came to USA
from Cuba half year
before fatal hit by car
on Oklahoma City
Street. d. at 48 yrs.



Fr. Gerard Guiral
1865-1938 / 65 in OKC
p. in Desert at 26
o. Valencia at 32
ransomed by Spanish
king; USA 1925 x Mex
Died at 68 years



Fr. Ramon Gomez
1889-1941 38 in OKC
p. in Desert at 17
o. Zaragoza at 24
came to USA 1921
prov. delg. 1925-'28
d. of stroke at 51



Bernard Brotons,
1880-1942 in SAT at 53
p. in Desert at 18
o. Zaragoza at 24
Pioneer USA, Apr. 1914
1st Novitiate Prior
Died at 61.



Boguslaus Jacaszek
1866-1943 at 71 in OKC
p. in Poland at 21
o. in Poland at 27
came to USA in 1916
d. in Hartshorne OK
at 77 years of age



Fr. Thomas Montrull
1909-1945 at age 24

p. in Desert at 16
m. USA 1932 at 22
o. in Dallas at 23
d. San Antonio at 36
of pneumonia



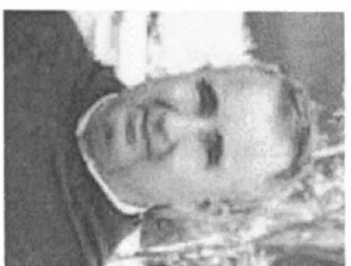
Fr. José Cantavella
1894-1946 at 42 yrs.

p. & o. Spain (16 & 24)
USA '31. Vicar Prov. in '41.
1945-Aug '46 when car
killed General & sec'y
d. Shamrock TX at 51.



Brother Alphonse, TOCD
1878-1948 at 64 in OKC

house painter m. to Okc
3rd Order Regular in
Nov '41; mental suffering
Stoerckel of Philadelphia
d. in St Louis at 67 .



Bro. Luis Duran, 1877-
1948 at age 52 in SAT

b. near Valencia
p. Valencia at 28
Exiled from Mexico
to USA 1916 x Torreon
d. Oklahoma City at 70.



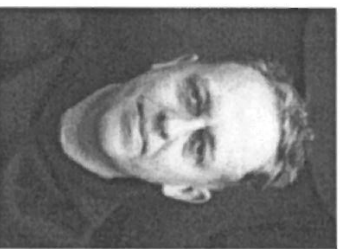
Fr. Edward Soler, 1879-
1953 at age 47 in SAT

p. & o. Spain at 16 & 22
USA Nov '14 x Mexico
1st Prov. delg. 1914
1st Provincial 1947
d. San Antonio at 73.



Bartholomew Soler
1901-1953 at age 31

p. in Desert at 17
o. Zaragoza at 24
USA 1931 < Spain
Took most photos
d. at 51 in Mexico



Fr. Francis Bacon
1908-1955 at 45

b. Kenoska Wisconsin
p. San Antonio at 29
o. in Dallas at 34
car wreck near Hot
Springs AR at 46



Father Cyril Corbato
1871-1955 at 57

o. Secular Priest
p. in Desert at 29
Pioneer USA Apr. 1914
vicar prov.: 1942-1945
d. in Dallas at 82



Jerome Castellet
1887-1955 at 46

b. Castellon, Spain
p. in Desert at 18
o. Zaragoza at 26
USA 1921 < Spain
d. in Dallas at 68



Bro. Carmelo Palau
1879-1960 at age 54

b. near Valencia
p. at 25 / USA 1926
smuggled from Mexico
trees by full moon
d. at 81 in Oklahoma



Fr. Elias Giesake
1920-1962 / 30 in Okc

b. Sacramento CA
p. TX at 20; o. OK 27
Prior OKC / car wreck
in Seminole OK
d. in OKC at 41



Fr. Andrew Palmero
1919-1973 at 52

b. Sacramento CA
p. San Antonio at 20
o. OKC at 26
Nov. Mast. 1954-'57
d. in Dallas at 54



Fr. Luis Benages
1875-1964 at 58

p. & o. Spain [23 & 28]
Pioneer USA Apr 1914
Mex: 1913 & '21-'26
USA: 1914-17 & '26-
d. in Dallas at 89



Fr. Aurelio de Paz
1901-1974 at 71

b. Valladolid, Spain
p. & o. Burgos [16 & 24]
USA 1962 < Brazil
Burgos Provincial
1951-57. d. at 72.



Father Gerard Vara
1918-1967 21 in OKC

b. San Antonio TX
p. San Antonio at 20
o. at 26 with Michael
Novice Master '57-60
d. of cancer at 48



Fr. Helladius Lopez
1904-1977 at 28

b. Valencia, Spain
p. at 20 / USA 1931
o. OKC OK at 28
Nov. Mast. 1942-
d. San Antonio 72



Fr. Innocent Gomez
1885-1969 at 60

p. in Desert at 16
o. Caravaca at 23
USA 1926 < Mex City
Student Master
d. in Dallas at 83



Br. George Edmonds
1915-1980 at 40 yrs

b. NY adopted to TX
p. San Antonio at 24
sol. prof. at 27
d. San Antonio at 64
diabetic complications



Fr. Vincent Martinez
1896-1971 at 40

b. in Alcaccer Spain
p. & o. Spain 18 & 24
USA 1927 < Valencia
1st Vicar Prov 1936-
d. Wash DC at 82



Fr. Robert Butler
1915-1981 59 in AR

b. in Los Angeles CA
p. San Antonio at 20
o. OKC OK at 37
mental suffering
d. consumption at 66



Fr. Louis Larrange
1911-1983 at 84

b. & p. Navarra at 16
o. in India at 24
Bosque Separatist
USA 1956 < Panama
d. Dallas at 71.



Fr. Sebastian Valles
1905-1985 at 38

b. Castellón, Spain
p. Desert at 16
o. Zaragoza at 23
Provincial 1948-51
d. San Antonio at 80



Simon Stock Arenos
1896-1986 at 31

b. Castellón, Spain
p. in Desert at 21
o. San Luis Potosi 30
USA in 1927
d. Marylake at 90



Father Patrick Ahern
1922-1987 at 41

b. in New York NY
p. SAT w Pascal at 21
o. in OKC at 26
Nov. Mast. 1951-54
d. Honduras > NY at 65



Br. Victor Kopycinski
1917-1990 at 59

b. Leadwood MO
p. San Antonio at 22
sol. prof. w Raymond at 25
Prov. Councillor 1972-'75
d. of cancer at Myk at 73



Fr. Gabriel Henrich
1915-1992 at 30

b. St. Louis MO
p. San Antonio at 19
o. Oklahoma City at 25
Prov Coun '54-60; '81-84
d. San Antonio at 77



Fr. Raymond Donoho
1917-1993 at 59

b. Corsicana TX
p. San Antonio at 22
o. Wash. DC at 28
Prov.: '54, '63, '66, '78
& '81; d. SAT at 76



Fr. Louis Scagnelli
1916-1998 at 72

b. Brockton MA
p. San Antonio at 19
o. OKC OK at 26
Prov Coun '89, & '72
d. San Antonio at 82



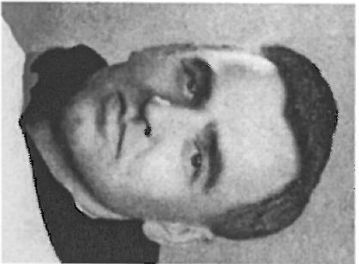
Mister Elmo Tobin
1912-1998 at 71

orphaned in AR
WWII veteran
mental suffering
Myk cook & janitor
d. Ft. Roots at 86



Fr. Evarist V. Foix
1905-2001 at 46

b. Castellón, Spain
p. in Desert at 16
o. Rome at 23
USA 1930; Provincial
1951-54, d. Myk at 96



Fr. Felix DaPrato
1911-2002 at 43

b. Ontario, Canada
p. SAT at 23; 1st Novice
o. OKC at 29
pastor and Prior
d. Little Rock at 91



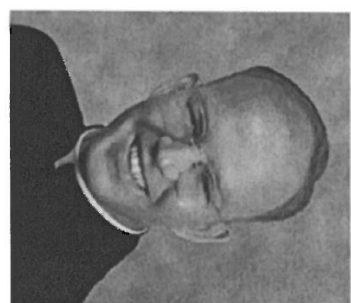
Fr. Michael Okuroski
1919-2003 at 74

b. Hartshorne OK
p. San Antonio at 19
o. in Dallas at 25
editor LFM, artist
d. San Antonio at 84



Fr. Augustine Healy
1923-2005 at 37

b. Brooklyn NY
p. San Antonio at 19
o. Dallas Cath at 26
Prior & pastor
d. Ft. Worth TX at 82



Fr. Mary Phillip Wurth
1925-2008 at 35

b. Phoenix AZ
p. Marylake at 29
o. San Antonio at 34
polio, chronicler
d. San Antonio at 83



Fr. Thomas Behnke
1922-2008 at 68

b. Chicago IL
p. San Antonio at 20
o. OKC at 26
uxclaustated 1996
d. New Mexico at 86



Fr. Joseph Neilson
1932-2012 at 44

b. Manhattan NY
p. Marylake at 20
o. Rome at 30
Nov. Mast. '66-69
d. San Antonio at 80



Mr. Aloysius J. Wrape
1894-1970 at 64

b. Little Rock AR
marr. 1923 at 29
helped found Myk
Third Order p. 1951
d. Little Rock at 76



Azile Hogan Wrape
1903-2000 at 87

b. Athens TX
marr. 1923 at 20
had 3 boys & 2 girls
Secular Order p. '52
d. Little Rock at 97

News from around the Province

Compiled by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

First, a reminder. As mentioned before, please send all news items to me, Fr. Bonaventure, at this address bvsauer@yahoo.com. Please do not send them to Barbara Tinervia or to Martha Hanley. I would appreciate you following this simple direction.

Also, be sure to indicate which community the news item comes from, along with your name, the one submitting it.

And, if at all possible, please do NOT submit photos or files in PDF format. They are difficult to work with them. Thank you.

In Loving Memory of



*Raymond George Smith
April 26, 1928 ~ May 27, 2013*

1. An Obituary: Cedar Rapids, IA—submitted by Roseann Hayek, OCDS

Raymond (Ray) George Smith, a member of the Cedar Rapids OCDS Community of St. Teresa of Jesus, died Monday, May 27, 2013. He was born April 26, 1928, and was married to Ellen O'Neill. They raised four sons and four daughters. Ellen followed Ray in death by less than a month (June 24, 2013). In addition to their children, they are survived by 16 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

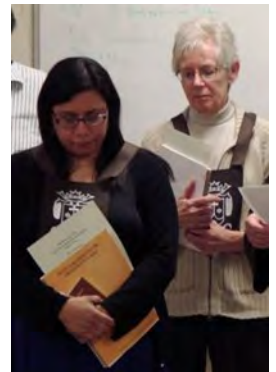
Ray made his Final Promise as an OCDS on June 20, 1977, in the Community of St. Joseph in Havertown, Pa. After moving to Iowa, he transferred in 2004 to our Community of St. Teresa of Jesus. Ray treasured his call to Carmel and was vitally interested in each community member and her/his family.

His pastoral ministry to his fellow residents at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston, IA, where he lived, and his prayerful contributions to his OCDS Community, were deeply treasured and will be missed.

Our prayer continues, for him and for Ellen, as well as for their surviving family members, who experienced their deaths in so short a time.

2. Georgetown, TX—submitted by Veronica Estrada, OCDS

This past winter, on January 12, 2013, the Triumph of the Cross Study Group



(Continued on page 27)



received into formation four members who were clothed with the Brown Scapular. Pictured at the left are Cynthia Morales and Lee Burns, two of those clothed on that day. And, on the next page, at the left, are Hugo and Veronica Estrada pictured along with our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Jerome Earley, OCD, who presided at the clothing. Fr. Earley led us that day in a community Day of Reflection, speaking on the virtues St. Teresa of Jesus practiced as an

example for us.

Later last winter, on February 9, 2013, two of our members, Cecilia Murphy and Mary Weaver, made their First Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The ritual was celebrated during Mass at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown, with Father Earley once again presiding. Shown in the photo to the left are [from left to right] Mary Weaver, Fr. Earley, and Cecilia Murphy. Later Fr. Earley continued his reflections from January on the virtues practiced by St. Teresa. In doing so he completed a review for us of the First Dwelling Places of *The Interior Castle*.

Lastly, this past summer, on June 8, 2013, Cindy Johnson made her Definitive Promise. Mass was presided over by Fr. Robert Becker, Pastor of St. Helen's, where our community meets. In the photo at the right Cindy poses with her husband, Kyle, on the happy occasion.

Congratulations to all as, in God's grace, our community continues to grow!



3. Houston, Holy Trinity Community—submitted by Cruz Coronado, OCDS



The Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph OCDS Community in Houston, TX, met for our annual retreat on August 23-25 of this year at the Mount Carmel House of Prayer. Msgr. James Anderson celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation with us Saturday morning. Fr. Ignatius N—, from our diocese, celebrated Mass on Sunday. Pictured with some of our members are Fr. Ignatius and Sr. Linda,

our liaison from the Mount Carmel House of Prayer.

Our Community will also celebrate our 50th year of Canonical Erection this December 14 during our Houston area OCDS Christmas celebration. It is, of course, the feast day of our Holy Father, St. John of the Cross, as well. The celebration and gathering will be at St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish in Houston. We will be joined by Fr. Bonaventure, but we also invite all our Province to be with us, if not in presence, then in spirit.

4. Huffman, TX—submitted by Elizabeth Ogilvie, OCDS

On August 24, 2013 we celebrated a wonderful day in the history of our community. Besides having the pleasure of a visit from and conference with Fr. Bonaventure on “The Prayer of Recollection,” we marked the following milestones:

(1) Brenda Begnino, Bridgette McMillan, and Teresa DeMary, all received the Rite of Admission to Formation (Clothing).

(2) Lilibeth Agriam (*St Therese of the Child Jesus, the Little Flower and St Peter and Paul the Apostles*), Betty Vincent (*Elizabeth of the Trinity*), and James Vincent (*James of the Cross*),

who were clothed in Sept 2011, all made their First Promise.

(3) Betsy Anderson (*Elizabeth of Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified*), and Ray Broussard (*John of Jesus*), who were clothed in Sept 2008, made their Definitive Promise.

It was the first time in the history of The Most Holy Trinity OCDS community that all three rites were celebrated on

the same day. Fr. Bonaventure officiated at all, the clothings just prior to the Mass, the Professions during the Mass. Moreover, since it was the Feast of St Bartholomew, we remembered the Order on the 451st anniversary of the foundation of St Joseph's in Avila, the first foundation of the reform.

The day was a great blessing for our community, and we are most grateful to God for his kindness and mercy. Please keep our new members in your prayers—that they continue to listen to and respond to God's call in their lives.

Shown in the photo above are, in the front, from left to right: Brenda Benigno (clothing), Elizabeth Ogilvie (president), Bridgette McMillan (clothing), Teresa DeMary (clothing), Betsy Anderson (DP), Josephine Perez (formation director), and Lilibeth Agriam (FP). In the back, from left to right, are: Betty Vincent (FP), Fr Bonaventure Sauer (towering), James Vincent (FP),



Kathryn Scruggins, Ray Broussard (DP), and Georgina Torres.

5. Knoxville, TN—submitted by Kathy Dewine, OCDS

First, some happy news from Anita Gouge, OCDS, who serves on our council—Anita’s daughter, Lenore, was recently married (on June 8). Here she is four days later, on June 12, with her husband, John Pacitti, receiving a papal blessing from our Holy Father Pope Francis.



Second, since our Study Group is The Transfiguration of the Lord, each year we try to get together and celebrate sometime near that feast day. This year we held our get-together on August 10 at the home of one of our founding members, George Quinter. Shown in the photo below,

which was taken at the time, are, in the front, from left to right: Missy DePersio, Mary Pat Ernst, Carole Amador, Anita Gouge, Dorothy Curtis, Dot Terheyden, Valerie Ponce, George Quinter, and Janet Swanson. In the back are, on the left, Kathy DeWine and, right, Adriana Fadden.



6. Little Rock, AR—submitted by Patricia Cromwell, OCDS

Our Little Rock community really enjoyed the visitation of our Provincial Councilor Dorothy Ashley on the weekend of September 13-15 of this year. We are grateful for all the information she shared with us. The photo at the top of the next page shows us gathered with Dorothy on Saturday afternoon. By rows are, from left to right, (1) Susannah Nelson, Bonnie Nied and Ginger Crews; (2) Nancy Lowry, Janie Krone, Paula Martin, Ellen Bucolo, and Ronnie Adams; (3) Jeannine Hart, Julie Breen Patrick, Joanie Goodwin, Mary Howard, Sharon Balmaz, and Dorothy Ashley, Provincial

Councilor; (4) Pam McCullough, Joseph de Prez, Tony Thompson, Roz Rector, and Ladyce Ritchie. Thank you, Dorothy!



Our Little Rock OCDS Community was blessed again to be able to attend our Carmelite Nuns wonderful annual Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This year Fr. Marc Foley, OCD, a friar of the Washington Province, served as homilist. On the joyous Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel we had our photo taken with Fr. Foley. Shown here, from left to right, are Adelaide Newton, Teresa Siebenmorgen, Barbara Ford, Mary Armstrong, Sr. Petra, OCD, in back, of the Little Rock Carmel, Paula Martin, Fr. Marc Foley, Patricia Cromwell, in back, Janie Krone, Amy Hawley, Pam McCullough, Jeannine Hart, Carolyn Barnett, Mary Howard, and Roz Rector.

7. McAllen, TX—submitted by Cathy Magness, OCDS

We, the Blessed Miriam of Jesus Crucified OCDS Community in the Rio Grande Valley area of south Texas, have experienced substantial growth this past year. In September, we clothed—believe it or not—eleven (11) aspirants! That brings our number to 44.

Our new novices are Ivelisse Barouhas, Myrlo Gilkey, Esther Hernandez, Rosa Hight, Diana Koite, Monse Martinez, Rita Olivarez, Gloria

Pena, Carol Pease, Lisa Reyna, and Monica Reyna.

We also had three make First Promise on September 8. They are Wes and Tina Waggoner and Maggie

Flores, shown at the right. The photo just below is of Sheri Orbeson, who made her Definitive Promise also on September 8. Fr. George Gonzalez, OCDS, offered HMass for these professions at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Harlingen.

The Blessed Miriam Community encompasses a large geographic area—from the city of Mission, in the west, to Brownsville, in the east, spanning the Rio Grande Valley area of south Texas. In alternate months, the community meets in McAllen and then in Harlingen so that the “commute” is shared equally among us, so to speak.



8. New Orleans, LA—submitted by Ada Jordan, OCDS

Greetings from New Orleans!

Back in January of this year, on the 19th, we held our Day of Recollection at St. Stephen’s Catholic Church in New Orleans. We had three members make First Profession. They are pictured here, from left to right, in the photo at the top of the next page: Susan Weyer, Anna Lewis, and Grace Toyer, with Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD, sandwiched happily among them.

To the right of Grace Toyer in the same photo is Donell Welch, who was clothed that day, and, to her right, yours truly, Ada Jordan, Formation Director. We pray that they all our new vocations continue to progress in their response to God’s call in their lives.

For our Day of Recollection Fr. Gregory [shown in the photo] gave us wonderful talks on St. Teresa’s *Interior Castle*. We were joined for the day by members of other OCDS communities from the area—from Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Covington, in Louisiana, and from Bay St. Louis, along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



We thank Pascal Alfano, one of our longtime members, for all his hard work in organizing this special day. We also thank Brian Morgan, another of our members, for his help in arranging for us to use the cafeteria at St. Stephen’s School. The accommodations were nice, and we had lots of space. I look forward to seeing everyone back with us for our annual retreat in June.

9. An Obituary: St. Louis, MO – submitted by Sharon Schulte and Patti Donovan, OCDS

Patricia “Pat” Putnam, “of St. Clare of the Cross,” a member of the St. Louis, MO, OCDS Community of the Carmel of St. Joseph, entered into final glory on July 18, 2013, at the age of 87. She was born June 7, 1926, in St. Louis, and was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles William Putnam, Jr., and by her son, Charles Putnam III, her brother, Jack Daly, and her sister, Betty (née Daly) Glenn. The mother of 11 children—Charles, Timothy, Jane, Barbara, Daniel, James, Thomas, Michael, Robert, Richard and Mary—and a loving grandmother to 25, and great grandmother to 11, she adored every one of them. In addition to caring for her children Pat worked as a nurse. She was an active member of St. Norbert’s Parish in Florissant, MO, a suburb of St. Louis.

Pat entered Carmel in Feb. 1982 and was clothed on May 16, 1982. She made her First Promise on Dec. 16, 1984, and her Definitive Promise on Oct. 18, 1987. She served as formation director from 1994 to 1997. In 1997 she was elected president, then had to resume in the position of formation director again when the director at the time resigned to begin studies for the Permanent Diaconate. She served her full term as both president and formation director. Pat also served on the Council and was mentor to many in the community.

Her quiet, unassuming manner was a deep inspiration. Without even trying or realizing it, she reflected the spirit of Carmel. In time she took up as a personal apostolate the visit-



ing parishes and schools to foster understanding of the Carmelite way of life and prayer. Indeed, Pat was the visionary. Her initiatives in sharing our spirituality with others lie behind the “Reflections on Carmelite Saints” and “Meditations from Carmel Podcast,” both of which are found on our website: <http://www.meditationsfromcarmel.com/content/podcast>.

Fr. Herzog, OCDS, our Spiritual Assistant, celebrated her funeral Mass at St. Ann’s Parish where her family had grown up. He reminded them that since they missed their mother, they should go to the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Why? Because she would be present there. Pat’s humility and sense of humor were obvious at the funeral. She had asked her children not to read a eulogy, a wish they respected. She said her fear was that, when she met St. Peter at the heavenly gates, he would ask “Who are you? We were expecting the person from the eulogy.”

10. Tulsa, OK—submitted by *Barbara Tinervia, OCDS*

The Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Study Group in Tulsa was pleased to have Fr. John Michael Payne, OCDS, present with us this past June 15 to officiate at the clothing of our three aspirants and then to receive the First Promise of one of our members.

Pictured below, from left to right, are our three new members, now clothed—Janelle Cornelius, Tita James, and Mackey Sutton—posing with Fr. John Michael.

Our dear sister Shirley Folwarski was able to make her First Promise



on this same day. She is shown in the photo at the right, along with her loving husband, Frank, who was present with her on this special occasion.



Parting Words

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Province, which has jurisdiction over O.C.D.S. members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas. For subscription information contact Martha Hanley at tmhanley@yahoo.com.

God deliver you from the peace of many kinds that worldly people have. May He never allow us to try it, for it brings perpetual war.

From *Meditations on the Song of Songs* in *The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila*, Vol. 2, copyright 1980 Washington Province of Discalced Carmelites Inc. ICS Publications, 2131 Lincoln Road NE, Washington, DC 20002-1199. www.icspublications.org.

U.S. Web site for Centenary activities

Following is the URL of a Web site where information about activities that Carmelites in the U.S. provinces have developed to observe the 500th anniversary of St Teresa's birth is posted:

www.teresa-5th-centenary.org