

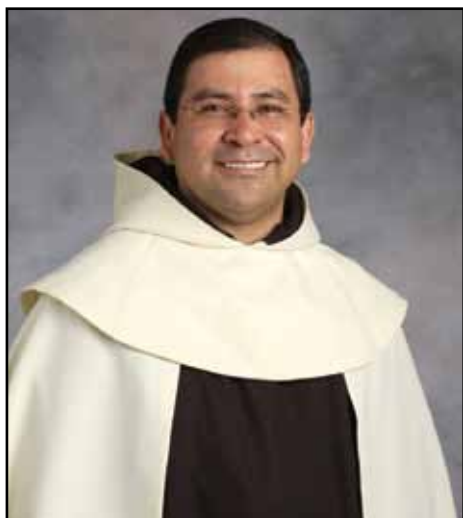
SUMMER 2016
VOL. 9 NO. 2

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

“We venerate Our Lady of Mount Carmel for her intimate union with her Son our Lord Jesus, and we look for her intercession for our needs and the needs of the whole world.”



On behalf of our Province of Oklahoma, I greet all of you and wish you a blessed celebration of the Solemn Feast of our Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel!

As in every year, summer has arrived with its different activities typical of the season. Some are routine and not very important and others may feel like a routine, yet bring us joy and happiness; such as the annual activities for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. During the month of July, we pray for the intercession of the patroness of our Order, Our Lady of Mount Carmel during the novena in her honor. It is a joy to know that during the novena to Our Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel, we not only show our love and devotion to her, but from the prayers, liturgical

celebrations and homilies preached during the novena, we also learn more about her and of course, about our Lord Jesus. Yes, we learn more about our Savior, because to speak of Mary is to speak of our Lord.

During the liturgical year, we celebrate the different mysteries of Christ; yet our Church invites us to also venerate with special love the Blessed Mother of God; she is united to the saving work of her Son, our Lord Jesus. For this reason, to celebrate our Blessed Mother is to celebrate the love and mercies of God. We cannot forget that prayers, liturgies and devotions manifest our love for the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and our desire to follow her example of a faithful disciple of Christ. Moreover, in our celebration of our Saint Mary of Carmel, we live the relationship of the Mother of Christ and the Church. Therefore, I exhort all of you to live this time dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel with an open heart and mind to the Mystery of our salvation. Furthermore, I invite you to learn from Mary to contemplate the Word of God and transform it in life, as she did. She is the silent Virgin who knew how to listen to the Word of God and keep it in her heart.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel teaches us that God’s work in our life always conveys our freedom, because in faith the Word of God transforms us. Likewise, we learn from Mary that our daily actions can be more effective if we let God do His will within us. Praying to Our Lady of Mount Carmel during the novena and this month of July may transform our life if we also follow her example as a faithful disciple of Christ.

You are present in our prayers, as well as your family and your needs. Please remember to pray for us as we dedicate ourselves to our pastoral work in our different communities and in the communities of our Carmelite Nuns. Thank you very much to all of you for your spiritual and material support to our Province!

May the powerful love of Mary for her Son our Lord Jesus and His Church bring you peace, joy and hope!

In Christ and Carmel,
Fr. Luis Castañeda
Fr. Luis Castañeda, O.C.D.
Provincial



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

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IN OUR MINISTRIES FOR GENERATIONS.**

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Mary, Mother of Mercy

By Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD



In proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls Jesus “the face of the Father’s mercy.” It is Jesus who makes visible in human form all of the qualities of his heavenly Father. *Whoever has*

seen the Father he says to his disciples (Jn 14,9). In his humanity, Jesus is the icon of the Father’s mercy.

Every word and action of Jesus shows forth the mercy of the Father, a Father whose heart is moved with compassion for his children in their need. He sees his children’s suffering and does not remain indifferent. No, he sends his beloved only-begotten Son to bring healing, relief, guidance and forgiveness to those in need. His heart pierced on the Cross and pouring forth blood and water shows that Jesus holds back nothing of the Father’s infinite mercy. This mercy is poured out in its entirety from Jesus’ pierced side. God holds nothing back from his beloved children, created in his image and likeness. And there, standing by Jesus’ side in this hour of mercy, witnessing, believing and joining herself to him in faith and compassion is Mary his Mother, whom he gives to us as our Mother.

How can we ponder the humanity of Christ without remembering the one from whom he received his human nature, Mary his mother? As Pope Francis writes: *No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh.* Indeed, Mary, throughout the centuries of the Church has been invoked as “Mother of Mercy.” Mary is Mother of

Mercy because she is the mother of Jesus, mercy incarnate. She is the object of God’s mercy, she cooperates with God’s work of mercy, and in her mercy she intercedes for us her children.

Mary’s entire existence is the fruit of God’s enduring mercy. In an act of singular mercy, God preserved Mary from all sin. Whereas we experience mercy as forgiveness for sins committed, Mary experienced God’s mercy as preservation from sin and fullness of grace. St. Therese of the Child Jesus realized that it was only by God’s mercy that she herself had avoided any serious sin in her life. She describes her understanding of and gratitude for God’s prevenient mercy in the following parable:

I can’t take any credit for not getting entangled in this way; it was only because God had mercy on me and preserved me. Without His help, I might have fallen even lower than St. Mary Magdalene. His wonderful words to Simon the Pharisee, “to whom less is forgiven, he loveth less” (Luke 7:47), echo so sweetly in my soul, for He has forgiven me much more than He forgave her. I can’t really explain my feelings about this, but perhaps an example will give you an idea of what I mean: Suppose the son of a skillful doctor falls over a stone lying in his path and breaks a limb. His father hurries to help him and dresses his wound so skillfully that it heals completely. Naturally, he is quite right to love such a father and will be most grateful to him. But supposing again this doctor saw the dangerous stone, anticipated that his son would fall over it and moved it out of the way when no one was looking; then his son would know nothing of the danger from which his father’s loving care had saved him and so would have no reason to show gratitude. He would love him less than if he had healed some serious wound. But if he did find out the truth, surely his love would be even greater? I am that child, the object of the Father’s loving providence, “who did not send His son to call the just, but sinners.” (Luke 5:32). He wants me to love Him because He has forgiven

me, not much, but everything. He did not wait for me to love Him with a great love, like Magdalene’s, but made me see that He had loved me first, with an infinite providence, so that now I may love Him in return even unto folly. I have often heard it said in retreats and elsewhere that an innocent soul never loves God as much as a repentant one, and how I long to prove that that’s not true.

Can we not apply this parable to Mary and her Immaculate Conception? Using St. Therese’s image, we can say that God removed the stone of original sin from Mary’s path, preserving her by his mercy. Mary received this singular mercy of God as a member of God’s chosen people Israel. In her, God fulfills his promise to Israel: *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances* (Ezekiel 36, 26-27). And so Mary sings in her Magnificat, *He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.* (Lk 1, 54-55)

Mary’s freedom from sin allowed her to say “Yes” to God without reservation. She places herself entirely at God’s service in faith, hope and love. And as the Son whom she conceived by faith is accomplishing his great work of mercy upon the Cross, Mary is there again in faith, hope and love, reaffirming her “Yes” to God’s plan of salvation. Jesus chose to associate Mary with this greatest of his works. Mary adds nothing to Jesus’ divine work of mercy, but in His freedom, he chooses to associate her with this work. In this sense, too, she is referred to as “Mother of Mercy.”

Finally, the Church has traditionally referred to Mary as Mother of Mercy in her role of intercessor. Again, Jesus is our great intercessor with the Father, the one mediator between God and man. But he has likewise given Mary his mother a

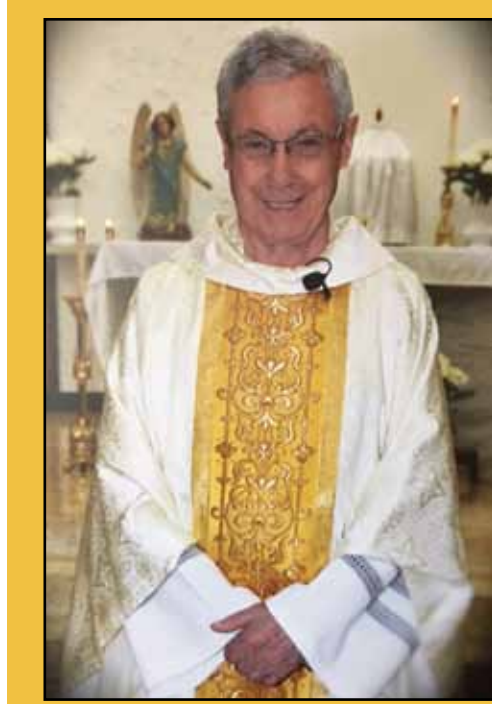
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Mary, Mother of Mercy

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unique participation in his intercession. Just as Mary interceded for the bride and groom at the wedding of Cana, pointing out their need to Jesus, so she continues to present the needs of all her children, above all our need for mercy, to her Divine Son. In the *Hail Holy Queen*, we turn to Mary, Mother of Mercy as our gracious advocate, imploring her to turn her eyes of mercy towards us, that at the end of our exile she might show us the fruit of her womb, Jesus, the face of the Father's mercy.

In this year of Mercy, may you come to know the loving presence and intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy. *Pray for us, Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ!*



Golden Jubilee

On March 5, 2016, our Fr. Jenaro de la Cruz celebrated 50 years of priestly service at St. Mary of Carmel Parish in Dallas, where he currently serves as pastor. Thanks be to God for our dear brother, Fr. Jenaro, and may God continue to bless him and his ministry.

Father Joseph's Front Window



Located at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio, Texas.

The top center scene depicts the Immaculate Mother surrounded by the Saints of the Carmelite Order. It does not include all of the Saints of the Order, but those more commonly known.

The lower center: is that of Our Lady of Mount Carmel descending to Purgatory according to Her promise and freeing the souls clothed in Her Scapular. Few, if any, stained glass windows of the world depict this most beautiful and consoling scene, It has already captivated the hearts of recent visitors to the Shrine.

Top right: Scene showing St. Simon Stock receiving the Scapular from Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the monastery of Aylesford, England in 1251.

Lower right: Our Lady appearing to Pope John the XXII, and conveying the Sabbatine Privilege.

Upper left: The prophetic vision of St. Elias. He saw a cloud the size of a man's foot, and this cloud grew larger until it had covered as it were the whole earth, depicting the maternal care of our Blessed Mother.

Lower left: Our Blessed Lady in the School of the Prophets, speaking to the hermits and monks on Mount Carmel.

The large front window was ordered from the Emil Frei Company by Rev. Bartholomew Soler, O.C.D. in June of 1947 along with the small casement windows placed just below at a price of \$5000. It took three years to complete the windows.



Overlooking the main choir loft, and catching the first rays of the morning sun, this large memorial window, dedicated to a former Provincial of the Carmelite Order, Fr. Joseph Cantavella, O.C.D. (photo left), reflects scenes of continuing love of the Blessed Mother for the Carmelite Order.

Following are excerpts from an article which appeared in the July, 1949 *Apostolate Magazine*: