

St. Therese Catholic Church

July 31, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



"This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, 'Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'" (Luke 12:18-20).

MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses—Saturday: 8:00 a.m. & Vigil at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

And Traditional Latin High Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday Masses: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook

AND YouTube);

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish),

Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD X222

Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;

Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD X225; Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD;

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

Deacons: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

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For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

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Music Director: Paula Grimm | pg Grimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI 12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page
or on the Church's website >Our School > Videos



SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

Letter from the Pastor

Blessed 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time!

With the help of the Gospel for the last two Sundays, has your prayer life and your trust in your Heavenly Father's care for you deepened a little? First, we heard Martha being reminded that sitting at Jesus' feet is a good thing, and one should not be judged and condemned as "not doing anything". Then the disciples were taught to start their prayer by calling God not "God" but "Father" and trusting that, no matter what they ask for, He will take care of them--even if they feel that He is not listening!--and that He will even give them His Holy Spirit if they ask!

This Sunday and all week we really need to stay in the bosom of our Father; otherwise, we may get confused about what really counts and risk hearing these sobering words: "God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God." What does matter to your Father? That we keep putting first our Family relationships, both our invisible Family (the Trinity, Mary, Joseph, our guardian angels, and patron saints) and the needs of our visible family with all their suffering and joy.

Below is the continuing meditation that we began last week, namely, our Baptism and how to live from that incredible free gift of becoming a member of our Father's Family. -Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD



How Baptism Heals Wounds of Rejection

(Chapter 3 of *Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments* by Bob Schuchts)

(Continued from last Sunday, July 24, 2022)



The grace of Baptism is beyond anything we can comprehend with our finite minds. But if you are like me, you feel the pain of the gap between this objective reality and most of our subjective experiences. How can we believe what the Church teaches is true when we don't see the full evidence of these realities within ourselves and in the world around us? If Baptism really is this powerful, and I believe it is, shouldn't our lives look more like Jesus' life? How can the same grace that enables Mother Teresa or John Paul II to become saints seem to have no discernible effect in others? Given the fact that we all objectively receive the same gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism, how is it possible that some among us love and trust God, while others live in radical opposition to their baptismal identity and calling, rejecting God altogether? Aren't beloved children called to be imitators of their Father (Ephesians 5:1)? How is it possible for those who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and delivered from evil to turn their backs and become imitators of the father of lies instead?

Judging strictly from the lives of many who are baptized, it is tempting to believe that Baptism is a silly superstition, just an empty and meaningless ritual with no real consequences. How do we reconcile all those who claim to be Christian, yet are seduced instead by the spirit of the Antichrist? How do we reconcile the teaching of Jesus and His Church with the reality that many baptized people fail to live from their true identity as His beloved children?

As I have wrestled with this question myself, I have found insight in these words from Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, the household preacher for the past three popes: "Catholic theology can help us understand how a sacrament can be valid and legal but 'unreleased' . . . if its fruit remains bound or unused. . . . Sacraments are not magic rites that act mechanically, without people's knowledge or collaboration. . . . The fruit of the sacrament depends wholly on divine grace; however, this divine grace does not act without a 'yes'—the consent and affirmation of the person."

When I read Fr. Cantalamessa's explanation, it helped me understand how St. Teresa of Calcutta and Margaret Sanger could both be baptized as infants but have such different outcomes. Both were apparently given the gift of the Holy Spirit with all the accompanying supernatural graces, but of the two, it appears that only St. Teresa spent her life drawing on these graces by imitating her heavenly Father, sharing His love, and affirming the dignity of every person by seeing them as beloved sons and daughters of the Father. She basked in the radiance of the Father's bountiful love and participated in healing the wounds of rejection everywhere she went. Sanger, on the other hand, by all evidence, followed her human father's example, disdaining her Baptism and publicly rejecting Christ and His Church. In trying to "save" children and women from experiencing rejection, instead it appears the graces of her Baptism remained "unreleased."

What does this say to you about the power of the sacrament of Baptism and what is necessary for us to live more fully in these graces? Let's take a moment to reflect on this more deliberately.

- **Do you believe you were a wanted child? Why or why not?**
- **What do you believe happens when someone is baptized? What is our part in living the graces from our Baptism?**

I wonder how Margaret Sanger would have answered these reflection questions. I seriously doubt that she saw her Baptism as anything other than an empty religious ritual or a confining yoke of slavery, especially later in her life. I can't imagine that she saw herself as a beloved daughter of the Father or that the reality of a *good Father* even existed in her mind. How could she possibly see her own life as a gift when she saw others' lives as worthless or disposable? I wonder if she believed she was an unwanted child.

Though young Sanger was presumably baptized into the love of God by her parents, I doubt she knew much about God's love or her value in God's eyes. If she did, she must have rejected it at some point in her life out of her distorted images of God. History shows that she was not an "imitator of God" in what she taught or how she lived. Her path of "salvation" was in reality a path of destruction for many of her disciples who, like her, had their baptismal identity stolen from them by the father of lies.



In no way is this intended as a condemnation of Margaret Sanger the person, but rather as an example of the dangers of rejecting our baptismal identity. As I write this, I pray that she might still fully receive God's mercy that was offered to her as an infant in Baptism.

Like many of us, I believe she was deceived into listening to the voice of the one who came to steal, kill, and destroy God's blessings (John 10:10). At times in our lives, we have probably all been seduced by the father of lies and have been led down destructive paths. Few of us are already mature in holiness like St. Teresa of Calcutta or St. John Paul II. If we are honest with ourselves, we can acknowledge that we love God and others poorly much of the time. Too many of us still have to contend with significant wounds of rejection in our lives and, though we don't want to acknowledge it, these wounds still cause damage to others through us. Of all the internal monsters that terrify us, rejection (believing that we are unloved and unlovable) is among the worst. *The feeling of rejection is an experience of Hell.* Most of us will do almost anything to save ourselves and those around us from this trauma.

(THIS EXCERPT WILL CONTINUE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN)

A Spiritual Bouquet to Our Lady of Fatima



Saturday, August 5th, is the next First Saturday of the Month for our “Five First Saturdays Devotion” here at St. Therese, which we are doing in order to honor Our Lady’s request at Fatima. Over 150 people have signed up and made the commitment to offer a Spiritual Bouquet to her! Join us that day at the **8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by the Rosary and 15 minutes of meditation.** It is never too late to join this program as our First Saturday devotion is ongoing. If you want to sign up, or have any questions, please contact Maria Alejandra at (626) 993-4236. The following is taken from Guido Del Rose's Article, "Fatima: The Five Sins":

The fourth of the five sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary is “Causing Children to Hate and Reject their Immaculate Mother.” With all the power at his command, the Archfiend must deny the Virgin this ability to use her children as agents of grace or, at least, to reduce its effects. To gain this end, he would first render her maternal womb infertile, robbing her of all future clients as conduits of grace, performing, as a result, a spiritual abortion. The summit of all evil, he would completely deprive the Holy Spirit of any future means of sanctifying the Chosen. Now we can more readily comprehend the iniquity which is the fourth sin and the fourth stage in this latest chapter of the primordial conflict between Mary and Lucifer: *“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed”* (Genesis 3:15).

This sin is essentially a denial of Mary's Sacred Office continuing in the future. Removing little ones from her side before they can be nurtured into fully-developed enlistees of her cause, he would strip her of her Motherhood and divest the Holy Spirit of this agency by which He manifests and consummates His will. By negation, this crime confirms the truth of our Faith whereby we believe that the Sanctifier does indeed save souls through the spiritual maternity of His Immaculate Spouse. St. Maximillian Kolbe verified this belief in his typically concise manner. "Till the end of the world, it will be the task of the Holy Spirit to form the new members predestined to glory in the Mystical Body of Christ." And as St. Louis Marie de Montfort shows, "This task is carried to completion with Mary, in Mary and through Mary." For the future, how many souls cast into Hell would this sin measure?

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What You CAN Take With You When You Die

“Teach us to number our days aright.” Is there a more wise and prudent prayer for people of all ages than this verse from today’s responsorial psalm? As we savor the lovely but limited days of Summer, we are reminded that nothing lasts forever. In today’s first reading, the master teacher (Qoheleth) asserts “All things are vanity!” while the Gospel of Luke describes the ease with which our possessions can possess us. The second



reading makes the point as well: “Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” We see the problem of wealth from both sides today—from the viewpoint of the wealthy person who inevitably has to leave his riches to someone else and from the perspective of the potential inheritor who is at odds with his brother over how to divide their inheritance. The problem is clear; the wisdom is also.

Stephen Covey, in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, lists as his second habit: Begin with the end in mind. Is that not the point of our scripture reflections today? We know we will die. We know we “can’t take it with us.” If you’ve ever been tasked with cleaning out the home of a deceased person, you know how easily once-treasured items simply become another burden to deal with. Or you may have experienced how quickly the joy of owning the latest smart phone becomes as outdated as the model itself. So how do we think about all the stuff that we buy, accumulate, fret over where to store, and pay taxes on? Heaven forbid if we ever have to move!

Luke sets us on the right path when he affirms that we must be “rich in what matters to God.” Needless to say, he is not saying that possessions themselves are evil. Today’s psalm asks God—twice—to “prosper the work of our hands for us!” The danger is that, as one wag put it, “we never have enough of what we don’t really need.” **What does matter to God? What is the opposite of vanity? Kindness to one another, mercy, forgiveness, generosity to the poor and needy—all of these remain beyond death. These are what we can take with us when we die.** The great mystery in all this is that God is never outdone in generosity; the more we give away, the more we have.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.



July 23 / 24, 2022

Unrestricted.....	\$14,894.00
Restricted	\$ 1,225.00
T O T A L.....	\$16,119.00

June 25/26	\$10,720.00
July 2/3	\$19,921.00
July 9/10	\$22,082.00
July 16/17	\$ 8,686.00

CHECK USERS:
Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

Feasting on Abstinence and Safety/Security

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

**“We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.
-St John Paul II**

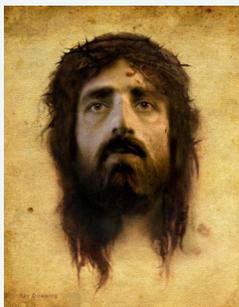
”Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me. You set a table before me in front of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Indeed, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord years to come.” -Psalm 23:4-6

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.” -John 10:28-29

Today, I choose to feast on abstinence and safety/security. Abstinence is the virtue that replaces gluttony, and safety/security is the healing of fear. By keeping our focus on the giver of every gift rather than on the gifts that He provides, we are able to grow in abstinence. In the Gospels, Jesus shows us that no gift is beyond Him, including the supernatural gift of life. When Mary and Martha send word to Jesus that Lazarus is dying, Jesus isn’t in any particular rush to return to Bethany to heal him. When Jesus finally arrives, Martha says to Him, “Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21). She is focused on the gift and not the Giver. Jesus is the Giver, and every gift is within His power.



Even as Jesus commands the tomb to open, Martha warns that Lazarus’ body will smell. But upon seeing the supernatural power of Jesus, she comes to believe and to trust. Next time you go to Mass, get there a little early. Settle into your seat and offer your week to God. In your mind, place it on the altar and prepare your heart for the gifts of the liturgy. As you pray for the Lord’s mercy during the Penitential Act, allow your heart to release gluttony and fear. Embrace the good news of abstinence and safety/security that is available to you, and celebrate your restoration and healing in the Eucharist.



Take time to ask yourself . . .

- How am I secure in Jesus?
- What are some ways I can focus on God as giver?

Pray slowly... In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I accept the gifts of abstinence and safety/security in my life. I accept my identity as a beloved child of a gracious Father God. I thank you for my life’s purpose and the strength to fulfill it. I accept your healing grace. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

July 30 to August 6, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Matthew Grobarek, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Yohanes Iwan Wutuh, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 a.m.: Phillip Tittmann, 17th Birthday INT

1:00 p.m.: Ramon Holguin, RIP

5:00 pm: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Tom S. Miller, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Cecilia of the Child Jesus, OCD, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Vikki Ng, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Aaron & Maria Estrada, 2nd Anniv. INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Dolores Alvarez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Paul Morrow, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Eduardo & Isabel Alvarez, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Vocations to Carm. Prov. of St. Joseph

*7:30 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, Ord. Anniv. INT

7:00 p.m.: Mary Frances Conrad, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Becky Hernandez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Clyde Harabedian, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Fr. David Guzman, OCD, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Maria Luisa Palacios, RIP

First Friday:

6:00 a.m. Maria Luisa Palacios, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m. Philip Gangan, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Diana Caruso, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Joseph Due-Maria Men, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Josie Villacorta, RIP

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road,
Alhambra, California.**

The Carmel Chapel is open to the public every day **except Sundays.**

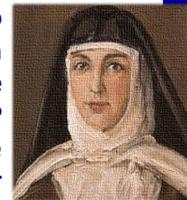
LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.). Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

From *THE WAY OF PERFECTION* by St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)

On the other hand, if we pay no attention to Him after receiving Him and then go seeking after other base things, what is there for Him to do? Must He force us to see Him, since He wants to reveal Himself to us? No, for they didn't treat Him so well when He let Himself be seen openly by all and told them clearly who He was; very few were those who believed Him. So His Majesty is being merciful enough to all of us who love Him, by letting us know that it is He who is present in the most Blessed Sacrament. He doesn't want to show Himself openly, communicate His grandeurs, and give His treasures except to those who He knows desire Him greatly; these are His true friends. I tell you that whoever is not His true friend and does not draw near to receive Him as such, by doing what lies in her power, will never trouble Him with requests that He reveal Himself. Such a person will hardly have fulfilled what the Church requires when she will leave and quickly forget what took place. Thus, such a person hurries on as soon as she can to other business affairs, occupations, and worldly impediments so that the Lord of the house may not occupy it (Chapter 34, No. 13).



Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage with FR. RAYMOND BUENO, OCD, to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. \$3,295 (double room occupancy) includes round-trip non-stop AA flights from LAX, land travel by deluxe coach, 3*/4* hotels with private bath/daily breakfast/dinner, all touring, daily Mass. \$200 Early bird Discount by May 15th. Add \$450 for single room occupancy. For details, call Louisa & Jack Day at (323) 360-5186 or (323) 403-8768

14-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land (September 28 to October 11, 2022, led by Fr. Darrin Merino, CMF, for \$4,989). For more information, contact Parishioners Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 285-6687 or remembertoptl@sbcglobal.net.

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