



Lay Carmelites

The General Commission of the Laity

Lay Carmelite E-Bulletin I-No.1 MMXV

The Rule and the Laity



Albertus dei gratia Hierosolimitane ecclesie vocatus Patriarcha dilectis in Christo filiis .25. et ceteris Heremitis qui sub eius obedientia iuxta fontem in Monte Carmeli morantur in domino salutem. et sancti spiritus benedictionem. Multifarie multaque modis sancti patres instituerunt. quilibet quique in quocunque ordine fuerit. vel quocunque modum religiose vite elegerit. in obsequio sancti Christi vivere debet. et eadem fideliter de corde puro et bona conscientia observare.

Letter from the Chair of the General Commission

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

We are pleased to present the second bulletin for the Lay Carmelites. This time we share different activities and initiatives of our laity and youth in various parts of the world. We keep the hope that all this will continue to consolidate us as a great international Carmelite Family. In this issue, we continue our reflection on the figure of St. Albert of Jerusalem, Lawgiver of the Carmelite Order, whose eighth centenary of death we celebrated throughout 2014 and that ended with a weekend seminar in Rome. Thank you very much for reading this E-Bulletin and for any suggestions for the next editions.

Fr. Raúl Maraví, O.Carm.



The Rule and The Laity

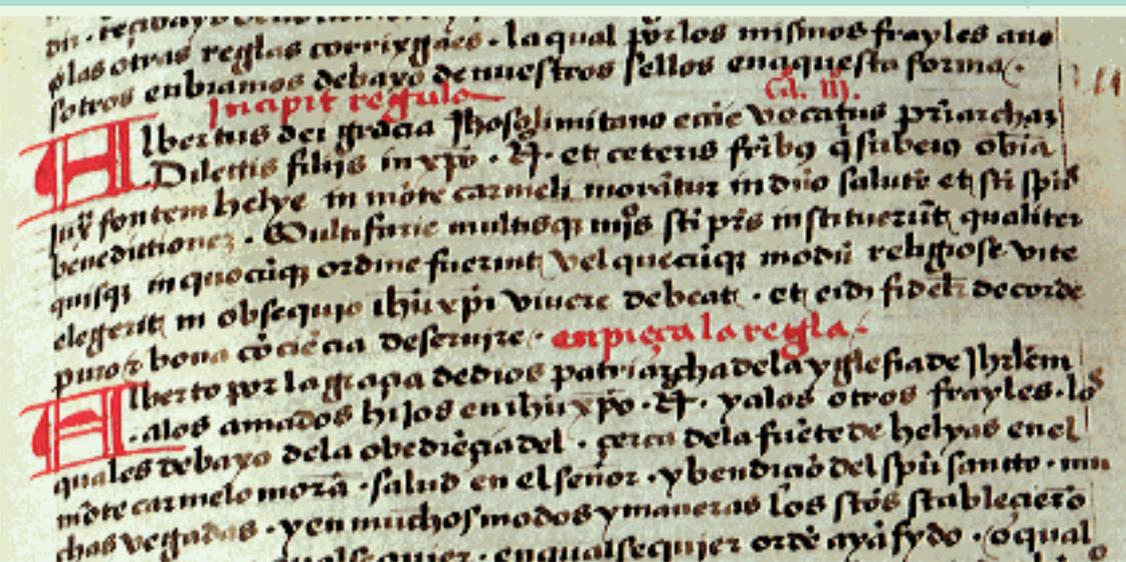
by Abraham Maximiliano Camino, TOC, Peru

Once heard tell a Carmelite friar that God uses the useless; this is how mystic can become in an everyday experience. And in my opinion, this is what San Alberto felt and believed when this group of men (the first Carmelites) asked him to make from their daily lives a way of feeling, at a personal and community level, the presence of God.

The Carmelite Rule and/or the norms of living in community, have always been a lifestyle that any lay person can follow, because it was written by lay people who decided to start a community in the presence of God.

This is the beauty of Carmel that has allowed and allows any of us embrace the essence of this rule: “Living in allegiance to Jesus Christ”; and from the option of life that we have chosen, it is our actions that make us “a pure heart and a righteous conscience”.

But also, Saint Albert tells us from the initial greeting: to the brothers who live near the fountain on Mount Carmel... The “living near”, so that we do not lose the sense that





joins us “near the fountain”. The question rises by itself: What makes us come together? The answer is the fountain. What does this fountain mean? Nothing else but water, “life” and as Jesus told the Samaritan woman: If you knew who asks you to give him to drink.

Hence, we can’t remove neither the “fountain” nor “the living near” from our lives. The meaning of the Carmelite Spirituality is to live near to what keeps us alive.

As a member of the parish of Our Lady of Carmel in Jose Galvez, Lima – Peru, we try to instill in the Carmelite Youth, that our praying together and living together the Sunday Eucharist, becomes our apostolic life, our “living near the fountain”, which will sustain us in our ministering the needy.

But like the first Carmelites who got involved in the “transforming experience” to bring the beauty of Carmel, to become “gardens” in so many lives, we need to stay in the Church. It is this way our Carmelite Order was recognized as an important part of the Church, as it was mentioned by Benedict XVI to our Prior

General: “the Carmelites, those who teach us to pray...”



About the Author:

Abraham is an active member of the Carmelite Family in Peru. He has been married for 20 years and has 3 daughters (Silvana, Andrea y Luciana)

Why I Became a Third Order Carmelite

by Amos Ochieng TOC, Kenya



Carmel
w a s
n o t

in my mind,
in fact before
1993, I had never
known or heard that
there was anything like
Carmel not even the name of it.

I had just finished my O' levels of secondary school education in 1991 and life was literally before me. In the midst of making concrete choices for life, what I wanted to be of course took the center stage and spirituality then was somewhere in the mind not quite important.

In 1992 a priest who baptized me in 1982 send for me. It was on February 14th and I was at home in my confusion about life. The next one year he gave me a job at a Video Production house he had founded in 1984, as I diligently worked my way in this organization, Fr. Richard Quinn the director one day suggested to me that I should go for a youth discipleship

course, I didn't like it but I had to go anyway. For the one week that I attended the course my life changed a lot. At the end of it I started feeling that I need a deeper Christian life.

My spirit continuously desired a contemplative way of life. I wanted to be a monk, I wanted to run away from the world and think of my God only. By the end of 1993 I was convinced that I needed a new direction in my spiritual life. I came from a very poor family; my late dad had passed on 3 years ago. Even before his death in 1990 he was severely paralyzed for 10 years and my mother struggled thinly to fend for us. I was the first born in a family of five; I had the responsibility of helping my mum and so going to a monastery at that time proved distant. I wanted to be a priest and I was a 100% convinced of that life but even that was going to be a huge task if I left my mum alone with my siblings. I said to the lord "thy will be done" by August of 1993, I had already read several books of the saints. The famous two books were the **secret of the rosary** and **little flowers of St. Francis**. I was now convinced that I wanted to be a Franciscan at least in their 3rd



order. But as I made that convincing decision in secret, at my local church a group of Lay Carmelite Four in number started beckoning me to attend their meetings every second Sunday of the month at Consolata Shrine. I was happy and found it easy to attend, for the next one year I was continuously formed in the Carmelite spirituality. I had gotten my love and I ran for her at the mountain of faith, she was CARMEL.

In 1994 December 31st I was received officially in to the order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OCarm). In the year 2005 I took my perpetual vows. Today 20th September 2014 I am 21 years in the 3rd order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

My life in Carmel has been full of Spiritual events, it has not been easy, but I never left my focus on achieving my spiritual goal. I realized from the word go that I had to be my own spiritual model. For twenty years I set standards, one of that was to attend holy mass and attend to my personal reflections each day.

The Carmelite way of life has encouraged me to think of God as a friend. I took to the idea of simplicity in faith and this helped me come closer to God. Being a friend of God and a faithful child is what I have always longed for. But how do I find Jesus. Jesus is everywhere and in every thing that is beautiful.



About the author:

Amos Ochieng, finally professed member of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Nairobi group. He works in the media industry. He is a married father of two.

Musical and theatrical presentation about the beginnings of the Order



Peru: On December 5, as part of the activities of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Albert of Jerusalem, a group of youth of our parish school in José Gálvez, Lima, Peru, organized a musical and theatrical presentation about the beginnings of the Order. It was a night full of art and Carmelite Spirituality, which allowed students, teachers, parents and members of the parish community learn more about the history of the of the Order especially its origin.

Canonical Foundation of Regina Décor Carmeli TOC Community



Philippines: Established on March 19, 2005 at the Parish of Our lady of Mount Carmel, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, the Regina Décor Carmeli TOC Community was canonically erected on Nov. 29, 2014. The Decree of Canonical Erection was read by Spiritual Assistant of the region, Rev. Fr. Adriand Emmanuel Layug, TOCarm. The canonical erection rites were attended by the whole TOC region of St. Joseph. This makes the community in Pulong Buhangin the 6th canonically recognized community in the region.

Celebrations of the Third Order of Carmel in Rockhampton

Australia: Here in Rockhampton we just couldn't wait for next year to have our big celebration on the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, as the saying goes "we jumped the gun" by having our big day this year.

The night was beautiful, the weather just right, the Mass and celebrations were just out of this world, and the congregation just finished the evening off by being witness to a very important event. The Lord could not have given us a more perfect evening. Paul Eckel arrived with Fr. Gurr and Christine Wade to St. Marys presbytery mid morning to a very warm welcome. After lunch we sat around and talked about this and that, mostly about what will be happening that night, plus next years big event around the world of St. Theresa of Avila, and hopefully Father coming back here to give a retreat sometime in September 2015 for 3 days.

Mass started at 6 p.m., and it was lovely of Fr. Gurr to recognise the people of the Darumbal tribe, also we were very honoured to have four Priests con-celebrating with Fr. Gurr (five Priests all up) two of the Priests are from the Ordinariate Rite, St. Mary's Congregation, June's three sisters, and people from other Parishes around the diocese who came to witness June making her Final Profession, and surprise of surprises our founder Paul Anderson



taking his final vows. Father gave a homily on St. Theresa of Avila, her life, and also the celebrations that will be happening around the world, and explained to the congregation what June and Paul were taking on, the beautiful part about this night was that June never thought she would make her final profession or that Paul would be a witness to this because of all his illness's throughout the year, and then for him to make his Final Profession well!!!! That was icing on the cake, it was wonderful. The Lord moves in mysterious ways!

In the Mass we also prayed for Fr. Jim, we haven't forgotten him, I myself will not forget him as I am so proud he received me into the Carmelites and was there for my Final Profession.

Blessings in Carmel

Mrs Daphne J Smith, TOC

Initiation to the Carmel Youth



Phillipines: On the December 23, 2014, Very Reverend Christian Buenafe, O. Carm., Prior Provincial of the Blessed Titus Brandsma Province, Phillipines, accepted into the Carmel Youth the

following:

Cherry Ann Loba, Diane Villaresco, Christine Jessa Santos, Blanca Mariel Gillana, Angelica Tuplano, Jovelyn Padojinog, Danyssa Kayogen, Erres Tapel, Michael John Siguig, Justin Jay Alcantara, John Patrick Alcantara, Juan Miguel Florentino, Nathaniel Iven Florentino and Darcy Naguit.

The simple ceremony of the handing of the habit, the Holy Scapular of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, was done within the Holy Eucharist, on the ninth day of the Aguinaldo Mass in preparation for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus which was presided over by the Prior Provincial in the Carmel of Mary, Star of the Sea, Tanay, Rizal, of the Diocese of Antipolo, Phillipines.

Chocolatada Navideña JUCAR

Peru: On December 20th, 2014, Members of the Peurvian Carmelite Youth (Jucar Peru) organized a Christmas Chocolate (Chocolatada Navideña) for 200 children in the town of Carmen, Chincha, 200 Km south of Lima, Peru.

Almost 40 members of the Jucar had a whole morning activities with these children. Besides giving the Christmas gifts, they also prepared food and drink and organized many fun games and activities for these children. The high point of this event was the presentation of the Nativity of Our Lord and the sharing of the Word of God.

With the effort of fund raising and the help of donations from sponsors, the Chocolatada Navideña is organized annually by the Jucar for special children in different cities of Peru as a way to show solidarity with the unfortunate.



Casa de Caridade Padre Ibiapina

By Maria de Fátima Andrade Holanda Albuquerque

**CASA
DE CARIDADE
PADRE
IBIAPINA**
E.M.E.F IRMÃ PRUDÊNCIA

Ibegan in the Third Order of the Carmel in 1998, where on invite by a friend I participated in the first meeting in the Church and I am professed Carmelite from year 2000. In November 2007, I became the president of Casa de Caridade Padre Ibiapina, a duty, which from the time that the Third Order took in charge that Institution has always been taken over by Carmelite lays.

The Casa de Caridade takes its name and inspired by the work of Father Ibiapina, a missionary who among other things built houses for the education of poor girls who were oriented to the faith, exercise of domestic work and marriage. An example which propagated, so that from 2nd May 1958 the Institution founded by Irmã Cícera Cecília Feitosa to support orphan and abandoned children of female sex, the daughters of single mothers or the victims of disrupted families.

In 1990, for the impossibility to continue to manage the Institution, due to his old age, Irmã Cícera contacted the Third Order of Our

Lady of The Carmel so that it continued the management and organization of Casa de Caridade.

With the important support of the Third Order of Carmel, Casa de Caridade presents among its principal activities a systematic education, educational support, religious education, courses of painting and crochet, notions of informatics, ballet, reading room and day-care centre for children, and also for orientation to the families through educational lectures and informal conversations. It works from Monday to Friday providing three daily meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

From the time I had in charge the Casa de Caridade, we refurbished kitchen, refectory, storehouse and computer room in collaboration with the HSBC bank and was reopened the Irmã Prudência school, which is operating inside the Casa de Caridade in partnership with Prefecture de Campina Grande.

Presently the house assists around 200 small children and adolescents from 6 to 14 years old, who study from 1st to 5th year of the primary school, of both sexes, living in situations of social and personal risk, among which 80 girls are assisted in half-board regime.

The Institution receives aid by the Third Order of Our Lady of the Carmel and also from the Prefecture Municipal of Campina Grande, and the Government of the State of Paraíba, donations of contributors, entrepreneurs and the whole community.

