

St. Therese Catholic Church

July 24, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



“(The man said) in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence” (Luke 11:7-8).

MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses—Saturday: 8:00 a.m. & Vigil at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

And Traditional Latin High Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday Masses: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook

AND YouTube);

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish),

Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD X222

Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;

Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD X225; Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD;

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

Deacons: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pg Grimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI 12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page
or on the Church's website >Our School > Videos



SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

Letter from the Pastor

Blessed 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time!

Last week our Lord Jesus encouraged us not to compare ourselves to others, but trust that the good portion (sitting at His feet and listening to Him) is meant for everyone to have. Knowing that a life of deeper prayer and learning *how* to listen to Him in prayer is not easy at first, Jesus teaches us *how to pray*. And not only does He teach us how to pray, but even how to pray when we feel that He is not listening to us, when we're having a *bad prayer day!*

"If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" We don't even have to ask Him for the Holy Spirit (although it is always good to ask, "*Come Holy Spirit!*") because--as the best possible Father--He is already at work to give us His Spirit!

Let us look at the box below to read about one of the biggest obstacles to deeper prayer and growing in child-like trust in our Heavenly Father.



Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph,
-Fr. Thomas, OCD



How Baptism Heals Wounds of Rejection

(Chapter 3 of *Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments* by Bob Schuchts)

"Every child a wanted child!" You may recognize this slogan as the rallying cry of the Planned Parenthood organization over many decades. I suspect it originated out of the life experience of its founder, Margaret Higgins Sanger. According to her biographers, Sanger grew up as the middle child in a family of eleven children. Her mother, a devout Catholic, died at the age of forty-nine. Sanger's father, though also a baptized Catholic, became increasingly antagonistic to Christianity throughout his life. Sanger's biographers report that he drank heavily, provided poorly for his family, and spent much of his time and energy railing against Christian morality.

Watching her mother suffer through multiple miscarriages while caring for a large and growing family without her father's financial or emotional support must have been very difficult for the young Sanger. It is not hard to imagine that she saw herself as that prototypical overlooked child. Her biographers attest that Sanger's worldview was intrinsically shaped by her mother's premature death, which Sanger blamed on too many pregnancies and miscarriages. At her mother's funeral, Sanger reportedly screamed at her father, "You caused this. Mother is dead from having too many children!"

You might think she would identify more with her mother, whom she loved. But instead Sanger, vowing to escape her mother's fate, followed in her father's footsteps, railing against all things sacred. Given her life experience as a child, she readily accepted the popular hysteria about overpopulation in the world and embraced eugenics, a philosophy that sought to eliminate the "unworthy" members of society in order to form a superior race.

These insights from Sanger's childhood and young adult years make sense of her lifelong disdain for Christianity and her burning passion to "save" women and society from the burden of "unwanted" children. Both her personal life choices and her "missionary" work in establishing Planned Parenthood reveal her consuming zeal to prevent the birth of any child who she believed might be a burden to family or society. Additionally, she vowed to save every woman from what she considered the triple tyranny of faith, marriage, and childbearing. Birth control and abortion were the preferred "sacraments" in Sanger's religion. Through her influence, they have become the practical religion throughout much of Western civilization.

Sanger's anti-Gospel message, which St. John Paul II referred to as the "Gospel of death," is not original to her. We might also refer to it as a "Gospel of rejection." It actually started back at the beginning of time when Lucifer first rejected God's love and spread this cancerous wound of rejection throughout the world. After deceiving our first parents to mistrust the Father's love, he has been on a mission to "steal and slaughter and destroy" every life since (John 10:10).

At first glance, Sanger's motto of "every child a wanted child" sounds eerily similar to the teaching of the Church, but in reality it stands in direct opposition. Sanger's solution was to *reject* and eliminate any child *not wanted* by family or society. The Church, in contrast, values every human life and believes that every child is wanted and worthy of being welcomed into the world with love. Kimberly Hahn beautifully articulates the Church's position in a few succinct words: "Children are only and always a blessing... They have value for their own sake because they are created by God in His image. Children are pure gift."

In the Father's household, there are no unwanted children, only ones who have not yet realized their true dignity. In God's kingdom, *every child is a wanted child* because every single person is created by God and chosen in Christ from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4; CCC, 1077). In the Father's heart, there are no throwaway or disposable children, or adults for that matter. We are all wanted and have inestimable value because we are made in the image and likeness of our God, who is love (1 John 4:8).

The Gospel of life and love is best exemplified by another woman, St. Teresa of Calcutta, who—throughout her life and missionary work—reverenced the image of God in every person. Championing life, she cherished every person she encountered, giving special care to those whom the world would deem unfit and unwanted. Ultimately, she invited the outcasts and discarded of society to experience the intimate love of Jesus, leading many to receive their true dignity in the Sacrament of Baptism. In St. Teresa's worldview, there truly were no unwanted children, only ones not yet fully blessed.

Baptism is a public blessing declaring that you and I are precious and unrepeatable gifts of the Father. By restoring our relationship with God, Baptism fundamentally heals the wounds of rejection that have plagued the human race since our fall from grace. Though God never rejected Adam and Eve, their decision to reject Him invited a curse of rejection into the world, which has infected all of humanity. Subsequently, every child born into this world is marked with an inherent deficiency due to original sin (Romans 6; CCC, 396-398). Outside of Baptism, we remain cut off from the Father's love and delight. In Christ (through Baptism), this primordial curse of rejection is overcome as we receive the Father's blessing and are elevated to participate in His Trinitarian love. Thus begins the long journey of healing and reintegration, where the Holy Spirit, with our cooperation, restores us to wholeness and reestablishes our identity in the image of God. We become, as St. Paul says, "new creations" in Christ: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17-18).

In Baptism, we receive the blessing that the Father bestowed upon Jesus at His Baptism: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). United with Christ, we become the Father's beloved in whom He delights. The same Holy Spirit who descended as a gift upon Jesus also comes to dwell in us. Through this supernatural rebirth, the Father pours out His love as pure gift, washing us clean (by the Blood of Jesus and the symbol of water) of anything that would defile us and filling our hearts with His love. In this process of cleansing and regeneration, every baptized person is sealed as the Father's beloved child. As the gateway to our life in the Spirit, Baptism stands at the very center of the Gospel of life and love, communicating into the depths of individual souls the supernatural graces flowing from Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In this sacred rite, we are cleansed, signed, sealed, and delivered; rescued from the clutches of the evil one who would seek to kill and destroy us; and brought safely into the hands of our Heavenly Family (Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 John 3:2; CCC, 1213, 1216, 1234, and 1279).



(THIS EXCERPT WILL CONTINUE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN)

Faith and Love in the *Eucharist*



7-Day Eucharistic Conference

July 23 -30 { Mass 7:00 pm | Talk 8:00 pm



Fr. Ed Broom, OMV
Obates of the Virgin Mary

St. Therese Roman Catholic Church, 1100 E Alhambra Rd, Alhambra, CA 91801

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, is presenting this FREE 7-evening Eucharistic Conference, **“Faith and Love in the Eucharist,”** each evening this week (through July 30). There will be Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by the talk at 8:00 p.m. Don’t miss this chance to enrich your knowledge and love of Jesus in the Eucharist!

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HOMEMADE GIFTS FOR SALE



The Egyptian Missionary Sisters of the Agape Congregation (Monastery of St. Macarius the Great of Egypt) have relocated to California to minister with youth,

children, and families.

In order to establish a permanent monastery here, **they have come to St. Therese this weekend (see them after the Masses) to sell handmade articles** (a unique collection of tablecloth, table runners, icons, Christian jewelry) and a collection of gifts from Egypt and many other countries (religious tapestries, crosses, rosaries, gifts for kids, etc.). The Sisters will very much appreciate your support!

SNAKES AND SCORPIONS AND PRAYERS? OH, MY!

How often do we hear about snakes and scorpions at Mass? We do today when Jesus uses these frightful images for their shock value in order to emphasize how graciously and unfailingly our Father in Heaven cares for us. The first reading sets the stage for our reflection. Who can hear the story of Abraham negotiating with God in the first reading and not smile at his audacity? The middle Eastern custom of bartering likely honed Abraham's skills in that arena. He even appeals to God's sense of honor, saying, "Far be it from you to do such a thing" [as to wipe out the innocent with the guilty]. Have we not all bargained with God at one time or another when we were desperately in need?

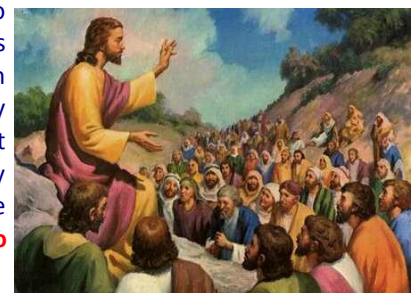
Notice that the first words of today's Gospel are "Jesus was praying." The disciples were curious about a practice so central to Jesus' life. Perhaps they wanted to know how they could more easily "influence" God themselves! Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer is highlighted in response to the disciples' request.

The parable of the friend who knocks on the door at midnight illustrates prayer from the point of view of someone who urgently needs something. Persistence is the key. The last section of the Gospel offers us a glimpse of prayer from God's

point of view: "If you seek, you will find; if you knock, the door will be opened." Jesus talks about praying for whatever we need with faith and confidence, but He ends by asking, "How much more will the Father...give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 1:13). Is He saying there are limits to what we can ask for? "Be careful what you ask for," the saying warns. Just because we want something doesn't mean it will be good for us.

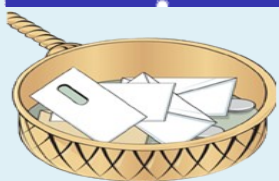
Remember the Indiana Jones movies? The artifact that the bad guys were seeking usually turned out to be lethal. But if we have enough faith to pray for something, we probably would not pray for anything evil. So what is Jesus really saying? He is giving us two lessons about prayer. First, He assures us that God does hear our prayers and answers them. Many people take "ask and you shall receive" so literally that they expect God to do their bidding no matter what they want. Prayers, however, are not a magical ritual that somehow forces God to do our will. God is free to do what is best for us, free to answer some prayers with a "no" when what we seek is against God's will. So, maybe our first prayer should be to ask God to show us what we really need.

That leads us to the second lesson: prayer changes US, not God. If we truly pray as Jesus prayed, we would ask for what we need, adding, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). If we pray humbly and are open to what God wills for us, we will begin to see that what we really need most is actually God. It's not easy to change our minds about what we want or need. To change our desires from selfish to holy takes a lot of power, the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was raised from the dead by that power and we will be, too (Romans 8:11). Mary conceived by the power of the Spirit (Matthew 1:18). The bread and wine of the Eucharist become the Body and Blood of Christ by the Spirit's power. So when Jesus promises that the Father will give the Spirit to us for the asking, the Spirit is both the source of and the answer to our prayers. **Let us ask the Spirit to empower us to desire and pray for what we really need.**



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.



July 16 / 17, 2022
 Unrestricted..... \$8,385.00
 Restricted\$ 301.00
T O T A L.....\$8,686.00

June 18/19 \$10,107.00
June 25/26 \$10,720.00
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July 9/10\$22,082.00

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 Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

Fasting from the Wound of Insecurity

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

Now, if you obey me completely and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession among all peoples, though all the earth is mine."

-Exodus 19:5

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Romans 8:14-16

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of *insecurity*.

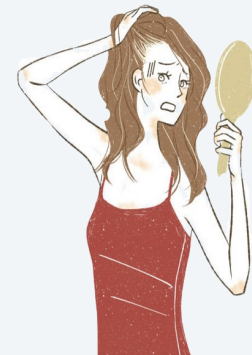
I was boarding a flight once, listening to the *beep, beep, beep* of



boarding passes being scanned in front of me. Suddenly, there was a harsh, dissonant tone. It was an invalid boarding pass. The poor offending passenger had mixed up his boarding passes. You could see his panic and fear at that moment as the security of his travel plans was cast into doubt. Insecurity is a form of fear that tells us we are not good enough, that we are not accepted or embraced. We believe that we are not welcome and secure in a hostile world. We see ourselves as incapable, inadequate, and unacceptable. Just as an invalid boarding pass keeps us off an airplane, our beliefs and emotions that are rooted in insecurity keep us out of life. Insecurity causes us to shrink from challenging situations or to overcompensate and strive. As you reflect on insecurity today, be attentive to your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.

Take time to ask yourself . . .

- What do I believe about myself and others when I feel like I don't belong?
- How do I react when I feel insecure?



Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce insecurity and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it. I reject insecurity in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I'm not safe" or "I'm not adequate." Send your Holy Spirit to heal, restore, and transform me. I belong to you. I am loved by you. I am chosen by you. I am known to you. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

July 23 to July 30, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Belen Juarez, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Poon Kin, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Benny Weko, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Goretta Garcia-Gomez & Family, INT

5:00 pm: Gilda, Rita, & Guillermo DeLaTorre, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Eufrocina Dasmarinan, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

8:00 a.m.: James Grimm, 19th Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Denise Sookham, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

*7:30 a.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Irene Marciuska, INT

7:00 p.m.: Eduardo & Isabel Alvarez, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Mario Lopez, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Therese, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Prosperador Lim, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Christo Sebastian, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Raymond Reyes, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Leon Grimm, 17th Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Victor Gilberto Arenas, Birthday INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Angie C. & Marcos Caños, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Religious, Relatives, and Benefactors of the Discalced Carmelite Order

8:00 a.m.: Emmylou Cadabuna, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Ann Burman-Ybarra, RIP

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road,
Alhambra, California.

The Carmel Chapel is open to the public every day **except Sundays.**

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.). Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

From *THE WAY OF PERFECTION*

by St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)



But after having received the Lord, since you have the Person Himself present, strive to close the eyes of the

body and open those of the soul and look into your own heart. For I tell you, and tell you again, and would like to tell you many times, that you should acquire the habit of doing this every time you receive Communion and strive to have such a conscience that you will be allowed to enjoy this blessing frequently.

Though He comes disguised, the disguise, as I have said, does not prevent Him from being recognized in many ways, in conformity with the desire we have to see Him. And you can desire to see Him so much that He will reveal Himself to you entirely (Chapter 34).

Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage with FR. RAYMOND BUENO, OCD, to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. \$3,295 (double room occupancy) includes round-trip non-stop AA flights from LAX, land travel by deluxe coach, 3*/4* hotels with private bath/daily breakfast/dinner, all touring, daily Mass. \$200 Early bird Discount by May 15th. Add \$450 for single room occupancy. For details, call Louisa & Jack Day at (323) 360-5186 or (323) 403-8768

14-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land (September 28 to October 11, 2022, led by Fr. Darrin Merino, CMF, for \$4,989). For more information, contact Parishioners Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 285-6687 or remembertoptl@sbcglobal.net.

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