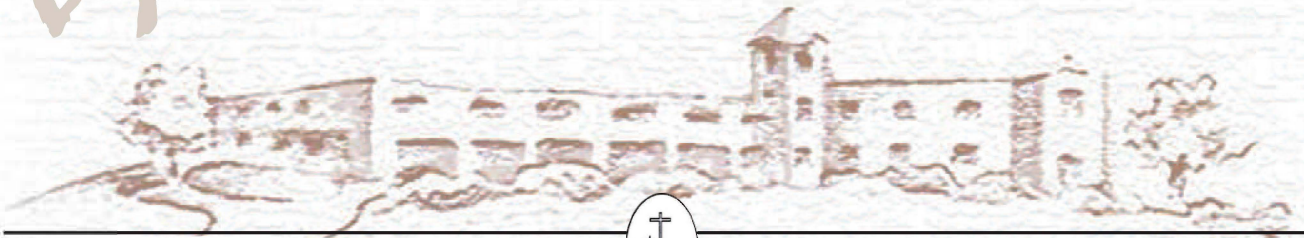


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# M Mount Carmel Center

*A Monastery & Retreat House of The Discalced Carmelite Fathers*



Winter 2012- 2013

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## Recent Developments

- ❖ All of our concrete and the steps in front of the building and large chapel have been re-poured.



- ❖ The small dorm is getting a major makeover thanks to the generous efforts of many workers and volunteers. Six new rooms will replace the old partitioned cubicles. New furniture and a renovated bathroom will complete the dorm.
- ❖ Our new website is up and running. Please take a moment to visit and register for a program, buy a Mass Guild card or read about the Center.
- ❖ The Center has been awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation. (see back page)



*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.*

***“Proclaim the good news among the nations:  
Our God will come to save us.”***

*(Liturgy of the Hours, 1st Antiphon of Vespers of the 1st Sunday of Advent)*



***“Tell us shepherds, what have you seen?”***

*(Liturgy of the Hours, 1st Antiphon Christmas Morning)*

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## ADVENT | CHRISTMAS

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Once again, we come to the liturgical season of Advent/Christmas. While the rest of the world’s attention is absorbed by the unstable economies, near or far; predictions of a ‘fiscal cliff’; political parties that are dominated by ideologies and serving those ideologies instead of serving the people that have elected them; people so addicted and consumed by materialism and consumerism that in the end they themselves are being consumed – there is a deeper story occurring and unfolding.

*continued on page 2*

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*continued from page one*

This deeper story may receive some popular attention but only in the service of the prevailing ideologies and agendas. Few, sadly, very few people actually have a keener spirit to capture the ineffableness of the story that is unfolding. For those of us who are believers, it is the story of the Incarnation of the Son of God and the consequences of that Incarnation. There is an Advent hymn (SATB arrangement) based on Isaiah 35: 4-10, that captured my religious imagination the first time that I heard it and has ever since colored my understanding of Advent and Christmas. It is entitled ‘Springs in the Desert’ – there is at the very beginning a most beautiful tenor line that is both hopeful and haunting, in a beautiful clear and crisp tenor line above the organ arraignment the voice of the prophet cries out: ‘Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong! Fear not! Behold! Your God will come and save you!’

This is the greater Truth and the greater Hope that we must fix our hearts upon and not allow the roiling seas to rob us of that surety of the greater and eternal Good that asks of us to make it the foundation of our lives and dreams. Advent is also the time to ‘get away’ from the ‘maddening crowds’ and reflect upon this greater Hope and Truth – it is a time of re-centering our lives and aligning ourselves with the Mystery that the season celebrates.



*The poor shepherds in  
the night silence of the  
fields heard the Good  
News first. The poor  
and marginalized, the  
lowest of the social  
economic strata were  
visited by an angelic  
host to give them a  
Hope that the world  
could not give them –  
and still cannot give.*



One of the cherished values of Carmel is the value of silence – the time and space to listen actively and attentively to the Spirit of the Risen Lord that continually invites us deeper into that Friendship that the Lord desires to have with each of us. The Silence is not a negation but an opening to a deeper song that resides in the heart of creation, a song that longs for and invites the Final Coming of the King to restore what has been broken.

The poor shepherds in the night silence of the fields heard the Good News first. The poor and marginalized, the lowest of the social economic strata were visited by an angelic host to give them a Hope that the world could not give them and still cannot give. In the silence of their poverty they were told of an elected poverty chosen by God in order that we may be made rich in those things that alone endure. In the silence of their poverty St. Joseph attends to his Virgin Bride as she gives birth not in a room or even a hovel but in a stable of poverty, the Promise. The Promise of God’s commitment to us made Flesh, a Flesh united to His own divine being.

May this Promise made Flesh be a source of blessing for each of you in whatever poverty you may find yourself and may your Hope be rooted in Him who is to come.

*“Tell us shepherds – what have you seen?”*

In Him,

*Fr. Stephen Sánchez, O.C.D.*

Fr. Stephen Sánchez, O. C. D.



# 2013 Winter – Summer Program Calendar



For more information, please contact Mary Bellman:  
[admin@mountcarmelcenter.org](mailto:admin@mountcarmelcenter.org), or call 214-331-6224 ext. 314



*ATTENTION: You may bring your lunch & stay for personal prayer until 4:00 pm after each program. The suggested minimum donation for each is \$25. In order to avoid waste or shortages, we ask that you please register one week in advance. ~ Thank you!*

**Life of St. Teresa of Avila (Part I of V)** – by Fr. Stephen Sanchez

**Wednesday, January 2nd and Saturday, January 5th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Introduction to the ‘Life’ of Teresa: This is the first of the series of five presentations. This first conference will examine the social, political, and religious environment that shaped Teresa’s surroundings and the development of her ‘autobiography’.

**Ash Wednesday Morning of Reflection** – by Fr. Jerome Earley

**Wednesday, February 13th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Program will be followed by Mass and ashes. The topic of our Ash Wednesday morning of reflection will be an instruction on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Included will be an explanation of the Sacrament theologically, what constitutes a sin, and methods of making the confession.

**Life of St. Teresa of Avila (Part II of V)** – by Fr. Stephen Sanchez

**Wednesday, February 27th and Saturday, March 2nd | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Wrestling with God: Book of her Life, Chapters 1-10. This conference will examine Teresa’s reflection on her formative years and the many ways in which she struggled to understand God’s Mercy. For the rest of the series of conferences it is preferable that the attendees be familiar with the chapters that will be covered in each section.

**Life of St. Teresa of Avila (Part III of V)** – by Fr. Stephen Sanchez

**Wednesday, March 13th and Saturday, March 16th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Teresa: Transforming Grace: Book of her Life, Chapters 11-22. This conference will cover the famous ‘4 Waters’ of prayer and how this became the source of her own transformation and lead her to a conformity of wills with her Friend Christ.

**Life of St. Teresa of Avila (Part IV of V)** – by Fr. Stephen Sanchez

**Wednesday, April 17th and Saturday, April 20th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Teresa: New Life in Christ: Book of her Life, Chapters 23 - 31. This conference will cover the period of her ‘Life’ in which the fruit of prayer has brought harmony between the Friends as Christ lives Teresa.

**St. Teresa and Self-Knowledge** – by Fr. Jerome

**Wednesday, May 1st and Saturday, May 4th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

This conference will discuss St. Teresa's emphasis on self-knowledge as the basis for cultivating one's spiritual life in the Lord. We will consider how self-knowledge deepens our Christian anthropological understanding of the Faith. Passages from the WAY OF PERFECTION and THE INTERIOR CASTLE will be used.

**Life of St. Teresa of Avila (Part V of V)** – by Fr. Stephen Sanchez

**Wednesday, May 15th and Saturday, May 18th | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Teresa: God of Mercy: Book of her Life, Chapters 32-40. This conference will cover these last chapters of Teresa’s Life in which she presents the ‘point’ of her magisterial doctrine: God is a God of Mercy.

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# Mount Carmel Center



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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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## Warming the Cockles of the Fathers' Hearts

We are happy to announce that the Catholic Foundation has awarded Mount Carmel Center a \$35,000 grant to replace the heating system in the cloister of the monastery. The cloister is the area where the friars live, study and meditate.

The current heating system for a significant part of the building is the original 1952 central natural gas powered boiler system. Over the last few years, the system has been failing and is now at the point in which it cannot be repaired. At times the friars have lived with little-to-no heat in the winter due to continuing breakdowns of the system.

This grant provides for the installation of heat pumps to provide heating and more efficient air conditioning.

We are so excited to finally be able to permanently retire the asbestos cased natural gas powered boiler and improve the living conditions of the friars in both summer and especially winter. It is a heartwarming endeavor indeed.



[www.mountcarmelcenter.org](http://www.mountcarmelcenter.org)