

REFLECTION

BY FR. BERNARD WITEK
DIRECTOR | ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER

St. John Paul II, while discerning his vocation, was considering the idea of becoming a Carmelite but his spiritual director suggested he become a diocesan priest. However, he always maintained his love of the 'way of Carmel' with their contemplative life and deep

spirituality, prayer, devotion to Our Lady, silence, and total focus upon God. In fact, he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the spiritual poetry of Saint John of the Cross, the 16th-century Spanish Carmelite known as reformer of his order, as mystic, as poet, and honored also as Mystical Doctor of the Church. On the feast of Our Lady of Carmel, July 16, 2000, during the Angelus he said:

In the Words of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

As I look at these mountains, my thoughts turn today to Mount Carmel, praised in the Bible for its beauty. We are, in fact, celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On that mountain, located in Israel near Haifa, the holy prophet Elijah strenuously defended the integrity and purity of the chosen people's faith in the living God. On that same mountain some hermits gathered in the 12th century after Christ and dedicated themselves to contemplation and penance. The Carmelite Order arose from their spiritual experience.

Walking with the Blessed Virgin, the model of complete fidelity to the Lord, we will fear no obstacles or difficulties. Supported by her motherly intercession, like Elijah we will be able to fulfill our vocation as authentic "prophets" of the Gospel in our time.

Today's liturgy for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time urges us to make this ascetic and apostolic effort.

It invites us to follow the example of the prophet Amos and the Apostles, who were chosen by the Lord to cooperate in his work of salvation.

May Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whom we call upon today with special devotion, help us tirelessly climb towards the summit of the mountain of holiness; may she help us love nothing more than Christ, who reveals to the world the mystery of divine love and true human dignity.



ZAPRASZAMY

You are invited to join us for Polish 1st Sunday!

A special Mass at the Orchard Lake Schools to pray for Polonia

Sunday, August 2nd • 1:00 PM



at the Shrine of St. John Paul II, celebrated by Fr. Bernard Witek