



**Month of July in honor of the Most
Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel**

This month of July dedicated to honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel exclusively comprises passages from the Bible, the liturgy and Marian writings by outstanding members of the Order of Mount Carmel throughout her history, above all, by her Saints.

The author has limited herself to organizing these texts to form a month of devotion, with the only desire for the Virgin Mary, under the advocacy of Carmel, be more honored and loved in the present and in the future. And She, as a good Mother obtains from God, the Most Blessed Trinity, a shower of graces which will bring the life of the Order, the Church, present and future, a verdant spring, so as to be a better instrument to save the whole of mankind.

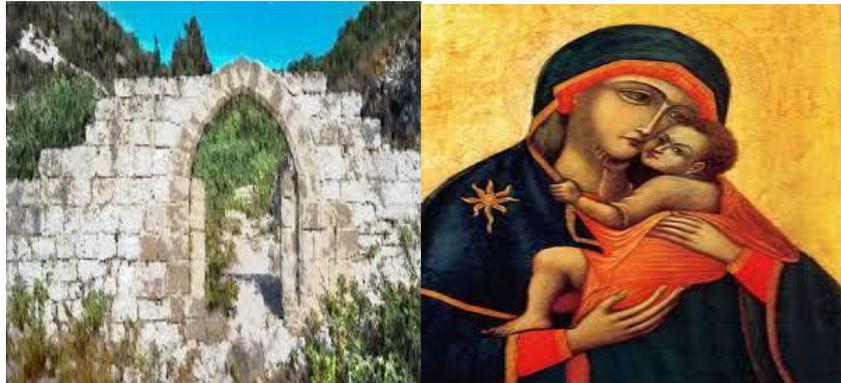
Mary del Pilar Vila

Completed in Barcelona, 6th July, 2021.

Feast of St. Joachim and St. Ana,
secondary patrons of the Order of Mount Carmel.

Translated by Chantal Haigh OCDS (in formation).

DAY 1



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Hymn

Flower of Carmel,
Tall vine blossom laden;
Splendor of heaven,
Childbearing yet maiden.
None equals thee.

Mother so tender,
Who no man didst know,
On Carmel's children
Thy favors bestow.

Star of the Sea.
Strong stem of Jesse,
Who bore one bright flower,
Be ever near us
And guard us each hour,
who serve thee here¹.

The Word of God

“At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel. Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!” [Then] Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. The servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.” The sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling” (1 Kgs 18:36, 38-39, 42, 44-45).

A Carmelite text

The pilgrims in the Holy Land in the XIII and XIV century bear witness to the fact that on Mount Carmel, in the Valley of the Source of Elijah, known today as Wadi Ain es-Siah, there existed a small church built in honor of the Virgin Mary, which is the embryonic cell of the Order of Mount Carmel. Its mission is to allow Christ in each and every Carmelite to love and honor his Mother, so as to radiate love for the Most Blessed Virgin in the Church and amongst the nations.

“On this same mountain [of Mount Carmel] behind the abbey of St. Margaret, on the slope of the same mountain, there is a very beautiful and delightful place where the Latin hermits live who are called friars of Carmel and where there is a small church dedicated to Our Lady” (Anonymous, *La Citez de Hierusalem*, written between 1220-1231). “The origins and name of the Carmelite brothers, known as Brothers of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, come from this mount and chapel, as they themselves affirm” (Humbert of Dijon 1330)².

The Book of the First Monks, Felipe Ribot (1391†)

“From that time onwards, the members [the Carmelite monks] always gathered there [in the Chapel], commending themselves to the Virgin in the seven canonical hours each day, pouring forth fervent prayers, petitions and praises to the said Virgin and her Son”³.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 2



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Pure as Carmel's snows and lovely
As the first fair morning shines
Crowned with stars of changeless splendor,
Hail! thou mother-maid sublime!
Hail, that hallowed Mount of Carmel
Rearing up its stately height
Emblematic of thy graces
Glowing in immortal light.

Chorus:

Mother of Mt. Carmel hear
Shades are falling, night is near
Mother of Mt. Carmel hear
Shades are falling night is near⁴.

The Word of God

"When I was still a youth, before I went traveling, in my prayers I asked outright for wisdom. I have directed my soul towards her, and

in purity I have found her; having my heart fixed on her from the outset, I shall never be deserted; my very core having yearned to discover her, I have now acquired a good possession. In reward the Lord has given me a tongue with which I shall sing his praises" (Ecclus 51:13, 20-22).

Our Lady in St. Andrew Corsini (1374 †)

He was made Bishop and governed his Church with wonderful examples of charity, prudence and love of the poor. He was "a wonderful admirable architect of concord among the peoples".

"Ever since I became yours, Virgin Mary, I want to serve you with great spirit night and day. [...] So that in serving you constantly, through the love of your Son, I may become a meek lamb, acceptable as a sacrifice of praise in your Most Holy Order".

Our Lady in St. Peter Thomas (1375 †)

Of very humble origins, he was able to study and was entrusted with positions of great ecclesiastical importance. He brought all to fruition, with the constant help of the Virgin. In 1351, at Pentecost, the Virgin appeared to him and promised him the "perpetuity of the Order".

"Obliged by these and other benefits received from the Most Blessed Virgin, he was ablaze with extraordinary loving devotion towards Her, and proposed not to let a single gift pass by without giving honor to such a great benefactor. [...] Whether at work or in distress, he flew to her altar; by this means he rejected the snares of the enemy, by confronting him when attacked with the shield of the name of Mary, and always experienced Mary's succouring presence. This burning ardor raised his affection in such a manner and took possession of his thoughts so that it seemed that he savored nothing else, that he spoke of nothing else and that he heard nothing else. From the overflowing of his heart he spoke with his mouth, so that it seemed that he had the most sacred name of Mary engraved on his heart"⁵.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 3



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Hymn

Queen of heaven, beautiful and fair,
Listen to thy loving children's prayer.
Mother of Mount Carmel 'tis to thee,
Saints and angels sing eternally.

Mary thou didst give the light
On Mount Carmel's heaven-reaching heights.
Pure and gentle Virgin Mother Sweet,
Be the guiding light unto our feet.

Dearest Mother of Mount Carmel,
Beautiful and fair,
Hear, oh hear thy loving children.
Take us 'neath thy care⁶.

The Word of God

“Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a

sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel” (Is 7:10-14).

Our Lady in John Baconthorp (1348 †)

He can be considered to be the founder of the ‘Carmelite school of spirituality. The Marian aspect of the Order was to be part of the Rule, with a quality of life like that of the Virgin.

“Life in service to the Virgin demands that the Carmelite tries to imitate her in her virtues, since conformity with her life is the best form of glorification”⁷.

Our Lady in St. Nuño of St. Mary (1431 †)

A successful Portuguese general, he then became a Carmelite.

“The Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel is so pleased with your conduct and of the way your lives have been organized, that she has made you all beneficiaries of this gift. [...] In order to give thanks for this in some way, I am building this monastery in honor of St. Mary Mary, with the same gifts which the Lord gave me. [...] Please come and give service to Our Lord and his Mother”⁸.

Our Lady in John Grossi (1435 †)

He was made Prior General. He was the first to proclaim the extraordinary apparition of the Virgin to the Prior General, Simon Stock.

In the series about saintly Carmelites, “There was St. Simon of England, the sixth general of the Order, who continually besought the most glorious Mother of God to defend with some privilege the Order of Carmelites, which enjoys the special title of the Virgin, saying most devoutly: ‘Flower of Carmel, blossoming Vine, Splendor of heaven, childbearing Maiden, none like to thee! Mother mild, whom no man didst know, upon thy Carmelites privileges bestow, Star of the sea.’ The Blessed Virgin appeared to him with a multitude of angels, holding in her hands the scapular of the Order, saying: This will be for you and for all Carmelites a privilege, for he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire, that is, he who dies in this will be saved”⁹.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach

the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 4



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Hymn

Here we are in your embrace.
With joyful hearts, we worship you.
Pray to God for us, to walk in the path of goodness,
Be our comforter in troubles.
Dear mother of Mount Carmel,
Blessed Virgin Mary,
Patroness of Carmelites.
Mother of God's dear son
Pray for us all, the children of yours, we pray,
Hail our dear mother of Mount Carmel,
Hail our dear mother of Carmelites¹⁰.

The Word of God

"Like the vine, I have borne the fruit of a sweet fragrance. And my flowers are the fruit of honor and integrity. I am the mother of the beauty of love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. All grace of the way and of the truth is in me. All hope of life and of virtue is in me" (Sir 24:23-25).

Our Lady in Arnold Bostius (1499 †)

He is the most outstanding of the teachers of Carmelite Mariology. Mary for the Carmelite is the Mother with fullness of maternal grace, with the ability to communicate to her children. If you love her "She will communicate all good things to you in abundance. This same thought is present in the German Carmelite, John of Paleoniodorus.

"O Blessed Mother! Long have we waited for you, perfect in your organization, institution and governance of our Order. Prostrate at your feet, holiest of Mothers, Mother of the Carmelite family! Living on this mountain, we drink from your fountain and quench our thirst. Sincerely we recognise that your own hand directs us, assisted by you, and enlightened by you. Transform us in you and our life in yours. Remain with us, Our Lady. O Mary! We seek refuge in your bosom. A mother must live with her children, a teacher with her disciples, the abbess with her monks, the Lady with her servants"¹¹.

Our Lady en John Paleoniodorus (John Ouderwater 1507 †)

"O venerable affirmation of Carmel: [Mary] as well as being Mother of all, is in a special way your Mother! What a phrase worthy of being pondered: 'Here is your Mother'. Her heart is touched by any need of yours; she is deeply moved by all and each of her sons and brothers; therefore your response is to love her and venerate her as always present, taking her into your home so that she brings you into her glory"¹².

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach

the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 5



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel
Seen by prophet's mystic gaze;
Shown above the holy mountain
As Elijah kneels and prays.
Could-like rising from the ocean,
Pure and free from every stain,
She has claimed his heart's devotion
Through the ages to remain¹³.

The Word of God

"You are wholly beautiful, my beloved, and without a blemish. You ravish my heart, my sister, my promised bride, you ravish my heart with a single one of your glances, with a single link of your necklace. What spells lie in your love, my sister, my promised

bride! How delicious is your love, more delicious than wine! How fragrant your perfumes, more fragrant than all spices! You are a garden enclosed, my sister, my promised bride; a garden enclosed, a sealed fountain. Fountain of the garden, well of living water, streams flowing down from Lebanon!” (SS 4:7, 9, 10, 12, 15).

Our Lady in Blessed John Baptist of Mantua (1516 †)

Also known as Baptista Spagnolo. Following a dissipated youth, the Virgin led him to Carmel, after ‘saving’ him and curing him of the plague. He was the life and soul of the Mantuan congregation. He became Prior General of the Order. He was a model of virtue.

“While you guide [the boat], we unfurl the sails so as to reach favorable harbors, You calm the sea, the winds, the stars for God; You are our sure health, the source of peace, the good of all, the glory of our race”. “Holy mother, have mercy, spread out your hands, take your own into your protection, come out to meet us when dangers are lurking. Free the people who follow your banner from death”. “Nor do I doubt that the very Mother of God to whom my Order is consecrated in a special way, looking more on my affection than on my works, She will try to seek her Son’s forgiveness, since I try to promote praise and glory to her name amongst men”¹⁴.

Our Lady in John of St. Samson (1636 †)

He was a lay brother. Despite being blind he was a man of outstanding culture. He was the spiritual father of the Reform in Touraine. He did not cease from urging everyone to “Be spiritual”.

“We will never cease, O Love, from desiring for Her every good thing She has from You and in You and in your eternal and infinite fruition. Nor will we cease from exalting her and magnifying her, nor from invoking her without ceasing, nor from rejoicing for her glory. [...] So, be, You and She, our good and our all; You, my beloved Love, as our final goal and our Mediator, and She as our perpetual Mediatrix”¹⁵.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 6



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Virgin of the Incarnation,
In the mysteries of grace
God has made his habitation
In our soul's most secret place.
Towards that bright and inner kingdom
All our words and ways compel
For the Father, Son and Spirit
In its sacred silence dwell.

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel,
Virgin of the solitude,
In the wilderness of Carmel
Lies the world's eternal good.
Draw us into deep seclusion

And make God alone our goal,
In the mystical Mount Carmel
That lies hidden in the soul ¹⁶.

The Word of God

“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full” (Prov 8:12, 17-21).

Our Lady in Michael of St. Augustine (1684 †)

An outstanding Carmelite of the Reform of Touraine, he channeled Marian devotion along the paths of interior and mystical life. He deepened the thought of John of Hildesheim (1370), in that the mission of Carmel, amongst the religious orders, is to perpetuate in the world, through imitation and the love of Jesus for his Mother.

He affirmed that by participating of the Spirit of Christ: “Jesus continues living in us. Therefore, through us, Jesus continues to love his Mother on earth and at the same time, makes her happy by his love in heaven”¹⁷. “God sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, which makes us cry out: Ave, Mother, therefore, develop filial affection in your hearts [...] full of reverence and love for the beloved Mother, as happened in Jesus’ heart when he lived this life and will do for all eternity. [This implies] ordering our lives for her acceptance and dedicating our lives to her service and greater honor. [...] “When Mary, in order to form some little children of her heart, avails herself of His Spirit, that is to say, of the Spirit of Jesus, to instill his virtues in them, his very nature, his way of doing things, his very inclinations, which were transformed in Mary and the Spirit of Mary to live in them, or better said, the Spirit of Jesus lives and works in them, in the same way as they live and operate in Mary. [...] For this reason, it is no longer they that live, but Mary who lives in them, acting, guiding their inclinations and directing their forces, so that they live anew in God... Our life, our sweetness and our hope”¹⁸.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 7



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel!
Christ's dear gift on Calvary!
Refuge sure in every danger!
Confident we fly to thee.

Mother, hear our humble pleading,
Grant the favors we implore;
To the love we are appealing,
Bless us now and evermore¹⁹.

The Word of God

When one has encountered Mary in one's life, one finds her treatment so sweet and loving, her protection so powerful that one never wants to distance oneself from Her, rather like Ruth from her mother-in-law, Naomi.

“So Naomi set out [for] the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back each of you to your mother’s house’. But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you. Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; there will I be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me” (Ruth 1: 7-8, 16-17).

Our Lady in Marie de St. Thérèse (Petyt 1677†)

Carmelite Tertiary of Reform in Touraine. Her spiritual life is an embrace of the workings of God and Mary in her. Directed by Fr. Miguel of St. Augustine, she enriches the mariology of the Church.

“I see... that the care of this beloved Mother is directed to the single objective of leading all men to the beatific vision [...] It seems that this dearly beloved Mother is the very life of my soul, and so hers is the soul of my soul”. “One day [...] I was surprised at no longer enjoying her frequent presence or her instructions and loving words. Nonetheless, my love for her was more tender, innocent, filial and sweeter than ever.

Then I had an interior response: —When the beloved Mother was constantly at your side and guided you in the path of her virtues, it was with the purpose of preparing you for the spiritual marriage with her dearly beloved Son. Now that the marriage has taken place, she keeps her distance and leaves the Bridegroom to converse alone with his Bride, as is right. In truth, since this union was truly consummated, my soul is habitually alone with her Beloved. The beloved Mother and the angels seem to remain outside”²⁰.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 8- First day of the Novena

THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE ANNUNCIATION

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

Flower of Carmel,
tall vine blossom laden;
Splendor of heaven,
Childbearing yet maiden.
None equals thee.
Mother so tender,
Whom no man didst know,
On Carmel's children
Thy favors bestow.
Star of the Sea.



Listening to the Word

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth

month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her” (Lk 1:26-38).

Meditation with a text by St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

1. Why I love you, O Mary!

Oh ! I would like to sing, Mary, why I love you,
Why your sweet name thrills my heart,
And why the thought of your supreme greatness
Could not bring fear to my soul.
If I gazed on you in your sublime glory,
Surpassing the splendor of all the blessed
I could not believe that I am your child.
O Mary, before you I would lower my eyes !....



2 If a child is to cherish his mother,
She has to cry with him and share his sorrows.
O my dearest Mother, on this foreign shore
How many tears you shed to draw me to you !...
In pondering your life in the holy Gospels,
I dare look at you and come near you.
It's not difficult for me to believe I'm your child,
For I see you human and suffering like me...

3. When an angel from Heaven bids you be the Mother
O the God who is to reign for all eternity,
I see you prefer, O Mary, what a mystery !
The ineffable treasure of virginity.
O Immaculate Virgin, I understand how your soul
Is dearer to the Lord than his heavenly dwelling.
I understand how your soul, Humble and Sweet Valley,
Can contain Jesus, the Ocean of Love !...

4. Oh ! I love you, Mary, saying you are the servant
Of the God whom you charm by your humility.
This hidden virtue makes you all-powerful.
It attracts the Holy Trinity into your heart.
Then the Spirit of Love covering you with his shadow,
The Son equal to the Father became incarnate in you.
Here will be a great many of his sinner brothers,

Since he will be called: Jesus, your first-born !...²¹

Responsory

R. Come my children, listen to me;

Come let us climb to the mountain of the Lord.

*Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

V. I am the mother of fair love and of holy hope;

In me is all grace of the way and of the truth.

*Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your plan the Daughter of Zion was foreshadowed by the prophets and made the heir of all your promises;

- by imitating Mary who is the image of the Church, may your Church on earth be more and more the sacrament of the world's salvation.

You have honoured the family of Carmel with the title and patronage of the Virgin Mary;

- may all Carmelites live with her in unswerving allegiance to Jesus Christ.

You have entrusted the whole of mankind, the brothers and sisters of your Son, to the care of her maternal heart;

- may the world see her image in us as we strive to live in your presence and to give ourselves for the salvation of all.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 9 - Second day of the Novena

THE VIRGIN MARY'S VISIT TO HER COUSIN ST. ELIZABETH

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

1. Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
Whom in ancient prophecy
God revealed to Saint Elijah
By an Oriental sea,

2. Rise again on God's creation,
Bring to bloom this arid place
With the white cloud of your beauty
And the rainfall of your grace.

3. Mother fair above all mothers,
By the scapular we wear,
By your own Sign of Salvation,
Which our willing shoulders bear,
Shield us from the foes of
darkness,
We are prey they seek to win.
Guard us as thy loving children
From the tragedy of sin.

4. Lady of the mystic mountain
Where the Lord has set his
throne,
Up its steep ways of the spirit
None can walk save love alone.
Grant us grace to climb Mount
Carmel
And to learn that love is loss;
Guide us till our ways outdistance
All earth's treasures save the
Cross.

5. Blessed cloud of God's
protection,
And his luminous abode,



Light the pathway of your pilgrims
To the Promised Land of God.
On the mount of contemplation
Be our surety and stay,
In the night a pillar glowing
And a cloud of love by day.
Virgin of the Incarnation,
In the mysteries of grace

6. God has made his habitation
In our soul's most secret place.
Toward that bright and inner
kingdom All our words and
ways compel,
For the Father, Son and Spirit
In its sacred silence dwell²².

Listening to the Word

“In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord’” (Lk 1:39-45).

Meditation with a text by St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



“It seems to me that the attitude of the Virgin during the months that elapsed between the Annunciation and the Nativity is the model for interior souls, those whom God has chosen to live within, in the depths of the bottomless abyss. In what peace, in what recollection Mary lent herself to everything she did! How even the most trivial things were divinized by her! For through it all the Virgin remained the adorer of the gift of God! This did not prevent her from spending herself outwardly when it was a matter of charity.

The Gospel tells us that ‘Mary went in haste to the mountains of Judea’ (Lk 1:39-40), to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Never did the ineffable vision that she contemplated within herself in any way diminish her outward charity, for a pious author says, ‘if contemplation continues towards praise and towards the eternity of its Lord, it possesses unity and will not lose it’. If an order from heaven arrives, contemplation turns towards men, sympathises with their needs, is inclined towards all their misery, it must cry and be fruitful. It illuminates like fire, burns, absorbs and devours, lifting up to heaven what it has devoured. And when it has finished its work here below, it rises, burning with its fire and takes up again the road on high!’²³.

Responsory

R. Under your protection we take refuge, * Mother of God, most holy. Under your protection we take refuge.

V. Do not turn away from the prayers that spring from our need.
* Mother of God, most holy. Glory to the Father. Under your protection we take refuge.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

You call the humble family of Carmel, living in the cloister and in the world, to be especially dedicated to the Virgin Mary;

- may all who are called to Carmel be of one mind and one heart as they join in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus.

You promise a crown of glory to those who persevere in your love till the end;

- May our departed brothers and sisters, who shared Mary's love for you, rejoice with you forever in heaven.

You have entrusted the whole of mankind, the brothers and sisters of your Son, to the care of Mary's maternal heart;

- May the world see her image in us as we strive to live in your presence and to give ourselves for the salvation of all.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 10- Third day of the Novena

THE MAGNIFICAT

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

Let us in spirit make our way
To Carmel's mountain height;
Our Virgin Mother calls us there
To gather flowers of light.

This is indeed a holy place
Where God has ever reigned;
Here hearts are healed in silent prayer,
And strength of mind attained.

This is where living water flowed
To save the thirsty land,
To clothe the desert with fresh grass,
With trees the burning sand.

Cradle of our religious life
Is Carmel's height austere;
Wherever Mary turns her gaze
Flow waters springing clear.

Let us adore the Trinity
The father honours her,
The Son embraces her with love,
The Spirit reigns in her!²⁴



Listening to the Word

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home” (Lk 1:46-56).

Meditation with a text by St. Titus Brandsma



Let us give thanks for the example which Mary gives us in the Visit to her cousin. Let us admire her in her generosity and magnificent readiness to serve. Let us ask her to visit us as well, to help us, mainly in our apostolic works, when the occasion allows us also to be precursors of the Lord, of Jesus. Her intercession is the surest pledge of divine grace. Let us repeat the *Magnificat* making the sentiments expressed our own. We should always pray this canticle with special care and meditate on it. The Church prescribes it for us every day in the Liturgy of the Hours, during Evening Prayer.

May it evoke sincere joy in us for the choice we have made, even midst our tasks which at best disappoint us because they afford us so little light and human consolation. Next, more than ever, the *Magnificat*. Let us contemplate Mary as the Mediatrix of all graces, especially the grace of faith. Let us acknowledge our need of Mary's intercession to achieve what is lacking. Let us ask Mary to obtain from Jesus that which we most need"²⁵

Responsory

R. I will cry out with joy to the Lord, * My soul will rejoice in my God.
I will cry out with joy to the Lord.

V. For he has clothed me with the garment of salvation and robed me
in the cloak of justice

* My soul will rejoice in my God. Glory to the Father. I will cry out with
joy to the Lord.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady,
let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

*Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear
our prayer.*

Christ our Redeemer, you prepared a worthy dwelling place for
yourself in the sinless Virgin Mary;

- May we work today in your service and hers, poor in spirit and
pure in heart.

Only Word of the Father, uttered in eternal silence and lovingly
received in the womb of the Virgin,

- May our Carmelite vocation lead us, like Mary, to hear the Word
of God and put it into practice.

Christ our Teacher, you offer the Virgin Mary as the model of every
virtue to those who seek you;

- May we, her children, mirror her life, especially in our charity
towards all.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and
Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain,
Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 11- Fourth day of the Novena

THE BIRTH

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

When thirst broke up the ground stricken at
God's command,
And crops lay on the long baked ridges of
the soil,
Swiftly Elias went where Carmel towered
above,
Scaling rough rocks with zeal and toil.

Great soul in fervent prayer, lifting his hands
on high,
Prophet, he pleaded there, turning God's
wrath again.
Hour after hour he strove for those marked
down to die Unless the fields were saved
with rain.

Then, far off, where the sea stretched in a distant plain, A cloud fine
as a hand lit in the deep blue cope;
And soon thunder clouds came, and after them the rain
Drumming the dust with rhythms of hope.

Mary, we are those crops which drought of grace lays low,
You are that mystic cloud, that fruitful womb are you.
Your son, the God you nurse, is new life's rain to us
Who grow once more as hope comes true.

Spare us great triune God, as we too bend in prayer,
Help us scale the high stars, our mother's worthy sons;
There, raised by her, we praise you everlastingly
And pour forth love's unending songs²⁶.



Listening to the Word

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Lk 2:1-20).

Meditation with a text by St. John of the Cross



“When the time had come / for him to be born,
/ he went forth like the bridegroom /
from his bridal chamber, / embracing his bride,
/ holding her in his arms, / whom the gracious
Mother / laid in a manger / among some
animals / that were there at that time. /
Men sang songs / and angels melodies /
celebrating the marriage / of two such as
these. /
But God there in the manger / cried and
moaned; and these tears were jewels / the
bride brought to the wedding./

The Mother gazed in sheer wonder / on such an exchange: in God,
man’s weeping, and in man, gladness, / to the one and the other /
things usually so strange”²⁷.

“Our Lady, the most glorious Virgin, raised from the beginning to this
high estate, never had the form of any creature impressed in her soul,
nor was she moved by any, for she was always moved by the Holy
Spirit”²⁸

Responsory

R. Come my children, listen to me; come let us climb the mountain of the Lord. *Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

V. I am the Mother of fair love and of holy hope.
In me is all grace of the way and of the truth. * Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

You said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven";

- May we stand with Mary among the poor and humble of the Lord, so that you may be our only wealth.

You said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God";

- in following the Immaculate Virgin may we come to love that purity of heart which makes us eager to see the Father's face.

You said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe";

- With Mary at our side, may we never cease to trust in the love you have for us as we journey in this night of faith.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 12- Fifth day of the Novena

MARY IN THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

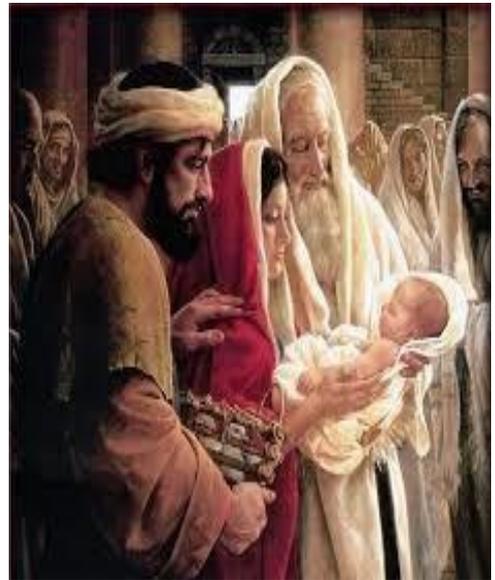
Hymn

*Rosa Carmeli, florida Maria, intra tua nos gere viscera,
et post mortem trasfer ad aethera, o Maria!*

Radix Jesse, germinans flosculum,
hic adesse me tibi servulum, patiaris.
Inter spinas, quae crescis, liliium,
serva puras mentes fragilium, tutelarlis.

Per incerta prudens consilium,
per adversa jure solatium largiaris.
Armatura fortis pugnantium;
furunt bella, offer praesidium Scapularis.

Mater dulcis, virgo purissima,
cristianis esto propitia, Stella maris.
Paradisi clavis et janua,
fac nos duci quo, Mater, gloria coronaris.



Listening to the Word

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon

took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too’” (Lk 2:22-35).

Meditation with a text by St. Teresa of Jesus



“When you see My Mother holding Me in her arms, don't think she enjoyed those consolations without heavy torment. From the time Simeon spoke those words to her, My Father gave her clear light to see what I was to suffer” (ST 32). “Those who were closest to Christ our Lord were those with the greatest trials. Let us look at what His glorious Mother suffered” (M VII, 5, 5).

“It is important to know that our Lord is pleased with any service rendered to His Mother” (F 10, 5). “We were happy to be able to serve in some way our Mother, Lady, and Patroness” (F 29, 23). “May Our Lord be pleased, Sisters, that we live our lives as true daughters of the Blessed Virgin” (F 16, 5). “Let us, my daughters, imitate in some way the great humility of the Blessed Virgin, whose habit we wear, for it is embarrassing to call ourselves her nuns. However much it seems to us that we humble ourselves, we fall far short of being the daughters of such a Mother” (WP 13, 3). “Praise Him, my daughters, for you truly belong to our Lady... Imitate her and reflect that the grandeur of our Lady and the good of having her for your patroness (M III, 1, 3).

“Reflect, my daughters... on our obligation to serve Him who has allowed us to persevere... and to live always in the house of God... [as] daughters of the Virgin” (F 27, 10). “Each one [must] bear in mind that with her the observance of the primitive rule of the Order of the Virgin, our Lady, begins again” (F 27, 11). “In your days you will see the Order of the Blessed Virgin flourish” (ST 14). “Now... I can say with Simeon, since I have seen in the Order of the Virgin, our Lady, what she wanted Now... I can say what holy Simeon said, since I have seen in the Order of the Blessed Virgin our Lady what I was

desiring to see” (Let 385).

Responsory

R. Come my children, listen to me; come let us climb the mountain of the Lord. * Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

V. I am the Mother of fair love and of holy hope.

In me is all grace of the way and of the truth. * Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

You said, “Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe”;

- With Mary at our side, may we never cease to trust in the love you have for us as we journey in this night of faith.

You said, “You ought to pray and never lose heart”;

- Teach us to pray like Mary, treasuring your word in our hearts and proclaiming it in our lives.

You said, “I want those you have given me to be with me where I am”;

- May all those who trusted in your everlasting mercy rejoice one day with you and Mary in our Father’s house.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 13- Sixth day of the Novena

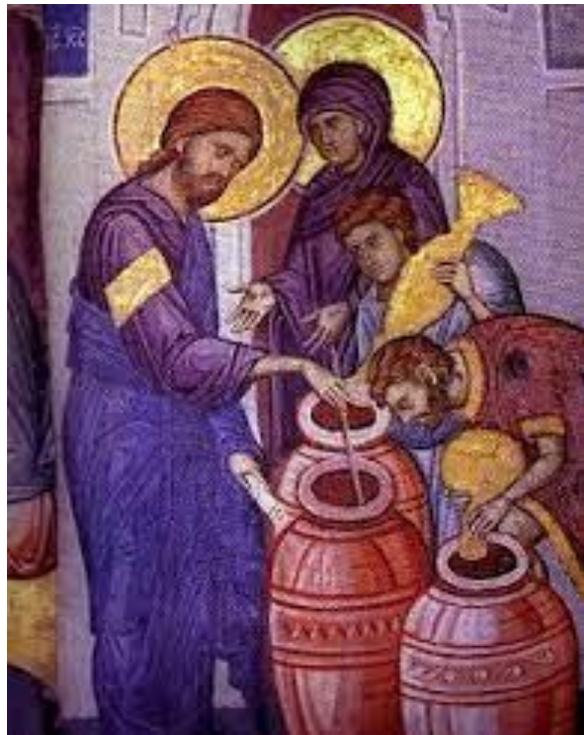
MARY IN THE WEDDING OF CANA

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Our Mother and Our Queen
In Life's daily conflict
O help us to win
We are thine own children
Wherever we may be
We pledge to be faithful
To Jesus and to Thee
To Jesus and to Thee
The confraternity's emblem
We'll always on high
We'll serve thee in life
In Love we may die
We'll serve thee in life
In Love we may die
From the Philippines



Listening to the Word

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them,

'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him' (Jn 2:1-11).

Meditation with a text by St. Maravillas of Jesus



"I never cease from giving thanks to the Lord for having called me to Carmel [...]. One of the reasons which disposed me towards Carmel was the fact that it is pre-eminently the Order of the Virgin. These houses are called 'little dove-cots or houses of the Virgin'. How could we live in her house, thank the Lord with her and not imitate her, as the Holy Mother wanted us to? [...] My heartfelt desire is to make these little dove-cots poorer and more humble, more like the little house in Nazareth, which is why the Holy Mother called her convents the 'houses of the Virgin' [...] How good it is for us to be in the shelter of the Virgin, beneath her mantle, her gaze and with her love! [...] The vocation to Carmel is such an immense grace, that one could say that everything we do is little, however much it may be, to be worthy of her. It can be seen by one's own experience, when one finds oneself in this 'house of the Virgin' with no other concern than, in union with one's sisters, to give oneself more and more to the Lord, truly offering oneself in order to console Him and to win souls for Him, concealed and hidden from sight, under his gaze alone. [...]

We are very united in this House of the Virgin, where He has his delights; may He enjoy them more and more as He did in the little house in Nazareth; what could be more pleasing than for Him to direct and rule over everything, given that it is his House and He is the ultimate owner of all things and persons, who are all his [...] How beautiful the Feast of Carmel is! Each year, our love increases for the sweetest Mother who brought us to the holy patrimony of Carmel, so that we could renew their life in Nazareth! [...]

What delight it is to think that when the moment of death arrives, which cannot now be long in coming, we shall be united with God! His dearest Mother will come, to whom we are her special daughters, to take us to Him. Our Lady and Her Son are so great a help at this moment. [...] How beautiful death is in Carmel with this inexplicable peace which the Lord gives!"²⁹.

Responsory

R. Under your protection we take refuge, * Mother of God, most holy.
Under your protection we take refuge.

V. Do not turn away from the prayers that spring from our need.

* Mother of God, most holy. Glory to the Father. Under your protection we take refuge.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him in confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

May the holy Church of God, while contemplating in Mary her Mother and model, learn to listen to the Word and proclaim it to the whole of mankind. Lord in your mercy.

May all those who call on Mary as Mother and Protector find a refuge in her in all adversities and an encouragement in our Christian life. Lord in your mercy.

May those who in devotion have put on the habit of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, put on her virtues also and reflect an evangelical life in their works. Lord in your mercy.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 14- Seventh day of the Novena

HOLY MARY, THE LORD'S DISCIPLE

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

Hail, morning star,
remedy of sinners,
ruler and queen of the world,
alone worthy to be called a virgin,
against the spears of the enemy
interpose the shield of salvation,
the sign of thy virtue.
O chosen bride of God,
be for us a straight road
to eternal joys.

(Ave Stella matutina)



Listening to the Word

“Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, ‘Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.’ But he said to them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it’” (Lk 8:19-21).

Meditation with a text by St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes

“From childhood I loved the Blessed Virgin, to whom I entrusted all my concerns. I could only confide fully in Her and never failed to entrust any pain or joy to Her. She responded to this love/affection.



She protected me and always listened to what I asked of her. She taught me to love Our Lord. she placed the seed of my vocation in my heart. [...] She loved me and finding no other greater treasure by which to prove to me her singular protection, she gave me the blessed fruit of her womb, her Divine Son. What more could she give me? [...] One day, when I was alone in my room, bored with being in bed, I heard the voice of the Sacred Heart, who begged me to be only His. I don't think that I imagined this, because in an instant, I was transformed. She who sought the love of creatures, only sought the love of God. [...] I don't know how I can thank Our Lord as I ought for so great a favour, since being so powerful and omnipotent, who needs no one, was concerned to love and choose me to become his bride. Imagine to what heights he was raising me: to be the spouse of the King of heaven and earth, of the Lord of Lords. [...]

My dear father will not refuse to give me his permission. The most Holy Virgin will be my advocate. She will know better than I how to make him understand that the life of prayer and penitence I want to embrace; for me, it enshrines the whole ideal of felicity in this life and the one that ensures it for eternity. [...] So for this reason I will go to Carmel: to assure my salvation and that of my own. Your Carmelite daughter will always keep watch at the foot of the altar for your own, who give themselves up to a thousand different worries which are necessary to live in the world [...].

The aim of the Carmelite filled me with enthusiasm: praying for sinners, spending one's whole life sacrificing oneself, without ever seeing the fruits of prayer and sacrifice. Uniting oneself to God so that the redemptive blood flow through her and communicate it to the Church and to her members so that they can be sanctified. Moreover, their motto encouraged me: 'suffer and love'. Wasn't this how the Holy Virgin lived her life? Did She not always live her life in constant prayer, in the silence and detachment from earthly things? How can one save souls? Through intercession, prayer and sacrifice [...] What we try to do above all is to live in continual prayer as Our Lady lived. [...] Yes, ask Our Lady to be your guide; to be the star, the beacon which shines midst the darkness in your life. May she show you the port where you need to disembark in order to reach the celestial Jerusalem. [...] Yes, we begin in Carmel what we will be doing for all eternity: to love and sing the praises of the Lord. And if this is the

concern we will have in heaven, is it not the most perfect?" (St. Teresa of the Andes, Cta. 73, 81, 40, 130).

Responsory

R. Under your protection we take refuge, * Mother of God, most holy.
Under your protection we take refuge.

V. Do not turn away from the prayers that spring from our need.
* Mother of God, most holy. Glory to the Father. Under your protection we take refuge.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him with confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lord, hear our prayer.

May those who call on Mary, the Virgin of Mount Carmel, midst dangers on land and sea reach Christ, Saviour of mankind through her. Let us pray to the Lord.

May all those, who now sleep in peace, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, enjoy the joys of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.

May participation of our whole assembly in the mystery of Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, help us to be witnesses of the love of God in the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 15- Eighth day of the Novena

MARY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Opening antiphon

“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

At, the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart,
His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.

O how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother, highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torment hangs,
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
'Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?



In Latin

1 Stabat Mater dolorosa/ Juxta crucem lacrimosa,/ Dum pendebat
Filius. 2 Cujus animam gementem,/ contristatam et dolentem, /
Pertransivit gladius. 3 O quam tristis et afflicta / Fuit illa benedicta,
/Mater Unigeniti! 4 Quae maerebat et dolebat,/ Pia Mater, dum

videbat /Nati poenas inclyti. 5 Quis non posset contristari, / Piam Matrem contemplari / Dolentem cum Filio? 6 Quis est homo qui non fleret, /Matrem Christi si videret / In tanto supplicio?

Listening to the Word

“Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home” (Jn 19: 25-27).

Meditation on a text by St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



“Today I have been with you at the foot of the cross and I understood with clarity never before experienced that there you became our Mother. With what fidelity even an earthly mother would seek to fulfil the last wish of her son! But you were the handmaid of the Lord. The very being of the Incarnate God was fully inscribed in your being and in your willing. So you hid within your heart those who were already yours. To give to each soul new life, you paid the price of the bitter agony of your suffering heart.

You know each one of us. You know what our hurts and wounds are like. But you also know the heavenly splendour that the love of your Son desires to pour into us in the glory of eternity. With maternal care, you guide our steps. In order to lead us to the goal, there is no price you would not pay. Those you have chosen for your crown, those who will surround you one day before the throne of God must remain with you here on earth at the foot of the cross. The bitter agony of their suffering hearts will be the price paid in order to obtain the eternal splendour which will be given to those beloved souls who have been given to you as your inheritance by the Son of God”³⁰

Responsory

R. Under your protection we take refuge, * Mother of God, most holy.
Under your protection we take refuge.

V. Do not turn away from the prayers that spring from our need.

* Mother of God, most holy. Glory to the Father. Under your protection we take refuge.

Intercessions

In celebrating the Novena of the Feast of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, let us call on Christ, saying to him with confidence:

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Son of Mary, you gave your Mother to the apostle John to take into his own keeping;

- in our familiarity with Mary may we experience your ineffable love.

Christ, Spouse of the Church, you sent the fire of the Holy Spirit upon Mary when she joined with the apostles in prayer;

- May the whole family of Carmel remain faithful in prayer with Mary, and so be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Christ our Teacher, you offer the Virgin Mary as the model of every virtue to those who seek you;

- May we, her children, mirror her life, especially in our charity towards all.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Father, May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, Protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 16- Ninth day of the Novena

MARY AT PENTECOST

Opening antiphon

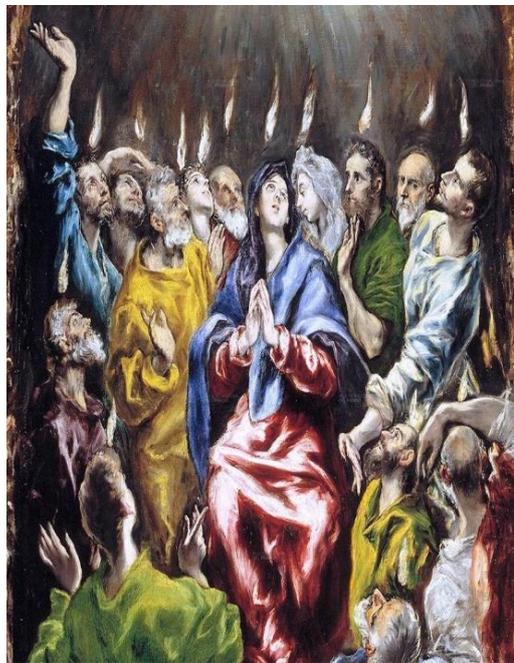
“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

Hymn

*The glory of Lebanon is given to her,
The beauty of Carmel and Sharon;
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
And the splendour of God.*

In the wilderness justice shall come to dwell
and integrity will bring forth peace

Happy those who build near a running stream
There the Lord will bind the wounds of each heart³¹.

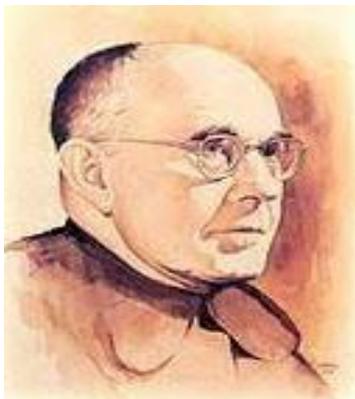


Listening to the Word:

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. When the time for Pentecost

was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 1:12-14: 2, 1-4).

Meditation with a text by the servant of God, Bartolomé Xiberta



“Man enters into this devotion fired with a surfeit of love which Mary reveals to him... She lavishes love... the love of the Mother. And souls, overcome, change from love into love. And so they they do good works and flee from evil... Subjugated by the love which Mary has shown us... we seek nothing more than to respond with a holy life to so much love. Loving means being loved.

The Feast of the 16th July is not a simple festival but much more. It is the most delectable day of the year, a day which seems more like Heaven with no night: let us become close to Mary under her white mantle and go and contemplate God’s infinite beauty, of which Our Blessed Mother is a reflection. [...]

Let me hear your voice. Mary’s sweet voice. She will not keep silence if we are attentive to listening to her. [...] On that day, petition Our Blessed Mother for the Order; I think it is also the day when she makes her protective plans for the whole year. [...] Everything one could say is already in the liturgical Office for the feast, which is so overwhelmingly beautiful; offices which the Church has prepared so that we know the sentiments which Our Holy Mother bears us, those of us who live in Carmel, as well as the sentiments which we should cherish towards Mary”³²

Responsory

R. I will cry out with joy to the Lord, * My soul will rejoice in my God.
I will cry out with joy to the Lord.

V. For he has clothed me with the garment of salvation and robed me
in the cloak of justice* My soul will rejoice in my God. Glory to the
Father. I will cry out with joy to the Lord.

Intercessions

Let us ask God, our Father, on this solemnity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, that through her intercession,
He may pour out his graces on the whole of mankind.

May the holy Church of God, while contemplating in Mary her Mother
and model, learn to listen to the Word and proclaim it to the whole of
mankind. Lord in your mercy.

May all those who call on Mary as Mother and Protector find a refuge
in her in all adversities and an encouragement in our Christian life.
Lord in your mercy.

May those who in devotion have put on the habit of Our Lady of Mount
Carmel, put on her virtues also and and reflect an evangelical life in
their works. Lord in your mercy.

(In silence, let us add our own personal intentions and for the Order)

Ave Maria

Prayer

Lord God, you willed that the Order of Carmel Should be named in
honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of your Son. Through her
prayers, as we honour her today, bring us to your holy Mountain,
Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 17



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Hymn

Purest of lilies,
That flowers among thorns,
Bring help to the true heart
That in weakness turns
and trusts in thee.

Strongest of armor,
We trust in thy might:
Under thy mantle,
Hard press'd in the fight,
we call to thee³³.

The Word of God

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God” (Gal 4:4-7).

The St. Teresa's journey with the Virgin Mary & St. Joseph

St. Teresa begins the Book of her Life: “with the care my mother took to have us pray and be devoted to our Lady” (L 1,1).

The filial devotion which her mother inculcated in her bore fruit: “I remember that when my mother died I was twelve years old or a little less. When I began to understand what I had lost, I went, afflicted, before an image of our Lady and besought her with many tears to be my mother. It seems to me that although I did this in simplicity it helped me. For I have found favor with this sovereign Virgin in everything I have asked of her, and in the end she has drawn me to herself” (L 1, 7).

When: “I saw myself so crippled and still so young, [...] I took for my advocate and lord the glorious St. Joseph and earnestly recommended myself to him. I saw clearly that as in this need so in other greater ones concerning honor and loss of soul this father and lord of mine came to my rescue in better ways than I knew how to ask for” (L 6, 5-6).

After placing herself under the protection of the Virgin and of St. Joseph, both -as a couple do everything together-, for her to obtain the graces for her to be faithful to the demands of religious life: “I understood that I had a great obligation to serve our Lady and St. Joseph; for often when I went off the path completely, God gave me salvation again through their prayers” (Rel 30).

These graces were efficacious so that she could make the necessary determination to live her religious vocation with total dedication: “I was thinking about what I could do for God, and I thought that the first thing was to follow the call to the religious life, which His Majesty had given me, by keeping my rule as perfectly as I could” (L 32, 9).

Having made her resolution, she experienced interiorly a re-enactment of the charism of Carmel in which she had made her profession. Then, she received the mission from the Lord to found a convent: “One day after Communion, His Majesty earnestly commanded me to strive for this new monastery with all my powers, and He made great promises that it would be founded and that He would be highly served in it. He said it should be called St. Joseph and that this saint would keep watch over us at one door, and our Lady at the other, that Christ would remain with us, and that it would be a star shining with great splendor” (L 32, 11).

The Virgin and St. Joseph helped her to fulfill the will of Jesus. In a vision she experienced mystically that the Virgin together with St. Joseph dressed her symbolically as the founder of a new reform in Carmel (new garment) "I saw myself vested in a white robe of shining brightness. [...] I saw our Lady at my right side and my father St. Joseph at the left, for they were putting that robe on me». It seemed to me she placed around my neck a very beautiful golden necklace to which was attached a highly valuable cross" (L 33, 14). She instructed Teresa in how she was to bring Jesus' command to found to fruition: "even though the obedience which was to be given was not to my liking, because they would watch over us, and that her Son had already promised us He would be with us" (L 33,14).

When Mother Teresa was elected prioress of the Convent of the Incarnation, she was faithful to Carmelite tradition: she placed a statue of the Virgin on the prioress' seat and on that of the subprioress a statue of St. Joseph. The Virgin in an apparition upheld to her that she would continue to be prioress of the Order. " "You were indeed right in placing me here; I shall be present in the praises they give my Son, and I shall offer these praises to Him" (Rel 22, 1).

In Mother Teresa there was fulfillment in her through the graces obtained for her by the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph: "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (Jn 14:23). On account of this she enters into the life of the Trinity. Following the apparition of the Virgin, she tells us: "After this I remained in the kind of prayer I now have, that of keeping my soul present with the Blessed Trinity. And it seemed to me that the Person of the Father drew me to Himself and spoke very pleasant words. Among them, while showing me what He wanted, He told me: "I gave you My Son, and the Holy Spirit, and this Blessed Virgin. What can you give Me?" (Rel 22, 2).

Ave Maria....

Prayer

Father, may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 18



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Raise thy voice for us to Jesus
Plead from him a love like thine
Raise thy pure hands up to bless us,
As we gather round thy shrine.
Bless, O bless us now and ever
Thou who once this dark earth trod
And when dying waft our spirits
To our home in Heav'n above.

Chorus

Mother of Mt. Carmel hear
Shades are falling, night is near
Mother of Mt. Carmel hear
Shades are falling night is near³⁴.

The Word of God

“We have not ceased [...] asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge

of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light” (Col 1:9-12).

Our Lady in St. John of the Cross (1591 †)

His trust shortly before he died is illuminating: “The favors which the Mother de God had given him were so numerous that with just seeing an image of her recreated and inflamed the love and light he had for her in his soul”³⁵. Although he always had the Virgin present when he spoke of the union of the soul with God, few are the occasions that he mentions her in his writings. Ismael Bengoechea gives us a summary.

Our Lady was “the love of his life; so profound and intimate, that he spent all hours before the altar in silent adoration of her, his heart burning and radiant. He barely dared to pronounce her name so as not to disturb his attentive and absorbed contemplation.

He embraced her Order, professed her Rule, wore her garment, adopted her name, dwelt in her house and limited her life as a listener, in prayerfulness and in oblation. Fray John wrote books of lofty science and mystical theology, but all his knowledge was centered on and could be deciphered in a unique model, Mary, “Raised from the beginning to this high state, she never had the form of any creature impressed in her soul. Nor was she moved by any, for she was always moved by the Holy Spirit” (3 A 2,10).

Mary was the perfume of the *Ascent*, the full moon of his *Dark Night*, the melody of the *Canticle*, the ardor of the *Living Flame*. In Fray John’s earthly pilgrimage, he could not have had a more beautiful itinerary: from woman to Woman, from mother to Mother, from virgin to Virgin, from sister to Sister, from lady to Lady. From Mary to God. And the final joy was the possession of such a token which made his man’s heart overflow with glory: “And the Mother of God is mine, because Christ is mine. And everything is for me!”³⁶ .

Ave Maria...

Prayer

Father, may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, protect us, and bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 19



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Hymn

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel (*)
Seen by prophet's mystic gaze;
Shown above the holy mountain
As Elijah kneels and prays.
Could-like rising from the ocean,
Pure and free from every stain,
She has claimed his heart's devotion
Through the ages to remain.

Refrain:

Mother of Mount Carmel hear!
When we call, oh! be thou near!
Mother of Mount Carmel hear!
When we call, oh! be thou near!³⁷.

The Word of God

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water” (Is 35:1-2, 6-7).

Our Lady in St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (1607†)

We do not know the reason why in the Order of Mount Carmel there is a progressive continuous presence of Mary which fructifies abundantly. This is the service which is offered to us in the ecstasies of St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, the Florentine saint, since it is a light which comes from God.

“I could see that all the paths led to a beautiful garden which I understood to be Paradise. These paths reached to the center of the garden and ended, some in a fountain, others in a tree planted in the same garden, to which it seemed to give both dignity and beauty. I understood that the said fountains and trees were the founders of the congregations, like St. Augustine, St. Dominic, St. Francis and founders, who now are all in Paradise... I saw that the path along which the religious of this convent were walking, that is to say of all of ours, was much more impressive than the others, but did not lead to any of those trees, nor to any of those fountains, but to the Queen and Lady of the garden, which is our Mother, the Virgin Mary, under whose banner we live”³⁸.

“The sun for many people is one saint or another, or the head of their congregation, but for us the sun is Mary”³⁹.

“Thus, just as the Magi were guided by a star, so are we by the star, Mary. And She does not lead us to the cave but to innate union with God”⁴⁰.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 20



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Virgin of the Incarnation,
In the mysteries of grace
God has made his habitation
In our soul's most secret place.
Towards that bright and inner kingdom
All our words and ways compel
For the Father, Son and Spirit
In its sacred silence dwell⁴¹.

The Word of God

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified” (Rm 8:28-30).

Our Lady in Bld. Ana of St. Bartholomew (1626†)

A Lay sister, she was St. Teresa of Jesus' nurse. She spread the spirit of the Teresian Carmel in France and in Flanders. This passage shows us the richness of her Mariology and her endearing love for the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

“Let us walk in humility, if we want to attain charity. And to better attain it, let us take as our advocate the one whilst Mother of God is also Mother of sinners, and so will not deny us her help. [...]

Your path was always straight, and from you do your devotees come and they are singled out from the others, for from You, my Lady, they learn the sweetness of humility and become true sons of God. And those you watch, God watches, and those you choose, are of God. Blessed are such as they, for they will be safe; you keep them from the clutches of the devil.

[...] Lady, give me the grace to keep me entrusted to You. And so be closer to God and from all creatures and you be loved as mother, You, Lady, will obtain what you ask for. [...]

I think, Lady, that neither will you ask Him for anything without knowing if it is to his liking, for like Mother like Son, for there are no secrets between the two. And so, Lady, I come back to ask you once and many times that you are compassionate and show me what comes from your will and help me as my Mother and Lady to accomplish it, for without your help I do not trust myself to do any good thing; I place my hope in you and I look forward to your divine favor, Queen of the Angels”⁴².

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 21



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel,
Virgin of the solitude,
In the wilderness of Carmel
Lies the world's eternal good.
Draw us into deep seclusion
And make God alone our goal,
In the mystical Mount Carmel
That lies hidden in the soul.⁴³

The Word of God

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col 3:12-13, 16-17).

Our Lady in the Servant of God, Jerónimo Gracián of the Mother de God (1614†)

He bears witness to us of a sublime Marian life, and he fosters and bears witness to it in his writings. He reveals to us that he had a vision of the Virgin Mary, and tells of the spiritual fruits he received:

“He had a special devotion and tenderness for Our Lady and her things, and to receive her for mother and work assiduously in her service [...]

He has experienced very great benefit in being in the presence of Our lady and of Christ, Our Lord; being with them together... as if they were at his side; they involving him in what they are doing... always walking in their company. [...]

If everyone realized the great gifts which come to the soul which have a special devotion to Our lady, no one would neglect to try to increase and maintain this devotion by all possible means, [...] for through come all the gifts of Christ Jesus”⁴⁴.

This intimacy with the Virgin affords him light to understand the action of the Spirit in the soul:

“Our Lady in sublime interior and exterior recollection, in the most profound humility and in the utmost surrender to the divine will; and so when the soul has received Communion it must ask for these are three things:⁴⁵ [...] to love Christ Jesus, Our Father as is appropriate and to be very devoted to the Virgin Mary, his Mother”⁴⁶.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 22



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
Whom in ancient prophecy
God revealed to Saint Elijah
By an Oriental sea,
Rise again on God's creation,
Bring to bloom this arid place
With the white cloud of your beauty
And the rainfall of your grace⁴⁷.

The Word of God

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Eph 1:3-6).

La Our Lady in the Servant of God, Juan de Jesus Mary (1615†)

He was one of the most outstanding men at the beginning of the Teresian Reform. He was an excellent formator of novices and an apostle of Mary in interior life. These are a few of his teachings on Mary, compiled in the Instruction for Novices.

Living in Mary: “Brothers, you will not separate your thoughts about Mary from Jesus. As her true sons, you will place the greatest care in maintaining in your hearts a constant remembrance of this blessed Mother. You will unite Jesus and Mary in the same thought. You will remember them very frequently, if it is not possible to keep them always present in your spirit, because man should not separate what God has united”.

Through Mary: “We firmly believe that we have received nothing and can receive nothing from divine goodness except through the merits of this Virgin so very pure; it is to Her that we attribute all that God has done for our good, both spiritual and corporal”.

For Mary: “Each and every day our brothers will offer themselves to Mary, and at the same time to Jesus, her first born, all attachments, all thoughts, words and deeds”. [...] As sons, with over-arching care you will always keep the Queen of the world engraved on your hearts, and consecrate yourselves to Her, as to her first born Son, at least everyday at dawn, all your cares, thoughts, words and deeds”⁴⁸.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 23



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Mother fair above all mothers,
By the Scapular we wear,
By your own Sign of Salvation,
Which our willing shoulders bear,
Shield us from the foes of darkness,
We are prey they seek to win.
Guard us as thy loving children
From the tragedy of sin⁴⁹.

The Word of God

“Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things [...] and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to

know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:8-9, 17-19).

Our Lady in Fray Juan de la Miseria (1616 †)

A lay brother who did an oil painting of St. Teresa of Jesus. At the end of his life, he wrote about the mercies which he received from the Lord, many of them linked to his life in Mary.

“Interiorly God, Our Father, was saying to me in this manner: My son, Fray Juan: Take great care to honor my beautiful and dearest Mother with much reverence, and so I am leaving her as your teacher and example, so that you can learn to be holy from my Mother. In this way, my son, Fray Juan, I am giving you my Mother as the example of true humility of heart, so that you can imitate her ways, and also so that you can accompany her in all virtue and holiness. My son, love my Mother for in this way you love me. For what gives honor to me also gives honor to my Mother.

And so, make haste, my son, fray Juan, to love and honor my Mother, for in this way you will go quickly along the path of heaven and of glory with my Mother. And so, hold out the hand of your heart to my Mother; so that She will bring you to Me herself for ever. And try to imitate her and walk with Her in all virtue and perfection and sanctity. And do not lose sight of her with the eyes of your heart and spirit, because She is my true Mother and yours. And walk with her, and help them to carry their holy bindle, which is your perfection and sanctity.... And this you must be with your heart: for my Mother is my true likeness: she is just like me, and I like her.... That I am always with her and she is always in Me virtue and grace. [...] Walk along the path of My Mother and you will not be able to lose Me; for you will find me with my Mother. [...] you will once again become celestial and divine, by imitating me and my Most Blessed Mother”⁵⁰.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 24



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Let us in spirit make our way
to Carmel's mountain height;
our Virgin Mother calls us there
to gather flowers of light.

This is indeed a holy place
where God has ever reigned;
here hearts are healed in silent prayer,
and strength of mind attained⁵¹.

The Word of God

“Rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. ‘And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord” (Prov 8:31-35).

Our Lady in St. Teresa Margaret Redi (1770†)

Brought up with love for the Most Blessed Virgin in her family. This love was deepened in the Discalced Carmel of Florence. Witnesses

during her process tell us: “She loved the Most Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel with a most endearing love and used to call her ‘beloved Mama’. She continually gave thanks to the Lord and to the Most Blessed Virgin for having allowed her to wear the habit of an Institution which operated under her maternal patronage, of which she gloried joyfully, and gave thanks to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary many times a day”⁵².

Our Lady in Santa Joaquina de Vedruna (1854 †)

She put forward her project for a foundation to her Bishop. He advised her to call the Institute ‘Carmelite Sisters of Charity’. She soon became aware of the powerful protection of the Virgin and urged her religious to be very devoted to her.

“She was the Founder and Mother of the Institute and to Her we owe the progress which has been made.... Do not tire of giving her thanks for having chosen you to be her daughters and for bringing you into her own home. ¡O, daughters of mine, I will never stop talking to you about this generous and sweet Mother of Carmel”⁵³.

Our Lady in St. Mary of Jesus Crucified (1878†)

Fellow country girl of the Virgin Mary, since she was born in Galilea. She felt that she was taken care of and cured by Her. She ran trustingly and in a very familiar way to the Mother of Jesus in all her needs.

“If I want to recite the Ave Maria, I stop at the first words: “Hail Mary, and I say to the Most Blessed Virgin: You are good, so good, O my Mother! You, Mother of God, Mother of mankind! And Mother of us poor sinners! I get lost and fall asleep, finding it impossible to keep going...”⁵⁴.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 25



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

This is where living water flowed
to save the thirsting land,
to clothe the desert with fresh grass,
with trees the burning sand.

Cradle of our religious life
is Carmel's height austere;
wherever Mary turns her gaze
flow waters springing clear⁵⁵.

The Word of God

“Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage. I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I

therefore, being eternal, am given to all my children which are named of him” (Sir 24:9-12,18).

Our Lady in Blessed Francisco Palau (1872 †)

He was granted the grace of experiencing the Church mystically as a mystical person of which Our Lady is the most perfect example.

“Because the Church, that is, God and neighbors, is the ultimate end of love destined for the human heart, [...] God in his wise providence created a perfect type to represent purity, virginity and maternity, fecundity and beauty. [...] That is what the Virgin Mary, Mother of God was and is; she is a clear mirror in which the holy Church can be seen. And as we go to the Father through Christ, so through Mary our heart raises its flames of love towards its beloved object, which is the Church”⁵⁶.

Our Lady in St. Enrique de Ossó (1896 †)

Founder of the Company of St. Teresa, he experienced in his life that Mary is the path by which can reach Christ. He honored the Virgin in his dedication to Carmel spreading the Scapular.

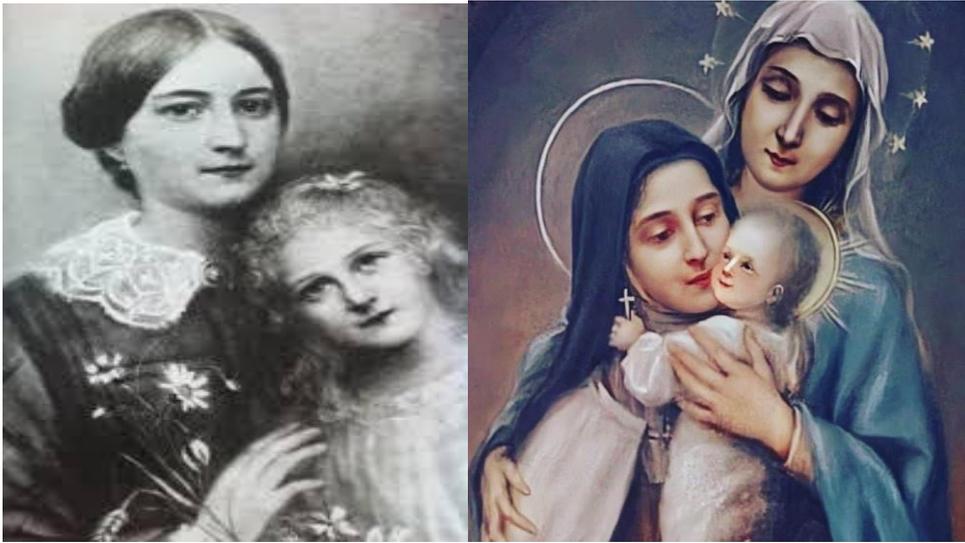
“The Church, my son, was born in my breast with Jesus, founder and head of her: She took new life on Calvary with my suffering and grew bigger and is kept warm in the shadows of my maternal wings.... I sustain the saints in their fullness.... I repress demons, ...I work with... so that the faithful are born in the Church and are living members of Jesus Christ, my Son. On account of this, the Church has always defended my honor [...] and calls me her Mother, her Lady, her Queen. [...] I am Queen [...]. My Son is King of glory, He is King of mercy, of the Church, and I, his Mother, am as well”⁵⁷.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 26



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

When thirst broke up the ground stricken at God's command,
and crops lay on the long baked ridges of the soil,
swiftly Elias went where Carmel towered above,
scaling rough rocks with zeal and toil.

Great soul in fervent prayer, lifting his hands on high,
prophet, he pleaded there, turning God's wrath again.
Hour after hour he strove for those marked down to die
unless the fields were saved with rain⁵⁸.

The Word of God

“For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Is 66:12-13).

Our Lady in St. Marie Zélie Guérin (1877 †)

Mother of St. Thérèse, her prayer to Mary was answered.

“Wednesday will be The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a great feast day for me! On this day, the Most Blessed Virgin bestowed on me many special graces. [...] This year, I will also go to see the Most Blessed Virgin, [...] I will offer her a candle, as always, but i won't ask for any more girls; Il will only ask her that all those she has given me be holy and that I may keep a close watch over them in this, but they need to be much better than me”⁵⁹.

Our Lady in St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1897 †)

She experienced the maternal protection of the Most Blessed Virgin In such a profound way that she enriched the Mariology of the Church.

“She [the Most Blessed Virgin] never fails to protect me as soon as I invoke her. If some disturbance overtakes me, some embarrassment, I turn very quickly to her and as the most tender of Mothers she always takes care of my interests” (Ms C 26r). “I surprise myself at times by saying to her: “But good Blessed Virgin, I find I am more blessed than you, for I have you for Mother, and you do not have a Blessed Virgin to love. ... It is true you are the Mother of Jesus, but this Jesus you have given entirely to us.. . and He, on the Cross, He gave you to us as Mother. Thus we are richer than you since we possess Jesus and since you are ours also. [...] You are the Mother of Jesus, and you are my Mother” (LT 137, 19th October 1892).

“We know very well that the Blessed Virgin is Queen of heaven and earth, but she is more Mother than Queen” (LC. 21.8.3).

Ave Maria....

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 27



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Virgin resplendent in the court of heaven,
Carmel's rare beauty and all mankind's glory,
hear us, dear mother, as our voices humbly
tell your love's story.

Gifts beyond reckoning you pour out in bounty,
rich rain of blessing dropped on a hill and meadow
where you still shelter your devoted offspring
in Carmel's shadow.⁶⁰

The Word of God

“O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all other women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who has guided you. Your praise will never depart from the hearts of those who remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honor to you, and may he reward you with blessings, because you risked your own life when our nation was brought low, and you averted our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God” (Jdt 13:18-20).

Our Lady in the servant of God, Fray Augustine Mary of the Blessed Sacrament (Hermann Cohen) (1871†)

Hermann Cohen, a Jew who converted to Catholicism and became a Discalced Carmelite, and was founder of Night Adoration.

“I keep my heart to love my Jesus in the Eucharist, and to love Mary who gave Him to me. Yes, I love Mary!... I Have resolved to choose her as my life’s companion, as the ark of my covenant, as the gate to my heaven, as consolation in my sufferings...”⁶¹. “Jesus and Mary have brought me here for themselves. Yes, Mary has led me to Jesus, Mary has given me to Jesus. She has given me the Eucharist, and the Eucharist has me has disposed my heart, and the Eucharist has projected within me an such a wonderful attraction that I only want to live for Jesus and Mary, and Jesus was given to me in the Order of Mary, and so I became a religious of Mary and priest of Jesus”⁶².

Prayer to the Virgin Mary by St. Raphael Kalinowski (1907 †)

He was the soul of the restoration of the Order in Poland. Mary is the one who obtains the grace of forgiveness and spiritual growth for us.

“Holy Virgin, Immaculate Mother, look with compassion on the oppressions of my soul that is forever wedded to You. Be my protective shield against the missiles of an evil spirit, calm the storms of my own untamed spirit, engrave upon my heart the suffering of Your Divine Son, instill in me contrition purely out of love for Him, point out the path of sincere penance for my repeated unfaithfulness, prepare me for a death out of longing for God, preserve for the Kingdom of Saints and of just ones, the least of all who belong to You, but do not delay, rather lead me out of my incessant anxieties over salvation from the snares of earthly life, and through Your mercy remove me, who am full of wickedness, into everlasting rest with God Himself. Amen”⁶³.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 28



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Grant then your favor, quick to heed and answer;
may these our fervent prayers win grace like starlight,
keen, constant, tracing out a way to heaven
through our profound night.

Ever in kindness strengthen and sustain us,
lightening our burden with a mother's blessing,
that we may share the Father's life
and splendor past dispossessing⁶⁴.

The Word of God

“I brought you into the plentiful land of Carmel to eat its fruits and its good things” (Jer 2:7).

“Delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is 61:10).

Our Lady in St. Titus Brandsma (1942†)

Brought up in love for Mary at home, he remained fascinated by the spirit of Carmel, and would spend his life trying to spread it.

“In my condition as Brother of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, I would like to lead to the land of Carmel as many who love to render homage to Mary as their beloved Mother, so that the hand of this Mother and Beauty of Carmel, leads to intimate union with God, since this is the goal of contemplative life in Carmel”⁶⁵.

Our Lady in St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1942†)

After reading the Book of the Life of St. Teresa of Jesus, she wanted to enter Carmel and went deeper and deeper into the charism.

“Mary, the Mother of Christ, [...] is the one who planted her Order on the summit of Mount Carmel like a garden of delights for the celestial King and is also the one who spread it throughout the world. As a special sign of his mercy and of her maternal protection, she ultimately gave us the Holy Scapular. [...]

When we receive the habit of Carmel we commit ourselves to serve not only our divine Spouse, but also his Holy Mother. The garment of salvation is also called the garment of justice. [...] By accepting the garment of justice, we are committing ourselves to fight, therefore, with all our strength to attain perfection and keep our holy garment immaculate. We can serve the Queen of Carmel in no better way nor can we show our thanks in a better way than by contemplating her exemplary image and by following her along the path of perfection”⁶⁶.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 29



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Boldly let us set forth and scale
Carmel's rare heights. She calls us on,
Mary pure Virgin, queen of grace,
Raising our hearts to meet her Son.

There we may see and not offend
As in his glory God goes by.
There heart and hand take on new strength
And in the Lord do valiantly⁶⁷.

The Word of God

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified” (Rm 8: 28-30).

Our Lady in the Martyrs of Carmel

This brief description of devotion to the Virgin of the Carmelite martyrs of Guadalajara, Spain and the testimony of St. Titus Brandsma will serve to evoke the love of the Most Blessed Virgin of all martyred Carmelites and the protection of Mary so that they were faithful to Christ.

The Carmelite martyrs of Guadalajara, who whilst sharing the same community life, and the same martyrdom, and whilst having a common great devotion to the Virgin Mary, they expressed it in different ways. Devotion of Bld. Pilar to the Virgin was clearly theological: “I hope for everything from Jesus through Mary”. Bld. Teresa, in her dedication to Mary, to whom she was most devoted, was “Mary refuge of sinners”. Bld. Mary Ángeles, who lost her mother at the age of three, experienced a love, trusting in a special way in the maternal protection of Mary: “I remember her very much [her mother]. How much I miss her! But the Most Blessed Virgin makes up for her, since I have entrusted myself to Her and I have taken Her for my Mother”⁶⁸.

In St. Titus Brandsma there never was a break in honoring the Virgin nor in trusting in her patronage. In the concentration camp he said to a Carmelite brother: “Brother, Mary has to help and sustain us. She places her hands over us. Thus we can suffer much better from all that happens to us. [...]”⁶⁹. “Let us place ourselves in the hands of Our lady. May She care for us as a Mother does for her children. [...] Gate of heaven! Always carried along by her hand, our entrada is guaranteed and certain”⁷⁰.

In prison, St. Titus laid down the foundations for the spiritual unity of the whole of the Order of Mount Carmel. His cell had images of Christ, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, who are his consolation and company in his solitude, full of suffering. Furthermore, the little strength he had he dedicated to writing a biography of St. Teresa of Jesus.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 30



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Praise God who made us, God whose goodness crowned you
queen of creation, dear above all other,
and gave you to us, Lady of Mount Carmel,
and Virgin Mother⁷¹.

The Word of God

“Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord” (Zeph 3:14-18, 20).

Mary in the Servant of God John Vicent of Jesus Mary (1943 †)

Carmelite Missionary in India, founded the Obra Máxima, a monthly magazine of Carmelite missionary work worldwide.

“O august Queen and sweetest Mother! Each and every one of our labors is yours. Counted amongst them, is your glorious work of the Carmelite missions and, thus, so must this humble publication also be yours, which from today we are dedicating ourselves. Our filial devotion wants and is determined to do everything in your name and under your protection because by an inalienable right, this place belongs to you. Preside over it, protect it, bless it. Make this work so holy, so that we manage to execute it in a sacred manner and so that it produces apostolic fruits for the salvation of many souls, to bring you much honor and for the greater glory of your Son, Jesus...”⁷².

Bld. Mary-Eugène of the Child Jesus (1967 †)

From his constant study of the Saints of Carmel, illumined by the Spirit, in his book “I want to see God”, he offers us these teachings on the action of Mary in souls in tribulation.

“Such souls feel that they are in the midst of the most unspeakable sufferings which we can possibly imagine. The maternal heart of Mary cannot remain unmoved by them. [...] Her providential mission enforces her to be the star which illumines the night of the spirit. [...] Mary is distinguished by the fact that she can intervene without compromising the realization of God’s plans. [...] Mary spreads sweetness without suppressing the suffering; she creates a soft shadow without dissipating the darkness. [...] Knowing that she, the Mother, is there close by and that she is keeping watch in the darkness of the night calms and fills the heart of the child with joy, and renews its strength. [...] In this way a true intimacy is established between Mary and the soul which ushers in the spiritual life of the saints”⁷³.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 31



Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening antiphon

Henceforth all generations will call you blessed
for the Almighty works marvels for you.

Carmelite hymn

Mary, we are those crops which drought of grace lays low,
you are that mystic cloud, that fruitful womb are you.
Your son, the God you nurse, is new life's rain to us
who grow once more as hope comes true.

Spare us, great triune God, as we too bend in prayer,
help us scale the high stars, our mother's worthy sons;
There, raised by her, we praise you everlastingly
and pour forth love's unending songs⁷⁴.

The Word of God

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah" (Ap 11:19; 12:1, 10).

Our Lady in Bld. Maria Felicia of Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament (1959 †)

Although her parents were against it, "Chiquitunga" entered Carmel and told them: "Our Lady will cover us all with her mantle and, through

his intermediary, Jesus accepts this intense suffering". Once in Carmel: "When she began the new pattern of her life, [...] "My God, Most Holy Trinity, Jesus Crucified, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I am going to ask one thing of you, [...] Love in order to Love, for with that I will lack nothing, nor will there be too much. During her time in Carmel she did not cease from begging the Most Holy Virgin: "Help me, dearest Mother Mary, help me". "My Mother, give me back the joy of the presence of my God". Her last words before entering into eternity were: "What a beautiful encounter! Oh, Virgin Mary!"⁷⁵.

Our Lady in the Servant of God Lucía of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (2005 †)

She never failed to recall how by fulfilling the demands of the charism of the Order of Mount Carmel the message, which she had received from the Virgin Mary, was being fulfilled. This means that in loving the Virgin with filial love, making reparation for offenses with love and prayers, and by interceding with Her for the conversion of sinners, we may obtain forgiveness and mercy for mankind.

The Virgin told her: "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the path which will lead you to God". Lucía tells us: "The Heart of Mary is, for all her children, both the refuge and the path to God. [...] Mary is the mother of these descendents destined by God to crush the head of the infernal serpent. Thus we see how devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has to be established in the world by means of authentic consecration of conversion and oblation. [...] Mary remained on earth to help her other children to complete the redemptive work of her Christ, keeping it in her Heart as a wellspring of grace -Ave gratia plena- in order to communicate to use the fruits of the life, passion and death of Jesus Christ, her Son»⁷⁶.

Ave Maria...

Prayer

We beseech you, Lord, that the powerful intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, may assist us always; so that, guided by her example and protection, we may reach the summit of the Mount of Perfection, which is Christ Our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Consecration to Mary in Carmel



The love and devotion which the Latin hermits of Mount Carmel professed for the Virgin Mary moved them to dedicate their first chapel to her. This fact, in the feudal mentality meant that bonds of spiritual vassalage, they and all that they had belonged to the Virgin Mary, as Lady of the place and the people who dwelt there. In turn, they would remain consecrated to the Virgin, they would be totally devoted to her service and would commit themselves to honoring her, trusting that She would protect them as of something belonging to her and would have a lively concern for their interests.

This was reflected in the formula of religious profession which the Carmelites were already making in the XIII century: “I promise obedience [...] to God and to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel”. A formula which continues in use for Discalced Carmelite nuns when they make their religious vows.

Discalced Carmelite friars in the present Rite of Profession, after making their vows, ask for ‘the assistance of the Mother of God’. In the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order, the Rite for the Promise says: ‘I confidently entrust this my promise, to the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel’. In both cases, on account of the Order having medieval origins, asking the Virgin for help or making the promises under her protection is a pact, which implies on the part of the Carmelite the commitment to faithfully love the Virgin Mary, to honor and serve Her in what is necessary for Her and to endeavor for others to do likewise.

The consecration of the Carmelites to the Virgin is carried out by means of religious profession or the definitive promise in the case of secular Carmelites. But some saints or outstanding Carmelites have felt the need to express in their own words the full meaning of the consecration, in complete service of Mary. Let us take a look at some of them.

The Servant of God, John of Jesus Mary, teaches us to consecrate ourselves totally to the Most Blessed Virgin in these terms:

“Queen of heaven, most clement and sure hope in my salvation, I, N. N., all too aware of my unworthiness, with the deepest submission of spirit, trusting in your most generous merci, I offer myself entirely

to You, and choose You to be my Protectress through the course of my life. I beg You, then, O most powerful Queen, through your love for your only begotten Son, that You don't despise me, but rather deign to place me under your protection and guardianship, so that with your help, I may be able to preserve unto death a chaste and holy fear of God"⁷⁷.

Marie of St. Thérèse (Petyt) tells us: "[The Virgin] asked Me to make her a total oblation, a complete gift, a sacrifice of my whole being, heart, soul and body, with all its powers. And I have done it... and I offered Her full possession of it"⁷⁸.

Bld. Francisco Palau felt called to renew his religious profession, as the surrender of his being, not to the Virgin Mary, but to the Church of which She is the most perfect type:

"I, Fr. Francisco of J. M. J. give myself to you now, just as I am, with all that I have, during my life and for all eternity. Do you want me?' 'Yes, I accept you; I accept the offering' 'So, if you accept the offering, I am no longer my own, I am yours, and you will take care of me as of something which belongs to you. And in the strength of this offering which you accept, I, Fr. Francisco of J. M. J. renew my religious profession and promise you obedience, chastity and poverty. Through the vow of obedience I will faithfully fulfill your commands and will be subject to your orders; in virtue of the vow of chastity, I surrender to you my flesh, my blood and my whole body, and will be flesh of your flesh and a true member of your body; and through the vow of poverty' [...] On knowing that She was present, I renewed my vows of love, fidelity and loyalty with her, and she accepted them"⁷⁹.

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, her personal formula of consecration through which she surrendered herself to God, the Most Blessed Trinity through the hands of Mary, is the *Offering to God's Merciful Love*: "In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to your merciful love, asking you to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of infinite tenderness shut up within you to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a Martyr of your Love, O my God!..." (Pr 6).

CONTENTS

Day 1. Building of the Chapel to the Virgin Mary on Mount Carmel and the “Institution of the first monks”

Day 2. St. Andrew Corsini (1374 †). St. Peter Thomas (1375 †).

Day 3. John Baconthorp (1348 †), St. Nuño of St. Mary (1431 †),
John Grossi (1435 †)

Day 4. Arnold Bostius (1499 †) John of Paleoniodorus (1507 †)

Day 5. Bld. John Baptista Mantuanus (1516 †)

John of St. Samson (1636 †)

Day 6. Michael of St. Augustine (1684†)

Day 7. Marie of St. Teresa (Petijt 1677†)

DAY 8. 1^o day of the novena. St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

Day 9. 2^o day of the novena. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Day 10. 3^o day of the novena. St. Titus Brandsma

Day 11. 4^o day of the novena. St. John of the Cross

Day 12. 5^o day of the novena. St. Teresa of Jesus

Day 13. 6^o day of the novena. St. Maravillas of Jesus

Day 14. 7^o day of the novena. St. Teresa of the Andes

Day 15. 8^o day of the novena. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Day 16. 9^o day of the novena. SG, Bartholomew Xiberta

Day 17. St. Teresa of Jesus, Marian-Josephine Itinerary (1582†)

Day 18. St. Juan of the Cruz (1591 †)

Day 19. St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (1607†)

Day 20. Bld. Ana of St. Bartholomew (1626†)

Day 21. SG Jerónimo Gracián of the Mother of God (1614 †)

Day 22. SG John of Jesus Mary (1615†)

Day 23. Juan de la Miseria (1616 †)

Day 24. St. Teresa Margaret Redi (1770 †)

St. Joaquina de Vedruna (1854 †)

St. Mary de Jesus Crucified (1878†)

Day 25. Bld. Francisco Palau (1872†).

St. Enrique de Ossó (1896†)
 Day 26. St. Mary Zélie Guérin (1877 †)
 S. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1897 †)
 Day 27. SG Augustine Mary of the Blessed Sacrament (1871†)
 St. Raphael Kalinowski (1907 †)
 Day 28. St. Titus Brandsma (1942 †)
 St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1942†)
 Day 29. Carmelite Martyrs
 Day 30. SG John Vicent of Jesus Mary (1943 †).
 Bld. Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus (1967 †)
 Day 31. Bld. Maria Felicia of the Holy Sacrament (1959 †)
 SG Lucía of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (2005 †)

Abbreviations (St. Teresa of Jesus)

L the Book of the Life; WP Way of Perfection ; M Mansions

ST Spiritual Testimonies

Notes

¹ Hymn *Flos Carmeli*, verses 1-3.

² Quoted by Rafael M^a LÓPEZ-MELÚS, *El Carmelo y María*, Onda 1995, 29-30.

³ Felip RIBOT, from the *Book of the First Monks*, quoted in *The Ten Books on the Way of Life and Great Deeds of the Carmelites*, Saint Albert's Press, 2005, 89.

⁴ Written for the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mt Carmel in the late 19th century by American Roman Catholic poet, short story writer and biographer, Eleanor C. Donnelly (1838–1917).

⁵ LUCAS WADINGUS, O. F. M., *Vita et res gestae B. Petri Thomae*, Lugduni, 1637, 5-6. Quoted in *El Carmelo y María*, 129.

⁶ The author and composer of this hymn to Mary, under her title Mother of Mt Carmel, are unknown. It is said that it is always sung at funerals for the Sisters of Mount Carmel in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

⁷ Quoted by P. IDELFONSO DE LA INMACULADA, *La Virgen de la Contemplación*, Ed. De Espiritualidad, Madrid 1973, 69.

⁸ Letter to the Vicar General of the Carmelites, 1393. Quoted by Rafael María LÓPEZ-MELÚS, *Santos que amaron a la Virgen del Carmen*, AMACAR, Onda 2001, 229.

⁹ Quoted by Redemptus M. VALABEK, *María, Madre del Carmelo*, Edizioni Carmelitane, Rome 2001, Vol I, 51.

¹⁰ The author and composer of this hymn are unknown, possibly written for the Carmelite family, perhaps lay associates in India or Asia.

¹¹ Quoted by Emanuele BOAGA *The Lady of the Place*, Ed. Carmelitane, 2001, 32.

¹² Quoted by E. BOAGA, *The Lady of the Place*, 48-49.

¹³ Cf. footnote 10.

¹⁴ Quoted in *La Virgen de la contemplación*, 93-94, 96

- ¹⁵ Ven. Juan de San-Sansón, *Contemplaciones Marynas*, AMACAR, Onda 1987, 84.
- ¹⁶ Verses by the American Carmelite, Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) 1905-1988).
- ¹⁷ Quoted by E. BOAGA, *The Lady of the Place*, 84.
- ¹⁸ Quoted in *La Virgen de la contemplación*, 108, 117, 119.
- ¹⁹ The words in the verses are similar - it's likely that most, if not all, are from a work by Carmelite nun, Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers), 1905–1988.
- ²⁰ Quoted in *La Virgen de la contemplación*, 126-127, 130- 131, 133
- ²¹ St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Poem 54.
- ²² Music 87. 87. D (Austria, etc. Hyfrydol) Words: Sr. Miriam OCD
- ²³ St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, *Heaven in faith*, n. 40, day 10.
- ²⁴ Carmeli ad altos vertices Tr. unnown Tune C.M. (Dunfermline, Crimond, etc.)
- ²⁵ Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., *Biblical Exercises with Mary to reach Jesus*, n. 42, 63.
- ²⁶ Bro. John Leonard Davies, OCD, 12.12.12.8 (Das Herrlich Hohe Fest)
- ²⁷ St. John of the Cross, *Romance IX*
- ²⁸ St. John of the Cross, *Ascent 3*, 2, 10
- ²⁹ St. Maravillas of Jesus, *Era Así*, Madrid 1993, n. 909, 910, 913, 926, 944, 950, 922, 918..
- ³⁰ Teresa RENATA dello S. S., *Edith Stein*, Brescia 1952, 135.
- ³¹ (Words & music brought to Bettendorf from Baltimore Carmel in 1911, Permission granted for use with Novena provided creditation is given as follows: 'Words & music brought to Bettendorf from Baltimore Carmel in 1911'. © copyright 2002 Eldridge Carmel Music score: see Appendix 1)
- ³² (Servant of God, Bartolomé Xiberta O. Carm., *Fragmentos doctrinales*, 352-357.
- ³³ From *Flos Carmeli*.
- ³⁴ Written for the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mt Carmel in the late 19th century.
- ³⁵ Fr. Bruno de J.M., c.13, p.183-18, quoted by Bld. Marie- Eugène, *Je veux voir Dieu*, t^o 898.
- ³⁶ Ismael BENGOCHEA, *San Juan de la Cruz y la mujer*, Cádiz 1986, p. 127.
- ³⁷The words in the verses are similar to work by the American Roman Catholic poet and Carmelite nun, Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) 1905–1988.
- ³⁸ Los cuarenta días, ms. 248-9, Quoted by Rafael M^a. LÓPEZ-MELÚS, *¿Qué es el Carmelo?*, CESCO, 1980, 50-51.
- ³⁹ Rafael M^a LÓPEZ-MELÚS, *S. María Magdalena de Pazzi*, Amacar, Onda 1991, 281.
- ⁴⁰ *Opera manuscrista II, Dei colloqui*, n. 324, Citada por Valerio HOPPENBRAUWERS, *María en el Carmelo*, CESCO, Caudete 1979, 133.
- ⁴¹ Verse by the American Carmelite, Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) 1905-1988).
- ⁴² Beata ANA DE SAN BARTOLOMÉ, *Obras Completas*, Monte Carmelo, 1999, p. 727-729.
- ⁴³ Verse by the American Carmelite, Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) 1905-1988).
- ⁴⁴ P. Jerónimo Gracián de la Madre de Dios, "Modo de proceder en la oración", *Obras I*, BMC XV, Burgos 1932, 513-515, 518.
- ⁴⁵ P. Jerónimo Gracián de la Madre de Dios, *Obras II*, BMC XVI, Burgos 1933, 268.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid. 349.
- ⁴⁷ Written by American Roman Catholic poet and Carmelite nun, Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers), 1905–1988.
- ⁴⁸ Quoted by el P. IDELFONSO DE LA INMACULADA in *La Virgen de la contemplación*, 159-161.

- 49 Written by American Roman Catholic poet and Carmelite nun, Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) 1905–1988.
- 50 Quoted in *La Virgen de la contemplación*, p. 189-190.
- 51 C.M. Carmeli ad altos vertices, translation unknown, taken from Morning Prayer.
- 52 Quoted by Rafael M^a LÓPEZ-MELÚS, en *Santas que amaron a la Our Lady of Mount Carmel*, AMACAR, Onda 2001, 219.
- 53 Catalina SERNA, *Espiritualidad de Santa Joaquina de Vedruna*, Ed. Vedruna, Madrid 1965, p. 353.
- 54 Quoted by Père ESTRATE, *Mariam, sainte palestinienne, La vie de Marie de Jésus Crucifié*, Ed. Téqui, Paris 1999, p. 53.
- 55 C.M. Carmeli ad altos vertices, translation unknown.
- 56 FRANCISCO PALAU, *My Relations* 11, 21 in *Writings*, Monte Carmelo, Burgos 2006, 925-926.
- 57 Quoted in *Experiencia espiritual de Enrique de Ossó*, Ed. STJ, 1995, 184-185.
- 58 Words by Bro. John Leonard Davies, O.C.D.
- 59 Celia GUERIN, *Cartas a mi Familia*, Burgos 2000, 309-310. Cta. 5.12.1875.
- 60 Virgo, Quae Caeli Rutilans, a Carmelite antiphon.
- 61 Charles SYLVAIN, *Herman Cohen, apóstol de la Eucaristía*, Fundación Gratis Date, Pamplona 1998, 124.
- 62 Quoted by Rafael M^a LÓPEZ-MELÚS, *¿Qué es el Carmelo?*, CESCA 1980, 52.
- 63 H. CZESLAW GIL, *Rafael Kalinowski*, Ed. Espiritualidad, Madrid 1981, 126-127.
- 64 Virgo, Quae Caeli Rutilans, a Carmelite antiphon.
- 65 Quoted in *Santos que amaron a la Virgen del Carmen*, 277.
- 66 Edith STEIN “Una ofrenda de amor” in *Caminos del silencio interior*, Ed. de Espiritualidad Madrid 1988, 143-144.
- 67 From Morning Prayer.
- 68 “Tres carmelitas ejemplares”, Informative leaflet n. 42, abril-junio 1993.
- 69 Rafael M^a López-Melús, *Beato Tito Brandsma, carmelita (1881-1942)*, Amacar, Onda, 1985, 7.
- 70 *Ibid.* 8.
- 71 Virgo, Quae Caeli Rutilans, a Carmelite antiphon.
- 72 JUAN VICENTE DE JESÚS MARÍA, *Antología de sus escritos*, EDE 2001, 128-129.
- 73 MARIE-EUGENE DE L’ENFANT JESUS, *Je veux voir Dieu*, Éditions du Carmel, 2014, t ° 893-894.
- 74 Words by Bro. John Leonard Davies, O.C.D.
- 75 Beata M. Felicia de Jesus Sacramentado, *Escritos*, Ctas. 20.4.1954; 12.8.1955...
- 76 Hermana LUCÍA, *Llamadas del mensaje de Fátima*, Fátima ³ 2017, 138-140.
- 77 Quoted in *La Virgen de la Contemplación*, p. 163.
- 78 Quoted in *La Virgen de la Contemplación*, p. 136. Later, this type of consecration was promoted by St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort,
- 79 Francisco PALAU *Writings*, *My Relations*, II, 7, p.783-784.

