

Mount Carmel Center

A Monastery & Retreat House of The Discalced Carmelite Fathers



Summer 2012

Recent Developments

- ❖ The tile on the steps of our large chapel and entry way are being replaced.



- ❖ St. Ann's CRHP did a great job helping with the spring cleanup. Thank you!



- ❖ We were excited to find that our pair of resident foxes have had 4 pups this year. They can be seen mostly in the mornings and evenings.
- ❖ Br. Martín Orozco, a Carmelite novice will be joining us for his novitiate (see page 3).
- ❖ We have updated our large dorm bathroom showers, sinks and hardware (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.*



Dearest Friends of Mount Carmel Center,

The Church is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and on this anniversary we, Mount Carmel Center, have recently finished reviewing highlights of the Council's 'Dogmatic Constitution on the Church' (*Lumen Gentium*). With this document fresh on our memory we urge you to re-read Chapter V of that same document which deals with the 'Universal Call to Holiness.' We ask you to reacquaint yourself with this document as a way of remotely preparing for the upcoming 'Year of Faith' (Oct. 2012 - Oct. 2013) as declared by Pope Benedict XVI.

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This is not the first ‘Year of Faith,’ Pope Paul VI declared 1967 as a year of faith. The 1967 observance was to mark the 1,900th year of the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul in Rome. The observance of ‘The Year of Faith’ of 1967 was also used as an ‘opening statement’ to and a preparation for Paul VI’s ‘Creed of the People of God’ (1968), which reiterated the Deposit of Faith received from the Apostles and for which they shed their blood. Pope Paul VI, perhaps with the grace of prophecy, saw the threat of a disembodied intellectual modernism beginning to overshadow the Christian roots of the Western culture and which were finding their way into the Catholic ‘intelligentsia’ of the time. He therefore reminded the Church of the essentials of faith and the basics of our Creed as a declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ, True God and True Man; the True Light of the Nations as the Conciliar document *Lumen Gentium* would remind us.

This ‘faith’ that we celebrate is not to be disembodied faith either, our fundamental understanding of Catholic spirituality is that it is incarnational, that is, it must be lived-out in our everyday lives and not just dusted-off for ‘special’ days like Sundays, Baptisms, Weddings and Burials, and let us not forget the EastMas Catholics (those that attend only on Easter and Christmas). The faith that we have received has come with the grace necessary to live that faith in holiness as a witness to the truth of Jesus. That grace we receive is a share in Christ’s role as Perfect Priest, Prophet, and King (I like to add Martyr, but most people don’t want to hear about that), it is His holiness that you have received through the grace of baptism that you are called to shine through in your life.



*May the Holy Martyrs
intercede for us and
gain us the fortitude
to live the truth of
the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ.*



“Christ, the great Prophet, who proclaimed the Kingdom of His Father both by the testimony of His life and the power of His words, continually fulfills His prophetic office until the complete manifestation of glory. He does this not only through the hierarchy who teach in His name and with His authority, but also through the laity whom He made His witnesses and to whom He gave understanding of the faith (*sensu fidei*) and an attractiveness in speech so that the power of the Gospel might shine forth in their daily social and family life. They conduct themselves as children of the promise, and thus strong in faith and in hope they make the most of the present, and with patience await the glory that is to come. Let them not, then, hide this hope in the depths of their hearts, but even in the program of their secular life let them express it by a continual conversion and by wrestling “against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness.”

—*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), Chapter IV: The Laity, 35.*

“The Lord Jesus, the divine Teacher and Model of all perfection, preached holiness of life to each and everyone of His disciples of every condition. He Himself stands as the author and consummator of this holiness of life: “Be you therefore perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect”. Indeed He sent the Holy Spirit upon all men that He might move them inwardly to love God with their whole heart and their whole soul, with all their mind and all their strength and that they might love each other as Christ loves them. The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to His own purpose and grace. They are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the baptism of faith they truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way they are really made holy. Then too, by God’s gift, they must hold on to and complete in their lives this holiness they have received. They are warned by the Apostle to live “as becomes saints”, and to put on “as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience”, and to possess the fruit of the Spirit in holiness. Since truly we all offend in many things we all need God’s mercies continually and we all must daily pray: “Forgive us our debts.”

—*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), Chapter V: The Universal Call to Holiness, 40.*

Part of our ‘call’ to live this faith and holiness is to defend our God-given right to worship Him freely so that we can work at allowing the holiness that is ours through baptism to shine through in ‘everyday circumstances’. At this writing the Dioceses of the United States are celebrating the ‘Fortnight for Freedom’ which began on June 21st - the vigil of the Memorial of St. John Fisher and Thomas More, who died defending the truth of the faith against the threats of Henry VIII – and July 4th, the celebration of Independence of our own country.

The recent release of a film that dealt with the Cristiada of Mexico (the Cristero Revolutionaries who began a civil war against an atheistic government who attempted to impose its atheism upon the Church and who then declared the Church an ‘enemy of the state’) makes it clear that through the complacency and apathy of believers, the very expression of a religious belief can result not only in the loss of freedom to express that faith but the outright persecution of those daring to defend the ‘freedom of the sons of God’ that is theirs through the sacrament of baptism. We believe that it would never happen to us in our country but that was the same belief of many in Mexico during the time of the Cristiada.

In Him,

Fr. Stephen Sánchez, O.C.D



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.

Enrollment Form

Please send me _____ Mass Guild Card(s). *Suggested minimum donation per enrollment is \$25.*

Your information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

If you already know whom you would like to enroll and want Mount Carmel Center to personalize the inside of the card for you (please print clearly):

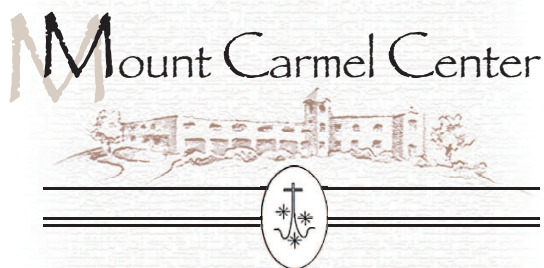
I, _____ am enrolling the following individuals in the Mount Carmel Center Mass Guild for one year:

Name*:

Date to begin enrollment:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(* please indicate deceased with a cross †)



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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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A Shower of Graces

The bathroom in the large dorm has been in need of major repair for years. Aside from the fact that it hasn't received an update in over 50 years, there were cracks in the shower stall floors and some of the plumbing hardware wasn't working. The sinks also needed repair since 50 years of water deposits have taken their toll.

Large grants have been more difficult to obtain lately and we've had to place most of our renovation plans on hold. However, the Lord supplied an answer to our prayers.

Isela Najera who has gone through CRSP, volunteered her husband Sergio when she heard that the shower tile was falling-off in Fr. Stephen's shower. Sergio removed all of the tile and replaced it during one of our 'Spring Clean-up' days. He asked Fr. Stephen to show him any other problem showers. When he saw the showers in the large dorm he said "Padre, we gotta fix them!" Fr. Stephen said, "yes, but we need the money to fix them first." Sergio got tired of waiting for the money and decided to tackle the project himself with the help of some friends and acquaintances. Since then, he himself has gone through CRSP.

Thank you Sergio and all those who have helped you in this project for graciously supplying us with the tile and labor for the bathroom renovation. The bathroom has received a fresh coat of paint, and the showers have beautiful new tile, faucets, plumbing and new curtains. The sinks now have new faucets, soap dispensers and plumbing. It has truly been a shower of graces!