

*A Monastery and Retreat House of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers*

# Mount Carmel Center



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## ...a message from the Superior

*Oh my!* The weatherman is saying that we are going to be in the mid-100's again today. I wish this issue of our newsletter could bring you news of cooler weather but pray as we might, it is probably not going to happen. Nevertheless, we are joyful to be up here on 'Holy Hill' as it is sometimes called. We are happy as well to have your kind accompaniment in our work of bringing the spirituality of Carmel to North Texas.

We just celebrated the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 16<sup>th</sup>. It is always a double celebration for us here because July 16<sup>th</sup> is also Father Jenaro's birthday. He is now 82. His health continues to improve thanks to your prayers.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Carmelite Seculars for their monthly gathering at which they had some members make profession to Secular life in Carmel. Congratulations to Louis Tobola, Juan Rendon, and Jenny Ellis who made definitive promises and to Therese Allgeier, who made her first promise and also to those who entered formation. We friars are truly one family with our secular Carmelites, so it was apropos that we shared a potluck lunch with them after the ceremony.

We were graced over the last several months to have Father Bonaventure Sauer with us. It was wonderful to have him with us. He was helpful to us in many ways. He has now returned to Marylake Monastery in Arkansas. Please pray for him as he is struggling with some health problems.

Things at the Center are progressing well. We have gotten some roofing projects done and we will soon get a new air conditioner for the dining room and kitchen. We have a new gate system



Our Lady of Mt Carmel  
Oil on Panel, 2000 (?)  
By Sr Pauline, OCD  
Carmelite Sisters of  
Lafayette

installed at our main entrance and plans are active to erect a new security gate on the rear campus at Chalk Hill and Davis.

Our conferences are going on pace. We just finished a cycle of conferences on Responding to the Signs of the Times through Carmelite Spirituality. We have started a video library now, so you would be able to access our last conference there. We are very happy to say that our on-line presence is expanding very nicely! During June, we had 22,000 hits on our web site. Imagine that!

One of our primary apostolates is associated with our hosting of individual and group retreats. Those who have spent time with us over the last four months have been very grateful to have a place to go where they can find some silence and solitude. Recently Father Marion gave a week long retreat to some (Vietnamese) Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Well, that's about all the news that's fit to print. We hope these summer months will bring you many blessings. Recently Pope Francis reminded us ... "Nowadays it is increasingly difficult to find free time to meditate. ... For many people the rhythm of life is frenetic and wearisome. Summertime can be valuable ... for opening the Gospel and reading it slowly, without haste, a passage each day, a short passage from the Gospel." May the Living Word fill you light and grace and with consolation in time of trouble!

Fr John Magdalene Suenram, OCD

## “Therefore, my son,”

*"if you wish to be perfect" and to arrive at the goal of the eremitical monastic life and "drink of the torrent there", "hide in the wadi Carith", that is, cultivate silence in hidden solitude.*

— From the Institutes of the First Monks, an early text on the spiritual life of the Carmelites



## Discalced Carmelite Friars

— Fr Jenaro, Fr Jesus and Susana Cantu (Bus Mgr-San Antonio) in the Small Library...

The Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Oklahoma Semi-Province of St Thérèse are a community of Roman Catholic men — Priests and religious brothers — committed to a life of allegiance to Jesus Christ. We follow Christ by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and strive to serve the Lord and his people through a life of contemplative prayer lived in community. In addition to dedicating ourselves to prayer, we strive to serve the people of God especially through the 'apostolate of spirituality,' helping others to grow in their union with God and with neighbor. Taking Mary as the mother and patroness of our Order, we look upon her life and her sharing in the mystery of Christ as a model of religious consecration. We also look to the prophet Elijah as a source of inspiration. We look to his prophetic charism as the prototype of our own vocation to ponder God's word and proclaim it to the world.



## Deep Sea Memories of Minor Importance

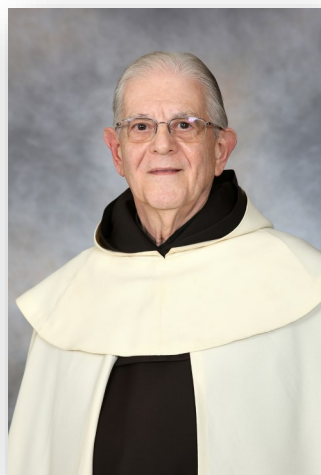
By Fr. Sam Anthony Morello, OCD

The other day, Fr. John Magdalene Suenram, OCD, was on the phone to me in San Antonio, TX. He was calling from Dallas and was seeking information on the origin of a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel erected on an encircled pedestal just north of the chapel at Mt. Carmel Center. I suppose he called me because I'm the eldest friar in our semi-province of Carmelites in the Southwest. So, I've been around for some 70 years in these parts and he wanted to know anything at all about the statue out front.

I had no idea of any of the details of the statue's origin or history, but I did have a few early memories of my own back in 1954. I recalled that when I was a novice at Marylake, Little Rock, AR, Pope Pius XII called for a Marian Year to be observed in the year of 1954. And I recalled that Fr. Pascal Pierini, OCD, stationed at the then named Mt. Carmel Seminary, invited Fr. Justin Kelleck (?) to prepare the novices at Marylake for a Gregorian chant concert at the Seminary for the Marian Holy Year. We were to join the seminary choir under Fr. Pascal in Dallas for a special evening event, open to the public, with the invited presiding bishop of Dallas, Most Rev, Thomas Gorman in attendance. And the well-known author, John Howard Griffin, of "Black Like Me fame", was asked to be the MC of the evening. And did we ever prepare long and hard for this special occasion!

And the night of the concert rolled in to a chapel full of friends of the Carmelites, and there sat our wide-eyed bishop known for his frank expression of personal opinions.

The concert was a marvel of artistic success, if I may say so as one of the proud singers at the time. Fr, Pascal was very much inspired, and John Howard Griffin waxed eloquent as he introduced each piece of chant. (The latter had actually studied chant at one point in his life at the hollowed French abbey of Solesmes.) After prolonged applause, our Most



Revered Bishop was called upon to speak. The man minced no words: "I have never really liked Gregorian Chant in my life. Perhaps it was because nobody really knew how to sing it! But tonight I am a convert in your hearing! And I wish to express my utter delight at its rendition..."

God bless Fr. Pascal Pierini, long gone to his eternal reward. And God bless Mt. Carmel Center of our day, renamed since 1974, when the place was rededicated at a Center of Spirituality. May the God of the Arts preserve us all in the enjoyment of all Beauty, a Witness to the Source of all Goodness and Holiness in the Universe.

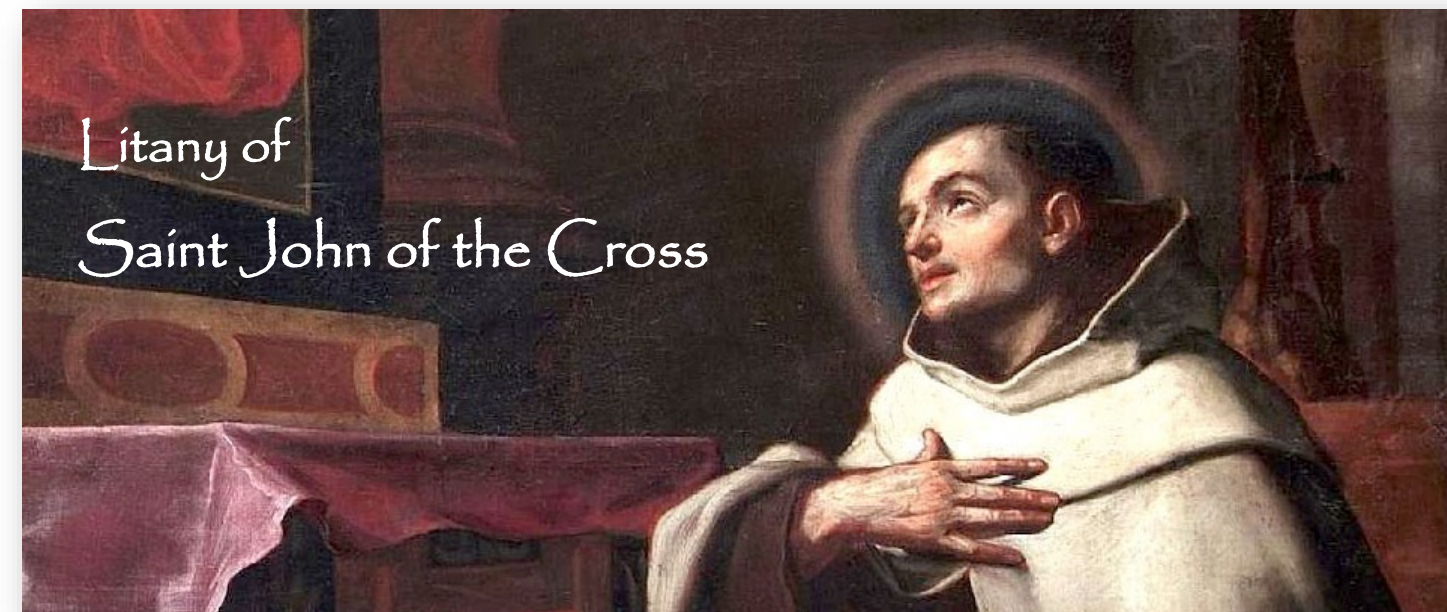


—Friars Fr John, Fr Jim, Fr Marion and Fr Jenaro celebrate Mass

### I'd like to help the Friars...

**Only with your help and financial support, the Friars maintain a prayerful presence in the heart of Dallas creating an oasis where people can encounter God in the quiet of their hearts. As a mendicant order, they depend on the generosity of benefactors. Please consider making a donation to the Friars today! Donate at:**

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



Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.

Queen and Beauty of Carmel, Pray for us.

Saint John of the Cross, Pray for us.

St. John, our glorious Father, Pray for us.

Beloved child of Mary, the Queen of Carmel, Pray for us.

Fragrant flower of the garden of Carmel, Pray for us.

Admirable possessor of the spirit of Elias, Pray for us.

Foundation stone of the Carmelite Reform, Pray for us.

Spiritual son, and beloved Father of St. Teresa, Pray for us.

Most vigilant in the practice of virtue, Pray for us.

Treasure of charity, Pray for us.

Abyss of humility, Pray for us.

Most perfect in obedience, Pray for us.

Invincible in patience, Pray for us.

Constant lover of poverty, Pray for us.

Dove of simplicity, Pray for us.

Thirsting for mortification, Pray for us.

Prodigy of holiness, Pray for us.

Mystical Doctor, Pray for us.

Model of contemplation, Pray for us.

Zealous preacher of the Word of God, Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world: Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world: Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

V. Holy Father Saint John of the Cross, pray for us:

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, Who didst instill into the heart of Saint John of the Cross, Thy Confessor and our Father, a perfect spirit of self-abnegation, and a surpassing love of Thy Cross: grant, that assiduously following in his footsteps, we may attain to eternal glory. Through Christ Our Lord. R. Amen.

Prayer Source: *Kyrie Eleison — Two Hundred Litanies* by Benjamin Francis Musser O.F.M., **The Magnificat Press, 1944**



**Mount Carmel Center is always in need of Volunteers. Please consider volunteering as part of your Charitable work—God Bless!**