

# SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

510 N. El Molino St., Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | [www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org](http://www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org)

October 11, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

## Here's What Makes Our School The Best School in the World!

### We Offer...

- Carmelite Friars Teaching in the Classroom
- Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grade
- Weekly Mass & Monthly Confession for the Students
- Euclidean Geometry and Latin
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Music, Art, P.E., CYO Sports
- After-School Daycare Enrichment Program
- Affordable Tuition



*"Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."  
-St. Theresse of Lisieux*

# Fr. Philip's Dream



Dear Friends,

In a homily I gave in 2017 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I quoted Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen from his book, *The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God*. He suggested that God "dreamed" His Mother perfect: "She existed in the Divine Mind as an Eternal Thought before there were any mothers. She is the Mother of mothers—she is the world's first love." God dreams and amazing things happen! What happens when you dream?

We often use the word "dream" to mean: fulfilling our desires and ambitions in life. To get accepted to a prestigious university or to achieve professional success could be a dream come true for some. Have you ever imagined the perfect "dream home"? We have heard the expressions, "the American Dream," "pipe dreams," "daydreams," "field of dreams" and "dream boat." Martin Luther King's dream was that one day there would be an end to the culture of racism in America. Fulfilling our dreams is important; but if our dreams in this life are anything other than getting to Heaven, they will quickly turn into nightmares!

While my dreams are different today than from the days of my youth, I still dream and I dream BIG! When I arrived here to St. Therese Parish, I dreamt of a thriving school that is unapologetically Catholic, orthodox, and Carmelite, trustworthy from textbooks to teachers. I dreamt of a perfect principal whose sole desire is to save souls for Christ and who could courageously lead, govern, and help reform St. Therese School! I dreamt of a perfect curriculum that will teach our children to learn, think, and hunger for knowledge without Google spoiling the fun! I dreamt of a school that is compatible with the mission of our parish, which is to preserve the traditions of the Church. I dreamt of a school that is affordable to growing families who otherwise could not financially consider Catholic education. I dreamt of a school whose main objective was to create an environment wherein the student can BECOME A SAINT! And let's not forget, our formation does not subscribe in any way to Common Core. Yes, I still dream and I like to dream BIG!

I want to thank my parishioners for all of your prayers, encouragement, and financial support for our Parish School. Your prayers and financial support are ever more important as the current crisis threatens the viability of small schools such as ours. Many of you have seen for yourselves my dream come true! In the world, more than ever, because of the crisis we are experiencing in schools, there are parents searching for authentic Catholic teaching, for excellence in education, for a school they can trust. We need to spread the word! We have the best School in the world. Come and see for yourself and invite your family and friends to take a personalized tour of our one-of-a-kind School!

I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our **Jog-a-Thon on Saturday, October 17**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in our church parking lot. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** This will be my last jog-a-thon at the School. Run with me for our School! Together with my Carmelite brothers, I have given my all to reforming this School. My last activity at the Parish will be to run in faith with and for our students, for these young souls, and for their future. Together, let's run this race for the future of our Church.

We should never doubt that a small group of committed and faithful Catholics can change the world; indeed, it is the only way it ever has. Ponder these words from Thomas Jefferson: "One man with courage is a majority." Come see my dream come true!

The time has come for me to decrease and for Fr. Thomas Koller to increase. I leave you in very good hands. Saint Therese Carmelite School belongs to Christ, and He will continue to nourish it and continue the good work that has only just begun.



God bless you,  
**Fr. Philip of Our Lady of Guadalupe, OCD**  
 Pastor (through October 15, 2020)



# New Pastor & Principal Notes

Dear Staff, Parents and Children of Saint Thérèse Carmelite School,

I have barely arrived from my previous assignment at our House of Studies in Mount Angel, Oregon, and I am just starting to settle in here at our beautiful Parish and School, so I hardly know anyone yet. But I can assure you that I am delighted and extremely blessed to be back here again where, 30 years ago, I was assigned as a newly-ordained priest in our Carmelite Province of St. Joseph. The San Gabriel Valley is also the area where I grew up and went to school (Covina—not too far from where Brother Jason grew up!), so I feel right at home.



You and Fr Philip are all already "living the dream." Your enthusiasm is contagious and makes me eager to get going and live the dream, too: to contribute whatever I can to a dynamic, classical, Carmelite and thoroughly-Catholic School that helps everyone involved to surrender to the Blessed Trinity and let themselves be formed into living, joyful, Holy Spirit-filled saints, rooted in family love and trained in responding to the real needs of our time!!!

I am in awe of what you all and Fr. Philip have already done! With St. Therese, let us continue to be confident that Jesus will complete this good work that He and you have begun (Philippians 1:6). Let us all continue working together toward the STCS goal of an INCREASING personal, living communion with Jesus and Mary and St. Joseph and with one another, for the glory of God, the building up of His one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church, and the salvation of everyone!!!

WOO HOOOOOOOOO!!! GO-O-O-O-O Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, St. Thérèse, and Saint Thérèse Carmelite School!!!

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph,

**Fr. Thomas of the Trinity, OCD**

Your New Pastor (Beginning October 16, 2020)

PS: See you at the rollerblade....uhh... at the Jog-A-Thon!!!

Dear St. Therese Parish Community,

"Go and do the little things well." I encourage our thriving band of TK-8th grade students and teachers with this phrase every day at the conclusion of morning assembly. Here, we begin each day with prayer and briefly discuss the saint of the day or a virtue. The Carmelite spirit of prayer and a desire for authentic holiness is carried throughout the school day and lives in the hearts of our students, teachers, and families. We do not apologize for our aspiration to become saints, the essential call of all Christians. Thus, at Saint Therese Carmelite School, we intentionally foster and nurture a truly Catholic environment through classroom instruction, the Sacraments, school culture, and the faithful witness of our Carmelite friars and practicing Catholic teachers.



To keep tuition costs as low as possible, over half of the school budget comes from donations, and so I also invite you to prayerfully consider making a contribution of material resources or time. Above all, please remember us in prayer and, for those of you have supported us in any way so far, thank you for investing in our students and community. Your contributions go a long way in the formation of saints!

Under the Mantle of Our Lady of Mount Carmel!

**Alma Cornejo, Principal**

[www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)

*"Deeply rooted in Carmelite spirituality, Saint Therese Carmelite School seeks to form students in faith, academics, and virtue through a Classical education."*

We are accepting new students!  
Apply by contacting us at 289-3364 or  
at [admin@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com](mailto:admin@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com).

# Witness from A STCS Parent

By Candice Orozco



Dear Fellow Parishioners and Fellow School Parents,

It has been a true joy and blessing to have our children attend Saint Therese Carmelite School for almost four years now. Prior to attending STCS, we spent seven years as a homeschooling family. When we finally chose to enroll our children in a school, it was a difficult decision, one that we did not make lightly.

You see, my husband and I came from very different educational backgrounds that made the choice all the more difficult. I had attended public school from Grades K-12 and then went on to become a teacher within the public school system. Not only was I disappointed in my own educational experiences, but my time as a teacher in the public schools was disappointing in an entirely different way. It seemed that the public schools endured endless changes in curriculum and were always at the mercy of current government trends. Just as quickly as a curriculum was adopted, it was cast aside in the next great attempt to improve State test scores. It was very frustrating to endure these changes as a teacher, and even more so for my students. With that in mind,

my husband and I decided that our children would not be following in my educational footsteps.

It would seem that our choice was now evident. If we decided not to go public, then Catholic school would surely be the answer. If only it were that easy! My husband had attended Catholic schools for his K-12 education, so we decided to analyze his experiences to gain some insight. He was fortunate to attend wonderful Catholic schools with a strong academic focus. His Catholic high school is even considered one of the most academically-rigorous high schools in the area. Many would describe his educational experience as "top notch". However, we noticed an unfortunate trend within the Catholic school community. Class reunion upon class reunion, we came to discover that few, if any, of his classmates had remained practicing Catholics. Worse yet, many became outspoken adversaries of the Faith. Having come from the public school system myself, I was genuinely baffled. I wondered why we would send our children to Catholic schools when so many of the students attending these schools were not remaining Catholic? Isn't that the entire point of it all? As we researched the faith formation of local Catholic schools, we became more and more frustrated and concerned.

Fortunately, our frustrations dissipated and our prayers were answered at an Open House for Saint Therese Carmelite School. Having been parishioners, we were aware that they had a school, but we were also concerned with our findings about the Catholic school community. We needed to know what made STCS different from these other Catholic schools. Well, one Open House and four years later, we can tell you! My husband and I call it "**The 3 Cs,**" and they are as follows:

## CATHOLICISM

There is a reason that this is the first "C". Catholicism is genuinely a priority at STCS. The faith formation is truly impressive, and every aspect of the School is rooted in Carmelite spirituality. Speaking of the Carmelites, we have the Carmelite friars regularly on campus, with Bro. Jason serving as a teacher for the 7th Grade. The Carmelites are ever-present for School activities, assemblies, field trips, sports, and more. They can be seen praying over children, playing basketball with them, instructing them in painting religious works of art, teaching them how to make rosaries, offering them spiritual guidance, or hearing frequent confessions. The School is also closely located to the Carmelite Sisters and Cloistered Nuns as well. On occasion, they will pay a visit to our STCS students or the students get to take a walk to the monastery to pay a visit to them. It is a great blessing to have our children surrounded by religious life. The School and its community genuinely exude the Faith, and Catholicism is undoubtedly more than just a title at STCS.

(Continued from previous page)

## CLASSICAL

The next “C” addresses our concerns over curriculum. As Fr. Philip puts it, “Classical never goes out of style.” At STCS, there are no curricular trends to keep up with. The students are reading classical, timeless pieces of literature that have been used to educate generations. The curriculum encompasses all that is good, true, and beautiful in our world and gives due credit to our Creator. The students spend time committing intricate poems and significant speeches to memory, as well as dressing the part and acting out classic scenes from works by Shakespeare and Sophocles. The curriculum is not something they merely “DO;” it becomes so much a part of who they ARE as developing Catholic youth.

## COMMUNITY

Last but not least, the final “C,” is for community. This last “C” is not to be underestimated. Leaving our homeschool community was incredibly challenging, and we genuinely thought that the community at a brick and mortar school would be more difficult to cultivate. We were wrong—wildly wrong! We were welcomed to STCS from the start and felt an instant sense of safety and care for our children. Parents regularly reach out to one another to offer help with transportation, School events, faith formation, youth group, sporting events, and so on. Our children have formed friendships of great value and, as parents, we have done the same. Above all, it is a community rooted in faith and we are confident that each of us is here to grow in virtue and lift each other up in our goal towards sainthood. It is sincerely a privilege to be a part of the STCS community.

In closing, we pray that others will have the opportunity to experience what we have here at STCS. We genuinely believe that Saint Therese Carmelite School is a gift to all who choose to experience it, and we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to those who continue to contribute to our School and recognize the need for families to have access to a truly Catholic, classical education. Thank you!

# Classical Education

A Classical Education enables students to develop, form, and strengthen their minds. The end of this educational process is wisdom. Man desires by nature to know, and that means we want to have not only the facts, but also the reasons for the facts. We want to think about the most noble and interesting things. Therefore, the goal of education is to teach children how to think—to help them “learn the art of learning.” If children learn how to learn, they will be able to master *any* subject. In large measure, the role of the teacher of both Grade School and High School children is this: teaching the students to think.

Saint Therese Carmelite School is faithful to the doctrine and teaching of the Catholic Church, which enlightens and informs all the areas of the curriculum. It is not the number of facts children are acquainted with that measures their educational success, but it is instead what they are able to do with those facts, such as make distinctions, follow an argument, make reasonable deductions from the facts and, finally, to have the right judgment about the way things are.

The ultimate end of Classical Education is to enable the students to better know and glorify God. Classical education teachers ask God to use their teaching, dispositions, and actions as instruments in His hand to cultivate the students’ souls toward holiness. In this sense, learning is a means of grace.



To fulfill a good of a lower order, one must proceed to the good of the next highest order (e.g., to fulfill the good of finishing homework, the student must proceed to the slightly higher good of trying to get a good grade; to rightly gain food and shelter, we must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; to get into the most appropriate college and to do well when we get there, we must seek wisdom and virtue). Failure to recognize this principle in every area of education and life leads to a disordered soul and a school that cannot succeed in what it values most highly. To nurture rightly-ordered souls requires the cultivation of the moral imagination.

The knowledge, insights, or experiences we are given lay on each of us the duty of stewardship. “To whom much is given, much will be required.” What we do with what we are given is the principle of our accountability.

# MEET OUR STAFF!

**Principal: Mrs. Alma Cornejo** is in her 6th year as Principal of STCS. She holds a Master's in School Counseling, a Master's in Psychology, has a Pupil Personnel Services Credential, and is certified in Level 2 for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She has over 12 years of administrative experience and over 18 years of teaching experience. Her passion is Catholic education, and it is contagious!

**Transitional Kindergarten / Kindergarten: Mrs. Ana Vallejo** is in her sixth year of teaching at STCS. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She is certified in both Levels 1 and 2 for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She is the TK/K Homeroom teacher and teaches Religion to First and Second Grades. She enjoys reading and board games.

**Grades One and Two: Mrs. Darlene Karnis** is in her second year of teaching at STCS. Her expertise in Early Child Education from the Franciscan University of Steubenville is a great asset to our young scholars. She loves teaching reading and helping students to learn to read properly with the use of phonics. She enjoys spending time with her husband and children.

**Grades Three and Four: Miss Rosario Miranda** is in her sixth year of teaching at STCS. She graduated from Thomas Aquinas College with a double major in Philosophy and Theology, and a double minor in Mathematics and Natural Science. She enjoys fine tuning her guitar skills over hot chocolate.

**Grades Five and Six: Miss Kathleen Malone** (pictured below with some of her students) has been teaching at STCS for six years. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cal State Fullerton with a BA in Comparative Literature, Composition, and Rhetoric, with a minor in Linguistics. She serves as both Vice-Principal and teacher to Grades Five and Six. She is certified in Level 1 for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She enjoys writing, including her thirty published student composition texts and literature guides.

**Grade Seven: Bro. Jason of the Holy Spirit, OCD,** is in his fourth year teaching at STCS. He graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with a Bachelor of Theology. He also holds an MA in Theology from Mount Angel Seminary. He currently teaches all subjects in Seventh Grade and Religion to Seventh and Eighth Grades. He enjoys making rosaries, studying astronomy, and reading C. S. Lewis.

**Grade Eight: Miss Heidi Tittmann** is in her fourth year of teaching at STCS. She graduated from Thomas Aquinas College with a double major in Philosophy and Theology. She holds a Master's degree in Education from Penn State and a teaching credential in both Pennsylvania and California. She is currently the Eighth Grade homeroom teacher, and she also teaches Euclidean Geometry and 2nd-year Latin. She enjoys traveling, biking, swimming, playing the piano, baking, and spending time with family.

**Instructional Aide: Miss Marybeth Duncan** is her second year teaching at STCS. She graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a degree in kinesiology. She teaches PE to all our students, and phonics to TK students.



**Instructional Aide: Mrs. Coreen Hwang** is her seventh year at STCS. She graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a degree in Psychology. She holds a clear California credential. She teaches art to all our students; math, literature, and phonics in Second Grade; math and literature in Fourth Grade; and Latin in Third Grade.

**Distance Learning Aide: Miss Frances Cornejo** is in her first year as an aide at Saint Therese Carmelite School. She is an alum of STCS and is currently homeschooling in Eleventh Grade. She enjoys making a difference in the lives of children.

**Administrative Assistant: Miss Megan Duncan** is in her sixth year at STCS. In addition to being Administrative Assistant, she is certified in Level 1 for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She enjoys taking walks and quietly serves those in need.

# Mass Intentions

# Adopt-A-Saint

For the Week of October 10-17, 2020

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Ernest & Laura Emond & Family, RIP

Sunday

\*7:30 am: President Donald Trump INT

7:30 a.m.: Ciriaca Seguerra, INT

9:00 am Jose Contreras, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Megan Grimm, B-day INT

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Usulina Aquino, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: 1) Ryan Anthony Siy, B-day INT

2) Madge Tittmann, 20th B-day INT

Tuesday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Suzy Rahardja, INT

9:00 a.m.: 1) Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

2) Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP

Wednesday

\*7:30 a.m.: President Donald Trump

9:00 a.m.: 1) Kin Cheah, INT

2) Nelson & Angela Williams, RIP

Thursday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Rosario "Loy" Valenzuela, INT

9:00 a.m.: 1) The McAllister Family, INT

2) Discalced Carmelite Friars of the CA-AZ Province, INT

Friday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Cynthia Diep & Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: 1) Joyce Turney, RIP

2) Gerardo Adan, RIP

Saturday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

9:00 a.m.: 1) Robert John Hopkins, INT

2) Joyce Turney, RIP

\*Held at the \*Carmelite Chapel (CLOSED FOR NOW)

## NOTE:

The 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday–Saturday) is held outside for the public; it is live streamed on Facebook for those not attending. The Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass is also live streamed on Facebook.

Saint Therese Carmelite School, united with our parents — the primary educators of their children—



seeks to form students ("saints") in faith, academics, and virtue through a classical education. Our School cannot survive without YOUR help! If we raise tuition to match costs, the cost of education at Saint Therese would make it difficult, if not impossible, for many families who desire a Catholic education to attend.

Please consider helping us to keep tuition down by "adopting a saint"! Here are some stats to help you make a decision:

If you can help, please make a donation by visiting the School's website ([www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)) and clicking on the tab "Donate".

- \$4,980 will sponsor one year's tuition for one child
- \$2,490 will sponsor half a year's tuition for one child
- \$1,000 will sponsor one family's annual fundraising fee
- \$500 will sponsor one child's student fees
- \$150 will sponsor one 8th Grade Student's Graduation fee
- \$80 will sponsor one child's sport's fee.

# Thank You to All Our Benefactors!

Last—but certainly **NOT** least—we want to take this opportunity to thank all our benefactors for your support of the school—both financially and through your prayers. Your backing is deeply appreciated! Be assured of our prayers for you as well.

On the second weekend of every month we have a Second Collection for the support of Saint Therese Carmelite School. We again ask for your generosity in assisting us to sustain this faithful Catholic School. God bless you!

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Parishioner

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 of ADVERTISED coffee  
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 in an ADVERTISED car  
 and then . . . .  
 refuses to ADVERTISE  
 believing it doesn't pay.  
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**WHY IS IT?**



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