

Mount Carmel Center



Autumn 2013

Close of the Year of Faith



“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...”

— I Thes 1: 2-5

As we approach the end of the Year of Faith on November 24, 2013, we re-examine the ‘why’ of the Year of Faith. Pope Benedict XVI declared this year to be a ‘Year of Faith’ because of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and because it is also the anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II.

The intention of Pope Benedict for our community of believers is to re-examine the teachings of the Council according to the mind of the Church (Magisterium). Our examination should be seen in the overall context of the continuing formation of the Body of Christ under the auspices of the office of Bishop (successors of the Apostles).

We are to seriously consider our need for continuing and mature renewal. Let us throw out the yeast of hypocrisy that sets up a double standard within our very selves; the yeast of indifference that cannot see the value of one small thing done in the name of love; the yeast of materialism that mistakes temporal goods for eternal happiness; the yeast of spiritual elitism that deceives the person into believing that they alone truly understand the message of Christ and the various hosts of other things that stifle the Spirit of Christ that desires to renew the face of the earth!

“...one thing that will be of decisive importance in this Year is retracing the history of our faith, marked as it is by the unfathomable mystery of the interweaving of holiness and sin.”

(Porta Fidei, 13)

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The Year of Faith is meant to be one of introspection that leads to a ‘professing’ with lips and lives the faith that we claim to have in the wondrous Christ-event in which God solemnly and definitively names us as His and everything that is a consequence of that Naming.

The proclamation of the gospel, the kerygma, opens up the human heart to accept in disbelief that which it has always desired and sought ‘in the world’ – an unconditional and reckless love that is offered to us. The acceptance of this love gathers those of us who have accepted it or are in the process of accepting it into a body of believers, a communion (koinonia) of the ‘beloved’ who gather in ‘eucharistia’ (thanksgiving) for this Love that re-creates us and makes us His Children. In turn, this Love leads us to love and serve each other (diaconia) as well as to love and serve those outside of the community. Our love springs forth in recognition of God’s love for each and every individual and the Spirit’s desire that they too become His Children. This is the way of living faith, of evangelization.

“Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present of history, faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world. What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the Word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.” (Porta Fidei, 15)



May the Dew of the Holy Spirit come down upon our hearts to soften them and make them malleable to the designs of our Heavenly Father so that we may each be signs and living symbols of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus the Christ and through our love make disciples of others.

In Him,

Fr. Stephen Sanchez, O.C.D.

If you enjoyed reading this abbreviated version of Father's article please visit our website: www.mountcarmelcenter.org for the complete text.



How to: Schedule a Retreat at Mount Carmel Center

Feeling like you need some time away to work on your relationship with the Lord? Come aside and rest for a while on a private retreat. The Center is available to you for making a retreat during most of the year.* Come spend a quiet day at the Center or stay for a few days in private prayer and reflection.

To make scheduling your retreat easier we recommend you call several months in advance to ensure that you receive the date you want. The schedule can fill up quickly due to our limited space. Right now we are able to schedule only one private retreat at a time until more rooms are built and furnished.

While here you can spend your time in the chapel or explore the 45 acres of walking trails and our religious library. How you spend your time is up to you. There is no program or speaker. Daily Mass is celebrated in the small chapel and lunch is provided each day. For other meals you are welcome to bring something with you or use what is in the pantry and fridge. A refrigerator is also available for anything you bring with you. Please be sure to advise us of any dietary restrictions in advance.

The Details:



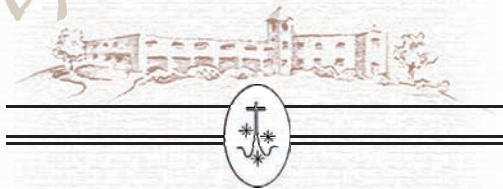
For a day retreat the cost is \$25 with lunch provided.
For those who stay overnight, the cost is \$45 a night.

We ask that retreatants arrive during office hours:
Monday-Friday between 10am and 4pm

For more information or to ask about scheduling,
please contact Mary: (214) 331-6224 ext. 314,
or by e-mail**: admin@mountcarmelcenter.org
(**best method)

**We are closed to private retreats during Holy Week, the Easter Octave, the week of and after Thanksgiving, the last 2 weeks of December, and anytime both Friars are out of town.*

Mount Carmel Center



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Dallas, Texas 75211

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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."

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From Dollars to Doors!

We are happy to update you on the renovation of the small dorm. The progress has been nothing short of amazing. With your generous outpouring of support we've been able to complete the installation of the drywall, purchase and install doors for each room, and paint and install carpet flooring. Currently the beds are being assembled and the windows are being cut. None of this could have been done without your kind help.

In the coming weeks we hope to finish purchasing the rest of the furnishings and begin moving everything into place. At the completion of this project we will have six fully private rooms plus a small sitting area for reading. Perhaps by the next newsletter we will be able to show off a completed room. We've come such a long way.

Thank you!

