

# St. Therese Catholic Church

April 3, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

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



## 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.** (Tues. and Thurs.

are preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 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., Monday-Saturday**

## 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](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

**Finance:** Noralyn Cailan X228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Paula Grimm | [pgrimm.dir@gmail.com](mailto:pgrimm.dir@gmail.com)

**Respect Life Ministry:** Catherine Contreras XI12

**GOSPEL EXCERPT:** Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery... They said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now, in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?" Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again, He bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So, He was left alone with the woman before Him (John 8:3-9).

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

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

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

[principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com](mailto:principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com)



## SACRAMENTS

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

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessed Fifth Week of Lent and Day 29 of the 40 Days of Lent!

We are heading into the last 10 days of Lent. Again, I encourage you to ask the Lord Jesus to guide your prayer, fasting, and works of mercy so that when Easter comes we can continue the springtime of healing and growth that Lent is bringing about. We don't want simply to go back to our old way of life. And one of the biggest places of ongoing healing that we all need is to our image and perception of our Heavenly Father. We all need to go deeper into letting go of relying on ourselves and, instead, to rely on Him for everything.

With this in mind, allow me to go back to last Sunday's Gospel about the Father of the Prodigal Son (\*a Prodigal is "a person who spends money in a recklessly extravagant way") who generously pours out his love on his two sons. Here are some details that emerge from a closer reading:



Let us try to summarize all of Luke 15:11-32. A father's younger son requests and receives possession and the right of disposal of his portion of his inheritance. Both the request and the granting of it are exceptional in Eastern life and thought. The Prodigal is in a hurry for his father to die. The father is expected to refuse and punish the Prodigal. Rather than punish his son, the father grants the request in an unprecedented act of love. The older son refuses to be a reconciler. Both sons fail to try to live together in unity. The Prodigal sells, and leaves, and loses all. He sees his sin as primarily the loss of the money and his ensuing inability to be cared for by his father. Reduced to herding pigs for a Gentile and eating bitter wild carob beans, he decides to go back to his village and to work there as a servant. He presumably—and with reason—is intensely apprehensive of his initial reception in the village.

Upon his return, the Prodigal is overwhelmed by an unexpected visible demonstration of love. He is shattered by the offer of grace, confesses unworthiness, and accepts restoration to sonship in genuine humility. Sin is now a broken relationship which he cannot restore. Repentance is now understood as acceptance of grace and confession of unworthiness. The community rejoices together. The visible demonstration of love in humiliation is seen to have clear

overtones of the atoning work of Christ. The older son then insults his father publicly and demonstrates himself to be as "lost" as his brother was in the far country. The father extends the same love in humiliation, but no confession and repentance result. Rather, the older son launches a bitter tirade against the father.

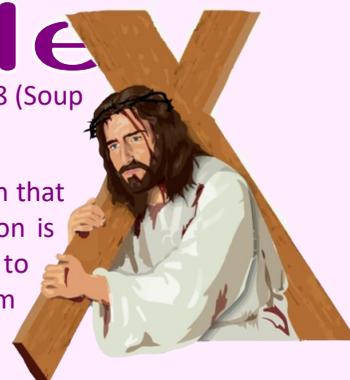
The parable closes with a final appeal for reconciliation. Both sons are seen as rebels needing a visible demonstration of love to win them from servanthood to sonship. Cultural and stylistic considerations make this similarity between the two sons clear. The listening Pharisee is pressed to see himself in the older son and to respond by accepting reconciliation. The major themes of the parable are sin, repentance, grace, joy, and sonship. When studied in the light of the Oriental culture that informs the text, this parable is indeed the "Evangelium in Evangelio" ("The Gospel within the Gospel") (The above is taken from *Poet and Peasant* and *Through Peasant Eyes: A Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke* by Kenneth E. Bailey.)

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

# Lenten Schedule

**SOUP NIGHTS / STATIONS:** The final night for Soup and Stations will be this Friday, April 8 (Soup in the Hall from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., followed by Stations in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

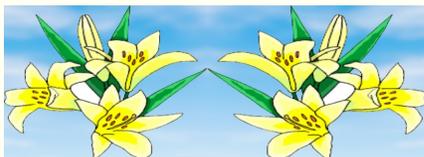
**FAST AND ABSTINENCE:** The next mandatory day of fast will be Good Friday, April 15. On that day, **FASTING** is obligatory for all Catholics ages 18 through 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to the full meal. The norms for **ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT** are binding upon all Catholics from age 14 and up (no upper age limit).



## Easter Flower Offerings

Help us beautify the altar for Easter! Make an Easter Flower offering using one of the envelopes from the pews and tables. On the top line, write the name of a deceased loved one, and that person will be enrolled in a Memorial Mass offered on Friday, May 6, at 6:00 a.m. (an Easter weekday Mass after the Third Sunday of Easter).

Thank you for your generosity!



## Lenten Movie

All are invited to join us for a Lenten Movie this coming Saturday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We will serve pizza and light snacks. Free Admission! The



featured movie is produced by Voice of the Martyrs and is called "Sabina: Tortured for Christ," a true story that takes place during the Nazi regime.

# Holy Week Schedule

**PALM SUNDAY, April 10:** Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. in Latin; and 5:00 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS ON Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. each evening**

**MASSES on Monday and Tuesday:** 6:00 & 8:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday's 7:00 p.m. Mass is in Spanish)

**MASSES on Wednesday:** 6:00 & 8:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. (No Confessions on Wednesday)

(Note: no morning Masses on Holy Thursday or Holy Saturday; Mass is never celebrated on Good Friday)

**Holy Thursday (April 14):** Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the Feet: 7:00 p.m.

(Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Cloistered Nuns' Chapel: 5:00 p.m.)

**Good Friday (April 15):** 12:00 p.m.: Reflections on the Passion;

1:00 p.m.: Way of the Cross; 2:00 p.m.: Sacred Liturgy\*; 7:00 p.m.: Sacred

Liturgy\* (3:00 p.m. Sacred Liturgy\* at the Cloistered Nuns' Chapel)

\*Includes distribution of Holy Communion

**Holy Saturday (April 16):** Solemn Easter Vigil Mass: 8:15 p.m.

(The Mass begins with the lighting of the Easter fire in front of the church)

**Easter Sunday (April 17):** Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,

1:00 p.m. in Traditional Latin, and 5:00 p.m.



# Why Did Jesus Write with His Finger in the Dust?

By Fr. Dwight Longenecker (Priest, Author, Speaker)



Today’s Gospel of the woman taken in adultery contains that curious detail of Jesus stooping to write in the dust with His finger. Why? Let me give you a little Hebrew history: Whenever someone was caught in adultery, **both** the man **and** the woman would be brought to the temple gates and accused. If witnesses could be gathered to confirm that adultery had indeed been committed, then there was a certain ceremony that would be done in order to bring judgment. However, in this case, they only brought the woman—a violation of the Oral Law.

Secondly, the priest was required to then stoop down and write the law that had been broken, along with the names of the accused, in the dust of the floor of the Temple (which Jesus did). By doing this, He showed these accusers that **THEY** were the ones not keeping the law. The Scribes and Pharisees ignored the law, brought the woman only, and then continued with accusations. So, Jesus stood up (after

demonstrating they were violating the law themselves) and said, "He who is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." They did not want to cast the stone, they wanted Jesus to condemn her, so they continued accusing.

In Jesus’ day, every year on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), the High Priest would immerse himself in water (up to 11 times) in order to be ceremonially cleansed between each of the day’s sacrifices. At the end of the day, there would be great rejoicing that God had received the sacrifice, and everyone’s sins had been rolled forward another year until the Messiah came. The High Priest would then quote Jeremiah 17:13, which translated into Hebrew says: **“Oh Yahweh, the Immerser (baptizer) of Israel, all those who leave your way shall be put to shame; those who turn aside from His ways will have their names written in the dust and blotted out, for they have departed from the Waters of Life.”** So, Jesus gave them a chance—they could have been just embarrassed and then repented before the Lord, but instead they rejected the Messiah, and in turn had their names written in the dust. This passage in Jeremiah is a Messianic prophecy of what Jesus would do when He came—and in this passage in John, we see Jesus fulfill the prophecy.

Now we’re getting somewhere. The “signs” Jesus performs are always secret significant acts that point to His true identity. So, at the beginning of His Gospel, John says the miracle of the wedding at Cana in Galilee was the “first of the signs that He did.” In that “sign,” Jesus performed the duties and took on the role of the Bridegroom, thus showing that He was the prophesied Bridegroom of God’s people Israel. So, what is the next sign Jesus is going to perform? In Chapter Seven He says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within him.” By this He meant the Spirit.

“We need to ask, therefore, who is the “Spring of Living Water”? The answer is in the prophet Jeremiah. In Chapter Seventeen, Jeremiah is inveighing against the corrupt and unbelieving religious leaders of Israel. He is calling them out for following false gods and turning away from the Lord. Jesus calls Himself the Spring of Living Water. “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink!” What happens to those who forsake the Lord? According to the prophet Jeremiah—and remember the Jews at this time knew their Old Testament forwards and backwards—those

(The conclusion to this article can be found on in the bottom right corner on the next page.)

## 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.



March 26 / 27 , 2022  
 Unrestricted..... \$ 9,754.00  
 Restricted .....\$ 250.00  
**T O T A L.....\$10,004.00**

February 26/27..... \$14,410.00  
 March 5/6 ..... \$20,268.00  
 March 12/13 ..... \$24,337.00  
 March 19/20 .....\$18,364.00

**CHECK USERS:**  
 Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

# "SHOWER OF ROSES" LUNCHEON

YOU are invited to the annual **SHOWER OF ROSES Luncheon**, hosted by the **Cloistered Carmelite Nuns' Auxiliary**, on **Thursday, April 28**, at the **San Gabriel Country Club in San Gabriel**.

It will begin with a social and shopping at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Luncheon at Noon. During the Luncheon **"Inside the Cloister,"** a special slideshow, will be shown!

**Tickets are \$65 each** and can be reserved by sending your

check (made out to Carmelite Auxiliary) to Mrs. Louis Fulps, 8729 East Avondale Avenue, San Gabriel 91775.

**All proceeds will benefit the Nuns.**



# MEN'S RETREAT



**MEN!** Join us for a retreat on **April 22-24** at the **Carmelite Friars' Retreat Center, El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 East Highland Avenue, Redlands**. Space is limited. Retreat cost is **\$210 Single room only**.

Mail your check made out to **El Carmelo Retreat House** to Dave Golder, P. O. Box 1454, Crestline, CA 92325. For questions, contact Dave at (909) 338-0130.

**(Conclusion to article from the previous page)**

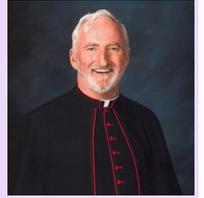
who forsake the Lord, the "Spring of Living Water"—will have their names written in the dust. Dust you are and to dust you will return. Jesus is showing His accusers—who have planned to kill him—exactly who they are. They are the corrupt, immoral liars and murderers whom the prophet Jeremiah condemned.

I believe Jesus just wrote their names in the dust and they, knowing the prophecy, understood that He was holding up a mirror to their apostasy and corruption. On the second occasion, He may also have recorded the details of their own liaisons with the woman. Notice that the adulterous man was not brought for judgment. Why? Because it was one of them? Probably. In this way, Jesus recapitulates not only the prophet Jeremiah, but also the prophet Daniel in his encounter with the elders in the story of Susannah. So, the writing in the dust is one of Jesus' signs to show who He really is. He is the Lord, the Spring of Living Water. If you reject Him, your name will be written in the dust of destiny.

# Vox Vitae Pro-Life Walk



Join Vox Vitae—as well as other ProLife organizations, churches, and individuals—in responding to the Pasadena City Council’s notice that they plan to vote to make Pasadena a “sanctuary city for abortion”! We will meet as follows:



**THIS MONDAY, APRIL 4, at 6:00 p.m.:** Prayer Walk from Pasadena City Hall to Planned Parenthood at 1045 North Lake in Pasadena. Once there, **Bishop O'Connell** will pray the Exorcism prayers and lead the ProLife Stations of the Cross).

Contact Catherine Contreras at (213) 395-8977 with questions or if you'd like to volunteer. Let's Be A Voice For Life together!

## Fasting from the Wound of Unworthiness

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of unworthiness. We've all felt unworthy, sometimes in a good way that checks narcissism and pride. But more often, unworthiness is a nagging kind of shame that sabotages our

### PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!"

-Psalm 139:13-14

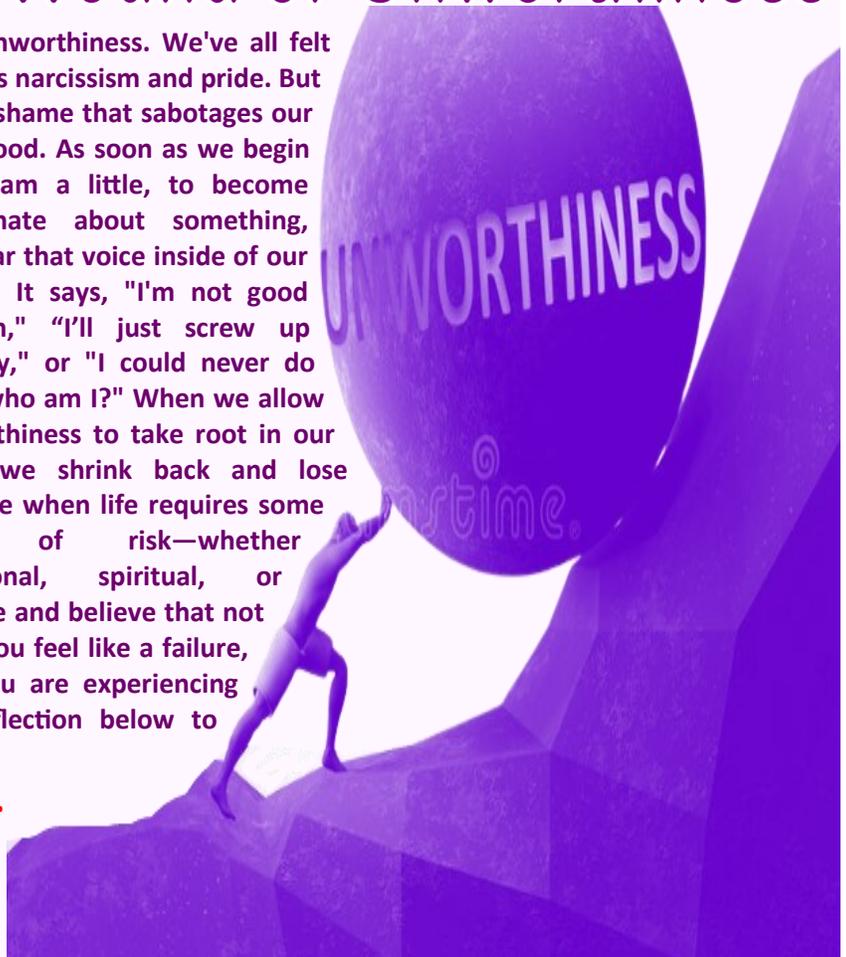
"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope." -Jeremiah 29:11

own good. As soon as we begin to dream a little, to become passionate about something, we hear that voice inside of our hearts. It says, "I'm not good enough," "I'll just screw up anyway," or "I could never do that; who am I?" When we allow unworthiness to take root in our lives, we shrink back and lose courage when life requires some level of risk—whether emotional, spiritual, or

physical. We become complacent and mediocre and believe that not even God can produce fruit from our lives. If you feel like a failure, dishonorable, undeserving, or unqualified, you are experiencing unworthiness. Let's dig deep during the reflection below to uncover the unworthiness that limits our lives.

### Take time to ask yourself...

- What kinds of experiences lead me to feeling unworthy?
- When I feel unworthy, which old memories or thoughts come to mind?



Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce unworthiness and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it, particularly the ways in which I have not answered your call in my life. I reject every form of unworthiness in my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I am not good enough," "I am not qualified," or "I'm not worth it." I renounce any companion emotions such as shame, self-condemnation, and guilt. Send your Holy Spirit to speak the truth to my heart that I am worthy. Amen.

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

# Mass Intentions

# Quiet Listening Prayer

## April 2 to April 9, 2022

### Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Sergio G. Hernandez, Birthday INT

### Sunday:

- \*7:30 a.m.: Tomas Martinez, RIP
- 7:30 a.m.: Loreto Lowenberg, RIP
- 9:00 a.m.: Parishioners
- 11:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP
- 1:00 p.m.: Ursulina Aquino, RIP
- 5:00 p.m.: Salvador Alcayaga, RIP

### Monday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP
- \*7:30 a.m.: Steven Smuckler, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Dr. Goretti Gomez, INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Alicia Nava, RIP

### Tuesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Mela Trejo, RIP
- \*7:30 a.m.: Steven Smuckler, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Abigail Cano, Birthday INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Irene Saucedo, INT

### Wednesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Ana Luisa Sullivan, RIP
- \*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Raquel Sobalvarro, INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Alicia Nava, RIP

### Thursday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Ana Luisa Sullivan, RIP
- \*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP
- 7:00 p.m.: James Jerard Contreras, RIP

### Friday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Serio Rodriguez, RIP
- \*7:30 a.m.: Margaret Lowenberg, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Juliana Cuéllar, RIP

### Saturday Morning:

- \*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- 8:00 a.m.: Tomas Martinez, RIP

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

**It is open to the public every day except Sunday.**

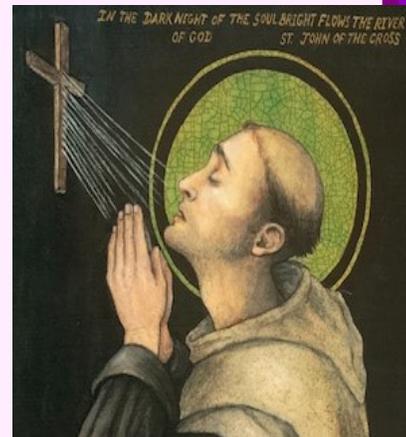
### LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

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).

### FROM THE LIVING FLAME OF LOVE

By St. John of the Cross

God becomes extremely indignant with such directors and in Ezekiel promises them chastisement: You ate the milk of my flock and you covered yourself with their wool and did not feed my flock; I will seek my flock at your hand, he says [Ez.34:3, 10].



Spiritual masters, then, should give freedom to souls and encourage them in their desire to seek improvement. The director does not know the means by which God may wish to benefit a soul, especially if it is no longer satisfied with the director's teaching.

This dissatisfaction is in fact a sign that the director is not helping it, either because God is making it advance by a road different from the one along which it is being led, or because the master has changed style. These masters should themselves counsel this change; all the rest stems from foolish pride and presumption, or some other ambition (Stanza 3, Nos. 60-61).

## Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage with a Carmelite Friar 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

SPIRITUAL RETREAT PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP SHRINE from September 29 through October 3, 2022 (\$1,349 from L.A.—\$45 single supplement). This is the only approved Marian Apparition site in the US (2010 by Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), which took place in 1859. Join us for this five-day spiritual retreat in Wisconsin—also the home of Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary.

Regina Caeli Academy: Come Regina Caeli Academy ([www.rcahybrid.org](http://www.rcahybrid.org)) provides a university-style hybrid™ education in the Catholic tradition. Pre K3 - 12th grade students attend Socratic classes two days a week and homeschool on the remaining days. Lesson plans are provided and optimized for in-home education. Touring Event: April 4 at 10:00 a.m. Events include a tour, classroom observation, Q&A! RSVP to [ryohannan.scc@rcahybrid.org](mailto:ryohannan.scc@rcahybrid.org) or call (661) 383-2386.

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