St. Therese Catholic Church

September 4, 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL:

Great crowds were traveling with Him, and He turned and addressed them, "If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother. wife and children. brothers and sisters. and even his own life. he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

(Luke 14:25-27).

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

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denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras X112

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www. Saint The rese Carmelite School. 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

Happy
Birthday,
Dear
Mother
& Queen!

A Letter from the Pastor

Blessed 23rd Sunday of the Year, and Happy Birthday to the Blessed Virgin Mary (this Thursday, September 8)! I know you and your Beloved Son Jesus will want to pour out extra healing on your suffering children, especially on your birthday!

I have some bad news and some good news: the bad news is that because <u>all</u> the Carmelite Friars need to be at mandatory meetings next Wednesday and Thursday in Redlands (September 7/8), there will be <u>NO MASSES THOSE TWO DAYS AND NO WEDNESDAY CONFESSIONS</u> (it's hard to find priests to help these days). The good news is that there are two parishes within two miles of us that will still have Masses. We look forward to celebrating the afterglow of Our Lady's birthday on Friday at Mass with you! We continue to pray for the gift of bilocation :-)... St Padre Pio, pray for us! Please pass the word on.

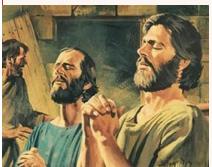
Just a quick note about today's difficult Gospel: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Jesus is NOT trying to get us to feel hatred toward our family members or ourselves. So then, what *is* He saying?? Well, when in doubt, check out how the word in question is used elsewhere in the same book of the Bible. In Luke 17:13, Jesus says, "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Given this other context of the word "hate," we can see that it is NOT a question of feelings, but of a decision of the mind. In the context of today's Gospel then, we are meant to hear Jesus saying something like, "You cannot claim to have me as your Lord and Master, and then switch over to what a family member—or even you, yourself—is asking of you, when that goes against what I'm asking of you! You have to choose and—depending on how you choose—you are either going to be devoted to Me or you are going to despise Me and be devoted to someone else. You can't have it both ways when there is a conflict." Of course, when we experience Jesus bringing us much more life and healing than anyone else has ever done, we will want to be devoted to Him no matter what the cost. That is why we keep going back to healing and transformation through the Sacraments and prayer ministry (see the box below):

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

ABIDING PRESENCE: How Holy Communion Heals Wounds of Abandonment

(From Chapter Four of *Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments* by Bob Schuchts) | 2nd installment



Whether we are conscious of it or not, deep down each one of us yearns for this kind of holy intimacy because it is written into the fabric of our being. The Psalmist expresses this longing with poetic beauty: "My soul thirsts for God, the living God" (Psalm 42:3). After years of trying to fill his void in all the wrong places, St. Augustine finally turned his heart to the only real source of his fulfillment. Do you recognize this longing for a greater measure of God's presence in your own heart? In Heaven it will be completely fulfilled. But we don't have to wait to experience it. We can enter into communion with Him now. The Church teaches that this is why Jesus gave us the Sacrament of His Presence as a means for us to continually abide in Him. St. John Paul II says, "The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Presence of Christ, who gives Himself to us because He loves us."

St. Luke's account from the book of Acts gives us a flavor of how the Sacrament of Holy Communion was practiced in the early Church. The apostles lived the reality of Christ's abiding presence with them and allowed His presence to permeate their community life: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to communal life, to the Breaking of the Bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all" (Acts 4:32-33).

Most of these activities from the early Church are still common in our worship: the apostles' teaching (God's word in the Scriptures), the Breaking of Bread (the Sacrament of Holy Communion), and prayer (invoking God's presence and intercession for others). But one element is largely missing in many of our churches: "communal life." The original in the Greek is koinonia which, when translated into English, means "communion" or "fellowship." While we have some small degree of fellowship in our modern communities, it is still a far cry from what the early Church practiced. Can we honestly say that most of us are "devoted to communal life" to the degree that the early disciples appeared to be? Can we say we are of "one heart and mind" and that our belongings are not our own but are for the good of our brothers and sisters? Can this be one of the reasons we are not witnessing the "great power" of Jesus' resurrection as they did?

(Another excerpt will be in next week's bulletin.)

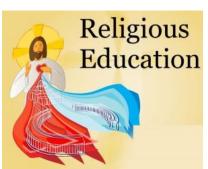
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SPECIAL SCHOOL COLLECTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



All donations are greatly appreciated!

Religious Education classes will begin again on September 18 for elementary grades.... on September 22 for Youth Confirmation...



and on **September**

21 or 24 (your choice) for RCIA and Adult Confirmation.

Registration forms are on our website. Fill them out and bring to the office during our open hours. Also bring your checkbook to pay the fees and a copy of the enrollee's baptism certificate.



HELP WOMEN IN NEED!

Please Support Options United to help women in need! (www.wewerebornready.com/knights)

Catholics are called to support unborn children and their mothers so that no woman feels that she has to choose abortion. Do you know someone facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy, in need of prenatal care, or who needs support with her young children? Share the Options for Pregnancy helpline (877-398-7734), staffed by trained Options United call responders, or visit www.optionsforpregnancy.com. This critical support service connects women and families to the 170+ pregnancy centers and other life-affirming resources across the state, but it can only be provided with your help. The bishops in all twelve of our California dioceses have endorsed this pioneering service and are united in asking you to prayerfully consider making a monthly donation of any size at www.optionsunited.com/one.

VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 1: Sadly, California is presently one of the most permissive states in the nation for abortion. Proposition 1 promotes an unlimited expansion of abortion here, while its defeat would keep all abortion laws as they are, including our common-sense limits on late-term abortions. Our bishops are calling us to unite in prayer and action to defeat Prop 1. It is an expensive and misleading ballot measure that allows unlimited late-term abortions—for any reason, at any time, even moments before birth, paid for by tax dollars. Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an "abortion sanctuary." Please visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 to find answers to common questions and resources to help defeat this misleading, expensive, and unnecessary ballot initiative.

Options United is Hiring Call Responders: If you have a passion to unite in this fight and have good communication and computer skills, please submit a short application online at www.optionsunited.com/take-action or email Denise Lopez at d.lopez@optionsunited.com for more info.

Page Four September 4, 2022

The Real St. Therese



This is the latest installment from Guy Faucher's book, *The Passion of Therese of Lisieux*

Without any doubt,
Therese's deepest
aspirations were
expressed in the
poem Vivre d'Amour,
as we can see by the
following verses:

To die of love is sweet martyrdom; indeed, it is the one I wish to

suffer. O Cherubims! tune up your lyres... For I know that my exile will soon be over. Flame of Love, consume me unceasingly. Passing life, your burden weighs heavy upon me! O Jesus, make my dream come true: To die of Love! When at last my chains shall be broken, God will be my reward, for I want no other gifts of His love. I want to be set on fire with His love. I want to see Him, to be one with Him forever. This is Heaven for me...To live for Love!"

"I know that my exile will soon be over..." This "know" seems to us to be a kind of spiritual intuition: "What I experience in my soul makes me feel my exile is nearly over." Yes, something was happening in Therese's soul. In a letter written to Leonie during these months, she acknowledges "the lights Jesus gives me," which reassures her sister who was still wavering in her vocation. On the same day, she gave Celine a poem for her birthday. Lyrically, and at length, she recalled their childhood together. Was she speaking of Celine? Or was it actually herself? When reading this verse of the poem, one would be inclined to say it was the latter: "I will sing with the angels, these praises of sacred love... May I soon soar up to join their ranks. O Jesus, may I die one day of love!" On June 9th of the following year, Therese was inspired to offer herself to Merciful Love. The next Tuesday, June 11, while kneeling with Sister Genevieve in front of the Virgin of the Smile, she recited a prayer she had composed. Of that important event, we shall include here only that section of the Offering which refers to her ardent desire for martyrdom and to die of love:

"In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I OFFER MYSELF AS A SACRIFICIAL VICTIM TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, asking you to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of infinite tenderness within you to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a MARTYR of Your LOVE, 0 my God! ...May this MARTYRDOM, after having prepared me to appear before you, finally cause me to die and may my soul take its flight without any delay into the eternal embrace of YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE." (To be continued next week)

Spiritual Gift Lists

The letters of St. Paul include several lists of charisms. Some of these lists highlight the more extraordinary gifts, and some, the ones that seem more ordinary. But all the gifts are powerfully

IF ANYONE SERVES, THEY SHOULD DO SO WITH THE STRENGTH GOD PROVIDES, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED.

I Peter 4:11

effective for the building up of the Church. The longer list is in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, which mentions the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. St. Paul uses the term *spiritual gifts* for these, probably because these are especially dependent on inspiration by the Holy Spirit; they might be called "gifts of inspiration." For that reason, they manifest in an especially powerful way the reality and presence of God in the world. These gifts in 1 Corinthians are the special focus of this book.

In Romans 12:6-8, St. Paul speaks of prophecy (in common with 1 Corinthians 12), then adds gifts of serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing to the needs of others, leadership, and showing mercy. These gifts are equally necessary to the flourishing of the Church.

St. Paul gives a slightly different kind of list in Ephesians 4:8-11. He uses a different word for gift (doma), and then he lists apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These are not so much gifts of the Holy Spirit as they are individuals anointed by the Holy Spirit for a particular office in the Church. But these offices, too, are gifts in that they are given by the Holy Spirit to build up the Body of Christ.

In 1 Peter, we are told that "as each has received a gift (charisma)," we should "use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (charis) (1 Peter 4:10). St. Peter then follows this statement with the examples of two general categories: speaking gifts and serving gifts: "If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:11).

(To be continued next week)

(Taken from *The Spiritual Gifts Handbook* by Randy Clark and Mary Healy, available in the Parish Office.)

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LAY PROFESSIONALS



All lay professionals are invited to join this group at their next meeting on Saturday, September 10th, at 6:30 pm, in the Avila

Room of the Parish Office Building. For more information, send an email to khori19@yahoo.com.

NO MASS ON WED/THURS | SEPT 7/8

As Fr. Thomas says in his letter (Page Two), the Carmelite Friars will be in Redlands this week for Province meetings and will not be able to celebrate any Masses on Wednesday and Thursday this week (September 7 and 8). All the scheduled intentions will be celebrated by them in Redlands.

The Friars will be back on Friday to return to their regular schedule. Please check the internet for the schedules of other nearby Catholic churches.



FILLED WITH THE FREEDOM TO LOVE

St. Paul must have understood today's Gospel very well. Like Jesus, he knew what being a disciple would cost. It landed him in prison. Yet he seems to have no regrets; he accepts that imprisonment as part of his discipleship. Also like Jesus, he is not afraid to ask others to take that discipleship seriously. And he is not ashamed to ask a favor: Would Philemon accept his runaway slave, Onesimus, back into his home? Not just as a slave, but as a member of his family. He calls himself a prisoner for Christ five times in the short letter (three times in our reading). If that didn't tug Philemon's heartstrings, Paul also calls himself an old man.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship. Paul takes that a step further; he reminds us to accept that cost freely. He could have ordered his friend to free the slave. Instead of giving an order, he called on Philemon to respond freely to his request. Perhaps we can learn from that example.

Like Paul, when Jesus commands us to love one another, He leaves us free to accept that challenge. Remember, He always says, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus was never compelled to cure anyone or forgive their sins. No one ordered Him to feed the hungry with loaves and fishes or raise Lazarus from the dead. Yet, how often do we go to church because we "have" to? Do we volunteer for the picnic only because the pastor twists our arm? Or do we love Jesus so much that we volunteer to help without being asked? Do we love Jesus enough to invite others to follow Him? We can live life just doing what we must. Or when Jesus offers us a new motive—love for God because God loves us—we can choose to follow Him freely. In John's Gospel, there is no Agony in the Garden. He shows us that Jesus chose to obey His Father and willingly took up the Cross. Let us ask the Spirit to fill us with the freedom to love.



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.



August 20 / 21, 2022

Unrestricted......\$ 9,847.00 Restricted<u>\$ 2,510.00</u> T O T A L.....\$12,357.00 July 30/31\$22,082.00 August 6 / 7\$14,780.00 August 13 / 14\$28,263.00 August 20 / 21\$21,238.00 CHECK USERS:
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Page Six September 4, 2022

Fasting from the Wound of Rejection

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"Be content with what you have, for He has said, 'I will never forsake you or abandon you.'" -Hebrews 13:5

"He came to what was
His own, but His own
people did not accept
(rejected) Him."

-John 1:11

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of rejection. Has anyone ever said something to you that made you feel like you weren't wanted or needed? You might have felt as if you were left out or shunned. These emotions are typical of rejection. Wounds of rejection are very common among children who have



experienced death, divorce, or other traumatic separations. Even in adults, deep rejection can negatively affect our identity (thoughts and beliefs about ourselves). Rejection is a wound of belonging. We believe that we don't belong! If rejection lives in our hearts, it can bear destructive fruit in our lives, including unforgiveness, hard-heartedness, and resentment. We will also misunderstand an important part of God's mercy. Oftentimes, man's rejection is God's protection!



When have I experienced rejection?
What do I believe about myself when someone rejects me?

Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce rejection and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it. I reject this wound in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I do not belong" or "I am unwanted." 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.

Parish Potluck

The Avila Group will host a Parish Potluck

TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, from 3:00 to

5:00 p.m. (following the 1:00 p.m. Latin Mass) in the Guadalupe Courtyard (the entrance is by the Adoration Chapel).

Bring a dish or dessert to share! All are invited! For more info, contact Blake at Blaket04@gmail.com.



Mass Intentions

September 3 to 10, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Josie Villacorta, RIP Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Marti Ferrer, RIP
7:30 a.m.: Leo J. Lacangan, RIP
9:00 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT
11:00 a.m.: Nicole Tittmann, Birthday INT
1:00 p.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP
5:00 p.m.: Chris Holman, Birthday INT
Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT *7:30 a.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP 8:00 a.m.: Leo J. Lacangan, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Anthony Lee Matthews, RIP Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Fidelina Adan, RIP *7:30 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT 8:00 a.m.: Leo J. Lacangan, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP

+ Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Karen Ng, Birthday INT
*7:30 a.m.: George & Teresa Ullrich, RIP
8:00 a.m.:Vocations to Carm. Prov of St Joseph
7:00 p.m.: Charles Galletta, RIP
+ Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Huyen-Duong Vu, B-Day, INT 8:00 a.m.: Kay Tittmann, Birthday INT 7:00 p.m.: John Torres, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Noah & Julian Sanchez, INT *7:30 a.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP 8:00 a.m.: Nina Cox, Birthday INT Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community 8:00 a.m.: Marcella Emond-McGrath, RIP *Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel

+As it says on Pages 2 & 5 of this bulletin, the Carmelite Friars will be away on Wednesday and Thursday and will celebrate the Mass intentions highlighted above in bright red in Redlands—not here. No Masses—morning or evening—will be held in our church on Wednesday or Thursday this week. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

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).



Those who experience the prayer of pure contemplation call it the prayer of quiet. Many persons—while praying vocally—have been raised by God to sublime contemplation—without their understanding how. It's because of this that I insist upon your



reciting vocal prayer well. I know a person who was never able to pray any way but vocally and she still experienced pure contemplation. The Lord was raising her up and joining her with Himself in union. And from her deeds it, it seemed truly that she was receiving such great favors, for she was living a very good life. So I praised the Lord and envied her for her vocal prayer (Chapter 30).

Outside the Parish

Want to keep the romance alive? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience is for married couples to reconnect privately. The experience allows you to create a dialogue with each other and with God, to create a higher and broader understanding of what it means to be married. The next Encounter will be October 14-16 at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre. To register, contact Cameron & Barbara Troxell at (909) 938-2682 and leave a message. For more info, go to www.SacramentalLove.com.

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome/Assisi on Oct. 3 to 14, 2022, for \$4000 each. Included are air, hotels, bus, tour guides, all meals in Jerusalem and breakfasts and dinners in Italy. Call or send a test via WhatsApp to 626-818-2937 or email ximegabella@yahoo.com.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. **NEW RATE:** \$2,995 (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. 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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