

Carmelites of the Holy Face

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



Website: carmeliteshollyface.com

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“Whatsoever shall befall the just man, it shall not make him sad...”

— *Proverbs 12:21*

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

Amidst the current turmoil in the Church and in the world with the ongoing “Synod on Synodality,” the threat of war, and the likelihood of further lockdowns (among many other things), it is very easy for us to lose heart and yield to discouragement. Things are steadily progressing from bad to worse in every sphere, and there seems to be so little we can do to remedy the situation! That is why now more than ever we are called upon to increase our Faith



and accustom ourselves to looking at things from God’s point of view. There is no better way of contributing to the ultimate victory than by adopting this most useful practice and studying to employ it in every waking moment. It is precisely this habit of seeing things from God’s viewpoint which will ensure our rapid progress in Christian perfection and obtain for us a deep peace and joy which the whole world can neither give nor take from us. It is Faith which enables us to share God’s point of view, to see things as they really are, and to profit from all the circumstances in which His Providence has placed us. It is that same Faith which will lead us to say with King David:

“We have rejoiced for the days in which Thou hast humbled us: for the years in which we have seen evils.” — Psalm 89:15

The globalists, freemasons and communists themselves are well aware that personal sanctity is the greatest obstacle to the establishment of their diabolical New World Order. That is why they are making such frantic efforts to eliminate every trace of a supernatural religion. They deceive many with an empty promise of that supreme happiness which we all crave, but which a purely material paradise can never bring. It is a dangerous snare, because the human heart was created for happiness, and we all want to find it here and

now! But Faith assures us – and experience confirms this – that perfect happiness is impossible without God. Those who seek their happiness outside of God are miserable indeed, however much they try to ignore the fact. The more we seek to find in creatures that infinite, permanent and supreme joy which God alone can give us, the more unhappy our hearts will be.

“For he that rejecteth wisdom, and discipline, is unhappy: and their hope is vain, and their labours without fruit, and their works unprofitable.”

– *Wisdom 3:11*

It is not only pagans who fall into this snare; there are many unhappy Christians too, and the problem lies in the fact that their Faith is weak. We all suffer from this weakness to some extent. It is one of the consequences of original sin; but it is something which we must combat with the help of grace. It is perfectly natural to be grieved by trials and sufferings, but Faith teaches us to regard them with a supernatural outlook and to recognise in them the very things we need to help us gain eternal happiness. This is how we come to share God’s point of view and to lovingly accept all that His Providence allows to happen to us. He is Almighty and He wills our happiness even more than we do! Moment by moment He gives us just what is most profitable for our souls, and if He does not give us what we ask for, as St Augustine observes, it is only in order to give us what we would love more if we were God and knew all things.



“And we know that to them that love God, all things work together unto good...” – Romans 8:28

To love God implies loving what He loves, willing what He wills, and exchanging our point of view for His own. There is no greater happiness than to love God in this way! But to arrive at this pure love of God demands more than most of us are willing to give. If only we realised how much merit we lose when we grudgingly let God have His way! And not only this, but we remain perpetually discontented as long as our wills are not in harmony with the will of God. Our problem is that we are so apt to judge of things as they appear to the senses rather than regarding them in the light of reason aided by Faith. We tend to forget that God sees things much more clearly than we do, and so we insist on relying upon our own limited vision instead. What a dangerous illusion!

“Because thou sayest: I am rich, and made wealthy, and have need of nothing: and knowest not, that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” – Apocalypse 3:17

The remedy is to increase our trust in God and to cry out like the man in the Gospel, *“I do believe. Lord, help my unbelief!”* By believing and trusting that He knows better than we do what is good for us, we come to share His point of view. This is what makes us able to welcome everything that happens to us, both pleasant and painful, as being His will. This is how we learn to renounce our human way of looking at things from a purely material and self-centred perspective. This is the duty of every Christian, and the only way of possessing true peace and joy.

“That which seems to occur by chance or bad luck is ordained by God, who orders all things and directs them for a purpose. We do not understand the purpose, for we do not know the [immediate] end to which all is directed. However, it is enough for us to know that nothing is done unless His wisdom ordains it and that from the misfortunes He allows to befall us we will draw unimaginable good.”

– *‘The Third Spiritual Alphabet’ by Francisco de Osuna, 22nd Treatise, Chapter V*

There are so many ways in which the will of God is manifested to us throughout the course of each day! To recognise and conform ourselves to it, adopting God’s will as our own – this is true wisdom. This is the science of the saints. This is how we set our lives in order, and this is the way to peace of soul, for peace is the tranquillity of order. But there are so many more benefits which come from this habit of trying to share God’s point of view. It simplifies our spiritual life, and even our outward life, so much! Happiness is found in God, and God may be found at every moment. Not one single thing happens to us without His knowledge and permission; not even something as trifling as a hair falling from our head!

“The discovery of the divine action in all that passes within us and around us is the true knowledge of things. It is a continual revelation of things; it is a ceaselessly renewed commerce with God; it is the enjoyment of the Bridegroom... In its depths it is peace, joy, love and contentment in God, seen, known (or rather believed) to be living and always working in the most perfect way in everything that happens.”

– *‘Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence’ by Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade, S.J., Part 2, Ch. 4, No. 11*

As often as we welcome all that happens – or does not happen – to us as the will of God, our will is united to His and we make swift progress in the way of perfection. The more perfectly we do this, the holier we shall be. Of course we will still suffer, because suffering in this life is an inescapable consequence of

original sin; but we all have the opportunity to make a virtue of necessity and to profit, as the saints did, from that which we cannot avoid. The cross accepted becomes light and sweet and even a source of joy, for that is where we meet Jesus, and He Himself helps us to carry it. On the other hand, the cross which is dragged reluctantly becomes unbearably heavy and a source of much grief to the one who refuses to submit to the will of God. It seems a paradox, but until we make God's ideal our own, we will never know the meaning of true joy, while the more we renounce our own self and human dreams, the happier we will be. And what is God's ideal? It is none other than Jesus Christ, *"perfect God and perfect Man."* We are called to reproduce that union in ourselves. The union of God and man is the height of Christian perfection, and to that union all of us are called. It is not merely some future and distant goal to which we aspire. It is not reserved to those times when we receive Holy Communion. Union with God is possible at each and every moment, so long as we are truly seeking to accomplish His holy will.

As we make a special effort to meditate upon the mysteries of the Holy Rosary during this month of October, we shall see in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph a perfect model of devotion to the will of God. We are not called to imitate all of their outward actions, for the will of God traces out a unique path for each one of us, but all of us should try to imitate their habit of seeing things from God's point of view. This is the universal way to sanctity, and we are all called to be saints! And after having meditated on these mysteries of the Holy Rosary, let us strive more than ever to imitate what they contain, so that we may also obtain what they promise.

"In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all." – 1 Thessalonians 5:18



God's Point Of View

God's point of view is very true
And infinitely wise,
Whereas we err when we prefer
To look through human eyes.

He has a plan for every man
In which all things concur
For our well-being, when, without
seeing,
His viewpoint we prefer.

Our God is good and so we should
To His viewpoint aspire.
He wills our bliss; what more than
this
Could we ourselves desire?

By Faith we see reality
And share God's point of view,
For we believe and thus perceive,
In part, what things are true.

The "sight" referred to must be
preferred to
What senses can discern;
And passing by the how and why,
A deeper Faith we learn.

Our God intends that all His friends
His way should freely choose;
While our concern must be to learn
How best to share His views.

We share God's views each time we
choose
To make our wills accord
With His, and thus is granted us
The hundredfold reward.

We need not wait till Heaven's gate
Is reached before we start
To find delight in seeing right!
But we must do our part.

A greater trust is what we must
Endeavour to employ.
The recompense will be immense:
A wealth of peace and joy.

When love unites, the cross delights:
We feel it nonetheless.
But when God's view becomes ours
too,
It brings such happiness!

Since all our bliss consists in this:
To will what He has willed,
Thrice happy soul for whom this goal
Begins to be fulfilled!

Our will and His... how right it is
That they should thus unite!
Our eyes are dim till, oned with Him,
We learn to see aright.

God's point of view will lead us to
The light of perfect day.
Though far transcending our
comprehending,
There is no safer way.

Hermitage News

- ✦ August 2023 – We welcomed Marta, a young lady from Spain, who spent ten days at the Hermitage during which time she experienced our way of life and also received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Three weeks later she returned to Ireland and is now staying with a Traditional Catholic family in order to improve her English before being admitted as a postulant. Please keep Marta in your prayers, and ask God to inspire more young ladies with the same desire to dedicate their lives entirely to Him.

Michael, our kind benefactor from Bandon, continued to help out at St. Joseph's Hermitage during the remainder of the summer holidays, performing all the duties of a regular caretaker. Like St. Joseph, he was very obliging in performing numerous little tasks (and big ones also) and we are deeply grateful to him and to his wife, Ellen.

- ✦ September 2023 – In spite of having had a very wet summer, we have had a wonderful harvest of vegetables which we have been preserving for the winter. Truly “The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send labourers into his harvest.” – Luke 10:2



- ✦ 27 September 2023 – After feeling inspired to do more to honour the Holy Face of Jesus and to spread this much-needed Devotion among the faithful, we spoke to Fr. Lawrence Carney, (who is promoting the Holy Face Devotion in the USA) to obtain his advice. We are now working towards establishing a branch of the League of St. Martin here in Ireland, and are hoping to hold the first meeting early next month. The League of St. Martin is an Association of the faithful whose principle aim is to make Reparation, – especially for the sins against the first three Commandments, – through the Holy Face Devotion. For more information, please check out the website martinians.org.

After several more disappointments we still have no definite news to share with you regarding a permanent chaplain and we continue to rely on your sacrifices and prayers for this intention. It may very well be that our efforts to

promote Our Lord's interests through spreading the Holy Face Devotion will move Him to grant this petition of ours, for He has promised that through His Holy Face we shall work miracles.

United in this hope as we mutually strive to persevere on the narrow way,

Mother Irene of the Holy Face O.Carm and Community



Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Holy Face (Shroud Image) A4 Prints.....	€1.00 each, 10 for €5.00
Cord of St Joseph (with explanatory leaflet and holycard).....	€5.00
Hand-made Wooden Holy Face Chaplet Beads (purple/brown).....	€6.00
Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (silver).....	€1.00
Blessed Oil of the Holy Face.....	Free
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads.....	€4.00
Hand-made plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (var. colours. avail.).....	€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
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
Christmas Cards.....	4 or more €2.50 each, otherwise €3.00 each
Marie-Julie Jahenny's herbal teas.....	In stock - contact us for further info

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
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