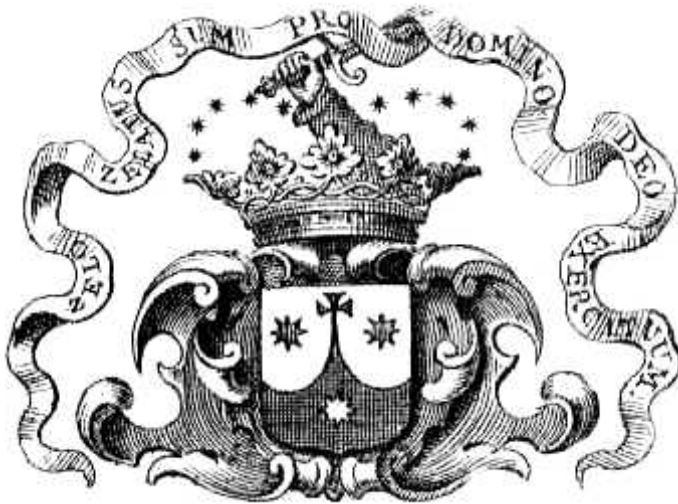


**DISCALCED CARMELITE
PROPER OFFICES
OF
CARMELITE SAINTS AND BLESSEDS
IN THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**



2007

Second edition



4 — JANUARY 3 — BL KURIAKOS ELIAS CHAVARA

death he had never lost his baptismal innocence. He was exercising himself in the practice of virtues, especially in simplicity of heart, living faith, tender obedience, and devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to St. Joseph. He has undergone immense hardships for the good of the Christians of Malabar, especially during the time of the schism of Rochos, when he, having been appointed vicar general of the Syrians, showed his extraordinary devotion to the Holy See. He fought day and night to arrest the spread of schism from which he would save no less than forty parishes. On this account the Holy Father Pope Pius IX sent him a letter expressing his great satisfaction. He was the founder and the first Prior of the Carmelites of Malabar. He founded also the convent of nuns after undergoing many hardships. On account of his endearing virtues, learning and profound knowledge of the Syriac language he enjoyed great influence on the Syrians of Malabar. He was always greatly loved by the Vicars Apostolic of Malabar, and even more by the people of Malabar, the gentiles and Nestorians not excluded. He endured his last illness for two years in a spirit of great resignation, nay with joy. He was detached from all disorderly affections for earthly things, which was all the more true in the last days of his life. Having received the last sacraments with extraordinary piety and devotion, in a heavenly joy, and amidst the tears of all who knew him, especially my own, who knew him even as myself, he breathed his last at the age of sixty-five and was buried in the church of St. Philomena at Koonammavu. O holy and beautiful soul, pray for me.

RESPONSORY

You adorned my soul with all graces
—so that the angels too may find joy in that.

You took care, besides, that my name
might be inscribed in the book of life
—so that the angels too may find joy in that.

PRAYER

Lord God,
You raised up Blessed Kuriakos Elias your priest
to strengthen the unity of the Church.
Grant that through his intercession
we may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit
to read the signs of the times with wisdom
and spread the news of the Gospel
by both word and example.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

January 8
SAINT PETER THOMAS
Bishop

Born about 1305 in southern Perigord, in France, Peter Thomas entered the Carmelites when he was twenty-one. He was chosen by the Order as its procurator general to the Papal Court at Avignon in 1345. After being made bishop of Patti and Lipari in 1354, he was entrusted with many papal missions to promote peace and unity with the Eastern Churches. He was translated to the see of Corone in the Peloponnesus in 1359 and made Papal Legate for the East. In 1363 he was appointed Archbishop of Crete and in 1364 Latin Patriarch of Constantinople. He won a reputation as an apostle of church unity before he died at Famagosta on Cyprus in 1366.

From the common of pastors

Office of Readings

HYMN

Peter, from your height of glory,
Look on all, our brethren dear.
Listen in your kind compassion
As we sound your praises here.

6 — JANUARY 8 — SAINT PETER THOMAS

Faithful to the rule of Carmel
You made progress day by day;
Called from thence to higher office
Love still lighted all your way.

Mary, Virgin ever-blessed,
Guided you with mother's care;
You repaid her sweet affection
With your constant loving prayer.

Deeply you have pondered scripture,
Ever following truth's call,
Thence have drawn with zeal unwearied
Food of doctrine for us all.

Since we have your good example
Shining as a lamp to guide,
Pray for us that we may follow,
Putting selfish aims aside.

May we praise you, heavenly Father,
Praise your Son and Spirit blest,
When together with Saint Peter
At your throne we come to rest.

87.87.

Sr. Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

SECOND READING

From the Book of the Institution of the First Monks
(L. 1, c. 6: ed. AnOC 3 [1914-1916], pp. 356-57).

Love your neighbor as yourself

Whoever knows my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me. The foremost commandment is: Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God is one God, and you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all

your mind. This is the first and the greatest of the commandments. But you cannot observe it unless you love your neighbor, for whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen; and so the second commandment is like the first: You will love your neighbor as yourself—that is, in the same way as you must love yourself and for the same reason.

Now what you must desire for yourself are those things which are truly good, not evil. If you wish yourself evil you are hating, not loving yourself, for *whoever loves wickedness hates his own soul*. This is the way, then, in which you must *love your neighbor as yourself*, wishing him good, not evil, for *whatever you want others to do to you, you must do the same to them*, and you should *never do to another anything you would hate to have done to yourself by another. Love never wrongs a neighbor.*

What you are to love in your neighbor, then, and do to him, are the things that will make him good if he is bad, or encourage him to persevere in virtue if he is good. Now it is for God's sake, of course, not your own, that you must love yourself, for you turn the thing you love for its own sake into the ultimate object of your happiness and the crowning blessing of your whole life. All your present joy will consist in looking forward to its enjoyment. How unworthy it would be, then, for you to place your hopes for a life of blessedness in yourself, or in any other human creature! *Woe to the one who puts his trust in man and relies on an arm of flesh, the one whose heart turns away from the Lord!* It is the Lord you should take as the ultimate object of your happiness, it is to him you must look for a life of blessedness, for the apostle says: *Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification, and its end, eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

See things as they truly are, then, and you will find yourself obliged to love God for his own sake, and yourself not for your own sake but for God's. And since you must love your

8 — JANUARY 8 — SAINT PETER THOMAS

neighbor as yourself, you will not love him either for his own sake or for yours, but for God's, or rather you will love God in your neighbor, *By this we know that we love God's children*, says the apostle John, *when we love God and obey his commandments*. If you love God for his own sake, and your neighbor as yourself for God's sake, then you are doing all that is necessary to prepare your soul, for *on these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets*.

RESPONSORY

1 Thessalonians 2:8; Galatians 4:19

I have longed to give you the Gospel,
and more than that, to give you my very life;
—you have become very dear to me.

My little children, I am like a mother giving birth to you,
until Christ is formed in you.
—you have become very dear to me.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Peace-maker prudent, hear our humble voices
Singing your praises, bringing our petition;
Plead with the Father that with you for patron,
Peace be our portion.

Leader impassioned, all on fire with fervor,
Making long journeys to the eastern places,
Herald peace-laden, bearing love to soften
Hearts filled with hatred.

Dauntless and watchful, ready for all dangers,
Where the Pope called you, there he found you waiting:
Your sole ambition that the Church grow closer
To Christ her bridegroom.

JANUARY 8 — SAINT PETER THOMAS — 9

Driven by ardor for the gospel precepts,
Kings you awakened, battle-lines united;
These were your weapons: sign of Cross redeeming
And Name of Jesus.

Singing the glory of the Three eternal,
Peter, we pray you, guide us on our journey.
Hopeful, unwearied, may we reach the haven;
Heaven, our homeland!

11.11.11.5.

Pacis o prudens operator

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. I am the good shepherd; I lay down my life for my sheep;
and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

PRAYER

Lord,
you inspired in your bishop, Saint Peter Thomas,
an intense desire to promote peace and Christian unity.
Following his example,
may we live steadfast in the faith
and work perseveringly for peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN, as at Office of Readings, p. 5.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts with joy, that
peace to which all of you are called as one body.



January 9
SAINT ANDREW CORSINI
Bishop

Andrew was born at the beginning of the fourteenth century in Florence and entered the Carmelite Order there. He was elected provincial of Tuscany at the general chapter of Metz in 1348. He was made bishop of Fiesole on October 13, 1349, and gave the Church a wonderful example of love, apostolic zeal, prudence and love of the poor. He died on January 6, 1374.

From the common of pastors

Office of Readings

HYMN

Sing out with thankfulness Saint Andrew's mighty deeds,
Trust in his fervent prayer for you are all his kin,
You who in faith and hope, hearts all with love aflame,
Seek fulfillment of endless life.

The saint was resolute, steadfast about his quest,
Knowing that earthly joy never could fill his heart;
Wealth, honors and high rank, compared with life in Christ,
Seemed more vanishing than the wind.

Like strongly growing tree planted in Carmel's soil,
He persevered in prayer, fruitful in kindly deeds;
God gave him light to see how he could mirror Christ,
Serving others with constancy.

Adhering to the Cross, God's servant soon became
Exemplary in life, wise, calm, mature in grace;
Set over other men; their profit was his care,
Their perfection his quest and aim.

Most Holy Trinity, hear his appeal for us,
That we may come to you when our life's task is done;
There silence is your praise, there praise is melody,
Soaring, swelling while ages run.

12.12.12.8.

Andreae meritis pangite gloriam

SECOND READING

From The Pastoral Rule of Pope Saint Gregory the Great
(P.1, c. 10: PL 77, 23A)

Portrait of a good pastor

It is important that a man who is set up as a model of how to live should be one who is dead to all the passions of the flesh and lives by the spirit; turns his back on what the world has to offer, is unafraid of hardship, and is attracted only by the interior life. He does not let his body shirk its duty out of frailty; he does not become depressed when abused, for he realizes that things of this kind further his true ends. He does not readily covet what is not his but with what he does possess he is generous. His loving nature is quick to forgive, though he never allows himself to be misled into condoning more than he should. While he does no wrong himself, he grieves over the misdeeds of others as if they were his own. His compassion for others when they are sick is heartfelt, and he is just as glad when good befalls his neighbor as when his own interests are advanced. His behavior is so exemplary in all respects that he need never fear being made to blush, even for past faults. He so conducts his life that those whose hearts are in need of refreshment can always find it in the guidance he gives. He is so well versed in the art of prayer that he can obtain anything he asks for from the Lord; it is as though he were singled out by a prophetic voice saying to him: *While you are still speaking I will say; "See, I am here."*

12 — JANUARY 9 — SAINT ANDREW CORSINI

If someone happened to come and ask one of us to intercede for him with an influential man we did not know and who was annoyed with him, we should at once say: *I cannot come and intercede—I do not know what he is like.* So if a person is afraid to intercede with a mere man about whom he knows nothing, how can one who is not sure whether or not his conduct makes him worthy to be counted God's friend, take it upon himself to be the people's advocate before God? How can he ask pardon for others if he is not sure that his own sins have been forgiven?

RESPONSORY Eph 4:32-5:1; 1 Pt 5:2

Be kind and compassionate to one another;
forgive each other as God has forgiven you in Christ.

—Be imitators of God the Father
who loves you as his own dear children.

Tend the flock that is placed under your care, willingly as God
would have you do, being examples to your flock.

—Be imitators of God the Father
who loves you as his own dear children.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Let all unite in joyous song
To celebrate Saint Andrew's praise;
His glory, like a flaming star
Lights Carmel with undying rays.

His cell of blessed solitude
For love of souls he sacrificed,
The Spirit having nourished him
That he might feed the flock of Christ.

Devoted to his bishopric
Both priests and flock his precepts heard;
He made them shape their lives anew,
Example speaking more than word.

Still poor in spirit, he could make
The poor man's suffering his own,
Thus in each place where he held sway
The seeds of peace and love were sown.

Now high in heav'n, fulfillment found,
He prays that Mary may obtain
The grace of Christ for this poor world,
The Holy Spirit's gentle reign.

Then through Saint Andrew's pow'rful prayer
May we attain to endless bliss,
And venerate the Trinity
With adoration like to his.

8.8.8.8.

Sr. Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called
children of God, says the Lord.

PRAYER

God our Father,
you reveal that those who work for peace
will be called your children.
Through the prayers of Saint Andrew Corsini,
who excelled as a peacemaker,
help us to work without ceasing
for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN, as at Morning Prayer, p. 12.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. The kingdom of God consists of justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; whoever serves Christ in this way pleases God and wins the esteem of all.

January 27
SAINT HENRY DE OSSO Y CERVELLO
Priest

Henry was born at Vinebre, Catalonia, Spain, on the 16th October 1840 and was ordained priest on 21st September 1867. He was an apostle to young people in teaching them about their faith and inspired various movements for the teaching of the Gospel. As a spiritual director he was fascinated by St. Teresa of Jesus, the great teacher in the ways of prayer and Daughter of the Church. (She is better known in the English-speaking world as St. Teresa of Avila.) In the light of her teaching, he founded the Company of St. Teresa (1876) dedicated to educating women in the school of the Gospel and following the example of St. Teresa. He gave himself to preaching and the apostolate through the printing press. He underwent many severe trials and sufferings. He died at Gilet, Valencia, Spain, on the 27th of January, 1896. He was canonized on 16th July, 1993, in Madrid, by Pope John Paul II.

From the common of pastors or of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Henry de Osso, priest

(A Month in the Heart of Jesus, Prologue, EEO III, Rome, 1977, pp. 456-458)

Identification with Jesus Christ

This is our main endeavor: to think, to feel, to love as Christ Jesus, to act and to speak as He—in a word, to conform our whole life to Christ's. No one can be saved unless they are formed in the image of Christ. To conform our life to Christ's, we need, above all, to study His life, know it, and meditate upon it, not

only in its outward appearance, but by immersing ourselves in the thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams of Jesus Christ so as to do everything in union with Him. In His goodness, Jesus Himself invites us, both in word and in action, to do this. For example, if we do not know the sentiments of His heart so as to put them into practice, how can we learn from His gentleness and humility? Or how can we come into His presence each time we act in order to imitate Him? Christ lived, ate, slept, spoke, kept silent, walked, worked, sweat, got tired, rested, was hungry, thirsty and poor; in a word, He suffered and died for us and for our salvation. Why is it, then, that we cannot make or imagine Jesus as real and down to earth, but only in theory and as the ideal, which is the reason we do not love and imitate Him in everything, as we must? Jesus is our brother, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, bone of our bones. This is who our Jesus is, true God and true Man, alive, personal, and intimate. He let Himself be seen; He lived and spoke with us. For our salvation, being the eternal Word of God, He descended from heaven, became flesh, suffered, died, rose, ascended into heaven, and remained among us until the end of time to be our companion, our consolation, and our food in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eternal life, then, our only happiness in time and eternity, consists in knowing Jesus more intimately. How happy will be the person who learns this lesson and lives it daily. What an inspiring thought! I will live, sleep, speak, listen, work, suffer—I will do everything, I will suffer everything in union with Jesus, with the same divine intention and sentiments that Jesus had and with which He suffered, which is what Jesus wants of me. Whoever does this—and all of us are called to do it—will live in this life the life of the world to come and will be transformed into Jesus, able to say with St. Paul: *I live—no longer I—but Christ lives in me.*

16 — JANUARY 27 — SAINT HENRY DE OSSO

RESPONSORY

I live by faith in the Son of God,
—who has loved me and given himself up for me.

I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.
—who has loved me and given himself up for me.

PRAYER

Lord God,
in your priest Saint Henry de Ossó
you wonderfully combined
the ideals of the apostolic community:
a life of continual prayer,
and of untiring apostolic activity.
By his intercession may we persevere in the love of Christ
and serve your Church by word and deed.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.





March 19

SAINT JOSEPH

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Protector of our Order

Solemnity

When March 19 falls on a Sunday of Lent, the solemnity is transferred to the following day. When the feast falls during Holy Week or the Octave of Easter, it is transferred to the Monday after the Octave of Easter.

The feast of Saint Joseph, celebrated by the entire Church, has special significance for Carmelites, and, in particular, for the Order of Discalced Carmelites. Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa found in Saint Joseph an unparalleled protector, intercessor and friend.

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

Exult, ye circling spheres, and vent your joy!
Thou ponderous globe, give echo to the strain,
While we, O Joseph, heart and voice employ
As suppliants thy patronage to gain

Our Mother, Saint Teresa, turned to thee,
As her protecting guide, her strong defense,
Thy vested office gave her surety
Of aid in trial from Omnipotence.

When oft by racking torture crucified,
She lay a victim in the grasp of pain,
The soothing aid of healer's art denied,
Hopeless through human skill her health to gain,

18 — MARCH 19 — SAINT JOSEPH

When scarce upheld upon her trembling knees,
Sick unto death with pain beyond compare,
Thy healing hand conferred the longed-for ease,
In thee she found fulfillment of her prayer.

And not alone her life thou didst renew,
But solving hidden questions of the mind,
Thy light, as learned doctor, clear and true,
Illumed the mystic secrets it divined.

O glorious Trinity! we humbly pray,
Through Joseph's merits we, with strength endued,
May journey safe upon our heavenward way,
To sing at length eternal gratitude.

10.10.10.10.

Plaudant aetheri sidera verticis

Office of Readings

HYMN

Joseph, the praise and glory of the heavens,
Sure pledge of life, and safety of the wide world,
As in our joy we sing to thee, in kindness,
List'n to our praises.

Thou by the world's Creator wert appointed
Spouse of the Virgin: thee he willed to honor
Naming thee father of the Word and guardian
Of our salvation.

When the Redeemer, whom the Prophets' chorus
Long had predicted, lay within the manger,
Glad was thy spirit, whilst in adoration
Lowly thou kneeledst.

God, King of kings, and Governor of the ages,
He at whose word the powers of hell do tremble,
He whom the adoring heavens ever worship
Called thee protector.

Praise to the Triune Godhead everlasting,
Who with such honor mightily hath blessed thee;

O may he grant us at thy blest petition
Joys everlasting. Amen.

11.11.11.5.

Cælitum Ioseph, decus atque nostræ

Morning Prayer

HYMN

He, whom the faithful joyously do honor,
Singing his triumphs with devout affection,
Won on his feast-day, in eternal glory,
Life everlasting.

How highly favored! how exceeding blissful!
For, when the moment of his death was nearing,
Jesus and Mary, at his side were standing,
To cheer him onward.

Death was but conquest over earthly bondage,
Sweet, peaceful passing to the heavenly mansions,
Where light eternal now doth ever crown him,
In bliss and gladness.

There, as he reigneth, earnestly beseech we,
That he may offer mighty intercession,
Pleading that pardon and the peace of heaven
May be our portion.

One in Three Persons, Godhead great and glorious
Worship we give thee, hymns of praise and blessing,
Thou who dost honor with a crown eternal
All thy true servants. Amen.

11.11.11.5.

Iste, quem læti colimus, fidèles

Evening Prayer II

HYMN

O Joseph, spouse so pure of that immortal bride
Whose glory shines secure, midst virgins glorified:
How now on high thy name is ever magnified
Let all of Christendom proclaim;

How once at God's behest an Angel came to bring
Joy to thine anxious breast, and tell of Christ the King
The Babe foretold of yore that of a maid must spring,
By God the Spirit shadowed o'er.

How with thy new-born Lord and Mary thou didst flee;
How Egypt did afford haven for them and thee;
How in Jerusalem that Son, sought mournfully,
Restored all joy, all grief did stem.

Not till death's hour is past do other men obtain
The blessings that do last, the joys that e'er remain;
Thou, like to Angels blest, on earth didst here attain
To clasp thy God unto thy breast.

O Holy Trinity, thy suppliant servants spare;
Grant us to come to thee, with Joseph's help and prayer;
And then our hearts shall raise, in saintly chorus fair,
Exulting canticles of praise. Amen.

12.12.12.8.

Te, Ioseph, celebrent agmina caelitum

April 1
BLESSED NUNO ALVARES PEREIRA
Religious

Nuno was born in 1360 and fought for many years as a soldier for the independence of Portugal. After his wife's death he entered the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a brother in the house he had founded in Lisbon, and took the name of Nuno of Saint Mary (1423). He died there in 1431, after distinguishing himself by his prayer, penance, and filial devotion to the Mother of God.

From the common of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Exhortation on the Carmelite Rule by Blessed John Soreth
(Tex. 15, c. 6: ed. Paris 1625, pp. 195-97)

The helmet of hope and the sword of salvation

On your head set the helmet of salvation, and so be sure of deliverance by our only Savior, who sets his own free from their sins. The helmet of salvation is hope, which looks forward to eternal salvation; and it is called the *helmet* of salvation because, just as the helmet is the uppermost piece of a soldier's armor, worn on the head, so hope is the uppermost of the virtues, always facing upwards and sighing for the joys of heaven. *Of salvation* means that hope obtains what it longs for: salvation; or rather, just as the shield of faith is faith itself, the helmet of salvation is salvation—Jesus Christ himself—for *salvation is from the Lord*, and we are to hope for salvation from our only Savior. The remembrance of, or longing for, his lasting salvation is the headpiece of our minds, which makes us safe against any blows the evil one can deal us.

But it is better to be armed for attack than for mere defense. This is why the Rule adds: *The sword of the spirit, the word of God, must abound in your mouths and hearts; let whatever you do have the Lord's word for accompaniment.* The pieces of armor we have been considering, the *breastplate of holiness, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation*, will keep you safe enough from ever giving into the devil or any of his minions; but there is another weapon which will enable you to subdue him completely with his whole horde and his works. This is the sword of the spirit, that spiritual blade, the word of God. There are four reasons why the word of God is called the sword of the spirit: first, it is made by the Holy Spirit, *for it is not you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.* Second, it slays our spiritual foes as Isaiah says: *With the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.* Third, it divides spirit from flesh as we find in the Letter to the Hebrews: *The word of God is living and active, piercing to the division of soul and spirit.* Fourth, it wounds and penetrates our innermost spiritual parts, which is why it is compared to sharp arrows in the Psalms: *A warrior's sharp arrows.*

The temptations our enemy subjects us to may be cruel, but far more cruel to him is a text from the word of God. And if armor and weapons are not defense enough for us and we feel the need of rations, we need not think we have been left without supplies; God's word is our provision. *Though an army encamp against me and temptation lays siege, I will trust in the word of my God, the sword of the spirit, and it will bring me easy victory. Then I can wash my hands, knowing that he has prepared a table before me that I may not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, and in the strength of that food I shall run with our father Elijah to the mountain of God by way of his commandments. That is why the Rule adds: The word of God must abound in your mouths in preaching, and in your hearts in meditation. Just as our Order's patroness the Blessed Virgin Mary kept all these words in her heart, so must they abound in your hearts by meditation, and in your mouths by instruction. It is by your Rule then brothers, and from the Order's first institution that you are bidden to preach the word of God like our father Elijah whose word burned like a torch; after his example let the word of God abound in your mouths and hearts, and let all you do, whatever it may be, have the Lord's word for accompaniment.*

RESPONSORY

Romans 13:13, 14; Psalm 119:105

Cast aside the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light,
—the Lord Jesus Christ (alleluia).

Your word is a lamp for our feet, and a light on our path,
—the Lord Jesus Christ (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant The Lord is my inheritance; he is good to those
who seek him (alleluia).

PRAYER

Lord God,
you called Blessed Nuno Alvares Pereira
to put aside his sword and follow Christ
under the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
Through his prayers may we too deny ourselves,
and devote ourselves to you with all our hearts.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Our faith is the victorious power that overcomes
the world (alleluia).

April 17
BLESSED BAPTIST SPAGNOLI
Priest

Baptist Spagnoli was born at Mantua, Italy, on April 17, 1447, and entered the Carmelite Congregation of Mantua as a youth at Ferrara. He was professed in 1464, and thereafter filled a number of offices at various locations. Having been Vicar General of his Congregation six times, he was elected Prior General of the whole Order in 1513. He died at Mantua on March 20, 1516. His virtue was outstanding, in particular his love for the Church, and he spared no effort in the cause of reform. He is considered one of the best poets of his age.

From the common of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Treatise on Patience by Blessed Baptist Spagnoli
(L. 3, c. 32: Opera Omnia, 1576, 4, f. 170r-171r)

We draw hope from the consolation of scripture

You will find that the reading of sacred scripture is a great and powerful remedy against bodily suffering and depression of mind. In my opinion, there is no other writing, no matter how eloquent and stylish it may be, that can bring such peace to our minds and so thoroughly dissolve our cares as sacred scripture can.

I speak from personal experience: for there have been times when I was beset with anxieties, the worst of which came from the experience of my own weakness, and if on such occasions I sought relief in the scriptures, the hopes and desires that led me there were never disappointed. The word of scripture proved to be a solid bulwark against my anxieties and a relief to my troubled spirit.

I have often wondered why the scriptures have this persuasive power, why they have such a powerful effect on those who listen to them, and why they lead us to the commitment of faith and not to the mere forming of opinion. This response of faith does not happen because of a reasoning process, because scripture does not offer one; and it is not a matter of literary style or artistic merit, because scripture does not use these devices; nor does it use soft words to persuade us.

The real reason that scripture has this persuasive power is that it comes from First Truth. Surely there can be no other explanation for such conviction. It seems as though scripture has an inherent authority that compels us to believe. But on what base does this authority rest? None of us has seen God preaching, writing, teaching —and yet we believe as though we had seen, and realize that what we read comes from the Holy Spirit. One reason for believing may well be that the truth contained in scripture is very solid truth, even though it is not as clear as we might wish. All truth has an inherent power to win our acceptance: the greater the truth, the greater its power.

So why is it, then, that not all believe the good news? My reply is that not all are drawn by God. However, there is no point in arguing further. We believe in sacred scripture to the degree that we accept in our hearts God's divine inspiration.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:14, 16

Your decrees give me joy,
—a joy beyond all wealth (alleluia).

In your statutes I find delight; I will not forget your word,
—a joy beyond all wealth (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant The mouth of the virtuous is a fountain of life, their lips
enlighten many (alleluia).

PRAYER

Lord God,
you made Our Lady's faithful servant,
Blessed Baptist Spagnoli,
a preacher of your Gospel by word and example.
Through his prayers
may we ponder your word in Mary's company
and praise you with her by the way we live.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Your statutes have been my songs in the place of my
exile; they are the delight of my heart (alleluia).

April 18
BLESSED MARY OF THE INCARNATION
Religious

Barbe Avrillot was born in Paris in 1566. At the age of sixteen she married Pierre Acarie, by whom she had seven children. Through her household duties and many hardships, she attained the heights of the mystical life. Under the influence of Saint Teresa's writings, and after mystical contact with the saint herself, she spared no effort in introducing the Discalced Carmelite Nuns into France. After her husband's death, she asked to be admitted among them as a lay sister, taking the name of Mary of the Incarnation; she was professed at the Carmel of Amiens in 1615. She was esteemed by some of the greatest men of her time, including Saint Francis de Sales; and she was distinguished by her spirit of prayer and her zeal for the extension of the Catholic Faith. She died at Pontoise on April 18, 1618.

From the common of holy women (religious)

Office of Readings

HYMN

Proud Heresy, with fur'ous, flame-like glance,
Hath gazed exulting on the Western nations;
And fired, as by a torch, unhappy France
is prey to cruel wars and devastations.

A noble woman, brave, of lion heart,
Now giveth rescue, home and faith defending,
With courage to repel the poison-dart,
And spurn the peril with a will unbending.

The exile of her lord is bravely borne,
Her scattered heritage and ruined dwelling;
She nobly conquers insult, pride, and scorn,
With joyful heart to lowly deeds compelling.

She faltereth not tho' trial presseth sore,
Though cares abound, tho' lamed in torture lying;
Nay, for her Lord's sweet sake she craveth more,
To suffer all with Him her soul is sighing.

And when misfortune giveth place to peace,
She resteth not, her zeal o'erpasseth measure;
To spread the faith her ardors never cease,
And gentle service is her life and pleasure.

From Spain she seeketh help for her loved land,
For Carmel there, a noble vine hath flourished,
Transplanting thence a sacred virgin band,
By blest Theresa's strength of spirit nourished.

All honor to the Father and the Son!
Be equal glory to the Spirit given!
O great Divinity, Thou, Three in One,
May ages praise Thee with the songs of Heaven!

10.11.10.11

SECOND READING

From the Way of Perfection by Saint Teresa of Avila
(C. 1, no. 1ff.: ed. Kavanaugh-Rodriguez 1980, pp. 41-43, 50)

The apostolic aim of the Teresian Carmel

When I began to take the first steps toward founding this monastery, it was not my intention that there be so much external austerity. At that time news reached me of the harm being done in France and of the havoc the Lutherans had caused and how much this miserable sect was growing. The news distressed me greatly, and, as though I could do something or were something, I cried to the Lord and begged him that I might remedy so much evil. It seemed to me that I would have given a thousand lives to save one soul out of the many that were being lost there.

I realized I was a woman and wretched and incapable of doing any of the useful things I desired to do in the service of the Lord. All my longing was and still is that since he has so many enemies and so few friends that these few friends be good ones. As a result I resolved to do the little that was in my power; that is, to follow the evangelical counsels as perfectly as I could and strive that these few persons who live here do the same. I did this

trusting in the great goodness of God, who never fails to help anone who is determined to give up everything for him. My trust was that if these sisters matched the ideal my desires had set for them, my faults would not have much strength in the midst of so many virtues; and I could thereby please the Lord in some way. Since we would all be occupied in prayer for those who are the defenders of the Church and for preachers and for learned men who protect her from attack, we could help as much as possible this Lord of mine who is roughly treated by those for whom he has done so much good; it seems these traitors would want him to be crucified again and that he have no place to lay his head. Still, my heart breaks to see how many souls are lost. Though I can't grieve so much over the evil already done—that is irreparable—I would not want to see more of them lost each day.

O my Sisters in Christ, help me beg these things of the Lord. This is why he has gathered you together here. This is your vocation. These must be the things you desire, the things you weep about; these must be the objects of your petitions. The world is all in flames, they want to sentence Christ again, so to speak, since they raise a thousand false witnesses against him; they want to ravage his Church.

So, then, I beg you for the love of the Lord to ask His Majesty to hear us in this matter. Miserable though I am, I ask His Majesty this, since it is for his glory and the good of the Church; this glory and good is the object of my desires.

RESPONSORY

1 Timothy 2:1, 3, 4

Let petitions and prayers of thanksgiving
be offered to God for all:

—for it is his will that everyone should be saved
and come to know the truth (alleluia).

Prayer of this kind is good, and pleasing to God our Savior

—for it is his will that everyone should be saved
and come to know the truth (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Freed at length from marriage tie,
Winged with joy her soul doth fly
To the fortress of Teresa, led by Spirit's call;
Choosing there the lowest place,
She, who with a mother's grace
Well might rule and govern, now is subject unto all.

O'er her sisters rising far,
As a bright and glorious star,
Guide of all who seek the path of life to God above,
She all honor doth despise,
And with great Teresa vies
In the tortures of her heart consumed with flames of love.

Mount thee to the heavenly height,
In the grace of love and light,
Harken to thy suppliants then, who pleading cry to thee.
Cast a love-enkindled glance
On thine own, thy native France,
That all minds and hearts be one in faith and charity.

Hasten all ye right of heart,
Sing ye loud with joyful art
Praise to our Redeemer Christ, and humbly Him adore;
Praise with all the heavenly host
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One in Blessed Trinity of Persons ever more.

77.76.D

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant Whatever you ask of the Father in my name, says the Lord, he will give you (alleluia).

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
you gave Blessed Mary of the Incarnation
heroic strength in the face of the adversities
she met along life's road,
and zeal for the extension of the Carmelite family.
May we your children courageously endure every trial
and persevere to the end in your love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Let angels hymn sweet harmony unending,
Let Carmel gladly join her ardent prayer,
While temples echo with the songs ascending
Upon the joyful air.

The glorious life of Mary now inspires
The chanting of her praises, fitly due;
She dwelleth high amid celestial choirs,
In bliss serene and true.

Her mind reposed in God from earliest dawning;
Her ready heart was swift to prompting grace;
All empty pomp and sinful pleasures scorning,
She fled the world's embrace.

To dwell with Christ a virgin, was her choosing;
She fondly sought Him for her Lord and Spouse,
But wishes of her parents ne'er refusing,
'Neath wedded yoke she bows.

So hath God willed that this exalted matron
With brightest luster of her state might shine,
To them that wed a noble type and patron
Of virtues all divine.

As wife and mother strong her love and tender,
Meek to obey her husband's every call,
To children and to servants prompt to render,
A prudent care in all.

All honor to the Father, Son, and Spirit,
O glorious Trinity enthroned above.
The blessed faith whose teachings we inherit,
Proclaims Thee One in love.

11.10.11.6

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. I have not labored for myself alone,
but for all who seek the truth (alleluia).

April 23

BLESSED TERESA MARIA MANETTI OF THE CROSS

Virgin

She was born at Campi Bisenzio, Florence, where in 1874 she founded the Congregation of Carmelite Sisters of Saint Teresa, whom she also sent to Lebanon and the Holy Land. She lived joyfully, body and soul, the mystery of the Cross in full conformity to the will of God, and she was outstanding for her love for the Eucharist, and her maternal care for children and for the poor. She died at Campi Bisenzio on 23rd April, 1910.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the works of Saint Teresa of Avila

(Interior Castle VII, 4; 4, 58. Way of Perfection 26,7, Interior Castle 11,1,11.)

Fix your gaze on the Crucified and everything becomes easy.

His Majesty could not grant us a greater favor than to give us a life that would be an imitation of the life that His beloved Son lived. For this reason I hold it certain that these favors are meant to fortify our weakness so that we may be able to imitate Him in his great sufferings.

Fix your eyes on the Crucified and everything will become easy for you. If His Majesty showed us His love by means of such works and frightful torments, how is it you want to please Him only with words?

Do you know what it means to be truly spiritual? It means becoming the slaves of God. Marked with His brand, which is that of the Cross, spiritual persons, because now they have given Him their liberty, can be sold by Him as slaves of everyone, as He was. In acting this way, He doesn't do us any harm but rather He grants us a not insignificant grace.

We have always seen that those who were closest to Christ our Lord were those with the greatest trials. Let us look at what His glorious Mother suffered and the glorious apostles.

Take up the Cross of Jesus. Help your Spouse to carry the burden that weighs Him down and pay no attention to what they may say about you. If you should happen to stumble and fall like your Spouse, do not withdraw from the Cross or abandon it. No matter how great your trials may be, you will see that they are quite small in comparison to His.

If we never look at Him or reflect on what we owe Him and the death He suffered for us, I don't know how we'll be able to know Him or serve Him. And without these works in His service, what value will our faith have? And what value will our works have if they are separated from the inestimable merits of Jesus Christ, our Good. And then who will bring us to love this Lord?

RESPONSORY

Cf Col. 1:24.

I rejoice in the trials I bear and make up in my flesh
that which is lacking in the sufferings of Christ
—for the sake of His body which is the Church (alleluia).

I have been crucified with Christ, and now no longer live
but Christ lives in me:
—for the sake of His body which is the Church (alleluia).

PRAYER

O God,
by the inexhaustible grace of the Eucharist,
you enabled the virgin Blessed Teresa Maria
to walk the way of the Cross,
and filled her with maternal concern
for the weak and the poor.
Through her intercession
may we too be strengthened by the bread of angels
to share joyfully in the suffering of Christ
and to participate in works of love
for the establishment of your kingdom.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

May 5
SAINT ANGELUS
Priest and Martyr

Carmelite Saint included in the Roman Martyrology

Angelus was one of the first Carmelites to come to Sicily from Mount Carmel. According to trustworthy sources, he was killed by unbelievers in Licata during the first half of the thirteenth century. Acclaimed as a martyr, his body was placed in a church built on the site of his death. Only in 1632 were his relics transferred to the Carmelite Church. Veneration of Saint Angelus spread throughout the Carmelite Order as well as among the populace. He has been named patron of many places in Sicily. Even to the present time devoted persons invoke him in their needs and faithfully honor him. Although no longer included within the proper calendar for Discalced Carmelites, the feast of Saint Angelus may be observed in the same way as an optional memorial, with texts taken from the common (cf. GILH, #244).

From the common of one martyr during the Easter Season.

The following hymns are translated from the Latin hymns of the 1961-62 Discalced Carmelite breviary, and may be used at any of the hours (cf. GILH, #246). The prayer is provided from the common.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Hail, happy Angelus of blest renown!
Hail, in the beauty of thy martyr's crown!
Rejoice, O Carmel, at his heavenly birth,
Rejoice to greet thy favored child, O Earth!

At Mary's word the light of faith doth shine,
His parents rise to greet the ray divine;
And though the mother waxeth far in years,
A double joy her childless bosom cheers.

This chosen son, as presage of his fame,
Hears from the Virgin's lips his angel name,
Sweet pledge and token Heaven doth bestow,
His kinship with the Blessed to foreshow.

The yoke of Christ how early hath he borne!
His infant lips were from the breast withdrawn,
By humble self-denial to enchain
Unruly Nature and her thirst restrain.

He feared the banners of the foe unfurled,
And fled the follies of a perished world,
To find in peace of Carmel's cloistered shade
His ardent thirst for solitude allayed.

In spotless mantle shining fair and white,
Of modesty a mirror chaste and bright,
Abiding poor in spirit, he hath known
No pleasure save the guiding will alone.

Sing glory to the Father and the Son
And to the Holy Spirit, Three in one!
Then haste to join the glad angelic lay,
And praise our glorious Mother on this day.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

How deep the stillness of the wood,
Where Angelus in solitude
Doth now in peace abide,
Afar from haunts of men, unknown,
And, save from Eye of God alone,
His favored soul to hide.

But God his worth to manifest,
Hath marvels wrought at his behest,
Suspending nature's sway;
For massive iron in the fount
The yielding tide doth gently mount,
His bidding to obey.

As swift the Surging waters roll,
They bend beneath his strong control,
And lo! from shore to shore
The swelling Waves their course divide,
While safely to the farther side
Dry shod, he crosseth o'er.

The leper riseth from his doom,
The sleeping dead forsake the tomb,
The sick are gladly healed,
The mighty prophets known of yore
In this their son revive once more,
Their deeds of power revealed.

O holy Father, praise to Thee,
To Thy dear Son eternally,
And to the Holy Ghost!
While we with full triumphant strain
Extol our glorious Mother's reign
With all the heavenly host.

PRAYER

God our Father,
you have honored the Church
with the victorious witness of Saint Angelus,
who died for his faith.
As he imitated the sufferings and death of the Lord,
may we follow in his footsteps and come to eternal joy.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Mid shadow of the forest deep and still,
Behold! 'tis Angelus in raptured prayer,
By spirits nurtured with celestial fare
But Christ doth call, and at his Master's will
He leaveth all, a mission new to fill.

Within his bosom burns a double fire,
The twofold spirit of Elias' zeal.
Foreknowledge of his death God doth reveal,
And generous is the flame of his desire,
The honor of his Maker to inspire.

Their fallen souls from Satan to regain,
He nobly censureth a guilty pair;
But blind and furious, heedless of his prayer,
The wretch hath pierced him and he falleth slain,
As cruel dagger doth his life blood drain.

Triumphantly he mounted to the skies,
Victor at length, with triple laurels bound,
Virgin and Martyr, Doctor, he is crowned.
A glorious conqueror he doth arise,
Laden with trophies, for the eternal prize.

Revere with joy the Father and the Son,
With equal love the Holy Spirit praise,
Unto our Mother tuneful anthems raise,
And oh, may earth by Heaven be not outdone,
In glory to the endless Three in One.

10.10.10.10.10.

Dum sub obscuris meditatur umbris

May 9
SAINT GEORGE PRECA
Priest

Third Order Carmelite Saint included in the Roman Martyrology

Saint George was born in Valletta, the capital of the Mediterranean island of Malta, and lived for a time in Valletta near the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. As a child, and according to the customs of the times, George joined the Carmelite Family by being enrolled in the Scapular. As a young man he felt called to the priesthood. He was ordained priest on 22 December 1906. During the early months of 1907, the young Fr George began his mission by gathering around him and forming a small group of young men in their twenties. He instilled in them moral principles, the fear of God and an awareness of the infinite love that God bears humanity. These young men were the first seeds of the Society of Christian Doctrine, popularly known as MUSEUM, the initial letters of *Magister, Utinam Sequatur Evangelium Universus Mundus* ("Lord, would that the whole world follow the Gospel"). Fr George's work was and is the religious education of young children, boys and girls and youth, undertaken by well-prepared lay people. The central theme of his spirituality and theology was the Incarnation: *Verbum Dei caro factum est* ("The Word of God was made flesh"). These words became the motto of the distinctive emblem of the Society and of his life. Fr George was not satisfied with a minimal Christian life. As a child he wore the scapular and in later years wanted to commit himself more intensely to following the example of Our Lady and thus became a Carmelite Tertiary. He joined the Third Order on 21 July 1918 and made his profession on 26 September of the following year. At his profession he took the name of "Franco", after the Carmelite Blessed Franco of Siena. Fr George chose the name of this Blessed because he considered himself a great sinner... a characteristic of many saints. He really felt he was a member of the Carmelite Family, so much so that several times in his writings he calls himself a Carmelite and uses the name he took at his profession as a Tertiary rather than his own name. In 1952, in recognition of his untiring efforts to spread devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Fr George was affiliated to the Order. He died at 82, on 26 July 1962. His presence and the influence of his spirit are still felt among all Maltese families. Fr George Preca

36b — MAY 9 — SAINT GEORGE PRECA

is a saint of our times, not because of any extraordinary events recorded during his life, but above all because of the living monument that he left behind in the Society of the MUSEUM, today spread to Europe, Oceania, Africa and Latin America. Fr George has been a worthy son of Carmel, not just because he was a member of the Third Order or because he wore the Scapular and preached on Our Lady, but rather because he lived a life of intimate union with God and served his brothers and sisters after the example of Our Lady. He was beatified by John Paul II on 9 May 2001, and canonized by Benedict XVI on 3 June 2007. Although not included within the proper calendar for Discalced Carmelites, the feast of Saint George Preca may be observed in the same way as an optional memorial, with texts taken from the common (cf. GILH, #244).

From the common of pastors.

PRAYER

God our Father,
in Saint George Preca
you gave a light to your faithful people.
You made him a pastor of the Church
to feed your sheep with his word
and to teach them by his example.
Help us by his prayers to keep the faith he taught
and follow the way of life he showed us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.





May 16
SAINT SIMON STOCK
Religious

Simon, an Englishman, died at Bordeaux in the mid-thirteenth century. He has been venerated in the Carmelite Order for his personal holiness and his devotion to Our Lady. A liturgical celebration in his honor was observed locally in the fifteenth century, and later extended to the whole Order.

From the common of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From *The Flaming Arrow* by Nicholas of France, prior general .
(Ch 6)

I will lead her into the desert, and there I will speak to her heart

Was it not our Lord and Savior who led us into the desert, as a mark of his favor, so that there he might speak to our hearts with special intimacy? It is not in public, not in the market place, not amid noise and bustle that he shows himself to his friends for their consolation and reveals his secret mysteries to them, but behind closed doors.

To the solitude of the mountain did Abraham, unswerving in faith and discerning the issue from afar in hope, ascend at the Lord's command, ready for obedience's sake to sacrifice Isaac his son; under which mystery the passion of Christ—the true Isaac—

lies hidden. To the solitude of the mountain was it too that Abraham's nephew, Lot, was told to flee for his life in haste from Sodom. In the solitude of Mount Sinai was the Law given to Moses, and there was he so clothed with light that when he came down from the mountain no one could look upon the brightness of his face. In the solitude of Mary's chamber, as she conversed with Gabriel, was the Word of the Father most high in very truth made flesh. In the solitude of Mount Tabor it undoubtedly was, when it was his will to be transfigured, that God-made-man revealed his glory to his chosen intimates of the Old and New Testaments. To a mountain solitude did our Savior ascend alone in order to pray. In the solitude of the desert did he fast forty days and forty nights together, and there did he will to be tempted by the devil, so as to show us the most fitting place for prayer, penance, and victory over temptation.

To the solitude of mountain or desert it was, then, that our Savior retired when he would pray; though we read that he came down from the mountain when he would preach to the people or manifest his works. He who planted our fathers in the solitude of the mountain thus gave himself to them and their successors as a model, and desired them to write down his deeds, which are never empty of mystical meaning, as an example.

It was this rule of our Savior, a rule of utmost holiness, that some of our predecessors followed of old. They tarried long in the solitude of the desert, conscious of their own imperfection. Sometimes however—though rarely—they came down from their desert, anxious, so as not to fail in what they regarded as their duty, to be of service to their neighbors, and sowed broadcast of the grain, threshed out in preaching, that they had so sweetly reaped in solitude with the sickle of contemplation.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 55 7-8, 1 John 2:7

O that I had wings like a dove, to fly away and be at rest.
—So I would escape far away, and take refuge in the desert
(alleluia).

The world and its cravings pass away,
but those who do God's will stand firm forever.
—So I would escape far away, and take refuge in the desert
(alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant The Lord is my inheritance; he is good to those
who seek him (alleluia).

PRAYER

God of love,
you called Saint Simon Stock to serve you
in the family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
Through his prayers help us, like him,
to live in your presence
and to work for the salvation of all.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Where his faithful praise God together, there the Lord will
shower his graces (alleluia).

May 22

SAINT JOACHINA DE VEDRUNA

Religious

Joachina was born in Barcelona in 1783. She married Theodore de Mas in 1799 and bore him nine children before being widowed in 1816. Then in 1826 she was prompted by God's Spirit to found the Congregation of Carmelite Sisters of Charity, which spread throughout Catalonia, establishing

40 — MAY 22 — SAINT JOACHINA DE VEDRUNA

houses for the care of the sick and the education of children, especially the poor. She was greatly drawn to contemplating the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Her spiritual life was marked by prayer, mortification, detachment; humility and love. She died at Vich in 1854.

From the common of holy women (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Letters of Saint Joachina de Vedruna

(*Epistoiario*, Victoria 1969, pp. 275; 246; 260; 297: 254; 297; 37)

Charity above all things

If only we were all on fire with love for God! If we were, we should preach love, proclaim love, and yet more love, until we had set the whole world on fire. We must have great desires: then God will give us whatever is best for us.

We must be careful to free our hearts from everything that might get in the way of the pure love of our beloved Jesus. He is love itself, and wants to give himself to us through love. Jesus is calling us all the time—how long are we going to remain deaf to his voice? No, let us keep our hearts ready, our wills completely for Jesus, our faculties and our senses for our Lord.

There must be no undue attachment in our hearts for created things: they must burn with love alone, love ever more fervent; for love never says *enough*, never rests until it is completely on fire. When our hearts are completely on fire with pure love for Jesus, everything that might hinder love from taking complete possession will be cast out.

We must not give in to weariness: we must spend every minute in loving God. God alone, the maker of heaven and earth, must be our rest and our consolation. The love of God is the only thing we can possess forever: everything else will pass away.

Love, love, and yet more love—love that is never satisfied! The more we love God, the more we shall long to love

him. And when we have Jesus in our hearts, we shall have everything else in him and with him.

RESPONSORY

Jn 15:9; 1 John 4:16, Eph 5:2

Remain in my love.

—All who live in love, live in God, and God in them (alleluia).

Follow the way of love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us.

—All who live in love, live in God, and God in them (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant All the world will know you are living as I taught you,
if you love one another (alleluia).

PRAYER

Lord God,
you gave Saint Joachina de Vedruna
to your Church for the Christian education of youth
and the care of the sick.
May we follow her example,
and lovingly devote our lives
to serving you in our brothers and sisters.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. What you have done for one of these, the least of my own,
you have done for me, says the Lord (alleluia).



May 25
SAINT MARY MAGDALEN DE' PAZZI
Virgin
Memorial

In 1566 Saint Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi was born in Florence where she received a good religious upbringing, and eventually became a Carmelite nun. In Carmel she led a hidden life of prayer and self-denial, praying fervently for the reform of the Church and helping her sisters in their quest for perfection. After receiving many graces from God, she died in 1607.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

HYMN

Behold th' Etruscan Magdalen,
True mistress versed in spirit lore,
The better part she chooseth well,
And holdeth fast forever more.

From tender years her troth to flight,
In sacred marriage to the King,
With lamp undying all alight,
She waits the Bridegroom's welcoming.

With wounds and thorns He decks His spouse,
With Cross and scourge her soul delights,
With heart and ring His love endows,
And to His sacred feast invites.

O Grace sublime, “The Word made flesh,”
Augustine with inspired hand
Hath writ upon her virgin breast
And she that word doth understand.

In wondrous figures from above
As river, column, tongue, and fire,
Descendeth oft the Heavenly Dove,
Her ardent spirit to inspire.

Impelled by strength of love’s delight,
She speedeth to the belfry tower,
That all creation may unite
In love to praise their Maker’s power.

Jesus, true Spouse of virgin choice!
May choirs of blessed Thee adore,
With nuptial canticle rejoice,
And hymn Thy praises ever more.

L.M.

Haec est Etrusca Magdala

The second reading and its responsory are from *The Liturgy of the Hours*, v. 2, p. 1836, or v. 3, p. 1428.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Afar to the mansions eternal hath risen,
All radiant with virtues and fruitful in grace,
Blest Magdalen freed from the bonds of her prison,
With Jesus, the Bridegroom, in loving embrace.

When hid in the depths of maternal enclosure,
By spirit uplifted she weighed not the breast,
Nor when in the midst of this world’s dread exposure,
Did burden of sin on her pure bosom rest.

The needy she clothed and the blind soul enlightened,
The prison she cheered, giving succor to all,

44 — MAY 25 — SAINT MARY MAGDALEN DE' PAZZI

Her heart's intercession by weeping she heightened,
Lost souls from their danger, in safety to call.

For anguish and chains, earthly pleasure she flieth,
While chastening her spirit in hunger and prayer,
Her innocent flesh for her Love crucifieth,
With scourge, gall, and thorn-crown His torture to share.

The saints whom she praised with the angels in choir,
Oft drew her by rapture to share in their bliss,
While the Bridegroom she clasped in the strength of desire
To taste in her love the delight of His kiss.

Oh, harken in pity! our full hearts are pleading,
We sing of thy triumphs, thy marvels proclaim.
Enlighten our darkness by thy interceding,
And kindle within us love's infinite flame!

Give praise to the Father, all spirits in chorus,
And sing to our Jesus, Redeemer and Son.
Revere ye the Spirit, in love bending o'er us,
All homage and praise to our God, Three in One.

12.11.12.11.

Corporis nexus hodie rescindens

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant The love of God has been poured into our hearts, through
the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (alleluia).

PRAYER

Father,
you love those who give themselves completely to your service,
and you filled Saint Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi
with heavenly gifts and the fire of your love.
As we honor her today,
may we follow her example of purity and charity.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Fair Mount of Carmel, shining in thy splendor,
Smile on this maid, with festive song commend her;
Lo! to her virtue Heav'n and earth surrender
Homage unceasing.

Snow-white the garb which now her soul adorneth,
One with her Lord, His every pang she mourneth,
Watchful in prayer, the demon-craft she scorneth,
Conquest achieving.

Thistles and thorns, in cruel torture blending,
Crimson her flesh, her guileless body rending,
Mary, with silv'ry veil, from Heav'n descending,
Robes her in glory.

Deep, hidden secrets of the heart she knoweth,
Light of the future to the present showeth,
Heav'n at her word the boon of health bestoweth,
Foul fevers flying.

Meek, and distrustful of her own endeavor,
Strong at God's word, her will, obedient ever,
Stayed her in life, when death, all ties to sever,
Fought with her spirit.

Plunged in the lake of Hell, 'mid flames consuming,
Five years she strove, when peaceful death entombing,
Guarded unstained the sacred lilies blooming
In her pure bosom.

Fragrant in death her beauty still abideth,
Evil approach her trembling, horror chideth;
Now, as in life, God to her will confideth
Marvels of power.

46 — MAY 29 — BLESSED ELIA OF SAINT CLEMENT

Praise to the Father, God most high and glorious,
Praise to the Son, o'er sin and death victorious,
Praise to the Spirit, sing with anthem joyous,
Glory eternal.

11.11.11.5.

Pange, Carmeli speciose vertex

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. The Word of God became man and lived among us, that he might draw all of us to himself (alleluia).

May 29 BLESSED ELIA OF SAINT CLEMENT Virgin

Blessed Elia of St. Clement was born in Bari, 17th January 1901, to deeply Christian parents. At her baptism she was given the name Theodora, gift of God. In the brief course of her life on earth she lived up to her name. On 8th April 1920 (then Feast of St. Albert, author of the Carmelite Rule), she entered the Carmel of St. Joseph in Bari. She received the habit on 24th November of the same year, the feast of St John of the Cross. On 8th December 1924 she wrote in her own blood her act of total and definitive offering to the Lord with the vow to embrace the "most perfect". She died on Christmas day 1927. On 19th December 2005 Pope Benedict XVI signed the Decree of Beatification. She was proclaimed Blessed in Bari Cathedral on 18th March 2006.

From the common of virgins.

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Writings of Blessed Elia of Saint Clement
(Ed. O.C.D. 2001: pp. 282, 295, 322).

The desire to lose herself in God and her apostolic zeal

O sweet hiddenness, I love to pass my days in your shadow and to consume thus my existence, for love of my sweet Lord. At times, thinking of those eternal rewards, so great

compared to the slight sacrifices of this life, my soul remains in wonder, and seized by an ardent longing, it throws itself on God, exclaiming: “Oh my good Jesus, I want to reach my goal, the gates of salvation, no matter what the cost. Do not deny me anything; give me suffering. May this be the most intimate martyrdom of my poor heart, hidden from every human glance: a rugged cross is what I ask of you. I want to pass my days here below hanging from this cross.”

When we suffer with Jesus, the suffering is delightful; I long to suffer with all my heart, beyond this I no longer want anything.

My Delight, who could ever separate me from You? Who could be capable of breaking these strong chains that keep my heart attached to yours? Perhaps the abandonment of creatures? It is precisely this that unites the soul to its Creator. Perhaps tribulations, suffering, crosses? It is in these thorns that the canticle of the soul that loves you is freest and lightest. Perhaps death? But this will be nothing other than the beginning of true happiness for the soul. Nothing, nothing can separate this soul from You, not even for a brief moment. It was created for You and is lost if it does not abandon itself to You.

My life is love: this sweet nectar surrounds me, this merciful love penetrates me, purifies me, renews me, and I feel it consuming me. The cry of my heart is: “Love of my God, my soul searches for You alone. My soul, suffer and be quiet; love and hope; offer yourself but hide your suffering behind a smile, and always move on. I want to spend my life in deep silence, in the depths of my heart, in order to listen to the gentle voice of my sweet Jesus.

“Souls, I will search for a way to cast you into the sea of Merciful Love: souls of sinners, but above all souls of priests and religious. To this end my existence is slowly disappearing, consumed like the oil of a lamp that watches near the Tabernacle.”

46b — MAY 29 — BLESSED ELIA OF SAINT CLEMENT

I sense the vastness of my soul, its infinite greatness that the immensity of this world cannot contain: it was created to lose itself in You, my God, because you alone are great, infinite and thus You alone can make it completely happy.

RESPONSORY

An unmarried woman, like a young girl,
can devote herself to the Lord's affairs.

—Her aim is to be dedicated to him in body as in spirit (alleluia).

God is the strength of her heart, he is hers forever:

—Her aim is to be dedicated to him in body as in spirit (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant O Lord, how gentle is your love! Lost in your embrace
I shall be blessed forever (alleluia).

PRAYER

O Lord,
who were pleased to accept the self-offering
of Blessed Elia of Saint Clement, virgin;
grant through her intercession,
that, sustained by the Eucharist
we may be able faithfully to do your will.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Your love, O Lord, is like a fire consuming me in the
ardent furnace of your Heart (alleluia).



June 7
BLESSED ANNE OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW
Virgin
Memorial

Ana Garcia was born at Almendral, Castille, in 1549. In 1572 she made her profession as a Carmelite in the hands of St Teresa, at Saint Joseph's, Avila. The saint later chose her as her companion and nurse, and she subsequently brought the Teresian spirit to France and Belgium, where she proved herself, like Teresa, a daughter of the Church in her great zeal for the salvation of souls. She died at Antwerp in 1626.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by
Blessed Anne of Saint Bartholomew

(Autog. MS monast. St. Teresa, Madrid)

Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart

According to Saint Bernard, it is the person who keeps silent and says nothing when things go wrong who is really humble. It is very virtuous, he says, to keep silent when people are talking about our true faults, but more perfect when we are

slighted or accused without having committed any fault or sin. And though it is virtuous indeed to bear this in silence, it is more perfect still to want to be despised and thought mad and good-for-nothing, and to go on, as our Lord Jesus Christ did, wholeheartedly loving those who despise us.

If Jesus kept silent, it was not because he hated anyone. He was simply saying to his eternal Father what he said on the cross: *Lord, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*. What infinite love burned in that sacred heart of yours, Lord Jesus! Without uttering a single word you spoke to us; without a word you worked the mysteries you came to accomplish—teaching virtue to the ignorant and blind. What our Lord did was no small thing. Where should we get patience and humility and poverty and the other virtues, and how could we *carry each other's burdens* and cross, if Christ had not taught us all this first, and given himself as a living model of all perfection?

Blessed silence! In it you cry out and preach to the whole world by your example. Volumes could be written about your silence, Lord! There is more wisdom to be learned from it by those who love you than from books or study.

Our Lord became a *spring of Living water* for us, so that we should not die of thirst among all the miseries that surround us. How truly he said in the Gospel that he came to serve and not to be served! What tremendous goodness! Can we fail to be shamed by your words and deeds, and the patience you show with us every day? How truly, again Lord, did you say: *Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart*. Where can we obtain this patience and humbleness of heart? Is there any way to achieve it except by taking it from Christ as he taught it to us with those other virtues we need—faith, hope and charity? Without faith we cannot follow that royal road of the divine mysteries. It is faith that opens our eyes and makes us see the truth; and where faith is wanting there is no light, and no way leading to goodness.

RESPONSORY

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and do not rely on your own intelligence;
—and he will make straight your paths (alleluia).

Wherever you go be mindful of him,
—and he will make straight your paths (alleluia).

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant Where humility is, there is wisdom; the wisdom of the
humble will protect them from defeat (alleluia).

PRAYER

Father,
rewarder of the humble,
you blessed your servant Anne of Saint Bartholomew
with outstanding charity and patience.
May her prayers help us,
and her example inspire us,
to carry our cross
and be faithful in loving you,
and others for your sake.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. God has chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the
world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom
which he promised to those who love him (alleluia).

June 12
BLESSED ALPHONSUS MARY MAZUREK
Priest and Martyr
AND COMPANIONS
Martyrs

He was born in 1891 at Baranowka, near Lubartow, Poland. He entered the Order of Discalced Carmelites in 1908, taking the religious name Alphonsus Mary of the Holy Spirit. He was ordained a priest and appointed as a professor, while dedicating himself to the education of youth. Afterwards he served in his Order as prior and bursar. In 1944, after having been arrested by the troops that had invaded his country, he was shot on 28th August at Nawojowa Gora, near Krzeszowice. He was beatified by John Paul II on 13th June 1999, together with many other Polish martyrs.

From the common of several martyrs

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the addresses of Pope John Paul II
(OR 7-8 June 1999 p. 11; 18/6/1999, p. 4)

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. In a particular way, this beatitude places the events of Good Friday before our eyes. Christ was condemned to death as a criminal, and then crucified. On Calvary it seemed he had been abandoned by God and left at the mercy of people's derision.

The Gospel proclaimed by Christ was put to a radical test: those who were present at the event cried out, *He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.* Christ does not descend from the cross since he is faithful to his Gospel. He suffers human injustice. Only in this way, in fact, is he able to accomplish the justification of mankind.

Above all, he wanted the words of the sermon on the mount to be verified in himself: *Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.* To whom do these words still apply? To many, many people throughout humanity's history, to whom it was given to suffer persecution for the sake of justice. We know that the first three centuries after Christ were marked by persecutions, at times terrible, particularly under some Roman emperors from Nero to Diocletian. Even though these ceased from the time of the Edict of Milan, nevertheless they broke out again in various historical eras, in numerous places throughout the world.

Even our century has written a great martyrology. I myself, over the twenty years of my pontificate, have elevated to the glory of the altar numerous groups of martyrs: Japanese, French, Vietnamese, Spanish, Mexican. How many there were during the period of the Second World War and under the communist totalitarian system! They suffered and gave their life in the Hitlerian or Soviet extermination camps.

The time has now come to remember all these victims and to render due honor to them. These are often *Nameless*, "*unknown soldiers*" as it were, of God's great cause, as I wrote in the Apostolic Letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*. It is also good to speak of them on Polish land, since here there was a particular sharing in this contemporary martyrology. They are an example for us to follow. From their blood we should draw strength for the sacrifice of our life, which we ought to offer to God every day. They are an example for us to give a courageous witness of fidelity to the Cross of Christ, as they did.

I am happy that I was able to beatify, among the one hundred and eight martyrs, Blessed Father Alphonsus Mary Mazurek, a pupil, and much later, a well-deserving educator in the minor seminary connected to the Discalced Carmelite

52 — JUNE 12 — BLESSED ALPHONSUS MARY MAZUR

monastery. I had an occasion of meeting personally with this witness to Christ, who in 1944, as prior of the Czerna monastery, sealed his faithfulness to God with death through martyrdom. I kneel in veneration before his relics which rest in the church of Saint Joseph and I thank God for the gift of the life, the martyrdom and sanctity of this great religious.

RESPONSORY

Cf Mt 5:11-12; Jn 15:20

Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

—Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (alleluia).

If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

—Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (alleluia).

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

—Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (alleluia).

PRAYER

May the prayers of your martyrs
Blessed Alphonsus Mary and Companions,
prevail with you, Lord, on our behalf:
Let them strengthen us in our witness to your truth.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.





June 14
SAINT ELISHA
Prophet

Traditional Carmelite Saint included in the Roman Martyrology

Although no longer included within the proper calendar for Discalced Carmelites, the feast of Saint Elisha may be observed in the same way as an optional memorial, with texts taken from the common (cf. GILH, #244).

From the common of holy men

Office of Readings

HYMN

O Jesus, our Redeemer, Savior kind!
Touch with Thy light the sadly darkened mind,
That earth-born tongue may fitly now declare
The gifts and virtues of this man of prayer.

With lays devout, we hymn the hallowed morn
When Eliseus swift to Heaven was borne,
And rich in merits, from his throne on high,
Doth harken to our supplicating cry.

On earth he dwelt a virgin, pure and chaste,
Like to the blessed angels ever graced;
From carnal ills by heavenly light restrained,
To Christ upraised, with mind and heart unstained.

True model of the soul forsaking all,
He left his father at Elias' call,
And from the meshes of the world set free,
He chose to dwell in heavenly company.

No man may barter gifts of God for gold.
This teaching of the Spirit to unfold,
He cleansed the Syrian leper, yet restored
The gifts which gratitude would fain award.

All glory, honor, power, and joyful praise
To God, the Three in One, for endless days,
Since through all ages He doth wide proclaim
The merits of the Prophet's sacred fame.

10.10.10.10.

Congratuletur curia

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Tremble, mad populace! The Prophet speaketh;
As scourge divinely sent he draweth nigh;
Avenger of false worshippers he wreaketh
The wrath of the Most High.

The crimes of Jezabel his vengeance smiteth,
No vicious seed of Achab may remain,
The robber band with blindness he requiteth,
And boys by bears are slain.

Due honor paying to the God of thunder,
The impious rites of Satan he dispelled,
And lo! the servant, for his ill-gained plunder,
In leprous bond is held.

At God's command the King he now anointeth
Who chooseth him for monitor and guide;
God's own to save, the thunderbolt he pointeth
At foe's rebellious pride.

O Eliseus! shield us from disaster,
Look down on us in trial exiled here;
Implore that to our sighs the mighty master
May lend a willing ear.

To God most high all praise and adoration,
To Son and Spirit equal glory be;
Uplift your hearts in reverent exaltation
For all eternity.

11.10.11.6.

Ut possint claris commendare sonis

PRAYER

God our Father,
 you alone are holy;
 without you nothing is good.
 Trusting in the prayers of Saint Elisha
 we ask you to help us
 to become the holy people you call us to be.
 Never let us be found undeserving
 of the glory you have prepared for us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

The Ides of June their course have run,
 On Carmel's height the glorious sun
 Hath wakened our devotion
 O Eliseus, thee we praise,
 And ringing echoes catch the lays,
 That voice our hearts' emotion.

The great Elias, seer and sage,
 Renowned in each succeeding age,
 With chrism thee anointeth,
 For thou art destined to be filled
 With his twin-spirit then instilled
 As God's command appointeth.

In fiery chariot speeding high,
 Behold thy father mount the sky,
 His mantle casting o'er thee.
 Its touch of power the waves obey,
 And at thy word give open way,
 Dividing fast before thee.

God teacheth thee, and at thy prayer
 The barren womb doth fruitful bear
 The son thy promise giveth;
 And when the child is stilled in death,

O mighty Prophet, by thy breath,
Behold once more he liveth!

The iron riseth from the sea,
And floateth o'er the deep to thee,
Thy master-call it knoweth;
The whitened leper thou dost save,
By seven-fold cleansing in the wave
Where sacred Jordan floweth.

O God most high, all praise to Thee.
To Son and Spirit equally
Be endless glory given;
With one same honor bow before
The Triune God forevermore
With angel choirs of Heaven.

8.8.7.D.

Prima lux surgens Idibus peractis

On the same day, June 14
BLESSED MARIA CANDIDA OF THE EUCHARIST
Virgin

**This memorial and its texts are taken from an unconfirmed internet source,
and should only be used devotionally at the present.**

Blessed Maria Candida of the Eucharist was born on 16 January 1884 in Catanzano. Her parents, Pietro Barba and Giovanna Florona, returned to Palermo, Sicily, where she received First Holy Communion 3rd April 1894. In 1919 she entered the Discalced Carmelite Monastery, Ragusa, making solemn profession 23rd April 1924. She was Prioress and Mistress of Novices many times, radiating a sense of Carmelite holiness both within and outside of the community, influencing others with her love for the Eucharist, as well as by her numerous writings. She died on 12th June 1949, the solemnity of the Holy Trinity, and was beatified 21st March 2004.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the writings of M. Maria Candida of the Eucharist
(L'Eucharistia, Edizioni OCD-Feeria, 1999, pp. 105-108)

From contemplation of the presence to Eucharistic communion

To contemplate with deep faith our Beloved in the Sacrament, to live with Him Who comes to us every day, to remain with Him in the depths of our hearts, this is our life! The more intense this intimate life is, the more we will be Carmelites and make progress in perfection. This contact, this union with Jesus is everything: what fruits of virtue will come from it! You must have this experience. To live with Jesus and to live by His virtues, is to listen to His beautiful voice, to His most loving wish and immediately obey it, to please quickly Him. Our eyes close, longing to find Him again, to contemplate Him in the depths of our hearts: is this not the reason why He gives us Holy Communion in the morning? Is it not the attraction for Him that remains in the Blessed Sacrament, where He lives? I do not know how to separate the ciborium in the sacred Tabernacle from the ciborium in our hearts! Oh how many times, even though we are in the choir, before His sacred Presence, at times exposed, we experience the great need to go deeply into ourselves, and there rediscover and remain with our Jesus!

What mystery of love is this intimacy with our Beloved! I reflect on this, sometimes with emotion, and give praise to Him Who is Love! And with tears I contemplate this intimacy. Everything here on this earth is nothing for us, withdrawn as we are, far from Him Who loved us so much; our eyes no longer see anything: and even though we close them again to lose ourselves from the same sacred environment, we close them anxious to find Him again, to see Jesus! The most delightful Mystery of Love! He allows Himself to be found by the heart that searches for Him, by the soul that knows how to do without many things for love of Him.

To be close to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, like the Saints in Heaven, who contemplate the supreme Good, is what we must do, according to our Holy Mother Teresa. Seven times a day, we come together around the throne (of our Good God), the sacred Tabernacle, reciting the divine praises: oh how much faith merits such lofty activity, what dying to self! May adoration and love accompany and beautify everything!

RESPONSORY

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.

—Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in them.

—Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

PRAYER

All powerful and ever living God,
Who, by the breath of the Spirit,
inspired Blessed Maria Candida, virgin,
to contemplate the riches of the Eucharist,
by her intercession, grant we beseech you,
that gratefully offering
the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ,
in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may always glorify You in this Sacrament,

Who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.

July 13

SAINT TERESA OF JESUS *OF LOS ANDES*

Virgin

Juanita Fernández Solar was born at Santiago, Chile, on July 13, 1900. From her adolescence she was devoted to Christ. She entered the monastery of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns at Los Andes on May 7, 1919, where she was given the name of Teresa of Jesus. She died on April 12 of the following year after having made her religious profession. She was beatified by John Paul II on April 3, 1987, at Santiago, Chile, and proposed as a model for young people. She is the first Chilean and the first member of the Teresian Carmel in Latin America to be canonized.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the spiritual writings of Saint Teresa of Jesus of *Los Andes*
(*Diario y cartas* (Los Andes, 1983), 373, 359, 376)

He is my unending wealth, my bliss, my heaven.

Jesus alone is beautiful; he is my only joy. I call for him, I cry after him, I search for him within my heart. I long for Jesus to grind me interiorly so that I may become a pure host where he can find his rest. I want to be athirst with love so that other souls may possess this love. I would die to creatures and to myself, so that he may live in me.

Is there anything good, beautiful or true that we can think of that would not be in Jesus? Wisdom, from which nothing would be secret. Power, for which nothing would be impossible. Justice, which made him take on flesh in order to make satisfaction for sin. Providence, which always watches over and sustains us. Mercy, which never ceases to pardon. Goodness, which forgets the offenses of his creatures. Love, which unites all the tendernesses of a mother, of a brother, of a spouse, and which, drawing him out of the abyss of his greatness, binds him closely to his creatures. Beauty which enraptures... what can you think of that would not be found in this Man-God?

Are you perhaps afraid that the abyss of the greatness of God and that of your nothingness cannot be united? There is love in him. His passionate love made him take flesh in order that by seeing a Man-God, we would not be afraid to draw near him. This passionate love made him become bread in order to assimilate our nothingness and make it disappear into his infinite being. This passionate love made him give his life by dying on the cross. Are you perhaps afraid to draw near him? Look at him, surrounded by little children. He caresses them, he presses them to his heart. Look at him in the midst of his faithful flock, bearing the faithless

lamb on his shoulders. Look at him at the tomb of Lazarus. And listen to what he says of the Magdalene: *Much has been forgiven her, because she has loved much.* What do you discover in these flashes from the Gospel except a heart that is good, gentle, tender, compassionate; in other words, the heart of a God?

He is my unending wealth, my bliss, my heaven.

RESPONSORY

I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ: I am racing to grasp the prize —since I have been grasped by Christ Jesus.

I give no thought to what lies behind but push on to what lies ahead as I run toward the prize to which God calls me on high —since I have been grasped by Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

God of mercy, joy of the saints,
you set the youthful heart of Saint Teresa
ablaze with the fire of virginal love
for Christ and for his Church;
and even in suffering you made her
a cheerful witness to charity.
Through her intercession,
fill us with the delights of your Spirit,
so that we may proclaim by word and deed
the joyful message of your love to the world.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.



July 16
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
Solemnity

The solemnity is observed even when July 16 falls on a Sunday.

The sacred scriptures speak of the beauty of Mount Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the faith of Israel in the living God. There, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, under the title of *Saint Mary of Mount Carmel*, the Order of Carmelites had its formal beginning. From the fourteenth century this title, recalling the countless blessings of its patroness, began to be celebrated solemnly, first in England and then gradually throughout the whole Order. It attained its supreme place from the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the General Chapter declared it to be the principal feast of the Order, and Paul V recognized it as the feast of the Scapular Confraternity.

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

Flos Carmeli
vitis florigera
splendor coeli,
Virgo puerpera,
singularis;

Mater mitis,
sed viri nescia,
Carmelitis
esto propitia,
Stella maris.

Flower of Carmel,
Tall vine blossom laden;
Splendor of heaven,
Child-bearing yet maiden.
None equals thee.

Mother so tender,
Who no man didst know,
On Carmel's children
Thy favors bestow.
Star of the Sea.

62 — JULY 16 — OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Radix Jesse,
germinans flosculum
hic adesse,
me tibi servulum,
patiaris.

Inter spinas
quae crescis lilium,
Serva puras
mentes fragilium
tutelarioris.

Armatura
fortis pugnantium,
furunt bella,
tende praesidium
Scapularioris.

Per incerta,
prudens consilium,
Per adversa,
iuge solatium
largaris.

Mater dulcis
Carmeli domina,
plebem tuam
reple laetitia
qua bearis

Paradisi
clavis et ianua,
fac nos duci
quo, Mater, gloria
coronaris.

Strong stem of Jesse,
Who bore one bright flower,
Be ever near us
And guard us each hour,
who serve thee here.

Purest of lilies,
That flowers among thorns,
Bring help to the true heart
That in weakness turns
and trusts in thee.

Strongest of armor,
We trust in thy might:
Under thy mantle,
Hard press'd in the fight,
we call to thee.

Our way uncertain,
Surrounded by foes,
Unfailing counsel
You give to those
who turn to thee.

O gentle Mother
Who in Carmel reigns,
Share with your servants
That gladness you gained
and now enjoy.

Hail, Gate of Heaven,
With glory now crowned,
Bring us to safety
Where thy Son is found,
true joy to see.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The glory of Lebanon is given to her,
the beauty of Carmel and Sharon.

*Psalms and canticle from the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
v. 3, p. 1608 (CP., p. 1368).*

Ant. 2 You are the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel;
you are the fairest honor of our race.

Ant. 3 You will rejoice in your children, for they shall be
blessed through you, and they shall be gathered
together in the Lord.

READING

Then God's temple in heaven opened and in the temple could be seen the ark of his covenant. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

RESPONSORY

How fair you are, O Virgin Mary.
—How fair you are, O Virgin Mary.

Your face is resplendent with grace,
—O Virgin Mary.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
—How fair you are, O Virgin Mary.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Bounteous Mother of God, Glory of Mount Carmel,
we are members of your family; endow us with your own
virtues; have pity and protect us from every danger.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us praise our heavenly Father, who gives us the joy of celebrating this solemn feast of the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, as we pray:

*May Mary, Mother and Beauty of Carmel,
intercede for us.*

Lord, in your plan the Daughter of Zion was foreshadowed by the prophets and made the heir of all your promises;

—by imitating Mary, who is the image of the Church, may your Church on earth be more and more the sacrament of the world's salvation.

You have honored the family of Carmel with the title and patronage of the Virgin Mary;

—may all Carmelites live with her in unswerving allegiance to Jesus Christ.

You have entrusted the whole of mankind, the brothers and sisters of your Son, to the care of Mary's maternal heart;

—may the world see her image in us as we strive to live in your presence and to give ourselves for the salvation of all.

You call the humble family of Carmel, living in the cloister and in the world, to be especially dedicated to the Virgin Mary;

—may all who are called to Carmel be of one mind and one heart as they join together in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

You promise a crown of glory to those who persevere in your love till the end;

—may our departed brothers and sisters, who shared Mary's love for you, rejoice with you forever in heaven.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord God,
you willed that the Order of Carmel
should be named in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of your Son.

Through her prayers, as we honor her today,
bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Or:

Father,
may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother and Queen of Carmel,
protect us, and bring us
to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitatory

Ant. Let us give thanks for the favors we have received from
Mary, Mother of Carmel, and let us rejoice in the Lord.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.3, p. 649

Office of Readings

HYMN

Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
Whom in ancient prophecy
God revealed to Saint Elijah
By an Oriental sea,
Rise again on God's creation,
Bring to bloom this arid place
With the white cloud of your beauty
And the rainfall of your grace.

Mother fair above all mothers,
By the Scapular we wear,
By your own Sign of Salvation,
Which our willing shoulders bear,
Shield us from the foes of darkness,
We are prey they seek to win.
Guard us as thy loving children
From the tragedy of sin.

Lady of the mystic mountain
Where the Lord has set his throne,
Up its steep ways of the spirit
None can walk save love alone.
Grant us grace to climb Mount Carmel
And to learn that love is loss;
Guide us till our ways outdistance
All earth's treasures save the Cross.

Blessed cloud of God's protection
And his luminous abode,
Light the pathway of your pilgrims
To the Promised Land of God.
On the mount of contemplation
Be our surety and stay,
In the night a pillar glowing
And a cloud of love by day.

Virgin of the Incarnation,
In the mysteries of grace
God has made his habitation
In our soul's most secret place.
Toward that bright and inner kingdom
All our words and ways compel,
For the Father, Son and Spirit
In its sacred silence dwell.

Queen and beauty of Mount Carmel,
Virgin of the solitude,
In the wilderness of Carmel
Lies the world's eternal good.
Draw us to its deep seclusion
And make God alone our goal
In the mystical Mount Carmel
That lies hidden in the soul.

87.87.D.

Sr. Miriam, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The one with clean hands and a pure heart.

Psalms from the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, v. 3, p. 1616.

Ant. 2 I will bring them to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer.

Ant. 3 Glorious things are said of you, O city of God, established on his holy mountain.

I have led you into the land of Carmel.
—To feast on its best and its finest fruits.

FIRST READING

From the first book of Kings

18:36-39; 41-45a

*Elijah prayed on the summit of Carmel,
and heaven granted rain*

At the time for offering sacrifice, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, “Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things by your command. Answer me, Lord! Answer me, that this people may know that you, Lord,

are God and that you have brought them back to their senses.” The Lord’s fire came down and consumed the holocaust, wood, stones, and dust, and it lapped up the water in the trench. Seeing this, all the people fell prostrate and said, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”

Elijah then said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” So Ahab went up to eat and drink, while Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, crouched down to the earth, and put his head between his knees. “Climb up and look out to sea,” he directed his servant, who went up and looked, but reported, “There is nothing.” Seven times he said, “Go, look again!” And the seventh time the youth reported, “There is a cloud as small as a man’s hand rising from the sea.” Elijah said, “Go and say to Ahab, ‘Harness up and leave the mountain before the rain stops you.’” In a trice, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain fell.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12

You care for the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches;
—you bless its growth.

The pastures of the wilderness flow with abundance
and the hills are girded with joy.
—you bless its growth.

SECOND READING

From the Mystical Instructions by Michael of Saint Augustine
(L. 1, tr. 1, C. 18: ed. Antwerp 1671, pp. 31-32)

Through Mary to Jesus

It is my duty, I feel, to recommend to everyone this outstandingly effective means of leading a devout life in Christ: heartfelt devotion, filial love and the tenderest affection toward Mary, the most lovable of mothers. We hail her—do we not?—as

Mother of Grace and Mother of Mercy. But both grace and mercy are indispensable if we wish to live devoutly; and who has a better claim to receive our appeals for grace and mercy than the Mother of Grace and Mother of Mercy? For this reason I say with Hebrews: *Let us go with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may obtain mercy, and receive the timely help of grace.*

But if we are to go with confidence to this throne, this Mother of Grace, we must first be worthy of her love. We proudly proclaim ourselves her slaves, her sons and daughters and her brothers and sisters: let us make sure that our lives substantiate this claim by being in conformity with what we profess. We must try to resemble as closely as possible our most holy Lady, our lovable mother, and our gracious sister, by imitating her perfections and making her excellence our own. If indeed you love her as a mother, imitate her humility, her chastity, her poverty and her obedience; imitate her love of God, her love of neighbor, and all her other virtues.

How can you show her adequate love and honor? Each day, after offering yourself and all you have to the most holy Trinity according to Christ's intentions and in union with his merits, make a practice of offering yourself especially, and all you have, to this your most lovable mother; and as you do all you have to do in the word of the Lord, do it also in the word—in the name—of Mary.

Commit yourself to her completely. Have recourse to her as the best of teachers; consult her as the most prudent of virgins; in a word, conduct yourself as befits a good child, and you will learn by experience that she is *the mother of fair love and holy hope*, in whom you may expect to receive *every grace of life and truth*, and in whom *every hope of life and virtue* will shine before you; nor will she ever cease to obtain for you the graces you need to persevere in true devotion. Indeed you will find her *a well of living water*. At the hour of your death she will not refuse to say *she is your sister*, indeed your mother, so that then more than ever *it may be well with you, and your soul may live by virtue of her*

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grace. If you lead a devout life in her honor and service you will surely deserve to breathe your last confidently, peacefully and devoutly in her love, and be joyfully borne to the haven of salvation in her maternal arms; for to those who love Mary *it will go well at the last.*

RESPONSORY

See Ps 34:12, Is 2:3, Sir 24:30, 34

Come, my children, listen to me;
come, let us climb the mountain of the Lord.
—Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

I am the mother of fair love and of holy hope;
in me is all grace of the way and of the truth.
—Whoever pays heed to me will not be put to shame.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Let us in spirit make our way
to Carmel's mountain height;
our Virgin Mother calls us there
to gather flowers of light.

This is indeed a holy place
where God has ever reigned;
here hearts are healed in silent prayer,
and strength of mind attained.

This is where living water flowed
to save the thirsting land,
to clothe the desert with fresh grass,
with trees the burning sand.

Cradle of our religious life
is Carmel's height austere;
wherever Mary turns her gaze
flow waters springing clear.

Let us adore the Trinity
the Father honors her,
the Son embraces her with love,
the Spirit reigns in her!

C.M.

Carmeli ad altos vertices
Tr. unknown

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Sinless Virgin, let us follow joyfully in your footsteps;
draw us after you in the fragrance of your holiness.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 3, p. 688 (CP., p. 707).

Ant. 2 Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women.

Ant. 3 Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary: you are the mother
of your Maker, yet you remain a virgin forever.

READING

Isaiah 35:1-2

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
They will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

RESPONSORY

Under your protection we take refuge, Mother of God most holy.

—Under your protection we take refuge,
Mother of God most holy.

Do not turn away from the prayers that spring from our need,

—Mother of God most holy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—Under your protection we take refuge,
Mother of God most holy.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Jesus said to his mother: Woman, this is your son;
then he said to the disciple: This is your mother. And
from then onward the disciple took her for his own.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ our Savior, the first-born of many brothers, gave us his
Mother as our own. On this sacred day let us come to him
with thankful hearts and say:
For the gift of your Mother, we give glory to you, Lord.

Christ our Redeemer, you prepared a worthy dwelling place
for yourself in the sinless Virgin Mary;
—may we work today in your service and hers, poor in spirit
and pure in heart.

Only Word of the Father, uttered in eternal silence and lovingly
received in the womb of the Virgin,
—may our Carmelite vocation lead us, like Mary, to hear the
Word of God and put it into practice.

Christ our Teacher, you offer the Virgin Mary as the model of
every virtue to those who seek you;
—may we, her children, mirror her life, especially in our charity
towards all.

Jesus, Son of Mary, you gave your Mother to the apostle John
to take into his own keeping;
—in our familiarity with Mary may we experience your
ineffable love.

Christ, Spouse of the Church, you sent the fire of the Holy Spirit
upon Mary when she was joined with the apostles
in prayer;
—may the whole family of Carmel remain faithful in prayer with
Mary, and so be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord God,
you willed that the Order of Carmel
should be named in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of your Son.
Through her prayers, as we honor her today,
bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Or:

Father,
may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother and Queen of Carmel,
protect us, and bring us
to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Daytime Prayer

Complementary psalms, v.3, p. 1291. If this feast falls on Sunday, then
psalms from Sunday, Week I are said: v.3, p. 693.

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Midmorning

Ant. You are a mother beyond compare, O Mary,
worthy to be remembered forever by your children.

READING

Proverbs 8:32-34

So now, O children, listen to me,
instruction and wisdom do not reject!
Happy the man who obeys me,
and happy those who keep my ways,
Happy the man watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.

Whoever finds me finds life,
—And will receive salvation from the Lord.

Midday

Ant. Your souls shall rejoice in his mercy, and his
praise will not bring you to shame.

READING

Sirach 24:15-16 (Vulgate)

I was established in Sion, and in the holy city likewise I
rested, and my power was in Jerusalem. I took root in an
honorable people and in the portion of my God, his inheritance;
and my dwelling is in the full assembly of saints.

My spirit is sweeter than honey.
—My inheritance sweeter than the honeycomb.

Midafternoon

Ant. With the fruit of her hands she planted a vineyard,
her children stood up and proclaimed her blessed.

READING

Sirach 24:23-25 (Vulgate)

As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odor, and my flowers are the fruits of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, of fear, of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue.

Look down from heaven and see, and visit this vineyard,
—Which your right hand has planted.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

HYMN

When thirst broke up the ground stricken at God's
command,
and crops lay on the long baked ridges of the soil,
swiftly Elias went where Carmel towered above,
scaling rough rocks with zeal and toil.

Great soul in fervent prayer, lifting his hands on high,
prophet, he pleaded there, turning God's wrath again.
Hour after hour he strove for those marked down to die
unless the fields were saved with rain.

Then, far off, where the sea stretched in a distant plain,
a cloud fine as a hand lit in the deep blue cope;
and soon thunderclouds came, and after them the rain
drumming the dust with rhythms of hope.

Mary, we are those crops which drought of grace lays low,
you are that mystic cloud, that fruitful womb are you.
Your son, the God you nurse, is new life's rain to us
who grow once more as hope comes true.

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Spare us, great triune God, as we too bend in prayer,
help us scale the high stars, our mother's worthy sons;
There, raised by her, we praise you everlastingly
and pour forth love's unending songs.

12.12.12.8.

Bro. John Leonard Davies, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me
as you have said.

*Psalms and canticle from the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
v. 3, p. 1635 (CP., p. 1378).*

Ant. 2 Mary heard the word of God and kept it; she pondered
it in her heart.

Ant. 3 The apostles were constantly at prayer together, with
Mary the Mother of Jesus.

READING

Galatians 4:4-6

When the designated time had come, God sent forth his
Son born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law
those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status
as adopted sons. The proof that you are sons is the fact that God
has sent forth into our hearts the spirit of his Son which cries out,
“Abba!” (“Father!”)

RESPONSORY

I will cry out with joy to the Lord;
my soul will rejoice in my God.

—I will cry out with joy to the Lord,
my soul will rejoice in my God.

For he has clothed me with the garment of salvation
and robed me in the cloak of justice.

—My soul will rejoice in my God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—I will cry out with joy to the Lord,
my soul will rejoice in my God.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Today we received the Virgin Mary as our mother. Today she has taken pity on us. Today all Carmel rejoices in the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin, whose name we bear.

INTERCESSIONS

As we honor the holy Mother of God, under whose name and patronage we live, let us pray with confidence to Christ our Lord and say:

*Through the intercession of the Mother of Carmel,
hear us, O Lord.*

You said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;”

—may we stand with Mary among the poor and humble of the Lord, so that you may be our only wealth.

You said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God;”

—in following the Immaculate Virgin may we come to love that purity of heart which makes us eager to see the Father’s face.

You said, “Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe;”

—with Mary at our side, may we never cease to trust in the love you have for us as we journey in this night of faith.

You said, “You ought to pray always and never lose heart;”

—teach us to pray like Mary, treasuring your word in our hearts and proclaiming it in our lives.

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You said, “A new commandment I give you: love one another as I have loved you;”

—united in heart and mind, may we be ready to spend our lives for our brothers and sisters and share with Mary in your work of redemption.

Dying on the cross, you said to John, and through him to all disciples, “Behold your Mother;”

—may we always please you by living in the intimate company of the Mother of Grace.

You said, “I want those you have given me to be with me where I am:”

—may all those who trusted in your everlasting mercy rejoice one day with you and Mary in our Father’s house.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord God,
you willed that the Order of Carmel
should be named in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of your Son.

Through her prayers, as we honor her today,
bring us to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Or:

Father,
may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother and Queen of Carmel,
protect us, and bring us
to your holy Mountain, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

July 17
BLESSED TERESA OF SAINT AUGUSTINE
AND COMPANIONS
Virgins and Martyrs
Memorial

As the French Revolution entered its worst days, sixteen Discalced Carmelites from the Monastery of the Incarnation in Compiègne offered their lives as a sacrifice to God, making reparation to him and imploring peace for the Church. On June 24, 1794, they were arrested and thrown into prison. Their happiness and resignation were so evident that those around them were also encouraged to draw strength from God's love. They were condemned to death for their fidelity to the Church and their religious life and for their devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Singing hymns, and having renewed their vows before the superior, Teresa of St Augustine, they were put to death in Paris on July 17, 1794.

From the common of martyrs

Office of Readings

HYMN

Let Carmel echo joyfully
The dying hymns that soared above
When Compiègne so gladly gave
Its greatest witness to God's love.

These virgin-martyrs gave their lives.
For sin's atonement, like their Lord;
They died to bring a troubled Church
The peace of Christ as love's reward.

May we like them serve Holy Church
And build it up in unity,
Until at last in heav'n's pure light
We gaze on God the Trinity.

Our Queen and Mother, Carmel's joy,
Look down with love on us who sing
The praise of those who died for love
Of Jesus Christ, your Son, our King.

Bless God the Father, source of love,
Bless God the Word, his only Son,
Bless God the Spirit, Dove of peace,
One God, while endless ages run.

L.M.

Fr. James Quinn, S.J.

SECOND READING

From the Way of Perfection of Saint Teresa of Jesus
(Ch. 12, no. 1-3)

*The life of a good religious and a close
friend of God is a long martyrdom*

It all seems very hard work, this business of perfection—and so it is: we are waging war on ourselves! But as soon as we get down to it God becomes so active in our souls and showers so many mercies on them that whatever has got to be done in this life seems insignificant. And as we nuns do so much already, giving up our freedom for love of God and subjecting it to someone else, what excuse have we got for holding back when it comes to interior mortification?

That is where the secret lies of making all the rest so much more meritorious and perfect, not to mention doing it more easily and peacefully. The way to acquire it, as I have said, is to persevere bit by bit in not doing our own will or fancy, even in tiny things, till the body has been mastered by the spirit.

Let me repeat that it is all—or nearly all—a matter of getting rid of self-interest and our preoccupation with our own comfort. If you have started serving God seriously, the least you

can offer him is your life! If you have given him your will, what are you afraid of? If you are a real religious, a real *pray-er*, and want to enjoy God's favors, you obviously can't afford to shy away from wanting to die for him, and undergo martyrdom. Don't you realize, sisters, that the life of a good religious—a person who wants to be one of God's really close friends—is one long martyrdom? I say *long* because in comparison with those whose heads have been chopped off in a trice we can call it long, but all our lives are short, very short in some cases. And we don't even know whether our own won't be so short that it will come to an end in an hour, or even a second, after we have made up our mind to serve God fully. That could happen.

We have just got to take no account of anything that will come to an end, least of all life, for we can't count on a single day. If we remember that every hour might be our last, is there a single one of us who will feel inclined to shirk?

Well, there is nothing you can be more certain of, believe me! So we must train ourselves to thwart our own wills in every way; then, if you try hard, as I have said, though you won't get there all of a sudden, you will gradually arrive, without realizing it, at the peak of perfection.

RESPONSORY

Rejoice that you share the sufferings of Christ,
—for when his glory is revealed you will be filled with joy.

Blessed are you when you are persecuted for Christ's sake,
—for when his glory is revealed you will be filled with joy.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Voice of the Bridegroom: now is winter passing,
Rain falls no longer, gardens yield their fragrance,
Spring blooms appearing, trees resound with birdsong—
Rise, my beloved.

Go out to meet him, virgins all exulting,
See he approaches, crowns you for your nuptials—
Rapture and gladness, when he leads you homeward
Sharing his kingdom.

Love for the Bridegroom filled your whole horizon,
Making you fearless in the face of danger;
Like him, your Master, life itself you offered,
Sacrificed for him.

Joyfully faithful to your holy calling,
Nothing could daunt you, or your lamps extinguish;
Shining and glowing you would bear them to him
Through cloud and tempest.

11.11.11.5

Sr. Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Prepare your lamps, you wise virgins, for behold,
the Bridegroom is coming: go out and meet him.

PRAYER

Lord God,
you called Blessed Teresa of Saint Augustine and her companions
to go on in the strength of the Holy Spirit
from the heights of Carmel to receive a martyr's crown.
May our love too be so steadfast
that it will bring us
to the everlasting vision of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN, as at Morning Prayer, p. 74.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. You virgins of the Lord, who have endured the great
ordeal, come and rejoice with God forever.





July 20
SAINT ELIJAH
Prophet, our Father
Feast

The prophet Elijah appears in Scripture as a man of God who lived always in his presence and fought zealously for the worship of the one true God. He defended God's law in a solemn contest on Mount Carmel, and afterwards was given on Mount Horeb an intimate experience of the living God. The inspiration that was found in him from the very beginnings of the Order so pervades its whole history that the prophet may deservedly be called the founder of the Carmelite ideal.

Invitatory

Ant. Let us worship the living God, who speaks to us through the prophets.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.3, p. 649.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Great Author of all things that are
To you we sing in joyful praise
Of him, the Thesbite, whom you love,
Elijah, seer of ancient days.

With burning zeal for your blest name
He challenged wicked priests of Baal
And conquering, killed them in his might
To make your sacred law prevail.

The victims offered by his prayer
Drew heaven's blest consuming flame
In vain Baal's servants scream and rave,
Their frenzy brings them only shame.

Then Jezebel, unholy queen,
In fury raves, the prophet flees,
Beneath the sheltering juniper
He sleeps and then an angel sees.

The angel offers strengthening bread
With water pure his thirst to end
And marks a journey he must make
Mount Horeb's summit to ascend.

No food but this for forty days
He journeys through the desert land
Prefiguring the royal feast
Prepared us by the Father's hand.

To Father, Word and Paraclete
All glory, honor ever be
O undivided Trinity
Through whom creation came to be. Amen.

88.88.

Te magne rerum Conditor

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Enough, Lord! Take my life, for I am no better
than my fathers.

Psalm 11

In the Lord I have taken my refuge.
How can you say to my soul:
“Fly like a bird to its mountain.

See the wicked bracing their bow;
they are fixing their arrows on the string
to shoot upright men in the dark.
Foundations once destroyed, what can the just do?”

The Lord is in his holy temple,
the Lord, whose throne is in heaven.
His eyes look down on the world;
his gaze tests mortal men.

The Lord tests the just and the wicked:
the lover of violence he hates.
He sends fire and brimstone on the wicked;
he sends a scorching wind as their lot.

The Lord is just and loves justice:
the upright shall see his face.

Ant. Enough, Lord! Take my life, for I am no better
than my fathers.

Ant. 2 The angel of the Lord said to Elijah: Rise and eat,
or your journey will be too long for you.

Psalm 28: 1-3, 6-9

To you, O Lord, I call,
my rock, hear me.
If you do not heed I shall become
like those in the grave.

Hear the voice of my pleading
as I call for help,
as I lift up my hands in prayer
to your holy place.

Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with the evil-doers,
who speak words of peace to their neighbors
but with evil in their hearts.

Blessed be the Lord for he has heard
my cry, my appeal.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts.
I was helped, my heart rejoices
and I praise him with my song.

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress where his anointed find salvation.
Save your people; bless Israel your heritage.
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Ant. The angel of the Lord said to Elijah: Rise and eat,
or your journey will be too long for you.

Ant. 3 Elijah ate and drank, and strengthened by that food
walked all the way to the mountain of God.

Psalm 30

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, I cried to you for help
and you, my God, have healed me.

O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favor through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

I said to myself in my good fortune:
“Nothing will ever disturb me.”
Your favor had set me on a mountain fastness,
then you hid your face and I was put to confusion.

To you, Lord, I cried,
to my God I made appeal:
“What profit would my death be, my going to the grave?
Can dust give you praise or proclaim your truth?”

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
So my soul sings psalms to you unceasingly.
O Lord my God, I will thank you forever.

Ant. Elijah ate and drank, and strengthened by that food
walked all the way to the mountain of God.

You are a man of God.
—And the word of God in your mouth is true.

FIRST READING

From the first book of Kings

19:4-9a, 11-14a

Elijah walked all the way to the mountain of God

Elijah went a day’s journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death, “This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but

then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, “Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!” He got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb. There he came to a cave, where he took shelter.

Then the Lord said, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord, the Lord will be passing by.” A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord—but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, “Elijah, why are you here?” He replied, “I have been most zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts.”

ALTERNATIVE FIRST READING

From the book of Sirach

48:1-12a

How glorious was Elijah in his wondrous deeds

Like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah
 whose words were as a flaming furnace.
 Their staff of bread he shattered,
 in his zeal he reduced them to straits.
 By God’s word he shut up the heavens
 and three times brought down the fire.
 How awesome are you, Elijah!
 Whose glory is equal to yours?
 You brought a dead man back to life
 from the nether world, by the will of the Lord.
 You sent kings down to destruction,
 and nobles, from their beds of sickness.

90 — JULY 20 — SAINT ELIJAH

You heard threats at Sinai,
 at Horeb avenging judgments.
You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance,
 and a prophet as your successor.
You were taken aloft in a whirlwind,
 in a chariot with fiery horses.
You are destined, it is written, in time to come
 to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord,
To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their Sons,
 and to re-establish the tribes of Jacob.
Blessed is he who shall have seen you before he dies,
 O Elijah, enveloped in the whirlwind!

RESPONSORY

1 Kings 17:3-4

Leave this place and go eastward, said the Lord to Elijah.
—And he went and did as the Lord had said.

Hide yourself by the brook Cherith,
and there drink from the stream;
and I have commanded ravens to feed you there.
—And he went and did as the Lord had said.

SECOND READING

From a homily on Ezekiel by Saint Gregory the Great, pope
(L. 2, h. 1, no. 17: PL 76, 947-48)

The mystical contemplation of God

In divine contemplation the spirit is often abstracted to such a degree that it is already granted the joy of partaking a little, in image as it were, of that eternal freedom which *eye has not seen nor ear heard*, but then, hampered by the weight of its own mortality, it falls back into the depths and is held captive in penalty for its sins. It has glimpsed the delights of true freedom and longs to escape from its captivity but, since it cannot, it keeps its gaze fixed upon the imprisoning doors. This is why, when the

Jews had been freed from slavery to Egypt, each of them stood adoring in the doorway of his tent when God spoke and the pillar of cloud was visible.

Wherever we direct our mental gaze, there we may be said to stand. That is why Elijah said: *The Lord lives, in whose sight I stand*. He did indeed stand before God, for his heart was intent on God. That the Jews gazed at the pillar of cloud and stood at the doors of their tents in adoration has this meaning: when the human mind perceives these high and heavenly things—albeit in image—the elevation of its thought has already lifted it free from the limits of its bodily habitation, and although it is denied sight of the divine substance, it humbly adores him whose power it can already see by spiritual illumination.

This is why Elijah is described as standing at the mouth of his cave and veiling his face when he heard the voice of the Lord speaking to him; for as soon as the voice of heavenly understanding enters the mind through the grace of contemplation, the whole person is no longer within the cave, for the soul is no longer taken up with matters of the flesh: intent on leaving the bounds of mortality; one stands at the cave's mouth.

But if we stand at the mouth of the cave and hear the word of God with the heart's ear, we must veil our face. For when heavenly grace leads us to the understanding of higher things, the rarer the heights to which we are raised, the more we should abase ourselves in our own estimation by humility: we must not try to know *more than is fitting; we must know as it befits us to know*. Otherwise, through over-familiarity with the invisible, we risk going astray, and we might perhaps look for material light in what is immaterial. For to cover the face while listening with the ear means hearing with our mind the voice of him who is within us, yet averting the eyes of the heart from every bodily appearance. If we do this there will be no risk of our spirit interpreting as something corporeal that which is everywhere in its entirety and everywhere uncircumscribed.

Beloved, we have already learned through our Redeemer's death, resurrection and ascension into heaven what the joys of eternity mean, and we know that our fellow-citizens, his angels, have appeared bearing witness to his divinity. Let us therefore long for our King, and for those fellow-citizens we have known. While our feet stand within the walls of his holy Church, let us keep our eyes turned toward the door; let us mentally turn our backs on the corruption of this temporal life, let us keep our hearts facing toward the freedom of our heavenly homeland. We are still encumbered, it is true, by the many cares of this corruptible life. If then we cannot leave the cave completely, let us at least stand at its mouth, and go out whenever we are granted the favor of doing so by the grace of our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

RESPONSORY

See 1 Kings 19:9, 11, 13, 12

The word of the Lord came to Elijah:

—Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord.

And he went out and stood at the mouth of the cave,
and the Lord passed by in the murmur of a gentle breeze.

—Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Prayer, as in *Morning Prayer*.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Come, blest companions, let our joy resounding
Extol to Heaven the Leader of our line.
'Tis meet the memory of his deeds abounding
Should waken ceaseless canticles divine.

He knows the gentle breathing of the Spirit
Clothed in the whistling murmur of the air,
By God's command the chastisements they merit
Proud Jezebel and Ahab justly share.

The caverns green of Carmel form his dwelling,
With leathern tunic is he rudely clad,
To impious Ahaziah his foretelling
Gives portent of a dissolution sad.

Twice at his prayer the fire from Heaven descending
Consumeth trembling soldiers in its flame,
The flowing waters mit with his mantle rending,
Dry shod he passeth safely through the same.

O Father, let thy help and thy protection
Be o'er thy children as they humbly plead,
Entreat the Spirit, by His sweet election,
To multiply His graces in their need.

O unbegotten Father, we adore Thee,
O Son begotten, reverence be to Thee,
O glorious Spirit, bow we low before Thee,
Thou simple undivided Trinity.

11.11.11.10. *Pergamus, socii, tollere canticus*

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The Lord lives, in whose presence I stand.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 3, p. 688 (CP., p. 707).

Ant. 2 Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence
of the Lord, for the Lord is passing by.

Ant. 3 I have been zealous for the Lord, the God of Hosts.

READING

2 Peter 1:19-21

We possess the prophetic message as something altogether reliable. Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear and the morning star rises in your hearts. First you must understand this: there is no prophecy contained in Scripture which is a personal interpretation. Prophecy has never been put forward by man's willing it. It is rather that men impelled by the Holy Spirit have spoken under God's influence.

RESPONSORY

I shall be content, Lord, when your glory appears.

—I shall be content, Lord, when your glory appears.

And in righteousness I shall see your face,

—when your glory appears.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—I shall be content, Lord, when your glory appears.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, let it be known today that you are God of Israel, and I am your servant.

INTERCESSIONS

God our Father spoke in former days through the prophets,
but today he speaks to us in his Son, through whom
he wishes the whole world to be joined to him.

Let us humbly pray:

Lord, draw us to yourself.

Lord, you revealed yourself to the prophet Elijah in silence
and solitude;

—help us to put aside all that prevents us from hearing your
voice, so that we may seek and find you.

When he was thirsty, you gave Elijah refreshing water at the
torrent of Cherith;
—may we drink at the living springs of love and contemplation.

As he walked to Mount Horeb, you filled Elijah with strength;
—may we who are strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ
press on unwearied in our journey to you.

Lord, you revealed yourself to Elijah in the whisper of a gentle
breeze;
—in attentive silence and with an obedient spirit may we receive
every inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, you raised up Elijah like a fire and made him zealous
for your glory;
—may we too burn with the fire of your love, to serve the Church
and our brethren in all our work.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Almighty, ever-living God,
your prophet Elijah, our Father,
lived always in your presence
and was zealous for the honor due to your name.
May we, your servants,
always seek your face
and bear witness to your love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Psalms from the current weekday.

Midmorning

Ant. Elijah called upon the Lord, and his prayer was heard.

READING

Hebrews 12:1-2

Since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us, and persevere in running the race which lies ahead; let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith. For the sake of the joy which lay before him, he endured the cross, heedless of its shame. He has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

Lord, I have sought your face.
—Your face I will seek always.

Midday

Ant. Elijah, full of zeal for the law, was taken up to heaven.

READING

Hebrews 4:12

God's word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart.

I have hidden your sayings in my heart, Lord,
—So as never to sin against you.

Midafternoon

Ant. The fire of the Lord came down, and consumed Elijah's burnt offering.

READING

Hebrews 12:28-29

We who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should hold fast to God's grace, through which we may offer worship acceptable to him in reverence and awe. For our God is a consuming fire.

Lord, your word is a consuming fire.

—Your servant loves it.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

The lofty peaks of Carmel
With tuneful praises ring,
The anthems of Elias
'Tis our delight to sing.

The glory of our Order,
Our leader, prop, and stay,
From east to west his offspring
Increaseth day by day.

When sorely pressed the famine,
A raven served him bread,
With meal and cruse unfailing,
The widowed hearth was fed.

The boy from death delivered
Is to his home restored,
And light so much desired,
In radiant flood is poured.

Behold the Heaven closeth,
To open at his voice,
And copious welcome showers
The thirsty lands rejoice.

To Father, Son, and Spirit,
Be equal power and praise,
All glory and dominion
Henceforth for endless days.

76.76. *Nunc juvat celsi properare ad alta*

OR:

Thou prop of our Order, thou pride of our race,
Let thy praises resound far and near,
Let sea and the land and the air give them place,
Rehearsing in gladness thy glory and grace,
Till the earth and the heav'ns give ear.

O sun of the heavens, how lovely thy rays!
What power thy wonders unfold,
How fruitful in merits the length of thy days,
Commissioned by God in His manifold ways,
For noble endeavors of old!

To regions celestial, in power and might,
Triumphant thy chariot speeds;
Uplifted by angels to marvelous height,
While shining in splendor and dazzling with light,
Thou guidest the fiery steeds.

As witness to men of His Sonship divine,
With Jesus thy glory we view;
The Father hath called thee on Tabor to shine,
Companion to Moses, and with him to sign
A testament faithful and true.

Protect us we pray, 'neath thy powerful shield,
Incline to our aid from above,
Let thy fostering guidance be ever revealed
To thy children of Carmel, whose bosoms are sealed
With the strength of thy fatherly love.

All power, dominion, all glory and praise,
Be given to Father and Son,
To Thee, Holy Spirit, for numberless days
Our homage eternal we equally raise
All glory to God, Three in One.

11.8.11.11.8.

Audiat miras oriens cadensque

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Elijah arose like a fire, and his word flamed like a torch.

Psalm 111

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord,
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm forever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth:
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm forever and ever:
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

100 — JULY 20 — SAINT ELIJAH

Ant. Elijah arose like a fire, and his word flamed like a torch.

Ant. 2 If the Lord is God, follow him.

Psalm 115

Not to us, Lord, not to us,
but to your name give the glory
for the sake of your love and your truth,
lest the heathen say: “Where is their God?”

But our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he wills.
Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

They have mouths but they cannot speak;
they have eyes but they cannot see;
they have ears but they cannot hear;
they have nostrils but they cannot smell.

With their hands they cannot feel;
with their feet they cannot walk.
No sound comes from their throats.
Their makers will come to be like them
and so will all who trust in them.

Sons of Israel, trust in the Lord;
he is their help, and their shield.
Sons of Aaron, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.

You who fear him, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.
He remembers us, and he will bless us;
he will bless the sons of Israel.
He will bless the sons of Aaron.

May you be blessed by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
The heavens belong to the Lord
but the earth he has given to men.

The dead shall not praise the Lord,
nor those who go down into the silence.
But we who live bless the Lord
now and forever. Amen.

Ant. If the Lord is God, follow him.

Ant. 3 The Lord rewards his prophets.

Canticle: Revelation 11:17-18; 12:10b-12a

We praise you, the Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was.
You have assumed your great power,
you have begun your reign.

The nations have raged in anger,
but then came your day of wrath
and the moment to judge the dead:
The time to reward your servants the prophets
and the holy ones who revere you,
the great and the small alike.

Now have salvation and power come,
the reign of our God and the authority
of his Anointed One.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who night and day accused them before God.

They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
So rejoice, you heavens,
and you that dwell therein!

102 — JULY 20 — SAINT ELIJAH

Ant. The Lord rewards his prophets.

READING

James 5:16a-18

The fervent petition of a holy man is powerful indeed. Elijah was only a man like us, yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and no rain fell on the land for three years and six months. When he prayed again, the sky burst forth with rain and the land produced its crop.

RESPONSORY

Blessed are those who have seen you.

—Blessed are those who have seen you.

And have been adorned with your love.

—who have seen you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—Blessed are those who have seen you.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. God spoke in times past to our fathers through the prophets; now he has spoken to us through his Son, whom he has made heir to all things.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give joyful praise to the living and true God, who chose the prophet Elijah to proclaim his power and mercy; let us say to him:

Lord, make us witnesses of your love.

Lord, you accepted the sacrifice of Elijah and consumed it with fire from heaven;

—accept our evening sacrifice

which we offer for the good of the Church.

When Elijah prayed on the mountain you sent saving rain
from heaven;

—fill us who have been called to Carmel with a spirit of prayer,
so that we may draw a shower of grace to the world.

You gave to the prophet Elijah the ministry of reconciling
parents and children;

—make us workers for peace, so that the peace of Christ
may reign in the world.

You made Elijah the defender of your honor and of true worship;

—increase our concern for justice, so that by giving you
all that is your due, we may serve our brothers and sisters
in the spirit of the Gospel.

You took the prophet Elijah to yourself in a whirlwind of fire;

—graciously admit our departed brothers and sisters
into the embrace of your glory.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Almighty, ever-living God,
your prophet Elijah, our Father,
lived always in your presence
and was zealous for the honor due to your name.
May we, your servants,
always seek your face
and bear witness to your love

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.



July 23
OUR LADY, MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE
Memorial

The Blessed Virgin Mary was eternally predestined, in the context of the incarnation of the divine Word, to be Mother of God. As decreed by divine Providence, she served on earth as the loving Mother of the divine Redeemer, his associate, uniquely generous, and the Lord's humble servant. She conceived, bore, and nourished Christ; presented him to the Father in the Temple; and was united with him in his suffering as he died on the cross. In a completely unparalleled way she cooperated, by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity, with our Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is Mother to us all in the order of grace (*Lumen gentium*, 61).

From the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Office of Readings

HYMN

Christ, in his pity for suffering mankind
Sick unto death from the poisonous food,
Took on himself the guilt of his people
Cleansed them, begot them anew in his blood.

River all holy, of all evil purging,
Ocean of mercies, of grace seven-fold
Source of salvation, of life never-ending
Boundless and fathomless, treasure untold!

Who shall distribute these streams of God's bounty
Giving to us all that Jesus had won?
Mary, his Mother, is given this honor,
Answering graciously: "Let it be done."

All that abundance of heavenly riches,
Limitless store our Redeemer has won,
Mary dispenses in mercy and pity
Sharing with us all the wealth of her Son.

Praise to the Father, who sent us a Savior,
Praise to his only Son who set us free,
Praise to the Spirit, their love-bond eternal
Now and forever, praise to the Three! Amen.

11.10.11.10

Christus, humani generis misertus

SECOND READING

From the homily preached at the Council of Ephesus
by Saint Cyril of Alexandria
(Hom. 4: PG 77, 995-96)

Our access to the fountainhead of grace is through Mary

Mary, Mother of God, we salute you. Precious vessel, worthy of the whole world's reverence, you are an ever-shining light, the crown of virginity, the symbol of orthodoxy, an indestructible temple, the place that held him whom no place can contain, mother and virgin. Because of you the holy gospels could say: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

We salute you, for in your holy womb was confined him who is beyond all limitation. Because of you, the holy Trinity is glorified and adored; the cross is called precious and is venerated throughout the world; the heavens exult; the angels and archangels make merry; demons are put to flight; the devil, that tempter, is thrust down from heaven; the fallen race of man is taken up on high; all creatures possessed by the madness of idolatry have attained knowledge of the truth; believers receive holy baptism; the oil of gladness is poured out; the Church is established throughout the world; pagans are brought to repentance.

What more is there to say? Because of you, the light of the only-begotten Son of God *has shone upon those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death*; prophets pronounced the word of God; the apostles preached salvation to the Gentiles; the dead are raised to life, and kings rule by the power of the holy Trinity.

Who can put Mary's high honor into words? She is both mother and virgin. I am overwhelmed by the wonder of this miracle. Of course no one could be prevented from living in the house he had built for himself, yet who would invite mockery by asking his own servant to become his mother?

Behold then the joy of the whole universe. Let the union of God and man in the Son of the Virgin Mary fill us with awe and adoration. Let us fear and worship the undivided Trinity as we sing the praise of the ever-virgin Mary, the holy temple of God, and of God himself, her Son and spotless Bridegroom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSORY

With confidence let us draw near to the throne of grace,
—So that we may receive mercy,
and find grace when we are in need of help.

To you do we cry, blessed Virgin,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
—So that we may receive mercy,
and find grace when we are in need of help.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

O Mary, you receive with love
The prayers all men pour out to you;
We beg you in your mercy stay
Forever at our side most true.

Be near us if the fearful bonds
Of sin's allurements hold us fast;
Break quickly all entangling chains
And free our hearts from guilt at last.

Come with your aid; allurements hold,
Dazzl'ing our sight with polished lies.
Let not our minds, forgetting heav'n,
Stray from the path to God as prize.

Come with your aid when, in our lives,
Misfortune threatens, danger nears;
Our times make peaceful by your pow'r
Until eternal day appears.

To us your children, ever be
Protectress at our hour of death
That with your help we may attain
Eternal life past our last breath.

O Jesu, of the Virgin born,
Eternal glory be to Thee,
To Father and to Paraclete,
All glory be eternally. Amen.

88.88. *Maria, quae mortalium*

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. I am the mother of fair love and of holy hope;
in me is all grace of the way and of the truth;
in me is all hope of life and of strength.

PRAYER

God of eternal wisdom,
in your providence you willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary
should bring forth the Author of Grace,
and take part with him in the mystery of redemption.
May she obtain for us grace in abundance
and bring us to the haven of everlasting salvation.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Virgin resplendent in the court of heaven,
Carmel's rare beauty and all mankind's glory,
hear us, dear mother, as our voices humbly
tell your love's story.

Gifts beyond reckoning you pour out in bounty,
rich rain of blessing dropped on hill and meadow
where you still shelter your devoted offspring
in Carmel's shadow.

Grant then your favor, quick to heed and answer,
may these our fervent prayers win grace like starlight,
keen, constant, tracing out a way to heaven
through our profound night.

Stay with us, Mary, on this holy mountain;
so may our love refreshed with heavenly showers
thrive like a garden and provide your altar
with wreaths of flowers.

Ever in kindness strengthen and sustain us,
lightening our burden with a mother's blessing,
that we may share the Father's life and splendor
past dispossessing.

Praise God who made us,
God whose goodness crowned you
queen of creation, dear above all other,
and gave you to us, Lady of Mount Carmel
and Virgin Mother.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Our salvation is in your hands, O Mother; smile upon us,
and we shall be happy in our service of the Lord our King.

July 24
BLESSED MARIA MERCEDES PRAT
Virgin and Martyr

Mercedes Prat was born on March 6, 1880, in Barcelona, baptized on the following day, and made her First Holy Communion on June 30, 1890. From her childhood she gave herself completely to God, whom she received every day in Communion. She displayed a great love for her neighbor and tried to foster this kind of love in others. During her years in school, she was known for her goodness and her dedication to school work, excelling especially in painting and needlework, which were areas in which she had a natural talent. Entering the novitiate of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus in 1904, in Tortosa, she made her temporary profession in 1907. She was a religious *according to the heart of God*: prudent and truthful, calm and gentle in her reactions, having a natural goodness in all her dealing with others, but firm in character. God was her one love, and her love for God kept growing to the point where she would give her life for Him. In 1920 she was assigned to the motherhouse in Barcelona. From there the path to martyrdom began on July 19, 1936, when the community was forced to give up the school and flee. On July 23, because she was a religious, Sr. Mercedes was arrested and shot; she died in the early morning of July 24.

From the common of one martyr or the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Henry de Ossó, priest
(Prologue, *Escritos* 3)

Conforming our life to Christ Jesus

If we are looking for an essential occupation, a consuming interest, that can be called Christian before all else, then it is to clothe oneself in Christ: to think as Christ did; to feel as he did; to love as Jesus did; to work as he did; to deal with others as Christ

did; to speak as he did—in one word, to make the whole of our life resemble that of Christ Jesus. The word Christian means *alter Christus*—another Christ—therefore nobody can save us if we have not first of all been conformed to the likeness of Christ. But in order to conform ourselves to the life of Jesus, it is above all necessary to study him, to know him, to meditate upon him. If we are to be totally in perfect union with him, this must not be done superficially. We must enter into the feelings of Jesus, his longings, his desires, his intentions.

We ought to recollect that, to enter into the Holy of Holies of his heart, is a foolhardiness on our part; but the same Lord Jesus in his goodness, and with his own words, has called us to himself. If he didn't, how are we to learn his meekness and humility? If we do not know the sentiments of his heart in order to practice them, how are we to place our every action before him, in imitation of him? For Christ lived, ate, slept, spoke, kept quiet, got about, got tired, rested, was hungry and thirsty, worked. To be brief: he suffered and died for our sake.

When I say *Jesus Christ*, I imagine a lovely baby, a fine youth, or a mature man, with all the grace and charm that the divinity was able to shower upon a human soul and body. But I also think of him, subject to all of our miseries, except sin, out of love for me. He is our brother, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, and bone of our bones. He is my Jesus, truly God and man, alive, personal, who appeared on this earth, and lived and talked with us for thirty-three years. For our sake, being the Eternal Word of the Father, he descended from heaven, was born, suffered, died, rose, ascended into heaven. He remains amongst us until the end of time, to be our companion, our consolation and nourishment in the most blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

I shall live, eat, sleep, talk, keep silent, work, suffer: I shall do everything, suffer everything in union with Jesus. All that Jesus desires that I suffer or do, this shall I do in union with that divine intention and those sentiments that Jesus had in all that he did or suffered. Whoever does this, will live here on earth a life of heaven, will be transformed into Jesus, and will be able to say with the Apostle: "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me."

RESPONSORY

Because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything else as loss.

—For him I have accepted the loss of all other things,
and look on them all as filth if only I can gain Christ.

I am alive, yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me.

—For him I have accepted the loss of all other things,
and look on them all as filth if only I can gain Christ.

PRAYER

O God of infinite goodness,
you endowed the virgin Blessed Maria Mercedes Prat
with the gift of fortitude
and enabled her to complete her offering of herself
to you and to the Church through martyrdom.
Through her intercession grant that
we may always remain firmly rooted in the love of Christ.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

On the same day, July 24
BLESSED MARIA PILAR, TERESA
AND MARIA ANGELES
Virgins and Martyrs

Maria Pilar of Saint Francis Borgia (born at Tarazona on December 30, 1877), Teresa of the Child Jesus and of Saint John of the Cross (born at Mochales on March 5, 1909), and Maria Angeles of Saint Joseph (born at Getafe on March 6, 1905), Discalced Carmelite nuns of the Monastery of Guadalajara, Spain, were martyred on July 24, 1936, after having given witness to their faith in Christ the King and offered their lives for the Church. The first fruits of the countless martyrs of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, they were beatified by John Paul II on March 29, 1987.

From the common of several martyrs or the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Spiritual Canticle of Saint John of the Cross
(Strophe 30, 7-8)

The flowers of virginity and martyrdom

We shall weave these garlands flowering in your love
and bound with one hair of mine.

This verse most appropriately refers to Christ and the Church, for in it, the Church, the Bride of Christ, addresses him saying: let us weave garlands (understanding by garlands, all the holy souls engendered by Christ in the Church). Each holy soul is like a garland adorned with the flowers of virtues and gifts, and all of them together form a garland for the head of Christ, the Bridegroom.

The loving garlands can refer to what we call aureoles; these are also woven by Christ and the Church and are of three kinds: The first kind is made from the beautiful flowers of all the virgins. Each virgin possesses her own aureole of virginity, and all these aureoles together will be joined into one and placed on the head of Christ, the Bridegroom. The second aureole contains the resplendent flowers of the holy doctors. All these aureoles will be entwined into one and set upon the head of Christ over that of the virgins. The third is fashioned from the crimson carnations of the martyrs. Every martyr has an aureole of martyrdom, and these red aureoles woven together will add the final touch to the aureole of Christ the Bridegroom.

So beautiful and fair will Christ the Bridegroom be with these three garlands when he is seen in heaven. Therefore, *we shall weave these garlands*, the soul says, *flowering in your love*. The flower of these works and virtues is the grace and power they possess from the love of God. Without love these works will not only fail to flower, but they will all wither and become valueless

in God's sight, even though they may be perfect from a human standpoint. Yet, because God bestows His grace and love, they are works that have blossomed in His love.

And bound with one hair of mine. This hair is her will and the love she has for the Beloved. This love assumes the task of the thread in a garland. As the thread binds the flowers together, so love fastens and sustains the virtues in the soul. As Saint Paul remarks: *Charity is the bond of perfection* (Col 3: 14).

RESPONSORY

Even if you should have to suffer for justice' sake,
happy will you be.

Do not be afraid and do not stand in awe of them,
but adore the Lord Christ in your hearts.

—Always ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

It is better, if God so wills it, to suffer and do good deeds
than to do evil.

—Always ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

PRAYER

All-powerful Lord, strength of the humble,
you sustained in martyrdom
the virgins Blessed Maria Pilar, Teresa and Maria Angeles;
as they willingly shed their blood for Christ the King,
may we, through their intercession
be faithful to you and to your Church until death.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

July 27
BLESSED TITUS BRANDSMA
Priest and Martyr

Born at Bolsward (The Netherlands) in 1881, Blessed Titus Brandsma joined the Carmelite Order as a young man. Ordained a priest in 1905, he earned a doctorate in philosophy in Rome. He then taught in various schools in Holland and was named professor of philosophy and of the history of mysticism in the Catholic University of Nijmegen, where he also served as Rector Magnificus. He was noted for his constant availability to everyone. He was a professional journalist, and in 1935 he was appointed ecclesiastical advisor to Catholic journalists. Both before and during the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands he fought, faithful to the Gospel, against the spread of Nazi ideology and for the freedom of Catholic education and of the Catholic press. For this he was arrested and sent to a succession of prisons and concentration camps where he brought comfort and peace to his fellow prisoners and did good even to his tormentors; in 1942, after much suffering and humiliation, he was killed at Dachau. He was beatified by John Paul II on November 3, 1985.

From the common of one martyr

SECOND READING

From the writings of Blessed Titus Brandsma

(Introduction to *Het lijden vergoddelijkt*)

The mysticism of the Passion

Jesus called himself the head of the Mystical Body, of which we are the members. He is the vine, we are the branches. He laid himself in the winepress and himself trod it. He handed us the wine so that, drinking it, we might lead his life, might share his suffering. *Whoever wishes to do my will, let him daily take up his cross. Whoever follows me has the light of life. I am the way*, he said. *I have given you an example, so that as I have done so you may do also.* And when his disciples did not understand that his way would be a way of suffering, he explained this to them and said, *Should not the Christ so suffer, in order to enter into his glory?*

Then the hearts of the disciples burned within them. God's word had set them on fire. And when the Holy Spirit had

descended on them to fan that divine fire into flame, then they were glad to suffer scorn and persecution, whereby they resembled him who had preceded them on the way of suffering.

The prophets had already marked his way of suffering; the disciples now understood that he had not avoided that way. From the crib to the cross, suffering, poverty and lack of appreciation were his lot. He had directed his whole life to teaching people how different is God's view of suffering, poverty and lack of human appreciation from the foolish wisdom of the world. After sin, suffering had to follow so that, through the cross, man's lost glory and life with God might be regained. Suffering is the way to heaven. In the cross is salvation, in the cross is victory. God willed it so. He himself assumed the obligation of suffering in view of the glory of redemption. Saint Paul makes it clear to us how all the disasters of this earthly life are insignificant, how they must be considered as nothing and passing, *in comparison with the glory that will be revealed to us* when the time of suffering is past and we come to share in God's glory.

Mary, who kept all God's words in her heart, in the fullness of grace granted her, understood the great value of suffering. While the apostles fled, she went out to meet the Savior on the Way to Calvary and stood beneath the cross, in order to share his grief and shame to the end. And she carried him to the grave, firmly trusting that he would rise.

We object when he hands us the chalice of his suffering. It is so difficult for us to resign ourselves to suffering. To rejoice in it strikes us as heroic. What is the value of our offering of self if we unite ourselves each morning only in word and gesture, rather than in thought and will, to that offering which we, together with the Church, make of him with whom we are in the one body?

Jesus once wept over Jerusalem.

Oh, that this day *you had known the gift of God!*

Oh, that this day we might realize the value God has placed on the suffering he sends: He, the All-Good.

RESPONSORY

God forbid that I glory
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
—by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

We preach Christ crucified, to others a stumbling block and a
folly, but to us the power and the wisdom of God,
—by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

ALTERNATIVE SECOND READING

From the sermons of Blessed Titus Brandsma
(Viking, November 7, 1936, and *Summarium*, pp. 410-411)

Invitation to heroism in faith and in love

You hear it said that we live at a wonderful time, a time of great men and women. It would probably be better to say that we live in an era of decadence in which many, however, feel the need to react and to defend what is most precious and sacred. The desire for the emergence of a strong, capable leader is understandable. But we want such a leader to fight for a holy cause, for an ideal based on divine designs and not merely on human might.

Neo-paganism considers the whole of nature as an emanation of the divine: this is what it holds about various races and peoples of the earth. But as star differs from star by reason of its light and brightness, so neo-paganism considers one race more noble and pure than another; to the extent that this one race is held to embody more light within itself, it has the duty of making that life shine and enlighten the world. It is maintained that this is possible only when, eliminating elements foreign to it, it frees itself from all stain. From this notion derives the cult of race and blood, the cult of the heroes of one's own people.

From such an erroneous starting-point, this view can lead to fatal errors! It is sad to see how much enthusiasm and effort are

placed at the service of such an erroneous and baseless ideal! However, *we can learn from our enemy*; from his erroneous philosophy we can learn how to purify and better our own ideal: we can learn how to foster a great love for it; how to arouse great enthusiasm, even a willingness to live and die for it; how to build up the courage to incarnate it in ourselves and in others.

We too profess our descent from God.

We too want what he wants.

But we do not accept the idea of emanation from the divine; we do not divinize ourselves. We admit descent in dependence. When we speak of and pray for the coming of the kingdom, it is not a prayer for a kingdom based on differences of race and blood, but on universal brotherhood. In union with him *who makes the sun rise on the good and on the evil*, all men are our brothers—even those who hate us and fight us.

We do not want a relapse into the sin of the earthly paradise, into the sin of making ourselves equal to God. We do not wish to begin a cult of heroes based on the divinization of human nature.

We acknowledge the law of God and we submit to it. We do not wish to frustrate—through an unhealthy and heady knowledge of ourselves—our dependence on the supreme Being who gives us existence. However, even as we acknowledge the law of God within ourselves, we also note another law of desires contrary to the Spirit of God, which wishes to prevail. At times, like Saint Paul, we experience the desire to act counter to the divine law; we find it difficult to recognize our imperfections; and we act in ways that are destructive to our own nature. We wish to be better than we are, with other talents or a different personality. And sometimes we even think we are what we would like to be.

In our better moments, however, we do recognize our imperfections, and then we understand that there is room for improvement. We are honestly convinced that we could improve if we had more courage. Nothing is accomplished without effort,

without struggle. In our better moments, we no longer shed tears over our own weaknesses or over those of others, but we recall what was interiorly said to Saint Paul: *My grace is sufficient for you; in union with me you can do all things.*

We live in a world in which love is condemned: it is called weakness, something to be overcome. Some say: never mind love, develop your strengths; let everyone be as strong as possible; let the weak perish. They say that the Christian religion, with its preaching of love, has seen better days and should be substituted for by old Teutonic force. Yes, some proclaim these doctrines, and they find people who willingly adopt them. Love is unknown: *Love is not loved*, said Saint Francis of Assisi in his day; and some centuries later, in Florence, the ecstatic Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi rang the bells of her Carmelite monastery to let the world know how beautiful love is. Although neo-paganism no longer wants love, history teaches us that, in spite of everything, we will conquer this neo-paganism with love. We shall not give up on love. Love will gain back for us the hearts of these pagans. Nature is stronger than theory: let theory condemn and reject love and call it weakness; the living witness of love will always renew the power which will conquer and capture the hearts of men.

RESPONSORY

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or sword?

—In everything God works for good with those who love him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

—In everything God works for good with those who love him.

PRAYER

Lord our God,
source and giver of life,
you gave to Blessed Titus
the Spirit of courage to proclaim human dignity
and the freedom of the Church,
even in the throes of degrading persecution and death.
Grant us that same Spirit
so that in the coming of your kingdom of justice and peace
we might never be ashamed of the Gospel,
but be enabled to recognize your loving-kindness
in all the events of our lives.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

July 28
BLESSED JOHN SORETH
Priest

John Soreth was born at Caen in Normandy and entered Carmel as a young man. He took a doctorate of theology in Paris and served as regent of studies and provincial of his province. He was prior general from 1451 until his death at Angers in 1471. He restored observance within the Order and promoted its reform, wrote a famous commentary on the Rule, issued new Constitutions in 1462, and promoted the growth of the nuns and the Third Order.

From the common of holy men

SECOND READING

From the Exhortation on the Carmelite Rule
by Blessed John Soreth
(Tex. 15, c. 4, ed. Paris 1625, pp 191-92)

Learn from Christ how you should love him

It is from Christ himself, brother, that you will learn how to love him. Learn to love him tenderly, *with all your heart*; prudently, *with all your soul*; fervently, *with all your strength*. Love him tenderly, so that you will not be seduced away from him; prudently, so that you will not be open to deception; and fervently, so that downheartedness will not draw you away from God's love. May the wisdom of Christ seem sweet to you, so that you are not led away by the glory of the world and the pleasures of the flesh. May Christ, who is the Truth, enlighten you, so that you do not fall prey to the spirit of error and falsehood. May Christ, who is the Strength of God, fortify you when hardships wear you out.

Saint Basil says that we are bound to our benefactors by bonds of affection and duty. But what greater gift or favor could we receive than God himself? For, he continues, I experience the ineffable love of God—a love more easily felt than described. Since God has planted the seeds of goodness in us, we can be certain that he is awaiting their fruits.

So let the love of Christ kindle your enthusiasm; let his knowledge be your teacher, and his constancy your strength. May your enthusiasm be fervent, balanced in judgment and invincible, and neither lukewarm nor lacking in discretion. *Love the Lord your God* with all the affection of which your heart is capable; love him with all the attentiveness and balance of judgment of your soul and reason; love him with such strength that you will not be afraid to die for love of him. May the Lord Jesus seem so sweet and tender to your affections that the sweet enticements of the world hold no attraction for you; may his sweetness conquer their sweetness.

May he also be the guiding light of your intellect and the ruler of your reason: then you will not only avoid the deceptions of heresy and save your faith from their ambushes, but you will also avoid too great and indiscreet an enthusiasm in your

behavior. God is Wisdom, and he wants to be loved not only fervently, but also wisely; otherwise the spirit of error will easily take advantage of your enthusiasm. If you neglect this advice, that cunning enemy thereby has a most effective means of taking the love of God from your heart by making you progress carelessly and without discretion. Therefore, may your love be strong and persevering, neither giving in to fears nor being worn out by labors.

Not to be led astray by allurements, that's what it means to love with all one's heart; not to be deceived by false arguments, that's the meaning of loving with all one's soul; not to let your spirit be broken by difficulties, that is to love with all one's strength.

The Rule goes on to say that you should love your neighbor as yourself. For he who loves God, loves his neighbor too; *for he who does not love his brother whom he sees, how can he love God whom he does not see?*

RESPONSORY

This is the love of God: that we keep his commandments;
—and his commandments are not burdensome.

Those who keep his commandments abide in God,
and God abides in them;
—and his commandments are not burdensome.

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Be faithful till death, and I will give you the crown of life.

122 — JULY 28 — BLESSED JOHN SORETH

PRAYER

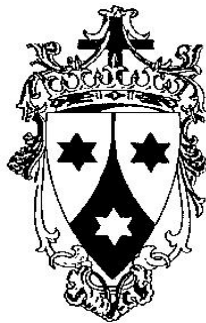
Lord God,
you willed that Blessed John Soreth
should renew religious life
and establish communities for women in the Order of Carmel.
May his prayers and merits help us
to be ever more faithful in following Christ and his Mother.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. This faithful man fortified his city,
and in sinful times encouraged godliness.





August 7
SAINT ALBERT OF TRAPANI

Priest

Memorial

Albert degli Abbati was born at Trapani, Sicily, in the thirteenth century, and entered the Carmelite Order as a youth. He became renowned as a fervent preacher of the Gospel and a worker of miracles. He was Provincial of Sicily in 1296, and died at Messina, probably in 1307, with a reputation for purity and prayer.

From the common of holy men

Office of Readings

HYMN

The Feasts of August sound their glad refrain,
To Albert riseth soft, melodious strain;
Let Carmel echo with the songs of love
Raised to our Blessed Father throned above.

At seven years the parent roof he flies,
And, like the Baptist, all the world denies,
To seek the holy Virgin's sacred shrine,
And live a life of holiness divine.

Clad in the flowing mantle white as snow,
He welcomes choicest gifts the Heavens bestow,
With power granted him to govern here
The lesser kingdoms of this earthly sphere.

124 — AUGUST 7 — SAINT ALBERT OF TRAPANI

The altar flame is by a crystal glassed,
A spectre breaketh it with pebble cast;
But Albert poureth tears before the Lord,
And lo! the sacred lamp is quick restored.

His youth, so prompt to vengeance, he subdues,
No fantasies of Hell his mind confuse
Supporting calmly fortune good or ill,
He scorneth honors with a steadfast will.

Unto one God most high be endless praise,
And to the blessed Son for equal days.
The Holy Spirit let us now adore,
And praise the Three in One forevermore.

10.10.10.10.

Mensis augusti redeuent honores

SECOND READING

From the Book of the Institution of the First Monks
(L. 1, c. 2: ed. AnOC 3 [1914-1916], pp. 348-49).

Hide yourself by the brook Cherith

The word of the Lord came to Elijah saying: Depart from here and go eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith near the Jordan, and there you will drink from the brook. Now these salutary commands which the Holy Spirit prompted Elijah to obey, and this promise of good things which he was moved to desire, ought to be weighed word by word with the greatest care by us, monks and solitaries, and this in a mystical sense, for they contain the full meaning of our vocation. Indeed they point the way to prophetic perfection, which is the goal of our religious, eremitical life.

It will be seen that this type of life has two aims. One of them we can, with the help of God's grace, achieve by our own efforts and the practice of virtue. This aim is to offer God a heart holy and pure from all actual stain of sin, and we achieve it when we become perfect and *hidden in Cherith*—that is, in charity, of

which the Wise Man says: *Charity covers all offenses*. It was to bring Elijah to this state that God said to him: *Hide yourself by the brook Cherith*.

The other aim of this kind of life is something that can be bestowed on us only by God's generosity: namely, to taste in our hearts and experience in our minds, not only after death but even during this mortal life, something of the power of the divine presence and the bliss of heavenly glory. And this is *to drink from the brook* of the enjoyment of God—the reward God promised Elijah when he said: *There you will drink from the brook*.

The prophetic, eremitical life must be undertaken by the monk with both these aims in view, as the Psalmist makes clear when he says to God: *In a desert land where there is no road and no water I have come before you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory*. By choosing to live *in a desert land where there is no road and no water* as the means of coming before God *in the sanctuary*—with a heart, that is, free from sin—he demonstrates the first aim of the solitary life he has chosen, which is to offer God a heart that is holy, or pure from all actual sin. By adding the words *to see your power and your glory* he declares the second aim, which is in some measure to experience or see the power of the divine presence mystically in one's heart and to taste the bliss of heavenly glory here already in this life.

The first aim, purity of heart, can be achieved with the help of God's grace by effort and the practice of virtue. The second aim, experimental knowledge of divine power and heavenly glory, can be realized through purity of heart and perfect love; for our Lord said: *Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him*.

RESPONSORY

I have called you friends, for I have made known to you
all I have heard from my Father.

—Remain in my love.

I have chosen you to go out and bear fruit,
fruit that shall last.

—Remain in my love.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

The feast-day of Saint Albert dawns
A day of pure resplendent light;
Our brethren high in heav'n rejoice
As we our praise with theirs unite.

He realized that earthly joys
Were all too small to fill his heart;
All, all he had he gave to God,
In Carmel chose the better part.

Determined conqueror of self
He mortified each wrong desire
Until God saw reflected there
His image purified by fire.

For one so set on heavenly things
The lying foe laid many a snare,
But he resisted manfully,
And persevered in constant prayer.

Remember Carmel's Order now,
Made glorious by your sojourn here;
O strengthen us in love of Christ
That we may likewise persevere.

All praise be to the Trinity,
The Father with his only Son
And ever-blessed Paraclete,
While never-ending ages run.

L.M.

Adest natalis gloriae

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. The just will speak wisdom, and truth will come
from their lips, because God's law is in their hearts.

PRAYER

Lord God,
you made Saint Albert of Trapani
a model of purity and prayer,
and a devoted servant of Our Lady.
May we practice these same virtues
and so be worthy always
to share the banquet of your grace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

The river floweth swiftly on its course,
Dry shod the Blessed Albert speeds across.
His chastened piety sustains no loss
When combated.

He kisseth tenderly the leprous face,
Nor shrinks in horror from the hideous trace;
Behold, it shineth now with former grace,
Disease hath fled.

When his glad spirit sought its heavenward flight,
The bells were pealing from the belfry height,
Nor did they sound by any human might
In mournful toll.

Two Messengers from Heaven high in air
Chant funeral praises of this man of prayer,
Before a mighty concourse gathered there
To bless his soul.

128 — AUGUST 9 — SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA

The odor sweet arising from his bier
Cured pain and suffering when the sick drew near,
And all diseases fled his tomb in fear
Of heavenly power.

O God most high, forever praise to Thee,
To Son and Spirit equal honor be;
Let us adore the Blessed One in Three
At every hour.

10.10.10.4.

Passibus siccis rapidum

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

August 9
SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS
Virgin and Martyr
Memorial

Edith Stein was born to a Jewish family at Breslau on October 12, 1891. Through her passionate study of philosophy she searched after truth and found it in reading the autobiography of Saint Teresa of Jesus. In 1922 she was baptized a Catholic and in 1933 she entered the Carmel of Cologne, where she took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She was gassed and cremated at Auschwitz on August 9, 1942, during the Nazi persecution, and died a martyr for the Christian faith after having offered her holocaust for the people of Israel. A woman of singular intelligence and learning, she left behind a body of writing notable for its doctrinal richness and profound spirituality. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II at Cologne on May 1, 1987.

From the common of martyrs or of virgins

SECOND READING

From the spiritual writings of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
(Edith Stein Werke (Freiburg, 1987), 11:124-126)

Ave Crux, spes unica!

We greet you, Holy Cross, our only hope! The church puts these words on our lips during the time of the passion, which is dedicated to the contemplation of the bitter sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The world is in flames. The struggle between Christ and antichrist rages openly, and so if you decide for Christ you can even be asked to sacrifice your life.

Contemplate the Lord who hangs before you on the wood, because he was obedient *even to the death of the cross*. He came into the world not to do his own will but that of the Father. And if you wish to be the spouse of the Crucified, you must renounce completely your own will and have no other aspiration than to do the will of God.

Before you the Redeemer hangs on the cross stripped and naked, because he chose poverty. Those who would follow him must renounce every earthly possession.

Stand before the Lord who hangs from the cross with his heart torn open. He poured out the blood of his heart in order to win your heart. In order to follow him in holy chastity, your heart must be free from every earthly aspiration. Jesus Crucified must be the object of your every longing, of your every desire, of your every thought.

The world is in flames: the fire can spread even to our house, but above all the flames the cross stands on high, and it cannot be burnt. The cross is the way which leads from earth to heaven. Those who embrace it with faith, love, and hope are taken up, right into the heart of the Trinity.

The world is in flames: do you wish to put them out? Contemplate the cross: from his open heart the blood of the Redeemer pours, blood which can put out even the flames of hell. Through the faithful observance of the vows, you make your heart open; and then the floods of that divine love will be able to flow into it, making it overflow and bear fruit to the furthest reaches of the earth.

130 — AUGUST 9 — SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA

Through the power of the cross you can be present wherever there is pain, carried there by your compassionate charity, by that very charity which you draw from the divine heart. That charity enables you to spread everywhere the most precious blood in order to ease pain, save and redeem.

The eyes of the Crucified gaze upon you. They question you and appeal to you. Do you wish seriously to renew your alliance with him? What will your response be? *Lord, where shall I go? You alone have the words of life. Ave Crux, spes unica!*

RESPONSORY

We preach Christ Crucified, a scandal to the Jews
and foolishness to the pagans,

—but for those who are called, whether they be Jews or Greeks,
we preach Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The desire of my heart and my prayer
rises to God for their salvation;

—but for those who are called, whether they be Jews or Greeks,
we preach Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

PRAYER

Lord, God of our fathers,
you brought Saint Teresa Benedicta
to the fullness of the science of the cross
at the hour of her martyrdom.
Fill us with that same knowledge;
and, through her intercession,
allow us always to seek after you, the supreme truth,
and to remain faithful until death
to the covenant of love ratified in the blood of your Son
for the salvation of all men and women.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

August 16
BLESSED MARIA SAGRARIO
OF SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
Virgin and Martyr

Maria Sagrario was born at Lillo (Toledo) on 8th January 1881. A pharmacist by trade, she was one of the first women in Spain to be admitted to this qualification. In 1915 she entered the Carmel of St. Anne and St. Joseph in Madrid. Through her spirit of prayer and her love for the Eucharist she was a perfect embodiment of the contemplative and ecclesial ideal of the Teresian Carmel. She was Prioress of her community when she was martyred on 15th August 1936. It was a grace she longed for and accepted in perfection of faith and ardent love for Christ.

From the common of martyrs or of virgins

SECOND READING

From the letters and writings of Blessed Maria Sagrario

Following Christ by way of humility and the cross

May Jesus reign always in my heart! The Lord asks me to be humble, to weep over my sins, to love him much, to love my sisters much, to mortify them in nothing, not to mortify myself uselessly, to live recollected in him wanting nothing for myself, completely surrendered to his divine will.

In this vale of tears, suffering will not be lacking, and we should be content to have something to offer to our most beloved Jesus who wanted so much to suffer for love of us. The most direct way to unite ourselves to God is that of the cross, so we should always desire it. May the Lord not permit that I be separated from his divine will.

Blessed be God who gives us these ways of offering ourselves up to his love! The day will arrive when we will rejoice for having suffered in this way. Meanwhile, let us be generous, suffering everything, if not with happiness, at least in close conformity to the divine will of him who suffered so much out of

132 – AUGUST 16 — BLESSED MARIA SAGRARIO

love for us. However great are our sufferings, they come nowhere near his. If you wish to be perfect, seek first of all to be quite humble in thought, word, deed and desire; learn well what this means and work tenaciously to carry it out. Keep your gaze always on our most beloved Jesus, asking him in the depths of his heart what he desires for you, and never deny him anything, even if it means going strongly against the grain for you.

Blessed be he who arranges everything for our good! In possessing him, we possess everything.

RESPONSORY

I have fought the good fight to the end;
I have run the race to the finish. I have kept the faith;
—all there is to come for me now is the crown of righteousness.

Because of the supreme advantage
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
I count everything else as loss,
that I may partake of his sufferings
by being molded to the pattern of his death.
—All there is to come for me now is the crown of righteousness.

PRAYER

O God,
who by a spirit of prayer and devotion to the Eucharist
prepared Blessed Maria Sagrario to suffer martyrdom,
grant that we, through her example,
may freely spend our lives for you
by faithfully and constantly fulfilling your will.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

August 18
BLESSED JOHN-BAPTIST DUVERNEUIL,
MICHAEL-ALOYSIUS BRULARD AND JAMES GAGNOT
Priests and Martyrs

Fr. Jean-Baptiste Duverneuil (b. 1737 at Limoges), in religion Fr. Leonard, Fr. Michel-Louis Brulard (b. 1758 at Chartres), and Fr. Jacques Gagnot (b. 1753 at Frolois), in religion Fr. Hubert of Saint Claude, were among a group of 64 Martyrs beatified 1st October 1995, victims of the French Revolution who came from 14 French dioceses and from various religious Orders. In their loyalty to God, the Church and the Pope, they refused to take the oath of the Civil Constitution for the Clergy imposed by the Constituent Assembly of the Revolution. As a result they were imprisoned, massed like animals, on a slave-trader in Rochefort Bay, awaiting in vain to be deported into slavery. During 1794, the first two Carmelites died on board ship: Fr. John-Baptist on 1st July, and Fr. Michael-Aloysius on 25th July, both being buried on the island of Aix. After plague broke out on the ship, those remaining disembarked on the island of Madame, where Fr. James died and was buried on 10th September. Noted for their loving ministry to their fellow prisoners and their patience in accepting every type of outrage, privation and cruelty, not to mention the vicissitudes of weather, hunger and sickness, our three Discalced Carmelite priest martyrs and their companions in martyrdom gave unsurpassed Christian witness to their faith and love.

From the common of martyrs

SECOND READING

Resolutions drawn up by the Priests
imprisoned on the ship *Les Deux Associes*

They bore in silence the cross that was placed on them

They will never give themselves up to useless worries about being set free. Instead they will make the effort to profit from the time of their detention by meditating on their past years, by making holy resolutions for the future, so that they can find in the captivity of their bodies, freedom for their soul.

If God permits them to recover totally or in part this liberty nature longs for, they will avoid giving themselves up to an immoderate joy when they receive the news. By keeping their souls tranquil, they will show they support without murmur the cross placed on them, and that they are disposed to bear it even longer with courage and as true Christians who never let themselves be beaten by adversity.

If there is question of receiving back their personal effects they will show no eagerness in asking for them; rather they will make the declaration that may be required of them with modesty and strict truth; they will receive without lament what is given to them, accustoming themselves, as is their duty, to despise the things of the earth and to be content with little, after the example of the apostles.

They are not to satisfy curious people they might come across; they will not reply to superficial questions about what happened to them; they will let people glimpse that they have patiently supported their sufferings, without descending into detail, and without showing any resentment against those who have authored and been instrumental in their suffering.

They will sentence themselves to the severest and most absolute silence about the faults of their brothers and the weaknesses into which they happened to fall due to their unfortunate situation, their bad health and the length of their punishment. They will preserve the same charity towards those whose religious opinion is different from their own. They will avoid all bitter feeling or animosity, being content to feel sorry about them interiorly and making the effort to stay on the way of truth by their gentleness and moderation.

They will not show grief over the loss of their goods, no haste to recover them, no resentment against those who possess them...

From now on they will form but one heart and one soul, without showing distinction of persons, and without leaving any of their brothers out, under any pretext. They will never get mixed up in the new politics, being content to pray for the welfare of their country and prepare themselves for a new life, if God permits them to return to their homes, and there become subjects of edification and models of virtue for the people, by their detachment from the world, their assiduousness in prayer and their love for recollection and piety.

RESPONSORY

God and his angels look down upon us;
Christ, too, looks on as we do battle in the contest of faith.

—What great dignity and glory are ours,
what happiness to struggle in the presence of God,
and to be crowned by Christ our judge.

Let us be armed with a great determination and,
pure in heart, sound in faith, and full of courage,
be prepared to face the combat.

—What great dignity and glory are ours,
what happiness to struggle in the presence of God,
and to be crowned by Christ our judge.

PRAYER

Lord God,
to the martyrs Blessed John-Baptist, Michael Aloysius,
James, and their companions,
you gave the grace to remain faithful and to pardon
while suffering dismaying hardship.
Through their intercession grant also to us,
to be always willing to remain faithful to your Church
and to be reconciled with one another.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

August 25
BLESSED MARY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED
Virgin

Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified was born of the Baouardy family, Catholics of the Greek Melchite Rite, at Abellin in Galilee in 1846. In 1867 she entered the Discalced Carmelites at Pau in France and was sent with the founding group to the Carmel of Mangalore in India where, in 1870, she made her profession. She returned to France in 1872. In 1875 she went to the Holy Land where she built a monastery in Bethlehem and began planning for another at Nazareth. Noted for her supernatural gifts, especially for humility, for her devotion to the Holy Spirit, and her great love for the Church and the Pope, she died at Bethlehem in 1878.

From the common of virgins, or of holy women (religious)

SECOND READING

From the Catechesis of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop
(Cat. 16, 1, 12:16 (PG 33, 936, 939-942))

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The Holy Spirit, although he is one and of one nature and indivisible, apportions his grace as he wills to each one. When the dry tree is watered it brings forth shoots. So too the soul in sin: when through penance it is made worthy of the grace of the Holy Spirit, it bears the fruit of justice. Though the Spirit is one in nature, yet by the will of God and in the name of Christ he brings about multiple effects of virtue.

He uses the tongue of one man for wisdom, he illumines the soul of another by prophecy, to another he imparts the power of driving out devils, to another the gift of interpreting the sacred scriptures; he strengthens the self-control of one man, teaches another the nature of almsgiving, another to fast and mortify himself, another to despise the things of the body; he prepares another man for martyrdom.

He acts differently in different men while himself remaining unchanged, as it is written: *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

AUGUST 25 — BL. MARY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED – 137

His approach is gentle, his presence fragrant, his yoke very light; rays of light and knowledge shine forth before him as he comes. He comes with the heart of a true protector; he comes to save, to heal, to teach, to admonish, to strengthen, to console, to enlighten the mind, first of the man who receives him, then through him the minds of others also.

As a man previously in darkness, suddenly seeing the sun, receives his sight and sees clearly what he did not see before, so the man deemed worthy of the Holy Spirit is enlightened in soul and sees beyond the power of human sight what he did not know before. Although his body remains on the earth, his soul already contemplates heaven as in a mirror.

RESPONSORY

We contemplate your beauty, O Virgin of Christ:

—You have received from the Lord a gleaming crown.

Nothing could bring you to surrender virginity;

nothing could separate you from the love of the Son of God.

—You have received from the Lord a gleaming crown.

PRAYER

God of mercy and all consolation,
you raised Blessed Mary,
the humble daughter of the Holy Land,
to contemplation of the mysteries of your Son
and made her a witness to the love and joy of the Holy Spirit.
Grant us, through her intercession,
so to share in the sufferings of Christ
that we may rejoice in the revelation of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

August 26
SAINT TERESA OF JESUS'
TRANSVERBERATION

“The chief among Teresa’s virtues was the love of God, which our Lord Jesus Christ increased by means of many visions and revelations. He made her his Spouse on one occasion. At other times she saw an angel with a flaming dart piercing her heart. Through these heavenly gifts the flame of divine love in her heart became so strong that, inspired by God, she made the extremely difficult vow of always doing what seemed to her most perfect and most conducive to God’s glory” (Gregory XV in the Bull of Canonization).

Invitatory

Ant. Come let us worship the Lord, Source of all wisdom.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.4, p. 613.

Office of Readings

HYMN, as on October 15, p. 182.

SECOND READING

From the Living Flame of Love by Saint John of the Cross
(Red. B, st. 2, no. 2-4, 9., 12, 8: ed. Kavanaugh-Rodriguez 1979, pp. 596-99)

You have wounded my heart

Moses declares in Deuteronomy, *Our Lord God is a consuming fire*, that is, a fire of love, which being of infinite power, can inestimably consume and transform into itself the soul it touches. Yet he burns each soul according to its preparation: he will burn one more, another less, and this he does insofar as he desires, and how and when he desires. When he wills to touch somewhat vehemently, the soul’s burning reaches such a high degree of love that it seems to surpass that of all the fires of the world, *for he is an infinite fire of love*. Because the soul in this case is entirely transformed by the divine flame, it not only feels a cautery, but has become a cautery of blazing fire.

It is a wonderful thing and worth relating that, since this fire of God is so mighty it would consume a thousand worlds more easily than the fire of this earth would burn up a straw, it does not consume and destroy the soul in which it so burns. And it does not afflict it, rather, commensurate with the strength of the love, it divinizes and delights it, burning gently. Since God's purpose in granting these communications is to exalt the soul, he does not weary and restrict it, but enlarges and delights it, brightens and enriches it. The happy soul that by great fortune reaches this cautery knows all things, tastes all things, does all it wishes, and prospers; no one prevails before it and nothing touches it. This is the soul of which the Apostle speaks: *The spiritual one judges all things and he is judged by no one.* And again: *The spirit searches out all things, unto the deep things of God.*

It will happen that while the soul is inflamed with the love of God, it will feel that a seraphim is assailing it by means of an arrow or dart which is all afire with love. And the seraphim pierces and cauterizes this soul which, like a red-hot coal, or better, a flame, is already enkindled. For the soul is converted into the immense fire of love.

Few persons have reached these heights. Some have, however, especially those whose virtue and spirit was to be diffused among their children. For God accords to founders, with respect to the first fruits of the spirit, wealth and value commensurate with the greater or lesser following they will have in their doctrine and spirituality.

O happy wound, wrought by one who knows only how to heal! O fortunate and choicest wound; you were made only for delight, and the quality of your affliction is delight and gratification for the wounded soul! You are great, O delightful wound, because he who caused you is great! And your delight is great, because the fire of love is infinite and makes you delightful according to your capacity and greatness. O, then, delightful wound, so much more sublimely delightful the more the cautery touched the intimate center of the substance of the soul, burning all that was burnable in order to give delight to all that could be delighted!

RESPONSORY

The Lord our God is one Lord.

—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

The Lord your God is a consuming fire.

—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Morning Prayer

HYMN, as on October 15, p. 189.

Antiphons and psalms of the current weekday.

Reading and responsory as on October 15, pp. 189-90.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. In my heart, imprisoned in my bones, was the likeness
of a burning fire, and I was scarcely able to bear it.

Intercessions as on October 15, pp. 190-91.

PRAYER

Almighty God,
you filled the heart of Saint Teresa of Avila, our Mother,
with the fire of your love
and gave her strength to undertake difficult tasks
for the honor of your name.
Through her prayers
may the power of your love fill our hearts also
and stir us to ever more generous efforts in your service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN, as on October 15, p. 176.

Antiphons and psalms of the current weekday.

Reading and responsory as on October 15, p. 196.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. My heart will rejoice in your salvation;
I will sing to the Lord for his goodness to me.

Intercessions as on October 15, pp. 196-197.

September 1 SAINT TERESA MARGARET REDI OF THE SACRED HEART Virgin Memorial

Teresa Margaret belonged to the noble family of Redi, and was born in the Tuscan city of Arezzo in 1747. She entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery at Florence on September 1, 1764. She was granted a special grace of contemplative insight based on Saint John's phrase *God is love*, through which she felt called to a hidden life of love and self-sacrifice. She progressed rapidly, fulfilling her vocation through heroic charity toward others. She died in Florence in 1770, aged twenty-three.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

HYMN

Come, happy Saint, and teach us all
The boundless love of Christ,
His gifts to you, that for the height
Of sanctity sufficed.

142 – SEPTEMBER 1 — SAINT TERESA MARGARET REDI

You made Teresa's teaching yours,
Together with her name,
Determined to become with her
A spirit of pure flame.

Drawn by your Spouse, you lived with Him
A hidden life apart.
Teach us to drink the healing springs
That well up from his heart.

Praise to You, Eternal Father
And to Your Only Son
Who with the Holy Spirit pure
Forever reign as One.

C.M.

Unknown

SECOND READING

From the Acts of Canonization of Saint Teresa Margaret
(Decr. "Super tuto" AAS 26 [1934], pp 105-06).

The love of Christ impels us

Brief as it was, Teresa Margaret's whole life may be regarded as one continual raising up of her guiltless soul to God.

In its innocence her soul turned spontaneously to God, and seemed able to find rest in him alone. In her, utter purity was joined to profound humility and she genuinely loved to be disregarded and despised. She did not simply bear humiliations, she rejoiced in them. Her purity of heart and her lowliness of spirit earned for her a high degree of charity, and this rapidly increased until her ardor became truly seraphic and she could hardly speak of God without her face becoming suffused with joy. Her love of God went hand in hand with a deep love for her neighbor and especially for sinners, on whose behalf she offered herself unreservedly to God as a victim. Her unassuming kindness and complete self-denial for the sake of her sisters in religion, especially the sick, were such that she was regarded as an angel of charity.

The fires of her love were fed principally by the Eucharist, and she looked forward with longing to her communions. She was also especially devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion which did much to curb the advances of Jansenism at that time in Tuscany. She was utterly devoted to Our Lady, whom she regarded as the model and protectress of her own virginal purity. She was endowed to a high degree with the gift of contemplative prayer, and daily grew closer to God, as though reflecting the glories of the eternity she was fast approaching.

As her life neared its end this true daughter of the holy Mother Teresa and faithful disciple of Saint John of the Cross was called upon through a mystical martyrdom of the spirit, to resemble her crucified Spouse yet more closely. It was the very intensity of her love which caused this martyrdom; for the more fervent love becomes the more unrelentingly it spurs the soul on to further love, and since no love of ours can match God's infinite loveliness, such a soul suffers exquisite torments from its insatiable thirst for greater love, and seems to itself to be wrapped in impenetrable darkness and to be totally lacking in love for God. In fact the greater love is, the less it seems to itself to be. It is the soul that is truly *nailed to the cross with Christ* by this supreme martyrdom of the heart that wins for itself and for others the choicest fruits of redemption.

Such souls by their silent apostolate of suffering, love and prayer, are foremost in the benefits they obtain for mankind and are the purest and most exalted in the whole Church.

RESPONSORY

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.

—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

The Lord your God is a consuming fire; a jealous God.

—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

The life that flowered in Carmel's shade,
Yielding a fragrant-scented grace,
Is crowned in heaven, a bud of light
Washed in the radiance from God's face.

Margaret, you blaze with charity
Among those weaving virgin choirs
Who, for reward, follow the Lamb
Singing the love his name inspires.

Help us to catch that same love's fire
That, lit with the interior flame,
We find our life, our peace, our joy,
All things in Christ and in his name.

Help us deserve the Father's gifts,
Tasting eternity and heaven
On the unclouded source of joy
From whom alone all gifts are given.

Open our hearts to take the life
Which his renewing Spirit pours,
Life that returns the Father's love
With the same freedom it restores.

So even on earth we come to know
God's Trinity by God's own grace,
Happy, like you, for evermore
To sing his glory and his praise.

L.M.

Text: Bro. John Leonard Davies, O.C.D.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life;
no one comes to the Father except through me.

PRAYER

Father,
you enabled Saint Teresa Margaret Redi
to draw untold resources of humility and charity
from the fountainhead, our Savior.
Through her prayers
may we never be separated from the love of Christ.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Jesu, the Virgins' Crown, do thou
Accept us, as in prayer we bow;
Born of that woman, whom alone
Virgin and Mother we do own.

Amongst the lilies thou dost feed,
With virgin choirs accompanied;
With glory deck'd, the spotless brides
Whose bridal gifts thy love provides.

They, wheresoe'er thy footsteps bend,
With hymns and praises still attend;
In blessed troops they follow thee,
With dance, and song, and melody.

146 – SEPTEMBER 12 — BLESSED MARY OF JESUS

We pray thee therefore to bestow
Upon our senses here below
Thy grace, that so we may endure
From taint of all corruption pure.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be,
From age to age eternally. Amen.

88.88. *Jesu, coróna Vírginum*

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. As the Father has loved me, I have loved you;
remain in my love.

September 12 BLESSED MARY OF JESUS Virgin Memorial

Born in 1560 at Tartanedo (Spain) she took the Discalced Carmelite habit at Toledo in 1577 and made her profession the following year. She spent the rest of her life serving God in that Carmel, except for a brief period in 1585 when she helped with a foundation at Cuerva. She died at Toledo on September 13, 1640. Saint Teresa of Jesus thought extremely highly of her. She was a great contemplative, intensely devoted to our Lord, and often drawing inspiration from the liturgy.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Interior Castle of Saint Teresa of Avila
(Dwell. VI, 7, 10-15; II, 1, 11).

No one comes to the Father except through me

What I mean by meditation is to busy one's understanding in the following way. We begin to think about God's goodness to us in giving us his only Son, but we don't stop there: we go on to all the other mysteries of his glorious life. Or we begin with his prayer in the garden, and our understanding doesn't stop until we picture him nailed to the cross. Or we take a single scene from the passion, and go on thinking about that one mystery, working out in detail everything that can be thought or felt about it. It is a very admirable and meritorious kind of prayer.

No soul that has received so much from God, such precious proofs of his love, can forget them. They are live sparks that can only intensify what we feel for our Lord. Anyone who says he can't dwell on these mysteries is quite mistaken. He will often have them in mind, especially when they are being celebrated by the Catholic Church.

The company of our beloved Jesus, and his blessed Mother, is far too good to be given up. For my own part I could not wish for any blessing that had not been won for us by him, through whom every good thing comes to us.

Our Lord said himself, *No one can come to the Father except through me, and Whoever sees me, sees my Father.* So if we never look at him, or think about what we owe him and the death he underwent for our sake, I don't see how we can hope to know him or do anything to serve him. (Without such good works, what good is faith? And what good are works unless they are joined to the merits of Jesus Christ, our only good, which alone have any worth?) And how can anyone persuade us to love our Lord?

RESPONSORY

Let your hearts be comforted
in the knowledge of Christ, God's mystery:
—in him lies hidden every treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

You must live in him, be rooted in him, built up on him;
—in him lies hidden every treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

148 – SEPTEMBER 12 — BLESSED MARY OF JESUS

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Blessed be God, who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing.

PRAYER

Lord,
you enabled Blessed Mary of Jesus
to contemplate the mysteries of your Son
and become a living image of his love.
Give us through her prayers
the burning faith to seek Jesus in all things
and the love to prove by our actions
the presence within us of him
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. If you gladly share Christ's sufferings, you will have
far greater joy when his glory is revealed.





September 17
SAINT ALBERT OF JERUSALEM
Bishop and Lawgiver of Carmel
Feast

Albert Avogadro was born about the middle of the twelfth century in Castel Gualteri in Italy. He became a Canon Regular of the Holy Cross at Mortara and was elected their prior in 1180. Named Bishop of Bobbio in 1184, and of Vercelli in 1185, he was made Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1205. There, in word and example, he was the model of a good pastor and peace-maker. While he was Patriarch (1206-1214) he formed the hermit brothers of Mount Carmel into a *collegium* and wrote a Rule for them. He was murdered at Acre on September 14, 1214 by the Master of the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, whom he had rebuked and deposed for immorality.

Invitatory

Ant. Come let us worship the Lord, the source of all just law.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.4, p. 613.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Albert, as you shine before us
Legislator, Shepherd true,
Hear in love the hymns of homage
Which your children sing to you.

150 — SEPTEMBER 17 — SAINT ALBERT OF JERUSALEM

Messenger of peace and concord,
Careful to foresee all need,
You instructed all your faithful
Zealously by word and deed.

From your virtues this whole country
Shines with many a precious gem;
Most of all your mem'ry's fragrance
Clings about Jerusalem.

So renowned that Church, so honored
When you worked as pastor there,
Carmel's hermits asked for precepts
To define a life of prayer.

We are grateful to you, Father,
For the Rule which we profess,
Apt to guide each one in Carmel
To the heights of holiness.

With your Rule to give us increase,
Fruit abundant may we see
When with you we praise in heaven
God eternal, One in Three.

87.87.

Sr. Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The righteous one delights in the law of the Lord
and ponders it day and night.

Psalms from the common of pastors, v. 4, p. 1749.

Ant. 2 Let the law of the Lord be ever on your lips.

Ant. 3 All who ponder the law of the Lord will yield fruit
in due season.

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Receive instruction from his mouth.
—And lay up his words in your heart.

FIRST READING

From the letter of the apostle Paul
to the Ephesians

6:5-8, 10-18, 23-24

Put on all the armor that God gives you

Slaves, obey your human masters with the reverence, the awe, and the sincerity you owe to Christ. Do not render service for appearance only and to please men, but do God's will with your whole heart as slaves of Christ. Give your service willingly, doing it for the Lord rather than men. You know that each one, whether slave or free, will be repaid by the Lord for whatever good he does.

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers, the rulers of this world of darkness, the evil spirits in regions above. You must put on the armor of God if you are to resist on the evil day; do all that your duty requires, and hold your ground. Stand fast, with the truth as the belt around your waist, justice as your breastplate, and zeal to propagate the gospel of peace as your footgear. In all circumstances hold faith up before you as your shield; it will help you extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, the word of God.

At every opportunity pray in the Spirit, using prayers and petitions of every sort. Pray constantly and attentively for all in the holy company.

May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ grant the brothers peace and love and faith. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with unfailing love.

RESPONSORY

Lead a life worthy of your vocation,
—living in allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Ponder the Lord's law day and night,
and keep watch at your prayers,
—living in allegiance to Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING

From the rule delivered to the Brothers of Mount Carmel
by Saint Albert of Jerusalem

(Chs. 14, 16; ed. Edwards-Clarke 1973, 1973, pp 87-89, 91-93)

Spiritual exhortations

Since man's life on earth is a time of trial, and all who would live devotedly in Christ must undergo persecution, and the devil, your foe, is on the prowl like a roaring lion looking for prey to devour, you must use every care to clothe yourselves in God's armor, so that you may be ready to withstand the enemy's ambush.

Your loins are to be girt with chastity, your breast fortified by holy meditations, for, as Scripture has it, holy meditation will save you. Put on holiness as your breastplate, and it will enable you to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Faith must be your shield on all occasions, and with it you will be able to quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked one. There can be no pleasing God without faith. On your head set the helmet of salvation, and so be sure of deliverance by our only Savior, who sets his own free from their sins. The sword of the spirit, the word of God, must abound in your mouths and hearts. Let all you do have the Lord's word for accompaniment.

The Apostle would have us keep silence, for in silence he tells us to work. As the Prophet also makes known to us, *silence is the way to foster holiness*. Elsewhere he says, *your strength will lie in silence and hope*. Be careful not to indulge in a great deal of

talk, for as Scripture has it—and experience teaches us no less—*sin will not be wanting where there is much talk, and he who is careless in speech will come to harm, and elsewhere, the use of many words brings harm to the speaker's soul.* And Our Lord says in the Gospel, *every rash word uttered will have to be accounted for on Judgment Day. Make a balance, then, each of you, to weigh your words in, keep a tight rein on your mouths lest you should stumble and fail in speech, and your fall be irreparable and prove mortal.* Like the Prophet, *watch your step lest your tongue give offense, and employ every care in keeping silent, which is the way to foster holiness.*

RESPONSORY

My children, be courageous and grow strong in the law,
—for it is your way to glory.

The Lord's law is perfect and strengthens the soul;
it gives wisdom to the humble
—for it is your way to glory.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Glorious Saint Albert, we would hymn your praises,
Splendid in virtue, victor in the combat,
All hearts and voices joyously united
Here to acclaim you.

High-priest devoted, lover of the people,
Watchman unwearied; though your death was bloodstained;
Stainless your honor, when for God and duty
You fell a victim.

True to the wisdom of our ancient Fathers,
Your Rule for Carmel still preserves among us
Solitude, silence, spirit of the desert
Timeless, unfading.

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Get us the courage needed in these last days,
Faithful transmitter of the Spirit's message;
Make Carmel's garden fruitful for God's glory
Yielding new increase.

Splendor and empire to our Lord God only
Who willed to give us such a Friend and Father,
Praying at all times that we may in safety
Gain heaven's kingdom.

11.11.11.5.

Sr. Mary Paula, O.C.D.

Antiphons and psalms from the common of pastors, v. 4, p. 1764 (C.P., p. 1426).

READING

Hebrews 13 7-9a

Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you; consider how their lives ended, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching.

RESPONSORY

On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set my sentinels to guard you.
—On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set my sentinels to guard you.

Day or night, they will not cease to proclaim the name of the Lord.
—I have set my sentinels to guard you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
—On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set my sentinels to guard you.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Let everyone who is zealous for the law follow me:
then many who were seeking righteousness and justice
went out into the desert.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us worship Christ, the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,
who loves his people; full of hope in him let us pray:
Lord, protect your people.

Lord, accept our vows and intentions,
—as the first-fruits of this day.

Lord, may we be inspired by our Rule,
—and so proclaim your love to all.

May we so love you, who are Love itself,
that we may come to possess you;
—and so live that our lives may be
a continual hymn of praise to you.

Help us, who are your servants, to keep your word faithfully;
—and to seek it with all our hearts.

Lord, be our teacher and guide, leading the way for us
to the height of Carmel;
—may we be bound to your service with a pure heart
and a clean conscience.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord God,
through Saint Albert of Jerusalem
you have given us a Rule of life according to your Gospel,
to help us attain perfect love.
Through his prayers may we always live
in allegiance to Jesus Christ,
and serve faithfully until death
him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Antiphons and psalms from the current weekday.

Midmorning

READING

Leviticus 20:7-8

Sanctify yourselves, then, and be holy; for I, the Lord, your God, am holy. Be careful, therefore, to observe what I, the Lord, who make you holy, have prescribed.

Let all that you do

—have the Lord's word for accompaniment.

Midday

READING

2 Timothy 3:12, 14, 15

Anyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus can expect to be persecuted. You, for your part, must remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know who your teachers were. Likewise, from your infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, the source of the wisdom which through faith in Jesus Christ leads to salvation.

Follow the sound advice you have heard from me,

—in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Midafternoon

READING

2 Timothy 3:12, 14, 15

Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

—They shall be called the children of God.

Evening Prayer

HYMN, as at Morning Prayer, p. 153.

Antiphons and psalms from the common of pastors, v. 4, p. 1770 (C.P., p. 1430).

READING

James 1:22-25

Act on this word. If all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves. A man who listens to God's word but does not put it into practice is like a man who looks into a mirror at the face he was born with: he looks at himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. There is, on the other hand, the man who peers into freedom's ideal law and abides by it. He is no forgetful listener, but one who carries out the law in practice. Blessed will this man be in whatever he does.

RESPONSORY

This is a man who loved his brethren and ever prayed for them.

—This is a man who loved his brethren and ever prayed for them.

He spent himself in their service,

—and ever prayed for them.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—This is a man who loved his brethren and ever prayed for them.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Let the word of Christ in its richness live within you;
sing gratefully in your hearts to God.

INTERCESSIONS

Praise and honor to Christ, who has reconciled the world to
God. It was as his representative that Albert came among

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us, and God was encouraging us through him. Filled with faith, let us implore Christ:

Remember your family, Lord.

Lord, it is in your service that we have embraced the religious life;
—may we serve you faithfully with a pure heart
and a clean conscience.

To some of us you give special authority so that they may be
at the service of the community;
—may we hear your voice in their word and example.

You call us to ponder your law day and night;
—come and dwell with us: be on our lips and in our hearts.

You commend to us that silence which is filled with your presence;
—convince us that our strength is found in silence and in hope.

You have said that our life on earth is a time of trial;
—strengthen the faint-hearted, lift the fallen, and fill us all
with your holy Spirit.

We commend to you all those who were our companions
while they lived;
—may they rejoice with you forever in the heavenly kingdom.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord God,
through Saint Albert of Jerusalem
you have given us a Rule of life according to your Gospel,
to help us attain perfect love.

Through his prayers may we always live
in allegiance to Jesus Christ,
and serve faithfully until death
him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.



October 1
SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS
Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Feast

Thérèse Martin was born at Alençon in 1873. At the age of fifteen she entered the Carmel at Lisieux. She practiced heroic humility, evangelical simplicity and trust in God, and taught the novices these virtues by word and example. She offered her life for the salvation of souls and the growth of the Church. She died September 30, 1897.

Invitatory

Ant. The Lord reveals himself to little ones;
come, let us worship him.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.4, p. 613.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Let all who lovingly avow
Those gifts the Christ Child came to share
Acclaim Thérèse's virtues now
And praise her name in song and prayer.

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Her patroness and mother chose
The lofty peaks of Carmel's height
And there Thérèse in fervor goes
To follow Christ, her one delight.

Inspired by Jesus to convey
Amazing secrets of his grace,
She taught the world the simple way
Of childhood that the Gospels trace.

More like an angel than a child
She gathered virtue's flowers at will
By whose sweet scent was God beguiled,
Whose tender fragrance charms us still.

Yet joy itself could not portray
The surge of her immense desire
Nor cloister walls have strength to stay
A love that swept the world like fire.

All glory, Jesus, be to you
This day revealed to little ones,
To Father and blest Spirit, too,
While age on age forever runs.

L.M.

Nomen decusque concinant

Ant. 1 Your mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
To revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
forever and ever.

Ant. Your mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

Ant. 2 See what love the Father has shown us, to let us be called children of God; yet that is what we are.

Psalm 103

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,
who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

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The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgment for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry forever.

He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

Ant. See what love the Father has shown us, to let us be called children of God; yet that is what we are.

Ant. 3 The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and believed in me.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they keep his will in their mind.

The Lord has set his sway in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word,
who heed the voice of his word.

Give thanks to the Lord, all his hosts,
his servants who do his will.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his works,
in every place where he rules.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord!

Ant. The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me
and believed in me.

Your word is a lamp for my feet
—And a light on my path.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of the apostle Paul
to the Corinthians 12:12, 27-31; 13:1-13

*You together are Christ's body, but each of you
is a different part of it*

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. You, then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators, and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, all have the gift of interpretation of tongues? Set your hearts on the greater gifts.

Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do

not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous; it does not put on airs; it is not snobbish. Love is never rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

RESPONSORY

When I am lifted up from the earth,
—I will draw all people to myself.

Fragrant is the scent of your perfume;
let us follow in your footsteps.
—I will draw all people to myself.

SECOND READING

From the autobiography of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus
(MS B, f. 3r-3v; ed. J. Clarke 1975, pp. 193-94)

In the heart of the Church I shall be love

My desires caused me a veritable martyrdom, and I opened the Epistles of Saint Paul to find some kind of answer. Chapters Twelve and Thirteen of the First Epistle to the Corinthians fell under my eyes. I read there, in the first of these chapters, that *all* cannot be apostles, prophets, doctors, etc., that the Church is composed of different members, and that the eye cannot be the hand *at one and the same time*. The answer was clear, but it did not fulfill my desires and gave me no peace. Without becoming discouraged, I continued my reading, and this sentence consoled me: *Yet strive after the better gifts, and I point out to you a yet more excellent way*. And the Apostle explains how all *the most perfect gifts* are nothing without *Love*. That *Charity is the excellent way* that leads most surely to God.

I finally had rest. Considering the mystical body of the Church, I had not recognized myself in any of the members described by Saint Paul, or rather I desired to see myself in them *all*. *Charity* gave me the key to my *vocation*. I understood that if the Church had a body composed of different members, the most necessary and most noble of all could not be lacking to it, and so I understood that the Church had a heart and that this heart was burning with love. I understood it was love alone that made the Church's members act; that if love ever became extinct, apostles would not preach the Gospel and martyrs would not shed their blood. I understood that love comprised all vocations, that love was everything, that it embraced all times and places... in a word, that it was eternal!

Then, in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out, "O Jesus, my Love... my *vocation*, at last I have found it... *My vocation is Love!*"

Yes, I have found my place in the Church and it is you, O my God, who have given me this place; in the heart of the Church, my Mother, I shall be love. Thus I shall be everything, and thus my dream will be realized.

RESPONSORY

Joy and gladness fill my heart;
—the Lord has been merciful to me.

He has looked with favor on his lowly servant
and taken account of my soul's needs.
—the Lord has been merciful to me.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Her boundless love for Christ her Lord
Impels Thérèse to greater things.
The martyr's and apostle's crown
To crown of virgins now she brings.

To be a victim of God's love
Her heart aglow with mystic fire,
She begs her Spouse by love consume
Her life, a holocaust entire.

When death, the herald of true life,
Brings to its close, her life's brief race,
She calls, "I love you" as she dies
And hastens to meet Christ's embrace.

Now savoring all heaven's joys,
The glories by her virtues won,
May she that shower of roses send
Which once she promised to her own.

O King of meek and gentle heart
Who for the little ones prepare
Your feast, grant us who follow her
In childlike trust, to enter there.

All praise be to the Father now,
Praise also to his only Son,
The Spirit in all virgin souls,
As ages endless through time run.

88.88

Immensa Christi caritas

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 My soul clings to you; with your right hand you have raised me up.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 4, p. 652 (CP., p. 707).

Ant. 2 You holy and humble of heart, bless the Lord.

Ant. 3 The Lord takes delight in his people, and crowns the humble with salvation.

READING

Romans 8:14-17

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear, but a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Father”). The Spirit himself gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God. But if we are children, we are heirs as well; heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him.

RESPONSORY

See, I will pour out upon her a river of peace.

—See, I will pour out upon her a river of peace.

The glory of the nations like an overflowing stream,

—a river of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—See, I will pour out upon her a river of peace.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he send laborers into his harvest.

INTERCESSIONS

Our Lord Jesus Christ has given Saint Thérèse to us as a model of the evangelical life. Let us pray to him and say:
Hear us, O Lord.

Lord, you said, “Whoever is thirsty, let him come to me and drink;”

—give us an intense thirst for your love.

Lord, you said, “If you do not become as little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven,”

—help us to love you in simplicity of heart.

Lord, you told us, “There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents;”

—help us to have a childlike trust in your mercy.

Lord, you said, “Whoever does the will of my Father will enter the kingdom of heaven,”

—give us a spirit of faithful obedience to all your commands.

Lord, you said, “Whatsoever you do to one of the least of my brethren you do to me;”

—may we see you today in our brothers and sisters, and love you in them.

Lord, you said, “The harvest is great, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he send laborers into the harvest;”

—give to all of us the missionary spirit of Saint Thérèse, who longed for the salvation of souls.

Our Father...

PRAYER

God our Father,
you have promised your kingdom
to those who are willing to become like little children.
Help us to follow the way of Saint Thérèse with confidence
so that by her prayers
we may come to know your eternal glory.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Psalms from the current weekday.

Midmorning

Ant. The Lord chose you for his own, to praise him
and give glory to his name.

READING

2 Corinthians 12:9b-10

I willingly boast of my weakness instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

The Lord is my strength and my song.
—In you I trust; I shall not be put to shame.

Midday

Ant. The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to little ones.

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READING

1 John 4:17-19

Our love is brought to perfection in this,
that we should have confidence on the day of judgment:
for our relation to this world is just like his.

Love has no room for fear;
rather, perfect love casts out all fear.
And since fear has to do with punishment,
love is not yet perfect in one who is afraid.
We, for our part, love
because he first loved us.

You, Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer.
—From eternity this is your name.

Midafternoon

Ant. The Lord looks kindly on the prayer of the needy,
and his word is addressed to the lowly.

READING

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
in letting us be called children of God!
Yet that is what we are.
The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized the Son.
Dearly beloved,
we are God's children now;
what we shall later be has not yet come to light.
We know that when it comes to light
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

I will run in the way of your commandments.
—For you have given greatness to my heart.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

From clear high mansions of that shining palace
Where you enjoy the light of God's dear presence,
And plead our causes, mindful of your promise
Show'r down your roses.

Roses of faith to shed its light supernal,
Roses of hope when obstacles surround us,
And for our strengthening in daily living
Roses of pure love.

Through your own childlike confidence and candor
Send us the rose of quietly discerning
Love of a Father, shining in each happening
Both sweet and bitter.

This be our portion, God forever blessed,
Father eternal, Son and Holy Spirit,
Whose is the glory which through all creation
Resounds forever.

11.11.11.5.

Luce divina rutilantis aulae

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life
for one's friends.

Psalm 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

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High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life
for one's friends.

Ant. 2 For their sake I consecrate myself, that they also
may be consecrated in truth.

Psalm 131

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
As a child has rest in its mother's arms,
even so my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and forever.

Ant. For their sake I consecrate myself, that they also
may be consecrated in truth.

Ant. 3 God chooses those the world considers weak
to confound the strong.

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself,
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every name,

So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend,
in the heavens, on the earth,
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Ant. God chooses those the world considers weak
to confound the strong.

READING

1 Timothy 2:1, 3-6a

First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for all men. Prayer of this kind is good, and God our Savior is pleased with it, for he wants all men to be

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saved and come to know the truth. And the truth is this:

“God is one
One also is the mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,
who gave himself as a ransom for all.”

RESPONSORY

I will tell of your name to my friends:
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

—I will tell of your name to my friends:
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

For you have not despised the poor in their distress;

—in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—I will tell of your name to my friends:
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Father, I have made your name known to those you have
given me: make them holy in the truth.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to God, our almighty Father, for his Church
throughout the world:

Lord, remember your covenant with us.

May we be inspired by the example of Saint Thérèse
of the Child Jesus;

—may your Church give itself to you in love.

May all contemplatives be faithful witnesses of your goodness;

—so that the world may believe in you.

May we bear one another's burdens in a spirit of love;
—so that your faithful people may see your face in us and imitate
your Son.

Fill us with a faithful missionary spirit;
—for you desire all the world to know the truth of Christ.

Grant to all the faithful departed the joy of seeing your face;
—for Christ wants those you gave him to be with him where
he reigns in glory.

Our Father...

PRAYER

God our Father,
you have promised your kingdom
to those who are willing to become like little children.
Help us to follow the way of Saint Thérèse with confidence
so that by her prayers
we may come to know your eternal glory.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.





October 15
SAINT TERESA OF JESUS
Virgin, Doctor of the Church, and our Mother
Solemnity

The solemnity is observed even when October 15 falls on a Sunday.

Teresa was born at Avila in Spain in 1515. She entered the Carmelites and made great progress in the way of perfection and was granted mystical revelations. Wishing to share in the spiritual renewal of the Church of her time, she began to live her religious life more ardently and soon attracted many companions, to whom she was like a mother. She also helped in the reform of the friars, and in this had to endure great trials. She wrote books which are renowned for their depth of doctrine and which showed her own spiritual experiences. She died at Alba in 1582.

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

As messenger of the Most high,
Theresa from her home would fly,
Good tidings of the Heavenly King
To heathen lands afar to bring,
Or yield for Christ her gentle life,
In ruddy streams of martyr strife.

But death with sweeter aspect came,
Awaiting her with rapturous claim.
Ecstatic pangs delight her soul,
And, conquered by their strong control,
She falleth, wounded from above
By piercing lance of heavenly love.

Oh, flaming victim! may thy dart
Enkindle every frozen heart,
That upward mounting, one with thine,
They rise, consumed with fire divine.
And may thy pleading safely keep
Thy nations from the burning deep.

All praise unto the Father be,
And to the Son eternally,
With joyful harmony repeat
All praise unto the Paraclete,
The Blessed Trinity adore
With reverent homage evermore.

88.88.88.

Regis superni nuntia

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to little ones.

Psalm 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to little ones.

Ant. 2 Nations will proclaim her wisdom, and the Church
will sing her praise.

Psalm 146

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Ant. Nations will proclaim her wisdom, and the Church
will sing her praise.

Ant. 3 The Lord gave her wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and a heart as vast as the sand on the seashore.

Canticle: Ephesians 1:3-10

Praised be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has bestowed on us in Christ
every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him
before the world began,
to be holy
and blameless in his sight.

He predestined us
to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ,
such was his will and pleasure,
that all might praise the glorious favor
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood we have been redeemed,
and our sins forgiven,
so immeasurably generous
is God's favor to us.

God has given us the wisdom
to understand fully the mystery,
the plan he was pleased
to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out
in Christ, in the fullness of time,
to bring all things into one in him,
in the heavens and on the earth.

Ant. The Lord gave her wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and a heart as vast as the sand on the seashore.

READING

1 Corinthians 2:6-9

There is, to be sure, a certain wisdom which we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are men headed for destruction. No, what we utter is God's wisdom: a mysterious, a hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory. Of this wisdom it is written:

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as dawned on man
what God has prepared for those who love him.”

RESPONSORY

In the midst of the Church she spoke with eloquence.

—In the midst of the Church she spoke with eloquence.

The Lord filled her with the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

—She spoke with eloquence.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—In the midst of the Church she spoke with eloquence.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Holy Mother Teresa, light of the Church, teach us
the way of perfection, and lead us to the eternal mansions
where Christ has his home.

INTERCESSIONS

With our Mother Saint Teresa let us call upon our loving Father,
in the name of Christ our friend and companion. Let us pray:
Lord, may your kingdom come.

You made your Son a source of life, so that whoever believes in
him might have life for all eternity;

—may we listen to the voice of Christ, our true life, and so have
life in him.

You gave us your only-begotten Son as our teacher of holiness
and our Way to you;

—may we, your children, loyally follow Christ, the Way of
perfection, and pray to you without ceasing.

You promised through Christ that with him you will come to
dwell in those who surrender to your love;

—may we let your Spirit of love take possession of our hearts
for Christ, and so be admitted to the inmost mansions
of your dwelling-place.

You made Christ head and cornerstone of the Church, the
foundation on which we might build;

—may we love and serve the Church for his sake, rooted and
founded in his love and faith.

You raised Christ to your right hand in glory, to prepare a place
for us in your presence;

—may all the dead who seek your face be with Christ, and
contemplate the glory you have given him.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Father,
by your Spirit you raised up
our Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus
to show your Church the way to perfection.
May her inspired teaching
awaken in us a longing for true holiness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship the Lord, source of all wisdom.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.4, p. 613.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Noonday blaze of virtues rare;
Highest gifts of grace and prayer;
You have lived, in deep repose,
All that faith on us bestows.

Wedded to the Father's Word,
Word of light, in silence heard
Leaning on the Savior's breast,
Guided by the Spirit blest.

Blest the mind refined by fire
To receive divine desire,
Wisdom's secrets in your heart,
Opened by the heavenly dart.

Christ drew you to his embrace
By the fragrance of his grace;
In your teaching we confide,
Trusting you, our heav'n-sent guide.

Truth eternal, One and Three,
May Teresa constantly
Lead us up the mountain's ways
To the realms of joy and praise.

77.77.

Sr. Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life:
when shall I see God face to face?

Psalm 42

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God?

My tears have become my bread,
by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long:
“Where is your God?”

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my savior and my God.

My soul is cast down within me
as I think of you,
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon,
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep,
in the roar of waters:
your torrents and all your waves
swept over me.

By day the Lord will send
his loving kindness;
by night I will sing to him,
praise the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock:
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning
oppressed by the foe?”

With cries that pierce me to the heart,
my enemies revile me,
saying to me all the day long:
“Where is your God?”

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my savior and my God.

Ant. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life:
when shall I see God face to face?

Ant. 2 Your splendor, Lord, is unending,
who can tell your mercy and greatness?

Psalm 145

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name forever.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name forever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

Age to age shall proclaim your works,
shall declare your mighty deeds,
shall speak of your splendor and glory,
tell the tale of your wonderful works.

They will speak of your terrible deeds,
recount your greatness and might.
They will recall your abundant goodness;
age to age shall ring out your justice.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,

to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your reign.
Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age.

Ant. Your splendor, Lord, is unending,
who can tell your mercy and greatness?

Ant. 3 The Lord is faithful to all who call on him in truth;
his kingdom will never end.

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

He grants the desires of those who fear him,
he hears their cry and he saves them.
The Lord protects all who love him;
but the wicked he will utterly destroy.

Let me speak the praise of the Lord,
let all mankind bless his holy name
forever, for ages unending.

Ant. The Lord is faithful to all who call on him in truth;
his kingdom will never end.

You, O Lord, are close.

—And all your commands are truth.

FIRST READING

From the letter of the apostle Paul
to the Philippians

3:8-2

The knowledge of Christ Jesus is supreme

I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth and I may be in him, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection; likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death. Thus do I hope that I may arrive at resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course; but I am racing to grasp the prize if possible, since I have been grasped by Christ [Jesus]. Brothers, I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind but push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize to which God calls me—life on high in Christ Jesus. All of us who are spiritually mature must have this attitude. If you see it another way, God will clarify the difficulty for you. It is important that we continue on our course, no matter what stage we have reached.

Be imitators of me, my brothers. Take as your guide those who follow the example that we set. Unfortunately, many go about in a way which shows them to be enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often said this to you before; this time I say it with

tears. Such as these will end in disaster! Their god is their belly and their glory is in their shame. I am talking about those who are set upon the things of this world. As you well know, we have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself.

RESPONSORY

Colossians 3:3-4; Romans 8:38-39

Your life is hidden now with Christ in God.

—When Christ your life appears,
you too will appear with him in glory.

Neither death nor life, nor anything in all creation,
can come between us and Christ's love for us.

—When Christ your life appears,
you too will appear with him in glory.

SECOND READING

From the autobiography of Saint Teresa of Jesus
(Ch 22:6-7, 14: ed. Kavanaugh Rodriguez 1976, pp. 146-50)

We should always be mindful of Christ's love

Whoever lives in the presence of so good a friend and excellent a leader, who went ahead of us to be the first to suffer, can endure all things. The Lord helps us, strengthens us, and never fails; he is a true friend. And I see clearly, and I saw afterward, that God desires that if we are going to please him and receive his great favors, we must do so through the most sacred humanity of Christ, in whom he takes his delight. Many, many times have I perceived this through experience. The Lord has told it to me. I have definitely seen that we must enter by this gate if we desire His Sovereign Majesty to show us great secrets.

Thus your Reverence and Lordship should desire no other path, even if you are at the summit of contemplation; on this road

you walk safely. This Lord of ours is the one through whom all blessings come to us. He will teach us these things. In beholding his life we find that he is the best example. What more do we desire than to have such a good friend at our side, who will not abandon us in our labors and tribulations, as friends in the world do? Blessed is he who truly loves him and always keeps him at his side! Let us consider the glorious Saint Paul: it doesn't seem that any other name fell from his lips than that of Jesus, as coming from one who kept the Lord close to his heart. Once I had come to understand this truth, I carefully considered the lives of some of the saints, the great contemplatives, and found that they hadn't taken any other path: Saint Francis demonstrates this through the stigmata; Saint Anthony of Padua, with the Infant; Saint Bernard found his delight in the Humanity; Saint Catherine of Siena—and many others about whom your Reverence knows more than I.

We must walk along this path in freedom, placing ourselves in the hands of God. If His Majesty should desire to raise us to the position of one who is an intimate and shares his secrets, we ought to accept gladly. As often as we think of Christ we should recall the love with which he bestowed on us so many favors, and what great love God showed in giving us a pledge like this of his love; for love begets love. Even if we are at the very beginning and are very wretched, let us strive to keep this divine love always before our eyes and to waken ourselves to love. If at some time the Lord should favor us by impressing this love on our hearts, all will become easy for us, and we shall carry out our tasks quickly and without much effort.

RESPONSORY

Phil 1:21; 2 Cor 12:9

For me, to live is Christ,
—to die is gain.

Gladly will I glory in my weakness,
so that the Christ's strength may come to dwell in me.
—To die is gain.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

The day is dawning with delight,
When, spotless as the dove,
Theresa winged her spirit flight
Afar, to realms of love and light,
In heavenly courts above.

Her ear hath caught the mystic sound,
Oh, come, my sister, spouse!
From Carmel's summit come, be crowned,
Bride of the Lamb, in bliss profound,
Come plight thy nuptial vows!

O Jesus! Spouse of Virgin choice,
Thy holy name we praise!
While heavenly choirs, too, rejoice,
Their bridal canticle to voice,
And hymn their endless lays.

86.88.6.

Felix dies, qua candidae

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 For you my soul is thirsting, Lord; my body pines for you.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 4, p. 652 (CP., p. 707).

Ant. 2 All your creatures praise you, Lord; your saints shall bless your name.

Ant. 3 I have sung the praises of your mercies, Lord, in the assembly of the faithful.

READING

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

It is not ourselves we preach but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us.

RESPONSORY

My heart is ever pleading, show me your face.

—My heart is ever pleading, show me your face.

I long to gaze upon you, Lord.

—Show me your face.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—My heart is ever pleading, show me your face.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. All who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

INTERCESSIONS

The Lord of glory, Crown of all the Saints, gives us the joy of honoring our Mother, Saint Teresa.

Let us praise him, saying:

Glory to you, Lord!

Source of life and holiness, in your saints you show us the infinite marvels of your grace;

—in company with Saint Teresa may we sing of your mercies forever.

You want your love to blaze like fire throughout the world;

—with Saint Teresa, make us zealous in spreading your charity.

You make friends of your saints, and reveal to them the mysteries of your heart;

—bind us to yourself in friendship so close that we may taste the secrets of your love, proclaim your wonders, and draw others to you.

You pronounced blessed the pure of heart, and promised that they should see you;

—purify our sight, so that we may see you in everyone and be faithful to you in all things.

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You resist the proud and give wisdom to little ones;
—make us humble of heart, so that we may receive your wisdom
for the sake of the whole Church.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Father,
by your Spirit you raised up
our Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus
to show your Church the way to perfection.
May her inspired teaching
awaken in us a longing for true holiness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Complementary psalms, v. 4, p. 1255. In place of psalm 122, psalm 129 may be said, and in place of psalm 127, psalm 131 may be said. If this feast falls on Sunday, then psalms from Sunday, Week I are said: v. 4, p. 652.

Midmorning

Ant. When you pray go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is hidden.

READING

Revelation 3:20

Here I stand, knocking at the door. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with me.

I will pray to the God of my life.
—I will say to him: You are my support.

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Midday

Ant. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say: Rejoice!
The Lord is near.

READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

You will show me the path of life.
—The fullness of joy in your presence.

Midafternoon

Ant. Let us live in truth and love, and let all things aid
our growth into Christ.

READING

3 John 3-4

It has given me great joy to have the brothers bear witness to how truly you walk in the path of truth. Nothing delights me more than to hear that my children are walking in this path.

Serve the Lord in truth.
—All who follow the truth come to the light.

Prayer, as in *Morning Prayer*.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Glory of Carmel, Mother Saint Teresa
Called to refashion Mary's holy Order,
Yearning to suffer, even die for Jesus
From early childhood.

Carmel's enclosure was the chosen desert
Where purest blossoms should be gathered for him—

Christ gave his right hand, sealing your espousals
With him forever.

God was your Teacher, to your mind imparting
Learning surpassing human intuition;
Bread full of sweetness, secret strength and virtue
You give the faithful.

Praise to the Godhead through the world resounding,
Majesty, honor, joy and jubilation,
Christ our Redeemer, through Teresa's pleading
Grant us salvation!

11.11.11.5.

Text: Sr. Margarita, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The Lord showed me the holy city: it was resplendent
with the glory of God, and shone like a precious jewel.

Psalm 122

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to God's house.”
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray;
“Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!”

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: "Peace upon you!"
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Ant. The Lord showed me the holy city: it was resplendent
with the glory of God, and shone like a precious jewel.

Ant. 2 Behold, the dwelling of God is with men, and he will
make his home among them.

Psalm 127

If the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat:
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant. Behold, the dwelling of God is with men, and he will
make his home among them.

Ant. 3 I will make up in my body whatever is lacking in the
sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body the Church.

Canticle: Colossians 1:12-20

Let us give thanks to the Father
for having made you worthy
to share the lot of the saints
in light.

He rescued us
from the power of darkness
and brought us
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Through him we have redemption,
the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creatures.
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created,
things visible and invisible.

All were created through him;
all were created for him.
He is before all else that is.
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church!
he who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead,
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him
and, by means of him,
to reconcile everything in his person,
both on earth and in the heavens,
making peace through the blood of his cross.

Ant. I will make up in my body whatever is lacking in the
sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body the Church.

READING

Jude 20-21

Beloved, grow strong in your holy faith through prayer in the Holy Spirit. Persevere in God's love, and welcome the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ which leads to life eternal.

RESPONSORY

You are the temple of the living God.
—You are the temple of the living God.

And the Spirit of God dwells in you,
—the temple of the living God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
—You are the temple of the living God.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Do not let your hearts be troubled. In my Father's house, there are many mansions, and I am going to prepare a place for you.

Or: Holy Mother Teresa, look down from heaven and see; visit this vineyard of yours, and perfect what your right hand has planted.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ loved his Church and gave his life for her that she might be holy: let us pray to Christ that his Church may be holy and spotless in all her members:
Lord Jesus, be with your Church.

You are the Head of the Church and the source of all her grace;
—keep us all close to you in faith and love, as living members of your Body.

You founded the Church on Peter and the apostles, and through them you teach us the truth and lead us in green pastures;
—enlighten and guide those you have placed over your Church,

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and confirm our faith so that in them we may hear your voice leading us to life.

You choose some to announce the Good News by teaching, baptizing, calling to repentance, and offering in your memory the Eucharistic Sacrifice;
—as the harvest is great, and the laborers few, send laborers into your harvest.

You choose some of your friends to follow you more closely in your poverty, your chastity and your obedience, for the building up of the Church;
—with Mary as their Mother and teacher, may all religious cling to you and show forth your life within them as they serve the Church.

You made your people one body and one spirit in the unity of faith and baptism;
—may all whom you have redeemed preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace.

You died for our redemption and rose so that we could have life;
—may all who have died in your love and await the revelation of your glory rejoice at the eternal banquet in the company of your saints.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Father,
by your Spirit you raised up
our Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus
to show your Church the way to perfection.
May her inspired teaching
awaken in us a longing for true holiness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

November 6
BLESSED JOSEPHA NAVAL GIRBES
Virgin

Josepha Naval Girbés was born at Algemés in the Archdiocese of Valencia, Spain, on December 11, 1820. As a very young woman she consecrated herself to the Lord by a perpetual vow of chastity. Josepha's life was simple. She stood out for her ardent love, and she made progress along the way of prayer and evangelical perfection, while dedicating herself generously to apostolic works in her parish community. In her own home she opened a school where she taught needlework, prayer, and the evangelical virtues. She formed many young girls and women and shared with them her wisdom and spiritual understanding. She was a member of the Third Order Secular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Teresa of Jesus, and had a special love for the Virgin Mother of God. Her holy death took place on February 24, 1893. She is buried in her parish church of Saint James in her native city.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the Decree regarding the heroic virtues of Josepha Naval Girbés
(Valentina, January 3, 1987)

She regarded her parish as her Mother in the faith

Since parishes in a certain way represent the visible Church established on the earth, Josepha, the Servant of God, regarded her parish as her Mother in faith and in grace, and as such she loved her and served her with humility and with a spirit of sacrifice. And for that reason she showed her parish priest sincere veneration and entrusted herself to his spiritual direction. She looked after the making of liturgical furnishings and she saw that they were kept clean and well cared for, and the altars as well. Each day she went to the parish church to take part in the Eucharistic sacrifice. But she was especially notable for her intelligent and fruitful apostolate, which she always carried out with the consent of her pastors, to whom she professed absolute respect and obedience.

Convinced as Josepha was that Christians ought to be *the salt of the earth and the light of the world*, she was not content to practice the virtues at home. Rather she wanted to fulfill completely the command of the Lord who said, *Let your light shine before men in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven*. And so she sought every opportunity to proclaim Christ by word and deed both to non-believers, in order to draw them to the faith, and to the faithful, in order to instruct and confirm them and encourage them to live more fervently. With that in view, she taught the poor and counseled all who came to her. She restored peace in broken families. She organized meetings for mothers in her own house in order to help them in their Christian formation. She brought back to the way of virtue women who had gone astray, and she prudently admonished sinners. However, the work on which she most focused her care and energy was that of instructing young people in the things of life and in the faith. For their sake she opened in her house a free embroidery school which was well attended. Her workshop became a place of fraternal gatherings. It was a center of prayer, where God was praised and where the Sacred Scriptures and eternal truths were explained and developed.

Like a loving mother, the Servant of God watched over her followers and prepared them for life. She was a model of fervent love for God. She was a lamp that gave forth light and warmth and a shining example in so many ways of a living and contagious faith, of unflagging love, and of joyous submission to the will of God and of her superiors. Josepha is remembered for her unbounded solicitude for the salvation of souls. She stood out for her singular prudence, and for the humility, poverty, silence and patience that she always practiced, even amidst setbacks and difficulties. The fervor with which she cultivated the interior life of prayer and meditation, and her patience under trial were well known, as was her love for the Eucharist and for the Virgin Mary and the saints. In this way, the Servant of God helped to build up her parish community.

RESPONSORY

Put into practice all that is true, all that deserves respect,
all that is honest, pure, admirable and worthy of praise:
—and the God of peace will be with you.

Direct your thoughts wholly to what is decent and meritorious,
—and the God of peace will be with you.

PRAYER

O God,
through the new leaven of the Gospel,
you call men and women
and empower them to serve you faithfully in secular life.
Grant that they may fervently imitate
the example of Blessed Josepha,
and, through her intercession,
work tirelessly as true Christians to build up your kingdom
by fulfilling their duties in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

November 7
BLESSED FRANCIS PALAU Y QUER
Priest

Born in Aytona, Lerida, on December 29, 1811, Blessed Francis Palau y Quer entered the Order in 1832 and was ordained priest in 1836. Civil turmoil forced him to live in exile and outside his community. On his return to Spain in 1851, he founded his “School of Virtue”—which was a model of catechetical teaching—at Barcelona. The school was suppressed and he was unjustly exiled to Ibiza (1854-1860) where he lived at El Vedrá in solitude and experienced mystically the vicissitudes of the Church. While in the Balearic Islands he founded the Congregations of Carmelite Brothers and Carmelite Sisters (1860-1861). He preached popular missions and spread love for Our Lady wherever he went. He died at Tarragona on March 20, 1872, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24, 1980.

From the common of pastors or of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the spiritual writings of Blessed Francis Palau
(*Lucha del alma con Dios* (Rome, 1981), 42-44, 135-136)

The power of prayer for the Church

God in His providence has ordained not to cure our ills or grant us grace without the intervention of prayer. He wishes us to help in saving each other *by means of our prayer*. If *the heavens showered down dew, and the clouds rained the righteous One*, if the earth opened to bring forth the Savior, it was God's good pleasure that his coming should be preceded by the prayers of that singular Virgin who by the beauty of her virtues drew into her womb the uncreated Word of God. The Redeemer came, and by constant prayer he reconciled the world to the Father. If Christ's prayer and the fruits of his redemptive work are to be applied to any nation or people, or if the gospel message is to enlighten them and they are to have someone to administer the sacraments, it is indispensable that someone or even many persons should have previously won them over and reconciled them to God by earnest entreaties and supplications, by prayers and sacrifices.

For this purpose, among others, the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered on our altars. This sacred Victim which we present to the Father every day, accompanied by our own petitions, is not simply destined to recall the memory of the life, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also to oblige God in his goodness to show his graciousness in applying the graces of his Son's redemption to the nation, province, city, village, or to whatever person or persons for whom the Mass is offered. It is precisely here that we plead with the Father for the redemption of the world, namely, for the conversion of the nations. Before the grace of redemption is applied to the world or, in other words, before the standard of the cross is lifted up among the nations, God the Father ordains that his only Son, made man, should plead

with him by means of *prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears*, in the anguish of death and through the shedding of his blood, especially on the altar of the cross that was raised on Calvary.

In order that God might give his grace to those who do not or cannot ask it, or who do not wish to ask it, he enjoined us to *pray for one another*, so that we might be saved. If God gave the grace of conversion to Saint Augustine, it was due to the prayers of Saint Monica; nor would the Church have Saint Paul, according to one of the Fathers, were it not for the prayers of Saint Stephen.

It is noteworthy in this context that the Apostles, who were sent to preach and to teach all nations, acknowledged that the results of their preaching sprang from prayer more than from their words. In fact, at the election of the seven deacons who were charged with external works of charity, they said: *But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word*. Notice carefully that they say they would devote themselves first of all to prayer and only afterwards to the ministry of the Word. For they would never convert any nation until prayer had first obtained the grace of its conversion. Christ prayed throughout his entire life, whereas he spent only three years preaching.

Since God does not distribute his graces to men except through prayer, because he wishes us to recognize him as the source from which all good things flow; in like manner, he does not wish to save us from danger, or cure our wounds, or console us in affliction, except by means of this same exercise of prayer.

RESPONSORY

Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find,
knock and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives;
whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted.

—The prayer of the righteous has great power in its effects.

Pray for one another that you may find healing.

—The prayer of the righteous has great power in its effects.

PRAYER

O God,
through your Spirit you filled Blessed Francis, your priest,
with singular gifts of prayer and apostolic charity;
through his intercession grant that Christ's beloved Church,
refulgent with the beauty of the Virgin Mother Mary,
may be an ever more effective universal sacrament of salvation.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

November 8
BLESSED ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY
Virgin
Memorial

Elizabeth Catez of the Trinity was born in 1880 in the diocese of Bourges. In 1901 she entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery of Dijon. There she made her profession of vows in 1903 and from there she was called “to light, to love and to life” by the Divine Spouse in 1906. A faithful adorer in spirit and in truth, her life was a “praise of glory” of the Most Blessed Trinity, present in her soul and loved amidst interior darkness and excruciating illness. In the mystery of divine inhabitation she found her “heaven on earth,” her special charism and her mission for the church.

From the common of virgins or of holy women (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the writings of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, Virgin
(*Oeuvres completes I* (Paris, 1980), p. 200)

The indwelling Trinity

O my God, Trinity Whom I adore, help me to forget
myself entirely that I may be established in You as still and as

peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing trouble my peace or make me leave You, O my Unchanging One, but may each minute carry me further into the depths of your Mystery. Give peace to my soul; make it Your heaven, Your beloved dwelling and Your resting place. May I never leave You there alone but be wholly present, my faith wholly vigilant, wholly adoring, and wholly surrendered to your creative action.

O my beloved Christ, crucified by love, I wish to be a bride for Your Heart; I wish to cover You with glory; I wish to love You even until I die of love! But I feel my weakness, and I ask You to *clothe me with Yourself*, to identify my soul with all the movements of Your Soul, to overwhelm me, to possess me, to substitute Yourself for me that my life may be but a radiance of Your life. Come into me as Adorer, as Restorer, as Savior. O Eternal Word, Word of my God, I want to spend my life in listening to You, to become wholly teachable that I may learn all from You. Then, through all nights, all voids, all helplessness, I want to gaze on You always and remain in Your great light. O my beloved Star, so fascinate me that I may not withdraw from Your radiance.

O Consuming Fire, Spirit of Love, *come upon me*, and create in my soul a kind of incarnation of the Word: that I may be another humanity for Him in which He can renew His whole Mystery. And you, O Father, bend lovingly over Your poor little creature: *cover her with Your shadow*, seeing in her only the *Beloved in whom You are well pleased*.

O my Three, my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in which I lose myself, I surrender myself to You as Your prey. Bury Yourself in me that I may bury myself in You until I depart to contemplate in Your light the abyss of Your greatness.

RESPONSORY

You are God's temple and the Spirit of God lives in you.
—Glorify God in your body.

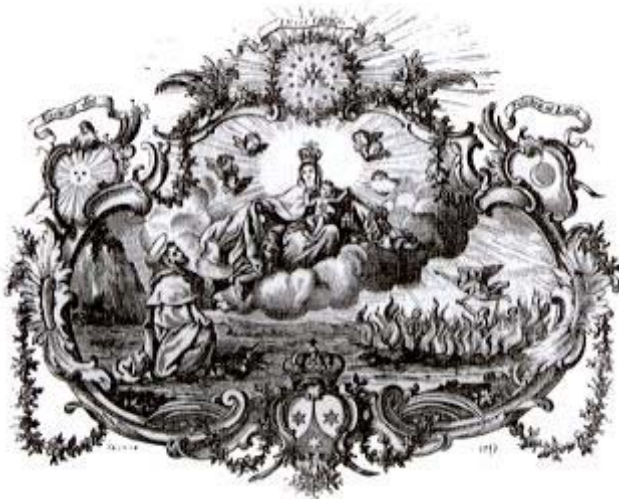
NOVEMBER 8 — BL. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY – 205

To the praise of his glory,
—glorify God in your body.

PRAYER

O God of bountiful mercy,
you revealed to Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity
the mystery of your secret presence
in the hearts of those who love you,
and you chose her to adore you in spirit and in truth.
Through her intercession
may we also abide in the love of Christ,
that we may merit to be transformed
into temples of your life-giving Spirit
to the praise of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.





November 14
ALL CARMELITE SAINTS
Feast

The whole family of Carmel in the homeland, with Mary its Mother at its head, is the reason for our joy and praise to the Father on this day. We recall our brothers and sisters who once dedicated their lives to continual prayer on earth and now share in the worship of heaven. We unite ourselves spiritually to their glory, all the while journeying along the paths they traveled with courage, as they lived in obedience to Christ and followed in the footsteps of Our Lady.

Invitatory

Ant. Jesus, Son of Mary, is the source of all holiness;
come, let us worship him.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.4, p. 613.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Let us all praise the Virgin
Who, in type as cloud pure white,
To Elias revealed herself
At the peak of Carmel's height.

The heights of the holy Mount
Showers from this cloud bedew,
Giving rise to heavenly flowers
Through Covenants Old and New.

NOVEMBER 14 — ALL CARMELITE SAINTS – 207

Prophets, who were strong in faith,
Martyrs, who reddened the ground
With very life's blood poured out,
Virgins, who sprang pure, abound.

Hail, choicest flowers of Carmel!
Lilies of the valley pure,
All hail! Mystical roses,
Rivaling lilies in allure.

Obtain for us on that Mount,
The gift to flourish complete
In grace, and to spread abroad
The fragrance of Christ most sweet.

Praise to the living Father,
To the Spirit He bestows,
And to Jesus, born of her
From whom Carmel's beauty flows.

77.77. *Laudemus omnes Virginem*

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Psalm 1

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.
Not so are the wicked, not so!

For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,
nor find room among those who are just;
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Ant. 2 The Lord has given his heritage to those who fear his name.

Psalm 61

O God, hear my cry!
Listen to my prayer!
From the end of the earth I call;
my heart is faint.

On the rock too high for me to reach
set me on high,
O you who have been my refuge.
my tower against the foe.

Let me dwell in your tent forever
and hide in the shelter of your wings.
For you, O God, hear my prayer,
grant me the heritage of those who fear you.

May you lengthen the life of the king:
may his years cover many generations.
May he ever sit enthroned before God:
bid love and truth be his protection.

So I will always praise your name
and day after day fulfill my vows.

Ant. The Lord has given his heritage to those who fear his name.

Ant. 3 I will bring them to my holy mountain, and make them
joyful in my house of prayer.

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Zion.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favor and glory.
The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame.

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Lord, God of hosts,
happy the man who trusts in you!

Ant. I will bring them to my holy mountain, and make them
joyful in my house of prayer.

Everlasting light will shine upon your saints, Lord.
—And they will live forever.

FIRST READING

From the book of Revelation

19:1-10; 21:1-7

The glory of the saints in the new Jerusalem

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud song of a great
assembly in heaven. They were singing:

“Alleluia!
Salvation, glory and might belong to our God,
for his judgments are true and just!
He has condemned the great harlot
who corrupted the earth with her harlotry.
He has avenged the blood of his servants
which was shed by her hand.”

Once more they sang “Alleluia!” And as the smoke began
to rise from her forever and ever, the four and twenty elders and
the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God seated on
the throne and sang, “Amen! Alleluia!”

A voice coming from the throne cried out:

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
the small and the great, who revere him!”

Then I heard what sounded like the shouts of a great crowd, or the
roaring of the deep, or mighty peals of thunder, as they cried:

“Alleluia!
The Lord is king,
our God, the Almighty!

Let us rejoice and be glad,
and give him glory!
For this is the wedding day of the Lamb;
his bride has prepared herself for the wedding.
She has been given a dress to wear
made of finest linen, brilliant white”

(The linen dress is the virtuous deeds of God’s saints.)

The angel then said to me: “Write this down: Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” The angel continued, “These words are true; they come from God.” I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “No, get up! I am merely a fellow servant with you and your brothers who give witness to Jesus. Worship God alone. The prophetic spirit proves itself by witnessing to Jesus.”

Then I saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out: “This is God’s dwelling among men. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people, and he shall be their God, who is always with them. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said to me, “See, I make all things new!” Then he said, “Write these matters down, for the words are trustworthy and true!” He went on to say: “These words are already fulfilled! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost from the spring of life-giving water. He who wins the victory shall inherit these gifts; I will be his God and he shall be my son.”

RESPONSORY

All who are victorious shall be clothed in white garments,
—and I will not blot their names out of the book of life.

212 — NOVEMBER 14 — ALL CARMELITE SAINTS

To the thirsty I will give water without cost
from the fountain of life,
—and I will not blot their names out of the book of life.

SECOND READING

From the works of Saint Teresa of Avila

(Int. Cast., dwell. 5, 1:2; Way, c. 14:4; Founds., c. 14:4; 4:6, 7; 29:33)

We belong to a race of saints

So I say now that all of us who wear this holy habit of Carmel are called to prayer and contemplation. This explains our origin; we are the descendants of those who felt this call, of those holy fathers on Mount Carmel who in such great solitude and contempt for the world sought this treasure, this precious pearl of contemplation that we are speaking about.

Let us remember our holy forebears of the past, those hermits whose lives we aim to imitate. We must remember our real founders, those holy fathers whose descendants we are. It was by way of poverty and humility, we know, that they came to the enjoyment of God.

On the subject of the beginnings of Orders, I sometimes hear it said that the Lord gave greater graces to those saints who went before us because they were the foundations. Quite so, but we too must always bear in mind what it means to be foundations for those who will come later. For if those of us who are alive now have not fallen away from what they did in the past, and those who come after us do the same, the building will always stand firm. What use is it to me for the saints of the past to have been what they were, if I come along after them and behave so badly that I leave the building in ruins because of my bad habits? For obviously those who come later don't remember those who have died years before as clearly as they do the people they see around them. A fine state of affairs it is if I insist that I am not one of the first, and do not realize what a difference there is between my life and virtues, and the lives of those God has endowed with such graces!

Any of you who sees your Order falling away in any respect, must try to be the kind of stone the building can be rebuilt with—the Lord will help to rebuild it.

For love of our Lord I beg them to remember how quickly everything comes to an end, and what a favor our Lord has done us in bringing us to this Order, and what a punishment anyone who starts any kind of relaxation will deserve. They must always look at the race we are descended from—that race of holy prophets. What numbers of saints we have in heaven who have worn this habit of ours! We must have the holy audacity to aspire, with God’s help, to be like them. The struggle will not last long, but the outcome will be eternal.

RESPONSORY

I will make my home with them and walk among them;
—I will be their God and they shall be my people.

I will set up my dwelling among them.
—I will be their God and they shall be my people.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

O Jesus, dearest Lord, the world’s Redeemer,
Aid us, whom Thou hast purchased by Thy blood.
Most loving Mother of our God, we pray thee,
Plead for our cleansing in the saving flood.

Oh, may the harmony of angel choirs
Echo adown the patriarchal line,
And, strengthened by the virtues of the prophets,
Win for the exiled, clemency divine.

Ye who have dwelt upon the steeps of Carmel,
Ye blessed clients of the Heavenly Queen,
Forget us not, who struggle yet in warfare,
Though ye are resting now in realms serene.

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Free from perfidious thorns the fruitful vineyard,
Rescue the sacred lands from ruthless foe,
That we may pledge to Christ our hearts' allegiance,
Giving to God the praise we justly owe.

Glory and honor, praise and benediction,
To God the Father, to the glorious Son,
And to the Holy Paraclete be given;
Praise to our God, forever Three in One.

11.10.11.10.

Jesu, Salvator saeculi

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Your saints, Lord, as they watched in prayer, saw your strength and your glory.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 4, p. 652 (CP., p. 707).

Ant. 2 All you men and women, saints of God, O bless the Lord forever.

Ant. 3 Eye has not seen nor ear heard what God has prepared for those who love him.

READING

1 Peter 2:9-10

You, however, are a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works” of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God’s people; once there was no mercy for you, but now you have found mercy.

RESPONSORY

Let the just rejoice and sing for joy in the Lord.

—Let the just rejoice and sing for joy in the Lord.

Delight in his love, you pure of heart.

—And sing for joy in the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
—Let the just rejoice and sing for joy in the Lord.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. With such a cloud of witnesses around us, let us
steadfastly run the race that lies before us, our eyes fixed
on Jesus who inspires and perfects our faith.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us thank God our Father, who has given us the joy of
honoring our brothers and sisters, the saints of Carmel;
with our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us say:
Our souls glorify you, Lord.

Lord, you called your people into the desert to make with them a
covenant of love,
—renew your covenant with us in Jesus Christ.

You have made us brothers and sisters of Mary, to keep your
word and treasure it in our hearts;
—help us to be like her, serving Christ and sharing in his
work of salvation.

You called us to follow Elijah in intimacy with you,
—may we live continually in your presence, and burn with zeal
for your glory.

You raised up our Order in the Church to live in dedication to you
and to seek union with you in prayer and contemplation,
—may we ever seek your face, and so teach others how to live
as your friends.

You gave our saints such apostolic zeal and charity that they did
not hesitate to lay down their lives for their brothers and
sisters,
—may we bear the death of Christ continually in our bodies,
and so share his work of redemption, even at the cost of
our lives.

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Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord,
may the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother,
and the prayers of all the saints of Carmel
help us to walk steadfastly in their footsteps,
and by our prayers and good works
ever further the cause of your Church.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Antiphons and psalms from the current weekday.

Midmorning

READING

Ephesians 6:17-18

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit,
the word of God. At every opportunity pray in the Spirit, using
prayers and petitions of every sort. Pray constantly and attentively
for all in the holy company.

Your word is a lamp for my feet.
—And a light on my path.

Midday

READING

Ephesians 5:18b-20

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms
and hymns and inspired songs. Sing praise to the Lord with all
your hearts. Give thanks to God the Father always and for
everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All your creatures praise you, Lord.
—Your saints shall bless your name.

Midafternoon

READING

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

The present burden of our trial is light enough, and earns for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. We do not fix our gaze on what is seen but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts forever.

My chosen ones shall not labor in vain.
—They are the offspring of those the Lord has blessed.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

Hail, gentle hermits, who do dwell
In stillness of sequestered cell!
The rage of hell ye have withstood,
In strength of cloistered solitude.

Earth's sparkling gems ye trample down,
Ingots of gold, and honors' crown;
Riches are dross to faith-lit eyes,
And wiles of pleasure ye despise.

The herbs provide your scanty fare,
While friendly rills their waters share;
And when at night your labors close,
The ground invites you to repose.

The asp and dragon seek to dwell
Within the precincts of your cell,
Dread portents of hell's wrath appear;
But lost in God, you need not fear.

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Far from earth's aimless toils and trends
Uniting with God's chosen friends
The soul inflamed with love must fly,
To dwell as one with them on high.

Thus, wounded by love's fiery dart,
"To die or suffer!" is one's part,
Teresa, Magdalen, both sigh,
The other: "Suffer and not die!"

John, too, named for the Cross, desired,
The Cross his every deed inspired,
To suffer and to be despised,
Here lay the gain and goal he prized.

All you who suffered for our Lord
Prepare for us a like reward:
Oh may we share the vision blest,
That where you are, we too may rest.

Honor and glory evermore,
To Thee, Father, whom Saints adore.
Son of the Virgin, praise to Thee,
With the Spirit eternally.

88.88.

Avete, solitudinid

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 In my Father's house there are many mansions,
says the Lord.

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbor,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honors those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm forever.

Ant. In my Father's house there are many mansions,
says the Lord.

Ant. 2 I no longer call you servants, but my friends, for I have
shared with you everything I have heard from my Father.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm forever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear,
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

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The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. I no longer call you servants, but my friends, for I have shared with you everything I have heard from my Father.

Ant. 3 I heard what seemed to be the mighty voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying: “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!”

Canticle: Rev 4:11; 5:9, 10, 12

O Lord our God, you are worthy
to receive glory and honor and power.

For you have created all things;
by your will they came to be and were made.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to receive the scroll and break open its seals.

For you were slain;
with your blood you purchased for God
men of every race and tongue,
of every people and nation.

You made of them a kingdom
and priests to serve our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise.

Ant. I heard what seemed to be the mighty voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying: “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!”

READING

Rom 8:28-30

We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who have been called according to his decree. Those whom he foreknew he predestined to share the image of his Son, that the Son might be the first-born of many brothers. Those he predestined he likewise called; those he called he also justified; and those he justified he in turn glorified.

RESPONSORY

Let the just rejoice and exult at the sight of God.

—Let the just rejoice and exult at the sight of God.

They shall delight in holiness,

—at the sight of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

—Let the just rejoice and exult at the sight of God.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. You have left all things and have followed me; you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.

INTERCESSIONS

Safe in the protection of Mary, our Mother, let us call upon Jesus, our Lord and Savior, through the intercession of the Saints of Carmel:

Lord, make us holy in the truth.

You have called your faithful ones to Carmel, so that they might follow you more closely in the ways of love;

—in love, may we perform the works of truth in your Church.

You have granted everlasting mutual love to those of our family who are with you in heaven;

—grant your peace to our communities, and make us one in heart and mind.

222 — NOVEMBER 14 — ALL CARMELITE SAINTS

It was your will that our saints, pledged to the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary, should reflect her virtues in their lives,

—as we go forward each day in newness of life, may we be faithful to the spirit of our Order, endowed with your Mother’s name and patronage.

You raised up the Order of Carmel in your Church to seek union with you in prayer and self-denial, and to share the treasures of contemplation with others;

—may we be attentive to the voice of your Spirit within us crying, “Abba, Father,” and ever invite the faithful to the life of prayer.

You are the crown and everlasting reward of our saints;

—bring our departed brothers and sisters to share eternal joy with you in heaven.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord,
may the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother,
and the prayers of all the saints of Carmel
help us to walk steadfastly in their footsteps,
and by our prayers and good works
ever further the cause of your Church.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.



November 15
ALL CARMELITE SOULS
Commemoration

When November 15 falls on a Sunday, the Commemoration is celebrated on the following day.

Just as the love of Christ and the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary have brought us together in a single family, fraternal charity unites those of us still striving to lead a life of allegiance to Jesus Christ in this world, and those already awaiting the vision of God in purgatory. Today the whole Order commends our departed brothers and sisters to God's mercy through the intercession of Our Lady, sure sign of hope and consolation, and begs for their admission to the courts of heaven.

All as in the *Office of the Dead*, v. 4, p. 1891 (CP, p. 1474).

PRAYER

Lord, you are the glory of those who serve you.
Look lovingly on our departed brothers and sisters,
united in following Christ and his Mother
by the waters of baptism and the bonds of Carmel.
In your mercy
grant them everlasting sight of you,
their Creator and Redeemer.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

November 19
SAINT RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI
Priest
Memorial

Raphael Kalinowski was born to Polish parents in the city of Vilnius in 1835. Following military service, he was condemned in 1864 to ten years of forced labor in Siberia. In 1877 he became a Carmelite and was ordained a priest in 1882. He contributed greatly to the restoration of the Discalced Carmelites in Poland. His life was distinguished by zeal for Church unity and by his unflagging devotion to his ministry as confessor and spiritual director. He died in Wadowice in 1907.

From the common of pastors or of holy men (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the exhortations of Saint Raphael, Religious
(C. Gil, O. Rafal Kalinowski, pp. 109-110)

You must be holy

The Holy Scriptures praise nothing more than a perfect and holy life lived in the exact and perfect fulfillment of each one's duties. In the Old Testament our Lord and God taught his people and told them: *You must be holy because I am holy.*

The Eternal Father gave us our Lord Jesus Christ as our teacher, master and guide. He confirmed and ratified the Old Testament injunction where he taught us that we must emulate the holiness of the Father: *You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.* How does one become perfect and holy? The Doctors of the Church, the leaders of souls, and the masters of the spiritual life answer: If you would be perfect and become holy, fulfill your duties faithfully.

Once a desert father was asked by a certain young hermit what books he ought to study in order to advance in holiness. The old man replied: My practice is to read two books only. In the morning hours I read the Gospel, and in the evening I read the Rule. The first teaches me the way I should walk as a disciple of

the Lord Jesus Christ. The other teaches me what I should do to be a good religious. That is enough for me.

Let us therefore be students of the laws of God so that we may conduct ourselves according to them. *When you walk, these will guide you; when you lie down, watch over you; when you wake, talk with you.* Wherever we may be or go, may they go with us to direct our footsteps. May they be so near us when we sleep that they may fill our thoughts as soon as we awaken. His voice will speak to us in them. He will refresh us for the day ahead. Through his laws we will gain the victory over our doubts. We will cast away every obstacle. We will free ourselves of that sluggishness of nature which is the enemy of strength, the foe of devotion, and the lover of ease. The law of life will help us to overcome our fears in time of temptation and to follow eagerly in the way of obedience. May it always be at hand to counsel us, so that by it we may find the strength to follow God's call with generous hearts and willing souls.

RESPONSORY

Free your minds, then, of encumbrances,
since it is the Holy One who has called you
—be holy in all you do.

For it is I, the Lord, who am your God;
you have been sanctified and have become holy
because I am holy.
—be holy in all you do.

PRAYER

Lord God, you made your priest Saint Raphael
strong in adversity and filled him with
a great love in promoting Church unity.
Through his prayers, make us strong in faith
and in love for one another,
that we too may generously work together
for the unity of all believers in Christ.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

November 29
BLESSED DENIS AND REDEMPTUS
Martyrs
Memorial

Denis of the Nativity, a priest, called in the world Pierre Berthelot, was born in Honfleur in France in 1600. He was a cartographer and naval commander for the kings of Portugal and France before he joined the Discalced Carmelites in Goa in 1635. It was also at Goa that the Portuguese lay brother, Thomas Rodriguez da Cunha, born in 1598, had made his profession in 1615, taking the name Redemptus of the Cross. They were sent to the island of Sumatra, where, in the town of Achen, they received the martyr's crown on November 29, 1638.

From the common of several martyrs

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* by Saint John of the Cross
(Bk 2, Ch 7:5—ed. Kavanaugh-Rodriguez 1979, pp. 122-24)

True self-denial means carrying Christ's Cross

If anyone wishes to follow my way, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For he who would save his soul shall lose it, but he who loses it for me shall gain it. Oh, who can make this counsel of Our Savior understandable and practicable and attractive, that spiritual persons might become aware of the difference between the method many of them think is good and that which ought to be used in traveling this road! They are of the opinion that any kind of withdrawal from the world or reformation of life suffices. Some are content with a certain degree of virtue, perseverance in prayer, and mortification, but never achieve the nakedness, poverty, selflessness, or spiritual

purity (which are all the same) that the Lord counsels us here. For they still feed and clothe their natural selves with spiritual feelings and consolations rather than divesting and denying themselves of these for God's sake.

Through this kind of conduct they become, spiritually speaking, enemies of the cross of Christ. A genuine spirit seeks the distasteful in God rather than the delectable, leans more toward suffering than toward consolation, more toward going without everything for God rather than toward possession. It prefers dryness and affliction to sweet consolation. It knows that this is the significance of following Christ and denying self, that the other method is perhaps a seeking of self in God—something entirely contrary to love.

If a man resolutely submits to the carrying of this cross, if he decidedly wants to find and endure trial in all things for God, he will discover in all of them great relief and sweetness. A man makes progress only through imitation of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one goes to the Father but through him. This way is nothing other than a death to our natural selves.

RESPONSORY

If anyone wishes to follow my way,
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
—Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

They have persecuted me, and they will persecute you.
—Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant Blessed are you when you are persecuted on my account:
rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in
heaven.

PRAYER

Father,
we celebrate the memory of Blesseds Denis and Redemptus
who died for their faithful witnessing to Christ.
Give us the strength to follow their example,
loyal and faithful to the end.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. They loved Christ in their lives and imitated Him
in their death: and so they reign with Him forever.

December 11
SAINT MARIA MARAVILLAS OF JESUS
Virgin

Maria Maravillas was born at Madrid in 1891. She entered the El Escorial Carmel, Madrid on 12th October 1919. In 1924 she was inspired to found a Carmel at Cerro de los Angeles, alongside the monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From this foundation followed nine others in Spain and one in India. She always gave first place to prayer and self-sacrifice. She had a true, passionate zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Even while living a life of poverty in the cloister she helped those who were in need, initiating apostolic, social and charitable works. In a particular way she helped those of her own order, priests, and other religious congregations. She died in the monastery of La Aldehuela, Madrid, on 11th December 1974. She was canonized on 4th May 2003 in Madrid.

From the common of virgins or of holy women (religious)

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the letters of Saint Maravillas of Jesus, Virgin
(Letters to her spiritual directors: 305, 254, 101, 458b)

My delight is to be with the children of men

Yesterday, Sunday, on climbing the stairs to go to the upper choir for the sung Mass, I was quite recollected, yet without any particular thought, when I heard clearly within me, *My delight is to be with the children of men*. These words which made a strong impression on me, I understood were not for me this time, but rather in the nature of a request the Lord was making me to offer the whole of myself to give him these souls he so much desires. It is hard to explain, but I saw clearly, that a soul which sanctifies itself becomes fruitful in attracting souls to God. This so deeply moved me that I offered with my whole heart to the Lord all my sufferings of body and soul for this purpose, despite my poverty. It then seemed to me that this offering was right, but what was strictly important was to surrender myself, wholly and completely to the divine will, so that he could do what he desired in me, and likewise I would accept the pain along with the pleasure. I seemed to understand that what pleased him was not the greatest sacrifice but rather the exact and loving fulfillment in the least detail of that will. In this I understood many things I find hard to explain, and how he wished me to be very sensitive in this fulfillment, which would carry me a long way in self-sacrifice and love.

I offered myself in such a way that nothing would excuse me, not even hell (if there you can love the Lord), but then I am so cowardly. The Lord will remedy that, since I can do no more than commit myself to Him in all my misery. I began experiencing this as a desire to commit myself for souls and to be faithful for this purpose: thinking about what he had done for them, it seemed he was saying to me I could not do much, but he could, with my help. On feeling this immense desire of the Lord for the salvation of souls, it seemed so amazing that nothing remained but to be committed to God so that He could carry out all his work in the soul and thus make it, despite its poverty, capable of giving him what he desires. Each time it became clearer to my soul so that nothing of my own remained important, except that the Lord alone be glorified.

What a treasure the Lord has given me in allowing me to live in Carmel! Here, everything is arranged with such simplicity, yet in such a way that, living it to the full, you can do everything. How can we live in the House of the Virgin, pleasing the Lord with her, yet not imitating her, as the Holy Mother desired? I felt that this is the Carmelite's way, imitating Mary, how we must grow less, to be truly poor, self-sacrificing, humble, nothing. I felt quite deeply how Jesus gives us in his own life continual examples of sacrifice, of humiliation, of making ourselves small, yet we do not understand. I felt his mercy and zeal for souls in this way, that here is the strength that can take hold of our life through his mercy. By his grace, may I, who am so absolutely poor in everything, be well able to imitate him in this with more ease than other creatures.

I seemed also to understand that these lights were not given only for myself, but also for guiding my sisters. The sole thing I do, many times in the day, is to say to the Lord that I wish to live only to love him and to please him, that I desire all that he wishes in the way that he wills.

RESPONSORY

Cf Mt 25:1, 2, 10; Ps 119:16; 40:10

Prudent virgin whom the Bridegroom found watching
with her lamp alight,
—enter into the eternal nuptial banquet.

I find my delight in your will,
your saving justice in the depths of my heart.
—Enter into the eternal nuptial banquet.

PRAYER

Lord God,
who drew Saint Maria Maravillas of Jesus
into the secrets of the heart of your Son,
grant through her intercession and example,
that we may work together for the salvation of souls,
experiencing the delights of your love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.



December 14
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS
Priest, Doctor of the Church, and our Father
Solemnity

When December 14 falls on a Sunday, the solemnity is transferred to the following day.

John was born at Fontiveros in Spain about 1542. He entered the Carmelites and with the permission of his superiors began to live a stricter life. Afterwards he was persuaded by Saint Teresa to begin, together with some others, the Discalced reform within the Order; this cost him much hard work and many trials. He died in Ubeda in 1591, outstanding in holiness and wisdom, to which his many spiritual writings give eloquent witness.

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

Soldier of the King eternal,
Valiant warrior, hail to thee!
Column raised to heights supernal
In unshaken majesty.
We revere thy glorious merits
And the tide of homage wells
From the fountain of our spirits,
Heav'nward rising as it swells.

Thou hast felt the strong protection
Of the Virgin Mother's power,
Saving thee with sweet election
In the dread and dangerous hour.

Since thy youth she never swerveth
In her watchful care of thee,
And forever she preserveth
Him who vowed her slave to be.

Chosen offspring of our Mother,
In her labors thou didst share,
Aiding her, as son and brother,
Carmel's beauty to repair;
Ruined shrine and temple raising
From the dust of slow decay,
Mary's honor meetly praising,
In the dawn of fairer day.

Lo, the Cross thy weapon glorious,
As on Calvary's height of yore,
When our Jesus reigned victorious,
Fallen nature to restore;
So thy burning love retrieveth
Glory of an ancient race,
And by suffering achieveth
Marvels of renewing grace.

Praise unto thy God be given
For the grace, O John, conferred,
When with chalice raised to Heaven,
Thine entreating prayer was heard:
In that first rapt celebration
Of the sacrifice divine,
Pledge of thine assured salvation
He hath deigned in love to sign.

87.87.D.

Regis aeterni generose miles

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 He opened his mouth in prayer, and the Lord filled him
with the spirit of understanding.

Psalm 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. He opened his mouth in prayer, and the Lord filled him
with the spirit of understanding.

Ant. 2 The Lord gave him treasures out of the darkness, and
riches that had been hidden away.

Psalm 146

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,
the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Ant. The Lord gave him treasures out of the darkness, and riches that had been hidden away.

Ant. 3 No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived all that God has prepared for those who love him.

Canticle: Rev 4:11; 5:9, 10, 12

O Lord our God, you are worthy
to receive glory and honor and power.

For you have created all things;
by your will they came to be and were made.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to receive the scroll and break open its seals.

For you were slain;
with your blood you purchased for God
men of every race and tongue,
of every people and nation.

You made of them a kingdom
and priests to serve our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise.

Ant. No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart
has conceived all that God has prepared for those who
love him.

READING

Ephesians 3:14-19

I, Paul, kneel before the Father from whom every family
in heaven and on earth takes its name; and I pray that he will
bestow on you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory. May
he strengthen you inwardly through the working of his Spirit.
May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be
the root and foundation of your life. Thus you will be able to
grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length and
height and depth of Christ's love, and experience this love which
surpasses all knowledge, so that you may attain to the fullness of
God himself.

RESPONSORY

The God who brought light out of darkness
has shone in our hearts.

—The God who brought light out of darkness
has shone in our hearts.

To give the light of knowledge of God's glory
that appears in the face of Christ.

—He has shone in our hearts.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

—The God who brought light out of darkness
has shone in our hearts.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. I sought wisdom in my prayer; I found it abundantly within myself, and advanced greatly in it.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ our Redeemer inspired our Father Saint John of the Cross to follow him, and raised him to the heights of contemplation. Let us praise our Lord, and say:
Glory to you forever!

Christ our God, you taught your servant John the science of the Cross;
—kindle the fire of your love in those to whom you have entrusted the teaching and government of your Church.

Christ, unfailing light, you reveal yourself in the night of faith to the poor in spirit;
—let your face shine on all those who seek you in poverty amid the darkness of this world.

Christ, our only teacher, you disclose your highest secrets to those who love and seek you;
—grant the consummation of your love to those you have called to serve you in Carmel.

Christ, triumphant in heaven in the midst of all your saints,
—grant everlasting rest and peace in your glory to all our departed brothers and sisters.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord,
you endowed our Father Saint John of the Cross with a spirit of self-denial and a love of the cross.
By following his example
may we come to the eternal vision of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ Jesus, sole Word of the
Father.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary, v.1, p. 648.

Office of Readings

HYMN

O John, rejoice this hallowed day
The triumph of the Cross to hail,
Whereon with Christ 'twas thine to stay,
Transfixed with pang of spear and nail!

Nor insults, scorn, nor cruel scourge,
Bondage, nor hunger can restrain
The love thy panting soul doth urge
To taste the bitter draught of pain.

Thine only joy, thy sole reward,
The boon for which thy spirit sighed,
To mirror here thy suffering Lord,
Like Him in anguish crucified.

While thou dost search the mystic night,
Through darkness gleams a radiant star,
And Carmel's camp is all alight,
With flame that leads to heights afar.

Let them that dwell in bliss above
Praise Thee, O Christ, with joyful lay,
Let them that run to Thee in love
Pursue, like John, the thorn-strewn way.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Psalm 16

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: “You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone.”

He has put into my heart a marvelous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever.

Ant. God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Ant. 2 Among you I claimed to know nothing save Jesus Christ,
and him crucified.

Psalm 34: 1

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Ant. Among you I claimed to know nothing save Jesus Christ,
and him crucified.

Ant. 3 For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.

Psalm 34: II

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good,
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

240 — DECEMBER 14 — SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked,
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Ant. For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.

In you is the source of life.
—In your light we see light itself.

FIRST READING

From the letter of the apostle Paul
to the Colossians

1:11-29

God has transferred us to the Kingdom of his beloved Son

By the might of his glory you will be endowed with the strength needed to stand fast, even to endure joyfully whatever may come, giving thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creatures. In him, everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations, principalities or powers; all were created through him and for him. He is before all else that is. In him everything continues in

being. It is he who is head of the body, the church; he who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that the primacy may be his in everything. It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross.

You yourselves were once alienated from him; you nourished hostility in your hearts because of your evil deeds. But now, Christ has achieved reconciliation for you in his mortal body by dying, so as to present you to God holy, free of reproach and blameless. But you must hold fast to faith, be firmly grounded and steadfast in it, unshaken in the hope promised you by the gospel you have heard. It is the gospel which has been announced to every creature under heaven, and I, Paul, am its servant.

Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his body, the church. I became a minister of this church through the commission God gave me to preach among you his word in its fullness, that mystery hidden from ages and generations past but now revealed to his holy ones. God has willed to make known to them the glory beyond price which this mystery brings to the Gentiles—the mystery of Christ in you, your hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim while we admonish all men and teach them in the full measure of wisdom, hoping to make every man complete in Christ. For this I work and struggle, impelled by that energy of his which is so powerful a force within me.

RESPONSORY

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;
—listen to him.

In many and varied ways God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us in his Son.
—Listen to him.

The second reading and responsory may be taken from *The Liturgy of the Hours*, v. 1, pp. 1246-47, or the following may be used:

ALTERNATIVE SECOND READING

From *The Spiritual Canticle* by Saint John of the Cross
(Red. B, st. 1,4 — ed. Kavanaugh-Rodriguez 1979, pp. 434-45)

Traces of the divine beauty in creation

Created things in themselves, as Saint Augustine declares, give testimony to God's grandeur and excellence. For God created all things with remarkable ease and brevity, and in them he left some trace of who he is, not only in giving all things being from nothing, but even by endowing them with innumerable graces and qualities, making them beautiful in a wonderful order and unfailing dependence on one another. All of this he did through his own wisdom, the Word, his only begotten Son by whom he created them.

Saint Paul says: *The Son of God is the splendor of his glory and the image of his substance*. It should be known that only with this figure, his Son, did God look at all things, that is he communicated to them their natural being and many natural graces and gifts, and made them complete and perfect, as is said in Genesis: *God looked at all things that he made, and they were very good*. To look and behold that they were very good was to make them very good in the Word, his Son.

Not only by looking at them did he communicate natural being and graces, as we said, but also with this image of his Son alone, he clothed them in beauty by imparting to them supernatural being. This he did when he became man and elevated human nature in the beauty of God and consequently all creatures, since in human nature he was united with them all.

Accordingly, the Son of God proclaimed: *If I be lifted up from the earth, I will elevate all things to me*. And in this elevation of all things through the incarnation of his Son and through the glory of his resurrection according to the flesh, the Father did not merely beautify creatures partially, but rather we can say, clothed them wholly in beauty and dignity.

RESPONSORY

Prayer of a Soul Taken with Love

O God, you will not deprive me of what you have given me
in Christ.

—In him you have given me all things.

Mine are the heavens, mine is the earth,
mine are the peoples, the just and the sinners,
mine are the angels, and mine is the Mother of God

—In him you have given me all things.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Bearing His Cross, the gentle Lord drew nigh,
Offering the crown by merit richly won.
O Love! to quaff Thy cup and with Thee die,
Low answers John.

To live despised, in suffering and alone,
The one insatiate yearning of his breast;
To die devoid of honor, and unknown,
His heart's request.

Death yielded triumph of the Cross at last,
While dazzling globes of fire from Heav'n descend,
And o'er his deeds the light of glory cast
To cheer his end.

His dying couch, with light irradiate,
Dims with celestial beam earth's fitful flame,
Perfumes exhale, breathing of heavenly state
And saintly fame.

Honor supreme be to the Father given,
To Word and Paraclete in praise unite,
Upon whose Triune flame the hosts of Heaven
Feed with delight.

10.10.10.4.

Dum crucem gestat Dominus, Ioanni

OR:

Let us together
Up the high mountain
Go where the weather
Keeps a June glow.
You in your beauty,
I in your beauty,
Earth in your beauty,
Where'er we go.

Up past the steepest
Cliffs of our striving,
Up from the deepest
Thickets of pain
Where darkness bound you,
Ravaged and slew you,
Till daybreak found you,
Risen again.

Haste then our going
Up the high mountain,
Pure water flowing
Down from the height,

Wind in the spruces,
Light on the aspens,
Fruit of sweet juices
All give delight.

Deep caverns holding
Secrets of heaven,
Summits unfolding
Myst'ries divine,
Nightingale singing,
Grove lit with beauty
Each new day bringing
Taste of new wine.

Sweet the ascending
Up the high mountain,
Sweeter the ending
Love spread abroad.
Everyone sharing
Grace of your image.
Everyone bearing
The beauty of God.

54.54.D

Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Truly you are a hidden God, O God of Israel, our Savior.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I, v. 4, p. 652 (CP, p. 707).

Ant. 2 All things are yours, for you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Ant. 3 Give thanks to the Lord in your hearts, sing him spiritual canticles.

READING

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. All of us, gazing on the Lord's glory with unveiled faces, are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image by the Lord who is the Spirit.

RESPONSORY

Your light will shine in the darkness
and the darkness will be as noon.

—Your light will shine in the darkness
and the darkness will be as noon.

The Lord will fill your soul with his splendor,
—and the darkness will be as noon.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
—Your light will shine in the darkness
and the darkness will be as noon.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you
may become children of light.

Or: The Lord has come to give light to those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet
in the way of peace.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, the head and bridegroom of his Church makes us
joyful today on this feast of John of the Cross, his servant.
Let us say to him:
You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

Only Word of the Father, uttered eternally in the eternal silence,
and in the fullness of time received in the Virgin's womb;
—may we hear your words today in the depths of our hearts,
and put them into practice.

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Wisdom of the Father, you showed your great love for us by
emptying yourself in the Incarnation and on the Cross;
—may we, who have been redeemed by your blood, always
live in close communion with you.

Perfect Image of the Godhead, in whom all the mysteries of
eternal love are revealed and poured out,
—may we go forward in the strength of your Spirit, toward your
inaccessible light.

Supreme Delight of the Father, in whom God looks mercifully on
all men;
—may we become perfect in compassion as our heavenly Father
is perfect.

First-born of all creation, through you the Father in his goodness
created and re-created all things,
—may our thoughts be turned today from the visible world to
your invisible beauty.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord,
you endowed our Father Saint John of the Cross
with a spirit of self-denial and a love of the cross.
By following his example
may we come to the eternal vision of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Complementary psalmody, v. 1, p. 1191.

Midmorning

Ant. Those who wish to come after me must deny themselves,
take up their cross, and follow me.

DECEMBER 14 — SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS – 247

READING

Ephesians 4:22-24

Acquire a fresh, spiritual way of thinking. You must put on that new man created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

—Put a steadfast spirit within me.

Midday

Ant. Whoever would draw near to God must believe;
the righteous live by faith.

READING

Romans 5:1-2

Now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand, and we boast of our hope for the glory of God.

I live by faith in the Son of God.

—Who loved me and gave himself for me.

Midafternoon

Ant. Your strength will lie in silence and hope.

READING

Romans 8:24-25

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; how is it possible for one to hope for what he sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

The Lord is good to those who trust in him.

—To the soul who seeks him.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

HYMN

Saint of the eagle eye,
Gazing enrapt on high
Mid dread abysses of Divinity;
Martyr by heart's intent,
Virgin yet penitent,
Prophet and guide in realms of mystery.

Oft in thy life, 'tis told
Sweet converse thou didst hold
With the pure Virgin and her Son divine;
Thence came the wondrous light
Flooding with glory bright
Thy mystic page, for wisdom there did shine.

Clearly thou dost reveal
Secrets the clouds conceal
For thou hast seeped thy soul in rays above,
Pondering the mountain height,
Darkness of faith's long night
And the reviving flame of mystic love.

When by God's holy will
Thou dost His word instill,
Wondrous the marvels by the soul divined,
Like Him evoking light
From chaos deep as night,
Cheering with healthful beams the darkened mind.

O John, thy praise intone
Prostrate before the throne!
Thee hath the Father signed with light most true,
Gifts of the Spirit shine
And the meek Lamb divine
Openeth the book of life to thy pure view.

Ant. 1 God loved us so much that he brought us to life with Christ.

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbor,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honors those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm forever.

Ant. God loved us so much that he brought us to life with Christ.

Ant. 2 We know and believe in the love God has for us.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm forever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered forever.

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He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear,
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. We know and believe in the love God has for us.

Ant. 3 The love of God has been poured into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who has been given us.

Canticle: Ephesians 1:3-10

Praised be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has bestowed on us in Christ
every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him
before the world began,
to be holy
and blameless in his sight.

He predestined us
to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ,
such was his will and pleasure,
that all might praise the glorious favor
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood we have been redeemed,
and our sins forgiven,
so immeasurably generous
is God's favor to us.

DECEMBER 14 — SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS – 251

God has given us the wisdom
to understand fully the mystery,
the plan he was pleased
to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out
in Christ, in the fullness of time,
to bring all things into one in him,
in the heavens and on the earth.

Ant. The love of God has been poured into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who has been given us.

READING

1 Corinthians 13:8-10, 12-13, 14:1a

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love. Seek eagerly after love.

RESPONSORY

Love is as strong as death: It flashes forth like flames of fire.

—Love is as strong as death: It flashes forth like flames of fire.

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

—It flashes forth like flames of fire.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

—Love is as strong as death: It flashes forth like flames of fire.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me
where I am, so that the love with which you loved me
may be in them, and that I may be in them.

INTERCESSIONS

God the Father has given us his Spirit through Jesus Christ his beloved Son, so that we may be partakers in the divine nature and witnesses to his love in the Church.

Let us praise him and say:

Through the intercession of Saint John, hear us, O Lord.

Give your Church the living faith that will lead all men and women to seek you;

—and bring them to the closest union with you.

Give the hope of heaven to all who are faithful in seeking you;

—may they obtain all that they hope for.

Pour out your love upon us;

—that where there is no love we may put love and so draw love out.

May all Carmelites be imitators of the Virgin Mary, Mother of our Order;

—may we follow every inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Grant final purification to our departed brothers and sisters,

—so that they may come without delay to sing canticles of love with all your saints.

Our Father...

PRAYER

Lord,

you endowed our Father Saint John of the Cross with a spirit of self-denial and a love of the cross.

By following his example

may we come to the eternal vision of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

December 16
BLESSED MARY OF THE ANGELS
Virgin

Born in Turin, Italy, in 1661, she died, after spending her whole life there, in 1717. In 1675 she entered the Discalced Carmelite Convent of St. Christina, and several times filled the offices of Prioress and Novice Mistress. She underwent continual spiritual trials, but was constant in her ardent love of God. She was outstandingly faithful to prayer and particularly devoted to St. Joseph, in whose honor a convent was founded through her good offices at Moncalieri.

From the common of virgins

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From *The Way of Perfection* by Saint Teresa of Avila
(C 40, nos 3,8 ed. Kavanaugh-Rodriguez 1980, pp. 193-95).

True love for God cannot be hidden

Those who truly love God love every good, desire every good, favor every good, praise every good. They always join, favor, and defend good people. They have no love for anything but truth, and whatever is worthy of love. Do you think it is possible for a person who really loves God to love vanities? No, indeed, he cannot, nor can he love riches, or worldly things, or delights, or honors, or strife, or envy. All of this is so because he seeks only to please the Beloved. These persons go about dying so that their Beloved might love them, and thus they dedicate their lives to learning how they might please him more. Hide itself? Oh, with regard to the love of God—if it is genuine love—this is impossible. If you don't think so, look at Saint Paul or the Magdalene. Within three days the one began to realize that he was sick with love; that was Saint Paul. The Magdalene knew from the first day; and how well she knew! Love has this characteristic: it can be greater or lesser in degree. Thus, the love makes itself known according to its intensity. When slight, it

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shows itself but slightly; when strong, it shows itself strongly. But where there is love of God, whether little or great, it is always recognized.

And could one conceal a love that is so strong and just that it always increases and sees no reason to stop since its foundation is made from the cement of being repaid by another love? This other love can no longer be doubted, since it was shown so openly and with so many sufferings and trials, and with the shedding of blood, even to the point of death, in order that we might have no doubt about it.

May it please His Majesty to give us his love before he takes us out of this life, for it will be a great thing at the hour of death to see that we are going to be judged by the One whom we have loved above all things. We shall be able to proceed securely with the judgment concerning our debts. It will not be like going to a foreign country, but like going to our own, because it is the country of one whom we love so much and who loves us.

RESPONSORY

The Lord fulfills the desires of those who fear him,
he hears their cry and saves them.

—The Lord watches over all who love him.

We know that God makes all things work together
for the good of those who love him.

—The Lord watches over all who love him.

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. To love God is to be truly wise, and wisdom begins
with the fear of the Lord.

PRAYER

Lord,
you have told us that you live forever
in the hearts of the chaste.
By the prayers of the virgin Blessed Mary of the Angels
help us to live by your grace
and to become temples of your Spirit.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Evening Prayer

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.



APPENDIX
OFFICE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR ORDER

All as in the Breviary except for the following:

PRAYER

Lord,
you are the glory of those who serve you.
Look lovingly on our departed brother (sister) **N**.
The waters of baptism and the bonds of Carmel
unite us with him (her) in following Christ and his Mother.
In your mercy grant him (her) everlasting sight of you,
his (her) Creator and Redeemer.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.



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