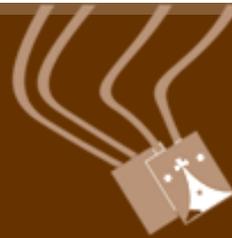




The Little Way



Saint Theresse Carmelite School Newsletter Special Issue for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Oh, dear Lady of Mount Carmel, with trust in you as our Merciful Mother, we turn to you in confidence. We ask that you hold within your Immaculate Heart all those in this world, especially those undergoing sorrow and suffering. Please send them comfort and present all of our petitions to Our Lord. May your love touch our souls so that we realize ever more that we are Children of God, living in His continual Presence. We ask you to intercede for us before our Heavenly Father so that He will show us His mercy through you. O Mary, who has gifted us with the Brown Scapular as a sign of your nurturing love, wrap us within this protective mantle. We love you. Amen.

In The Company of Saints,



Happy feast day of our Lady of Mount Carmel!

What a great day this is for the whole Church. “Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us and protect us with your Scapular!” Many of us can remember growing up with the Brown Scapular flying in and out of our T-shirts as we ran across the playground. Some even wear the scapular in the pool, while fathers wear it under their business suits and brides wear it under their wedding dresses. We wear it under our pajamas, and some won't even take off the Brown Scapular to shower! What makes us so committed to wearing the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel? Do we really understand the protection of the Brown Scapular and the commitment we make to God by wearing Mary's Brown Scapular? Protection and commitment, those are the words we need to ponder as we try to better understand why so many folks—big and small, young and old, rich and poor—wear the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

I recall one incident when I was in the Second Grade playing on the playground at my public school. My Brown Scapular kept flying out of my T-shirt. Finally, one of the kids said to me, “What is that?” “It's my Scapular!”, I said. “Why do you have it?,” he said. “I don't know,” I replied—and we went on playing while my Scapular continued to fly out of my T-shirt. To be honest, I liked when it was whisking through the air as I ran across the playground. It was like a super hero's cape flapping in the wind! Although I was not able to explain why I was wearing it, I would ALWAYS wear my Brown Scapular. I think that's true for many of us. I think about this playground incident a lot when I am enrolling Second Graders in the Brown Scapular at their First Holy Communions. What will they say when they are asked about it on the playground?

So what does it mean anyway? Well, by wearing the Brown Scapular, we are identifying ourselves with the Carmelite Order; we are also witnessing to a special relationship with Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary as her children (John 19:26). We are also promising to live out our baptismal promises by keeping the Ten Commandments for our love of God our Father in Heaven. For a more detailed understanding of the commitments we make by wearing the Brown Scapular, visit this website: <https://www.sistersofcarmel.com>.

Now, most Second Graders don't know all of these details—unless, of course, your Second Grader goes to Saint Therese Carmelite School!

As you may remember, we started the reform of the school six years ago under the faithful leadership of Mrs. Alma Cornejo as our principal and headmaster. We offer a Classical Curriculum with an emphasis on Carmelite spirituality offered in every classroom from K to 8. Pray that one day we will be able to begin a small transitional high school that will complement our unique grammar school! Each class is named in honor of a different Carmelite Saint, and a unique devotion to the Carmelite Saints are fostered in every grade. Kinder begins with the Little Flower; First Grade is devoted to Mother Luisita; Second Grade is under the protection of St. Simon Stock; Third Grade, St. Albert of Jerusalem; Fourth Grade, the students learn about Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity; Fifth Grade, the Prophet Elijah; Sixth Grade, St. Edith Stein; Seventh Grade, St. John of the Cross; and Eighth Grade, the students learn about Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila). If your children attend our School, they will not only get the best education in the entire archdiocese with a classical curriculum (NOT Common Core!), but they will also receive an amazing overview of the Carmelite saints taught by the Carmelite Friars. We do all of this with the hope that they, too, will pursue a life dedicated to becoming a saint.

I need to tell you another story that happened right here at our little School about four years ago. One day I was visiting the classrooms and I decided to visit Second Grade. I asked the children if they knew who the patron saint of their classroom was. They all beamed with excitement, hands waving in the air, anxiously wanting to be called upon so that they could answer, “ST. SIMON STOCK!,” And so they did. I proceeded to ask them a more challenging question: “Do you know the poem that St. Simon Stock wrote about the Blessed Virgin Mary?” While it proved unnecessary, I gave them a little hint that we sing his poem every time we attend a School Mass. Again the hands went waving in the air, excited to answer my “challenging” question: “**THE FLOS CARMELI!**”



We Become Saints!

By Fr. Philip
Sullivan, OCD

To conclude this visit, I asked the children if they would like to sing the *Flos Carmeli* with me? They all thundered, “YES!” I asked the teacher if she had copies of the poem for the children to read from while we sing. To which she said: “They won’t need them, Father” (“...but I might need one!,” I nervously thought to myself). So we began to sing and it was beautiful to behold how careful and clear the words were sung from these tiny mouths and their sweet, little voices as this ancient poem was sung in Latin. When we came close to the second verse, I began to get nervous as I can only sing from memory the first verse, yet our little babies continued to sing and sing—until the entire poem was finished! It was a wonderful way to begin my day! To learn more about the *Flos Carmeli*, visit the Carmelite Sisters website: carmelitesistersocd.com.

My point in sharing this classroom story with you is to “show off” the fruit of the unique education our children are receiving at this one-of-a-kind School! St. Therese Carmelite School doesn’t just offer a Classical Curriculum, but we also offer the students and their families attending our School an opportunity to be part of the Carmelite Order. Did you know that the word Carmel means, “Garden of God”? What perfect words to describe what we are doing here at this little Carmelite School! We are cultivating little gardens of God and for God! We are sowing seeds in the hearts and minds of your children that will one day produce a great harvest for the Eternal Glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

Saint Therese Carmelite School creates a Carmelite Culture, which is heard in beautiful music like the *Flos Carmeli* and other hymns unique to our Carmelite tradition. We also teach our children polyphony and Gregorian chant, as this form of music has a preferred and honored place within the Sacrifice of the Mass. With art, we passionately cultivate an ordered understanding of BEAUTY and we vigorously reject the banal and ugly. We zealously teach and uncompromisingly defend TRUTH in every subject. We sow the seeds of GOODNESS, showing our children not only how to be virtuous but also presenting the power that individual virtue has in every society. When our children finish cultivating their Garden of God, they will be sent out into the world to save the world by becoming saints.

“In the company of saints we become saints.” These words, penned by St. Teresa of Jesus in the 16th century, ring true today as our battle cry for Heaven. I never went to a Catholic School, and I never really enjoyed school when I was a kid; but I love going to this wonderful School every morning! I have learned so much about what it means to wear the Brown Scapular by having reformed this School six years ago. You see, wearing the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount

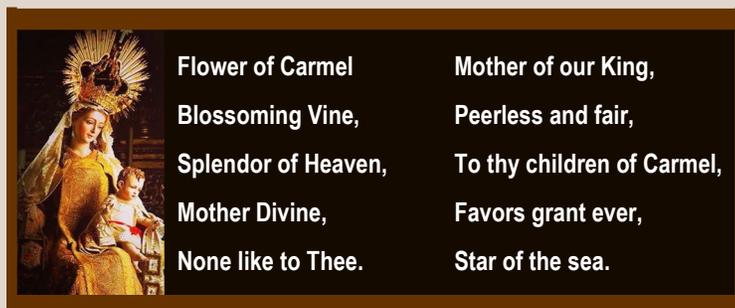
Carmel does not mean you will have an easy life. Just the opposite! Wearing the Brown Scapular means that you willingly put on the Yoke of Christ and do what has to be done for the salvation of souls! Wearing the Brown Scapular means that you are willing to go into battle against the ancient enemy with Her who crushes the head of the enemy (Genesis 3:15). Wearing the Scapular is zealously serving the Lord God of Hosts by example and in the spirit of the Prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:14). Wearing it means you willingly suffer, sacrifice, fast, and pray—with an undying love for God the Father! Wearing the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel means that we give ourselves totally to Jesus through Mary!

Did I know all of this when I was enrolled in the Brown Scapular at my First Holy Communion at St. Polycarp Catholic Church in Garden Grove? The answer is no—but I know it now! And I am committed to teaching the flock entrusted to my care the correct meaning of the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel. If you are wearing the Brown Scapular as some kind of good luck charm or you’re counting on the *Sabbatine Privilege* without willing to work for it, then take off the Brown Scapular and return it. The Scapular should be seen as a military uniform by which we willingly enlist in our Blessed Mother’s Army to combat the enemy with prayer, fasting, and sacrificial love.

I still like to think of the days of my youth when my Scapular would flap in the wind like a cape and I’d feel like I was a super hero. Now, as a Friar in the Discalced Carmelite Order, the Scapular is part of my habit and—I have to admit—it *still* makes me feel like a super hero, with my God-given super power being the ability save souls for Christ.

I am privileged and honored to wear Our Lady’s Scapular. Each time I place the Scapular of my habit upon my body, I kiss it to show the Mother of God that I am committed to serve in Her Son’s Army—and I am awaiting my orders.

Six years ago I went into battle to reform our Parish School. I fought a noble fight, and my red badge of courage can be seen with my loss of hair. The fight was real and it was not easy! The results are wonderful to behold! We have the best School in the world! Come and see the Garden we have made for God!



Flower of Carmel

Blossoming Vine,

Splendor of Heaven,

Mother Divine,

None like to Thee.

Mother of our King,

Peerless and fair,

To thy children of Carmel,

Favors grant ever,

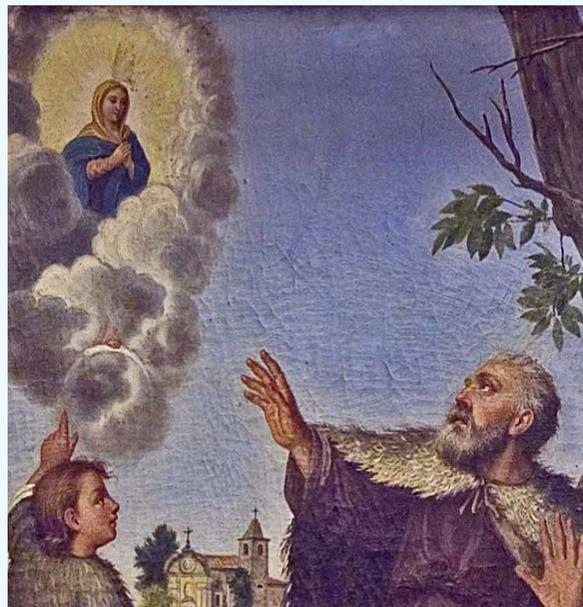
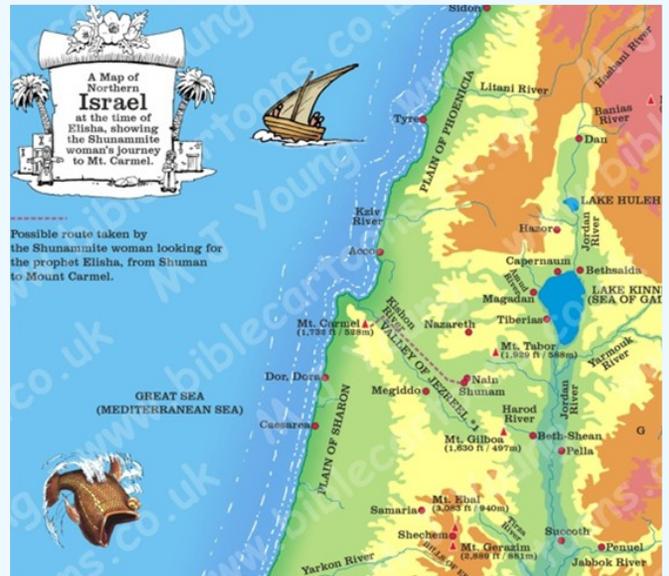
Star of the sea.

History of Our Lady of Mount

Mount Carmel in Israel

Israel's Mount Carmel—about a two-hour car ride from Jerusalem—composed of limestone rocks which form a cliff-like landscape, rises 1,732 feet above sea level and towers above the Mediterranean coastline. The name "Carmel" means, in Hebrew, "garden" or "vineyard," because of the mount's renowned lush and verdant beauty during ancient times (Isaiah 35:2), including flower blossoms, flowering shrubs, fragrant herbs, and trees of oak, pine, olive, and laurel. Mount Carmel is the biblical site where the prophet Elijah battled the 450 priests of Baal in a public spiritual contest which led to their defeat and ruin and to Elijah's winning the challenge after he called out during his turn, "Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command" (1 Kings 18:19-40).

Sanctified since early times, Mt. Carmel is mentioned as a "holy mountain" in Egyptian records as far back as 16 centuries **before** Christ. A Carmelite monastery was founded at the site shortly after the Order itself was created in the 13th century. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title, "Star of the Sea" ("Stella Maris," in Latin). The monastery often changed hands, frequently being converted into a mosque. In 1799 the building was converted into a hospital by Napoleon, but in 1821 the surviving structure was destroyed by the pasha of Damascus. A new monastery was later constructed directly over a nearby cave, after funds were collected by the Carmelite Order for its restoration. The cave, which now forms the crypt of the monastic church, is termed "Elijah's grotto" by the Discalced Carmelite friars who have custody of the monastery.



Origin of Title of Our Lady

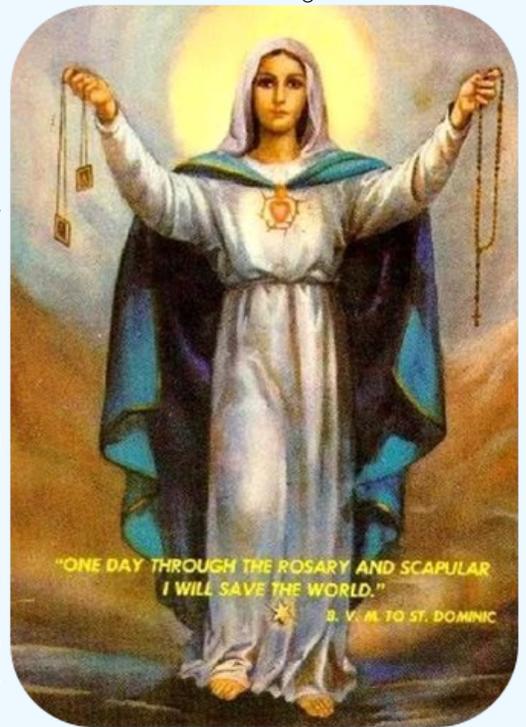
The title of Our Lady of Carmel can be traced back to the hermits who used to live in the renowned and blessed mountain during Old Testament times. There, this pious and austere community prayed in expectation of the advent of a Virgin-Mother who would bring salvation to mankind, much like the holy prophet Elijah prayed to God, from the top of Mount Carmel, for relief from a terrible drought they were suffering through at that time: "Elijah sent his servant seven times to the mountaintop to look for rain after years of drought, which ended as he proclaimed, **"Behold a little cloud arose out of the sea like a man's foot" (1 Kings 18:44). Elijah saw the cloud as a symbol of the Virgin mentioned in the prophecies of Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14).**

Theologians see in that little cloud a figure of Mary, bringing salvation in the seventh age of the world. As the clouds arise out of the sea without the weight and the salinity of the waters, so has Mary arisen out of the human race without suffering its stains. Based on *The L'Institution Des Premieres Moines (The Institution of the First Monks)*, a text most singularly representative of the spirit of Carmel, Elijah would discern from that cloud four secrets from God concerning the birth of Our Lady:

1. **The Immaculate Conception:** Because the Virgin would arise as a cloud out of the salty water of a guilty humanity, having the same nature of that water but without its bitterness.
2. **The Virginity of Mary similar to that of Elijah:** Because, if she "arose out of Mount Carmel" and "like a man's foot," this means she would follow the path of Elijah, who ascended Carmel through voluntary virginity.
3. **The time of the Virgin's birth:** Because as Elijah's servant saw the cloud on his seventh try so would the world witness the advent of the Virgin in the seventh age of the world.
4. **The Virginal Maternity:** Because, in that little cloud, God would come down like sweet rain, "without noise of human collaboration"; that is, without violating Mary's purity.

Carmel and the Brown Scapular

The Spirit of Elijah and the Carmelite Order: Elijah led a hermetic life on Mt. Carmel with special veneration for the Most Holy Virgin. His disciple Elisha, who received his mantle, along with his other followers, the "Sons of the Prophet," participated in his solitude. In a holy hereditary succession, they passed on his spirit and strength to others. Through the continuous propagation of the above practice, the foundation and development of the Carmelite order began to take root. This we learn from tradition, liturgy, works of various authors, and several papal bulls addressed to the Carmelite Order by Popes John XXII, Sixtus V, Julius II, St. Pius V, Gregory XIII, Sixtus VI, and Clement VIII. One beautiful passage from a private revelation to a mystic relates that after the High Priest of Jerusalem had announced that St. Joseph was to be the husband of Our Lady selected by Our Lord Himself, "the young man from Bethlehem joined the hermits of Elijah on Mount Carmel and continued to pray fervently for the coming of the Messiah.



The first church in honor of Our Lady in the Christian era: According to a long held and pious tradition, backed by Church Liturgy, a group of men devoted to the prophets Elijah and Elisha embraced Christianity on the day of Pentecost. They had been the disciples of St. John the Baptist, who prepared them for the coming of the Redeemer. This faithful band left Jerusalem and settled on Mt. Carmel. There they erected a church dedicated to Our Lady on the same spot where Elijah saw the little cloud which symbolized the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. They adopted the name of **Friars of the Blessed Mary of Mount Carmel**. The Carmelite Order has always claimed Elijah as its own and has seen him as the one who laid the foundations of the prophetic life that formed part of its character. The monastic spirit which the first Carmelites received from their predecessors was laid down in a holy Rule around the year 1210 by St. Albert, the patriarch of Jerusalem, which was later approved and authorized by Pope Innocent IV in 1247.

St. Simon Stock: In the 13th century, during the Crusades, St. Simon Stock (born around the year 1165 in the County of Kent in England) joined a group of hermits on Mount Carmel during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In 1247, at 82 years old, he was elected the 6th superior-general of the Carmelites, at the first chapter held in Aylesford, England. He instituted reforms to best suit Western conditions and community life, rather than the hermitic way of life. As such, the community came to be regarded eventually as a mendicant order (those supported by work and charitable contributions and whose members each take a vow of poverty), along with the Dominicans, the Augustinians, and the Franciscans.



The Brown Scapular: The order had difficulty gaining general acceptance and suffered much persecution and oppression from secular clergy and other orders, which prompted the monks to have recourse to the Blessed Virgin in the year 1251. Tradition says that Our Lady responded to their call through an apparition to St. Simon Stock on Sunday July 16, 1251, as he knelt in prayer. She appeared holding the Child Jesus in one arm and the Brown Scapular in the other hand while saying the following words: "Receive, My beloved son, this habit of thy order. This shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire... It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace." The Brown Scapular is one of the most popular and celebrated of Roman Catholic devotions. It is a miniature derivative of the actual brown scapular, a sleeveless outer garment which is part of the habit worn by Carmelites as a sign of their vocation and devotion. On January 13, 1252, the order received a letter of protection from Pope Innocent IV, defending them from harassment. St. Simon Stock lived a holy life, dying on May 16, 1265, at the age of 100, in the Carmelite monastery at Bordeaux, France.

Sabbatine Privilege: Attached to the wearing of the Brown Scapular is the Sabbatine Privilege, which originated from the apocryphal bull written by Pope John XXII in 1322: "Sacratissimo Uti Culmine." According to this Pope, the Blessed Virgin gave him the following message in a vision about those who wear the Scapular: "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whomsoever I shall find in Purgatory, I shall free, so that I may lead them to the holy mountain of life everlasting." In order to receive the spiritual blessings associated with the Brown Scapular, it is necessary to be formally enrolled. Once enrolled, no other Scapular need be blessed before wearing. The blessing and imposition are attached to the wearer for life. **Based on Church tradition, three conditions need to be fulfilled to obtain the benefits of this Privilege and the Scapular:**

Wear the Brown Scapular; observe chastity according to one's state in life; pray the Rosary.

Mount Carmel & Fatima: Two Miracles

From *Her Glorious*
Title by John Hafferty

Have there EVER been two miraculous events in the history of the world so similar and so important as the **MIRACLE OF FIRE**, described in the first Book of Kings, and the **MIRACLE OF THE SUN**, which took place at Fatima on October 13, 1917?

In the first Book of Kings, we read about the People of God being on the verge of annihilation, due to a prolonged drought sent by God as a punishment for their idolatry. However, by the miracle on Mount Carmel, they were converted and saved.

MIRACLE ON MOUNT CARMEL: Elijah, the great prophet with whom Jesus appeared at His Transfiguration, had proclaimed to the people that if they did not destroy their idols and return to God, they would be severely punished. When his words were not heeded, the punishment came. Facing the death of his people, the King sent for Elijah, who said, "Gather unto me all of Israel on Mount Carmel and the pagan prophets..." (1 Kings 18:19). Then an incredible "contest" was proposed by the prophet on "to prove that God is God."

The 850 pagan priests would erect an altar, place a sacrifice upon it, and pray to the pagan gods to send fire to consume the sacrifice. And Elijah would do the same thing. He would also fill a trench at the base of his altar with water. Then he would call upon the one true God to send fire from Heaven. The pagan prophets danced around their altar all day, cutting themselves with lancets and crying out to Baal to prove his power. But hour after hour, their sacrifice simply dried under the blistering heat of the sun.

Towards the end of the day, as the pagan priests were falling exhausted around their altar, Elijah looked up to Heaven and voiced a single prayer. Fire came down from Heaven and consumed not only his sacrifice but the very stones of his altar and the water on the ground around it. The nation fell to its knees crying, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!" (1 Kings 18:39). **This Mount Carmel miracle is amazingly similar to the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima in 1917—at the climax of which Our Lady appeared as Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Note: her last appearance at Lourdes to St. Bernadette was on July 16th).**

MIRACLE AT FATIMA, PORTUGAL: In the case of the miracle of fire on Mount Carmel, perhaps it seemed to the crowd as though the fire of the sun suddenly came down upon the Mountain—a fire so intense that it actually *melted the rocks*. This great manifestation of God's power, which so touched each person present that they all cried out, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!" I wrote a book about the miracle at Fatima (after having interviewed dozens of people who were there), called, *Meet the Witnesses*.

The witnesses all testified to the same things: "A fireball appeared in the sky, which everyone thought to be the sun itself. It plunged towards the earth causing the tens of thousands of witnesses to think it was going to consume everyone. Most of the 100,000 witnesses were stricken with fear. Before the miracle, it had been raining for many hours and everyone's clothing was soaked. The Cova of Fatima was a veritable sea of water and mud, but suddenly everything was entirely dry."

As at the miracle on Mount Carmel, the water had instantly evaporated from the heat of the great fire, which came down from the sky over the mountain at Fatima. The fire (or the sun) did not blind the people and they were not burned by the heat. Each person had experienced a miracle, leaving no doubt that the Mother of Jesus had kept her promise to perform a miracle "so that all may believe."

At the climax of the great miracle of Fatima, Our Lady appeared in the sky a final time as **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, holding the Brown Scapular!** Portugal at that time was ruled by atheists who had vowed to wipe out religion. They tried to destroy the place of the apparitions and they imprisoned the child seers and threatened them with death. The contest, as on Mount Carmel of old, was between God and anti-god. The miracle of Fatima—which took place at the same time as the militantly atheistic revolution started in Russia—opened a new era of Divine intervention, the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the reign of the Eucharistic Jesus to such an extent that there would be "an era of peace for all mankind."

The Church Fathers have interpreted the passages from 1 Kings concerning the "cloud rising from the sea" at the foot of Mount Carmel as a symbol of the Immaculate, rising pure out of the sea of humankind to bring forth the Savior of the world and *bringing the saving rain of Grace*.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, PRAY FOR US!



Flos Carmeli, A Hymn to Our Lady of Mt Carmel



Flos Carmeli
Vitis florigera,
Splendor caeli,
Virgo puerperal
Singularis.



Flower of Carmel,
Tall vine blossom laden;
Splendor of heaven,
Childbearing yet maiden.
None equals thee.



Mater mitis
sed viri nescia
Carmelitis
da privilegia
Stella Maris.

Mother so tender,
Who no man didst know,
On Carmel's children
Thy favors bestow.
Star of the Sea.



Radix Jesse
germinans flosculum
nos ad esse
tecum in saeculum
patiaris.

Strong stem of Jesse,
Who bore one bright flower,
Be ever near us
And guard us each hour,
who serve thee here.



Inter spinas
quae crescis lilium
serva puras
mentes fragillum
tutelarioris.

Purest of lilies,
That flowers among thorns,
Bring help to the true heart
That in weakness turns
and trusts in thee.



Armatura
fortis pugnantium
furunt bella
tende praesidium
scapularis.

Strongest of armor,
We trust in thy might:
Under thy mantle,
Hard pressed in the fight,
we call to thee.



Per incerta
prudens consilium
per adversa
iuge solatium
largiaris.

Our way uncertain,
Surrounded by foes,
Unfailing counsel
You give to those
who turn to thee.



Mater dulcis
Carmeli domina,
plebem tuam
reple laetitia
qua bearis.

O gentle Mother
Who in Carmel reigns,
Share with your servants
That gladness you gained
and now enjoy.



Paradisi
clavis et ianua,
fac nos duci
quo, Mater, gloria
coronaris.
Amen. (Alleluia.)

Hail, Gate of Heaven,
With glory now crowned,
Bring us to safety
Where thy Son is found,
true joy to see.
Amen. (Alleluia.)



"Under Our Lady's Mantle"

Saint Therese
Carmelite School's
2020-2021 School Year:
"Under the Mantle of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel"



Dear St. Therese Community,

The current pandemic has affected each and every one of us in multiple ways. Though we have never experienced such trials, we know that Our Lord is with us and that He will calm the storm. We all face uncertain times, but we want to encourage you to remain prayerful and hopeful while we forge ahead and do God's will.

Let me reassure you: The priorities of our School have NOT changed. More than ever, we remain committed to teaching the Faith *and* to teaching strong academics, as well as to transmitting virtues to these precious souls in our care. Our teachers demonstrated this continued commitment and led by example with their hard work, dedication, and cooperation with each School family, not only during in-person instruction, but also during the period of distance learning, which strengthened all of us. This gives us confidence that we will continue to make it through these tough times together!

I would like to thank every single one of you for the prayers, thoughts, and good wishes which you extended to me and my family during our personal struggle with Covid-19. I am happy to report that I have resumed all responsibilities as Principal of Saint Therese Carmelite School. It was your prayers and the dedication of our School staff that have made my recovery and return possible.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and I ask for your prayers and support as we prepare to face the challenges of the 2020-2021 school year, which we have placed under the mantle of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

-Mrs. Alma Cornejo, Principal of Saint Therese Carmelite School



Explanation & History of the Icon, "La Bruna"



This icon of the Blessed Mother (also on the front of this newsletter) is called "La Bruna," and is the oldest image of Mary used by the Carmelites to represent Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Here are some details about this image:

Name: "La Bruna" means "**The Brown One**," because of the dark color of Mary's complexion.

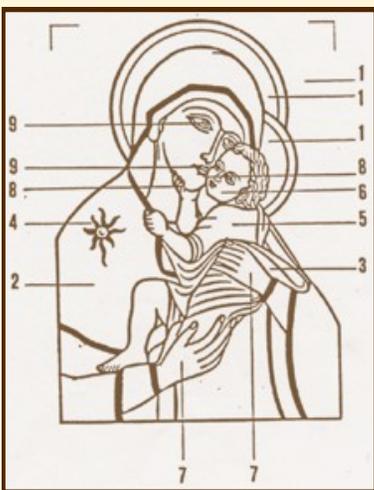
Origin: Traditionally, it is said to have been painted by one of the Carmelite Friars who lived on Mt. Carmel—where the Carmelite order was founded.

Date of composition: First half of the 13th century.

Size: Approximately 2.5 by 3 feet

Type of iconography: Eleusa—"Of Tenderness"

Current Location: Basilica of Carmine Maggiore, Naples, Italy



Spread of the Devotion

Apart from the Carmelite Order, devotion to "La Bruna," which was crowned by decree of the Vatican Council of July 11, 1875, has now spread to many other places and parishes, especially in Europe and in Latin America.

Explanation of the Icon: The composition of the picture contains a number of interesting details which help to illustrate the values of Mary, values which should inspire our lives and our Marian devotion. We can discover in this painting the following symbolic elements and details:

- The golden haloes and the golden background (gold being the color of the sun) of the picture denote the holiness of the Mother and Child, infused always by the presence of God.
- The dark blue color (the color of water, symbol of fertility) of Mary's cloak proclaims her divine Motherhood.
- The red color (the color of blood, symbolizing love) of her dress underneath her cloak, part of which covers the Child, shows the strong love of the Mother towards her Son Jesus.
- The star with a tail, attached to Mary's cloak, is the sign of her virginity before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
- The color of the Child's sleeve (lambskin) proclaims: "Behold, the Lamb of God!".
- The Baby's face is not "babyish," to indicate the eternal existence of the Word-Made-Flesh.
- Mary's left hand, which holds her Son safely, is a sign of her loving care. The right hand indicates the words, "Behold, the way, the truth and the life!".
- The faces of the Mother and the Son are close to each other to show Jesus' deep union with His Blessed Mother.
- The eyes of Mary and of Jesus are turned towards us, thus expressing the redemptive mission of Jesus and the co-redemptive participation of Mary.

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com