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PENTECOST MESSAGE TO ALL RCC BISHOPS AND CLERGY
“Come, Holy Spirit, Fill Our Hearts with the Fire of Your Love”

At Pentecost, recognizing the Holy Spirit at work within and among them, Mary and the Apostles took courage in their hands and opened the doors behind which they had locked themselves. They were no longer afraid of the future which they had locked themselves. Not afraid of the future that was unfolding for them. They were ready to proclaim, to whoever might listen, their experience of what had happened to them with Jesus, their discovery of his Good News, of what God had done. (Acts 2: 1-11)

This Pentecost Solemnity is very special for me. Sixteen years ago, I was incardinated into the Reformed Catholic Church. In 2015, was ordained into the episcopacy. During many years, I was very active not only in the USA but also in Latin America and Puerto Rico. Due to matters out of my control our ministry changed dramatically. But, as a person of faith, kept being encouraged by the same Spirit, to recognize the fresh newness and hope that Christ bring into our own lives. As a Carmelite friar, we are called to listen to Christ in his silence. It was in this silence that He spoke helping me to reapproach the RCC, creating new possibilities in my mission— being called to work vibrantly in strengthening the faith and life of our followers.

Evidently, today we must look into the future with hope, opening new ways to accompany the people of our time. When the Church is most truly itself, we are most truly who God calls us to be.

I want to use this special solemnity to thank all the RCC Bishops and Clergy who have welcomed me back home. I really appreciate all the kind words that have been expressed to me. I want to offer a special thanks to both, Bishop Chris Carpenter and Bishop Bill Heller for opening the doors of the Church for me and the Carmelite Friars to return. The Holy Spirit is already working abundantly in our midst.

With hope and humility, we look to the future. I am here to help everyone who feels I can be good for with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May the peace of Christ and the fullness of life that the Holy Spirit brings, be with you all.

+Most Rev. José Israel de la Trinidad, DD, PhD, AoM
 Auxiliary Bishop
 Diocese of St. Pope John XXIII
 Email: bishopjoseisrael@gmail.com

REFLECTIONS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

With this celebration of the Solemnity of the Pentecost, this Sunday marks the last day of the glorious and most joyful season of Easter, marking the time when the Holy Spirit came down upon all the Apostles and disciples of the Lord, bestowing upon them the many gifts that God has promised, as well as the Wisdom, guidance and courage that would strengthen many of those disciples in their ministry and works, marking the moment when the Church was truly born. That is why this Pentecost celebration is sometimes also known as the ‘Birthday of the Church’ as prior to the Pentecost moment, all the disciples were filled with fear and uncertainty, hiding from the Jewish authorities and others who opposed the Lord and their works. Through the Holy Spirit, the great Advocate and Helper from the Lord, God has truly given us all the renewal and the encouragement we all needed to embark in our mission as Christians.

The Holy Spirit did not just give them the strength and courage to carry out the mission that they had been entrusted with, overcoming the fears in their hearts and minds, but also gave them the Wisdom and eloquence to speak the truth with great intellect and understanding of the truth, as well as the miraculous gift of speaking in tongues, allowing many people to understand them all at the same time. That is what the Holy Spirit had done upon us all as well, by bringing unto us the unity and harmony that restored our unity as one flock of the Lord, one Church of God.

The Holy Spirit therefore came down upon us, uniting us and bringing us to once again live in harmony as one people of God, one Church, giving us the gifts to live worthily as Christians, as God’s people and to proclaim His Good News and truth to renew the world. The Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we all may carry on the missions entrusted by the Lord to His Church and disciples, to gather all the scattered people and those whom He loved from all over the whole world. Through the Holy Spirit, the Church was made tangible as the disciples no longer hid themselves but went forth with great courage to call on more people to turn back towards the Lord and to repent from their sins.

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(Cont. from page 1)

REFLECTIONS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit has given us many gifts and this is what we should be reflecting on this day as we celebrate this glorious occasion, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Church and the end of the glorious Easter season.

We must first realize that the joy and the spirit of Easter must not end with Pentecost Sunday celebration. Rather, we must carry on living our Christian lives with zeal and courage, to continue doing what we have done thus far, in doing God's will and in carrying out whatever missions and opportunities we have been given, specially through our Reformed Catholic Church, through which we impact many people who have been rejected in our society, even churches.

It is also an important reminder for each one of us that we have been given different calling and vocations in life, and this means that in whatever areas and in whichever vocation that we have, we should do what we can do to glorify God and to proclaim His Good News, and more often than not, this requires us to live our Christian lives well, to be genuinely and fully faithful in our lives to God.

In preparation to Pentecost Sunday let us all hence remind ourselves to let the Holy Spirit guide us and strengthen us each day and at every moments, so that we may always be good role models and sources of inspiration for one another in faith, continuing what the Lord has asked us to do, to be missionary and evangelizing in our own respective communities. Let our actions, words and deeds, and our every interaction and works inspire more people, touch their hearts and minds so that they may come ever closer to God and that they may know the Lord and His truth better. Through all these, many more people and many more souls will come ever closer to God's salvation, and each one of us have important parts to play in this. All of us are important in the Church's efforts for the conversion of souls, and each one of our little actions does really matter.



We are reminded that through the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we have received from God, we should always be full of God's love, with all the virtues that He has imparted to us and affirmed us through His Spirit dwelling within us. We should always strive to show forth this love of God within us, manifesting the various gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us so that we may truly bear rich fruits of the Holy Spirit, ever full with virtues and righteousness, with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as the Lord calls us to be, so that we may inspire confidence and hope in many all around us, and the light of God may shine forth through us and our every actions in life.

May the Risen Lord be with us and His Church always, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen us, inflame and encourage us that we may always be firm in our faith and actions, and do our best to reach out to others with exemplary and shining faith in God.

May the Holy Spirit lead us and help us to serve God ever more courageously and may all of us be strengthened in all things, now and always, forevermore. Come, Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth, and come to bless and strengthen us, give us the courage and desire to continue to do God's will, always.

Amen.





Who are We

We are the Carmelite Friars of the Divine Mercy incardinated under the Reformed Catholic Church (an independent Catholic Church in the global movement).

A contemplative community of friars living semi-cloistered.

The Carmelite Friars of the Divine Mercy believe that the heart of our way of life is contemplation. Saint John of the Cross described contemplation as the inflowing of God's grace into a human being. We describe our way of living simply as maintaining close 'friendship with God'. The Order's charism is to know and love God, and to make God known and loved by others.

We believe that God's grace and friendship is offered to all people, not as something we can earn or attain by our own efforts, but as a gift of God, given whenever and to whoever God wishes. To become contemplative Carmelites, we seek to open our hearts to God, practicing what our tradition calls 'vacare Deo' (Latin for 'space for God' or 'openness to God'). We believe that our hearts serve as a living tabernacle for God to live within us, taking inspiration from the prophet Elijah, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, patrons of our Order.

We speak of contemplation as a gift of God that can be nurtured by an intense life of prayer, community, and service. These three elements are at the heart of our charism. Carmelites believe that it is the combination of these three elements – prayer, community and service – that makes us better disposed to receive God's gift of contemplation.

Oh Mary, Queen and Mother of Carmel, I come today to consecrate myself to Thee, for my whole life is but a small return for the many graces and blessings that have from God to me through Thy hands.

ACT OF CONSACRATION TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Oh Mary, Queen and Mother of Carmel, I come today to consecrate myself to Thee, for my whole life is but a small return for the many graces and blessings that have from God to me through Thy hands.

Since Thou regards with an eye of special kindness those who wear Thy Scapular, I implore Thee to strengthen my weakness with Thy power, to enlighten the darkness of my mind with Thy wisdom, to increase in me faith, hope and charity that I may render, day by day, my debt of humble homage to Thee. May Thy Scapular keep Thine eyes of mercy turn towards me and bring me Thy special protection in the daily struggle to be faithful to Thy Divine Son and to Thee.

May it separate me from all that is sinful in life and remind me constantly of my duty to behold Thee and clothe myself with Thy virtues. From henceforth I shall strive to live in the sweet companionship of Thy spirit, to offer all to Jesus through Thee and make my life the mirror of Thy humility, charity, patience, meekness and prayerfulness.

O dearest Mother, support me, by Thy never-failing love that I, and unworthy sinner, may come one day to exchange Thy Scapular for the wedding Garment of heaven and dwell with Thee and the saints of Carmel in the kingdom of Thy Son. Amen.

THE ROOTS OF OUR VOCATION

The Carmelite Friars of the Divine Mercy belong to a religious family endowed with its own special charism in God's people and called to fulfill a specific role in the Mystical Body of Christ. Each of us receives a personal call to this family. As a renewed form of an ancient order, it entails both fidelity to the spirit and traditions of Carmel and a continual striving after renewal. This is--as it were--the dual heritage bequeathed to us by our Holy Mother St Teresa. Mindful of this and docile to the voice of God, we cherish the spirit and way of life of our forerunners as we profess to be their descendants and heirs. Hence, we regard the deeds of our 'holy fathers and predecessors not as lifeless events of bygone days but as part of the providential shaping of our vocation in the living Church. The beginnings of the Order, the title 'Brothers the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel', and the earliest authentic spiritual traditions provide ample evidence of the Marian and biblical character of our vocation. Taking Mary as the mother and patroness of the Order, we look upon her life and her sharing in the mystery of Christ as a model of religious consecration.

IF INTERESTED IN DISCERNING YOUR RELIGIOUS VOCATION CONTACT US

bishopjoseisrael@gmail.com

Phone: (734) 775-9168

6255 Telegraph Rd. Unit 125, Erie, MI 48133



AM I BEING CALLED TO THE CARMELITE CONTEMPLATIVE WAY OF LIFE?

In a world of distraction and dispersion, modern man is distraught, thirsting for peace in a troubled world. The dream of humanity sufficing by its enlightened thought and conscientious humanitarian charity has met the sad reality of mass ideological murder of the twentieth century and a rampant selfish individualism that has man saying with the Psalmist,

“What can bring us happiness?”

St Teresa of Avila, the Doctor of Prayer and reformer of the Carmelites, proposed a remedy for our times to discover this interior peace to work toward peace in the world. She invites us to look to the person of Jesus Christ to discover our dignity and destiny in him: that we are all made in the “image and likeness” of God and we are all destined for eternal glory. Teresa realized that we are all capable and called to be contemplatives.

We are all called to be united with reality, and the highest reality that we are made for is God. For every man but especially for the Christian, we are called to grow in likeness to God, and to make of our soul a worthy dwelling place for the Most Holy Trinity. This is done by the process of prayer where we are united to God, or rather God unites himself to us.

- ***We are committed to a consecrated life of allegiance to Jesus Christ. In this we are sustained the companionship, the example and protection of our Lady. Her life of union with Christ we regard as the prototype of ours.***
- ***Our vocation is a grace by which we are called to a ‘hidden union with God’ in a form of life and fraternal sharing in which contemplation and action are blended to become a single apostolic service of the Church.***

- ***This call to prayer embraces our whole life. Sustained by the word of God and the sacred liturgy, we are led to live in intimate friendship with God. By growing in faith, hope and above all charity, we deepen our prayer life. With our heart thus purified, we are enabled to share more closely in the life of Christ himself and prepare the way for a more abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In this way, the Teresian charism and the original spirit of Carmel become a reality in our lives as we walk in the presence of the living God.***
- ***The very nature of our charism demands that our prayer and our whole religious life be ardently apostolic, and that we put ourselves at the service of the Church and of all mankind. This must be done in such a way that ‘our apostolic activity stems from our close union with Christ’. Indeed, we must aim at that most fruitful of all apostolates which derives from the ‘state of union with God’.***
- ***It is for this twofold service, contemplative and active, that we share life as brothers in the community. United by the bond of love in fraternal life, we also bear witness to the unity of the Church, faithful in this to our Holy Mother, who wanted her communities to resemble ‘the college of Christ’.***

The gift and life of contemplation come about through an invitation from the Lord. This does not mean that this way of life is for the few. Everyone can create the necessary stillness for contemplation in his heart. Remember, however, that contemplation itself is only possible because “the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost” [\(Luke 19:10\)](#).

He, our Lord, always initiates the encounter; He calls us first. The traits described above are a way for one to become like the servant whom the master finds doing his will [\(Matthew 24: 46\)](#).

The good servant was able to do the will of the master because he had the heart of the master inside of him. The contemplative life is a means of allowing one’s heart to become like that of the Master, Jesus. Thus, the contemplative, by his very life, makes known the presence of the Master; the servant, through imitation, has become like an icon of the Master. Why imitation? Let us consider the words of St. Paul: “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” [\(Ephesians 5:1\)](#). ***For a Carmelite, this call is lived out through the gift of contemplation: a gift freely given by the Lord to all hearts disposed to receiving Him.***

The Community of St. Elijah of the Carmelite Friars of the Divine Mercy were welcomed into the global family of faith that is the Reformed Catholic Church since the 14th of November of 2010 AD and most recently welcomed back. The friars were welcomed with all rights, privileges and responsibilities of this jurisdiction to the ministry of the RCC.