



RAYS OF CARMEL

Upcoming Meetings

Feb. 9, 2020
 Mar. 8, 2020
 Apr. 5, 2020 (1st Sun)
 May 3, 2020 (1st Sun)
 Jun. 14, 2020
 Jul. 12, 2020
 Aug. 7-9, 2020 (Retreat at Maria Stein)
 Sept. 13, 2020
 Oct. 11, 2020
 Nov. 14, 2020 (Saturday, Promises & Vows, also Formation)
 Dec. 13, 2020

Prayer Intentions for February 2020

This month our Community will be praying for **Saint Augustine Parish** in Germantown with **Fr. Francis Tandoh, C.S.Sp.**

Pope Francis's intention for the month is **"Listen to the Migrants' Cries"** – We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Monthly Devotion:

"The Holy Family"



February is the month dedicated to the Holy Family. Though the start of the Lenten season changes within the calendar year, a fair-sized portion of February gives us a space of time between the Christmas season and the increased focus on Jesus's public life and ministry, which occurs in Lent. It is a transition from the feast of Christmas to the fasting of Lent. Therefore, traditionally, February has become a time to recall the Holy Family; within the Holy Family is where Jesus spent the time between his birth and embarking on his public journey. At the very beginning of Christ's work on earth, God showed the world a family in which, as Pope Leo XIII taught, "all men might behold a perfect model of domestic life, ad of all virtue and holiness." The harmony, unity, and holiness which characterized this Holy Family make it the model for all Christian families. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, pray for the sanctification of our families!

Upcoming Feast Days

- 2/4 Bl. Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus, OCD
- 2/11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 3/18 **Fast day** for Solemnity of St. Joseph
- 3/19 St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Protector of Our Order (Solemnity)



Teresian Prayer Groups

Ascension Catholic Church,
Kettering, Ohio:

- First Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm

Ascension Catholic Church,
Kettering, Ohio:

- Third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm

St. Paul Catholic Church, Yellow Springs, Ohio:

- Every Wednesday
- Mass 6:00pm
- Teresian Prayer Group at 6:40 pm

Our "NEW" Meeting Schedule:

- 12:00 – 12:50 pm Council Meeting
- 12:30 – 1:00 pm Set Up & Social Time/Help with the Breviary
- 1:00 – 1:40 pm Community Meeting & Presentation
"Mary in Scripture" by Chris Cotter, OCDS
- 1:40 – 2:00 pm Social Time/Transition to Formation
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm Formation
- 3:00 – 3:30 Social Time & Transition to Church
- 3:30 – 4:30 Holy Hour in Church (Exposition/ Adoration/Evening Prayer/Benediction/Salve Regina)

Announcements:

- Take note of our **new meeting schedule** that we are testing.
- **Community Elections will be held in April 2020** at the General Meeting. **Nominations from the floor may be made at the February meeting.** Only people who have made their Temporary/Definitive Promise may be nominated. Floor nominations will not be accepted after the February meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot at our April meeting. See our Statutes in our Book of Documents on pg. 206-209 for more information.
- We will have a **St. Joseph's Table again in March**, headed up by Angela W. Talk to her about how you may help.
- Visit our websites: www.daytoncarmelites.org and www.carmeliteconversations.com as well as our Provincial Website at www.ocdswashprov.org

Council News:

The Nominating Committee will announce Nominees and take nominations from the floor at our February meeting.

Lynn B was nominated for the Provincial Council and forms were submitted with Council's approval and support.

Our next Day of Recollection is scheduled for April 18th and is open to other OCDS Communities. The Operations Committee led by Marika Z are making the arrangements.

Our Provincial Delegate, Fr. Orange, has been given a new position in Kenya and his substitute has yet been named.

Council decided to tithe to the Kenyan Missions again. The Spring Tithe is set for supporting new Carmelite vocations.

Next Council meeting is Feb. 9 at Noon.

Featured Books in Our Library

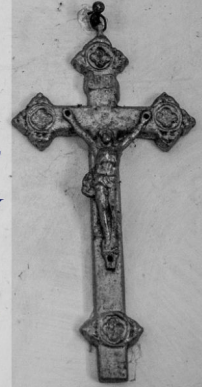
by our Librarian, Joyce W.

**“The Science of the Cross” by Edith Stein,
Trans. by Josephine Koepfel, OCD**

Edith Stein, known as the Discalced Carmelite Nun with the religious name of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, had a great love of St. John of the Cross. She wrote this book to help the one understand the symbolic use of the cross and the night in the writings of St. John of the Cross. She helps us understand why the soul must pass through the night in order to reach union with God. She explains how entering the night is equal to carrying the cross. This is her last book. The Nazis took Edith away in 1942 to Auschwitz.

“*A SCIENTIA CRUCIS*
(KNOWLEDGE OF THE
CROSS) CAN BE GAINED
ONLY WHEN ONE COMES
TO FEEL THE CROSS
RADICALLY. I HAVE BEEN
CONVINCED OF THAT
FROM THE FIRST MOMENT
AND HAVE SAID, FROM MY
HEART: *AVE, CRUX, SPES*
UNICA! (HAIL CROSS, OUR
ONLY HOPE!)”

-St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



CATHOLIC
EXCHANGE

Council/Coordinators

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. John MacQuarrie
Assistant to Fr. MacQuarrie: Deacon Rusty B
President: Lynn B
Director of Formation: Frances H
Councilors: Herb E, Jackie R, and Marika Z
Secretary: Colleen S
Treasurer: Teresa G
Operations Committee: Susie G, Marguerite S, De Z,
Marika Z
Attendance: Lynn B
Book Coordinator: Susie G
Hospitality: De Z
Infirmarian: Theresa R
Librarian: Joyce W and Joan L
Liturgist: Marika Z
Liturgy of the Hours Help: Angela W
Newsletter: Frances H
OLMC Statue: Angela W
Prayer Warriors: Ed F, Francesca F, Dorothy G, Rose Ann
L, Jeanne P, and Sheila W
Setup/Cleanup: Marguerite S
Visitors: Maureen E, Tammy J, Mark O
Website: Lynn B

Attendance Policy

Participation in community life is an essential part of the Secular Carmelite's vocation. Everyone is expected to attend all meetings, retreats, and days of recollection.

Aspirants and members are responsible for contacting the President or their Formation Facilitator, as soon as possible, when s/he is unable to attend a monthly meeting, retreat, or day of recollection.

Excused absences will be granted for illness, transportation, unavoidable family obligations, or an extraordinary circumstance.

Those in formation should expect to make up missed sessions and/or have their formation extended.

If there are more than three absences in a calendar year, the Council will review the situation on a case-by-case basis.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER: Featured Article

"What is the Ultimate End of Our Prayer?" by Mark Danis, OCDS

We know there are many forms of prayer. We have heard about the prayer of petition, the prayer of praise and the prayer of thanksgiving. And of course, there is the prayer of intercession, which we all practice in when we pray for each other.

We also know that there are vocal, mental prayer and contemplative prayer. But if we were to try and explain the ultimate end of all our prayer, how might we define it?

It is important to remember that all prayer is simply the act of standing in the presence of a loving God. We can on occasion fall into the trap of perceiving that we are the principal actor in prayer, but of course we are not. Even our participation in prayer is a gift from God. ***"And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*** (Romans 8:27)

However, we must try to take the time to properly prepare ourselves for this single most important act of the day, by first realizing to Whom we are speaking in prayer. When we pray, we are presenting ourselves before the One who created the universe, time and all eternity, not to mention each and every one of us.

We have all had the experience of standing before a person we consider to be of some significance, whether a sports figure, a singer, actor, politician or maybe someone interviewing us for a job. We all remember how this experience can leave us breathless, tongue-tied and even, at times, speechless. If we really come to understand with Whom we are speaking in prayer, we will most certainly be left speechless and in awe.

Here is how the Book of Habakkuk addressed the issue of prayer, or this idea of standing in the presence of God: ***"But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."*** (Habakkuk 2:20)

We remember of course that each of us is a Temple of God, ***"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you."*** (1 Corinthians 6:19). Each of us is truly a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit, but whenever we take the time to communicate with God in prayer, we must also take some time to put ourselves in a state of reverence.

Returning to Habakkuk, just two verses later, the writer goes on to offer his perspective on this God before Whom he stands: ***"O Lord, I have heard the report of thee, and thy work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years renew it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy."*** (Habakkuk 3:2)

I am sure there have been times in each of our lives when we could relate to the Prophet Habakkuk's prayer. By way of background, Habakkuk is asking God to take revenge on the his enemies. Habakkuk is particularly impressed with God's former deeds, His intervention into history, and Habakkuk would like to see God act again.

This desire might occasionally be true for us when our lives seem to be spinning out of control, or

when we are facing a significant trial. But if our deepest desire in prayer is to truly seek an encounter with Him, God is less likely to be found in His deeds or actions.

Too many people who begin a serious life of prayer want God to manifest Himself to them through His actions, through what He will do regarding the circumstances of their lives. The problem with this approach to prayer is that God is not often discovered by us in His actions, He is more often revealed by His attributes, those characteristics that really define Who God is. These include things such as His Mercy, His Love, His Omnipotence and His Transcendence. God does not want to be known for what He does, but for Who He is, and we cannot discover that simply through His actions.

Think of this in the context of our own relationships with other people: none of us wants to be loved for what we do for another person. Yes, we want to demonstrate our love through our actions, through our generosity, through our willingness to make sacrifices for the other person, but we do not want to be loved exclusively or even primarily for these actions. Instead we want to be loved for who we are, even if we were not able to do anything for the other.

God Our Father works with us in the same way. He desires an intimate relationship with each and every one of us, and He wants us to want to know Him beyond His actions, beyond His blessings and beyond our desires. Indeed, God's greatest desire is that He will become OUR greatest desire.

In a way, Habakkuk had it partially correct. The end of all prayer is not simply the answer to our prayer or to have God acting in our lives. The ultimate end of prayer is for our soul to come to a state of yearning, indeed, to thirst for God with an unquenchable desire. And when we truly come to desire Him above everything else in this life, we will one day stand before God in perpetual silence and awe, desiring nothing but Him for all eternity.

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?" (Psalm 42:2)

We will know we have begun to make real progress in our prayer life when we cannot imagine ourselves living a single day without praying.

Source URL: <http://www.integratedcatholiclife.org/2019/01/danis-ultimate-end-of-our-prayer/>

