August 28, 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



Jesus told a parable to those invited to the home of a Pharisee: "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banguet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:1,7-9,11).

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

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

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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

A Letter from the Pastor

Blessed Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year, everyone!

As we head into Labor Day weekend and the traditional end-of-the-Summer family get-togethers, it is good to ponder the words of Our Lord Jesus in today's Gospel: "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Jesus' words here are in direct contrast with what was said of the venerable King David: "And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, 'You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, 'David cannot come in here.' Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. And David said on that day, 'Whoever would smite the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul.' Therefore, it is said, 'The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.'" As we can see, Jesus, unlike King David, has a real heart for the poor, blind, and lame, and is encouraging us to also open our hearts to them, since our hearts are invited to be in union with Jesus' Heart. "Lord Jesus, please show us how each of us can put this compassion for the poor into practice this coming Labor Day weekend!"

This is the first full week of the 2022-23 school year, so—on behalf of Mrs. Alma Cornejo, myself, and all of the Carmelite Friars—"Welcome back, Saint Therese Carmelite School students, families, teachers, and staff!!!" Tomorrow is the 40th anniversary of Fr. Bernard of the Holy Spirit's ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ! Congratulations, Father Bernard!!! You and the Holy Spirit picked an amazing ordination date, the Beheading of St. John the Baptist!

And now back to our on-going meditation on healing through the Sacraments by Dr. Bob Schuchts:

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph, -Fr. Thomas, OCD

ABIDING PRESENCE: How Holy Communion Heals Wounds of Abandonment

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

Growing up in a large family, I don't remember feeling alone until I turned thirteen years old. That is when my dad left our family and moved to another city, and my underlying sense of security went out the door with him. During the day, I could keep my mind active with school, sports, friends, entertainment, and family interactions; but when I went to bed at night, I couldn't escape the pervasive feeling of loneliness. I missed my dad terribly. For the first time in my life, I felt unprotected. At night, every little noise scared me; but worse than these fears was an insidious sense of emptiness that permeated my soul. Back then, I couldn't have expressed what I was feeling. That would come years later after months of therapy and some healing experiences enabled me to finally grieve the loss of my dad at such a vulnerable age.

You, too, have no doubt felt the pain of abandonment in your life in some form or fashion: the death of a loved one, broken friendships, not being protected in an abusive situation, or perhaps, like me, you experienced the heartbreak of divorce. These are obvious experiences of abandonment. But the wound of abandonment can be manifested in more subtle ways as well, such as feeling alone in a crowd, not being understood for who you are, not receiving the affection or comfort you need, or feeling on the outside of community life. The manifestations may be many, but underneath all of these separations is this primordial wound of abandonment that entered our human experience with original sin. On this side of Eden, all of us know what it is like to feel alone, unprotected, and cut off from intimacy in our vital relationships. During these times, we may even wonder if anyone cares, including God. Frequently, these abandonment wounds get transferred into our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Though He promised that He would never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), our hearts have difficulty trusting the reality of God's presence. When my dad left, God seemed far away to me, too. Perhaps you can relate.

Whether we are conscious of experiencing the pain of abandonment or not, it is an inevitable part of our human experience. Ever since that first sin, our relationships with God and one another have been fractured, and separation and disconnection are the norm. Many of us can't identify the feeling of abandonment because it is all we have ever known. We think this is "just the way life is." We get used to feeling disconnected in our families, at church, and in our daily activities. It just seems normal.

Though it may be part of our current reality, it is not what God intended for us from the beginning or the reality He desires for us now and in the future. The Catholic Catechism, basing itself on Sacred Scripture, affirms that we are made for intimate communion with God and one another: "God Himself is an eternal exchange of love—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and He has destined us to share in that exchange" (CCC, 221). In the beginning, Adam and Eve mirrored and participated in the most holy communion of the blessed Trinity. They also enjoyed a profound intimacy with one another, which St. John Paul II refers to as "original unity." In their unbroken bond of love, they did not know the experience of loneliness or abandonment. They experienced God's abiding presence with them at all times. (This excerpt will continue in next week's bulletin.)

August 28, 2022 Page Three

The Saint Therese Carmelite School students returned to class last week. To protect them and keep them safe, the parking lot will close immediately after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. weekday Mass and remain closed until 5:00 p.m. This is for any day that school is in session.



PARKING LOT CLOSURE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious Education classes will begin again on September 18 for elementary grades.... September 22 for Youth Confirmation... and on September 21 for RCIA and Adult Confirmation.

To register, stop by the tables in/or in front of the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses today, August 28. Bring your checkbook for the fees and a copy of the enrollee's baptism certificate.



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P WOMEN IN NE

Please Support Options United to help women in need! (www.wewerebornready.com/knights)

Catholics are called to support unborn children and their mothers so that no woman feels that she has to choose abortion. Do you know someone facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy, in need of prenatal care, or who needs support with her young children? Share the Options for Pregnancy helpline (877-398-7734), staffed by Options United-trained call responders, or Visit www.optionsforpregnancy.com. This critical support service connects women and families to the 170+ pregnancy centers and other life-affirming resources across the state, but it can only be provided with your help. The bishops in all twelve of our California dioceses have endorsed this pioneering service and are united in asking you to prayerfully consider making a monthly donation of any size at www.optionsunited.com/one.

VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 1: Sadly, California is presently one of the most permissive states in the nation for abortion. Proposition 1 promotes an unlimited expansion of abortion here, while its defeat would keep all abortion laws as they are, including our common-sense limits on late-term abortions. Our bishops are calling us to unite in prayer and action to defeat Prop 1. It is an expensive and misleading ballot measure that allows unlimited late-term abortions—for any reason, at any time, even moments before birth, paid for by tax dollars. Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an "abortion sanctuary." Please visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 to find answers to common questions and resources to help defeat this misleading, expensive, and unnecessary ballot initiative.

Options United is Hiring Call Responders: If you have a passion to unite in this fight and have good communication and computer skills, please submit a short application online at www.optionsunited.com/take-action or email Denise Lopez at d.lopez@optionsunited.com for more info.

Page Four August 28, 2022

The Real St. Therese



This is the latest installment from Guy Faucher's book, *The Passion of Therese of Lisieux*

From December 1894 to January 1895, Thérèse also wrote her third play, which she performed successfully for the community on the 21st of January, playing the role of St. Joan of Arc. Thirty

months later, she would say to Mother Agnes: "I have reread the play that I wrote on Joan of Arc. You will see in it my thoughts on death; they are all there." **That play, therefore, requires attentive reading.** In taking the leading role, Thérèse identified herself with her heroine. In writing it, she foretold her own end, her agony, death and victory.

As Therese wrote it, Joan, faced with death and with martyrdom, appears at first overwhelmed ("to die at twenty!") and abandoned by all. As a counterpoint to each of her plaints, the Archangel Gabriel appears to her and puts before her an episode of Christ's passion. Joan takes courage: "Oh! How consoled I am to see that my agony resembles that of my Savior..." However, her attitude appears to be more one of resignation than of voluntary acceptance. In her turn, St. Catherine also comes to console her, quoting a long passage from the Book of Wisdom on the death of the just man and, in particular, of the just man who dies prematurely. Transformed, the prisoner rises up and cries out: "I accept martyrdom, Lord, for love of you, and I no longer fear death or fire, for my soul aspires to you, Jesus. My one desire is to see you, my God, to take up my cross and follow you, my Savior. I ask only to die for love of you. I want to die that I might begin to live—I want to die to be one with Jesus." She accepted a white robe to wear to her execution: "It seems to me that by wearing it, I will resemble my Beloved Savior more closely."

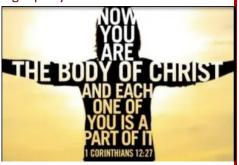
Thérèse, therefore, described Joan of Arc's passion as an identification with the Passion of Christ. She herself, in the months that were to follow, hardly took her eyes from the Crucified. About a month later, on February 26, **Thérèse composed spontaneously fifteen verses** during a day when there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This reveals an impetus that she received from an exceptional inspiration. It was, moreover, the first time that she had written a poem without being asked to do so.

(Next week's entry will begin with this poem.)

One Body... Many Parts

St. Paul is no way regarded the gifts of the Holy Spirit as confined to apostles like himself. Rather, he saw them as part of the ordinary life of the Church. The charisms are gifts not only in the sense that God gives them to people, but that their very purpose is to use them for others. They are by definition gifts to be given away, to be used "for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7). They are means by which God's grace circulates among the members of the Church and overflows beyond its boundaries. No one has all the gifts it is possible to have—because then we would not need each other. The charisms teach us to receive and give away God's grace, so that the Body of Christ functions as a living organism, each part contributing equally to the whole: "If the whole

body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God



arranged the members in the Body, each one of them, as He chose. If all were a single member, where would the Body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one Body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you' " (1 Corinthians 12:17-21).

The human idea of unity is uniformity—everyone thinking, dressing, and acting alike. But God's idea of unity is each person contributing to the flourishing of the whole by using his or her God-given gifts. St. Paul makes it very clear that charisms are given to ALL Christians: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit..." (1 Corinthians 12:7). Every believer has an irreplaceable role to play in the growth of the Church; everyone is given charisms that perfectly correspond to that role. There is no unemployment in the Kingdom of God! Or at least there would not be if everyone knew how to recognize and use his or her gifts. Scripture, therefore, emphasizes that exercising our gifts is not optional; it is a sacred responsibility: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Many Christians do not exercise charisms because they don't know how to use them; they may not even know what they are. This is a great loss to the Body of Christ. (To be continued next week.)

August 28, 2022 Page Five

A Spiritual Bouquet to Our Lady of Fatima

On August 6, we completed our fourth month of Five First Saturdays Devotion here in Saint Therese Church, to honor Our Lady's request at Fatima. Our next First Saturday will be on September 3. Please join us for the 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by the Rosary and 15 minutes of meditation. As we enter the fifth month of the First Saturday devotion, all who have completed the five consecutive months are welcome to bring their offering forms to the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Thursday, September 8. What a wonderful way to honor Our Lady's birthday by presenting our offering forms as a spiritual bouquet! It is never too late to join this program as our First Saturday devotion is ongoing (on October 1st, we will begin again with the first of five First Saturdays). If you want to sign up or if you have any questions, please contact Maria Alejandra at (626) 993-4236.

The fifth sin: The offenses of those who directly affront her in her holy Images (taken from Guido Del Rose's article, "Fatima: The Five Sins"): If the fourth stage of attack is aimed toward the future, the fifth sin would deprive her of that Office today. She continues to have those loyal, devoted children who daily strive to be her conscious and willing agents, placing themselves entirely at her bidding. These, then, are the real targets, the ones he must destroy, using every weapon in his arsenal and any strategy that might succeed. They are the "seed" (of the woman) whose enmity Satan cannot tolerate or withstand, under whose "heel" the Cursed One is to be forever humbled and trod upon: "And thou shalt lie in wait for her heel" (Gen. 3:15).



Unable to dissuade them from their loyal service to their Mother, he tries to at least reduce their activity in her behalf; then, much later, he can induce them to abandon the battle altogether. He would intimidate them, jolt them into a state of near-paralysis, and sow the seeds of doubt in their hearts. In the lives of the great saints, one finds repeated instances of how he tried to use this strategy to curb their zeal. How often he has used blasphemies, loud cursing, hideous visions, false apparitions, physical violence, and other similar deceitful methods to weaken these "strong ones," Mary's true channels of grace! The fifth sin is meant to disconcert and dislodge these stubborn and valiant workers of hers.

The archetype of all rebels will surely continue in his efforts to stop wholly or to scale down considerably their offerings of prayers, sufferings, penances, and sacrifices of all kinds. Most especially, Satan wants to vanquish those persons who go even further: those who make a formal and solemn consecration of their whole beings to her Immaculate Heart. How profoundly these generous souls torment him! How he rages against them! They are, in truth, "extensions" of the holy Virgin by means of their full union with her and her Divine Spouse. Lucifer intends this sin to be the coup de grace, the final blow. We see how these words of Our Lady (in July of 1917) take on new meaning: "You have just seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

Emphasizing the role of Our Lady takes not one iota from Christ of what is His due. The honor we give her is only possible because of His Passion and Death. Rather, the intention of this article is to increase His honor and glory by focusing on the part of the Holy Spirit working in and through His Immaculate Spouse in applying the very graces which Christ won for us. Further, the Redeemer Himself came to promulgate and insist upon this special attention to His Mother. Doing this, we carry out His wishes and please Him. The analysis of the five sins concluded, the reader may well experience a feeling of helplessness, a sense that it is impossible to correct the evil. It is not difficult to resolve this problem. We need only remember we have the practice of the First Saturday's Devotion, a Heaven-sent prescription, a sure remedy for this insidious assault of Satan.

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.



August 20 / 21, 2022

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August 28, 2022 Page Six

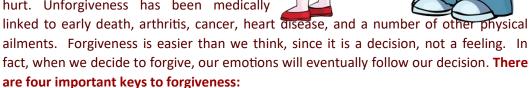
Fasting from the Sin of Unforgiveness

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my Heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart." -Matthew 18:33-35

All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." -Ephesians 4:31-32

Today, I choose to fast from the sin of unforgiveness. If resentment is firewood for your anger, unforgiveness is gasoline! Especially when we've been deeply hurt, we think that forgiveness means letting the other person off the hook, as though what happened to us was okay. Forgiveness, though, isn't about the other person. Forgiveness is about us. Unforgiveness actually keeps us tied to our hurt. Unforgiveness has been medically



- 1) Decide to forgive—don't wait for your emotions;
- 2) Depend on God—grace is the antidote for negative emotions;
- 3) Pray for the other person—it's hard to be angry toward someone you're praying for;
- 4) Bless them—speak well of the other person and don't gossip.

Let's have the courage to forgive those who have wronged us.



What benefit do I think I get by holding on to unforgiveness?

Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce unforgiveness and repent all the ways I have sinned because of it. I reject every form of unforgiveness in my life. I ask you, Father, to forgive me, and I forgive myself for my unforgiving heart and actions. Holy Spirit, make me aware of any unforgiving thoughts, feelings, and actions. Amen.

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

The Avila Group will host a Parish Potluck on Sunday, September 3 (following the 1:00 p.m. Latin Mass) from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the Guadalupe Courtyard (entrance is by the Adoration Chapel). Bring a dish or dessert to share! All are invited! more info, contact Blake Blaket04@gmail.com.



Mass Intentions

August 27 to September 3, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Donna Spencer, INT Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary Lilia Flores, RGS, RIP 7:30 a.m.: Parishioners 9:00 a.m.: Brad Thomason, INT 11:00 a.m.: Romeo Dasmarinas, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT 5:00 p.m.: Jacinta Lopez & Family, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Cynthia Graves, RIP *7:30 a.m.: George Ullrich, Sr., RIP 8:00 a.m.: Heather Brajkovich, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Jamie Arakawa, RIP Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Norah & Julian Sanchez, INT *7:30 a.m.: Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, B'Day INT 8:00 a.m.: Gaby & Ricardo Haro Anniv, INT 7:00 p.m.: The Abaúnza-Duran Family, INT Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Michael Kim, INT
8:00 a.m.: Sr. Mary Lilia Flores, RGS, RIP
7:00 p.m.: Jose Lorenzo, RIP
Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Abigail Cox, Birthday INT *7:30 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT 8:00 a.m.: Peter Kretschmer, 26th B'Day INT 7:00 p.m.: Joe & Shirley Diaz, RIP First Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Theodore Ng, Birthday INT *7:30 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT 8:00 a.m.: Sr. Mary Lilia Flores, RGS, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Carmelite Fathers in Arizona, INT Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community 8:00 a.m.: Sr. Mary, OCD, INT

*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 | St. Teresa of Avila

It seems I'm saying that we would have to be angels in order to make this petition ("Thy Will be done," from the Our Father) and recite well our vocal prayers. Our divine Master would truly desire this since He asks us to make so lofty a petition, and certainly He



doesn't tell us to ask for impossible things. The above would be possible, through the favor of God, for a soul placed in this exile, but not with the perfection of those who have gone forth from this prison; for we are at sea and journeying along this way. But there are times when, tired from our travels, we experience that the Lord calms our faculties and quiets the soul. As though by signs, He gives us a clear foretaste (through the gift of the beginnings of contemplative prayer) of what will be given to those He brings to His Kingdom. And to those to whom He gives here below the Kingdom we ask for, He gives pledges so that through these they may have great hope of going to enjoy perpetually what here on earth is given only in sips.

Outside the Parish

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome/Assisi on Oct. 3 to 14, 2022, for \$4000 each. Included are air, hotels, bus, tour guides, all meals in Jerusalem and breakfasts and dinners in Italy. Call or send a test via WhatsApp to 626-818-2937 or email ximegabella@yahoo.com.

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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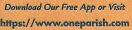
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