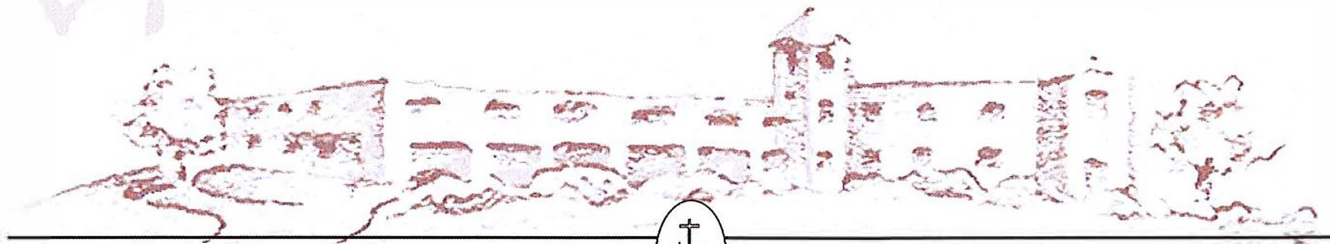
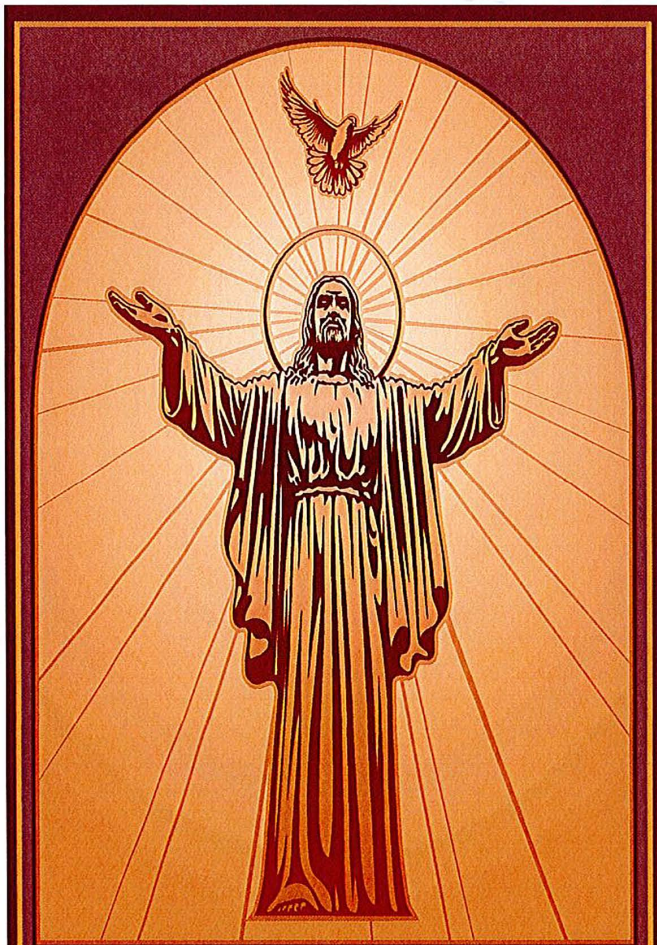

A Monastery & Retreat House of The Discalced Carmelite Fathers

Mount Carmel Center



Spring 2017



“How gently and lovingly
You wake in my heart,
Where in secret You dwell alone;
And in Your sweet breathing,
Filled with good and glory,
How tenderly You swell my heart with love.”

Living Flame, stanza 4

St. John of the Cross Mystic



“The capacity of these caverns [the soul] is deep, because the object of this capacity, namely God, is profound and infinite. Thus in a certain fashion their capacity is infinite, their thirst is infinite, their hunger is also deep and infinite...”²

Living Flame, 3, 22

Within our community of faith, ‘mystical’ refers to a literary work that expresses the encounter of the human person in a “direct, intuitional experience of God through unifying love...an encounter so intimate, so unique, so literally ineffable that it defies capture in human words.”¹ We call those that experience union ‘mystics’ and those that can express this encounter are called ‘mystical writers.’

In John’s own journey of seeking union with God we see that God has responded to his desire and blessed him with that experience of union. God also blessed John with the grace to explain and teach us about the process of this journey towards God. From John’s own struggle and desire to be free from all encumbrances, he gives advice for all of us on the way to the ‘celestial Jerusalem.’, the symbolic language for our own future complete communion with the Triune God through the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ.

continued on page 2



continued from page one

As John entered deeper into his transformative relationship with Christ Jesus, he entered into his own purification and transformation. This journey and encounter with Christ is what John attempts to communicate in his poetry.

*“Where have You hidden,
Beloved, and left me moaning?
You fled like the stag
After wounding me;
I went out calling You, and You were gone.”*

John’s poetry captivates us whether we can understand it or not. In his writings we ourselves are able to intuit about our own journey. There is an Absolute Truth that John has encountered, an experience of Love and Transformation. John points out the dynamism of this journey in his poetic language of yearnings through images of ‘the Encounter’, the ‘wound’ of being ‘enamored’, the ‘Betrothal’, the ‘Marriage of Bride and Bridegroom’, the ‘Nights’ and ‘Fire’ that transforms.

“He was not a philosopher or a theologian in a professional sense, but a man inebriated with God to whom everything else was of little or no importance.”³

May our Father, St. John of the Cross intercede for us to find the gift of a transformed life in the Mystery of the Cross that we celebrate daily upon our altars.

In Christ,
Fr. Stephen

¹ New Catholic Encyclopedia (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1967), vol. 10, “Mysticism in Literature”, 179
² The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross (Washington, D. C.: ICS Publications, 1979), 618.
³ R. A. Herrera, Silent Music: The Life, Work, and Thought of St. John of the Cross (Grand Rapid, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004), 17.



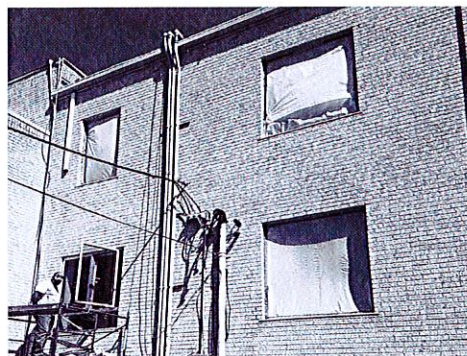
Did you know you can donate to the Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Dallas while you shop on Amazon? Go to:

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

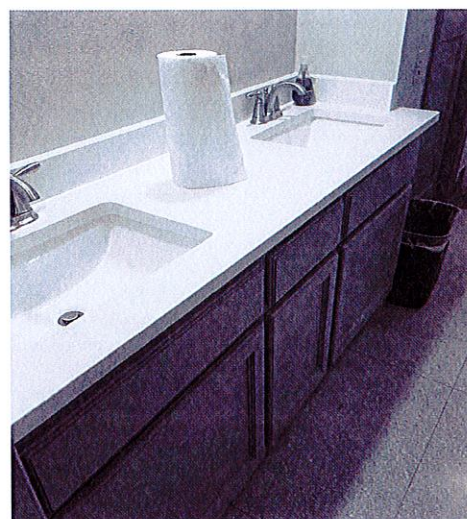
and log into Amazon as usual. They will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Fathers whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Recent Developments

- ✦ We continue with our building renovation. Three new energy-efficient windows were installed on the west side of the building.



- ✦ See next page for more information about our recent grant application.
- ✦ The expanded men’s downstairs bathroom almost complete. Thank you to many workmen who volunteered their time for this project.





WHAT LEGACY WILL YOU LEAVE?

As pilgrims on the journey to heaven, we hope to leave a legacy of Christian love and spiritual growth. Please consider helping those who will follow along in this journey by including Mount Carmel Center in your planned gifts.

Our St. Joseph Society honors benefactors who have made planned gifts to the Discalced Carmelite Fathers. Members are recognized in the newsletter and are awarded an icon of St. Joseph, protector of the Discalced Carmelite Order. 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.



The name for this group was chosen with care. St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus, was provider and protector of the Holy Family. He is the protector of the Catholic Church and the Discalced Carmelite Order. St. Teresa had a special devotion to this glorious saint. The first convent she founded was named for him, San José. She encouraged others to join her in this devotion.

We encourage you to consider becoming a member of the St. Joseph Society. To learn more contact Mary Bellman at:
214-331-6224 ext. 314 | or | admin@mountcarmelcenter.org

"Would that I could persuade all men to be devoted to this glorious Saint [St. Joseph], for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God."
 — St. Teresa of Avila

With Gratitude and Appreciation to the Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation recently awarded us a generous gift that will allow us to finish the window installation on the North Side of our building. The new windows will certainly enhance the appearance. Even more important, it will allow for more quiet, greater energy efficiency, and increased comfort for those inside.

We hope to be able to finish the South side of our building soon. We will be asking other foundations to match the generous support of the Catholic Foundation, allowing us to complete this important project.

Mount Carmel Center



Mount Carmel Center
4600 West Davis
Dallas, Texas 75211

Phone: 214-331-6224
Fax: 214-330-0844

www.mountcarmelcenter.org

"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."

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAL POSTAGE
PAID
DALLAS, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 7271

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thanks to You the South Lecture Hall Update is a Go!

Thank you so much for your generous response. As a result, conference attendees are going to have an improved experience. In our last newsletter we asked for your help with the much needed renovation of our sound system in the lecture hall and the addition of 2 flat screen monitors to the room. Our budget for this project was \$5,000. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise \$7,110.21.

We will be ordering and installing the new equipment soon. Our hope is to have it all working and ready by the time our summer programs begin. We cannot thank you enough. Hopefully you will be able to attend a program soon and enjoy the results!

