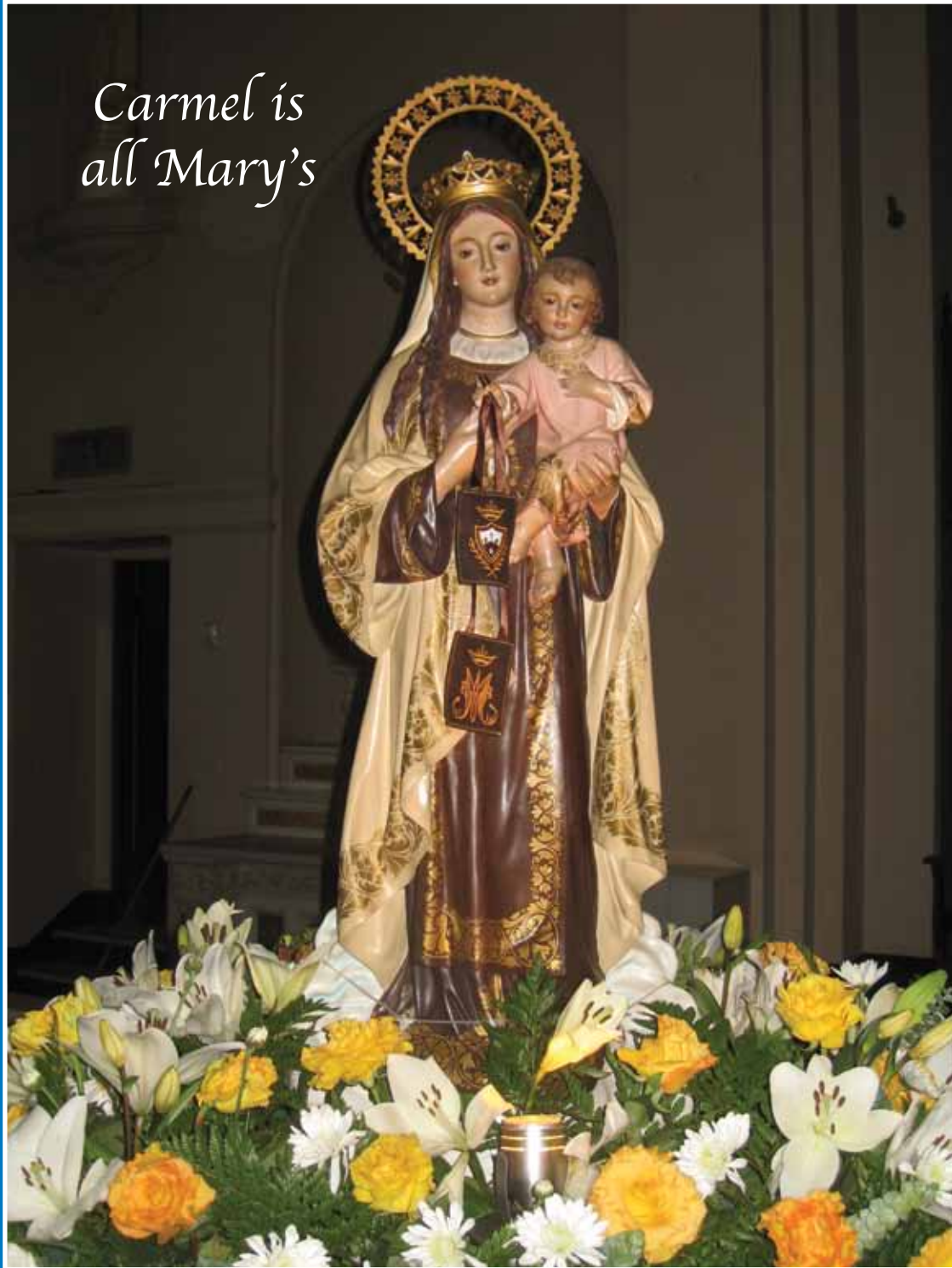


SUMMER 2015
VOL. 8 NO. 2

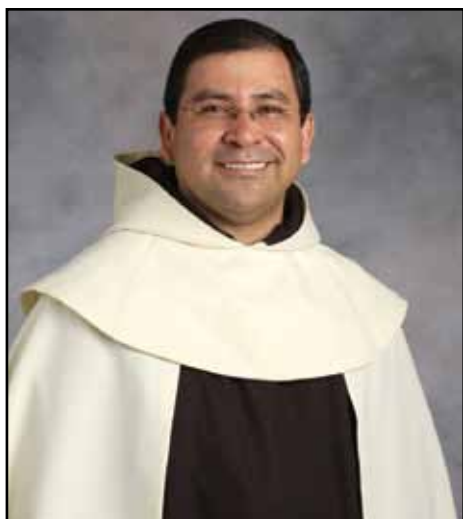
GENTLE BREEZES — OF CARMEL —

*Carmel is
all Mary's*



ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
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May God the Father help us to live what we celebrate, which is the love of our Blessed Mother who lived in intimate union with God the Father and with her Son, our Lord Jesus.



We are approaching the closing of the jubilee year of the Fifth Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. As a Province, we held our last celebration of this Fifth Centenary on the first day of the Provincial Assembly in San Antonio and will close this jubilee year with a Solemn Mass at the Dallas Cathedral. The celebration in San Antonio was exceptional because some of the nuns from the different communities in our Province were able to participate. With this celebration, we not only honored our Holy Mother St. Teresa, we also tried to deepen our relationship with our Carmelite Sisters; and in this way live in unity as one family, just as St. Teresa intended when she founded our Order.

Without a doubt, this year has been quite busy with the many celebrations around the Province. In each one of our communities there were events held locally to celebrate the Fifth Centenary

of the Birth of Saint Teresa. Moreover, this year brought us many blessings; one of these blessings was the deepening of our love and knowledge of our Holy Mother St. Teresa. Likewise, we have been blessed by sharing these celebrations with our Carmelite Nuns and our OCDS brothers and sisters. To celebrate with all of you reminds us of the great family that is the Discalced Carmelite Order.

During this year of jubilee and during the four years of preparation, we were given the opportunity to revisit the writings of St. Teresa; helping us to value our vows as consecrated persons and giving a deeper meaning to our vocation. In this way, together with St. Teresa, we celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life. Each celebration has led us to grow in our vocation as Discalced Carmelites and as consecrated persons who, as St. Teresa, want to live a life of service to the Church.

We all know that we cannot speak about St. Teresa and about the consecrated life without speaking of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is an example to follow in our vocations as Christians and for us as consecrated persons. For this reason, during this month of July, in which we celebrate the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, together with St. Teresa, “we are happy to be able to serve in some way our Mother, Lady

and Patroness” (Book of Foundations Chapter 29 paragraph 23). Furthermore, we know that “... little by little things are being done for the honor and glory of this glorious Virgin and her Son. May He be praised forever, amen, amen” (Book of Foundations Chapter 29 paragraph 28). So let us pray, let us celebrate, let us unite ourselves and let us work together this month of July in a way that can help us to increase the love for Our Lady of Mount Carmel and her Order. May God the Father help us to live what we celebrate, which is the love of our Blessed Mother who lived in intimate union with God the Father and with her Son our Lord Jesus.

Please remember that we are always grateful to all of you for your help and support to our Province. We always pray for your personal intentions and ask that you please pray for us as well. With your prayers, you help our spiritual life, and with your financial support you help us in our pastoral work.

We pray to our Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel to protect you and your loved ones whom I will remember in the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass.

In Christ and Carmel,

Fr. Luis Joaquín Castañeda, O.C.D.



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

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**YOUR LEGACY WILL LIVE ON
IN OUR MINISTRIES FOR GENERATIONS.**

GENTLE BREEZES OF CARMEL IS PUBLISHED BY ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS.

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Our Lady in the Life of St. Teresa of Jesus

Fr. Gregory Ross, O.C.D.

Totus marianus est Carmelus.

This Latin phrase can be translated “Carmel is all Mary’s,” and has been used traditionally to indicate the Marian spirit of the Carmelite Order. St. Teresa of Jesus, whose “500th birthday” we celebrate this year, lived deeply this Marian character of the Order even as she renewed it. From her childhood until the end of her life on earth, St. Teresa lived a profound union with Mary as her mother, patroness, and model.

In *The Book of Her Life*, St. Teresa shares with us how her mother took care in teaching her and all her siblings to *have us pray and be devoted to our Lady and to some of the saints*. As a child, the future saint also had this practice: *I sought out solitude to pray my devotions, and they were many, especially the rosary, to which my mother was very devoted; and she made us devoted to it, too.* (Life, 1,1.6)

As a girl, young Teresa suffered the loss of her mother, who died at the age of 34. St. Teresa tells us how during this difficult time, she turned to the Blessed Mother: *I remember that when my mother died I was twelve years old or a little less. When I began to understand what I had lost, I went, afflicted, before an image of our Lady and besought her with many tears to be my mother. It seems to me that although I did this in simplicity it helped me. For I have found favor with this sovereign Virgin in everything I have asked of her, and in the end she has drawn me to herself.* Thus began a new development in Teresa’s growing closeness to Mary.

At 20 years of age, Teresa entered the Carmelite Monastery of the Incarnation in Avila, Spain. There, she drank deeply of the Marian spirit of the Carmelite heritage. Everything about Carmel was Mary’s: Our Lady’s Rule, Our Lady’s Order, and Our Lady’s habit, which included the brown scapular.

When St. Teresa was inspired to begin new communities of nuns who would return more to the contemplative spirit of



the first Carmelites, the original hermits on Mt. Carmel, she understood that her new communities were to continue being *totus Marianus*, “all Mary’s.” She writes to her sisters: *But His Majesty well knows that I can boast only of His mercy, and since I cannot cease being what I have been, I have no other remedy than to approach His mercy and to trust in the merits of His Son and of the Virgin, His Mother, whose habit I wear so unworthily, and you wear. Praise Him, my daughters, for you truly belong to our Lady. Thus you have no reason to be ashamed of my misery since you have such a good Mother. Imitate her and reflect that the grandeur of our Lady and the good of having her for your patroness must be indeed great since my sins and being what I am have not been enough to tarnish in any way this sacred order.* (Interior Castle, III,1,3) Note how St. Teresa points to Mary as mother, patroness, and ideal to be imitated in her following of Christ.

Another significant episode in St. Teresa’s life that shows the Marian character of Carmel occurred in the year 1571, nine years after her founding of the first community of the Discalced Carmelite nuns. In October of 1571, Teresa was appointed prioress of the Monastery of the Incarnation, the community she had left 7 years earlier. Normally, the superior of a religious community is elected. In this case, the community had Teresa “imposed”

upon them as their superior, without an election. This fact did not sit too well with the nuns, who resisted Teresa’s entrance into the monastery. St. Teresa herself felt very uncomfortable with the situation, accepting the office only with difficulty and in a spirit of obedience to her superiors. When she was finally installed as prioress, St. Teresa placed a statue of the Blessed Mother in the prioress’ seat in the chapel, herself taking a seat on the floor to address her sisters. This was her humble way of reminding the sisters that they all belonged to Mary and that Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was the one to whom they were to look as their leader and model. Needless to say, St. Teresa won the nuns’ respect and devotion through her humble leadership.

Mary also appears prominently in the mystical experiences of St. Teresa. The saint recounts numerous occasions in which the Blessed Mother appeared to her and spoke to her. One incident, though, demonstrates in particular the special relationship between Mary and the Order of Discalced Carmelites. The saint writes: *On the feast of the Nativity of our Lady I feel special joy. When this day comes, I think it’s good to renew my vows. And once while I was about to do so, the Blessed Virgin, our Lady, appeared to me through an illuminative vision; and it seems to me I renewed them in her hands and that they were pleasing to her. This vision remained with me for some days, as though she were next to me at my left.* (Spiritual Testimonies 43) From this experience, we see the close relationship between the Blessed Mother and St. Teresa as a Carmelite nun.

So as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel this July 16th during the fifth centenary of the birth of St. Teresa, we are reminded of the special relationship between these two extraordinary women. Teresa, a humble daughter of Mary, lived fully the Carmelite spirit of being *totus Marianus*. May our Blessed Mother draw you, too, to herself and lead you to a deeper union with her divine Son, Jesus Christ.



Friars and nuns at Mass celebrating Fifth Centenary of St. Teresa of Jesus' birth at Little Flower Basilica in San Antonio.

From May 3-22, 2015, Discalced Carmelite Friars from around the world gathered in Avila, Spain, for the Order's General Chapter, a meeting held every six years. The General Chapter has the task of electing the Order's leadership and setting the direction for the Order for the coming six years. Our Province of St. Thérèse was represented by our Provincial Superior, Fr. Luis Castañeda, and Fr. Bonaventure Sauer. The friars re-elected Fr. Saverio Cannistrà of Italy as General to lead the Order for another six years. For an informative and humorous account of the proceedings of the General Chapter, check out Fr. Bonaventure's blog entries on our provincial blog at Discalced Carmelite Friars - Province of St. Thérèse - Home: carmelitefriarsocd.com.



***Discalced Carmelite
General Fr. Saverio
Cannistrà***



Fr. Luis Castañeda offers his congratulations to Fr. General.

From Sunday June 7 through Friday June 12, the Discalced Carmelite friars of the St. Thérèse Province gathered in San Antonio for their annual Provincial Assembly. The Provincial Assembly is a time for fraternity, ongoing formation, prayer and discussion. This year, the friars incorporated into the assembly another event to celebrate the fifth centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Jesus. On Monday, June 8th, the friars were joined by some of the Discalced Carmelite nuns of the province for a day of spiritual conferences about St. Teresa, a special Mass in her honor, and, in the evening, a performance of *The Interior Castle*, a dramatic presentation with music by *Musica Aperta*. It was a week of blessings for all the friars as we spent time together in the spirit of our Holy Mother Saint Teresa.



On Thursday evening of the assembly, the friars were joined by the Discalced Carmelite Seculars of San Antonio for Mass, a Holy Hour of Eucharistic adoration for vocations, and a pot luck supper.