

**THE BLESSING OF
CARMEL HILL
FORMATION HOUSE**

10789 North Deroche Road, Mission, BC

September 11, 2012



Canadian Carmelite Charitable Society
C/O Guardian Angels Parish
1161 Broughton Street
Vancouver, BC V6G 2B3



Archbishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

R. Amen.

Archbishop: May God, the source of all holiness, who never ceases to call us to follow Christ, be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

Archbishop: *In the following or similar words, the Archbishop prepares those present for the blessing.*

Dear friends, God's kindness has brought us together to bless this Carmel Hill Formation House, where the love of Christ will bring together those who desire to follow him more faithfully and closely. Relying on the goodness of God, from whom all blessings flow, we pray that, through the intercession of St. Therese of Lisieux, those who meet and live here will conform their way of life to what they believe. We ask that, led by the Spirit, they will prayerfully discern their vocations and continually fulfill God's call in their lives.

After his introductory remarks, the Archbishop says:

Let us pray.

**Archbishop: O God,
In your kindness, hear our prayers.
We dedicate this building to the vocation
discernment of the young men in our Archdiocese.
Grant to those who will either come for
discernment or live in this Carmel Hill Formation
House these blessings:**

**to listen to you in faith,
to speak to you in prayer,
to seek only you in their work,
to find you in all they do,
to become witnesses to the Gospel.**

**Send your Spirit, Lord, so that those you call will
know how to respond with a generous heart and
come to experience the peace which is a sign of
your Love for us.**

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Reading Of The Word Of God

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: (1 Cor 1:26-2:5)

Consider your own calling, brothers, and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

All: Sing the hymn "Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their
darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

A reading from the Gospel according to John (Jn 1:35-42)

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples when Jesus passed by. John looked towards him and said, 'There is the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard him say this, and followed Jesus. When he turned and saw them following him, he asked, 'What are you looking for?' They said, 'Rabbi, 'where are you staying?' 'Come and see', he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. One of the two who followed Jesus after hearing what John said was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing he did was to find his brother Simon. He said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is the Hebrew for 'Christ'). He brought Simon to Jesus...

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

All grace and wisdom are found in Christ, the perfect image of the Father. Let us then go to Christ in trust and call upon him, saying : Lord, send your laborers to your harvest.

Leader: Grant that there may never be lacking devoted men to take your place at the altar proclaiming your Gospel and offering your Body and Blood for the salvation of the world. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, send priests to your Church.

Leader: Grant that there may never be lacking devoted servants to guide the orphan, to console the sick and suffering, and to comfort the old and infirmed. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, send your Church vocations to the consecrated life.

Leader: Grant that in classrooms the voices of those who teach may echo your own, pointing out the way to heaven and the duties incumbent on each and all. We pray to the Lord.

All: Grant generosity, faith, and courage to those whom You have called.

Leader: Grant that no land, however distant or inhospitable, may be deprived of the Gospel that invites all men to enter your kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, send laborers into your fields.

Leader: Grant that in every part of the world choice souls may flourish – souls that by contemplation and penance offer reparation for the sins of mankind and draw down your infinite mercy and forgiveness. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, send laborers to your harvest.

Prayer of Blessing

**Archbishop: O Lord, we bless you and praise you.
In your mysterious and merciful providence
You have established Christ as the one eternal high
priest,
whose unseen power always sustains your Church
through visible ministers.**

**When the preachers of the Gospel proclaim the
word of salvation,
Your Son reveals to all peoples the mystery of your
love.**

**When the voice of the priest is raised in prayer,
Christ prays with us at your right hand in glory.
When priests celebrate his sacred sacrifice at the
altar,
Christ again presents to you his own self-offering.
When pastors feed and guide the flock entrusted to
them,
Christ shepherds and guides his Church.**

**Watch over our Carmelite community in
Archdiocese of Vancouver when we open this
vocation house.**

**Surround this residence with the wall of your
protection.**

**Grand that all who come to this place for their
discernment and those who live here may
prayerfully discern their vocations and faithfully
follow your call.**

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

After offering the prayer of blessing, the Archbishop sprinkles those present and the building with holy water while the congregation sings the following hymn.

Now Thank We All Our God

**Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hand, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts and
blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplex'd,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given, the Son,
and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom heav'n and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.**

Concluding Rite

Archbishop: *As circumstances suggest, in the following or similar words, the assisting priest may invite those present to receive the final blessing.*

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Then with hands outstretched over those present, the Archbishop concludes the rite by saying:

May God the Father who brings us together at the blessing of this vocation house keep us and those who live here safe within and without from all distress and make us steadfast and fruitful in our commitment.

R. Amen

Archbishop: **May Christ dwell in your hearts and prepare a kingdom for you in the house of his Father.**

R. Amen

Archbishop: **May the Holy Spirit abide with you and be in you, so that through his power, you may fulfill the promise of those gifts you so joyfully receive today.**

R. Amen

Archbishop: *Then he blesses all present.*

And may Almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Prayer for our Seminarians

**O Lord Jesus, great High Priest,
We entrust our seminarians to You.**

**Enlighten their formators in guiding them,
Spiritual directors in moulding them,
And faculty in instructing them.**

**Lead our seminarians daily
in your footsteps.
May they become priests
who are models of purity,
teachers of truth,
and heroes of sacrifice.**

**Fill them with humility
and love for God and man,
transform them into apostles of your glory
and sanctifiers of souls.**

**Holy Mary, Queen of the Clergy,
pray for them and us,
now and forever. Amen**

Prayer for Openness to God's Call

**Lord Jesus, once You called the first disciples
in order to make them fishers of men.**

**Continue to let resound today Your sweet
invitation: "Come and Follow Me."**

**Grant to young men and women the
grace of responding promptly to Your voice.**

**Sustain our bishops, priests, and consecrated
souls in their apostolic work.**

**Give perseverance to our seminarians
and to all those who are fulfilling
the ideal of a life of total consecration
to Your service.**

Enkindle in our communities a missionary zeal.

**Send, Lord, workers into Your fields and
do not let mankind be lost because of a lack of
pastors, missionaries, and people dedicated to
the cause of the Gospel.**

**Mary, Mother of the Church,
Model of Vocations, help us say "Yes" to the Lord
Who calls us to collaborate in the divine
design of salvation. Amen.**

Blessed John Paul II

BACKGROUND ON CARMELITES

The Discalced Carmelites of Karnataka Goa Province will inaugurate their first Foundation House in Canada on 11th September 2012 by Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB in the presence of Rev. Archibald R. Gonsalves OCD (Provincial Superior) & Rev. Rudolf V. D'Souza OCD (Regional Superior - Canada); in the presence of Fr. John Alex Pinto; Fr. Jerald D'Souza; Fr. Mario Fernandes, Fr. Gabriel Dias, Fr. Ranjan D'sa, Fr. Jerome Mascarehnnas, Fr. Boniface D'Souza; Fr. Vijay Martin, Fr. Stany Mascarehnnas, Fr. Melwin Pinto and Fr. Alfredo Pereira; Carmelite friars working in Canada in different Parishes and Communities.

The Discalced Carmelites have been working in Canada since 2003. Now they have realized their dream of having their own Formation House for new vocations.

This house is built on a 20 acre parcel of land with lush green landscape in Fraser Valley (British Columbia - Canada). All are invited to this inauguration ceremony

History

The Carmelite Order is one of the five ancient Religious Orders in the Catholic Church, and first one to be dedicated to Mary, who sought God's will in profound silence and did it with all her heart and thus became the mother of all the disciples of Jesus.

Mt. Carmel in Holy Land, symbol of prayer, silence and solitude, has always attracted god-seeking people.

There were always solitary hermits or communities of monks on Mount Carmel, living a life of prayer and contemplation, inspired by the life and spirit of Prophet Elias and his followers from early days of Christianity. They lived as hermits in the numerous caves there from time immemorial.

The Beginning

In the beginning of the 12 century a few men living on the slopes of Mt. Carmel organized themselves as the Brothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The written history of the Order up to A D 1200 remains however shrouded in the lives of Latin hermits who lived in the caves of Mt. Cannel, in silence, solitude and to witness Gospel Mystery of interiority.

It is believed that St Berthold assembled various monks living scattered on Mt. Carmel into a community and St. Brocard, his successor, requested a norm of life for them from St Albert, the Latin Patriarch and Papal Delegate of the Holy Land and this was granted in 1209.

Migration

Living out their special calling eventually they migrated to Europe, especially due to the threats of marauding Moslem armies in the region. The Carmelite General in England in a difficult moment of their existence, received a vision from Mary with the command to wear the Holy Scapular as a sign of deeper commitment to Gospel values and therefore of one's personal salvation. That becomes, down the centuries a true symbol of authentic love of God in prayer and of taking upon oneself the yoke of service in imitation of Mary, the true disciple.

The Rule

Pope Honorius III confirmed this rule in 1226-27. Pope Innocent IV, who introduced certain modifications into the rule in order to suit it to the new circumstances and time, later approved it in 1247.

Pope Eugenius IV mitigated this Alberto-Innocentian Rule in 1431, after the pest known as 'black death', at the request of the Superiors of the Order. From then on there were several attempts to go back to the primitive observance. As a result there arose many reformed Congregations. But they did not last for long, as they could not achieve their aim fully.

Charism in Full Bloom

In 1562, St. Teresa of Avila started a reform movement among the nuns and then with the help of St John of the Cross, among the friars in 1568 in Spain. All the reformed and more austere way of life were generally known as the Discalced. After a period of waiting, the Discalced Carmelites were allowed to form a separate Province under the direct jurisdiction of the Prior General of the Order in 1580, as it was a quasi re-foundation of the Order. Further development resulted in the institution of a separate branch of the Order with a proper Vicar General in 1587 and an independent Order in 1593.

The reform itself was divided into three separate congregation and later in 1857 under Leo XIII were re-united into the present Order of the Discalced Carmelite Friars today numbering almost 4500, that is spread all over the world divided into 45 Provinces, 3 General Delegations 5 Commissariats, 9 Regional Vicarates, and 23 Provincial Delegations.

The international Carmelite Order comprising of three branches of Men, Cloistered Nuns and Lay Persons, spread through Europe very fast and then in South America and now in Asia & Africa. Today it is present in more than 90 countries round the globe. St. Therese of Lisieux known as Little Flower and St. Edith Stein, Bl. Elizabeth of Trinity, St. Raphael Kalinowski, Bl. Kuriakose Chavara, Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified too are Carmelites.

The Spiritual Identity of the Carmelites

In a nutshell therefore, we can say the Carmelite Order is called in the Church to live, witness and promote the mystery and beauty of Contemplative - prayer of Jesus through the communitarian life and apostolic initiatives. The main apostolic activity they involve in is responding to the spiritual needs of the clergy, religious and laity by retreats, counseling, preaching, institutes of spirituality, media apostolate as well as missionary and parish social apostolate whenever the local church requires.

Moved by the teachings and life witness of Saints Teresa of Avila; ST. John of the Cross and St. Therese of Child Jesus are all eminent doctors of Spiritual life in the Church, the Order moves forward in service of the humanity.

Prayer and Contemplation

The first priority of the Carmelites is Prayer and Contemplation. They are also engaged in ministry and other missionary activities. In other words, it is an affirmation that as a flower blooms with light of the Sun, the human life blooms fully, only when it is totally open to God. Human person is capable of greatest growth and able to live a high quality of life and love only when he is open profoundly to God, as was Jesus.

Thus the Carmelites affirm that the holiness is not what we achieve by our efforts alone, but what happens to us when we meet God in the intimacy of the heart and do His Holy Will. Prayer is not merely what we say to God and ask of Him, but an intimate and perennial friendship with Him, being present to Him, whom we know loves us. It is an affirmation that it is possible to meet God for you for me and for every one right now.

The Little Flower

We, through our ministry of the spiritual life uphold the inner worth of the human person. We defend the right and dignity of every human being to be a God's child, God's image. We are committed to build a society where people rise beyond every form of human selfishness and enslavement to live in peace and harmony with oneself and with others as a community of disciples of Jesus today.

The house "**The Little Flower**" we inaugurate today is a sign and hope in this direction of the Carmelites in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and in Canada at large to find vocations to priesthood and send them as missionaries wherever the Lord calls us. God bless our Mission.

FOR MORE ABOUT DISCALCED CARMELITES IN CANADA

<http://www.canadacarmel.org>

<http://www.cccocd.org>

<http://www.guardianangelsocd.org>



CARMEL HILL

Donated by

HELEN CHUA TIAMPO

In Memory of

JAIME & JOSEFINA CHUA TIAMPO

Accepted by

REV. RUDOLF VALERIAN D'SOUZA OCD, Ph D.
REGIONAL SUPERIOR - CANADA
DISCALCED CARMELITES

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

I sing the mighty pow'r of God that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained, the sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at his command
And all the stars obey

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food
He formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them
good
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, wher-e'er I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky

There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes your glories known
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care
And ev'rywhere that I can be, You, Lord are present there

With special thanks to :

Most Rev. J. Michael Miller CSB

Archbishop of Vancouver

&

Dr. Rev. Fr. Archibald R. Gonsalves OCD

Provincial Superior

&

Rev. Rudolf V. D'Souza OCD (Regional Superior - Canada);
along with Fr. John Alex Pinto; Fr. Jerald D'Souza; Fr. Mario
Fernandes, Fr. Gabriel Dias, Fr. Ranjan D'sa, Fr. Jerome
Mascarehnas, Fr. Boniface D'Souza; Fr. Vijay Martin, Fr. Stany
Mascarehnas, Fr. Melwin Pinto and Fr. Alfredo Pereira; Carmelite
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&

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Archdiocese of Vancouver.

With prayer of gratitude

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