

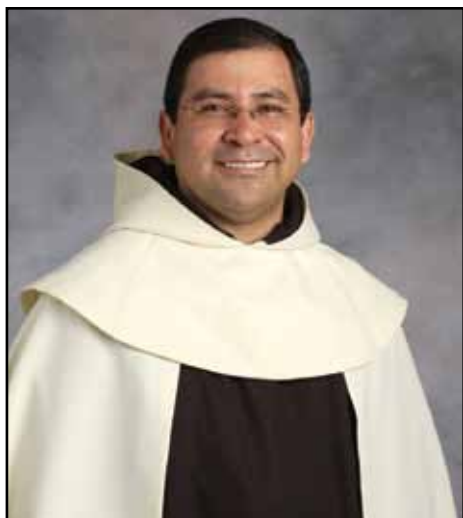
SUMMER 2012  
VOL. 5 NO. 1

# GENTLE BREEZES — OF CARMEL —



ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS  
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## Let us follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary



It is summertime, and many of our regular activities have changed. In most of our communities during this time, we have fewer activities, especially in our houses where we serve Parishes. As a Province, every year before summer begins, we have a meeting called the Provincial Assembly. Our annual Provincial Assembly takes place in our monastery in San Antonio, Texas.

During our assembly, we review the different aspects of our lives as consecrated religious and in particular as friars of the Discalced Carmelite Order of the Oklahoma Province. We study closely the plans and goals that were established during our last Provincial Chapter. Moreover, during our Assembly, we take time to share with each other as a province. It is very good and heartening to be with all our brothers of the province. Having this meeting gives us the opportunity to visit with the brothers who live in other communities. We also invite speakers to one or two of the meetings who advise us in different areas that we need to know in order to give better service to the people of God and to ourselves. Finally, in this year's Assembly, we also had the opportunity to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of three of our friars (Fr. Christopher, Fr. Henry, and Fr. Sam Anthony) and one Silver Jubilee (Fr. John Magdalene). It was a blessing to be able to celebrate with our brother priests this special day in their lives as ordained ministers.

Even though we have fewer activities during the summer, we still have impor-

tant celebrations like the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Each one of our communities in the province prepares this feast in different ways, such as novenas or special Masses or other things that help the friars and the people in our parishes to celebrate

this feast in a special way to help us in our spiritual journey. With this celebration we thank her for her protection as our mother and as our guide. This feast is an opportunity for all of us who wear the scapular to see Mary's presence in our own personal lives, as well as in the life of our Christian vocation.

For those of us who are consecrated religious, she helps us to see how and why we are living out our vocation in her Order. Celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel leads us to a deeper awareness of who she is in our lives as Carmelites. We, as a Carmelite family, venerate Our Lady of Mount Carmel because St. Teresa of Jesus teaches us that Our Lady is a good mother, and we wear her scapular, although unworthily at times. She is the example that we must follow if we want to be worthy sons and daughters of this great mother and part of her Carmelite family. We are to imitate her virtues, pondering the word of the Lord (the Scriptures).

Moreover, Our Lady is our example of faithfulness and love to Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, we have the perfect model of someone who surrenders completely to Him. So for us Carmelites, to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is to take time to evaluate the way we are surrendering to our Heavenly Father. It is also a time to see how we are living out our devotion to her, but even more so to see how we are following our Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it is a time to evaluate the way we are living the Christian virtues; especially the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity as well

as humility and poverty.

Our holy mother, St. Teresa of Jesus, emphasizes the way the Blessed Virgin Mary followed her Son to Calvary, filled with "determined determination" (as St. Teresa would say). St. Teresa, giving us Mary as an

example, invites us to do the same, to follow Our Lord with the same "determined determination" that the Blessed Virgin had on the way to Calvary and at the foot of the Cross. If we are able to do so, according to St. Teresa, then we will be able to follow our Lord Jesus to the end; and as a result, we can be good Christian men and women with deep spiritual lives.

Hence, let us live this summer and every day of our lives following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary who intercedes for us. Let us try to fulfill the appeal of our Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus, who asks us to serve our Lady, Mother, Queen and Patroness of Carmel in truth and with a loving heart. Let us live faithfully to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and her Order by living as perfectly as we can the rule and constitutions with the perfection with which it began. Let us live in joy and in happiness knowing that we are loved and protected with her scapular by the Mediatrice, Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In Christ and Carmel,

Fr. Luis Joaquín Castañeda, O.C.D.  
Provincial

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## *Priesthood Jubilee Celebration*

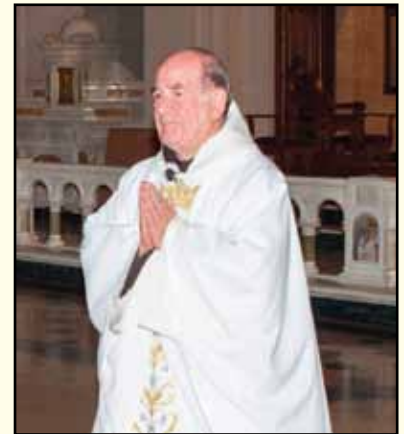
On Tuesday, June 6, 2012, the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Province of St. Thérèse celebrated a Jubilee Mass in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Priesthood Jubilee of Fr. Sam Morello, Fr. Christopher Timoney and Fr. Henry Bordeaux, as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Fr. John M. Suenram. It was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio, Texas.

Celebrating the Mass were Fr. Henry (main celebrant) and Fr. John (homilist), and concelebrating were Fr. Christopher, the Carmelite Fathers and guest priests. Deacons Garza, Rodriguez and Abat were present. Unable to attend, Fr. Sam was greatly missed at this celebration, but he did send his message of thanksgiving to the Little Flower Community.

The Mass was beautifully sung by the Little Flower Adult Choir and reverently served by the Carmelite Students and the Little Flower Altar Servers. Following the Mass, a dinner reception was held in the Parish Hall. Many joined in the celebration including the friars, members of the secular order, Little Flower parishioners, and friends and family who traveled from various areas.



**Fr. John was the homilist during the Jubilee celebration.**



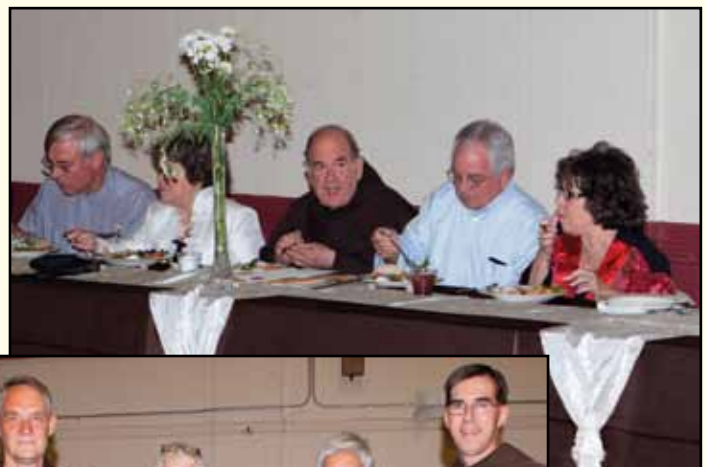
**Fr. Henry was the main celebrant.**



**Fr. Christopher concelebrated the Mass.**



Carmelite friars who were there for the celebration included: (L to R) Guest priest, Fr. Ralph Reyes, Fr. Raphael Kitz, Fr. Jesus Sancho, Fr. Jenaro Delacruz, Guest Priest, Fr. Marion Bui, Fr. John M. Suenram, Guest Priest, Fr. Henry Bordeaux, Fr. Jerome Earley, Fr. Christopher Timoney (seated), Fr. Bonaventure Sauer (behind Fr. Christopher), Fr. John Michael Payne, Fr. Gregory Ross, Fr. Stephen Sanchez, Fr. Jim Curiel, Br. Bernard O'Neill, Fr. Luis Castaneda, and Fr. Luis Belmonte.



A dinner reception was held following the Mass at the parish hall.



# The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Order of Carmel

*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2,19)*

Around the year 1206, the first hermits living around the fountain of Elijah on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land received a Rule of Life from St. Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem. This rule instructed each of the hermits *to stay in his own cell or nearby, pondering the Lord's law day and night and keeping watch at his prayers unless attending to some other duty.* Likewise, Albert exhorted the hermits: *Your breast [is to be] fortified by holy meditations, for as Scripture has it 'Holy meditation will save you.' ... The sword of the spirit, the word of God, must abound in your mouths and hearts. Let all you do have the Lord's word for accompaniment.*

In order to foster this spirit of constant prayer among the hermits, St. Albert also directed them to observe silence as much as possible: *The Apostle would have us keep silence, for in silence he tells us to work (cf. 2Thes 3,12). As the Prophet also makes known to us 'Silence is the way to foster holiness' (cf. Is 32,17). Elsewhere he says: 'Your strength will lie in silence and hope' (cf. Is 20,15).*

Another aspect of Albert's Rule was that the hermits build a chapel in which they could gather daily for Mass. The hermits dedicated this chapel to Mary. Hence, they came to be known as "The Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel."

Is it any wonder that these men, who strove to live a life rooted in prayer and meditation upon the Word of God chose to dedicate their chapel to the Blessed Virgin Mary? To the one who herself silently kept all the words and deeds of her divine Son in her heart, pondering them day and night? From the very beginning of the Carmelite Order, Mary has been honored as the Patroness, the Queen and Beauty of Carmel, the model of the Carmelite who strives to live in allegiance to Jesus Christ.

In the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century and early 14<sup>th</sup> Century, the Carmelites migrated to Europe from the Holy Land. As they strove to solidify their identity as an Order in these new circumstances, and to set

down roots away from the place of their origins, they looked to the Blessed Virgin Mary as their principal patroness. The life of the friars was imbued with Marian piety. The Blessed Mother held a prominent place in the communities' liturgies, meetings, devotions and other daily practices.

In our own day, Mary still occupies a central place in the lives of the Carmelites. In the current Constitutions of the Discalced Carmelite Friars, one can read the following: *Our Lady, as portrayed in the Gospels, is put before us as the perfect embodiment of the ideal of the Order, and we are drawn to follow her more closely. With the attitude of the 'poor of the Lord' we must ponder on God's word in faith and spend ourselves in a manifold service of love. Then our life will truly resemble hers and, under her guidance, we shall be made to share more fully in the mystery of Christ and his Church.* Again, in Carmel's consciousness of its own identity and mission, Mary's prayerful pondering of the Word of God in faith is given primacy of place.

Of course, it is not only Carmelites who are called to ponder the Word of God in their hearts like Mary. This habit of reflecting on the words and actions of Jesus Christ is central to the life of every Christian as we walk by faith through the events of our daily lives. One who wishes to follow Christ should strive to be guided in his or her actions, decisions and relationships by God's Word, just as Mary was.

Our two most recent popes have reflected on the mystery of Mary in her relationship to God's Word. Pope Benedict XVI points to Mary as the holy soil that receives the seed that is God's Word and is made fruitful by it. To say that the seed bears fruit, writes Pope Benedict, *means that the seed actually sinks into the earth, assimilates the earth's energies, and changes them into itself. It thus brings about something truly new, for now it carries the earth in itself and turns the earth into fruit... Mary's maternity means that she willingly places her own substance, body and soul, into the seed so that new life can grow.* This new life, of course, is Mary's son, Jesus, who is both Son of God, and Son of Mary. When Mary declares to the angel Gabriel, *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word,* she shows herself to be the one who has listened to God's word, welcomed it, assimilated it into her heart, and has acted upon it, thus letting her whole being and her whole life be made fruitful by this word, fruitful with the Word Incarnate. We, too, can imitate Mary by welcoming the Word of God in our own lives in order that He may make our lives fruitful for the Church and the world.

Likewise, Pope John Paul II, in an address to all the Carmelites of the world in 2001, spoke of Mary as the one *who from the beginning knew how to open herself to hearing God's Word and to obeying his will (Lk 2:19, 51). For Mary, taught and formed by the Spirit (cf. Lk 2:44-50), was able by faith to understand her own history (cf. Lk 1:46-55).* So, too, every Christian is called to examine and to understand his or

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'Carmelite Friars St. Therese Province.'**

*"I will spend my Heaven doing good upon earth."*

– ST. THÉRÈSE



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FRIARS OF OKLAHOMA WHEN MAKING OUT  
YOUR WILL.

OUR TAX ID # IS: 73-0580271

YOUR LEGACY WILL LIVE ON IN OUR MINISTRIES FOR GENERATIONS.

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## My Journey into the Discalced Carmelite Order



Hello, my name is Martin Orozco, Jr. I was born and raised in Oklahoma City, OK and, I am currently 21 years old. My parents are Martin and Minerva Orozco and I have two sisters, Edith and Nicole. In the past I have attended both Catholic and public schools. I also worked as a secretary at the Little Flower Parish in

Oklahoma City for four years.

Working as a secretary at the parish helped me to discover my vocation, as I learned more about the different religious orders in the Catholic Church. I became fascinated with religious orders, in how they carried their lives and by the habit they wore. To know that men and women, out of love for Christ, consecrated their lives for the service of God, impacted me and inspired me to become one.

The habit to me is the visible consecration to Christ and the Church. I decided to enter the Discalced Carmelite Order out of the many religious orders that I had known because I really felt

the call to the Carmelite spirituality of prayer, solitude and community life. Also, what helped me to know the Carmelite order was the interaction with the Carmelite friars at my home parish and the different parishes of the province.

I applied and got accepted to join the Discalced Carmelite Order. I entered as a postulant of the order on January 6, 2012. The postulant stage is the first stage of formation in the religious order. This period lasts about six months and the purpose is to get to know the order better and integrate into the religious order. In this period of formation I got to know a lot about myself, the community and the order. It has been a wonderful experience. One of the many experiences I had was to know that parishioners would come to me and ask me to pray for them. This made me feel good that they trusted in me to pray for them. I felt awesome to be able to help out the community with my prayers. This reinforced my vocation and my desires to one day become a Catholic priest.

I have petitioned and have recently been accepted for the novitiate, the second stage of formation. I will enter the novitiate on July 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time I will receive the Holy Habit and become a beginner in the order. I am very excited to enter into the novitiate and get to learn more about the Carmelite order. I am also looking forward to continuing my vocation in Carmel. I know that this stage of formation asks for more intense prayer, but I know that God is at my side.

I ask for your prayers as I continue my journey into the Discalced Carmelite Order. That God and Our Lady of Mount Carmel accompany all of us in the journey in reaching Heaven.

### The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Order of Carmel

*Continued from page 5*

her own history in the light of faith, a faith formed by pondering the Word of God, most especially the words of Jesus Christ and the mysteries of his life death and resurrection. This is what St. Thérèse of Lisieux did when, reflecting upon St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, she famously discovered her vocation to "be love" in the heart of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.

Christians find a great companion in Mary as they strive to reflect upon and assimilate the word of God into their lives. The Rosary is an invaluable tool in pondering the mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In praying the Rosary, we can draw upon the memory of Mary and ask her to unfold for us the beauty of her Son in all his mystery, and to help us to see the mysteries of our own life in the light of her Son's life and teaching.

Another sign of the close relationship between Mary and the Order of Carmel is the Brown Scapular. The early Carmelites wore a brown scapular (a type of work apron that is worn over the shoulders) as part of their religious habit. This scapular came to symbolize the dedication of the Carmelites to the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel, as well as her patronage, or protection, of the Order and its members. Pope John Paul II summarizes the significance of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

as follows: *Therefore two truths are evoked by the sign of the Scapular: on the one hand, the constant protection of the Blessed Virgin, not only on life's journey, but also at the moment of passing into the fullness of eternal glory; on the other, the awareness that devotion to her cannot be limited to prayers and tributes in her honor on certain occasions, but must become a "habit", that is, a permanent orientation of one's own Christian conduct, woven of prayer and interior life, through frequent reception of the sacraments and the concrete practice of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In this way the Scapular becomes a sign of the "covenant" and reciprocal communion between Mary and the faithful.*

Carmelites throughout the world are happy to share with all the faithful the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, this sign of our special relationship of our Order with the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she who pondered all the words and deeds of her Son, Jesus Christ, help you, too, to become more and more rooted in God's word as you seek to follow her divine Son. May she grant you her protection now and always, as well as a share in her wisdom in your daily lives so that, like her, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus, walking in faith with him each day.