



“To Inundate the World with His Love”
Blending Carmel with the works of the Apostolate:

God wishes to inundate the world with His love; so, fraternal communities become missionaries of this love and prophetic signs of its unifying power. FL #56

On July 1st, 2000, Our Holy Mother Foundress, Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. This is an immense grace for us and the Church. We, her daughters, are challenged to make Mother’s love and spirit incarnate today. Our charism of prayer and works of charity are a gift of the Spirit for the good of the Church. We are reminded that “the purpose of the apostolate is to bring humanity back to union with God and to unity among itself, through divine charity. Since charity is the greatest of the charisms, a religious community enriches the Church, of which it is a living part, first of all by its love.” (*Fraternal Life* #14, 60)

Each generation of our religious institute needs to find a quiet spot, ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and prayerfully meditate upon our Charism. And each time we think that the study of our charism is exhausted, the Holy Spirit reveals a deeper, fuller meaning or gives us a greater, more profound appreciation as well as the grace to apply it to these times in which we are living.

This year of 2010-2011 brings us many notable anniversaries in our three apostolates of healthcare, retreat work and education. Let us together **Remember, Thank** and **Build on** all the gifts that flow from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, so as to be a living sign of the primacy of the love of God who works wonders. Let us implore the Spirit to enable us to respond to the love of the Father and draw souls to share His life and destiny. (cf. *Fraternal Life*)

Anniversaries- Community Life and History

160 Years Since Birth of Doctor Pascual Rojas (April 3, 1896)

90 Years Founding of Congregation (February 2, 1921)

Remember

We remember Mexico in a time when churches were closed and the tabernacles within them were emptied. We remember how from an arranged marriage, the Spirit united the hearts of Maria Luisa de la Pena and Dr. Rojas to bring God’s love to the sick and the poor in a country heading for persecution. We remember the varied paths Mother was called to follow, not seeing clearly, as we do now, how the powerful unction of the Holy Spirit was moving to raise up a new congregation to be a testimony to God’s presence during a time of religious persecution. Mother’s experience of God, present and near in her life and in the lives of others, allowed her to maintain an attitude of abandonment and submissiveness before everything that He was manifesting to her through every circumstance.

(pause for silent meditation)

Thank

Lord Jesus, we thank you for giving us a Mother who teaches us absolute trust in your love. The apostolic dimension of her life flowed from her deeply contemplative vision. Teach us to imitate her docility to allow the Holy Spirit to direct our paths. Help us to notice his footprints and his gentle voice every day. We thank you

for the gift of our Carmelite vocation and ask that Our Lady of Mt. Carmel may always keep us under Her mantle.

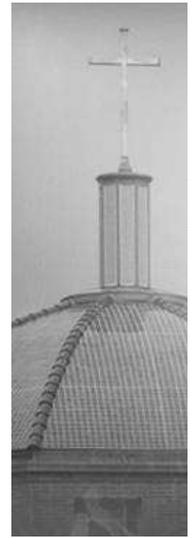
Build On

Father, help us to come into the presence of the Living God. Help us to lead lives of contemplation blended with apostolic works needed in the Church. May we continue to build on, nourish and treasure our charism that flows from the life-giving blood and water of your Most Sacred Heart.

Anniversaries- Healthcare Apostolate

- 80 Years Santa Teresita (August 2, 1930)
- 60 Years Duarte Convent (1951)
- 45 Years Santa Teresita Manor (1966)
- 30 Years Santa Teresita Professional Office Building (October 3, 1981)
- 20 Years Saint Claude de la Colombiere Miracle at Santa Teresita

Remember We remember that it was from the tireless service **to** the sick that our community was formed. It was at the “Little Hospital of the Sacred Heart” where Mother and our first sisters lived their vowed life as Carmelites. Everyday they poured themselves out to serve those most in need. (pause for silent meditation)



Thank

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the numerous blessings you have bestowed on our sisters serving in the health care apostolate. May we ever “Sing our works to the King” as we strive to serve a world in need, to be your hands and feet. We are edified by our founding sisters who served the vulnerable and sick in the early 1930s. Their lives of selfless love and fidelity to their vows have led us to where we are today. We stand upon their shoulders, and give you thanks for their heroic lives. We cry out in gratitude for the anniversaries we celebrate this year—we recall your abiding presence and fidelity, affirming that without you, we can do nothing.

Build On Our mission to be “At the Service of the Family for Life,” recognizes the basic fact that we were created to be in relationship, in *communion* with God and others. As our relationships transform us, we radiate the beauty our souls have received from God. Continuing this same vision of our founding sisters—to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of those in our loving charge--we implore the strength to build on the graces of the past as we go forward to serve in the future, making the love of Christ known to all.

Anniversaries- Retreat Apostolate

- 70 Years Sacred Heart Retreat House (property acquired August 1, 1941, September 29, 1941, First Mass, First group of Retreatants November 1941)
- 60 Years Sacred Heart Retreat House Chapel (July 15, 1951)

Remember Father Finian Monahan, Superior General of the Discalced Carmelites remembers Mother as "...a distinguished religious who with humility and simplicity was able to realize in a marvelous way, the contemplative-apostolic ideal of Carmel, *giving a concrete example of the way a true lover of God can blend within the greatest active apostolic dedication for the good of the brethren with uninterrupted prayer.*" (July 16, 1977) We remember the many hours Mother spent in prayer and how her letters are filled with an intimate love for Christ present in the Eucharist. She desired that all come to realize that they are made in the image and likeness of God and to develop a loving relationship with Him through prayer. We recall her great desire that her daughters imbue souls with a longing for God in prayer, by one day opening a retreat house. (pause for silent meditation)

Thank

Lord Jesus, thank you for the life of Mother Luisita and for giving her to us as an example to follow. She calls us to help others grow in union with God by means of prayer and by sharing with them the great treasure of Carmelite spirituality which is based on Gospel teaching. Lord, we thank you for the communication of prayer that never ceases in the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. The Carmelite Rule bids each Carmelite, day and night, to meditate on the Law of the Lord and to watch in prayer. This watching in prayer, not only prepares us for heaven when we will behold the Lord of Glory in the face-to-face beatific vision, but it disposes us to receive graces of intimacy in this life. Help us to promote the spiritual life to all those whom You place in our lives.



Build On

The world needs prayer. It is crying out for love. Our apostolates of education, health care and retreat work all form part of that stream as we promote a deeper spiritual life among the family of God. Our Retreat Apostolate so beautifully and directly provides God's people with a silent, restful atmosphere in which they can come closer to God and deepen their prayer life in order to return to their homes consoled, strengthened, and spiritually refreshed. May we hand on, the great treasure we have been given. We ask for the grace to commit ourselves anew to the lifelong deepening and intensifying of our union with God so as to bring Him to others.

Anniversaries- Education Apostolate

60 Years Education Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (1950)
20 Years Saint Theresa School (Coral Gables) (1991)

Remember

We remember how Mother looked with love on all those who were forgotten and abandoned in society. We recall her zeal to establish schools and to educate her sisters so that they may assist the people in a land tormented by strife and bloody persecution. While in Moraga, CA, letters reached Mother every day. They were in Spanish and they came from the faithful in the homeland. They told her of many things that saddened her heart, of the murder and torture of friends, of the striking down of good priests. In this climate, it was difficult to teach and pass on the Faith. Her heart, burning with love for souls, wanted to assist families who had to rely upon their own efforts to preserve, nurture and pass on the faith to their children. We remember her penetrating gaze--her eyes, which saw beyond the limits of the world, and the unfailing trust she had in God to carry his message of infinite love to the poor in need. (pause for silent meditation)

Thank

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the opportunity to serve the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for sixty years through our work in education. May we more and more, be consumed by your love and desire to impart your love to those we serve. Together may we heed Mother's words: "Give thanks to God our Lord for granting you the grace of working in His vineyard with those who are so dear to your heart. Work, my daughter, with true enthusiasm and be assured that the children will never forget what you're teaching **them** and, in time, the seed that you're planting in their little hearts will bear fruit."

Build On

Mother understood that carrying out God's work through education is very rewarding, yet is not without the cross. We are called to inflame hearts amidst a culture that more and more, rejects God, modestly and Christian virtue. In a way, we live in a world like hers. May we obtain the grace to have her "eyes", so we may see beyond the limits of this world and to make Christ's mission our own. The importance of our work takes on even greater importance today. The main purpose for our presence in Catholic schools is to lead every student to think and to love with the mind and heart of Christ. Mother reminds us that "this kind of education isn't finished in a couple of days. Rather, it's a day-by-day learning experience." May we, with the grace of God, continue to build on the legacy our sisters have begun of winning souls for God by our prayers, good example, and teaching.



10 yr Anniversaries - New endeavors in our apostolates

- 10 Years Mount Carmel Retreat Center (December 2001)
- 10 Years Mount Carmel Child Care Center (2001)
- 10 Years Marycrest Manor (2001)
- 10 Years First Mass at Saint Elijah Convent (September 10, 2000)
- 10 Years Avila Gardens (October 15, 2000)

Remember

We remember Mother's words: "For me nothing is lacking. I have found the fullness of happiness in my Carmelite vocation." We are called to be the Brides of Christ and we "exist only for the sole joy of the Bridegroom." (*Cantata of Love*) We remember that the very purpose of the existence of a Carmelite is to become an intimate friend of Christ. This friendship is not grounded on our ascent, our struggle to get back to God, but rather the Incarnation - God coming so close to us as to make His dwelling among us. This is the basis for the friendship - His divine, unconditional love for us. If that is the case, then the only appropriate attitude, the only fitting, corresponding response on our part is: Marian receptivity, Marian **transparency**, Marian openness. We must echo with our lives, Mary's own fiat. As we engage in our mission, each of our apostolates through the years have, and continue to bear the distinctive stamp of Our Lady. (pause for silent meditation)

Thank

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of our vocation of prayer that fits us with strength to serve. Thank you for the ways you continue to lead us in new endeavors of service so that you alone may be praised in the hearts of all. Thank you for the ordinary events of our daily lives that reveal to us Christ's hidden presence. In our call to be contemplatives in action, may we seek to encounter You in every present moment. Thank you for the life giving water flowing from Your Sacred Heart in the Eucharist, which nourishes us with your Divine Love and unites us to Your Sacrifice.



Build On

Fraternal Life in Community reminds us that "Above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:14), love as it was taught and lived by Jesus Christ and communicated to us through his Spirit. This love that unites is also the love that leads us to extend to others the experience of communion with God and with each other. In other words, it creates apostles by urging communities on their path of mission, whether this be contemplative, proclamation of the Word, or ministries of charity. (FL #56) (*Superiors go and kneel at the Communion Rail*)

Mother Regina Marie: Pope John Paul II has reminded us: "You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future where the Spirit is sending you to do even **greater things**." Let us implore all the Carmelite Saints for the grace to never tire in our love and zeal to be sent forth, to be poured out. Ours is a mission for those thirsting for God. Our loving service must overflow from our profound life of prayer. We must be Christ's presence in the world today. A call has been given us by our Co-adjutor Archbishop Jose Gomez: "Venerable Mother Luisita would tell everyone: "For greater things you were born!" Each of us has been made for love and for great and beautiful things. There is no soul that God does not long to touch with this message of his love! And He wants to touch those souls through us. So let us make our lives something beautiful that we can offer to God. Let us do everything, even the littlest duties of our days, out of love for Him and for the love of our brothers and sisters." As we pass these scapulars, touched to the relics of Our Mother, let us each implore Our Lord for a double portion of her spirit.

Mother says to each Superior as she hands them a scapular touched to the relics of Mother Luisita:

"For greater things you were born."

Hymn: Lord, you make All Things New (Sheet)

Superiors return to their pew/local Carmel and each sister takes a moment to pray with the scapular before passing it on to the next sister.