



CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
UNITED STATES, PHILIPPINES, AND TIMOR-LESTE

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St. Teresa of Avila Teaches Humility As Truth

January, 2015.

We officially enter the 5th centennial of the birth of Teresa of Avila.

Our feature article focuses on the virtue of true humility as presented in Teresa's writings.

In addition, Pope Francis has declared 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life. May we all enjoy a grace-filled year.

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Self-esteem—Self-confidence. These are qualities we desire for ourselves and qualities we hope to inspire in our children. At the same time, for many people in our society, a sense of self contains worry or fear that somehow we are not enough—not good enough, not attractive enough, not successful enough, not helpful enough, not intelligent enough. We may carry a sense of emptiness or shame. We may feel guilt that our efforts to please God, to please others, to find peace and fulfillment are somehow always lacking. “Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.”

Society tells us to try harder. Work with more dedication. Learn more and maybe you will discover the secret. Have more control over your emotions and events in your life. If we compare ourselves with others, there is always someone who seems to be doing it better.

St. Teresa of Avila whose birth 500 years ago we celebrate this year has different advice. Humility, she tells us, is the bedrock of a spiritual life. Humility does not equal feeling bad about ourselves. On the contrary, true humility leads to authentic self-love and compassion. True humility aids in fulfilling Jesus’ commandment to love others as we love ourselves.

Let’s listen to Teresa teach us about humility which she sees as truth. In The Way of Perfection she writes:

“Consider carefully, daughters, the matter I’m going to speak to you about, for sometimes it will be through humility and virtue that you hold yourself to be so wretched, and at other times it will be a gross temptation. I know of this because I have gone through it. Humility does not disturb or disquiet or agitate, however great it may be; it comes with peace, delight, and calm. . . if the humility is genuine, (it) comes with a sweetness in itself and a satisfaction that (we) wouldn’t want to be without. The pain of genuine humility doesn’t agitate or afflict the soul; rather, this humility expands it and enables it to serve God more. The other type of pain disturbs everything, agitates everything, afflicts the entire soul and is very painful. I think the devil’s aim is to make us think we are humble and in turn, if possible, make us lose confidence in God.

When you find yourself in this condition, stop thinking about your misery, insofar as possible, and turn your thoughts to the mercy of God, to how He loves us and suffered for us. And if you are undergoing a temptation, you will not even be able to do this... It will be enough if you recognize that this is a temptation.”

What is a sense of self that comes with “peace, delight, and calm?” For Teresa it is comparing ourselves with nothing less than God, keeping our eyes on God. It is knowing that of ourselves alone, we are truly nothing for all is grace, all is gift. It is knowing we are called into being by Overwhelming Love who never abandons us. It is putting our trust, not in any of our own efforts to save ourselves or make ourselves worthy or lovable, but in the Faithful Love of God. It is being freed of expectations that others place on us and especially freed of expectations we place on

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Message from the Administration

Sisters Evaluate Community Life

Events of this year seem to be calling us to consider our role in building community life. One of the first events was our preparation for Visitation, a formal time of visits from the President, Sister Lawrence Habetz. The theme of this visitation was Community Life. We were given some questions about community life to pray about before the visit. These questions were to center our prayer on how each of us personally helps to build community life by our words and actions. The questions helped us to prepare for her visit. At Visitation Sister Lawrence gave us a card she had designed. It spelled out community and is cleverly done. The card reads “ Common prayer, Openness to the word of God, Make one another happy, Marian devotion, Uphold one another, Nourish our prayer life, Intercede for others, Think of others, Yearn for God.” This is another aide to help us remember how important community life is for each of us.

The 2013 General Chapter gave us the recommendation to devise a tool to help each of us review and evaluate our personal contributions to community life. Using Sister Thérèse Chevrel’s advice on community...“To love one another means to uphold one another, to help one another, to esteem one another, to make one another happy, to look after one another, to please one another, to sustain one another, to lead one another to heaven,” a committee has formulated a Community Life Values checklist. By privately using and praying over this checklist, each sister can look at each value listed and see how she contributes to community life. This list will be given to the sisters for their personal, private prayer. This can lead to sharing about these values, but the intention is for each to use it as a personal evaluation.

Since community life is central to our lives as Sisters of Mount Carmel, we hope that this year of evaluating and praying about community life will help us in our personal life and in the life of the congregation.



Sister Paula Derise, O. Carm. is a chaplain for Notre Dame Hospice, a ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

St. Teresa of Avila Teaches Humility As Truth continued from cover

ourselves, because nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, Truly we believe and know that “if God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son...how will he not give us everything else along with him? ...It is Christ Jesus who indeed intercedes for us.” Rom. 9:31-35.

We cooperate with God’s saving action in our lives, with faith that “all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his promise.” Rom. 9:28

True humility is allowing ourselves to be redeemed. It is praying from the depths of our hearts the first three of the 12 Steps, joining with our brothers and sisters in the AA tradition, recognizing our constant need for God.

1. We admit that we are powerless, that our lives have become unmanageable.
2. We come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can (and wants to) bring us to sanity.
3. So we make a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God, as we understand God.

True humility is living in trust, not in ourselves or anything we can do or accomplish, but in God. It comes with a sweetness and satisfaction we would not want to be without.

Sister Barbara Breaud, O. Carm. is Director of On-Going Formation and Executive Director of the Carmelite Spirituality Center, Lacombe, LA.



Sister Josephine Deveras Returns to God



Sister Josephine Deveras, O. Carm., a Sister of Mount Carmel, died August 27, 2014 at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center, New Orleans, LA. She was 78 years old, and in the 52nd year of her religious profession.

Sister Josephine born, Josefina Luna Deveras, on March 20, 1936 in Imus, Cavite, Philippines to Antero R. Deveras of Naga, Camarines del Sur, Philippines and Antonio Luna of Ligaró, Albay, Philippines. She entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on January 15, 1960 and received the habit of the Sisters of Mount Carmel August 5, 1960. On August 6, 1962, she made her first profession, and pronounced perpetual vows August 6, 1967. She celebrated her 50th jubilee in 2012.

Sister Josephine graduated from St. Paul's University (elementary) in 1948, St. Joseph College, Quezon City (secondary and college) in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in English, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA in 1971, with a master's degree in Religious Education and completed her postgraduate work at St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO in Religious Formation, and Silliman University, Dumaguete, Philippines in Pastoral Education. In 1989 Sister became an American citizen. Sister Josephine taught at Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans, Cathedral Carmel, Lafayette, LA and Cathedral School in Dumaguete City, Philippines. She also served the congregation as business administrator at Holy Child Hospital in Dumaguete City, Philippines, in novitiate, formation and retreat work in the United States and the Philippines, as infirmary assistant at the Motherhouse, New Orleans, LA and Indochinese social service for Catholic Charities. Since 1982 Sister has ministered to the Filipino people in the New Orleans and surrounding area and in 2005 joined the staff of the Carmelite Spirituality Center. Since 2013 she resided at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center, New Orleans, LA.

Sister Josephine was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Luz D. Doucette and Elisa Yao and two brothers, Antero Deveras and Col. Tomas Deveras. She is survived by two sisters, Anita Wong, Miami, FL and Milagros Dacayo, Quezon City, Philippines and two brothers, Jesus, Miami, FL and George Deveras, Quezon City, Philippines. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center. Interment followed in St. Louis No. 3 Cemetery.

History Highlights 1861-1865

By 1860, the Sisters of Mount Carmel were well established in New Orleans (beginning with the School for Free Women of Color in 1838) and Algiers (1857). The community had also expanded southwest of New Orleans along Bayou Lafourche to Thibodaux (1855) and into Acadiana in Lafayette (1846).

1860 also marked the election of the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, as President of the United States. His election triggered the secession of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, with Arkansas, North Carolina and Virginia following in early 1861. The city of New Orleans was captured by Union forces on May 1, 1862. Baton Rouge and Southwest Louisiana would soon fall to Union forces as well.

Each of the community's foundations was under Union control. No French women, a rich source of vocations, were able to sail to the port of New Orleans to join the community during the war because of the Union blockade. While a few women did enter, several of the Sisters died. However, none of the five schools was forced to close by authority of the Union forces. The enrollment at each school was decimated by the war and the poverty it brought. Not to be deterred from ministry, the Sisters embraced a new challenge: ministering to the sick as well as the wounded of both the Union and the Confederate forces.

Little did the Sisters know that the conclusion of a tragic period in the United States and their own history would be followed by a period of growth and an expansion of ministry. Our next installment highlights the post-war era of 1866-1885.

-Sister Alice Abate, O. Carm.

Sisters Celebrate Jubilee Anniversaries

Three Sisters of Mount Carmel were honored in celebration of the anniversaries of their religious professions at a liturgy and reception at the Mount Carmel Motherhouse, New Orleans, LA on October 18, 2014. Honored were Sisters Germaine Lauzon (60th), Andrée Bindewald (50th), and Blaise Fernando (50th).

Sister Germaine Lauzon, O. Carm., born Marie Germaine Huguette, in Hawkesbury, Ontario Canada, is the only child of the late Gilbert Lauzon and Leopoldine Giroux. Sister began her religious life as a member of the Grey Nuns of the Cross (Sisters of Charity of Ottawa) entering in 1952 and making first vows in 1954. She transferred vows to the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1982. Sister Germaine attended and graduated from Sacred Heart Convent, Hawkesbury, Ontario Canada. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's Dominican College, New Orleans, LA and a master's degree in Religious Studies from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, TX. Sister Germaine has devoted 49 years to Catholic education. She has taught at schools in Gueydan, Church Point, Thibodaux, New Iberia, Abbeville and Lafayette, Louisiana and Havervill, MA. Sister served as principal of Maltrait Memorial School, Kaplan, LA and assistant principal at Cathedral Carmel Elementary, Lafayette, LA, where she was also religious administrator and religion coordinator. Since 2002 Sister Germaine has been Assistant Archivist for the congregation.

Sister Andrée Marie Bindewald, O. Carm., born Catherine Ann, in New Orleans, LA is the sixth of nine children born to the late Joseph John Bindewald, Sr. and Ursula Theresa Vath. She entered the Congregation in 1961 and professed first vows in 1964. Sister Andrée attended St. Dominic Elementary and Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans, LA. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from St. Mary's Dominican College, New Orleans and a Master of Arts degree in Religion and Personality from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Sister Andrée has served as a medical technologist at St. Joseph Hospital, Thibodaux, LA, the Eye, Ear & Nose Institute, New Orleans, LA, and Tulane Medical School. She served as Coordinator of Rural Ministries for the Diocese of Memphis, as Director of Fayette Cares in Somerville, TN; as RCIA coordinator at St. Clement of Rome Parish, Metairie, LA; on the RCIA team at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Abbeville, LA; and as Religion Administrator and teacher at Mount Carmel Elementary in Abbeville, LA. She has also served the congregation as an Executive Councilor, Assistant to the President, Development Director and Formation Director for postulants and novices in the U S. and Philippines. In 2014, Sister was named "Nun of the Year" by the LA Ladies' Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. Sister Andrée recently completed her ministry with the Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE), a program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. She now is in Formation Ministry and resides at the Formation House, Balugo, Dumaguete City, Philippines.



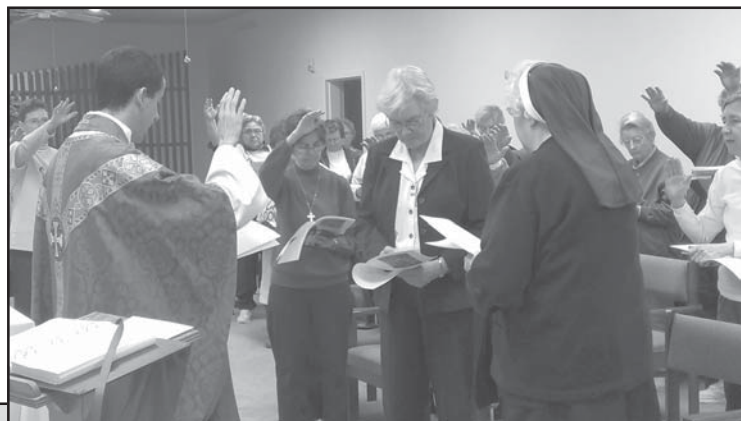
Jubilarians renewing their vows: (from left)
Sisters Germaine Lauzon, Blaise Fernando, and
Andrée Bindewald

Sister Blaise Fernando, O. Carm., born Erlinda Locson Fernando in Tetuan, Zamboanga City, Philippines, is the seventh of eight children born to the late Domiciano Fernando and Isidra Locson. She entered the Congregation in 1961 and pronounced vows in 1964. Sister attended Tetuan Elementary School, Zamboanga A.E. Colleges, and Ateneo University, Zamboanga City, Philippines and received a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Social Studies from St. Mary's Dominican, New Orleans, LA and a master's degree in Spanish from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Sister became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1995. Sister Blaise taught Spanish for twenty-nine years at Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans, ten years at Loyola University, New Orleans, and one year at Brother Martin High School, New Orleans. Since 1981, Sister Blaise has served as Assistant Director of New Orleans Bread for the World, Loyola University and Project Coordinator for the Carmelite NGO, North America Project.

News of Note



Father Jack Welch, O. Carm., friend of the sisters, led the Congregation Assembly, "Carmelite Sprituality Through Our Carmelite Saints" on November 15 at the Carmelite Sprituality Center.



Above: The sisters and **Rev. Ian Bozant**, parochial vicar of Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Mandeville, LA extend hands of blessing over **Sister Andrée Bindewald** at the Departure Liturgy, November 15 at the Carmelite Sprituality Center. **Sister Andrée** left Dec. 1 for Formation Ministry in the Philippines.



Above: Our "Cajun Country Sisters" from the Lafayette-Abbeville area show their cajun spirit at the Congregation Assembly. Pictured: (standing) **Sisters Janet LeBlanc, Cheryl Scheaffer, Clare Cramer, Kathy Farrelly, Christina Marie Griggs and Teresa Margaret Toups;** (seated) **Sisters Laura Melancon, Leah Sellers, Judith Hebert and Evelyn Mire.**



Sisters Maria Sheila Undang (pictured left with Franciscan brothers) and **Alice Abate** attended the National Religious Vocation Conference Convocation November 5-10 in Chicago, IL. The convocation was attended by 330 participants from different religious congregations who are in vocation, formation and leadership ministry from within the country and abroad.

On October 29, **Sister Alice Abate**, Co-Vocation Director, spent the day visiting the senior religion classes at E. D. White Catholic High School in Thibodaux, LA. She met with the girls while a Brother of the Sacred Heart met with the boys. Always glad to return to E. D. White, **Sister Alice** shared her vocation story and her gratitude for the years she spent with the E. D. White family in Thibodaux.



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Cleary, Mr. John by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Moran

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**Sisters of Mount Carmel
Office of Development**

P.O. Box 1160

Lacombe, Louisiana 70445-1160

(985) 882-7577 or (504) 524-2398

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Joubert Family by Mrs. Miriam Abate
Juneau, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Pete Maupin

Key, Mr. Wilson by Mr. John Key
Killeen, Nancy by The Molbert Family
King, Mr. Clark, Sr. by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bolotte, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Foley
Kraemer, Louis "Buddy" by Ms. Jeanette Labat

La Caze, Marie Louise F. by Serra Club Members
LaBiche, Daniel by Ms. Patti Kuebler
LaBorde, Mr. Alden "Doc" by Sister Rose Marie Penouilh, O. Carm.
Lacour, Mr. Terry by Mrs. Virgie Bender
Ladner, Mr. Donald by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Crock
Lalande, Shawn J. by Ms. Alberta Winch
Lasalle, Mrs. Donna "Tena" by Ms. Barbara Istre
Laughlin, Mrs. Wilma C. by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clyde Comeaux, Mr. and Mrs. Nason Leger
LeBlanc Family by Mrs. Miriam Abate
LeBlanc, Ann by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader
LeBlanc, Dudley by Bernice and Mary Ann Breaux
LeBlanc, Michael by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerami
LeBlanc, Mr. Aurelien by Mrs. Connie Primeaux McManus
LeBlanc, Mr. Bobby by Mrs. Theresa Doucet
LeBlanc, Mr. Dudley by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hernandez
LeBlanc, Mr. Gaston by Ms. Glenda Thibodeaux, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watkins
LeBlanc, Mrs. Helen by Mr. Robert LeBlanc
LeBlanc, Senator and Mrs. by Mr. Roland Leblanc
Ledet, Adrian by Denis and Melissa Granier

Ledet, Billy by Jimmy and Louise Ledet
Legendre, Mr. Butch by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi
Leger, Mr. George by Patricia and Douglas Begley
Lemann, Robert by Ms. Jeanette Labat
Leonard, Mrs. Joy Toups by Ms. Geraldine Gayral
Leonards, Father Martin C. by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Andrus, Bernice and Mary Ann Breaux, Mrs. Wenzel Habetz, Mr. John Key, Mr. and Mrs. Nason Leger, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schneider, Ms. Alberta Winch
Leonards, Mr. Gregory J. by Keith and Jessie Broussard and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Bud LeBlanc, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schneider, Mr. Joseph Vallée
Loga, Mrs. Darlene Saucier by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassreino
LoPinto, Louise Catalano by Mr. and Mrs. David Tardo
Lormand, Mr. W. J. by Mrs. Marion Lochridge
Louviere, Mr. Earnest by Mr. and Mrs. David Landgrave
Louviere, Mrs. Marcia V. by Mr. and Mrs. J. Larry Viator
Lowe, Brent by Mr. and Mrs. David Tardo
Luke, Mrs. Gertie by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gremillion, Mr. and Mrs. Don Wall

Mahler, Matthew by Mary and Jessie Chenier, Ms. Jeanette Labat, Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Vedros, E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff
Marcel, Laura by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi
Marino, Mrs. Adele by Ms. Carol Keith
Marsalis, Bubbs by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader
Mc Bride, Mr. Robert R. by Mr. and Mrs. David Landgrave
McAuliffe, Mr. Robert by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schutte
McCollam, Mr. Edmund by Ms. Mary Frances Landry, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Strawitz
Menard, Mr. Carlos by Ms. Alberta Winch
Mire, Mr. Laurent by Ms. Alberta Winch
Mitchell, Mr. Todd P. by Mr. and Mrs. Boniface Suire, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Vincent
Mixon, Ms. Nancy Patricia by Ms. Jeanette Dietlein, Ms. Mary Jo Manning, Ms. Bridget Mires
Moldaner, Mr. Eddie by The Staff of Gifted Nurses
Moley, Mrs. Juanita D. by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Greco
Monaghan, Mr. Terry by Ms. Meta Boudreaux, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Breaux, Mrs. Marilyn Centanni
Morvant, Mrs. Sylvia by Mr. and Mrs. Laury Dupont
Mouton, Family of Whitney by Mrs. Ruth Buniva
Mouton, Gerald L. by Jeanette Coats
Mouton, Mr. Michael O'Neil by Mrs. Georgie Mouton, Mrs. Michelle Mouton Geiger
Mouton, Mr. Stanley (Whip) by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Jones
Mulhern, Sister Ethalee O. Carm. by Mrs. Audrey Beilman
Munster, Jr., Mr. John by Mr. Keith Cangelosi
Murray, Mrs. Rita by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Naquin, Martin by E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff
Neustrom, Allison by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd John Curry and Rebecca
Noel, Mrs. Amy Brown by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Griffin

In Memory Of

Oubre, Miss Susie by Sandra Oubre

Panza, Teresa Marie by Mrs. Judith Brandabur

Peltier, Mrs. Irma M. by Mrs. Ellen Tenney

Percovic, Reverend Anton by Mrs. Lorraine T. Rock

Pesson, Mr. Claude by Mrs. Amy Collins

Pilant, Mr. Clyde "Ray" by Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Blakeman

Plauche, Mr. Warren James Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Logsdon

Pothier, Mrs. Dolores by Mrs. Marion Lochridge

Prejean, Brian by Mrs. Jeanette Coats

Price, Mrs. Mary Ruth Patout by Ms. Louise Dunn Fuqua

Prudhomme, Mr. Bill by Ms. Jeanne deValcourt

Quebedeaux, M. Alvin Ray by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Deady

Quirk, Mrs. Betty H. by Mr. Paul Breaux, Mr. and Mrs. David Landgrave

Ragsdale, Jr., Kenneth "Kenny" by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Haydel and Family

Rainey, Mr. Steve by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gremillion

Ramsey, Mr. Ronald Lee Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Habetz

Richard, Jeanette G. by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Richard, Mr. Willie by Ms. Peggy Gossen

Richard, Mr. Willie R., Sr. by Mr. John Key

Richard, Mrs. Mary Jane F. by Pete and Jean Hoppe

Richard, Norbert G. by Jimmy and Louise Ledet

Ritchie, Mr. Douglas Brian by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi, E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff

Robert, Mrs. Carmella F. by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gravolet

Roberts, Betty by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerami

Robichaux, Estelle "Boo" by Ms. Alice Robichaux Broussard

Robichaux, Estelle "Stellie" by Ms. Alice Robichaux Broussard

Robichaux, Mr. Earl by Ms. Nona Robichaux

Robichaux, Rene by Ms. Alice Robichaux Broussard

Robichaux, Sue N. by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Rodrigue, Antoine by Ms. Jeanette Labat

Rodrigue, Mr. Julian J. by Mr. Keith Cangelosi

Rodrigue, Mrs. Hilda by Ms. Laine Woodruff

Romero, Mr. Al by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Romero, Mr. Gerald by Larry and Kathleen Viator

Rowe, William F. by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Russo

Roy, Mr. Leeward Gene by Mr. and Mrs. Mac Bryson

Russo, Mrs. Honorine by Mr. and Mrs. Errol Delahoussaye

Sagrera, Rowena and Ralph Sr. by Ralph and Kathy Sagrera

Saulsberry, Ms. Esther by Mrs. Nellie Breaux, Tulane-Loyola Credit Union

Savoie, Mrs. Jeanette B. by Mr. and Mrs. Nason Leger

Savona, Jr., Mr. Vincent J. by Mr. and Mrs. David Savona

Schmitz, Mr. Robert P. by Larry and Kathleen Viator

Schwing, Mr. Jules A. "Tony" by Mr. Alfred Ackal, Mr. and Mrs.

Errol Delahoussaye, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Segreto, Mrs. Linda by Mr. Mark Segreto

Segura, Joann Davant by Mr. and Mrs. Smitty Landry

Segura, Joann Davant by Ms. Jeanette Dietlein, Mrs. Rosemary Doerle, Lillie S. Himel, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Segura, Mrs. Jo Ann by Mr. and Mrs. Rene Broussard

Segura, Mrs. Ruby Jane by Mrs. Theresa Guidry

Semar, James by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader

Semar, Mr. James by Mr. Alfred Ackal

Shea, Dr. John by Mrs. Eva Sadlier and Sister Angele Sadlier, O. Carm.

Shrable, Mrs. Sally by Mrs. Catherine Parmley

Siffert, Mrs. Tammy by Mr. Robert Siffert

Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Lefiad by Mr. Roland Simon

Simon, Mrs. Juanita by Mrs. Verlon Trahan

Simon, Mrs. Mathilde by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dartez, Ms. Deanna Gary and Family

Smith, Carol Ann Constant by Mr. and Mrs. John Battaglia

Smith, Mr. Timothy by Gifted Nurses

Soileaux, Adam by Bernice and Mary Ann Breaux

Spinnato, Mr. Ignatius "Pete" by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassreino

Sprout, Mrs. Florence Simno by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Stagg, Louise by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerami

Stelly, Mrs. Ethel A. by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jones

Strickland, Mrs. Letitia M. by Mrs. Ginger Strickland Reed

Suire, Mr. Roland by Mr. and Mrs. Boniface Suire

Tauzin, Mrs. Gerry by Pam and Steve Meaux

Templeton, Elaine by Patricia and Douglas Begley

Tenney, Mr. Allen Jr. by Mrs. Theresa Doucet

Theriot, Ms. Elaine by Dr. Denise LeBlanc and Donna Thibodeaux, Mr. Joseph Vallée

Theunissen, Mrs. Frances by Mr. and Mrs. Nason Leger

Theunissen, Ms. Frances "Poochie" by Ms. Betty Perrodin

Thevis, Barbara M. by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schneider

Thibodeaux, Mrs. Roslyn by Kim Carbo and Donna Boullion

Thomas, Mrs. Dorothy by Bruslé and Gwen Sherburne

Thomas, Mrs. Elaine Elias by Mrs. Laurence Ackal Barras

Thomas, Mrs. Elaine Elias by Ms. Mary Jo Manning, Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Morgan, Mrs. Aline Porter

Tiernan, R.S.C.J., Philomene by Sister Gwen Monahan, O. Carm.

Tincani, Mrs. Dot by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Braud

Tomo, Alexander by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Toups, Jr., Munson Joseph by Ms. Jeanette Labat

Trahan, David by Mr. and Mrs. Rene Broussard

Trahan, David by Sister Donna Girard, O. Carm., Ms. Mary Jo Manning

Trahan, Mr. Eltes by Mrs. Verlon Trahan

Traigle, Scott James by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bolotte

Tribe, Mr. Charles by Mr. and Mrs. David Landgrave

Trippi, Mr. Paul Edward, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Galbraith, Mrs. Susan Theriot Gosnell, Ms. Nelwyn Hebert, Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm., Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Maillet, Earl and Susan Yeomans

Troyer, II, Mr. George Herman by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassreino

Verrette, Davis Alcee, Sr. by Johnnie E. Verrette

Vincent, Mrs. Emedia H. by Mrs. Nylas Credeur, Mrs. Matsy Guidry, Edna Landry and Family, Ms. Pat Langlinais, Mrs. Brenda Manceaux, Ms. Alberta Winch

In Memory Of

Voisin, Mrs. Marion by Dana Morvant and Linda Barrilleaux

Waguespack, Deacon Kenneth P., Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spedale

Waguespack, Mr. Cyrille by E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff, Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.

Waguespack, Mr. Everett, Sr. by Mrs. Dorothy Waguespack

Wall, Mr. William by Mrs. Marlene Wall

Walsh, Mike and Francis by Mrs. Violet Walsh

Wendel, Mrs. Lois by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Wesley, Flossie by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerami

White, Mrs. Shirley by Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Abadie

Williams, Mrs. Margaret by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gremillion

Wingate, Mr. Harold J., Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Mac Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Durio, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Marks

Wolford, Mr. Jerry by Mr. and Mrs. Ron O'Connell

Young, Mr. Phillip by Mrs. Catherine Parmley

Zimmerman, Janet by Mrs. Lois Clement Latiolais

In Honor Of

Allain, Ray by Sister Donna Girard, O. Carm., Sandra Boll

Anderman, Mary and George by Mrs. Dana Morvant

Andrus, Ms. Beth by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Andrus

Badeaux, Mrs. Laura by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.

Bean, Father E. Gray by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Champagne

Beaulieu, Gerald and Joanna by Ms. Nona Robichaux

Bednary, Mrs. Ronnie B. by Mrs. Vicki Hebert

Bernard, Rev. Fr. Inayat by Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.

Billiot, Ms. Niki by Mrs. Dana Morvant

Bindewald, Sister Andrée Marie O. Carm. by Mr. and Mrs. John Ramoneda, Jr., Sisters of Mount Carmel

Blanchard, Charlene by Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Hebert

Bland, Terri by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Blazek, Mr. Jim by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Boll, Mrs. Sandra by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Bollinger, Charlotte by P.K. Scheerle, R.N./Gifted Healthcare

Bond, Mrs. Mary by Mrs. Kathleen Broggi

Borchgrevink, Mrs. Jackie by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Boudreaux, David by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.

Bourgeois, Miss Alexandra by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lakey and Family

Breaud, Sister Barbara O. Carm. by Mike and Susan Hanemann

Broussard, Mrs. Agnes Duhon by Ms. Alberta V. Winch

Broussard, Mrs. Belda H. by Errol and Roe Ann Delahoussaye

Broussard, Sister Joan, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Buckholz, Helga by Ms. Laura Meaux

Buras, Skip by Sister Lawrence Habetz, O. Carm., Sisters of Mount Carmel

Callaghan, Mrs. Janell by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lakey

Campbell, Sister Camille Anne, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

In Honor Of

Campesi, Mr. and Mrs. Ross, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Griffin

Cannizzaro, Leon by Sister Lawrence Habetz, O. Carm.

Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Carmelite Friars of Most Pure Heart of Mary Province by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Case, Mr. Joe by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm., E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff

Chauffe, Ms. Jerry by Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.

Cheremie, Denna by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Chiasson, Michelle by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Clement, Colleen by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Coe, Elizabeth by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Cole, Bob and Judy by Mrs. Carole Landry

Cvitavovich, Klara by P.K. Scheerle, R.N./Gifted Healthcare

David, Rachael by Sisters of Mount Carmel

de Graauw, Anne by Mrs. Marlene Wall

Defraiter, Mr. and Mrs. John by Mrs. Marion Lochridge

DeRouen, Sister Bartholomew "B", O. Carm. by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Begley, Mrs. Barbara Epstein, Mr. Nicholas Gisclair, Mr. and Mrs. George Jourdan, Sisters of Mount Carmel

Deveras, Sister Josephine O. Carm. by Mrs. Anita Wong

Domingue, Gerald and Annette by Mr. and Mrs. Pete Lavergne

Doussan, Reverend Douglas A. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Du Bois, Monsignor Charles by Ms. Barbara Cramer DuBose

Dudenhefes, Mr. Jim by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Duet, Gwen by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Duke, Monsignor Charles by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lakey and Family

Duplantis, John and Gerry by Ms. Jeanne Domingue

Ebbing, Hermann by Ms. Laura Meaux

Ebbing, Ludwig by Ms. Laura Meaux

Egan, David by Mr. Glenn Jaubert

Eskind, Monsignor Jace by Ms. Barbara Cramer DuBose

Fernando, Sister Blaise, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Fitzmorris, Mr. James E. by Sister Rose Marie Penouilh, O. Carm., Sisters of Mount Carmel

Fitzpatrick, Carmel Julia Storan by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Gary, Mrs. Ida by Linda and Cordell Dartez

Gawert, Mr. Helmut by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Geraci, Sister Gina, STJ and Councilors by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Giacone, Mrs. Nancy by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Goodrow, Diane by Sister Paula Marie Derise, O. Carm.

Grégoire, Sister Thérèse, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Grillot, Sister Gwen, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Gros, Mrs. Pam by Mrs. Kathleen Broggi

Gros, Mrs. Tricia by E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff

Gunckel, Mrs. Shirley by Mrs. Lorraine Rock

Hall, Mrs. Jean B. by Mrs. Joyce Cambias

Hansen, Karen by Sisters of Mount Carmel

In Honor Of

Haydel, Harold by Ms. Lora Deligans
Hayes, Sister Pat CSA by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Hebert, Carmella T.O.C. by Immaculate Conception, T.O.C.
Hebert, Mrs. Thelma by Mr. and Mrs. Rex Simon
Hemmingway, Mrs. Sandra by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Mouton
Hernandez, Darleen by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Himel, Mr. Glynn by W.C. "Pete" Lavergne, Mary Ann Lavergne
Howell, Mrs. Ann by Ms. Lora Deligans

Iannazzo, Reine by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Jacobs, Reverend Sam G. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Johns, Mrs. Anita Paez by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.
Joly, Margaret Jones by Mrs. Catherine Parmley

Kenney, John and Louise by Mr. and Mrs. Pete Lavergne

Laperouse, Sister Barbara Nell O. Carm. by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Cavell, Sisters of Mount Carmel
LaSalle, Ms. Tena J. by Patsy and Norris Rader
Lauzon, Sister Germaine, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Lavergne, Mary Ann by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerami
LeBlanc, Katie Marie by Sister Lawrence Habetz, O. Carm.
LeBlanc, Mrs. Jeannette by Mrs. Libby Mouton
LeBlanc, Sister Janet, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Lema, Sal by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Lembach, Ursula by Ms. Laura Meaux
Lipscomb, Mr. Matt by Ms. Bridget Mires

Magsino, Honorata F. by Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.
Martin, Sister Catherine O. Carm. by Ms. Alberta V. Winch
McNeil, Jan by Ms. Jeanne Domingue
MCNI Class of 1960, Living Members of by Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Galbraith
Meaux, Laura by Ms. Janet Hardy
Merrick, Robert by P.K. Scheerle, R.N./Gifted Healthcare
Merryman Family, Ms. Carmen D. by Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Galbraith, Pat and Pete Pharr and Family
Milke, Emily by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Miller, Teresa by Sister Paula Marie Derise, O. Carm.
Monzon, Sheila by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Moore, Mr. Anthony Stewart by Sister Lawrence Habetz, O. Carm.
Morvant, Dr. Alexis (Levy) by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Haydel and Family
Morvant, Mr. Jamie by Mrs. Dana Morvant
Morvant, Mrs. Stephanie by Mrs. Dana Morvant
Mt. Carmel Thibodaux, Class of 1960 by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Nachar, Dr. Sam by Mrs. Dana Morvant
Neil, Mrs. Gladys, T.O.C. by Immaculate Conception, T.O.C.
Netzhammer, Mary by Immaculate Conception, T.O.C.
Niel, Tom J. by Ms. Jeanne Domingue
Nocentelli, Amanda by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Olson, Ms. Cheryl by Ms. Lora Deligans

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Greco, Pete and Gail Lassalle

Paltron, Ms. Mary Elizabeth by Mrs. Eva Sadlier
Peltier, Louis by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Rader
Penouilh, Sister Rose Marie, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Perron, Susan by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Poirrier, Mary Beth by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Randall, Mother M. Mark Louis Anne by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Remont, Colleen by Sister Paula Marie Derise, O. Carm.
Resweber, Mary K. and Teddy by Ms. Andy Delaune, Nelwyn Hebert
Riggs, Sister Catherine, O. Carm. by Ms. Therese McFall, Terri Robinson
Robichaux, Tim by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm., Sisters of Mount Carmel
Rodrigue, Sister Denis O. Carm. by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Cavell

Sadlier, Sister Angele Marie, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Salgado, Mrs. Julie Ann by Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.
Schaeffer, Kristen by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Segura, Sister Ann Carmel, O. Carm. by Ms. Therese McFall
Servants of Mary Ministers to the Sick by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Simno, Beth Ann by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Simon, Mrs. Jacqueline by Immaculate Conception, T.O.C.
Sisters at St. Anthony's Convent by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Sisters of Mount Carmel by Mrs. Ruth Buniva
Sœurs de la Providence de la Pommeraye by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Soinginer, Erin by Cathedral Carmel School Courtesy
Sorensen, Mr. and Mrs. P. by Mrs. Marion Lochridge
Speyerer, Mrs. Patricia by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Greco
Stanley, Mrs. Stacie by Mr. and Mrs. Jude Estopinal
Stelly, Mrs. Tammy by Yvonne Leger
Stevens, Matt by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Tardo, Mrs. Tina by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lassalle
Thibodaux, Cathy by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi
Tilden, Mrs. Marby Schon by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lakey and Family
Tombrello, Mr. John by Sister Lawrence Habetz, O. Carm.
Toups, Mrs. Joy by E.D. White Catholic High School Faculty and Staff
Trahan, Jackie by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Trosclair, Nicholas by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Trosclair, Sister Dorothy, O.P. by Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm.
Truxillo, Sister Francesca, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel

Wadsworth, Mr. Henry by Ms. Nelwyn Hebert
Ward, Mrs. Florence by Mrs. Joyce Cambias
Werner, Debbie by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wilson
West, Ms. Jewel by Ms. Lora Deligans
Wheelahan, Sister Mary Ellen, O. Carm. by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Willie, Dr. Ted and Mrs. Annette by Sisters of Mount Carmel
Wilson, Steve and Suzette by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Broggi

News of Note

The Sisters of Mount Carmel hosted the **School Leadership Formation Program** on September 27 at the Motherhouse in New Orleans. School Administrators, theology and social studies department chairs, teachers and Sisters of Mount Carmel Executive Council attended the program. The following schools participated in the program: Mount Carmel Academy, New Orleans; Mount Carmel Elementary, Abbeville; Cub Corner, New Orleans; Catholic High, New Iberia; and E.D. White, Thibodaux.

The program started with a social on Friday, September 26, which was attended by the Sisters of Mount Carmel and some of the participants from Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans. On September 27 the participants enjoyed "Carmel Monopoly" on the history of the Sisters of Mount Carmel, facilitated by **Sister Mary Ellen Wheelahan**. The game was inspired by Pope John Paul II's saying, "Carmel: Where Prayer Becomes Life and Life Flourishes." For part of the morning session, the participants watched a lecture from one of the Carmelite Third Order members, **Keith J. Egan, Ph.D., T.O.C.** On "Come Pray with Carmel in This New Millennium," after which they were given time for silence and reflection. **Miss Denna Cheramie**, Assistant Principal of Mount Carmel Academy, addressed the participants in the afternoon session on Carmelite Prayer in the Classroom, Catholic Social Teaching, and Carmelite Influence on Social Issues. The program was very informative and life-giving to each participant.

Surely Carmel is alive in our education ministry, where prayer and action work hand in hand.

-Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.



Enjoying a game of "Carmel Monopoly"
(Photo by Sister Sheila Undang)



Pictured (top): **Sister Lawrence Habetz, Stephanie Johnson, Sister Catherine Martin, Evy Edwards and Mary Lewis;** (bottom) **Gail Lassalle, Michelle Morris, Vicky Shelley, Sister Lena Collins, and Ray Casnave.** (Photo by Sister Sheila Undang)

The Sisters of Mount Carmel Lacombe Generalate and Carmelite Spirituality Center Staff gathered for their annual Day of Recollection at the Sisters of Mount Carmel St. Adele Villa, Waveland, MS on September 11. The theme of the day was "Carmelite Spirituality: A Way of Life." **Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.** prepared and facilitated the prayers and showed a video on "Timor-Leste Foundation." **Sister Catherine Martin, O. Carm.** enhanced the day of recollection with her presentation on Carmelite Spirituality using the story of the Prophet Elijah in the Book of Kings. **Sister Catherine** guided those attending through art and prayer, journeying each one's life in the light of God's presence from our past, present and future.

The staff enjoyed their day of personal and communal prayer, recollection and art, and expressed their gratitude for the gift of each other's presence. They also expressed how they appreciate the ministries of the sisters and how grateful they are to be part of the sisters' mission and ministry.

- Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm.

A Lenten Retreat at the Carmelite Spirituality Center

Poetry as a Pathway to God

Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29

Come, explore poetry as a doorway into prayer. As we enter into the sacred space of Holy Week, we will pay attention to the beauty and anguish of human life in the company of poets including John of the Cross, Emily Dickinson, Thomas Merton, and Jessica Powers. Reflections by **Sister Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.;** Art and Prayer with **Sister Catherine Martin, O. Carm.;** Prayer experiences led by **Sister Terry Falco, RSM;** Spiritual direction available with **Sister Barbara Breaud, O. Carm.**

For information visit <http://www.sistersofmountcarmel.org/carmelite-spirituality-center/>
To pre-register contact Sister Terry Falco at 985-882-7579 or carmelcenter@bellsouth.net

News of Note

On the occasion of the celebration of the Feast of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux on October 1 the Second Grade students of the class of **Mrs. Nancy Giacone** at Saint Clement of Rome Catholic School, in Metairie, LA collected flip-flops for the children (pictured right) in Beilaco, Zumalai, Timor-Leste, a poor mission area of the Sisters of Mount Carmel.

Sisters Lawrence Habetz and Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm. visited the second grade students in their classroom. One of the students dressed like Saint Thérèse. The children were very inspired and were interested in the life of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and were very proud of their endeavor of collecting flip-flops for the children in Timor-Leste. The children were able to collect 297 pairs of flip-flops, a good and inspiring gesture to remember and celebrate the Feast of the Patron of all the Missionaries throughout the world. As it was evident in the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, what was important was not doing great works, but doing little things with the power of love.

After the entire school Eucharistic Celebration at Saint Clement of Rome Parish Church in Metairie, **Sister Sheila** shared with the students, teachers, and parents who were present, the Sisters of Mount Carmel mission work in Timor-Leste. **Mrs. Jackie Favaro** from Mount Carmel Academy was instrumental in the flip-flop project. **Mrs. Susan Perron** from Mount Carmel Academy made the Saint Thérèse habit. **Sisters Rose Marie Penouilh and Denis Rodrigue, O. Carm.** were also present for the celebration.

-Sister Maria Sheila Undang, O. Carm. (Picture by Mrs. Nancy Giacone and Milene Miranti)



Mount Carmel Elementary, Abbeville, LA hosted its 19th Celebrity Chef on Oct. 27 "Rolling on the River New Orleans Style." **Sister Janet LeBlanc** and **Catherine Miller** extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who supported the activity especially the chefs who selflessly shared their time and expertise in preparing a very delicious dinner. Seated left: **Sisters Judith Hebert, Evelyn Mire, Teresa Margaret Toups, and Vera Vives.** Seated right: **Sisters Lawrence Habetz, Leah Sellers and Maria Sheila Undang.** **Sister Kathy Farrelly** also attended. (Photo by Sister Janet LeBlanc)

Pope Francis Declares 2015 as Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis declared November 29-30, 2014-February 2, 2016 to be a year to celebrate consecrated life. **Pope Francis** said, "Wherever consecrated people are, there is joy." The November 22, 2014 issue of the Clarion Herald carried articles published by religious of the Archdiocese. **Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse** wrote "The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Life-Giving" and "The Spiritual Reading That Has Changed My Life." **Sister Andrée Bindewald** wrote "Simplicity of Life Leads to Christian Discipleship." **Sister Denis Rodrigue** tells that "Seven Flat Tires Couldn't Stop Drive to Religious Life" and **Sister Lawrence Habetz** addressed the gift of leadership, "What Gift You Have Received Give as Gift (Mt. 10:18)."

The Archdiocese of New Orleans celebrated the Opening of the Year for Consecrated Life December 14 with Vespers and a social at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center, Metairie, LA. The World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated Feb. 21, 2015 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on State Street, New Orleans, LA. The Diocese of Lafayette will celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2, 2015. On Feb. 7-8, 2015 they will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and on Feb. 8, 2015 they will have Days with Religious with visits to communities, tours, receptions, vespers, rosaries and historical presentations throughout the parishes.

News of Note



Sisters in Quezon City gather for the ground breaking of the new addition to the Sisters of Mount Carmel Catholic School. The Philippine government has added two years to the high school curriculum. Additional classrooms were needed to fulfill the mandate. The groundbreaking was August 23.



Sister Helen Ojario turns the dirt at the ground breaking of a new addition to the Sisters of Mount Carmel Catholic School, Quezon City, Philippines.



Sister Kathy Farrelly was in the Philippines August 20-September 4. She accompanied Sister Helen Ojario on her return to the Philippines.



Our young and vibrant sisters in the Philippines. From left: Aspirant Meregén Limbaga, Sisters Schielden Torreda, Elma Calajatan, postulants Gellian May Segismar, Sisters Glaiza Granaderos, Elsie Villason, Juliet Naga and Cristilyn Rubio.

Congratulations to Mount Carmel Academy for being named one of the TOP FIVE private high schools in the city by NICHE.com. They were also named the 2014 Catholic School of Excellence by the Cardinal Newman Society. Congratulations to the staff of Cub Corner Preschool for being voted the BEST NURSERY/PRESCHOOL by Gambit readers! What a testament to the unconditional love, care and education they provide God's young children. We are so proud of you!

2015 Celebrates Year for Consecrated Life

On the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis proclaimed to the Church a year of prayer dedicated to the Consecrated Life. It is addressed not just to consecrated persons, but to the entire Church. Communion is an underlying theme in the letter of proclamation which encourages religious and laity to be of one mind and one heart. The Holy Father states three aims for religious to reflect upon: 1) a look to the past with gratitude for the charism and example of our founders; 2) to live the present with passion; 3) to embrace the future with hope. He challenges us to examine our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us by our founders. Living the present with passion challenges us to be “experts in communion,” witnesses and architects of the “‘plan for unity’ which is the crowning point of human history in God’s design.” Citing

the decreasing numbers in religious congregations, he challenges us to struggle through the economic, social and civil threats of our society and our world that we share with our contemporaries. He calls us to practice the virtue of hope, the fruit of our faith in our Lord of history who tells us “Be not afraid....for I am with you.”

*“The Year of
Consecrated Life
challenges us to
examine our fidelity
to the mission
entrusted to us.”*

-Pope Francis

So, what is this Year of Consecrated Life to mean to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel? I think that it calls us to reflect on the work of God in our congregation and in the lives of those whom we have served. Mother Thérèse Chevrel, our foundress, lived a life of faith and trust in God; giving up family to convert to Catholicism; leaving her sisters in France to come to Louisiana; submitting to the bishop in matters of where they would live and whom they would serve; suffering through a civil war, epidemics of yellow fever, and in many areas a real poverty that the sisters shared with the laity they served. The grace of the call was in her;

the passion to continue was obvious; and she had hope for the future of the sisters through trust in God’s love for the people of Louisiana.

The challenge of the year for us is to reflect upon and to live out with faith and hope our own fidelity to mission. This is done only with a deep love of Christ that enables us to meet Christ in the depths of our heart and to let him live in us and to love through us. Prayer is the essential element of our Carmelite charism. To truly pray and to be open to Christ’s life in us is to live in hope. To give of ourselves in service to God’s people here in Louisiana, in Asia and the world through the Carmelite NGO is our call. Fidelity to that call is the challenge before us; prayer is what keeps us on the path we walk with fidelity – prayer, and the knowledge that Christ loves us and lives and works through us. It is not Us, but Christ who brings about all that we accomplish.

The Sisters of Mount Carmel have always been mindful that we do not do anything alone. Our service to the Church has always been enhanced by the help and friendship of our lay partners: parents, co-workers, friends, faithful clerical leaders, and other consecrated religious. It is a friendship that, in the words of Pope Francis, is a real communion – a unity of God’s people in loving service to our Creator!

Sister Barbara Nell Laperouse, O. Carm. assists in the Congregation Development Office and is assistant to the Motherhouse Administrator.



CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

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The **Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel** is a community whose prophetic call moves the sisters to be in active ministries that help bring about a more peaceful, just and loving world. They are nourished by contemplative prayer, community and devotion to Mary, a woman of simplicity and faith.

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Share the vision; be a *Contemplative in Action*

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