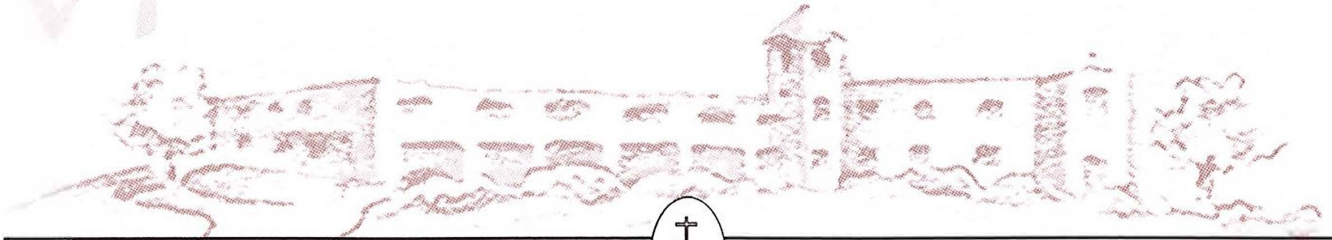
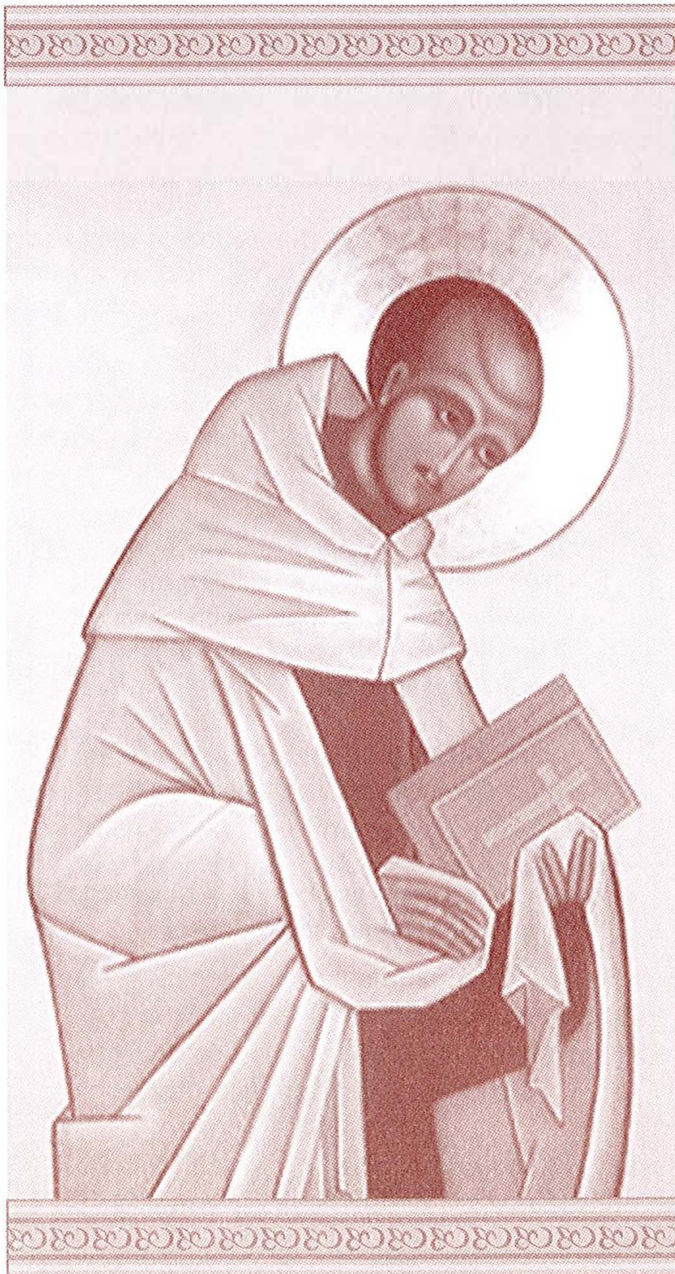


Mount Carmel Center



Autumn 2016



Reformer



“He who truly walks in love lets himself lose all things immediately in order to be found more attached to what he loves.”

Spiritual Canticle, 29, 10

St. John of the Cross lived during a time of an all-encompassing upheaval in religious, political, social, and economic areas. Much like today, this upheaval was a consequence of decisions taken by people of influence who only considered their own interests and had not given serious consideration to the potential consequences.

The Church, at least the part which is in the world, also suffered the consequences of having to live in these historical situations. One of the consequences of the social decay was the decline in religious life which led to the ‘relaxation’ of guidelines within religious orders.

John of St. Matthias (John of the Cross) in his own early life as a Carmelite saw this decline and was desirous of living a more ‘strict’ life. He was thinking of leaving the Order of Carmelites and joining the more contemplative Carthusian Order when he met Teresa of Jesus in Salamanca in 1567. She convinced him to stay and help her with the reform of the Carmelite Order that she had begun with the nuns in Avila

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On November 28, 1568, John took the new religious name of John of the Cross as he received the habit of the Discalced Carmelites in the tiny hamlet of Duruelo with two other friars (Anthony of Jesus and John of Christ) who also received the habit. Thus, the Order of the Discalced Carmelite Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was born.

The 'reform' was taken as an affront by the older branch of the friars and both Teresa and John suffered persecutions among all of the other hardships of this endeavor. It was during this persecution that John was kidnapped in the middle of the night and put in a prison cell, whose location he knew not. It was this imprisonment which lasted about 9 months that brought forth his poetry which is still considered the best of the Spanish language.

During this solitary confinement he was constantly told what a bad religious he was and he was not allowed to celebrate the Eucharist. In his mind, all this suffering was for his desire to live a life of simplicity, dedicated to Christ whom he loved above and beyond all created things.

John of the Cross managed to escape, was nursed back to health by the Discalced Carmelite nuns, and continued his work of reform until his death in 1591.

A longer version of this article can be found on our website:

www.mountcarmelcenter.org



Did you know you can donate to the Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Dallas while you shop on Amazon? Go to:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1249664>

and log into Amazon as usual. They will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Fathers whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Recent Developments

- ❖ This program year will focus on St. John of the Cross, one of the original reformers of the Carmelite Order; a mystic; Spain's preeminent poet, and a Doctor of the Church.

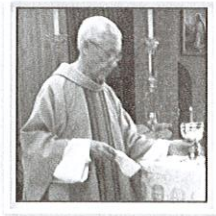
Our main article of newsletter will highlight a different facet of the saint.

- ❖ Turn to the back cover to read about Carmel's newest saint: Elizabeth of the Trinity.

We also have a program featuring her on November 30th.



- ❖ Your generous contributions help us to upgrade our facilities. The men's restroom is currently undergoing construction to make it larger. See inside to learn about our newest area to bring up to date.
- ❖ Thank you to all the volunteers from St. Ann who came out for our fall cleanup of the grounds.
- ❖ Congratulations to Fr. Jenaro de la Cruz, OCD on his Golden Jubilee anniversary of priesthood.





Can You Hear Me?

Being able to capture attention with graphics and a clear and compelling voice is a must in today's environment. We have the great truths of the Church and the treasury of Carmelite teachings on the spiritual life to share with the world. Now we need your help in doing a better job of reaching today's audience.



If you've ever attended one of our programs, you might have noticed the lack of adequate audio-visual equipment in our south lecture hall. Our aging speaker system is in serious need of an upgrade. Over time the wiring has degraded to the point where it is difficult to maintain clear and balanced sound in the room.

We would like to install a new set of speakers and PA system plus add 2 flat screen monitors to the room to allow for a wider variety of in-house presentations and improved sound quality of recordings for use on our website. Our budget for this project is \$5,000.

Perhaps your response to the call of evangelization might be by helping us to better share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please consider making a gift to help us reach our goal and bring you more enriching presentations in the coming years.

If you'd like to help by sending a donation, please make your checks out to Mount Carmel Center, and mail to 4600 W. Davis Street, Dallas, TX 75211. You can also make a donation through our website by clicking on "Support the Friars". Please add a note that your donation is for the "South Lecture Hall Improvements".

The Mass Guild, a Perfect Gift



The Mass is truly the perfect offering. What better gift than to enroll your friends and family in the Mass Guild? Enrollment in the Mass Guild guarantees the beneficiary a share in the spiritual riches of a monthly Eucharist offered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars at Mount Carmel Center for one year. The Mass is celebrated every first Friday.

You will receive a beautiful gold embossed enrollment card to give to those whom you enroll. The card can be personalized by you or by the center and comes with a vellum envelope and enrollment slip. When you send a card out, simply complete the small enrollment form enclosed with your cards and return it to Mount Carmel Center.

Purchasing several cards, allows you the convenience of having the cards at hand to gift as needed. To purchase go to www.mountcarmelcenter.org/mass-guild

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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Carmel has a new Saint!

In March of this year, Pope Francis approved a miracle brought about through the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, clearing the way for her canonization on October 16th. The healing acknowledged by Pope Francis was that of Marie-Paul Stevens, a Belgian woman who had Sjögren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease.

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity was born on July 18, 1880 as Élisabeth Catez. She was the daughter of a military family and was the first child of Captain Joseph Catez and Marie Rolland.

Elizabeth's father died unexpectedly when she was very young. As a result, the family moved to Dijon where she later entered into



Carmel at 21. She died in 1906 at the age of 26 from Addison's disease.

Her last words were:

"I am going to Light, to Love, to Life!"

She felt that her mission in Heaven will be "to draw souls by helping them to go out of themselves in order to cling to God by a wholly simple and loving movement, and to keep them in this great silence within which will allow God to communicate Himself to them and to transform them into Himself."

Her liturgical feast is celebrated on an annual basis on November 8th.