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*A Monastery & Retreat House of The Discalced Carmelite Fathers*

# Mount Carmel Center



Spring 2016

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## St. Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church

The title 'Doctor of the Church' is an honorary title granted to those whom the Church considers as having made an important contribution to theology or better said – our theological understanding of ourselves as Church and disciples in the Holy Spirit.



This 'title' is based on charisms listed by St. Paul in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:28) where after Apostles and Prophets he lists 'teachers.' St. Paul further explains (Eph 4:12) that the teaching is to equip the believers to serve and to build up the body of Christ. When the Church begins to examine the teaching of a particular individual 'teacher' they look for three requirements: high degree of sanctity, eminent learning/teaching, and the proclamation by the Church (Supreme Pontiff or General Council). In the Western Church the four pre-eminent contributors to our theology were recognized in the Middle Ages as being St. Gregory the Great, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Jerome. In the Eastern Church it is St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great, and St. Gregory Nazianzen. After these great teachers the Church recognized the universal value of the teachings of several Saints, including St. Teresa of Avila in 1970.

Today we have 36 Doctors of the Church.



*The exceptional style of St. Teresa's teachings are intensely personal, based upon her own experiences, coupled with the graces she received from God to be able to understand and explain the process of spiritual growth.*

*continued on page 2*

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When given this honorary title of 'doctor,' many of the individual 'doctors' are given an epithet that expresses the nature of their teaching or area of expertise, e.g., John of the Cross was named 'Doctor mysticus' (Mystic Doctor), when the Church conferred this title on Teresa of Jesus it was with the already popularly recognized title of 'Spiritualim Mater'- Mother of the Spiritual.

The exceptional style of Teresa's teachings is that among the many spiritual writers on mystical/spiritual theology hers was not one based on 'speculative theology' – that is, taking a truth and working out the consequences of that truth – her teaching is intensely personal, based upon her own experiences coupled with the graces she received from God to be able to understand and explain the process of spiritual growth.

Through the powerful intercession of St. Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church may we be equipped to serve and to build up the Body of Christ.

In Him,

Fr. Stephen



*A longer version of this article, as well as an excerpt of the declaration of St. Teresa of Avila as a Doctor of the Church can be found on our website.*

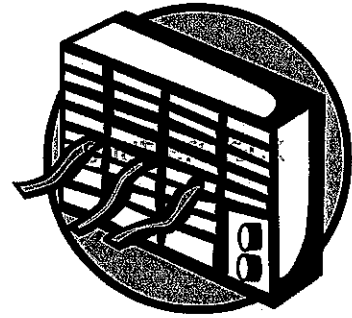
[www.mountcarmelcenter.org](http://www.mountcarmelcenter.org)

## Recent Developments

- ✦ The Friars of the Oklahoma Province recently had a fraternal visitation by Fr. Daniel Chowning, General Definitor. They were most blessed by his visit and warm charity and encouragement.
- ✦ Plenary Indulgence for Year of Mercy *(see back cover for more information)*



- ✦ Stonework around the pool has been completed. We hope to have the pool looking summer ready soon!
- ✦ Thanks to the generosity of our donors, two whisper quiet HVAC units have been installed in the South Lecture Hall. With the boiler now beyond repair, these are a welcome addition.





## 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. To purchase go to [www.mountcarmelcenter.org/mass-guild](http://www.mountcarmelcenter.org/mass-guild)

## Upcoming Programs at Mount Carmel Center

### **The Mercy of God: Beauty, Grace** – by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

- Wednesday, March 2nd & Saturday, March 5th | 10am to 12pm

In this Year of Mercy we will reflect on two poems by Jessica Powers, known in Carmel as Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit, OCD. They express with poetic depth and power the experience of divine mercy as grace bestowed, as transcendent beauty glimpsed.

### **Contemplating the Face of Mercy with Pope Francis** – by Fr. John Magdalene, OCD

- Wednesday, April 6th & Saturday, April 9th | 10am - 12pm

We will ponder the significance of this Year of Mercy by reviewing the teachings of our Holy Father Pope Francis and the Carmelite Saints, especially St. Therese. We will also draw from Cardinal Kasper's book: *Mercy*.

### **Save the Date for Upcoming Program** – by Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD

- Wednesday, April 20th & Saturday, April 23rd

### **St. Teresa of Jesus and Societal Issues** – by Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD

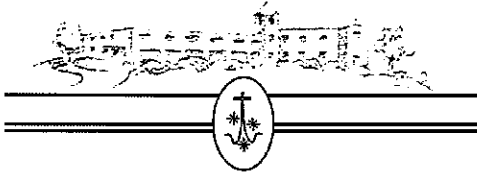
- Wednesday, May 11th & Saturday, May 14th | 10am 12pm

While St. Teresa of Jesus is known primarily for her teaching on the interior life, she also has a lot to say about societal issues such as materialism, the role of women, and concern for the poor. We will examine how St. Teresa's relationship with Christ emboldened her to address these issues prophetically from the viewpoint of the Gospel.

To register, please call: (214) 331-6224, ext.114, or go to: [www.mountcarmelcenter.org](http://www.mountcarmelcenter.org).  
You may also send an e-mail to [admin@mountcarmelcenter.org](mailto:admin@mountcarmelcenter.org).

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# Mount Carmel Center



Mount Carmel Center  
4600 West Davis  
Dallas, Texas 75211

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

[www.mountcarmelcenter.org](http://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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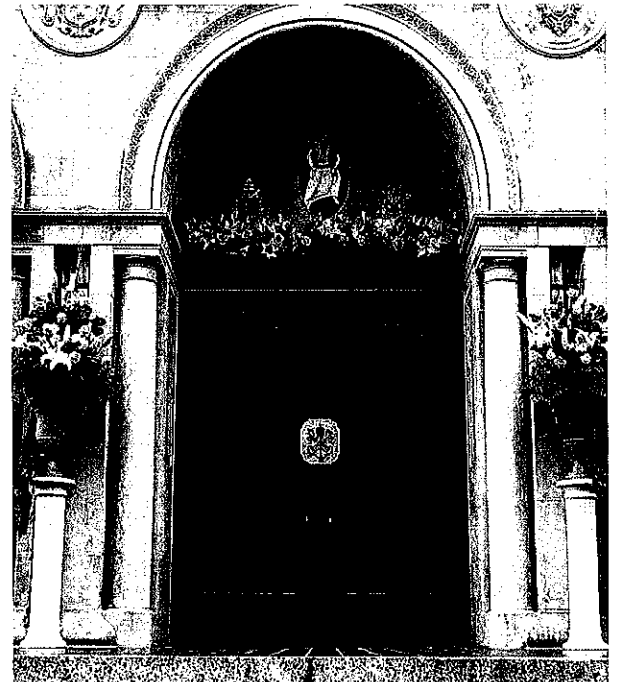
## Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

The Door of Mercy is a special Holy Door which Pope Francis has asked to be opened in every Diocese during the Extraordinary Holy Year in order to allow the faithful in every part of the world to experience the Mercy of the Father in its fullness. A plenary indulgence may be obtained by visiting the door when linked to a celebration of Reconciliation and Eucharist; a profession of faith and praying for the Pope.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio has been designated as one of these locations. The Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Oklahoma Province who staff the Basilica welcome those who wish to make a pilgrimage during this special time until the Jubilee year closes on November 20th 2016.

For more information go to:

<http://www.littleflowerbasilica.org/>



[www.mountcarmelcenter.org](http://www.mountcarmelcenter.org)