

Mount Carmel Center



Recent Developments

❖ Thank you to the Challenge Girls club. The Challenge Girls are a youth subdivision of Regnum Christi. They wanted to help MCC, so they held a fundraiser car wash on Saturday, November 13th, raising about \$300.00 for us.



❖ After 10 years of service, we will be saying goodbye to Donna as she retires from being the cook at Mount Carmel Center. *(Read more about it on the back cover.)*



❖ The new large dormitory windows have been installed. What a difference they make! We excitedly look forward to completing our renovation of the dormitory. Please keep the project in your prayers.

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.*



Love

THE DESIRE OF OUR BEING

The Church has just celebrated the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ manifested to us wrapped in swaddling clothes and married to our own human flesh.

Christ is the Incarnation of God's Faithfulness to us. He is the Eternal Covenant. How often do we consider this Mystery? Do we ever ask 'why the commitment?', 'what impelled God to this commitment?'

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We as a people are driven by the desire to simplify difficult ideas or concepts. Unfortunately in our attempts to simplify, we also tend to rob the concept in question of its depth and meaning. We do the same thing with the Christian concept of love so that the profound commitment of this mystery may be reduced to sentimentalism – a caricature of the essence of genuine love. Do we ever take time to ponder the question of love? We allow the unbelieving dominant culture to reduce it to a national holiday with plump cupids and paper hearts. Granted that these are meant to be signs of something deeper but, unfortunately no one takes the time to teach that there is a deeper meaning to the ‘signs.’ This results in succeeding generations that assumed that the sign was understood – until we come to a generation that not only does not understand the signs – but questions their validity and begins to look for signs that are valuable or significant to them and we begin the process again.



As a Christian community we need to reflect more on the mystery of the Love of God for us if we are to witness to an unbelieving world the truth of the Gospel that we proclaim.

“In this love of God which man meets in Christ he experiences not only what true love is but also at the same time, and unanswerably, that he, sinner and egoist that he is, has no true love. He experiences both aspects in one: the creature’s limited love and its guilty frigidity... one must start from the beginning to re-learn what love really is.”

–Hans urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone*, p. 51

“The most certain sign, in my opinion, as to whether or not we are observing these two laws is whether we observe well the love of neighbor. We cannot know whether or not we love God, although there are strong indications for recognizing that we do love Him; but we can know whether we love our

neighbor [1Jn4,20]. And be certain that the more advanced you see you are in love of your neighbor the more advanced you will be in the love of God, for the love of His Majesty has for us is so great that to repay us for our love of neighbor He will in a thousand ways increase the love we have for Him. I cannot doubt this.”

– St. Teresa of Jesus, Interior Castle,
5th Dwelling Places, 3, 8

The dominant culture is very much like the Narcissus of mythology, captivated and awed by its own beauty, power, and ability to manipulate its surroundings. Our mission as Christians is to turn the face of Narcissus towards the One Creator who has committed Himself to our transformation in and through Christ.

“Christian love is not the world’s last word about itself – it is God’s final word about Himself, and so about the world. In the Cross we see, above all, something foreign to the world, something which cuts clean across the worldly understanding: A Word which the world does not want to hear at any price. For the world wants to live and rise without dying; but Christ’s love wishes to die, in order that, through death, it may rise again beyond death in God’s form.”

– Hans urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone*, p. 112

May the Spirit of the Love-of-God-made-Flesh for us dwell in your hearts and families – and may that Spirit bring forth the Fruit of Redemption and Salvation for all those you love.

In Him,
Fr. Stephen Sánchez, O.C.D.



For a longer version of this article as well as Fr. Jerome's book recommendation please visit us online at:

www.mountcarmelcenter.org





Status of the Center

We hope you have enjoyed the improvements to the Center over the last year. With your help, in 2010 we were able to:

- Furnish the foyer to make it a much more welcoming area**
- Install a decorative niche at the end of our main hallway**
- Add signage to the property**
- Install new lighting in our main hallway and front door**
- Paint our entryway fencing**
- Install new windows in the main dormitory**

None of these improvements would have happened without your prayers and partnership. We thank you and ask for your continued support in our future endeavors.

Renovation is always a costly undertaking and we've been busy at work applying to various foundations for grants to complete our upstairs dormitory project. While we had some success in 2010, many foundations had to turn us down because of the multitude of other requests. With the current economy making it difficult to find funding, we need your help more than ever. We still need to raise \$240,000 to purchase a new HVAC for the dormitory.

Please consider making a gift to Mount Carmel Center.



What's new in the Library?

For the last several months, under Fr. Jerome's direction, volunteers have been cataloging the Religious Library at Mount Carmel Center. The library is for the use of the Fathers and others who come to the Center.



In addition to basic religious information, the library offers primary and secondary sources of Carmelite writings; extensive biblical commentaries, including the Sacra Pagina; as well as spiritual, mystical and ascetical writings, both pre- and post Vatican II. We also have an almost complete collection of Thomas Merton's writings. If you are interested in coming to use the library, or would like to help us by making a donation of books, please contact Mary at admin@mountcarmelcenter.org or 214-331-6224.

"Meditate often on the word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to be your teacher...The loving presence of God, through his word, is the lamp that dispels the darkness of fear and lights up the path even when times are most difficult."

— Pope Benedict XVI

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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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Food For The Journey

We would like to thank Donna Gilleland for her faithful service over the last 10 years as Mount Carmel Center's cook. Donna decided to retire as of the beginning of January. At her request, it was a loving, quiet good-bye without a lot of fanfare. Donna always said she enjoyed being in "the back of the house".

Donna has been such a blessing to the Center and leaves quite a legacy. Anyone who has visited the Center knows what a wonderful cook she is. Sometimes we didn't know if people were coming for our programs, or just to eat her cooking! One of her last projects was to put together a wonderful cookbook of her favorite recipes entitled, *Climbing the Mountain, Food for the Journey*.

Not only did Donna serve as our cook, she helped out in so many areas of life at the Center. From helping with the tractor, to tending the flower beds, to sewing drapes, to just being who she is, Donna served well. She will be impossible to replace, but we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Donna, THANK YOU, and we ask that you keep us in your prayers as the Lord leads you in this new phase of your life. Know that you will always remain in our hearts and prayers.

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.