

“Congress – 2011”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

As Provincial Delegate for English-speaking Canada, I was very proud to participate in, and witness the tremendous joy and fellowship amongst members who recently attended “*Congress – 2011*.” Our Provincial, Fr. Manny Schembri was very pleased to be able to join us for our Congress, and I am quite sure that he will be telling others in Malta of this wonderful event, particularly the quality of the talks offered by our Conference speakers.

Additionally, our Archbishop, Thomas Collins offered praise and appreciation for being invited to join us to celebrate the Eucharist on Saturday, October 1st, the feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Bishop’s love for Carmel was evident in his homily that day, and it was apparent that everyone very much appreciated his taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us.

The theme of this Congress, “*The Life, Writings, & Spirituality of St. Teresa of Jesus*” was chosen to allow us to reflect on all aspects of the writings and teachings she bequeathed us. This theme was particularly fitting, considering that we are now 2 years into the 5-year period leading up to the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the birth of our Holy Mother St. Teresa.

The next stage of our studies and preparations involves studying St. Teresa’s work, “*The Book of Her Foundations*”. We had included a Conference on this topic in the Congress program, but due to time constraints we had to cancel it. This was truly regrettable, but in our exuberance to feed you spiritually, we simply ran out of time. Therefore, we will be recording this talk by Gladys McMullin and will be making it available to you in the near future. The talk is included in written form in this issue of Carmel Lights. It will surely help all Communities as you begin to study “*The Book of Her Foundations*” in 2012.

I was also very pleased to see how everyone welcomed and accepted members of the Laity and Clergy into this Congress event. I spoke with several of them and they were very complimentary of the hospitality we showed them. The two Seminarians in particular, were really pleased to have been selected to attend, and I am certain that they will share what they experienced with their peers at St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto.

Since all of the conferences and homilies were professionally recorded by a sound technician, CD copies will be available soon, and I encourage you to avail yourself of them to help you continue to grow in your Carmelite vocation.

Although we do not purposely set out to make a profit from the Congress, it is certainly wonderful to see the tremendous support that was provided by Congress attendees for the good of the OCDS and the Order.

Last but not least, I must mention our faithful photographers who did an outstanding job of collecting many photos throughout the weekend of the Congress. I encourage you to review their handiwork on the OCDS website, under the heading: “***Photo Galleries***” - www.ocds.ca

On behalf of the Secretariat, the Teresian Centre, and the Friars, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support of the Order and for your kindness and generosity in so many respects.

The Committee made up of Deacon Brian Mason, Mary Lou Dabon, and Salvatore Rao, deserves hands up for their skills and dedication in preparing for this Congress. May God Reward all of you.



The season of Advent is here, and no doubt it brings into our consciousness the atmosphere of waiting ... expectancy. Yes, we wait for the knock on the door of our heart... asking us for a place where Jesus can be born. Mary and Joseph stare at us waiting for an invitation to come in. It is about time that we take seriously such a knock, such a petition: Is there a room where Jesus can be born? I sincerely hope that this year the knock will not take any of us by SURPRISE When we welcome the least of these...we are welcoming Jesus.

Christmas is not about the outward decorations but interior decorations that manifest themselves outwardly.

May Jesus, our true Savior, find a home within each one of us, and May Christmas find us ready to receive with GREAT JOY the GOOD NEWS: ***Today to you is born a Saviour, Jesus Christ.*** May Mary and Joseph teach us how to look after this Baby in us. Like little Samuel, we too are challenged to act accordingly:

And Samuel grew up, and he did not leave any of those words that he heard fall to the ground !

In the name of Fr Provincial (Fr Manny), Fr Victor, Fr Pius, and all our Carmelite Sisters in Zephyr and St Agatha, and myself, wish all of you a JOYOUS and PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

May JESUS born in us as Our Savior, be a source of joy and inspiration so that we reflect His light through our actions without any deflection !!!

“The amount of light that our deeds radiate is always proportionate to the amount of JOY we invest in doing those deeds !!!” *(Talmud)*

Have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.
God Bless you all!

Fraternally in Carmel,

*Fr. Dominic Borg, ocd
Provincial Delegate*