

Mount Carmel Center



Summer 2010

Recent Developments

- ❖ Our Mass Guild has proven to be very popular. Over 114 people are now enrolled in our monthly first Friday Masses.
- ❖ Our latest program calendar is out. See the insert for details and extend an invite to your friends!
- ❖ We'd like to extend a big *Thank you!* to the CRHP Teams from St. Ann's Parish ~ who have been so generous this summer in helping us maintain the grounds and with cleaning.



- ❖ Our facility improvements are starting to pay off. From 2009 to 2010, the Center has experienced a 44% increase in the number of groups from the Dallas Diocese who are using the Mount Carmel Center facility for their programs.
- ❖ We are still seeking funding for our dormitory renovation. \$240,000 is needed, and to-date, we have received \$40,000 from the Catholic Foundation, and \$15,000 from a second collection at St. Ann's Parish.

Would you like Mount Carmel Center to receive your contribution automatically? Would you like to reduce the processing time and cost for putting your donation to work? Then consider E-giving. For details, contact Mary Bellman at 214-331-6224 ext. 314 or email admin@mountcarmelcenter.org.

IMITATION IMITATION



Is The Sincerest Form of Devotion



In our previous newsletter, we had an article entitled 'Gift for Others,' which was a short reflection on one of the characteristics of priesthood, both ordained ministry and the priesthood of the baptized, as being an imitation of Christ's own self-sacrificing generosity. In this article we would like to build upon the previous topic of self-sacrifice and turn to another model of faithful discipleship, Our Lady. As we approach the Order's Solemnity, that of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our minds turn to that woman of faith, who is a model disciple of the priesthood of the faithful, The Blessed Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Though it may be difficult to sustain, we as baptized believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ should always try to consider our discipleship in terms of its many facets. One of the most important facets is the truth that Jesus Christ is the Eternal High Priest. It is Christ's Priesthood, and the manner in which He lived it in history and continues to live it in Eternity, that can be of help to us in defining the parameters of our own understanding of what it is to be called a disciple of Christ. That discipleship is defined for us through our own participation in Christ's 'manner-of-being' as Priest, Prophet, and King. That participation is a God-given grace imparted to us through the sacramental grace of baptism.

"Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church "a kingdom, priests for his God and Father." The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are "consecrated to be ... a holy priesthood."

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 1546

To better understand the mission of the Pilgrim Church it is helpful to turn to those whose lives of holiness are exemplary. It is understood that we belong to a 'communion of saints,' and that this communion is a communion 'in holy things' (sancta) and a communion 'among holy persons (sancti). The creature most special in God's plan of salvation for the human race can be seen in the way of discipleship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

"Two Truths lie at the heart of the Marian mystery. Among redeemed mankind, the Mother of God is the most sublime human being of all and the first-fruit of the Redemption. At the same time she is the mother of all redeemed mankind and, as such, her sway, within the redeemed world, is universal and extends to all those who are co-redeemed."

~ E. Schillebeeckx. *Mary Mother of the Redemption*
(New York: Sheed and Ward, 1964), xiv

"It is in the Church, in communion with all the baptized, that the Christian fulfills his vocation. From the Church he receives the Word of God containing the teachings of 'the law of Christ.' From the Church he receives the grace of the sacraments that sustains him on the 'way.' From the Church he learns the example of holiness and recognizes its model and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary; he discerns it in the authentic witness of those who live it; he discovers it in the spiritual tradition and long history of the saints who have gone before him and whom the liturgy celebrates in the rhythms of the sanctoral cycle."

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 2030

What does this priesthood of the faithful consist of? "... While the common priesthood of the faithful is exercised by the unfolding of baptismal grace – a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit –, the ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood."

~Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1547

The life of the Spirit, the supernatural life which is the life of grace and a gift from God begins for each of us at the baptismal font. When we enter into the eternal covenant, by which we belong entirely to God through the Paschal Mystery of Christ; when by water and the Word of God we are washed of all sin and reborn and sanctified in Christ to everlasting life. It is the moment when holy Mother Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, gives birth to us in Christ. It is the beginning of our life of grace, our friendship with God, a friendship that we try to deepen and allow to grow in its subsequent commitments and obligations. It is the foundation for all subsequent graces – our developing friendship with our Lord and God.

Recalling that we are members of a Body, this individual unfolding of baptismal graces, of the Life of the Spirit, is not only a transformative process for each individual, but each individual as a member of the Body has an impact on the entire believing Body. Each transformed member increases the holiness of all the other members of that Body – that is the beauty and pain of belonging to this One Body. Our individual cooperation with God's Grace (holiness) or our disobedience to that Grace (sinfulness) has a direct impact upon the Body of Christ. Our common priesthood then consists in not only birthing our individual cooperation with this Grace (sanctity) but also to help in the birthing of 'the just' of the entire Body of Christ.

How are we as members of this birthing Church to actively participate in this birthing? We are to accomplish this task, this mission that has been given to us by Christ Himself, by imitating Christ, by attempting to live a gospel way of life with gospel values. We are to apply our free will to cooperation with the divine grace that is made available to us and always seek that which is good. Not just what is 'good' for me but what leads me to that Ultimate Good which is life in Christ. This results in a growth of virtue and if we properly develop these virtues they constitute what we know as 'holiness' of life, not so much because of the quality of the exterior act as because of the perfection of the inner disposition. The sanctity of both Mary and the Church is caused by the same grace of God. The main difference lies in the receptivity. Mary's receptivity is unparalleled among creatures – ours is marred by reluctance and sin which hampers this receptivity. Mary's growth in holiness was constant and rapid; ours can be intermittent and sluggish. All sanctity leads to and flowers as glory and resurrection.

May we be faithful to the priesthood entrusted to us for the Glory and Worship of the One Eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen!

In Him,
Fr. Stephen Sánchez, O.C.D.



For this issue's book article, please visit us online at:
www.mountcarmelcenter.org





"The sun is extraordinarily generous, giving huge parts of itself away every second. If this generosity should halt, all energy would eventually lose its source and everything would die... We, and everything on our planet, live because of the generosity of the sun....In this generosity, the sun reflects the abundance of God, a largesse that invites us to also be generous, to have big-hearts, to risk more in giving ourselves away in self-sacrifice, to witness to God's abundance."
 ~ Ron Rolheiser, O.F.M.



Has God Shined His Goodness in Your Life

The Carmelites pour themselves out in service to the Church

- Through countless hours of service to parishes ...
- By maintaining a prayer presence in the world
- In sharing the wisdom of the Carmelite saints in their conferences and retreats
- In trusting on the providence of God through their benefactors

If God is working in your life...

- Through the example and wisdom of the friars
- Blessing you with resources or challenging you to a new level of trust through generosity

Please support the work of the Discalced Carmelite Friars.

Mount Carmel Center operates strictly on your donations. Your continuing financial support is critical to our ministry. We appreciate your generosity. Please use the form below and return in the enclosed envelope.



Gift / Pledge Form



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

I / We intend to contribute: \$ _____ as a one time gift.
 I / We intend to contribute: \$ _____ every: month, quarter, six months, year (please circle the frequency)
 Total annual contribution: \$ _____ Please send me an annual reminder by email: _____ or, call: _____

e-Giving Option



Electronic giving (e-Giving) is the option to have your pledge automatically deducted from your bank account and transferred electronically to Mount Carmel Center. If you would like to participate in e-Giving, please complete both the Pledge & e-Giving forms, attach a voided check and return in the enclosed envelope. *Thank you!*

Name of Bank _____ Type of account _____

Date to Start e-Giving _____

I authorize Mount Carmel Center to initiate debits, effective immediately, for the purpose of making a tax-deductible donation. I understand that Wachovia Bank, my financial institution (bank), or Mount Carmel Center reserve the right to terminate the donation plan or my participation therein. This authority is in effect until revoked by me in writing. I have included a voided check.

Signature _____ Date _____



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"Let nothing disturb you ~ Nothing frighten you ~ All things are passing ~ God never changes ~ With patience you attain all things ~ Who possesses God wants nothing ~ God alone suffices."

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The St. Joseph's Society: An Enduring Gift

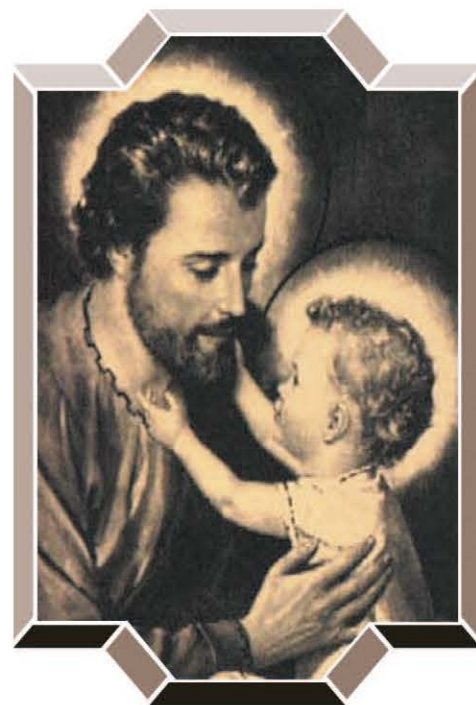


Our newest member of the St. Joseph's Society, Mercedes Daley, has generously added Mount Carmel Center as a beneficiary of her will. This society honors benefactors who have made planned gifts to the Discalced Carmelite Fathers. Their intentions are lifted in the daily liturgies of the friars but especially remembered at the Eucharistic celebration on March 19th, the feast day of St. Joseph.

Mercedes said that "Mount Carmel Center has been a place for me to deepen and strengthen my spiritual life. The seminars on Carmelite spirituality are wonderful and my relationship with God has become stronger as a result. I have been gifted and I want others to be able to share and benefit from what Mount Carmel has to offer. I feel that my gift is the best way for me to help sustain the Center in the future so that the friars can continue their ministry."

Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a member of the St. Joseph Society.

The Discalced Carmelite Friars live in gratitude for God's providence and your generosity. As you consider your spiritual legacy through wills, bequests, or insurance policies, should you choose to remember us, we humbly ask that you name us as The Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Dallas, Inc. We would like to recognize your generosity through membership in the St. Joseph Society.



www.mountcarmelcenter.org