

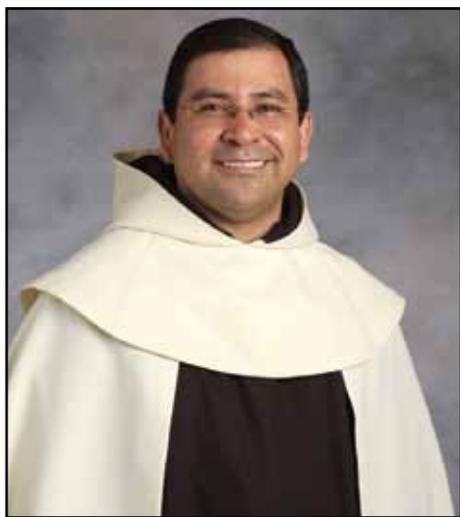
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GENTLE BREEZES —OF CARMEL—



ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
824 KENTUCKY AVENUE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78201 · 210.735.9126 · WWW.CARMELITEFRIARSOCD.COM

In this Advent, let us pray for peace with St. Teresa of Jesus



Last month with the celebration of the Solemnity of our Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus, we began a year of celebrations of the Fifth Centenary of her Birth. After preparing for years, we began the jubilee year. This is a year of grace for all Carmelites; in our Province, we held an opening Mass at the Basilica in San Antonio. It was very moving to know that we were united with the whole Order in the opening celebrations of a blessed year for all of us. During this year there will be many different celebrations in the Province and in the Order; but we cannot forget the most important reason why we are celebrating this centenary. It is to learn and practice all the spiritual teachings of our Holy Mother.

For this reason, during this Advent season I would like to invite all of you to

pray with St. Teresa of Jesus for peace in the world, in our society and in our personal life. She teaches us that "... it is very important that we understand how much of the practice of these three things help us to possess inwardly and outwardly the peace our Lord recommended so highly to us. The first of these is love for one another; the second is detachment from all created things; the third is true humility, which, even though I speak of it last, is the main practice and embraces all the others. (Way of Perfection Chapter 4, paragraph 4)."

We always have many needs and things to ask our Heavenly Father, yet may I suggest that this holy season of Advent we pray in humility, as St. Teresa teaches us, for peace in the world. At the same time, let us pray for spiritual peace with detachment of all the things that prevent us from deepening our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, let us pray for peace in our families, in our work places and everywhere we are by practicing the love for one another.

Let us be alone with the One we know loves us; but let us not be selfish and bring only our needs to him. Instead, let us be like St. Teresa who was always praying for important matters; for things that were

Moreover, let us pray for peace in our families, in our work places and everywhere we are by practicing the love for one another.

good for all, things that will have good impact in the life of all people. In other words, to pray for what is the will of God in the world and in our personal life.

During this time of Advent, when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the Lord of peace in our life and prayers, we should express our hope in the promises of our Savior. Then let us remember to pray in hope for the end of the calamities, of the epidemics, of the violence, of the wars and any sufferings of the world. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ, our best friend, to intercede for all people who suffer for the lack of peace in their society, in their families, in their personal life; may all of us be consoled with the peace of the Holy Spirit.

May this Advent and the celebrations of the jubilee year of the Birth of St. Teresa of Jesus bring you and your loved ones the blessings of the true peace that comes from the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our life and in our world.

Please visit the official website for the Fifth Centenary of the Birth of St. Teresa of Jesus sponsored by the Discalced Carmelite Order in the United States.

<http://www.teresa-5th-centenary.org/>

St. Teresa of Jesus—also known as St. Teresa of Avila—was born in Avila, Spain, on March 28, 1515. Thus, 2015 is the 500th anniversary, or Fifth Centenary, of her birth.

For five years the Discalced Carmelite Order has been preparing itself for this special occasion. As we remember our Foundress's birth, we pray, above all else, for a rebirth or reinvigoration of her spirit and teaching among us who would call ourselves her sons and daughters.

This website intends to make available, in one place, all that the Discalced Carmelite Order in the United States—nuns, friars, and seculars—is doing in celebration of this special year. We hope that you will be able to join us in whatever way you can. May the Fifth Centenary of the Birth of St. Teresa of Jesus, our Holy Mother, be a time of grace for all.



*Fr. Luis Castaneda
O.C.B.*

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ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE
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FOR OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS.

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From October 19-26, all the friars gathered at Marylake Monastery in Little Rock, Arkansas, for their annual retreat. This year's retreat was led by Fr. Michael Berry, OCD, a Discalced Carmelite Friar of the Washington Province. Fr. Michael focused his presentations on the spirituality of St. Teresa of Jesus. The retreat also included a celebration for this year's jubilarians: Fr. Raphael Kitz (60 years of religious profession), Fr. John Michael Payne (50 years of religious profession), and Fr. Jesús Sancho (50 years of priesthood).



Dinner is served!



Fr. Michael Berry, OCD, Retreat Director.

How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!"

(Ps 133,1)

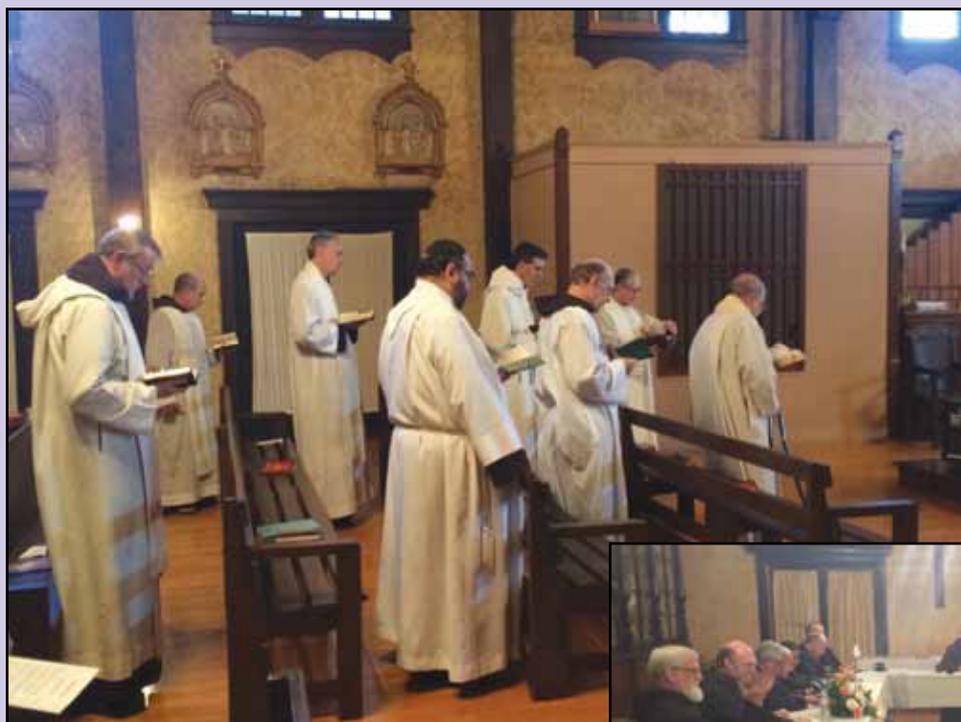


Fr. Gregory Ross celebrating his 50th birthday.

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Jubilarians: Fr. Jesús Sancho (50 years of priesthood), Fr. Raphael Kitz (60 years of religious profession), and Fr. John Michael Payne (50 years of religious profession).



Friars concelebrating Mass.

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.
(Is 56,7)



Friars participating in Spiritual conference.

Christmas:

Celebrating the Birth of God Who Makes Himself Our Friend

Fr. Gregory Ross, O.C.D.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (Jn 1, 14)

These famous words from the Gospel of John are proclaimed every year at the Mass of Christmas day. They direct our attention to this great truth of our faith, the focus of our Christmas celebration: the birth of the Son of God into our world as a human infant, the son of Mary.

This mystery of God made human fascinated St. Teresa of Jesus, whose “500th birthday” we Discalced Carmelites are celebrating all around the world this year. The spiritual life of St. Teresa can be described as the story of this great saint being won over by the goodness of Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh.

St. Teresa was a woman endowed with many human virtues: a lively intelligence, engaging personality, magnanimity of spirit, and a great capacity for friendship. This virtue of friendship became the framework within which she came to un-

derstand the life of prayer that became the path of her sanctification and of her service to the Church.

She defines prayer within this framework of friendship as *nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. (Book of Her Life, 8,5)* She came to understand Jesus, true God and true man, as the best friend one could hope to have: *Oh, what a good friend You make, my Lord! How You proceed by favoring and enduring. You wait for the others to adapt to Your nature, and in the meanwhile You put up with theirs! You take into account, my Lord, the times when they love You, and in one instant of repentance You forget their offences. (Book of Her Life, 8,6)*

St. Teresa understands that it is through the Word made flesh that the Father desires to bestow all blessings upon us human beings: through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and through his humanity as it is made present in the sacraments of the Church. She writes: *Whoever lives in the presence of so good a friend and excellent a leader, who went ahead of us to be the first to suffer, can endure all things. The Lord helps us, strengthens us, and never fails; He is a true friend. And I see clearly, and I saw afterward, that God desires that if we are going to please Him and receive His great favors, we must do so through the most sacred humanity of Christ, in whom He takes His delight.*

...This Lord of ours is the one through whom all blessings come to us [...] In beholding His life we find that He is the best example. What more do we desire than to



have such a good friend at our side, who will not abandon us in our labors and tribulations, as friends in the world do? Blessed are they who truly love Him and always keep Him at their side! (St. Teresa, Life, 22, 6-7)

This is the friend whose birth we celebrate each year at Christmastime. Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary. A man “like us in all things but sin.” (Fourth Eucharistic Prayer) Jesus enjoyed human friendship during his time on earth, and continues to call us to friendship with himself, as St. Teresa experienced in such a profound manner. May she help us to respond to Jesus’ call in our own lives as wholeheartedly as she did.

May the joy of Christmas, the infinite joy of God being born into our world as an infant, be with you and all your loved ones during this holy season.



“I will spend my Heaven doing good upon earth.”
– ST. THÉRÈSE

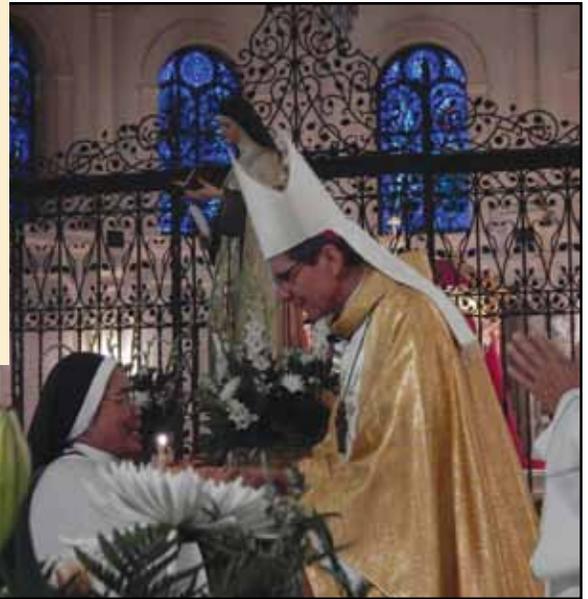
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Happy 500 Years!

On October 15th, the Order of Discalced Carmelites throughout the world began observing a year of celebrating the Fifth Centenary (500th Anniversary) of the birth of St. Teresa of Jesus, foundress of the Discalced Carmelites. Our Province of St. Therese celebrated the opening of the Centenary with a solemn Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio, Texas, presided by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller.



Archbishop Gustavo receiving offertory gifts at Centenary Opening Mass



Archbishop Gustavo processing in at Centenary Opening Mass



Friars concelebrating at Centenary Opening Mass