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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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“And he that honoureth his mother is as one that layeth up a treasure.” — Ecclesiasticus 3:5

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

The recent statements issued by the Vatican against Our Lady's titles of Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of all Graces should come as no surprise to those who have had the grace to recognise the new Synodal Church for what it is. They are but a logical continuation and consequence of many decades of infiltration and modernism. Nevertheless, no true child of Mary can remain indifferent towards them, for they are blasphemous insults offered both to her and to her Son. It is well to reflect on the reasons why these specific aspects of Marian doctrine have been singled out for attack, since they show us precisely where we ought to turn our attention in these times of chaos and confusion. The appropriate response is to deepen our understanding of those identical teachings which are being attacked. At the same time, we should endeavour to discover what these doctrines mean for us on a practical level. These are the subjects we shall focus on in this newsletter.



In 1907 Pope St. Pius X very fittingly invoked the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title ‘Destroyer of all Heresies,’ at the conclusion of his famous Encyclical against modernism, which he described as “the synthesis of all heresies.” The Church likewise prays in Her official Liturgy: *“Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, thou alone hast crushed all heresies in the whole world.”* (Common of Feasts of Our Lady, 7th Antiphon at Matins) But how does she destroy heresies? Mary never preached a sermon against error. She never conducted an inquisition, engaged in theological debates with heretics or excommunicated anyone. It is the truth of who she is — or, rather, the truth of what God has done for her — that vanquishes heresies. We see this early in the Church's history. In 421, when the Council of Ephesus solemnly defined Mary as the God-bearer — Theotokos — it was as a way of defending the Divinity of Christ. When the heretic Nestorius refused to acknowledge Mary as Mother of God, this alerted the Church Fathers to his

error about her Son. To proclaim the truth about Mary was to defend the truth about Jesus Christ. The same is true today.

Although Our Lady's role as Mediatrix and Co-Redemptrix has not yet been solemnly defined as an article of Faith, one cannot deny it without placing themselves in opposition to the teachings of many saints, to the constant tradition of the Church, and to other related dogmas, including that of her Divine Maternity. In his Encyclical entitled 'Jucunda Semper,' for instance, Pope Leo XIII quoted these words of St. Bernadine of Siena: *"Every grace which is given to this world passes through a threefold process. It is dispensed in most perfect order, from God to Christ, from Christ to the Blessed Virgin, and from the Blessed Virgin to us."*



The reason why the exalted position of Our Lady has been challenged so often throughout the ages is because it is a silent reproach to the pride of man. It is humiliating to have to depend upon someone else for everything! To acknowledge our dependence on Mary for grace and salvation is to acknowledge that our own unaided efforts are insufficient. This is not difficult for those who are humble. In fact, it is a joy to be able to entrust ourselves completely to the care of so loving and so powerful a Mother as Mary! But this is a joy which the proud do not experience, because they are blinded to spiritual realities and refuse to acknowledge and submit to the order established by God. *"They that serve her, shall be servants to the Holy One: and God loveth them that love her."* — Ecclesiasticus 4:15

Jesus Christ Himself chose to become dependent on Mary for everything. By consenting to become His Mother, she was actually consenting to much more than most of us realise. For years before the Incarnation took place, Mary had prayerfully pondered the scriptural prophecies concerning the promised Messiah; especially the description of the Man of Sorrows contained in the Prophecy of Isaias. In addition, most theologians believe that she was especially enlightened by God to understand the extent of the sufferings which He would endure for the redemption of the human race. At the Annunciation, Mary was in fact being asked if she would make it possible for God to suffer, since He could not suffer until He became Man. She knew that by becoming His Mother, she would suffer, by compassion, all that He suffered. She consented. Without her consent, God would not have redeemed the human race in the way which He did. It was indeed our Redeemer who brought grace to a fallen world, but it was Mary who brought us our Redeemer.

this venture and for more "Veronicas" to join us in our beautiful monastic vocation.

Early December we received a visit from our former chaplain, Fr. Edward MacDonald. It was good to have him back again despite the fact that it was just a flying visit.

We wish you all a blessed remainder of Advent and a grace-filled Christmas and New Year to follow. May God reward you in abundance for the charity you have shown us throughout 2025!

Prayerfully united under the mantle of Our Lady,

Mother Irene & Community

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

<i>Arma Christi: The Weapons of Our Warfare</i> (193 pages).....	€10.00
<i>Beyond the Veil: The Holy Face Devotion in ... Sacred Scripture</i> (328 pages).....	€15.00
Assorted Greeting and/or Mass Cards..... 4 or more €2.50 each, otherwise €3.00 each	
Marie-Julie Jahenny's herbal teas.....	In stock - contact us for further info
Holy Face (Painting) A4 Prints.....	€1.00 each, 10 for €5.00
Holy Face (Painting) 4x6 Postcards.....	€0.50 each, 10 for €4.00
Holy Face (Shroud Image) A4 Prints.....	€1.00 each, 10 for €5.00
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Holy Face Medal 3D (bronze/gold/silver).....	€2.00
Large Holy Face Scapular (white).....	€9.50
Blessed Oil of the Holy Face.....	Free (please make offering to cover cost of P&P)
Hand-made plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (var. colours. Avail.).....	€6.00
One-decade Rosary/chaplet beads with Holy Face medal.....	€4.00
Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	€3.00
Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (silver).....	€1.00
Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (silver).....	€7.00
St. Christopher & St. Anthony Medal (silver).....	€4.50
St. Christopher & Our Lady of Guadalupe Medal (silver).....	€4.50
St. Benedict Medal, Silver-coloured, oval, standard size.....	€1.00
Pardon Crucifix (gold/silver).....	€7.00
Cord of St Joseph (with explanatory leaflet and holycard).....	€5.00

*In similar fashion, God's wisdom ordained
That all of the merits and graces contained
In infinite measure in Jesus, His Son,
Are Mary's to use on behalf of each one.*

*When grace is rejected, our Mother still grieves.
She weeps for her children whom Satan deceives,
While they, in their blindness, attack and condemn
The place which she holds in relation to them.*

*O let us rise up in defence of her role,
By total commitment of body and soul
To Mary, the Mother of God and mankind,
Respecting the order which God has designed.*

Hermitage News

- ✦ September 2025 - An aspirant from the UK spent a short time with us and has since requested to return. Please pray for her and for all others whom Our Lord is calling to serve Him in the religious state.
- ✦ 3rd October 2025 - Feast of St. Therese. At our request, Fr. Elias from Wales began a novena of Masses for the Souls in Purgatory. We wished to secure their intercession on behalf of our Community and its future; and also offered a novena ourselves for this intention.
- ✦ 11th October 2025 - Feast of the Divine Maternity. Immediately after Prime, we consecrated our Community, and all of its members, past, present and future, to "Our Lady of the Holy Face." This act of consecration was printed out, signed, and placed on the altar during Mass that same morning. Since we have been meeting with many obstacles in this foundation, we decided it was time to hand the responsibility over to Our Lady. Even as a series of Masses for the relief of the Holy Souls preceded her apparition in Knock, so we are hopeful that the novena of Masses which was completed on this day will prepare the way for her powerful intervention.
- ✦ 13th - 18th November 2025 - Fr. Michael Mary, F.S.S.R. and Br. Nicodemus of the Transalpine Redemptorists, paid us the honour of visiting St. Joseph's Hermitage, during which time we enjoyed the benefit of daily Mass. In addition to this wonderful act of charity, they have offered us practical advice and assistance in our efforts to become a registered charity; hence we are hopeful that soon we will succeed. Please pray for the success of

In Nazareth Our Lady became the Mother of our Redeemer. On Calvary she became the Mother of all the redeemed. She saw the Precious Body and Blood of her Son, which she had given Him, offered up in expiation for the sins of mankind. This was the price of our salvation. Mary made it possible for Jesus to pay that price. She stood beneath the cross of her Son, consenting to all His sufferings, though it broke her heart to see Him in that state. She suffered, as He did, voluntarily; "because it was His own will," and therefore hers also. *"At the very instant He was bringing forth the human race to a heavenly life on the cross in the midst of the most excruciating tortures, He placed these newborn children in the arms of Mary, the tenderest of mothers, to nourish and bring up to eternal life. With this object in view, He has filled her maternal breast with the milk of grace and mercy; He has made His Divine Mother legatee of the immense riches He has acquired for us during His laborious life and His dolorous Passion, that she might become the admirable channel through which all His infinite merits would flow to the Holy Church, His Spouse."* – *Life of St. Mary St. Peter by Fr. Janvier; Ch. XIX: The Divine Maternity*



During the last year of Sr. Mary of St. Peter's life, the mysteries connected with the Infant Jesus being nourished for fifteen months by the virginal milk of Mary, and of Mary's corresponding role, were a frequent subject of meditation for this saintly Carmelite. The revelations she received on this subject are no less appropriate for our present times than are her revelations on the Holy Face Devotion. On one occasion, Jesus said to her: *"Man, while on this earth, is in a state of infancy; in Heaven alone will he be arrived at his perfect age of manhood. For this reason, he should have continual recourse to his Mother, as a little child."* The daily Rosary and a habit of asking Mary for help in all our difficulties will help us acquire this attitude of filial dependence on Mary.

It is difficult to understand how anyone in good faith can believe that Mary is an obstacle or an impediment to our relationship with God. A Christian is a faithful imitator of Jesus; and Jesus was pleased to spend His earthly life in a state of filial dependence on Mary. How can we claim to be a member of His Mystical Body if we refuse to do likewise? This brings us to a very interesting and relevant observation. Many Catholics today are wondering what has become of the true Church of Christ. They are unsure what to make of the

present situation; confused as to how it is possible for members of the hierarchy to officially deny what Catholics have always believed to be true. It is necessary to remind ourselves that the Church is much more than a visible hierarchical society. This visible element is, as it were, Her Body; however, the Church also has a Soul. She is not only a visible hierarchical society. She is the Mystical Body of Christ. As Dom Columba Marmion put it: *“to have a complete idea of the Church, we must regard Her as the holy and invisible society of the souls that share by grace in Christ’s Divine Sonship, and form the Kingdom He won by His Blood.”* – *Christ the Life of the Soul*

In the Book of Ecclesiasticus we read: *“The sons of wisdom are the church of the just: and their generation, obedience and love.”* – *Ecclesiasticus 3:1* In a similar way, and with equal truth, we could say, “The children of Mary are the Church of God; and they become her children by honouring her in obedience and love.” In order to find the true Church, then, we have to look for more than the visible external elements of Catholicism. The Church, like Her Divine Head, is always to be found with Mary. Wherever the true Marian doctrine is preserved *and practiced*, there we shall find the Mystical Body of Christ. And wherever the true Marian doctrine is preserved and practised, there we shall find humble souls who imitate Our Lady’s devotion to the will of God. Devotion to Our Lady would lose all its meaning and purpose if it did not have this effect, while Religion would disintegrate if Mary were not present — so central is she to God’s plan of salvation. Even those within the Church go astray when they spend all their time in theological discussions at the expense of their devotion to her.



In conclusion, let us remember that we each have a part to play in vanquishing the heresies of our times. St. Louis de Montfort explains that it is the humble children of Mary who form her heel, and who, guided by her, will be instrumental in crushing the head of the Serpent. Throughout the holy Seasons of Advent and Christmastide, let us endeavour to learn from the example of our Infant God what it means to be a true child of Mary. Let us humbly acknowledge our dependence on her, even as He did, and be assured that in exchange for our childlike devotion to her, she will use her maternal influence over us to increase our likeness to and union with her Divine Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God’s Mother and Ours

*Our Lady is Mother of God and of us.
A Christian is truly her child; and thus
We each have a duty to love and obey
Our Lady, our Mother, for that is Christ’s way.*

*A mother is needed when children are small,
And Mary’s our refuge whenever we fall.
She holds a position which none can replace.
She nurtures her children with mercy and grace.*

*The state of dependence which babies are in
Is ours towards Mary. We’re weakened by sin.
Provided our weakness is frankly confessed,
God pardons our failings at Mary’s request.*

*By grace she gives life to the Church as a whole,
And it is by grace that Christ lives in our soul.
It’s fitting that we should acknowledge her place
As spiritual Mother, dispenser of grace.*

*Her name, Co-Redemptrix, so lately attacked,
Is firmly and truly established on fact.
She suffered with Jesus. She gave her consent
To be His own Mother and all that this meant.*

*Her Son would be tortured that man might be freed.
In pain He’d redeem us. She knew. She agreed.
And God, who is true to His gift of free will,
Awaited her yes, as He waits for ours still.*

*Her yes to the Angel brought Jesus to earth,
While up on Golgotha, her yes gave us birth.
She suffered with Jesus to ransom our race.
Because of her answer, Redemption took place.*