



Flos Carmeli Flower of Carmel

Winter 2010

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus
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Gift and Mystery

By: Postulant Elizabeth

A religious vocation is, as our late Beloved Pope John Paul II described, both a gift and a mystery. I couldn't explain it in better words for my own case. I am in the primary stage of formation with the Carmelite sisters DCJ, the postulancy, which will last until July 1, 2010, upon which I will begin the novitiate, God-willing.

My presence among these beautiful Sisters and with my Beloved Lord is a total grace. Growing up in Cincinnati, Ohio, I regret that I didn't take my Catholic faith seriously until my junior year of high school, when I had a reversion back to the Catholic faith at a Youth 2000 retreat. This was at a very difficult period in my life in which I felt our Lords Eucharistic presence envelop me and invite me to go deeper than the life I had been living. I felt God, in His mercy, inviting me into His heart to become His.

Over the next several years I went back and forth about my vocation, at one point even running from it, chasing human relationships and other paths afraid of what giving up so much might entail. I was afraid that I wasn't "good enough" or the right candidate to become a Sister, afraid I couldn't possibly be happy living that way of life! I had contacted and visited the Carmelites DCJ in high school and college, but I wasn't yet ready to take that leap of faith. Their lifestyle attracted me like a magnet, their joy was contagious...but I was afraid.

In the end, it was a close friend that helped me to make up my mind to finally listen to God's voice. A holy young man sat on my front porch one night beside me, explaining to me that I needed to discern the religious life more seriously and that he could see that I was running. I held my ears, not wanting to hear those words. Smiling, he took my hands off my ears and said, "The King of the Universe is down on His knee, asking you to be His bride and you're telling Him "no"?" I cried, nodded my head and decided to return on a second retreat with the Carmelites a few months later. It was then that I asked to enter and was accepted several months later. I finished college and entered on September 8, 2009.

While the postulancy has been difficult on some days, I am growing and learning *so* much. I am filled with joy and peace, even at the hard moments, like being homesick. It is such a great grace to be here, and I want my life to be a thanksgiving to Him who pursued me even when I ran from Him for so long. God in His great mercy has given me this gift. It is a mystery as to why He could want someone as weak and imperfect as me, but to Him I am eternally grateful!



Right: "Don't take your costume off yet!" Elizabeth attempts to keep the rambunctious two-year-olds from our daycare clothed and smiling as they perform at their Christmas program.



A Pilgrimage for Our Lady

The “young perpetually professed Sisters” went on pilgrimage with their superior this past December 11-13. Along with being a time of renewal, the Sisters also became better acquainted with our Sisters in the North Province located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, where they stayed. While on pilgrimage the Sisters visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, prayed at the grave of Sr. Teresa of the Blessed Trinity, and spent time at the Carmelite shrine in Holy Hill, Wisconsin.



December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – the Sisters head up the walk to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

An extra treat – an opportunity to greet Archbishop Burke following the Mass on December 12!



The Sisters say a prayer, asking Sr. Teresa’s intercession that they too may live their lives completely dedicated to Our Lord after the example of Our Lady, with a great willingness to suffer for the salvation of souls.

The Sisters take a last look at Holy Hill before departing. After a glorious pilgrimage filled with blessings, it is time to return home to St. Louis.



Sr. M. Teresa of the Most Holy Trinity

A Passion-Flower of the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus

Sr. M. Teresa of the Most Holy Trinity was born on November 13, 1897, in the Netherlands. Although she suffered from illness throughout much of her childhood and youth, her health improved enough to enter the convent of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus and profess her vows on July 2, 1919.



She then travelled with seven other nuns to the United States, but shortly after her arrival, she was stricken with nephritis in a severe and extremely painful form. In the hopes that the weather might suit her better further south, her superior sent her from Wisconsin to St. Charles, Missouri. However, Divine Providence ordained that this would be the place of her Calvary. She bore her sufferings for five years with indescribable patience, even with a smile.

During her novitiate she had resolved to labor in silence and constant communion with God. This resolve was taken even further as she now suffered silently and in constant union with Him. She died at St. Mary’s Hospital in St. Louis on March 10, 1926 in the odor of sanctity, and now, at the throne of God, is proving herself an intercessor on behalf of the sick. Many cures have been attributed to her intercession.

Her cause for beatification was desired by our Foundress, Bl. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph. However, this cause lay silent as the Sisters instead worked on the cause of the Foundress herself. Now that our Foundress has been beatified, the desire has once more arisen to examine the cause for beatification of our Passion-flower, Sr. M. Teresa of the Most Holy Trinity.

Thanksgiving...



Left: Mmmm... Sr. Anna Maria and Sr. M. Immaculata cook up their favorite recipes from home for our Thanksgiving meal.

December 8th, 2009, marked a day of celebration as Sr. M. Regina celebrated 60 years and Sr. Mary Rose 50 years as a Carmelite Sister D.C.J. Bishop Stika of the diocese of Knoxville, TN presided over the jubilee Mass during which Sr. Eva Maria also renewed her vows for the last time. She hopes to profess the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience FOREVER this coming July.

to December 8th...



Right: Bishop Stika and Sr. Mary Rose pose to capture a

Above: "Little flea flicker on three-break!" Quarterback, Sr. Mary Peter relays the next play to her team during our Thanksgiving football game.

Right: "Oh, them ruby slippers!" sing the Sisters as they perform a song and dance in honor of Sr. Mary Rose.

Below: Sr. M. Regina devotionally renews her vows during the jubilee Mass.



Right: Sr. Eva Maria (center) will spend the next six months in intense preparation for her anticipated perpetual vows this summer. Keep her in your prayers!

Below: Sisters and children alike have fun at St. Agnes Home's Christmas party.



"The Sacred Heart of Jesus, which God, in His infinite Fatherly love has given to men, is and always will be an inexhaustible Treasure for us. From this heart we always want to draw love to give to our Sisters and to others."
~Bl. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph

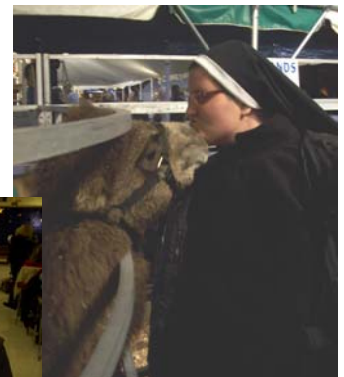


to Christmas!



Left: EeeAww! Sr. M. Veronica Therese (far left) plays the donkey in the St. Agnes Home Christmas Pageant with our residents.

Right: Where there is a baby, there is Sr. Angela Therese!



Above: Sr. Anna Maria gets a big smooch from a camel. You can take the Sister out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the Sister!



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"To see God in all, to serve
God in all, to love God in all."

A New Chapel for our Lord!

"If you come, I will come," was a prayer of love and longing which continually arose from the lips of our Foundress, Bl. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph. She was speaking of the Blessed Sacrament. Her love for our Lord in the Eucharist and the certainty of the blessings which His presence brought convinced her not to open a single Home until the Blessed Sacrament dwelt under its roof.

With the same love of the Eucharist alive in their hearts and the yearning to give Him a suitable dwelling place, our Sisters in Kentucky undertook the project of building a new chapel at Carmel Home this past March which upon mid-December reached its completion. After decades of cramped spaces and a "closet" for a priest's sacristy, our new chapel is spacious, beautiful in its



Above: An inside view of our new chapel.

Left: A mural of Carmelite Saints surrounding Our Lady which now hangs in the side chapel.



Above: 2009 October Holiness Retreat

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simplicity, and complete with a side chapel honoring our Foundress and all Carmelite Saints. Continuing the tradition of perpetual adoration in the new chapel, the Blessed Sacrament exposed day and night is a fountain of love animating every action and inspiring every act of charity in all touched by His presence.