

GOD'S CHOSEN SEED

A seed lay small and hidden,
Inside a dried up pod;
It was found and gently taken,
By the loving Hand of God.

He wisely knew that Winter cold,
Would unseen to it bring;
New life which would bud forth,
With the coming of the Spring.

To a garden here in Corran,
He brought it safe and sound;
Then tenderly He placed it,
Beneath the cold bare ground.

So there as it lay hidden,
The seed sent out its roots.
And now, impatient for the Spring
Has sent up tiny shoots.

There buried deep and solitary,
The Saviour left His seed
Where, dead and quite forgotten
It seemed to be indeed.

The seed is our little Carmel,
The plant of old reviving;
Placed here by the Hand of God,
The winter cold surviving.

But the Gardener Divine
Having placed it with such care
Of His poor and hidden seed
Was most lovingly aware

So here we live in Faith and Hope,
The Gardener's buried treasure;
Awaiting the warmth of the sunshine,
In the springtime of His good pleasure.

Please do not hesitate to write to us with your prayer request. We shall place it at the Feet of the Divine Infant King. We will be pleased also to send you a gift of a Little Gospel Sachet of The Holy Name of Jesus, hand-made with much love by the Sisters, for Glory of God.

May God bless you all.

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"Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

It is with much joy and gratitude to God and to all of you that we write this first newsletter. Since Advent this year will be shorter than usual, it is likely that many of you will not receive this letter until well into the Christmas season or even the New Year.

Today when we hear the word "new", we immediately hear alarm bells ring in our head. So tiresome are the novelties in today's modern world, to say nothing of the unending stream of novelties in post Vatican II mainstream Conciliarism for 50+ years. Yet "new" does not always mean a change for the worse as is so often the case today. "New" is woven into every fibre of our being and into the very mystery of God's creation. Holy Scripture tells us that there is nothing new under the sun, and indeed this is true when speaking of history as a whole. Yet we know every heartbeat is new, every breath, every second, every sunrise is new, and every birth is a new beginning.

Advent too marks the beginning of a Liturgical year. It is a time to put aside the old, and put on the new. (Rom.13:12) It is a time of reflective stillness, of silent hope and of great expectations.

The cold earth (at least in our Northern Hemisphere), is also still and silent at this time. In all appearance it seems barren and empty – a wilderness. Yet we know there lies hidden, not far beneath its surface, seeds pregnant with new life, silently awaiting the call of spring, the first warm rains and sun rays.

"Drop down dew, you heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened, and bud forth the saviour." Isaiah 45:8

Just under two years ago, a tiny seed was also planted on an empty, barren piece of land here in West Cork which was once a garden centre. Long abandoned by its gardener, the land had become a wilderness with choking thorns and brambles.

Today a little miracle of grace has sprung forth. Spring has come for the long forsaken "Garden of Corran", which has now become the GARDEN OF CARMEL. (Carmel means Garden of God)

"There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root." Isaiah 11:1

And a new shoot has also sprung from the ancient Family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for Ireland, rooted in the Primitive Tradition of the first Carmelite Hermits on Mount Carmel and the Tradition of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. So while our tiny Foundation here in West Cork is a part (at least in spirit) of the ancient Family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the two reasons stated above, it is nevertheless a new shoot – a new rosebud which, with God's grace, will blossom forth into a beautiful rosebush to crown Our Blessed Lady and perfume Holy Mother the Church.

Last month, by the grace of God, the first new roots of this seed were sent down with the laying of the foundation for our future main building at the cost of €13,000. We humbly ask you to help us by your prayers and donations. Every offering however small will be received with our gratitude and the assurance of our prayers. Please send us what you can to help us build a main house.

Thank you.



Tree of Carmel



Tree of Jesse



New foundation for future house



Cells



All night vigil, 7-8 December



Virgin Mother welcomes all

Chronicles of our Community

6th March 2017, Hannah Loeman is received as a Postulant at the Holy Family Hermitage.

13th March, The enclosure fence is erected.

19th March, A fox killed many of our chickens

14th April, Good Friday, Outdoor Stations of the Cross attended by around 20 faithful.

Our Lady's shrine in the front of the Hermitage is filled with many beautiful flowers donated by our kind benefactors.

23, 24th May, Rogation procession and blessing of the land and gardens by Fr. MacDonald attended by many of the faithful.

26th May, Mink kills 14 chickens in one night by digging under the chicken house.

23rd August, Four new Cells are erected.

14th September, Miss Hannah Loeman receives the Holy Habit of Carmel and becomes Sister Anne Marie of the Sacred Heart. Rev. Fr. MacDonald presides over the simple ceremony attended by about 20 of the faithful.

1st November, Feast of All Saints- visit of His Excellency, Bishop Joan Michel Faure.

18th November, Work begins on laying a concrete foundation in preparation for our main convent building.

22nd November, Fr. MacDonald blesses the foundation and four new Cells. We now have altogether seven Cells- two of which are occupied.

30th November, The concrete foundation is poured. It measures 40ft by 50ft

7-8th December, All night vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception attended by the Sisters and two of the faithful.



Our Vocation - Charism:

Charity and Immolation are the two characteristics of our duties towards God and His interests. Our ideal is Jesus, the Incarnate Word especially in His state of Victim, immolated out of love for His Heavenly Father for poor sinners. This ideal comprises two duties for the Carmelite:

a) Zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls;

"Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum." 3 Kings 19:10

With zeal, have I been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts.

b) Reparation through unceasing prayer and sacrifices to appease Divine Justice on account of the many blasphemies and profanations that offend His Divine Majesty in these times.

These blasphemies, especially sins against the 2nd and 3rd Commandment, greatly offend the Divine Majesty of God and are continuously hurled at the Divine Face of Jesus. For those who would offer Devotion to His Holy Face, here are just some of the promises Jesus made through a humble Carmelite nun in Tours, France 1843:

"By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused, and the conversion of many sinners will be obtained.

By My Holy Face, they will work wonders, appease the anger of God and draw down mercy on sinners

All those who honor My Face in a spirit of reparation will by so doing perform the office of the pious Veronica.

According to the care they take in making reparation to My Face, disfigured by blasphemers, so will I take care of their souls which have been disfigured by sin. My Face is the Seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing in souls the image of God."



Family Services to the Crib

(cut out and place in basket)

Service 1 - Your service to the Creche shall be to welcome the visitors that come to render homage to the divine Infant. So as not to stop the enthusiasm that animates them towards him, give them the warmest assistance possible. Your family are among those souls that search for Jesus; be, therefore, their guide nearby in carrying them to greater fervor through your charity filled with charms.

Service 2 - Your service to the Creche will be to always joyous and smiling to amuse the little Jesus.

Service 3 - Your service to the Creche will be to sing always, even if you are suffering; the little Jesus loves songs very much, and, when you are generous and faithful, the others will remember the songs of angels.

Service 4 - Your service to the Creche will be to beg in order to feed the Holy Family. Their food is love; you will ask the Angels and Saints, those princes of Heaven, to fill your heart fully so that Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be able to be satiated.

Service 5 - Your service to the Creche will be to do the household cleaning for the Holy family and to maintain the home in a perfect state. To carry this out, be very faithful to the charity and regularity that you will live out in a state of great purity and conscientiousness.

Service 6 - Your service to the Creche will be to plug all the little cracks in the rocks through which cold will penetrate the Stable. You will achieve this if you are attentive in preventing to enter into your heart the smallest thoughts that might distress or distract and that would be capable of chilling your love.

Service 7 - Your service for the Creche will be to make fire from the twigs of wood that you will find outside the Stable: that is to say, you will carefully collect all the opportunities to practice virtue to maintain it in your heart and thus always augment the fire of divine love.

Service 8 - Your service to the Creche will be to listen to Mary speak; she will tell you ineffable things about Jesus and she will teach you to love Him as she loves Him.

Service 9 - Your service to the Creche will be to care for the donkey of the Holy Family in order to lessen the work of Joseph. With this thought,

embrace the humble tasks that you will confront during your life, and Jesus will be infinitely grateful that you have taken on some of the work on behalf of his adoptive Father.

Service 10 - Your service to the Creche today will be to level the ground of the Stable so that Mary and Joseph will not tire when they walk; you will do this having an agreeable temper, despite the difficulties that you will overcome.

Service 11 - Your service to the Creche will be to polish the rock face and to be always caring for your family and to always speak to them with perfect charity; you will avoid thus Mary and Joseph from scratching their fingers against the rough stone.

Service 12 - Your service to the Creche will be to practice perfectly poverty so that you will become like the divine Infant; because love aims to conform, and you would not be, if you were rich, worthy to be a servant of a God reposing on straw.

Service 13 - Your service will be to honor the divine simplicity of Jesus in working to simplify more and more your soul. A good method to reach this is to imitate the virtues of childhood exemplified by Jesus' example.

Service 14 - Your service to the Creche will be to unite with Jesus to become with Him a victim of merciful Love.

Service 15 - Your service to the Creche will be to console Jesus. For that purpose, stay always nearby and attempt to prevent his tears and present for him constantly the sweetest smile and lavish upon Him the sweetest words.

Service 16 - Your service to the Creche will be to look out for the glances of the little Jesus, and for that to turn your eyes towards him and fixed upon his sweet Face.

Service 17 - Your service to the Creche will be to adore, with a great spirit of faith doubled by an even greater love, the infinite and eternal God hidden under the veil of humanity and infancy.

Service 18 - Shepherds, leave your fold, do not become troubled like Martha over your preoccupations; henceforth, all your service near the divine Child is to love.

Service 19 - Your service to the Creche will be to hold the lamp to show the features of the divine Child, when one approaches to contemplate Him. Have this lamp always lit by a vigilant charity towards your neighbour, whenever charity focuses light on the charms of Jesus, Love increases.

Service 20 - Your service to the Creche will be to prepare a soft berth for the divine Child; it is through kindness that you will achieve this.

Service 21 - Your service to the Creche will be to maintain always the fresh flowers near Jesus. Despite winter, you will discover if you are mindful in finding them. Yes, even if cold weather reigns in your soul, she can always produce flowers, very rare flowers, it is true, but more delicate ones, the snow-drop has a charm that will enchant the divine Child more than a big bouquet of roses in the summer season, that is to say a time of tender ardor.

Service 22 - Your service to the Creche will be to serve as a toy for the little Jesus as a little rubber ball. When he throws you down towards the ground, instead of going sadly to a corner, you will rebound joyously into the air and He, so happy to see such a kind ball, will catch you in the air and hold you in His small hand.

Service 23 - Your service to the Creche will be to mend the clothing of the Holy Virgin and praying a great deal for the conversion of heretics and all those who blaspheme against the Mother of Jesus.

Service 24 - Your service to the Creche will be to do the shopping for the Holy Family by rendering service to Jesus and Mary in the persons of your brothers and sisters and parents.

Service 25 - Your service to the Creche will be to stay without interruption like a little lamb near the divine Infant, beseechingly staying in His arms, and you being, like him, sweet and and humble of heart.

Service 26 - Your service to the Creche will be to rock tenderly the Crib of Jesus, singing to Him ceaselessly your profound love and your perfect abandon to his divine will, and to his smallest desires.

Service 27 - Like a little white dove, you will stay near the Crib of Jesus, affording all your actions a great purity of intention and ardent love; thus, the divine Child, charmed by your sweet cooing, He will take very quickly your hand and press it tenderly upon His heart.