

Carmelites of the Holy Face

Holy Family Carmelite Hermitage O.Carm
Corran, Leap, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland.



Website: carmeliteshollyface.com

Issue 7 - June 2019

“It is good to confide in the Lord rather than to have confidence in man.” Psalm 117:8

Dear friends and benefactors,

There are two characteristics of the life of Saint Therese and her Little Way: Confidence and Love. It is important to understand these, because for many of us who have neither the courage nor the opportunity to become ‘great saints’ in the eyes of men, the Little Way is our greatest hope of reaching sanctity.

In our last newsletter – Issue 6, February 2019, available on our website – we saw to what extent that love can take us and how it can be lived from day to day. However, because it is a daunting struggle to die to ourselves and to put that love into practice, we have a great need for confidence in God; especially when we meet with unexpected troubles.

The story of Job is a beautiful example of this unshakable trust, even when everything may seem to be going wrong. Job lost all his material possessions: his cattle, his servants, his health and even his children; yet he was so sure that God would not forsake Him that he was able to say:

“Although He should kill me, I will trust in Him.” Job 13:15

One great aid to achieving this trust is to think of God as our Father. So often we call Him such when we pray the “Our Father” but how easy it is to forget that we have a loving Father in Heaven Who is watching over our lives. Scripture tells us that not one sparrow falls to the ground without God our Father knowing it. (Cf. Matt. 19:29) It is tempting to take matters into our own hands and try to make things turn out as we think they should. Indeed there is a time and place for doing so. But when we have tried



our best without success, instead of being upset or troubled, we should leave the matter in God's Hands. After all, God's all Seeing Eye sees the bigger picture and possesses that wonderful gift called 'hindsight' which we all wish for at times. He is the Alpha and the Omega – the Beginning and End of all things. And no one has our welfare more at heart than God our loving Father. The trouble is that we see things as they appear from a natural point of view and tend to forget that it is our spiritual welfare which really matters.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts: nor your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are exalted above the earth, so are my ways exalted above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9.

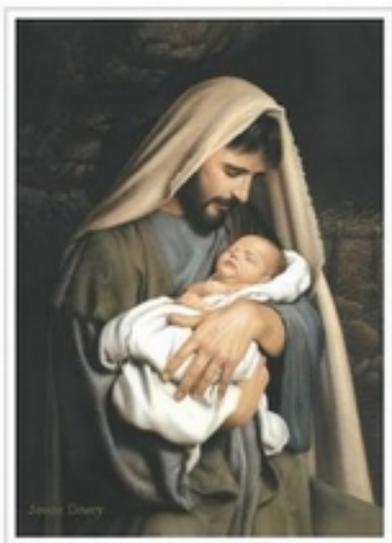
If we keep our true goal always in mind, then the sufferings of the present life ought to make us rejoice. And when we are tempted to envy those who seem to prosper now, it would be well to read Psalm 72 and to recall how short-lived is any happiness we can hope for aside from God. All throughout our lives people let us down, friends forsake us, family members disagree with our views... yet, as long as we still have the breath of life in us, God will never abandon us, His adopted children, nor cease to love us as His very own.

"And Sion said: The Lord hath forsaken me, and the Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her infant, so as not to have pity on the son of her womb? And if she should forget, yet will not I forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee in My hands..." Isaiah 49:14-16

Despite these and many other assurances we find in Holy Scripture that God will not forsake us, it is hard to acquire that spirit of childlike trust in Him. Perhaps our past experiences of being let down by those on whom we counted have destroyed the unquestioning trust of childhood... Or again it may be due to the spirit of independence which is so prevalent in these times. In any case it is certain we must spare no efforts to become once more as little children *"for the Kingdom of Heaven is for such."*

Matt.19:14

Little children depend upon their parents for all that is necessary: food clothing, shelter and so on. They have no concern for the future, giving their full attention to the present moment. And so it must be with us as we consider that we are



children of God. Why should we worry when we know that nothing can happen to us without His permission? Let us concentrate rather on living each moment in the loving performance of our duties, knowing that if we do our best, God will take care of the rest.

St. Therese of Lisieux wrote:

“Jesus has shown me the only way that leads to the fire of divine love: it is that of a little child who, full of trust, falls asleep in its father’s arm.”

Let us take courage then, dear friends, in the thought of Our Father in Heaven, remembering that He is ardently longing for us to share His eternal happiness; the only true joy which is worth seeking. He will Himself take us in His arms and carry us over the obstacles we face, if we only let Him. All He asks for is our trust, and when we leave matters in His Hands, we can be sure that everything will turn out for our good.

We conclude with these words of Saint Paul:

“Do not therefore lose your confidence which hath a great reward.” Heb. 10:35

THE LITTLE WAY – FOR US TODAY

“My way is Confidence and Love”
Said little St Therese.
A childlike soul, she did not care
For great and striking ways

She found instead an easy way
Of reaching sanctity:
“God seeks for no great penances
From little ones like me”

By love and trust she made her way;
Our Father saw and smiled,
Well pleased with all her ‘little things’-
The offerings of a child.

He sent in token of His love
A heavy cross to bear,
When Heaven seemed not to exist,
And Hope to disappear.

Yet still by trust in God she lived
Her childlike Little Way,
And so within Our Father’s home,
She’s Saint Therese today!

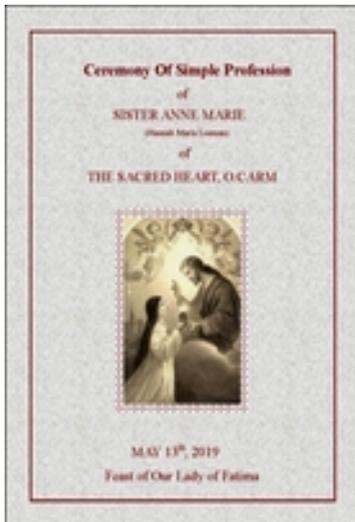
Fidelity in little things
And duties well fulfilled,
A cheerful smile, a kindly word,
Resentful musings stilled;

Such are a little child’s gifts,
And such our means today
Of reaching Heaven and holiness,
Along the Little Way.



Hermitage News

- ✦ 27th March - The prefabricated building was removed. Also on this day we received a letter from Cork County Council Solicitor for a court hearing for non-compliance with planning regulations and the failure to remove our buildings from our land by a set date.
- ✦ 13th May - Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Sister Anne Marie of the Sacred Heart, O.Carm, makes her temporary Profession and receives the black veil as a Carmelite Nun. About 25 faithful attended. This was followed by refreshments and a Procession of Our Lady of Fatima including Her crowning by our newly crowned and Professed Sister.
- ✦ 14th May - Attendance at the local district court. Unfortunately the newspaper reporters, who love sensationalism, were inside and outside the town court. The judge, James McNulty, granted a long adjournment until 10th December when a decision would be made on this case. However, we must work at selling our remaining buildings and land.



We continue to plead with God our Heavenly Father to show us where He wills us to live. We put our full trust in God and believe that He is working through all these circumstances to accomplish His loving plan for each one of us.

It would be a real blessing if we could find a charitable and vibrant Traditional Catholic parish with independent priests who would appreciate having a Contemplative community of Carmelite Nuns as part of their parish. Archbishop Lefebvre once said:

"Without monasteries, without the examples of the contemplative religious consecrated to the continual praise of God, the Church will never recover from the present crisis. In order to traverse this present crisis, there must be

more monasteries, more souls willing to devote their whole life to prayer and intercession."

Our main objective in establishing a monastery here in West Cork was not just to build a monastic structure for ourselves – but above all we have wanted, by our prayerful presence, to build the true Catholic Faith in the hearts of individuals, of families and of peoples throughout the area of County Cork and all of you who write and call. This has been our main goal and we will continue to strive to fulfil it just the same, but from a different geographical location. There are no boundaries where God's love is concerned. Wherever we go, you can be certain you will ever have a special place in our hearts and prayers.



We are most indebted to all our benefactors and friends who continue to assist us with their donations.

Some may ask “why should I donate?”

J.M. + J.T.

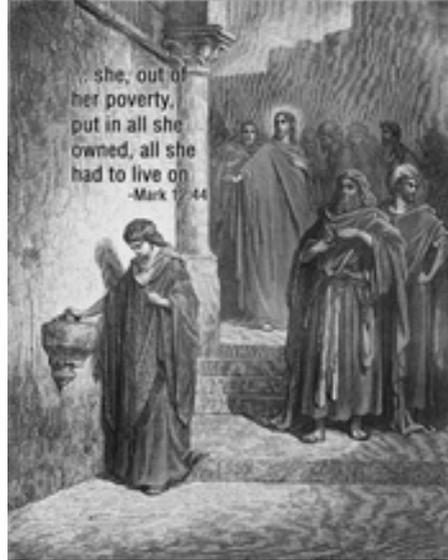
Why should I donate?

The spiritual benefits of donating.

Consecrated Nuns are brides of Jesus Christ. Our Lord takes very seriously His role as Provider for these, His spouses. He provides for their material needs principally through inspiring people like you to help them. When people respond to this inspiration, and in proportion to the generosity of that response, He swiftly repays with His choicest blessings. God is never outdone in generosity! The more you try to give for love of Him, the more blessings you will find rushing back upon you. Just try to outdo Him! You will never succeed! You give of your time, your talents, your treasure, but He gives back, ultimately, the inestimable gift of salvation and Eternal Life, purchased for us with the Precious Blood of Christ, the spotless Lamb. In the following episode, taken from the book of The Foundations of St. Teresa of Jesus, is illustrated

how a young man was saved from eternal damnation because of kindness shown to the Nuns of Our Lady's Order of Carmel.

"... I was talking with a young man... who told me that, if I wanted to found a convent in Valladolid, he would give me a house which he had there, with a fine big garden in which there was a large vineyard: he would do this very gladly and grant me possession of it at once. It was a most valuable gift, and I accepted it... About two months after this he was attacked by a sudden illness which deprived him of the power of speech, so that he was unable to make a proper confession, though he made a great many signs to show that he was asking pardon of the Lord. Very shortly afterwards he died... The Lord told me that his salvation had been in great jeopardy, but that He had had compassion on him because of that service which he had done for His Mother by giving her a house for a convent of her Order; but He added that he would not be delivered from purgatory until the first Mass had been said there. The grievous afflictions of this soul were constantly in my mind; so... [I] went with all possible haste to found the convent... We were given leave to have Mass said in the place where we had decided to have our church and accordingly it was said for us there... When the priest was approaching us in the place where we were to communicate, holding the Most Holy Sacrament in his hands, and as I was preparing to receive It, I saw a vision of the young man in question, with a happy and resplendent countenance, standing beside the priest with his hands joined together, and thanking me for what I had done to enable his soul to be freed from purgatory and go to Heaven." (from chapter X)



May God bless and reward you for your charity. Please do not hesitate to write to us and send us your prayer request.

Our daily prayer for you is this: "Lord, be pleased to award everlasting life to all who do good to us in Thy Name."

Your Carmelite Sisters

Mother Irene of the Holy Face O.Carm and Community

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 **Mother (Sr.) Irene Gibson**

NSC: 903998

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- ✓ **By a PayPal donation to monabyrne@rocketmail.com or via our web site:**

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