

Carmelite

PENTECOST 2024

Editor: Jim Bryan, T.O.Carm. | Thorp, WI

Witness

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

I am delighted to send you Easter greetings both from the Lay Carmelite Office and from myself personally!

In 2017, when I first took on the role of Provincial Coordinator, I knew that the Lay Carmelite Office needed to stay better in touch with our growing number of members who had either relocated geographically or found themselves without a local community for any number of reasons. My deep desire was to establish a “virtual community” for the Lay Carmelites finding themselves in this situation.

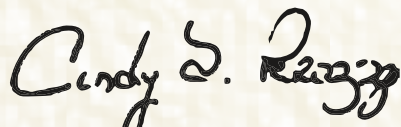
Eventually, we found Anne Marie Long T.O. Carm., who took on the role as Coordinator of Isolates. She really established her presence among you all, going above and beyond what I asked her to do by telephoning, sending out emails, handwriting Christmas Cards, and eventually writing short articles for our new newsletter, *The Witness*.

Enter, Dr. Jim Bryan, T.O. Carm., who has an inherent passion for all Lay Carmelites who find themselves at a loss for community. Jim is particularly sensitive to the fact that some of our members do not have the technological background for electronic correspondence so *The Witness*, our attempt at keeping all isolated members included in a direct mail newsletter, with news, events, and spiritual articles in the Carmelite Charism, came into being. Jim is an excellent editor and author and I am very grateful that he has agreed to take on this project, which just wouldn't happen with our very small staff at the LCO.

With Anne Marie's retirement, you now have the benefit of yet another Lay Carmelite with many talents to share. Lourdes Crabtree, who lives in the Toronto area of Canada, jumped at the chance to work with you all and I am very thankful that she is able to find the time to serve the province in yet another very important way. I know you will come to know and appreciate her enthusiasm and kindness.

So in closing, I feel you are once again in good hands, with people who care about you and acknowledge you as “full-fledged” members of the Carmelite Order. I encourage you to reach out to Lourdes, Jim or me at the LCO should you need to. Please know that you remain in my prayer and I ask for your prayers as well.

Until next time I remain sincerely yours in Carmel!



Cindy Perazzo, T.O. Carm.
Provincial Coordinator



geographically
separated
connected
by Faith

New Ministry is a *living WITNESS of Carmel's Witness...*

Almost two years ago a ministry started to bloom in Carmel's Garden as members of one of our lay member communities in Tallahassee Florida along with determination and prayer helped 'bring to life' a new community of Carmelites who wish to serve Jesus and His loving Mother as an expression of their Spiritual and life journeys.

February 14th this year, was not only the memorial of St. Valentine, and Ash Wednesday; but also, the launch date for a newly approved venture of establishing an active Fraternity of the Scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel within a prison allowing the members who join both the graces and prayers of the Carmelite Order in its expressions of Friars, Nuns and Sisters, Laity, and the Secular Fraternities. This opportunity was hard work and a group effort by those who group who worked so hard to dot the 'I's and cross the 'T's'. Please remember to thank God today for the work and witness of Buddy Cunill, T.O. Carm, Dave Busch, T. O. Carm, and Scott Mehr, Diaconal Candidate Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

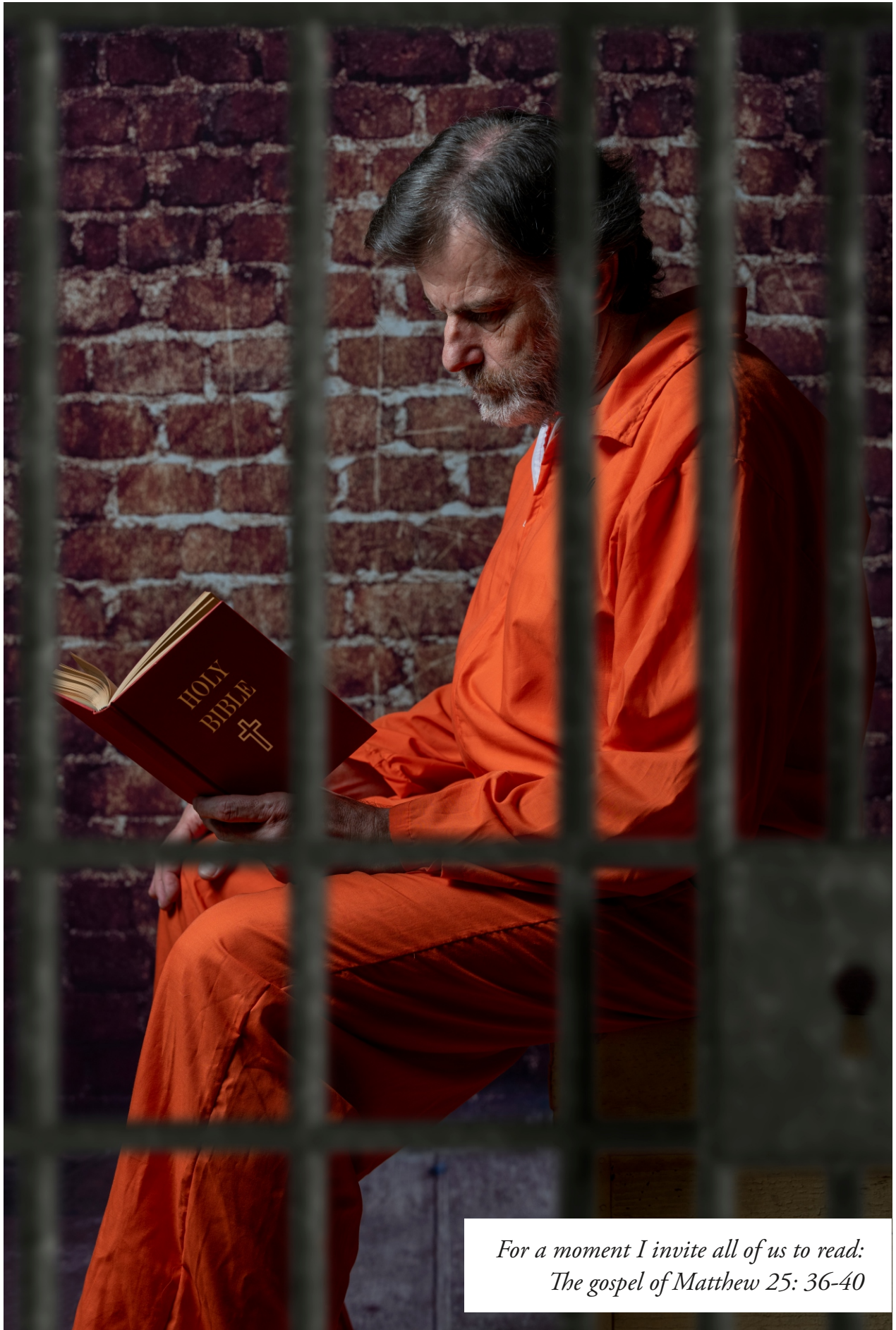
We can't forget to mention Cindy Perazzo [our Provincial Coordinator of the PCM Province] who was 'in at ground level' to help with the success of this adventure.

Also the Community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel who have been in prayer and helping with the supplies to move the community forming its current readiness. [A shout out to Amelia Morse] Several men were interested in this program. Recruitment for members was started on January 8, 2023. Meetings were usually held on Wednesdays. The Prison chaplains, the prisoners, themselves and many unmentioned WITNESSES known only to God helped, too.

Eight men participated in the enrollment of the Scapular and a dream is no longer a dream!

Now...we have another avenue to help renew the world around us!

The Scapular is the garment we wear as children of Carmel. Each of us has heard the call to Carmel, and each of us has responded in whatever way we can. Let all Carmelites continue to serve both Jesus and Mary, and may we continue to be Carmel's witness as we are lead.



*For a moment I invite all of us to read:
The gospel of Matthew 25: 36-40*

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"I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me."

Then the righteous will answer him,

'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and

welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee?

And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?'

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:36-40



***"Thou knowest I love Thee, Jesus Christ, my Own!
Thy Spirit's fire of love enkindleth me."***

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

It is a great blessing to be a member of the Isolate community and have the opportunity to get to know you during my term as Regional Coordinator.

I began my role by identifying where all the members of the Isolate community are located, marking on a map the cities where each resides. Reviewing the areas formed an image, in my mind of an ancient oil lamp, and several stories came to my mind. One particular story is called, 'The Cave and the Sun.'

One day the Cave and the Sun were having a conversation. The Cave did not understand the term *light* and the Sun did not understand the term *dark*. The Sun invited the cave to come and see the light. The cave went out and in seeing the light saw how wonderful it was. The Cave, likewise, invited the Sun to see the dark. The Sun was very excited to visit the Cave. When the day arrived, the Sun entered the Cave and said, 'I don't understand, where is the darkness?'

The Sun takes its light wherever it goes, illuminating even the darkest corners. The light of Christ, our Lord, is expressed in our lives as men and women of Carmel.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Our Lord's words, taken from the interlinear Bible reads,

'Thus, *let shine* your light before men, so that they may see your good works and they glorify your Father in the heavens.' (Matthew 5:16)

'*Let shine*' is from the Greek word, '*lampó*' meaning to shine; to give light.

How fitting a constellation of isolated members in North America reveals a symbol of light and hope.

May the Holy Spirit continue to pour His Grace and Blessing upon each of us, and may your light always shine, penetrating our hearts understanding of 'having the fire of the Spirit'. As an Isolate community, we are connected profoundly in our prayers and meditation, bonding us together with the whole Carmelite family in Love.

To God be glory and honour now and always.

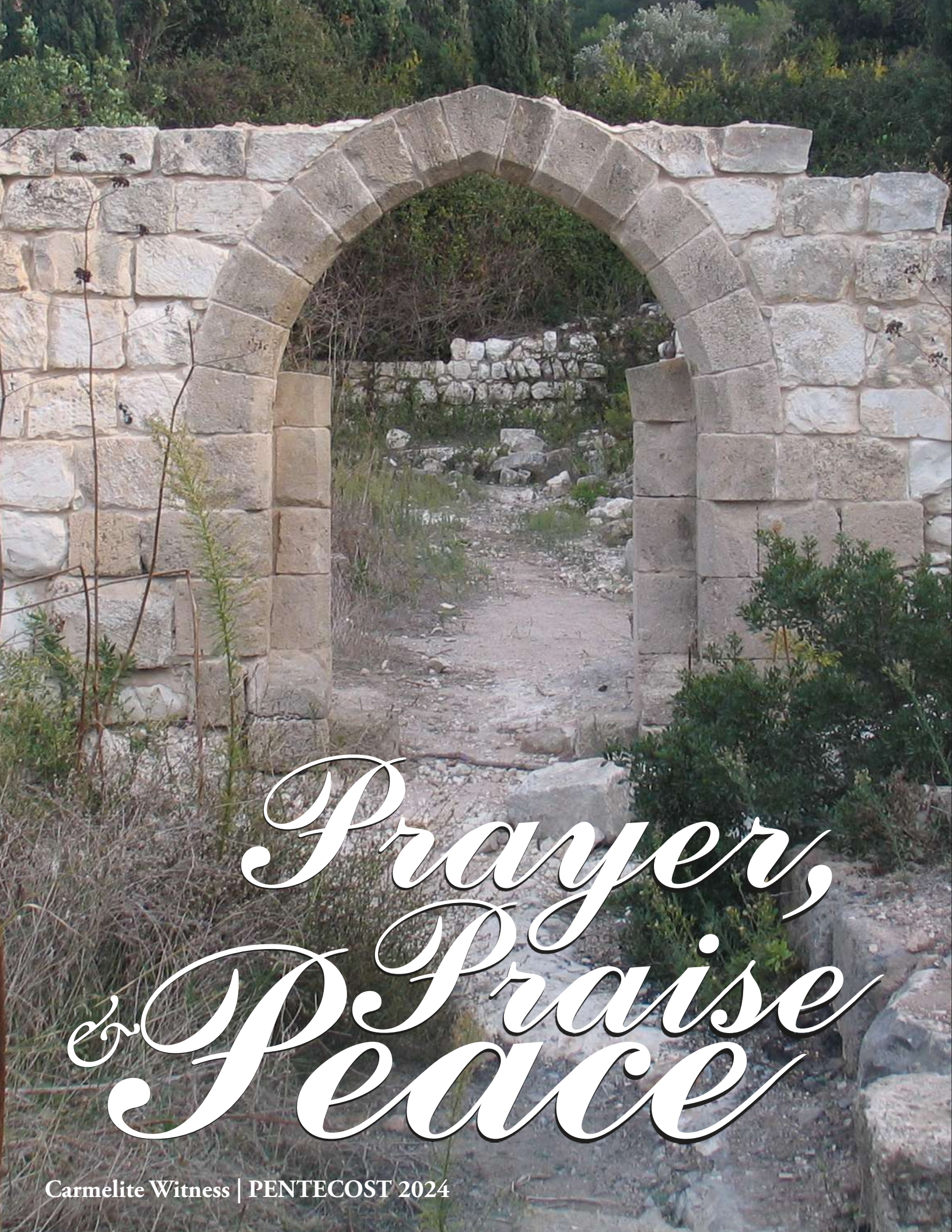
United in Carmel,

Lourdes Crabtree, T.O.Carm

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*Prayer,
& Praise
Peace*

There seems to be a point in being asked to 'suffer', 'offer up', or 'accept the Cross'. As Carmelites we seem to 'train' in areas of suffering and a theology which encourages us to be used by God, in living with a sense of rugged acceptance, quiet resignation, and surrender to 'God, Jesus, Our Blessed Mother, or patron saints of Carmel'.

Historically, we have been a movement to enter a desert, a quiet sanctified place of prayer and contemplation as opposed to becoming hospital founders, education masters, or even great authors of theological tomes leading the Church into insights of growth, sustainability, and new direction of our commitment to Carmel.

Of course, one of the observable signs of the charism of our promises as members of Carmel is the underlying example of change, introduction of reforms, changes in how we interpret our vision, and even a better understanding of what it means to be Carmelites in this age, in this place, and this world.

Since May of this year I have been a little 'out of whack' in my lovely retirement home, working in homes for the elderly, writing and seeking out my naps, as usual. My life as a Carmelite Secular has been thrown a wrench, a roadblock, a storm, a cloud with no sense of either its direction, or its end of annoyance in my little *Wadi*.

Of course, you may ask: "What the heck happened?" Simply put...the cancer in my prostate, after two years of monitoring decided it was time to express itself in a less than benign way it has been "with me" the past two years". My doctors have all been excellent. The Cancer Center in Eau Claire where I obtain my Radiology is considerate, well run, organized and has help for anything bothering me from: health, spiritual survival,

understanding myself and cancer, even why I sleep so much with 14 treatments down and 14 more to go; five days a week, three more weeks. Now, I have developed some side effects. I'm lucky. So far my effects have been a lot of bathroom visits, anytime of the day or night! A little pain, here and there. Overall, I am satisfied, and still feel blessed in many ways.

So, [as Shakespeare would say...], here's the rub:

As Carmelites we should be more available to the driving force which sent our forbearers from the battleground of the Crusades to the Rock Cells of contemplation and prayer. Our ancestors, and as recently as we have seen in the works of past and present of our saints we can see the recurrence of the message, our message. *We are called to an example of the Contemplative Life*. Our call was not for our order being Friars. Our Rule was designed for Prayer, Praise, and Peace. The article recently regarding St. Titus really brought home our true vocation as People of the Way by being what we all were called to be. We are being called, and I believe we will always called to the charism of Prayer and Contemplation. The day of what habit to wear" How do the black stripes fit our move to Europe? "Do shoes count, or only Sandals? All of that ware and worry are not our call, our priority is the life of Prayer, not any other.

I'm hopeful this idea might be something which might encourage all of us Carmelites to look ahead. Engendering new ways of seeing our common vocation and common lives, our awareness of all we can do; our inheritance for the future of Carmel might just be growing to better understand our past.

Please pray for all of us! Well, or not. Smart, or not! But all of us in the House of Carmel!

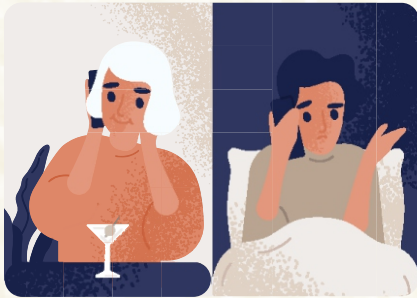
Jim Bryan T. O. Carm | Thorp, WI.

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Lay Carmelites

Order of Carmelites | Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary
8501 Bailey Road | Darien, IL 60561 | 630.969.5050 | LayCarmelites@carmelites.net



Note

from the
Isolate Coordinator

**The yearly dues remain \$55.
Checks should be made to
“Lay Carmelite Office”
and sent to:**

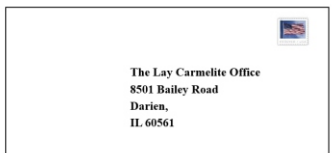
**The Lay Carmelite Office
8501 Bailey Road
Darien, IL 60561**

The Annual Dues remain at \$55.00 USD

Make cheques payable as follows ...



... and send to:



For those who have paid their Dues

Thank You!