



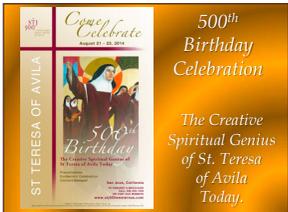
# Hiddenbrooke News

## Monastery of the Incarnation

No. 26

December 2014

Carmelites throughout the world are celebrating the Fifth Centenary of the Birth of St. Teresa of Jesus. Many friends joined us for Mass celebrated by Paterson, New Jersey, retired Bishop Frank Rodimer on October 15, the feast of St. Teresa. The bishop's devotion to and understanding of St. Teresa filled his beautiful homily.



Several sisters were privileged to attend the joyous "STJ500" August celebration in San José, California, "The Creative Spiritual Genius of St. Teresa of Avila Today," which included liturgical celebrations, musical and dramatic presentations, and a concert at the Cathedral Basilica of San José. A highlight was the premiere of two Carmelite virtual choirs, now available on YouTube.

St. Teresa has left a wealth of writings on prayer and the spiritual life. The following reflection by Sr. Marita invites you to take up Teresa's writings and allow her to guide you along the way of prayer and friendship with Christ.



### TEACHER OF PRAYER

In 1970, Pope Paul VI declared St. Teresa of Avila the first woman Doctor of the Church, primarily because of her teaching on prayer. We rejoice in her ability to put her experience into words.

In her many writings Teresa teaches that prayer is an intimate sharing between friends... taking time frequently to be alone with the One who we know loves us. Prayer then, is not a technique, but a relationship. Teresa teaches us by recording her experiences of ever-deepening friendship with Christ and the varied ways Christ manifested Himself to her. The humanity of Christ was central to her developing relationship with God in prayer. She insists that no matter how advanced, there is never a time when we should stop looking at and listening to Christ. Teresa tells us to draw near to Christ with strong determination to learn what He teaches us in prayer.

In describing her method of prayer she writes: "I tried as hard as I could to keep Jesus Christ present within me." What is said or how it is said is not important. What matters is being with Him, the action of being present. She writes, "I am not asking you to do anything more than to look at Him." She tells us prayer is not thinking much but loving much. This wise woman speaks from her experience when she tells us that distractions are unavoi-

able and that we should pay no attention to them, but gently bring our attention back to Christ.

When we understand prayer as a relationship, we see that it is not something over and done with. It is a relationship that flows over into daily life. It is ongoing, deepening, and transforming. We gradually come to desire what God desires and to want what God wants, culminating in the gift of intimate loving union.

One way in which Teresa represents prayer is as a movement inward to the deepest center of our being where God is abiding. In doing so, she enthusiastically describes the true beauty, dignity and worth of every human being. "I don't find anything comparable to the magnificent beauty of a soul and its marvelous capacity (for God)." It is not surprising that we seem to continually hunger for "something more." We cannot be satisfied by any thing or person other than God.

**Take time then, to nourish this friendship with Christ. Be attentive to Him. "Look at Him."**



Fr. Saverio, Fr. Rafael & Community

Beacon was among several East Coast Carmelite monasteries welcoming Discalced Carmelite superior general, Rev. Saverio Cannistrà, OCD, and Rev. Rafael Witkowski, OCD, general secretary for the nuns, for a brief visit in May. Father Saverio's conferences and writings as superior general have inspired and challenged us to remain faithful to Carmel's mission in the Church of the 21st century.



Sisters admire monastery's new sign

June marked the first anniversary of the arrival of our Redemptoristine sisters, who

now share the monastery at Beacon. The uniqueness of each community's charism is evident as we come to know each other as sisters and friends, by our shared liturgical prayer, feast days and joyful celebrations.



An attractive Book of Remembrance is now prominently displayed near the entrance to our chapel. The names of friends

and benefactors who generously contributed to our capital campaign and to our renovated, redesigned chapel, as well as the names of loved ones in whose memory gifts were given, are etched on the silver metal pages.



Srs. Carolyn, Mary & Marie Gertrude

Those who attended our fourth afternoon of prayer and reflection for women welcomed Sr. Carolyn's reflection on "Adventures in Prayer with Teresa of Avila." Srs. Michaelene and Marjorie responded to Sr. Carolyn's talk and participants offered thoughtful questions, making for an enriching afternoon. The afternoon also included time for quiet, solitary prayer, a coffee break and Evening Prayer.



Redemptoristine Sr. Lydia and Sr. Jeanne Marie

Celebrations of the fifth centenary of St. Teresa's birth coincide with the Year of Consecrated Life, November 30, 2014, to February 2, 2016. Religious priests, brothers, and sisters are called to evangelize the vocation to consecrated life. We welcome this time of spiritual renewal of our vocation as daughters of St. Teresa in today's Church and world. (schedule on back)

**UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS  
for ST. TERESA at BEACON**

**April 19, 2015**

Sunday - 2:00pm

Keith Egan, PhD. Lecture on  
*Teresa of Avila: Prayer is  
an Adventure in Love*

**September 27, 2015**

Sunday - 2:00pm

Kim and Reggie Harris  
Concert in honor of St. Teresa

**Fall, 2015**

Time to be announced  
Closing Mass

**Resources and internet sites for  
St. Teresa's Fifth Centenary of Birth**  
Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila,  
Institute of Carmelite Studies (ICS Publications)  
[www.icspublications.org](http://www.icspublications.org)  
[www.stj500westernus.com](http://www.stj500westernus.com)  
[www.teresa-5th-centenary.org](http://www.teresa-5th-centenary.org)  
YouTube—Carmelite virtual choir.  
"Nada Te Turbe" and "Salve Regina"



*Celebrating Carmel's feasts with friends.*



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