

THE HOLY HILL
CARMEL CLARION

OCDS NEWSLETTER

Eastern Provincial Office

HOLY HILL

1525 Carmel Road

Hubertus, WI 53033-9770

#414-628-1838

or voice mail:414-591-5724

VOL 3, NO. 1

DECEMBER,1998--FEBRUARY,1999

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CARMEL
ESPECIALLY THE CARMELITE SECULARS
FOR WHOM I WORK, AND FRIENDS,
Advent and Christmas greetings to
all of you!

Although some Christmas decorations are somewhat pagan, other scenes may help you ponder the first Advent/Coming of Jesus. Your observations might be much more profound than mine. I am sharing a shortened version of a story I wrote some years ago. *A Chat With The Christchild* My point is that our prayer might be helped by pondering the Nativity scene, and how long it took to happen.

On another topic, I invite you to notice your distractions. Our distractions tell us what is important to us. (I will never be distracted by nuclear physics, though someone else might be!)

Instead of trying desperately to fight distractions, why not recruit them to help our prayer? Why not talk to God about these topics that are so "important"?

In the next issue, at the suggestion of some OCDS members who were not present for the OCDS Regional Congress on Long Island, NY, in 1996, I will share for your consideration some ideas on prayer that I offered there.

You may not need these ideas yourself, but they might be useful for you to use in explaining prayer to someone else.

If you have a gripe against someone in this season of joy, isn't that a signal from God for you to pray for that person? And, please pray for all the leaders of our Church and the Order, including the Presidents and Formation Directors. --Fr. Patrick,OC

A CHAT WITH THE CHRIST-CHILD

The Christmas season rolls around just when the calendar says it will. Tinkling bells and colorful lights, evergreens and thousands of decorations proclaim the holidays of happiness are here.

But does everyone feel the Christmas spirit?

Once a weary shopper trudged the streets and shopping malls looking for gifts to buy for family and friends. (Finding the right gift to fit the person and the budget is often frustrating.)

When he reached home, he noticed that next door a family had erected an outdoor Nativity scene. Maybe it would help to give him the Christmas spirit, if he took a closer look at it.

The tired shopper edged closer to survey the scene: shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph, animals, wisemen, camels. And the Child in the crib.

The Infant seemed a bit large for a newborn baby. But its eyes seemed alive. "Hi," the man said to the Infant, "I'm your neighbor."

Here I am, he thought, on top of everything else today, talking to a doll! But he continued to stare at the Infant. Their eyes met.

Strangely, he felt as if Someone were asking him a question. This Someone in the crib. "Yes," he answered, mostly to himself, "I know who you are. We are celebrating Your birthday."

With His eyes the Infant asked, "What are you going to give me?"
(Continued on next page)

A Chat with the Christchild (cont.):

"That's right," the man answered, "People are celebrating your birthday by giving each other gifts. But who is giving You anything?"

It is, though, he thought, a sort of gift to Jesus to share His generous spirit at Christmas. "So, I will give you something that will really please you," he told the Infant. It must be generous enough to make this a special Christmas, he decided. And, of course, something I already have, because there is no time to get anything. But, what?

Just then, the man noticed the figures of the wise men, all loaded with boxes of possessions. "I know what," he said to the Infant, "I will give you all that I possess. I mean that whatever I have, big or small, new or old, I will use very carefully this coming year. I will try not to be wasteful, or greedy, or selfish with what I own.... Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

At this, he looked down into the eyes of the Infant, eager to read a glimmer of thanks. It would be hard to do as he had just promised. But he felt good about the offer. Except that the Infant didn't seem impressed.

With its eyes the Infant said, "More. Give me more."

The man reacted, in surprise, "What? Do you mean that all that I have is not enough to please you?" The Infant just looked at him and waited.

If I've gone this far, I might as well figure out what else there is to offer, he reasoned. But what?

The man changed position, and as he did so, his foot struck something hard. It distracted him. Look at that, he mused, a tool. Even in constructing a Christmas stable some people do a half-job. Probably someone too lazy to collect all the tools, leaving one right there between the crib and Joseph. A carpenter's tool at that.

Maybe it is supposed to be here in the scene. I never saw tools part of the Christmas stable before, he thought.

Joseph the carpenter must have offered his services, skills, and time to make the crib sturdy and safe. Come to think of it, it isn't always enough to give people things. More often than not, they want your time. So, that is what I'll offer the Infant, he concluded. My time.

Turning to the Infant, the man conceded, "Okay. You're right. I do have more to give you. How about this? For the next year I will really try to use all my talents and abilities. Happily, he added, "Now, that sounds pretty good, doesn't it?" Their eyes met. And the Infant said, "More. Give me more."

In reply, the man said, "I've offered You all I have and all I can do or say. What else is there I can offer you?" And again their eyes met. The Infant seemed to look right through him, to probe his soul. Then the Infant replied, "Your sins. Give me your sins."

"Why, of course," he exclaimed, "I should have remembered. You have come to save Your people from their sins." As he said this, he noticed how the shepherds had their sheep and lambs up close.

"All right, then," the man agreed, "Be my Savior, Lamb of God, and take my sins. I won't try to excuse them away. I will tell you I'm sorry for them, and leave them in Your hands." To this he added, "Now you will be pleased." And their eyes met once again.

The man expected the Infant to be satisfied. But the Child's eyes said, "More." What more was there to give?

The tired shopper looked around at the various figures, and his eyes settled upon that of Mary. "The wise men gave Him their possessions, Joseph his services, the shepherds their lowliness. What, Mary, did you give Him?"

Mary had given Jesus her very self, he knew. But, in offering Jesus all that he had, old and new, and all that he could do and say, all the good, and with his sins, all the bad, wasn't he actually giving his very self?

(cont.)

~~A-Char~~ continued:

Puzzled, the man looked straight at the Infant and said, "You will have to tell me."

As his eyes and those of the Infant met, he understood:

"Give me your fears and worries."

So that was it! He looked up at Mary to see her smiling. Why didn't he think of it before?

Mary had been afraid at Nazareth when the angel Gabriel came to her. She had asked, "How?" and had surrendered her worries in an encounter with the God for Whom "nothing is impossible". Only then could Mary say, "Yes. Let it happen." And the Divine Son came to earth.

Looking again at the Infant, the man's eyes watered with tears of joy as they met those of the Child. With all the problems of life, he had stacks of fears and mountains of worries to offer the Christ-child.

All this time he had been lugging around the biggest gift of all and had not realized it. "Yes, Prince of Peace, I give you my fears and worries. I will do what I can where and when I can, and entrust my fears to You."

Only then did he see what had escaped him before. Below the eyes of the Infant there was a smile wide enough to touch the man's heart and make his Christmas the happiest ever.

AND MAY THIS CHRISTMAS TIME BE YOUR HAPPIEST, TOO!

MORE QUESTIONS ON TERESA'S WAY OF PERFECTION:

CH 21, n. 1:

A) If you can remember, when you first got started in mental prayer, was there one particular aspect that worried you? For example, "How will I ever be able to..." do what? How or where to begin, or continue for very long without distractions? Or?

CH 21, n. 2:

B) Was there someone who "went astray", became a sort of fanatic enough to scare you away from prayer "lest you become like that person"?

Or was there someone who spent much time (as far as people could see) in prayer--and then behaved badly after the "prayer"? Did their behavior scare you away from a good thing? Or did such a one's behavior discourage someone else?

C) What does it mean to you to be "subject to illusions"? Has anything like that or the other so-called grounds for avoiding mental prayer ever been said to you? Or to others you know?

D) Have you found in your experience that the Our Father and Hail Mary are sufficient, or not? Why? And did it have to do with your state of mind or situation?

n. 3:

E) Are you one of those who have recently read some of the "cleverly written books"?

Have you also noticed the gospel words that come from the mouth of Jesus? And, if so, what are your favorites among His sayings?

n. 4:

F) Have you recently asked the heavenly Master Teacher to help you learn?

n. 5:

G) Why, do you suppose, people at the time of St Teresa of Avila would consider it important, worth their time and effort, to discourage Teresa's Nuns, or anyone, from following the road of mental prayer?

H) Who have encouraged you in the direction of mental prayer? What did the persons say? Or, was it their example?

n. 6:

I.) What have you heard people, fellow parishioners, or relatively good individuals recommend you do instead of your travelling the "royal road" of mental prayer?

n. 7:

J) What does prayer--vocal or mental or both--do for a person?

K) What happens to a person who was practicing prayer and now no longer does so?

n. 8:

L) Do you see any connection between a person's personal faith and his/her practise of prayer? (continued on p.7)

DECEMBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 My God, I am all yours; Lord fashion me according to your heart</p> <p><i>Br. Lawrence of the Resurrection</i></p>	<p>2 Only in God is my soul at rest</p> <p><i>Ps 62:1</i></p>	<p>3 St. Francis Xavier Contemplation is a secret, peaceful, loving inflow of God</p> <p><i>*Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM</i></p>	<p>4 Speak Lord your servant listens</p> <p><i>1 Sam 3:10</i></p>	<p>5 Bl. Bartholomew Fanti Be still and know that I am God</p> <p><i>Ps 46:11</i></p>
<p>6 Second Sunday of Advent ...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>Phil 3:20</i></p>	<p>7 St. Ambrose Let nothing disturb you</p> <p><i>Teresa of Jesus</i></p>	<p>8 Immaculate Conception Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us</p>	<p>9 Bl. Juan Diego "I am the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God who gives life and maintains it in existence. He created all things. He is in all places. He is Lord of heaven and earth."</p> <p><i>BVM to Juan Diego 1531</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 How great is the power of <i>Prayer!</i></p> <p><i>Story of a Soul</i></p>	<p>12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Look to the Lord and be radiant with joy</p> <p><i>Ps 34:6</i></p>
<p>13 3rd Sunday of Advent/ St. Lucy Faith is a grace</p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i></p>	<p>14 St. John of the Cross ... journey to God in faith, by believing and not understanding</p> <p><i>Living Flame of Love</i></p>	<p>15 God teaches us everything in a moment*</p>	<p>16 Bl. Mary of the Angels Contemplation is a burning love for God*</p>	<p>17 Contemplation is a delightful life of love with God*</p>	<p>18 I have no will other than the will of God</p> <p><i>Br. Lawrence of the Resurrection</i></p>	<p>19 ... God alone is the agent who then speaks secretly to the solitary and silent soul.</p> <p><i>Living Flame of Love</i></p>
<p>20 4th Sunday of Advent Contemplation is a living thirst of love given by God*</p>	<p>21 A resolute, determined person fights with courage*</p>	<p>22 23 You should be happy contemplating the beauties of nature, the mountains, the silvery rivers; all this is so magnificent, so well-made for lifting up our souls...</p> <p><i>St. Therese of Lisieux</i></p>	<p>24 Pure contemplation lies in receiving</p> <p><i>Living Flame of Love</i></p>	<p>25 Christmas As this soul declares, she found him when she departed in darkness and with longings of love</p> <p><i>Dark Night</i></p>	<p>26 St. Stephen Contemplation is a presence to PRESENCE*</p>	
<p>27 St. John, Apostle The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory</p> <p><i>Jn 1:144</i></p>	<p>28 Holy Innocents The Father spoke one Word which was His Son and this Word He always speaks in eternal silence, and in silence must it be heard by the soul</p> <p><i>John of the Cross (Maxims and Counsels)</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Holy Family The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."</p> <p><i>Rv 22:17</i></p>	<p>31 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever</p> <p><i>Heb 13:8</i></p>	<p>*What is Contemplation? a tape by Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM based on the writings of John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila</p>	

JANUARY 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God God's love for us was revealed when He sent His only Son into the world. <i>John 4:9</i>	2 ...close at hand is my Just One, my Savior draws near. <i>Isaiah 5:1</i>
3 Feast of the Epiphany We have seen His star in the east and have come to adore the Lord. <i>Matthew 2:2</i>	4 We must be careful to free our hearts from everything that might get in the way of pure love of our beloved Jesus. <i>St. Joachina de Vedruna</i>	5 Anyone who is to find a hidden treasure must enter the hiding place secretly. <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	6 Many remain at the foot of the mount who could ascend to the top. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>	7 One cannot speak simultaneously to God and to the world. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>	8 St. Peter Thomas Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith. <i>Hebrews 12:2</i>	9 St. Andrew Corsini Consider that God reigns only in the peaceful and disinterested soul. <i>St. John of the Cross</i>
10 Baptism of the Lord ...the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear Him. <i>Mark 9:6</i> ☩	11 I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. <i>John 14:6</i>	12 A Being whose name is Love dwelling within us. <i>Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity</i>	13 By considering the love he bore me I regain my courage. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>	14 God alone in every cell of me! God alone! For all eternity. <i>St. Louise de Montefort</i>	15 O my Lord, if we truly know you, we wouldn't care at all about anything. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>	16 If you remain faithful in pleasing Him in little things, He will find Himself OBLIGED to help you in GREAT things. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>
17 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Today is holy to the Lord your God...rejoicing in the Lord must be our strength. <i>Nehemiah 8:9,10</i>	18 We can retire to the chapel of our hearts to commune with Him, lovingly. <i>Brother Lawrence</i>	19 The love of silence leads to the silence of love. <i>Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity</i>	20 Love one another. Such as My Love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. <i>John 13:34</i>	21 Believe that He loves you, that He wants to help you in the struggles you have to undergo. <i>Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity</i>	22 He never tires of giving, nor can He exhaust His mercies. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>	23 He does not ask much of us, merely a thought of Him from time to time, a little act of adoration. <i>Brother Lawrence</i>
24 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time I walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living <i>Psalms 166</i> 31 Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time I have no other desire except to love Jesus into folly. <i>St. Theresa of the Child Jesus</i>	25 Conversion of St. Paul "I am Jesus...whom you are persecuting." ..."What must I do, Sir?" <i>Acts 22:8,9</i>	26 Sts. Timothy & Titus Sweet and peaceful conformity to God's will is the test of love. <i>Mother Alousius-Concord</i>	27 Bl. Henry de Osso y Cervalo This is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life. <i>John 6:40</i>	28 St. Thomas Aquinas Christ wants your life in order to give you His. <i>St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	29 Bl. Archangela Giralani I am He Whom you love, you must be espoused to me. <i>Bl. Ann of St. Bartholomew</i>	30 He does not call those who are worthy, but those whom He pleases. <i>St. Theresa of the Child Jesus</i>

February 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 You already know that God is everywhere... wherever God is, there is heaven. <i>St. Teresa of Avila</i>	2 Presentation of the Lord ... holiness is a special likeness to Christ... <i>Pope John Paul II</i>	3 The interior life is the deepest and purest source of joy. <i>St. Teresa Benedicta a Cruce</i>	4 I bequeath to you... the Praise of Glory of the Most Holy Trinity. <i>Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity</i>	5 <i>St. Agatha</i> ... the desire for God is the preparation for union with him. <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions</i> A good person is like clean air: we draw breath... though it cannot be seen. <i>St. Ralph Kalinowski</i>
7 He who guards your life knows it, and he will repay each one according to his deeds. <i>Prov. 24:12</i>	8 I desire to love you, O my God, with a patient love, with a love completely abandoned to you...	9 ...with an active love, and what is more important, with a persevering love. <i>St. Teresa Margaret</i>	10 <i>St. Scholastica</i> It is not we who live it is he who has to live in us...	11 Our Lady of Lourdes ...the more we allow him the more we grow in likeness of Christ. <i>Mother Teresa</i>	12 A soul depends on grace in proportion to his desire for greater perfection...	13 God's help is necessary at every moment... <i>Br. Lawrence of the Resurrection</i>
14 The Lord is loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. <i>Psalms 145:17,18</i>	15 I ask heaven and earth, the sea, the flowers, and all creatures. Where is Jesus?...	16 ...And they all answer together: In an upright heart and a humble spirit. <i>Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified</i>	17 ASH WEDNESDAY Return to me with your whole heart, ...rend your hearts, not your garments... <i>Joel 2:12</i>	18 I assure you that God is much better than you believe. <i>St. Therese of Lisieux</i>	19 I find perfection very easy to practice...it is a matter of taking hold of Jesus by his heart. <i>St. Therese of Lisieux</i>	20 His passionate love makes him take flesh... we would not be afraid to draw near him. <i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>
21 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Happy is that people whose God is the Lord. <i>Psalms 144:15</i>	22 Chair of St. Peter To remain little is to recognize our nothingness... <i>St. Therese of Lisieux</i>	23 <i>St. Polycarp</i> Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same attitude... <i>1 Peter 4:12</i>	24 Our prayer for those who give us light should be unceasing. <i>St. Teresa of Avila</i>	25 In the midst of tempests... what would we be without them. <i>St. Teresa of Avila</i>	26 There is a vocation which consists in suffering with Christ... <i>St. Teresa Benedicta a Cruce</i>	27 Your will is my heritage forever, the joy of my heart. <i>Psalms 119:11</i>
28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not. <i>Prov 3:5</i>						

"WHEN ARE THE DUES/CLARION FEES TO BE SENT IN?"

The ideal is during the first few months of the year. However, some communities and individuals have been regularly sending their dues/Clarion \$20 at different times of the year. So, whatever is most convenient for you is okay with me.

I appreciate it when the treasurer of a community collects the dues and forwards them with one check.

Those in the midwestern part of the Washington province and Florida are asked to contribute \$20 per year. Those in the East Coast part of the Washington province, those in the Oklahoma or California-Arizona provinces I ask to contribute \$10 per year. Those in Canada, since the Clarion costs more to send to them, I ask \$15.

Anyone who desires to contribute more is most welcome! Anyone who wishes to receive my Holy Hill Clarion, but can't manage the asked-for amount, just let me know, and I will send it to you anyway.

Sometimes an issue comes back to me with a changed address, then it is re-sent first class. Sometimes the post office labels it as "Forwarding Order Expired" or "Temporarily away" which means I can't re-send it. So, if you move, I most assuredly appreciate your new address!

Thank you for any and all help in this area!

(CONT.) QUESTIONS ON TERESA'S WAY:

CH 21, n.9:

M) What is your experience of God's inspirations given to you about some problem?

Are you, honestly, one of those "Servants of God" about whom Teresa speaks? (If so, what do you need to do more of?)

n.10:

N.) With what vocal prayers have you found difficulty in keeping your mind and heart attentive to what you were saying?

And, what solutions did you find?

CH 22: n.1:

A) If you are speaking to God and much aware of it, is there some special image of God that is more usual for you than others?

B) Does your image of God influence your choice of words? Or just the meaning of your words? Does it affect your reverence?

C) How does your awareness of who you are --someone for whom Jesus died, etc-- affect your prayer?

D) Teresa called God "King" and "Lord" and "Emperor", etc.. What is your common or favorite way of addressing God?

And, what relationship between you and God does that indicate?

E) In the Creed, like Teresa's, are your favorite words "And His Kingdom will have no end"? Or, have you honestly not even noticed these or other words of the Creed? If not, upon noticing the words of the Creed, with which do you resonate, feel at home with, most easily?

n.2:

F) To quote Teresa's own question, "Do you understand yourselves?"... When it comes to our prayer and its style, are we really good judges? Are others any better? How close to Teresa's ideals are we?

n.3:

G) Teresa doesn't want anyone to disturb you. Has anyone done so in this area of mental prayer and your spiritual journey?

H) Have you, when you began to recite the Hours (or Christian Prayer) or the Rosary, considered to Whom you are going to speak and/or who you are--in relation to God?

I) As you know, some prayers are not addressed directly to God, but to Mary and His Saints--whom we honor and invoke because of Him! When voicing these prayers, are you aware He hears you honoring His friends?

n.4:

J) Did you ever think of God as humble? What is Teresa of Avila teaching us about humility when she calls God "humble"?

(Continued on p. 8)

TERESA'S Way Questions, Cont.)

Ch. 22;n.4:

K) Have you ever been angry with God?
If so, what do you think was His response?

L) Did you ever speak to God just bluntly
and not consider who you are and Who He
is? If so, do you think He was offended, or
that He understood you in your circumstanc-
es?

M) Does Teresa think we can "sweet-talk"
or prepare elegant and learned speeches to
God?

N) In general, people who die with a big
bank account are considered to be "worth"
so much, whereas in reality others get it
all. While Teresa is talking about God's
kind and humbly condescending attitude
toward us, can some of her remarks be
applied to our society today? Do we honor
some people for their wealth, rather than
for some other good reason?

What matters at the end of our life is how
much we love God and, with Him, others.
Scary? Let us pray that our love for God
and others will increase in 1999!



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 2

OCDS NEWSLETTER
Eastern Province
HOLY HILL
1526 Carmel Road
Milwaukee, WI 53033-9770
Address Correction Requested