

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

August 2, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924



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Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232;
Carmelite Vocation Director: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD

In Residence:
Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;
Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD (Chaplain for the
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los
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Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;
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SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364, X660

[www.SaintThereseCarmelite
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X661

Principal @[sainttheresecarmelite
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Chaplain: Fr. Matthias
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See our **VIDEOS** on
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MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,
Traditional Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.
and Sunday Evening at 5:00 p.m.;

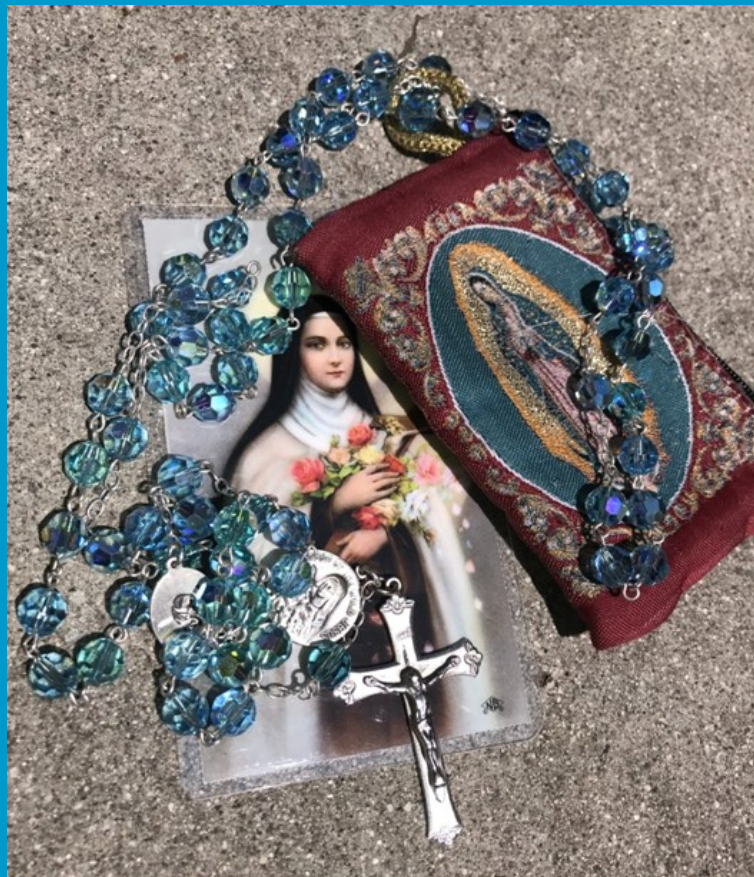
Monday-Saturday in the Church: Noon

Carmelite Nuns' Cloister: 7:30 a.m.
(Chapel closed to the public on Sundays)

Confessions in the Parking Lot: Sat: 3:30-5:00



"Better When Broken," A Homily



Before we get into the Scriptures for this weekend, I would like to relate a story that I intended to tell in a homily on July 16th, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. As you know, we were ordered to close the churches on July 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Just to remind you, the first government shutdown was enacted on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. As Catholics, we should pay attention to these dates on the Church Calendar, because they are significant and revered. The fact that these lockdowns occurred on Marian feasts indicates that the Evil One also finds these dates significant and revered. Should we recognize these "Coronavirus closures" as diabolical in nature? **ABSOLUTELY!**

Another proof of this wicked assault on the Bride of Christ is the fact that the Church is considered "nonessential," while Planned Parenthood is considered "essential" and remains open for business as usual. How does someone convince the world that the actions of a woman and her

doctor of cutting into pieces the child growing in mommy's womb and then removing what remains of the baby by way of a vacuum is "essential." Like "Planned Parenthood," this misnamed act of murder is now considered a "women's health" issue. I call it the work of the devil.

But let's get back to the story I intended to give in my homily on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Three years ago, on July 16, one of our parishioners, a very young and lovely girl, died. To respect her anonymity, we will call her "Grace". Grace's mother, a devoted and generous parishioner, did her best to raise her family at St. Therese Parish, and remains very active in the life of the Church today. Grace's mom had a rosary made for her daughter—created from the best and the most expensive materials: Blue Swarovski crystal beads, braided together with a sterling silver chain; the center medal was also sterling silver, as well as the crucifix and the adorning medal of St. Therese. It was a rosary that was handmade by Sr. Anna, who is a Carmelite Nun living and praying in the Carmelite Cloister right here in Alhambra. The inconsolable mother of the young girl who died entrusted her rosary to me and asked me to pray for her daughter.

This rosary has become precious to me, and I love meditating on the Life of Christ while using it. It is so unique that when the sun hits it just right, the beads reflect the light in such a way that it appears to explode; the light flickers and dances off everyone and everything it contacts. I admit it took me a while to learn how to meditate on the life of Jesus without becoming too distracted by the splendor of this rosary! But I am sorry to tell you that I recently misplaced it or maybe even dropped it as I was rushing from one place to another. You might think that St. Therese Parish is probably a pretty safe place to lose a rosary, even one as stunning and as expensive as the one I just described, right? Wrong!

The *Enemy* found my rosary!

by Fr. Philip Sullivan, O.C.D.

When I realized Grace's rosary was lost, I had a team of people searching for it. Was it in my office, did I leave it in the sacristy, was it at my choir stall, in my cell at our monastery, or did I leave it sitting on one of the tables in the School's art room? The rosary could not be found! Then one day I saw my rosary pouch next to the phone in the kitchen at the Friars' residence. I thought it was strange to have found it in such an obvious place, especially since we did such a thorough job looking for it. Nevertheless, I was happy to find it and I immediately went to the church to pray the Rosary in thanksgiving for its safe return. When I reached into the pouch to take out the rosary so I could begin my prayers, I began pulling out broken pieces of Grace's gorgeous Rosary. It had been spitefully pulled apart into many pieces! Many of the crystal beads were broken, and the sterling silver medal which connected the rosary had been twisted and bent. I was sickened and I fumed with anger! My heart ached for the mother who entrusted this rosary to me for safekeeping.

Why would anyone tear apart a rosary, especially such a superbly-made rosary? Well, we could ask that question about all the people who are raging, protesting, rioting, and looting throughout our country. Why are these misled fools and college-"educated" imbeciles tearing apart what are cherished parts of our country's history. We are a country, a united nation, that has been *victorious* over slavery; as a people, we are constantly maturing from the disorder of racism. The statues and monuments that these misbehaving children are pulling down and destroying are not statues erected to promote slavery but just the opposite. They are statues that remind us of our VICTORY OVER SLAVERY! Consider, for example, the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Is the Crucifix a tribute giving honor to the Romans and their lust for torture and cruelty? No! The Crucifix is a reminder that Jesus died "once and for all," and His horrific death is a reminder of God's amazing Love for us. The Crucifix is also a reminder that no matter how much we suffer here on earth, Jesus has conquered death and is risen!—just as all of us who believe, love, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will do one day.

Similarly, the venerable monuments throughout our nation are reminders that we must not and cannot be a nation that enslaves people or is in any way racist. We profess this ideal in our "Pledge of Allegiance" to the Flag of the United States of America. We sing patriotic songs giving tribute to the countless men and women who have served this great country and who have laid down their lives protecting our freedom from hostile forces outside of our country, as well as from insidious powers working within it. We solemnly hold the documents that legally protect and govern our nation, regardless of who has been elected to serve it. We have police and military that constantly protect what makes the United States of America the greatest and the freest nation on earth. But this freedom we profess to all the world is a freedom that is based on our united brotherhood and sonship: "ONE NATION UNDER GOD!" Remove God and you remove freedom.

Our church parking lot has not just become the playground for the neighborhood, but it has also attracted the attention of many who come from far away to enjoy the freedom of play. While many parks and church properties are closed, St. Therese Parking lot remains open. **Our parking lot offers anyone who wants to**

play by the rules the freedom to come here to bicycle, play basketball, roller-skate, exercise, or just sit and chat. Some have come here to break out of the monotonous lockdown to enjoy a meal together as a family on the school lunch benches. Some of my students return to paint in the art room. Every morning a Protestant pastor and his son drive here from Glendale to practice basketball with the hope that his son will be good enough to make the team. And he's pretty darn good!



Given on Sunday, July 19, 2020

There are people who come here from all walks of life, including faces I have never seen. People come here who are from different religions, and there are always people on the property from a variety of ethnicities, speaking in many languages. Of those who come here to play, most have a diversity of skin coloring. Everyone plays together, regardless of these variables. Like a microcosm of the United States of America, the St. Therese playground is a safe place to enjoy the freedom to play, as long as you respect the rules of the playground.

Recently, someone broke those rules when they found Grace's rosary and attempted to destroy what he or she did not understand. Sound familiar? It should. The same thing is happening throughout the country. People who are breaking the "playground rules" are destroying what is sacrosanct to this country, our victory over slavery. Similarly, some misguided blockhead found Grace's rosary and tore it into pieces, smashed the beads, put all the pieces back into the pouch, and then vindictively dropped it into the friars' mail slot with a snicker of pride, as if justice were being served. Sound familiar?

Did this deceived simpleton know that when Catholics pray the Rosary, they meditate on the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ? Was he or she aware that the prayers Catholics recite when praying the Rosary are from or based upon Sacred Scripture, including the words the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary at the Annunciation, as well as the only prayer our Lord taught us, the "Our Father"? Or what about the doxology prayed at the end of each decade when we try to contemplate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, saying: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit"? Oftentimes, these prayers invoke a bodily response of kneeling and bowing and, sometimes, they even cause an emotional response of crying, especially as we consider the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial love for us. No, I suspect the person who broke Grace's rosary was as ignorant of these details as the lunatics who are attempting to destroy symbols that are considered inviolable to this country.



When I took the broken rosary to Sr. Anna, she accepted the arduous job of fixing it. It is

safe to assume that Sr. Anna may also have been affected by the malicious abuse of the rosary, especially the pummeling of all that this rosary symbolized: the intentionality of making it for Grace, the inconsolable mother, and the purpose of the rosary to meditate upon our Lord's Life, Death, and Resurrection. The monetary value of the rosary, great as it was, wanes in the shadow of all that it represents. Sr. Anna eventually repaired the rosary and returned it to me with a note, apologizing that she was unable to match perfectly the unique color of the pale blue beads. In fact, she replaced the smashed beads with subtle bluish-green beads that sparkle like the aqua color of the ocean! It is too subtle to see from afar, but the different colored beads create a magnificence that is new to Grace's rosary! In other words, it is even prettier now than when I was first entrusted with it. It is like the "happy fault" of Adam, when we consider the resurrection of Jesus Christ! "Oh, happy fault!"

I share this story with you because I think, in a little way, we can reflect on some similarities that are happening within our country by people who don't seem to know what they are doing. It is also important to see this vilifying of the sacred as opposition to God Himself. If we are humble enough, we can even recognize that these kinds of attacks on holy objects have been taking place within the Catholic Church for decades. Confused and ill-informed cardinals, bishops, and priests have been removing statues and destroying sanctified sacramentals and other symbols of our Faith. Weird music and heretical lyrics have replaced the polyphony and Gregorian Chant. Heavenly instruments, like the organ, have been replaced by "American Band Stand," which is often given a more prominent place in the Sanctuary than even the newly-built cardboard Altars.

Continuation of "Better When Broken"

They have taken our Lord from His sanctuary, removed the crucifix, and destroyed communion rails (after all, we wouldn't want people to actually kneel before the "Bread of Angels," would we?). The baptismal fonts that were once skillfully crafted were broken and replaced with rolling salad carts and bubbling Jacuzzis. Sacred vessels, made with the finest craftsmanship and materials, were left to tarnish and replaced with brass, glass, or pottery. Ugly tablecloth-like vestments, marble covered by carpet, new churches built to addle rather than to inspire, have all become the new norm of Catholic worship. These changes have all been forced upon us with the phrase, "In the spirit of Vatican II!"

So what is happening in our country right now should be seen in light of what has already happened in the Catholic Church for decades. While the outward symbols of our Faith and those of our country's history are not more important than the people these symbols serve, they nevertheless have an important role in educating and forming the next generation. Have you ever compared or at least thought about the statistics of those Catholics who no longer identify as Catholic in this country with the growing number of our youth who, for whatever reasons, hate the United States of America? The age group of both those who disaffiliate themselves from the Catholic Church and those who are tearing apart the country (like Grace's rosary) is the same. This famous statement by the writer-philosopher George Santayana comes to mind: **"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Those who do not remember their past are condemned to repeat their mistakes. Those who do not read history are doomed to repeat it."** True that!

The Gospel we read at the Holy Mass today speaks about weeds growing along with the wheat (Matthew 13:24-43). Our Lord's story illustrates a farmer (God) who sows only good seed and an enemy (the Devil) who sows only bad seed. Our initial reaction is like that of the workers who want to remove the weeds right away, but the farmer says, "No!" The workers are to leave the weeds and let them grow and mature along with the wheat. You may be surprised that this is another example of God's mysterious mercy. Our Christian hope is that the weeds may be transformed into a bountiful harvest unto the Lord! But how do weeds become wheat? Well, this is the mystery of sacramental grace, prayer and, above all, God's mercy.

I stand before you as your Pastor, who was once a weed in God's garden. I am now a small stalk of wheat, one that is still being transformed by grace into a bountiful harvest for the Lord. None of us can let our past nor our present state of living decide who we will become in the future. We have only to look at some of the great saints, like St. Paul, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Augustine—and many, many others—who once lived lives that were contrary to Christ and His Church but who went on to become nourishing harvests for God. I think Fr. Albert's reminder to all of us that "Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future" is a perfect summary of today's Gospel. Yes, we can change from being a poisonous weed to becoming a nourishing harvest. If you will it, you can achieve it—with the help of God's Grace! If I can change, so can you, and so can anyone!



That's my hope-filled end to this homily. I don't know who attempted to destroy Grace's rosary. Did this person mean to cause so much anxiety and grief with this one venomous act of stupidity? I can't say for sure, but what I *CAN DO* is to pray for this individual every time I pray with this remarkable rosary. I will also ask for Grace's intercession for the imprudent buffoon who decided to destroy not only something so exquisite and expensive but also something that was intentionally exalted. My encouragement to all of you is to pray for those who are persecuting this country and have destroyed the hallowed symbols of our Faith, as well as ruined the historical monuments of our nation's victory over tyranny, slavery, and racism. Pray for your enemies, as our Lord commands us: "But I say to you, love your enemies; do good to them that hate you, and pray for those who persecute you and spread lies about you" (Matthew 5:44). **(Concludes on next page)**

EYE has NOT
seen, nor
Ear Heard,
neither have entered into the
Heart of Man,
the things which
God has **PREPARED**
for them that
Love HIM.
1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

Their ignorance is no match for our faith in Jesus Christ! Their bitter hatred is weak compared to sacrificial love! Their loss of integrity and their obvious possession of evil is no match for our hope in the Kingdom that God has prepared for those who love Him. "As it is written: **Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what things God has prepared for them that love Him**" (1 Corinthians 2:9). Do not give up and do not surrender! Fight the good fight and run the good race, for your reward will be great in Heaven. Like Grace's rosary, we will be better when we have been broken. Through our patient endurance of any suffering that comes to us—united with Jesus' suffering on the Cross—we will be better and stronger followers of Christ. In the same way, when all of this "fool mongering" in our country and in the Church is over, we will then repair what was broken. I promise you, at that time everything will be even better and more powerful than when first entrusted to us!

I leave you with these sobering and prophetic words spoken by the late Cardinal Francis George to an audience of Catholic Priests: **"I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the Church has done so often in human history."**

TODAY'S READINGS

Our readings today remind us of our hunger and thirst, and how God works within us. We human beings are created dependent on food and water, and much more; God deeply desires that all our needs be met. Our physical hunger and thirst point to our deeper hungers: our need for meaning, purpose, and belonging; and most of all, for unity with God. First, Isaiah reminds us of God's ongoing invitation to us to come and receive, for His grace is offered in abundance and His gifts cannot be earned or purchased. God's nourishment is the very best possible, and we should accept no substitutes.

St. Paul then teaches the Romans about the presence of the Spirit within them and among them. The Church in Rome faced great suffering, as they were marginalized and persecuted for their faith. Their trials likely provoked questions that led them to wonder, "Where is God?" Paul teaches that God is so deeply present within us that nothing can separate us from Him. This includes our own forms of resistance. Even when we find myriad ways to avoid Him and run away, God is waiting patiently. Even when God seems distant or absent, He continues to invite, to welcome, and to speak to us.

In Matthew's Gospel passage today, Jesus' heart is moved with compassion for the people. He not only cures the sick and feeds the multitude, but He also establishes bonds of community through the shared meal. When reflecting upon the story of the feeding of the multitude, we might consider the role of Jesus' disciples. Unlike the very similar story in Matthew 15, Jesus responds to the disciples by saying, "Give them some food yourselves". Jesus is pushing His disciples to think beyond the apparent scarcity, and to open their imaginations to God's abundance. They are to join in with what God is doing. Jesus then takes, blesses, breaks, and shares the bread (anticipating His action at the Last Supper), and the disciples share the loaves with the crowd. The stories of the feeding of the multitudes also point ahead to the Eucharist. The Eucharist itself points ahead to God's banquet at the consummation of the reign of God, when all will share God's abundance. We the Church are called to open our imaginations to God, present and active. We are to share in God's passionate desire to feed the people, and join in what God is doing here and now.

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July 11 / 12.....	\$28,744.00

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Mass Intentions

Saint of the Week

For the Week of August 1 through August 8, 2020

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Belen Juarez, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Frs. Wm. Fenton & Jerome Lantry, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Isaac & Damian Zino, Birthdays INT

9:00 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, B-day, INT

11:00 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, B-day INT

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Parishioners

5:00 p.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, INT

Monday:

*7:30 a.m.: Christina Chernick, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Patricia Jackson, RIP

Noon: Clara Grace Maringka, RIP

Tuesday:

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, B-day INT

9:00 a.m.: Fr. David Guzman, OCD, B-day INT

Noon: Fr. David Guzman, OCD, B-day INT

Wednesday

*7:30 a.m.: Peter Chiu, INT

9:00 a.m.: Christina Chernick, RIP

Noon: Chuck Marikian, RIP

Thursday:

*7:30 a.m.: Kellye Wallet, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Karina Laigo, INT

Noon: Rhony Laigo, INT

Friday:

*7:30 a.m.: Angelle Francisce & Karina Therese, INT

9:00 a.m.: Helen Mae D. SeBello, INT

Noon: Rosita Reyes de Lacayo, RIP/Joyce Hwee, INT

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

9:00 a.m.: Eduardo Gutierrez, Jr., RIP

Noon: Bernadette Brunaczki, INT

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

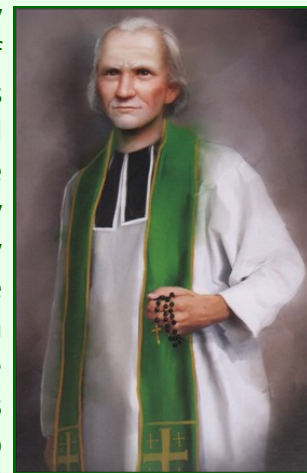
**9:00 a.m. Mass is outside
for the public;**

**Noon Mass is live
streamed on Facebook
and is private.**

ST. JOHN MARY VIANNEY (1786-1859)

FEAST DAY: August 4

A busy pastor jokingly suggested the secret of St. John Vianney's holiness: "He died seventeen years before telephones!" Call they didn't, but visit they did—keeping the Curé of Ars eighteen hours a day in the confessional! Stories abound of his ability to read hearts and perform exorcisms, but St. John Vianney's first miracle was getting ordained. Difficulty with studies delayed him, prompting the rector's apology to the bishop, "We've gone so far to ordain just one priest—especially THIS one!" The bishop, who could not know he was ordaining the future **Patron Saint of Parish Priests**, replied, "It's no burden to ordain one good priest!"



He was assigned to a parish in Ars, France, and stayed there for forty-two years. In a sculpture just outside the village, Vianney points skyward, with these words engraved in the plaque: "Show me the way to Ars and I'll show you the way to Heaven."

He loved God with his whole heart, praying, "Oh my God, if my tongue is not able to say every day that I love you, I want at least my heart to repeat it to you as many times as I take a breath." To a person who feared there was no Heaven beyond the grave, Vianney smiled, "My child, it would have been Heaven enough to have lived as Jesus' disciple on earth."

He is famous for having said, "**The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus,**" and that love made him a model priest for his time and ours.

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