

Carmelites of the Holy Face

St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage, O.Carm
Inchincurka, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland



Website: carmeliteshollyface.com

Issue 23 — April 2023

“Buried with Him in baptism, in whom also you are risen again by the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him up from the dead.” — Colossians 2:12

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

We are at present in the most beautiful period of the Liturgical Year — Paschaltide. The Paschal Mystery should never be far from our minds, but during this time we are especially reminded of the glorious triumph awaiting the Church as a whole, and with Her, of every faithful follower of Christ. It is an opportune time to deepen our Faith in a practical way as we contemplate the Resurrection of our Saviour and see what it means to be a Christian. We have such a noble calling; such a sublime dignity; such a glorious destiny, for a true Christian is a “little Christ” in the fullest sense of the word. Union with God — oneness with Him — is the ultimate goal of the Christian life, the purpose of our existence, and the calling of every Christian.

Yet why is it so rare to find a true Christian who is living “in this world but not of it”? Or, as Abp. Fulton Sheen put it, why is it that mediocrity and compromise characterise the lives of so many Christians of our day? Many reasons could be given, but they can all be summarised by saying that it is for want of Faith — an effective, living and practical Faith — which actually influences the way we act.

“For even as the body without the spirit is dead; so also faith without works is dead.” — James 2:26

If we are Christians worthy of the name, there ought to be a noticeable parallel between Christ’s life and ours; a perceptible difference between ourselves and those who do not believe in Him. We acknowledge that we have been created to know, love and serve God in this life, and thus to be happy with Him forever in the next. Then let us prove that we believe what we say! Let us not seek, as the worldlings do, a paradise on earth; for our true home is in Heaven and this life is the only



opportunity we have to see that we reach our eternal destination. Humanly speaking, it is not easy; nevertheless, if we will not go the hard way to Heaven, we are sure to go the comfortable way to Hell.

Our Christian life began at Baptism with a profession of Faith. The rest of our earthly life must be spent in exercising that Faith and putting into practice our baptismal promises by renouncing Satan, and all his pomps and works. In becoming a Christian, we made an open declaration of war, for in the spiritual life there is an unrelenting conflict between nature and grace, the flesh and the spirit, the old man and the new. But Baptism is even more than that, it is a pledge of victory on one condition: namely, that we keep striving to live up to what we have promised.

“Know you not that all we, who are baptised in Christ Jesus, are baptised in His death? For we are buried together with Him by baptism into death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.” – Romans 6:3-5

It is apparent, then, that the Christian life is at one and the same time a death and a resurrection. It is a death to ourselves, to sin, and to our fallen human nature. It is a resurrection, for in proportion as we die this daily death, Christ lives in us and makes us participate in His Divine life – the life of grace. Such a life is directly opposed to the spirit of the world. We are deceiving ourselves if we think it is possible to be a good Christian without being persecuted and despised by an anti-Christian society which places all its hopes in material things; or if we think it possible to live in peace with the enemies of God.

“See if the world esteems you, holds you in great consideration, speaks well of you, seeks your society. If it is so, you do not belong to Jesus Christ. But on the contrary, if the world censures you, laughs at you, speaks ill of you, avoids you, despises you, hates you, oh what great cause for consolation you have! Oh, well may you then believe that you do belong indeed to Jesus Christ!”

– ‘Manual for Interior Souls’ by Fr. John Nicholas Grou, S.J., Chapter XXIV



As Holy Scripture tells us, our Faith is the victory which overcomes the world. But for this to be so, our Faith must be more than something we reserve for Sundays and odd moments of prayer. We need a living Faith – a Faith that affects every moment of our lives. We need to accustom ourselves to looking at life from a supernatural viewpoint, and it is Faith alone which enables us to do this. Fallen human nature shrinks from such

a view which is the only true one, yet nothing less will help us reach our eternal home. This supernatural viewpoint shows us that a Christian must lead, in some degree at least, a mortified life; and mortification means, quite literally, a putting to death. There are numerous ways of dying to ourselves, and we do not have to look far to find them. Those little trials we meet with in the course of every day are precious, yet we cannot do without a certain amount of voluntary penance also.

“Yes! The best of all penances is to take in the spirit of interior compunction the mortifications which the wise and affectionate course of God’s fatherly providence brings upon us; but unless we have practised ourselves in the generous habit of voluntary penances, the chances are very much indeed against our forming this interior spirit of penance, and therefore of getting the full profit out of the involuntary trials God sends us.”

– ‘Growth in Holiness’ by Fr. Faber, Chapter XI



Without Faith, the life of a true Christian seems most unattractive and displeasing to human nature, for it is completely contrary to the comfort and self-gratification promoted by the world. In the light of Faith, however, everything changes. We are not struggling alone, nor will the Sorrowful Mysteries last forever. Calvary is not the final scene in the life of Christ, and nor is it destined to be so

in ours. The life of Christ is the pattern for the life of every Christian – His triumph over sin and death, His Resurrection and eternal glorification no less than His sufferings! Our resurrection will come too, but only after a death has taken place. We must die to ourselves, our passions and our fleshly desires, not just once, but daily. It appears to be an unending war, a battle in which there is seldom a moment of respite. Yet we continue fighting with a calm assurance of success, rising as often as we fall, because the victory is certain for those who believe with an active, effective, living Faith. In the face of such determined opposition, our enemies are powerless. They will hate us all the more for this, but they can do us no more harm than God permits. And even the sorrows and sufferings they inflict upon us will only serve to make our triumph more glorious. Why? Because we believe.

“For whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world: and this is the victory which overcometh the world, our faith.” – 1 John 5:4

Although the full reward of the Christian life is reserved for Heaven, even here below we are granted a foretaste of the glorious resurrection awaiting us. The true follower of Christ enjoys a deep peace of soul, even in the midst of struggles – a peace which the world cannot give. Patient and persevering efforts bring with them the joy of little victories such as an impatient word held back, a bad thought rejected, a small self-



denial at meals, rising at the first sound of the alarm or showing others a friendly smile we may be far from feeling. Even the practice of virtue becomes easier with time as we grow more accustomed to it. Then there are spiritual joys which are granted from time to time – not that we may rest in them, but only to refresh and encourage us in our struggle onwards and upwards. As we grow in the love of God, even our crosses themselves may become for us a source of joy, for when willingly accepted, they unite us to God as nothing else can. In conclusion, dear friends, we shall leave you to ponder on these words of St Paul, for they summarise all that has been said above and they remind us that we have an eternal resurrection to look forward to – if only we live our Faith.

“Therefore, if you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above; where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God: Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth. For you are dead; and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ shall appear, who is your life, then you also shall appear with Him in glory.” – Colossians 3:1-4

The Way of a Christian

Since a Christian is a “little Christ,”
It is surely very plain
That a Christian must be sacrificed,
Or possess that name in vain.

Many Christians though, at least today,
Do not deserve the name,
For they live in such a worldly way
They deny what they proclaim.

If we do believe what we profess,
Then our lives are bound to show
That we seek eternal happiness –
Not a paradise below.

We are pilgrims, let us not forget,
As we make our way through time;
And our journey’s not completed yet -
There is still a hill to climb.

“Come down,” we hear the worldlings cry,
“And then we will believe!”
But only one way leads on high;
Christ’s path we cannot leave.

To our cross we cling as we ascend,

For there is no other way;
And the world can never be our friend
If our Faith is what we say.

There are many forms our crosses take
And we find them every day;
But we carry on for Jesus’ sake
On the steep and narrow way.

In the darkness on our Calvary
There is joy as well as pain,
For we know there will be victory
And the cross will be our gain.

We are one with Christ, for we believe
With a Faith sincere and true,
By our daily death we shall achieve
An eternal triumph too.

So fellow Christians, persevere
In the struggle for perfection;
For in this way you shall prepare
To share Christ’s Resurrection.

*Cf. Matthew 27:42; Luke 14:27; Hebrews 13:14; 1
Peter 2:11; 1 John 3:13*

Hermitage News

- ✦ 21 February 2023 – Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus. A priest from the Coalition for Cancelled Priests travelled from the USA, arriving in time to offer an evening Mass of the Holy Face, which he did with great reverence. For one week we were privileged to have daily Mass.
- ✦ 30 March 2023 – Our milking goat, Rosie, gave birth to triplets. Unfortunately, they are all billy goats and will soon have to be rehomed.
- ✦ April 2023 – The Holy Week ceremonies were celebrated at the Hermitage, attended by a few of the faithful. Remembering how at this time last year we were using a 20ft shipping container as a temporary Oratory, we give thanks to God for having blessed us so richly through your generosity.



We have finally succeeded in opening a bank account in the name of the Community as we had been hoping to do for a long time. Our new bank details can be found on the last page of this newsletter, as well as on our website. From now on, all cheques should be made payable to “Carmelites of the Holy Face”

Although we are deeply grateful for any and all material support, above all we remain in need of your prayers so that we may be blessed spiritually as well as materially with a permanent chaplain and good vocations. One young lady from the USA recently returned for a second visit of one month, but she is still too young to be received as a postulant. Others are waiting on their visa applications for Ireland, so we live in hope, even though we have no other news to share with you yet in this regard.

We assure you, as always, of our grateful prayers and rely on yours in return. As Religious, we have the same obligation as you do to strive for perfection, but to an even greater degree. To live by Faith is at once the most challenging

and most rewarding of all vocations. Let us support one another in this struggle, so that, as we pray in the Angelus, “we may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen”

Your Sisters in Christ,

Mother Irene of the Holy Face O.Carm and Community

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Cord of St Joseph (with explanatory leaflet and holycard).....	€5.00
Hand-made Wooden Holy Face Chaplet Beads (dark orange).....	€6.00
Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (silver).....	€1.00
Miraculous Medal on Coloured Leather Necklace (var. colours avail.).....	€5.00
Blessed Oil of the Holy Face.....	Free
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads.....	€4.00
Hand-made blue plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal.....	€6.00
Hand-made wooden Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (purple).....	€6.00
Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	€3.00
Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (silver).....	€7.00
St. Christopher & St. Anthony Bronze Medal.....	€4.50
Heavy Copper-Coloured Crucifix Key Ring.....	€9.50
St. Benedict Copper- Coloured Crucifix.....	€2.00
St. Benedict Medal, Silver-coloured, oval, standard size.....	€1.00
Holy Face Medal (Shroud Image).....	€1.00
Holy Face Medal 3D (bronze/gold/silver).....	€2.00
Pardon Crucifix (gold/silver/bronze).....	€7.00
Greeting and/or Mass Cards.....	€3.00 each or €10.00 for 4
Hand-made plastic Holy Face Chaplet Beads (red/green).....	€6
Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle.....	offering, €1.00
Blessed Salt.....	Free

HOW TO HELP US?

- ✓ **By your prayers**, especially that Our Lord will send us good vocations, courageous “Veronicas” to wipe and honour His Adorable Face and make reparation for poor sinners.
- ✓ **By your generosity**: bank transfer made payable to
Carmelites of the Holy Face
St. Joseph's Hermitage
Inchincurka, Dunmanway,
Co Cork, Ireland

Bank Name: Allied Irish Bank
Bank Address: East Green, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Bank Identifier Code (BIC): AIBKIE2D
National Sort Code: 93-60-73
Account Number: 09084069
IBAN: IE 05 AIBK93 6073 0908 4069
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