

Be Always With Him
by Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

It was summer of 2003, when the OCD General Chapter put forward the idea that the Celebrations for the centenary of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity should be celebrated from Trinity Sunday June 11, 2006 until Trinity Sunday June 7, 2007. Since then three years have passed; years that have seen a great amount of literature on Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, especially on the internet. One of the best books that have captured my attention is entitled: "Two Sisters in the Spirit" by the renowned great theologian and spiritual writer Hans Urs von Balthasar. Balthasar's love and interest in Carmelite spirituality is very well known. In his comparison between St. Therese and Blessed Elizabeth (Two Sisters) Von Balthasar states: "Therese wants to let Scripture and dogma become flesh and blood in her life, which carries the risk of causing objective truth to become the 'little way'. Elizabeth does the opposite: she so allows her whole existence to be taken up in the truth of the Gospel that the overwhelming objectivity of God's truth threatens to obliterate her subjectivity."

There is no doubt about the great love that Blessed Elizabeth had for the Scriptures. In her writings (which are mentioned in Paul Buis' article in this issue) she quotes the Gospel of John 224 times, and the Letters of Paul (including Hebrews, even though the Church's teaching is that Paul is not the author of this letter) 425 times. These 649 scriptural references (and there are many more from other books of the Old Testament and the New Testament) are a clear and powerful proof of Elizabeth's great love of the Scriptures, the word that transforms, especially when it is heard in "silence".

The Rule of St. Albert does not shun placing in front of us the importance of God's Word in our daily life: "This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but should meditate upon it day and night ..." (Joshua 1.7-9); Rule 10, 19, 21). In the following excerpt from Letter 169, July 15, 1903, Bl. Elizabeth demonstrates clearly what a profound insight she possessed both on the Rule and also on the Sacred Text, which as Jesus told us, if we keep it, He and the Father will come and abide in us:

How I love This Rule ...

I think that in Carmel it is so simple to live by love; from morning to evening the Rule is there to express the will of God moment by moment.

If you knew how I love this Rule which is the way in which He wants me to become holy.

I do not know if I will have the happiness of giving to my Spouse the witness of my blood by martyrdom, but at least, if I fully live my Carmelite life, I have the consolation of spending myself for Him, for Him alone.

What difference does the work which He wills for me make. Since He is always with me, prayer, the heart-to-heart exchange, should never end! I feel Him so alive in my soul. I have only to recollect myself to find Him within me, and that is all my happiness.

He has placed within my heart a thirst for the infinite, and such a great need to love, that He alone can satisfy it.

I go to Him, like a little child to its mother, so He may fill, may possess everything, and may take me and carry me away in His arms.

I think that we must be so simple with God! (July 15, 1903 (L 169)

In this issue of Carmel Lights, which contains Paul Buis' article on the Essential Teaching of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, we are placing at your disposal very interesting information about Blessed Elizabeth. In such a short space, Paul Buis places in front of us a few essential points from the profound teachings of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity. For more information one can browse the Internet to discover a mine of information on Blessed Elizabeth. Her notion and teachings on the importance of suffering, the Cross, and Silence cannot be

exaggerated. The Indwelling of the Trinity (God's presence), The Transformation that takes place within us, and The Praise of Glory; these three topics are very well dealt with in the writings of Blessed Elizabeth. More literature will follow on Blessed Elizabeth in the upcoming issues of Carmel Lights.

The article of Rev. Brian Mason, ocds, on St. Joseph is a treasure that every Carmelite should benefit from. Indeed, this article is something which our Holy Mother Teresa would have been very proud. Our devotion to "the Saint of the Impossible" is to be encouraged in our communities, and from St. Joseph we learn how to put into action what our Rule states in paragraph 21 about silence. In reading Paul Buis' article, you will discover the importance of silence in the doctrine of Bl. Elizabeth.

I am very proud of the great work and service that the Secretariat is rendering. The amount of work behind the scenes is something incredible. Your prayers are very much appreciated, especially when we unite to pray for someone in the Order or relatives of OCDS members who need our support. I have only words of praise in the way this service is handled with great speed and efficiency!

The second revised and enhanced edition of the Canadian OCDS Manual of Formation is now in its final stages of preparation to be printed. A lot of writing, typing, editing, etc. has been done. Excellent job! You will love it ... I do.

Please do continue to keep us in your prayers, and your support is very much appreciated so that we will be in a situation to continue to minister to all of you. In the near future, Teresa will be visiting some communities in the West, and I will be visiting others in the East and the West. Your prayers are very much valued. Join me in thanking the Lord for the quick recover of Teresa Martinez.

May the Spirit of Pentecost continue to guide us and teach us to do God's will. May Mary our Mother continue to point for us the direction to Jesus and help us to learn how to be ready to say "Here I am" and mean it!

The month of July brings with it three great Carmelite Feasts: the Feast of St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes, July 13th, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16th, and the Feast of the Prophet Elijah, July 20th. Please join us at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in London to celebrate together (English, French, Portuguese, Italian and Chinese) the Feast of Our Lady. Mass begins at 11:30 a.m. The invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to join us.

Wishing you all God's blessings of Peace.
In Carmel,

Fr. Dominic Borg, ocd