



The Little Flower Weekly

An Addition to the St. Therese Parish Bulletin



FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME,
I AM THERE IN THE MIDST OF THEM.

MATTHEW 18:20

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A Message from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is so good to see so many of you at our outdoor Sunday and daily Masses. God has truly blessed our Parish! I would like to give you a friendly reminder to **PLEASE WEAR A MASK**, as required, when attending Mass or anytime you are anywhere on the church grounds. It is a state-mandated law which we need to follow. Some people have complained to me, but if they take their complaints to the County, then we run the risk of being shut down.



I am also required to let you know that Archbishop Gomez has **requested** that people receive Holy Communion in the hand. We cannot, however, refuse anyone who wishes to receive on the tongue. We do sanitize our hands after giving Communion in this way. It is our intention to be safe and to make you feel safe.

NOTICE RE LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY MASS

Because of the heat wave, the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass will be the one that is live streamed instead of the 11:00 a.m.

We continue to have the portable sinks on the perimeters of our “outdoor church”. Please utilize these as well as the available sanitizers. Our janitor, Mariano, is here every weekend to make sure the chairs and benches, as well as the restrooms, are sanitized in between the Masses.

REASSIGNMENTS: Also, as you can see in the bulletin (the link to it is on the e-mail cover letter), the Carmelite Provincial Council has made some new assignments and reassignments (check out Page Seven for some photos taken at the recent Provincial Council in Redlands). As shown on Pages Two and Three **of the bulletin**, you can see that **Fr. Matthias and I will both be transferred to new assignments**. He will be the Vocation Director and Postulant Master at Mount St. Joseph in San Jose, California, and I will be the Superior of the Carmelite Mission in Uganda, Africa. Because the borders to that country are temporarily closed due

to the Pandemic, I will not be able to go there until sometime in November. Although I will truly miss ministering here to all of you, I am very excited at the prospect of serving as a Missionary at our Carmelite Mission.



When he eventually arrives, please give a warm welcome to your new pastor, Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD. “Fr. Professor Koller” has been teaching at Mount Angel Seminary in Mount Angel, Oregon, for the last few years. Some of you will remember him from his time as an Associate Pastor at St. Therese in the 1990’s. He is also looking forward to being here with you!

May Our Lord and Our Lady of Mount Carmel protect you, guide you, and bless you! Your Pastor, Fr. Philip

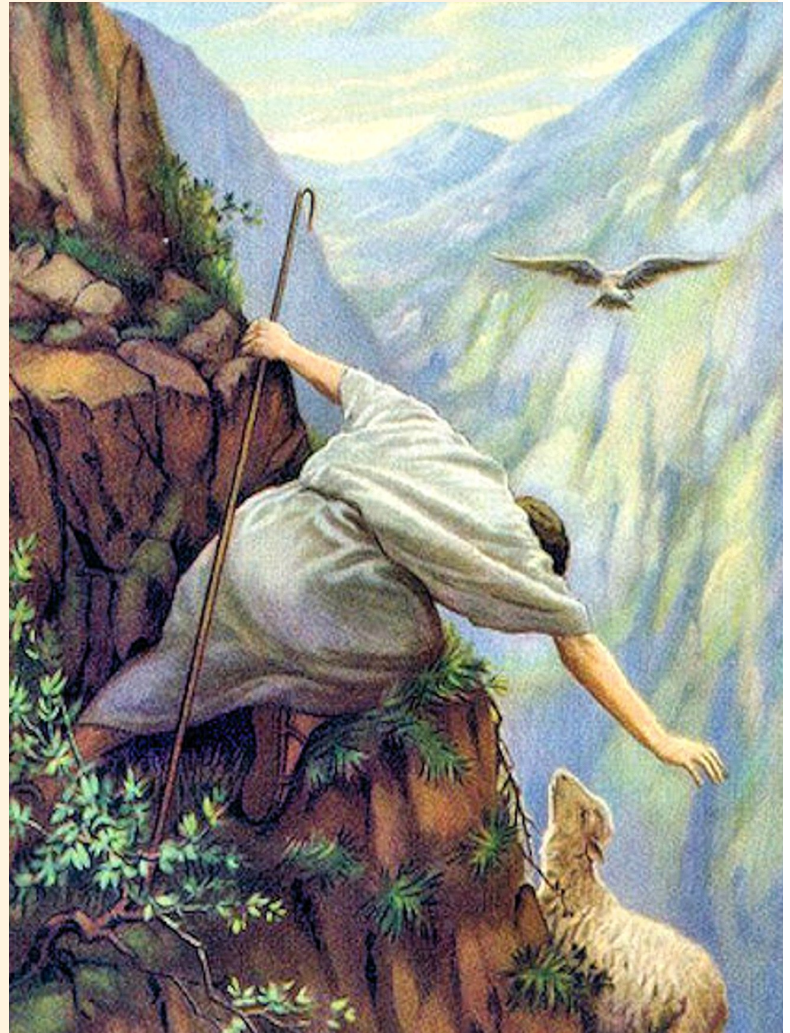
"Reach Out to His Little Lost Ones"

Today's Gospel reading is part of a larger discussion that begins with the disciples going to Jesus and asking Him a question: "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" He begins to answer their question by calling a child over and saying to them, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." He continues by warning them that anyone who causes a "little one" to sin would be better off drowned in the depths of the sea, maimed, or blinded.

He follows that caveat with the Parable of the Lost Sheep, which makes clear that God deeply loves each lost sinner who strays away from Him and that He doesn't abandon him to his life of sin, but seeks to save him. At the end of the parable, He says, "It is not the will of your Heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost." This divine love that forgives and saves should be manifested in our own lives.

Go to the One Who Sins Against You: Today's Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20) is a continuation of the discussion that began with the question the disciples asked Jesus. In it, He says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that **'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'**+ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the Church. If he refuses to listen even to the Church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

+Note: Notice that the highlighted words above are in quotes. This is because Jesus was referencing Deuteronomy 19:15, which says, "One witness alone shall not stand against someone in regard to any crime or any offense that may have been committed; a charge shall stand only on the testimony of two or three witnesses".



God wants us to love as He loves, even loving those whose sins may have directly harmed us in some way. This is hard. Sometimes we are not particularly forgiving and merciful towards those who sin. We can easily look down on them and imagine that we are much better than they, or we can become impatient that they are not like us.

When someone sins against us, we have to look beyond our pain. Indeed, we have to embrace that pain in the redemptive way that Christ shows on His Cross and in the Eucharist. We should not write that person off as lost, turn our back, or walk away. We should dare to go to the one who sinned against us and, with love, seek to bring him home to the Father's love.

Reconcile Them to the Church

In essence, this means that we need to live as missionaries, reaching out to lost sinners wherever we may encounter them. God loves them and wants to bring them back to Him through us. As the great Discalced Carmelite nun and mystic **St. Teresa of Avila** said, **“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”** He wants to speak His words through OUR lips.

I Am in the Midst of You

As we go out to fulfill Christ’s mission towards His lost sheep, He goes with us. We are not alone. He promised His disciples that He would be with them to the ends of the earth. This should give us confidence as these words were also intended for us. Jesus is with us, and He is going to help transmit His love for some lost soul through us, through our words and gestures. He will give us the strength to carry on His work.

Jesus concludes today’s Gospel reading with these words: “If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (18:19-20). We are with Him to the degree we are united to the Church. As we become more committed and involved in reaching out to others, the closer we will become to Jesus.



Conversation with Our Lord:

“Lord, help me to transmit your love for souls. Fill me with your love, the love that compelled you to offer your life on the Cross to free us from our sins. Move me to conquer my fears and complexes, my laziness and indifference, and to become engaged in the Church’s mission to save souls.

“Don’t let me blindly walk by the ones you love, the ones you shed your blood to redeem. Don’t let my heart harden against them, but help me to go to them with your love and forgiveness.”

"LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO..."

By Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD
Pastor

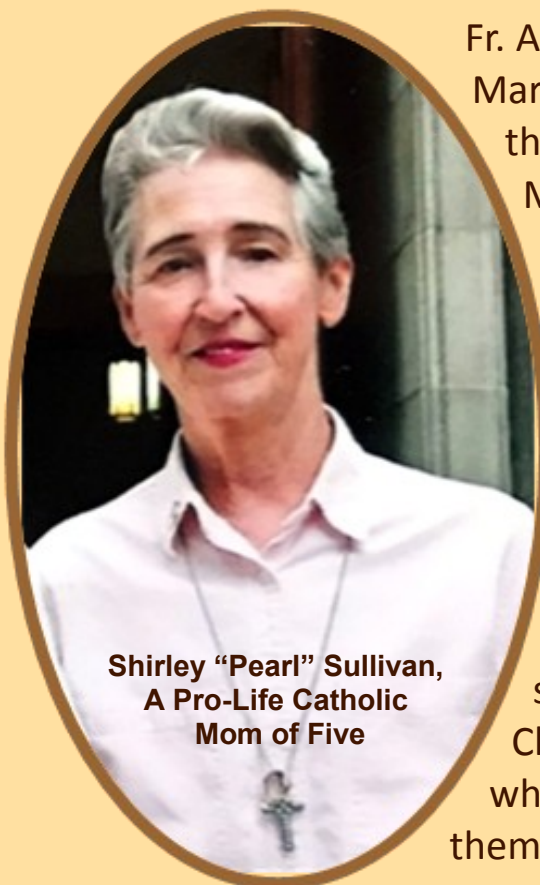
I would like to introduce you to two pro-life heroes. The first is Fr. James Altman, whom I recently heard about from my mom, Shirl "the Pearl" Sullivan.

Fr. Altman, the Pastor of St. James the Less Catholic Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, since May of 2017, is one of those priests who is not afraid to voice his opinions in opposition to the political hypocrisy within the Church and in the political arena among politicians who claim to be Catholic.

He is known for his courage to speak the truth, for standing up for solid Church teaching, for his defense of the unborn, and for his zeal for the salvation of souls. The U.S. Bishops have been the target for some of online homilies.



Fr. James Altman



Shirley "Pearl" Sullivan,
A Pro-Life Catholic
Mom of Five

Fr. Altman was an attorney with a family practice in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, when he heard and answered the call to the priesthood. Graduating from the University of St. Mary of the Lake's Mundelein Seminary outside Chicago, Fr. Altman was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse on June 28, 2008. Since then he has served as chaplain and teacher at Assumption High School before serving as a priest at three parishes in Wisconsin.

He finds it very frustrating to hear Catholics who support politicians who vote for abortion, quoting Pope Benedict XVI who said in 2007: "Under Church law, someone who knowingly backs something which the Church considers a grave sin, such as abortion, inflicts what is known as "automatic excommunication" on themselves.



Sr. Dierdre "DeDe" Byrne

The second hero is Sr. Deirdre "Dede" Byrne, a Sister of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts, a surgeon, and a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. She grew up in the Washington suburb of McLean, Virginia, in a large, devout, go-to-daily-Mass, Roman Catholic family. Sr. Dede quotes her mother that her call to serve others as a religious sister "started in utero."

She joined the military in 1978 to receive a military medical scholarship. After a three-year family medicine residency, she served 13 months in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, as liaison between the Army and the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery. After Sinai, Sr. Dede volunteered to serve in Korea to practice family and emergency medicine. She has also served as a missionary surgeon responding to natural and man-made crises in Kenya, Sudan, Haiti, and Iraq. Throughout these experiences, Sr. Dede was on a journey to discern her calling and to profess her vows as a woman religious.

In 2000, Sister came back to Washington, D.C., to begin an intense discernment process, ultimately joining the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts, an Italian order more than 120 years old. "It's a very traditional order. We live in community and pray together every day, including daily Mass and Adoration." She professed first vows in 2004, but the Army brought her back as a reservist and deployed her three times over the next six years. In 2009, she finally retired from the Army for good and professed final vows with the Little Workers in 2011.

She also helps women who have taken the abortion pill, but who regret that action. If they come to her within 72 hours of taking the pill, she can reverse the pill's trajectory and potentially save the life of the developing child. Sr. Dede has an ultrasound machine in her convent, which helps to save about 50% of the babies whose mothers come to the clinic for help in reversing the abortion. Sister says that she tries to comfort the pregnant women, assuring them that regardless of the outcome as the clinic attempts to save their child's life, Jesus is very pleased with what they are doing now. Often, patients who are expecting have visited Planned Parenthood, where they have been told that the pregnancy is "just a clump of cells." They're told that "You're black, you're unmarried, you need the money. You need to kill your baby." It's not unusual, Sister says, for a woman to tell her that she walked into the Planned Parenthood office pro-choice and left pro-life, because of the unkind treatment she received there.

You can find out more about each of these heroes by doing a general search of their names or by going to YouTube.com and entering their names in the search bar. Sr. Dede just spoke at the Republican National Convention, which you can see by clicking on the link on our e-mail cover letter.



The Discalced Carmelite Provincial Council



Attendees of the 2020 Provincial Council Meeting in Redlands



The newly-elected members of the Provincial Council:

- L-R: Fr. Matthew Williams, Fr. Ramiro Castillo, Fr. Adam Gonzales, Fr. Thomas Koller, Fr. Mark Kissner



Provincials of the Discalced Carmelite California-Arizona Province (missing: Fr. Michael Buckley, OCD, RIP)

L-R: Fr. Matthew Williams, Fr. Gerald Werner, Fr. Patrick Sugrue, Fr. Stephen Watson, Fr. Adam Gonzales (the current Provincial)

