

Carmelites of the Holy Face

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



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“And...behold, a little cloud arose out of the sea like a man’s foot.” 3 Kings 18:24

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

A dark cloud is hovering over the world at present: a situation of fear and unrest, which highlights the misery of society as a whole, as well as of individual souls who are no longer enlightened by Faith.

“For the thoughts of mortal men are fearful, and our counsels are uncertain.”
Wisdom 9:14

In our last newsletter, we briefly mentioned that recent world events have filled us with hope rather than alarm – not the hope that life will soon return to ‘normal’ and continue as it has for the past 60 years, but rather a hope that the Great Chastisement is at hand, which will culminate in the triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart. Today we would like to develop this theme a little further in order to show how, rather than filling us with fear and despair, the present situation should fill us with hope and even joy.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen explained the reason why this Chastisement is to be awaited with such expectation by those who are distressed at the amount of evil and godlessness which is daily increasing in society. He wrote:

“Godlessness would go on and on if there were no catastrophes. What death is to a sinful person, that catastrophe is to an evil civilisation: the interruption of its godlessness.” *Communism and the Conscience of the West*, p38

Who among us does not long for the restoration of society to its former glory and the return of Faith to the position it ought to occupy, not only in society, but in every individual soul? As there is no victory which is not preceded by a battle, so there will be no miraculous triumph until great tribulations have made it clear that victory is impossible to mankind without heavenly intervention.



Elias, the Prophet, and the Founder of the Carmelite Order, lived in times in which the widespread apostasy was comparable to our own days. Then, as now, this loss of Faith was punished by a famine and

a drought, with one difference: the drought we are experiencing is not a physical one, but a spiritual one.

"...Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst of water, but of hearing the word of the Lord." Amos 8:11

Elias went up to the top of Mt. Carmel after his great victory over the 850 false prophets, when fire had fallen from Heaven in answer to his prayers, as we read in the Third Book of Kings. It was then that he saw a little cloud rise out of the sea, "like a man's foot," and was given to understand the mystical meaning of this symbolic event. This interpretation was revealed by Elias to his spiritual descendants, and it has been preserved by a constant tradition in the Carmelite Order, as well as by some of the Fathers of the Church, who refer to it in their writings. The appearance of this cloud which arose from the sea, pure and unsalty, was a prophecy of the coming of the Woman of Genesis who would crush the head of the serpent with her heel. Although this prophecy was fulfilled when the fullness of time had come and the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived and brought forth the Redeemer of the world, still, there is a message in the coming of that cloud for our own times as well.

"...Solomon said: The Lord promised that He would dwell in a cloud." 2 Paralipomenon 6:1

And King David tells us:

"Clouds and darkness are round about Him." Psalm 96:1

So likewise it is fitting that clouds should be a sign of the presence of Our Lady, since she is so closely united to God.

To the people of Samaria, the cloud which appeared in answer to the prayers of Elias was a welcome sight after 3 1/2 years without rain. However, the cloud which threatens the world at present is a dark one, and to many, it is a most unwelcome one. It is a cloud of doubt, fear and uncertainty which conceals the future from the eyes of the world; but for those who have Faith, it is at the same time a message of hope and a cause for rejoicing. It is a sign that Our Lady is coming to crush the head of the Serpent and to fulfil the prophecy which she made at Fatima:

"When all will seem lost, this will mark the arrival of my hour."

Indeed, when Our Lady appeared at Fatima in the *Cova da Iria*, although the crowds could not see her, the cloud which rested above the holm oak was to them a visible sign of her presence there. So may it be with us! May our Faith enable us to believe what the world cannot see: that Mary is with us, and the hour of her glorious triumph is approaching, when we, who have fought

courageously and served her faithfully, shall share in the joy of her victory over the dragon and his kingdom of darkness.

The significance of the shape of the cloud seen by Elias is also important to note: “like a man’s foot,” says Holy Scripture. This immediately brings to mind another foot – that of the Woman referred to in Genesis:

“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.” Genesis 3:15

St. Louis de Montfort, the great apostle of devotion to Mary, has an interesting and consoling explanation of this passage which is particularly beneficial to read as we approach the ‘latter times’ of which he wrote:



“The power of Mary over all the devils will especially shine forth in the latter times when Satan will lay his snares against her heel, that is to say, her humble slaves and her poor children, whom she will raise up to make war against him. They shall be little and poor in the world’s esteem, and abased before all like the heel, trodden underfoot and persecuted as the heel is by the other members of the body. But in return for this, they shall be rich in the grace of God, which Mary shall distribute to them abundantly. They shall be great and exalted before God in sanctity,

superior to all other creatures by their lively zeal, and so well sustained with God’s assistance that, with the humility of their heel, in union with Mary, they shall crush the head of the devil and cause Jesus Christ to triumph.” True Devotion to Mary, pp32-33

This holy slavery, so eloquently preached and so faithfully practiced by St. Louis de Montfort, (which consists in handing over to Mary all our goods, temporal and spiritual, to be disposed of exactly as she wishes) is a wonderful help towards maintaining peace of soul and casting out all inordinate fear of the future. Yes, the slaves of Mary still suffer, and shall even be singled out to experience a greater share of the devil’s fury; yet when the battle is not our own but Mary’s, we can be sure of her powerful assistance which all the godless men upon earth and even all the devils in Hell cannot diminish. We are assured, too, of victory when we place ourselves entirely in Mary’s hands, for as she herself has said:

“In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, and there will be peace.”

In this great battle between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light, our weapons differ from those in which the men of this world place their trust. The most powerful weapons are prayer and penance. These are the two arms of Moses by which the battle with the Amalecites was won.

“And Moses said to Josue: Choose out men: and go out and fight against Amalec: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill having the rod of God in my hand. Josue did as Moses had spoken, and he fought against Amalec; but Moses, and Aaron, and Hur went up upon the top of the hill. And when Moses lifted up his hands, Israel overcame: but if he let them down a little, Amalec overcame. And Moses' hands were heavy: so they took a stone, and put under him, and he sat on it: and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands on both sides. And it came to pass that his hands were not weary until sunset. And Josue put Amalec and his people to flight, by the edge of the sword.” Exodus 17:9-13

Likewise when Elias confronted the 850 prophets of Baal, he was armed with these same weapons of penance and prayer. Our Lady's triumph shall also be brought about by means of prayer and penance, as she herself promised to St. Dominic:

“One day through the Rosary and the Scapular, I will save the world.”

The Rosary symbolises prayer, while the Brown Scapular is a symbol of penance. The Brown Scapular, as many of you know, is part of the habit worn by members of the Carmelite Order, which is especially devoted to prayer and penance. Since the Church wanted all men, regardless of their state in life, to share in the spiritual benefits conferred by Our Lady on the wearers of this Scapular, She has extended the same privileges to those who wear the smaller and more common form of this sacramental. In order to gain the Sabbatine Privilege however, (by which Our Lady has promised to deliver those who gain it from Purgatory on the Saturday after their death) it is also necessary to either pray the Little Office of Our Lady daily, or to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays; besides observing chastity according to one's state in life. (The former obligation may be exchanged for another with the permission of a priest.) Hence the faithful wearing of the Scapular demands the practice of penance, while the daily recitation of the Rosary helps to cultivate a life of prayer.

Furnished with these two weapons – prayer and penance – each and every one of Mary's faithful children shall be armed for the battle. It is not only the duty of priests and religious to clothe themselves in this armour; every one of us, regardless of our state in life, must fight in this conflict with the powers of darkness. It would be the height of folly to do so unarmed! And so, dear friends, and fellow soldiers of Christ, let us make good use of the weapons Our Lady has given us, so that with her assistance we shall contribute to the long awaited victory, when the head of the serpent will be crushed, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia, and there will be peace!

Our Lady's Heel

The heel of Our Lady shall crush Satan's head,
As God has foretold, and as prophets have said.
Through her the Redeemer appeared among men,
Yet His triumph through Mary will happen again.

These times of great evil with eloquence speak
Of our need for Our Lady, whose victory we seek;
But if Mary's in Heaven, while Satan's below,
How shall her heel crush the head of our foe?

St. Louis de Montfort has clearly explained
How this latter-day triumph shall really be gained.
The slaves of Our Lady, his writings reveal,
Shall be humble, and poor, and despised like the heel.

The world shall regard them as objects of hate,
But their souls shall please God, and will therefore be great;
They'll be rich in His grace and in God-given power;
Through them the great triumph shall end Satan's hour.

In union with Mary we'll crush his proud head,
If by her sweet guidance we're willingly led.
So let's faithfully serve her, despite what we feel,
Awaiting the triumph reserved for her heel.

cf. Genesis 3:15

The Legend Of The Hart's-Tongue Fern

St. Hildegard of Bingen, a 13th Century Benedictine and German mystic, is renowned as one of the greatest medieval herbalists. Many of her recipes have survived and are still in use today, including a Lung & Liver Tonic which is made with the leaves of the Hart's-Tongue Fern.



We recently gathered some of this fern which grows in abundance in this part of Ireland, in order to make some of this tonic. We followed St Hildegard's recipe, adding a few extra herbs to benefit the liver, such as Milk Thistle and Dandelion root. This tonic, as St. Hildegard has written, is also very useful and effective in getting rid of a dry, persistent cough. In the course of our research on the Hart's-Tongue Fern, we came across the following legend which is known to this day in Devonshire, England, where this fern still goes by the name of 'Christ's Hair'!

When the Son of Man had no place to lay His Head, as we read in the Gospel according to St. Luke, this broad-leafed fern served Him as His pillow. In




gratitude for the service it rendered Him, He left behind several hairs from His Sacred Head, which the plant now treasures in its ripe stems. Even to this day, children search for these hairs – and not only children, for we have searched and found them there ourselves!

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	€1.00
St. Benedict bronze colour Crucifix.....	€2.00
1 decade chaplet Rosary beads, colours: white, pink, blue.....	€3.00
Holy Face medal (shroud Image).....	€0.70
Holy Face medal 3D, colour: bronze, brass, silver.....	€1.00
Miraculous Medal.....	€1.00
Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle.....	offering, €0.50
Blessed Salt.....	Free
Healing Herbal Teas (out of stock).....	contact us.
Pardon Crucifix.....	€3.50

Hermitage News

- ✦ June 2020 - Once again the court hearing was postponed, this time “until further notice.” As we currently have no other home than three small garden sheds located on our own private 2.5 acre piece of land in West Cork, we are glad, at least for the moment, to be free from further harassment from Cork County Council and the media. On the 25th we welcomed a new addition to our community: a young kitten which we named Willie after the Saint of the day. Although we are glad to see our community grow, one of this kind of new arrival is sufficient!
- ✦ July 2020 - After receiving several promising vocational enquiries, we came to the conclusion that it would not be wise to proceed with the purchase of the property mentioned in our last Newsletter (cf. Issue 11 - May 2020), as it has little potential for a larger community. We therefore viewed several other properties in County Cork. We found one which may be suitable for the long-term future and growth of our Hermitage.

Thanks to your generosity, we hope to be able to purchase this house in the near future. As yet however, we do not have quite sufficient funds so as to make an offer. Please assist us financially as best as you can. In days of old when Catholics and Christians in general lived in the holy fear of God, they manifested their love for God and the Blessed Virgin Mary by giving what little they had in order to build shrines and churches to house the Most Blessed Sacrament and the relics of the Saints. We appeal to your generosity to do likewise so that you also may merit God’s blessing and receive treasures in heaven.

- ✦ August 2020 – On the 17th, the Monday after the Feast of the Assumption, in accordance with Our Lady’s request to Marie-Julie Jahenny, we had a small ceremony in which we offered the Hawthorn leaves to Our Lady, begging her to bless these and all the other herbs we have gathered, including all those we have already sent to those of you who requested them.



The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few, both literally and spiritually! The need for prayer and penance has never been so great, and there have seldom been so few to dedicate themselves completely to this work. We ask you to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send us more

Sisters soon and hasten to open the way for those who have expressed an interest in joining us.

Whilst there is a spiritual drought, the floods of evil are rising rapidly. The powers of iniquity have torn down our Oratory even as they are tearing down statues of the saints and burning churches in Communist China, in the USA, France and elsewhere. Our Eucharistic Lord and Saviour, Who is really and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, is little honoured and much profaned. We have but a short time left to buy or build a safe haven – an “Ark” to house the New Covenant - the Lamb of God Himself and His virgin handmaids. Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide.

With the assurance of our profound gratitude and prayers,

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
Holy Family Hermitage
Corran
Leap
Co Cork

Bank Name: **Bank of Ireland**
Bank Address: **Westport Co Mayo**
Bank Identifier Code (BIC): **BOFIE2D**
Branch Code: **90-39-98**
Account Number: **27746013**
IBAN: **IE34 BOFI 9039 9827 7460 13**

✓ **PayPal**: monabyrne@rocketmail.com

✓ **GoFundMe**: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/carmelites-nuns>