



NOVENA TO THE VIRGIN OF MOUNT CARMEL

WITH TEXTS BY CARMELITE SAINTS

All the texts for this Novena to the Virgin of Mount Carmel, with the exception of a few hymns, have been taken from Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy of the Virgin of Mount Carmel and the writings of some of the Carmelite Saints. The author has limited herself to putting the texts together to form a Novena.

María del Pilar Vila

Barcelona, 7th July 2017

Translated by Chantal Haigh OCDS (in formation).

DAY I

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 !....¹

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 II

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,



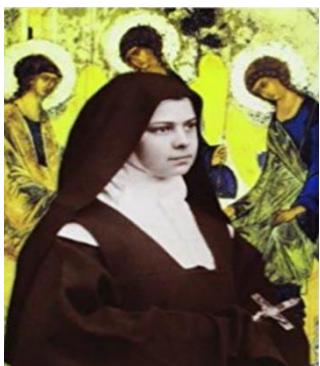
Light the pathway of your pilgrims
To the Promised Land of God.
On the mount of contemplation
Be our surety and stay,
In the night a pillar glowing
And a cloud of love by day.
Virgin of the Incarnation,
In the mysteries of grace

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 dwellⁱⁱ.

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!"³.

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 III

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

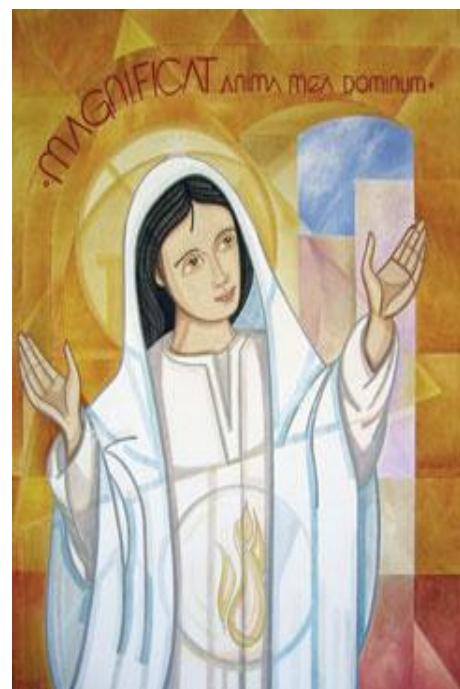
Let us in spirit make our way
To Carmel’s mountain height;
Our Virgin Mother calls us there
To gather flowers of light.

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!⁴



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”⁵

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 IV

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 everlasting
And pour forth love's unending songs⁶.



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”⁷.

“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”⁸

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 V

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”.

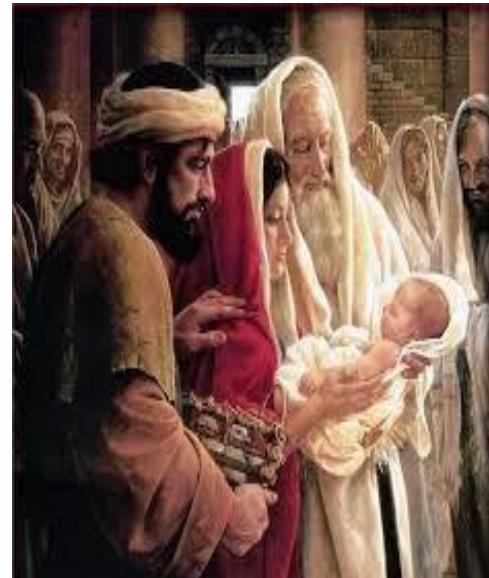
Hymn

*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, lilyum,
serva puras mentes fragilium, tutelaris.

Per incerta prudens consilium,
per adversa juge 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 VI

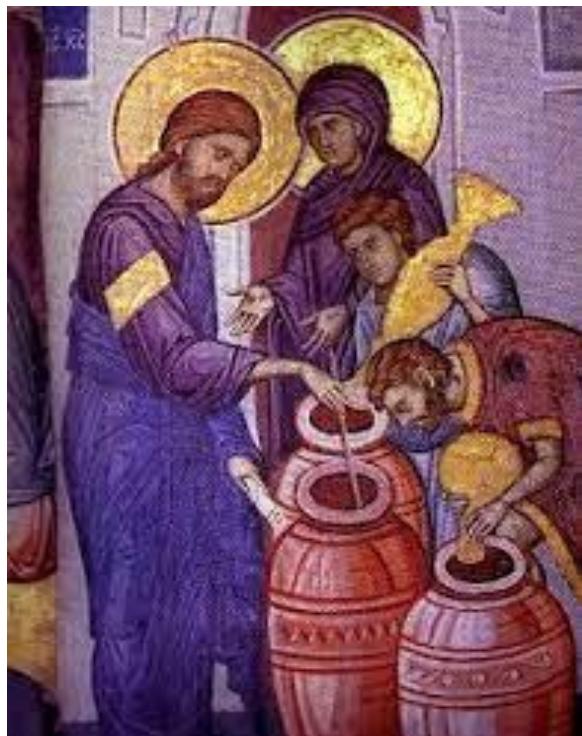
MARY IN THE WEDDING OF CANA

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!"⁹.

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 VII

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 VIII

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?



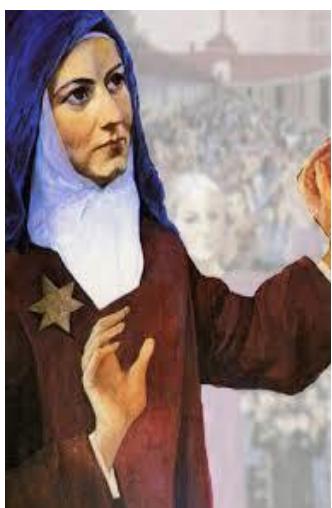
In Latin

1 Stabat Mater dolorosa/ Juxta crucem lacrimosa,/ Dum pendebat
Filius. 2 Cujus animam gementem,/ contristatam et dolentem, /
Pertransivit gladius. 3 O quam tristis et afflita / Fuit illa benedicta,

/Mater Unigeniti! 4 Quae maerebat et dolebat,/ Pia Mater, dum videbat /Nati poenas incliti. 5 Quis non posset contristari, / Piam Matrem contemplari / Dolentem cum Filio? 6 Quis est homo qui non fleret, /Matrem Christi si videret / In tanto suppicio?

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” ¹⁰

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 IX

MARY AT PENTECOST

Opening antiphon

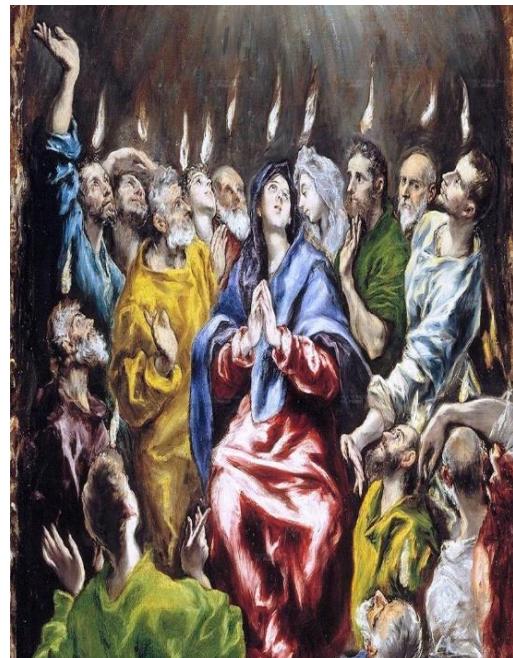
“Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel, we are members of your family; endow us with your own virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger”.

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 heart.



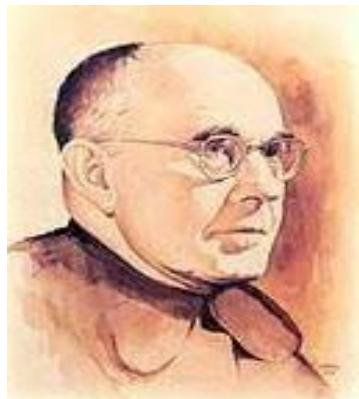
(Words & music brought to Bettendorf from Baltimore Carmel in 1911¹¹.
© copyright 2002 Eldridge Carmel Music score: see Appendix 1)

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 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"¹²

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 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.

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”¹³.

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”¹⁴.

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”¹⁵.

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).

Abbreviations (St. Teresa of Jesus)

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

ST Spiritual Testimonies

Notes

¹ St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Poem 54.

ⁱⁱ Music 87. 87. D (Austria, etc. Hyfrydol) Words: Sr. Miriam OCD

³ St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, *Heaven in faith*, n. 40, day 10.

⁴ Carmeli ad altos vertices Tr. unnown Tune C.M. (Dunfermline, Crimond, etc.)

⁵ Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., *Biblical Exercises with Mary to reach Jesus*, n. 42, 63.

⁶ Bro. John Leonard Davies, OCD, 12.12.12.8 (Das Herrlich Hohe Fest)

⁷ St. John of the Cross, *Romance IX*

⁸ St. John of the Cross, *Ascent* 3, 2, 10

⁹ St. Maravillas of Jesus, *Era Así*, Madrid 1993, n. 909, 910, 913, 926, 944, 950, 922, 918..

¹⁰ Teresa RENATA dello S. S., *Edith Stein*, Brescia 1952, 135.

¹¹ Permission granted for use with Novena provided creditation is given as follows:
'Words & music brought to Bettendorf from Baltimore Carmel in 1911'.

¹² (Servant of God, Bartolomé Xiberta O. Carm., *Fragmentos doctrinales*, 352-357.

¹³ Quoted in *La Virgen de la Contemplación*, p. 163.

¹⁴ Quoted in *La Virgen de la Contemplación*, p. 136. Later, this type of consecration was promoted by St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort,

¹⁵ Francisco PALAU Writings, *My Relations*, II, 7, p.783-784.

