

Mount Carmel Center



Summer 2014



Ordinary Time?

“Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!”

Numbers 11:29



We have left behind the Season of Easter with the culminating celebration of the Mystery of Pentecost. We now enter into the season of Ordinary Time. Yet, as a People of a Pilgrim Church, there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. Other Christian communities refer to this time as Kingdom-tide to remind one of both the anticipated Coming of the Lord in Glory and of the mission of the believer to continue to work to establish, through the work of the Holy Spirit, a society that is open to the values of the Gospel.

During the Easter Season it seems that the ‘fervor’ of Easter withers with the Easter lilies that are used as signs of the springtime of eternal life in our liturgical celebrations. There is a need for a deeper catechesis as to what these ‘privileged’ seasons signify for us as a community. This is not the place for such catechesis; but we do offer a humble reflection on the meaning of the Coming of the Spirit upon the People of God.

Just as God the Father gives Himself unmeasured in the gift of His Son so God the Holy Spirit pours Himself unmeasured upon the nascent community of believers. Just as God breathed into the nostrils of Adam to give him a share in the Divine Life so the Spirit breathes upon the Bride born from the side of the Crucified.

The Jewish ‘Feast of Weeks’ (Pentecost) was the time when Israel would bring to the Temple the symbolic offering of the ‘new grain’ in recognition that the Lord was the Giver of the grain. Its roots are in the arrival of Israel to the Promised Land after crossing the desert. The new grain was a sign of their

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truly ‘arriving’ and taking possession of the land as well as of a renewal and remembrance of the Covenant of Sinai.

In our celebration of Pentecost we rejoice in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the ‘new grain’ of the young church. Instead of us bringing a gift to God it is God who gives a gift to the world of this new beginning; the breaking in of salvation into the world history; of a regeneration. It is the inception of a New Covenant in Christ, the perfect covenant prefigured in the signs of the previous. Now we are not under the Covenant of Sinai; we are under the Covenant of the Spirit and this Covenant has been sealed with the Blood of the Lamb that dies no more.

What does this mean for us? It means that God in His Goodness has given to us the Divine Assistance to find our way back to Him, to the fullness of Life itself. This means that we do not walk alone but with the Advocate who guides us along the broken paths of a world fragmented by the consequences of sin and its tragedies. It means that if I am open to this Advocate He will guide me to a sure and safe harbor that is found in the bosom of the Father.

Office of Readings from the Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent:



No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ. His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him. How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance....

The Christian people are invited to share the riches of paradise. All who have been reborn have the way open before them to return to their native land, from which they had been exiled...

– St. Leo the Great, Sermo 15, De passion Domini

Lest we lose our way, we must remember that the journey is the journey of a People, a community in which the division and dysfunction of the Tower of Babel has been healed. That is what is signified by the multilingual crowd understanding of Peter’s preaching on Pentecost. Division is erased if we seek the Spirit of the Risen Lord. Our journey is communal and without community there is no Christianity – only a pious misguided self-interest.

Let us ‘speak’ to others of this great gift to us, let us help each other along the way to the Father’s House, let us use this Kingdom-tide to build and encourage each other in our search for fullness through service to each other under the guidance of the ‘Father of the Poor.’

Yours in Christ,

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.



St. Albert presents the Rule of Life to the hermits living on Mount Carmel. This painting is in the refectory at Mount Carmel Center.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- The remodeling of the women’s bathroom downstairs is partially complete. A marble countertop, news faucets and hardware and a fresh coat of paint have been added.
- Fr. Jerome Earley has left for his new assignment at Marylake Monastery in Little Rock, Arkansas. Fr. Bonaventure Sauer will join us in late July. More info can be found on the back cover.
- We have some new landscaping including a rose garden near the large chapel. Several new flower beds have been created in the front of the building as well.
- Due to the change in Friars our next program calendar will not be out until late August or September. Check the website for the latest details as September nears.
- South Lecture Hall Follow up:
The total amount raised was not enough to complete the project so we hope to apply for a grant in the future. Please keep us in your prayers.

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Dear Friends,

At Mount Carmel Center, we have the responsibility of guiding souls into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Our call is an ‘ecclesial’ call, a communal call, a call to form a ‘family’ of believers that continues to trust in the Apostolic truth that has been faithfully handed down to us.

As a mendicant (begging), religious order, we take a vow of poverty and receive no direct financial support from the Diocese or our Province. We count on your generosity in order to live out our mission and continue to serve here.

Would you be able and willing to help us?

In our continuing apostolic work for the Kingdom, we promise to carefully steward your financial gifts as well as your gifts of time and talent.

In Him,
Fr. Stephen Sanchez, O.C.D.
Superior

Please return in the enclosed envelope. ----- ✂

Dear Fr. Stephen, I am including the following donation of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Please send acknowledgement of my donation to me.

If you are interested in making this an automatic monthly donation please contact Mary at 214-331-6224 or admin@mountcarmelcenter.org

God bless you!

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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CHANGE IS IN THE WIND!



Starting this July our Fr. Jerome will be moving on to his next assignment at Marylake Monastery in Little Rock, Arkansas. We are grateful to Fr. Jerome who has been at Mount Carmel Center for the last 12 years. He has left a lasting impact on all those touched by his ministry and will be greatly missed. ***God bless you and speed your steps Fr. Jerome!***

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer has been assigned to Mount Carmel Center starting this July. Here is a little bit about him. He was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1953 and at an early age moved to Illinois where he grew up. He went to college and then later received a Masters Degree in Scripture before entering the Discalced Carmelite Order with the Province of St. Therese, the Oklahoma Province. He made his first profession of vows in 1986, and then did his theological study in San Antonio. After final profession, in 1991, he studied spirituality in Spain for a year, then was ordained in 1992. After ordination he was soon moved to New Orleans to become Student Director. He also taught at the Seminary there until 1997. From 1997 to 2002 he served as Provincial and, in 2002, was made Superior at Marylake Monastery in Little Rock. From 2005 to 2008 Fr. Bonaventure served as Parochial Vicar at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Therese in San Antonio and as Editor of the Apostolate of the Little Flower magazine. Since 2008 he has served as OCDS provincial delegate and, since 2011 to this year, as provincial vicar for Nuns. Currently, he has been asked to serve as provincial communications director, a new position in the province, in addition to continuing as OCDS delegate.

