



*“...the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light ... and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned...”*

Matthew 4.15-17



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

The Year of Faith had come and gone...but in reality ...is it gone? No one can deny the positive impact that this Year of Faith has left on the life of the Church. Indeed, the door of Faith has opened...and we, like John in the Book of Revelation, are beholding visions of the Church...a Church which is becoming once more light...salt...and leaven...wow !!! All of us ought to feel proud of this.

We are living in a speed age...and we are racing against time doing our very best not to be left behind. Just a little spark of light can and does dispel a lot of darkness...imagine if we were to strive to light a candle instead of complaining about the darkness around us. We are very fortunate to count ourselves, dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel, among those who once sat in darkness ... BUT NOW ... not only a great light has shone upon us ... but we are also call to be Children of the LIGHT ... allowing the light of Faith to shine with JOY.

Together we stand at the threshold of the season of Advent ... a serious preparation for the birth of Christ in our lives. Matthew 4.15-17 introduces the scene with the following powerful words: *“...the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light ... and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned...”*

In The Gospel of John we are told that... *the Word is the light ... the light that shines in the darkness ... and that the darkness did not overpower it!!! We are also told clearly that this word was the light of every human being coming into the world!* Once we embrace this word ... the very word that we await to become flesh in Our lives and in the life of the World, we will then be in a position to have a grip on the meaning of our call: To be Light to the Nations ... Light to the World.

Thank God, both the Secretariat and also the Center for Spirituality, during this past year, have work very hard together with all of you, and with God's grace, we are very proud of the results that we are seeing. Each and every one of you make up the composition of the LIGHT that shines ... inviting others to join us in Praising God for His goodness to us. One cannot in any way underestimate the work and preparations that have been done to have EIGHT NEW CANONICALLY ESTABLISHED Communities of the ocds .. (more information can be found in the News by the President, Gladys McMullin). With the valuable help of Fr Provincial, V. Rev Fr Manny, ocd, we at last have been granted this moment of grace to rejoice in seeing the ocds flourish in Canada, especially in Ontario, not to mention other Provinces such as Nova Scotia.

The Center too has organized other activities and Fund raising opportunities so that we can continue to offer our service both to the ocds members and also to all those who are interested in Carmelite

Spirituality and to live out their Call to be light ... salt. ... and leaven of the world. YES ... we are being challenged by Pope Francis to live our Faith with Joy, especially in bringing THE GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR...something that Carmel has done throughout the ages !!! No doubt, Carmelite Spirituality is a reliable tool in the hands of all, making sure that the flame of the lamp continues to radiate light...helping people to discover the unfathomable flame of God's LOVE for US and in US !!!! instilled in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As time progresses, I am getting a better understanding of the great value of the contribution and co-operation of each of us towards the living out of Our Carmelite Vocation... The list is unending of all those who work on the front line, such as the Secretariat, the Board for the Center...the Presidents of all the Communities , and every one of the ocds, who with their prayers, activities and financial contributions, make it easier for all of us to benefit from the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5.22-23.

The work behind the scenes is incredible, and as we continue to prepare ourselves for the Congress in 2015, we continue to make sure that we are prepared both Spiritually and also financially for such an event : The Fifth Centenary of the Birth of St Teresa of Jesus ( Avila). No one has any excuse of not finding the literature and resources that we need... the service of the Bookshop we have at our meetings is a very praise worthy enterprise...continue to make proper use of it encouraging all those who work very hard in ordering the books...picking them from the Postal Office, carrying them from one place to the other and making sure that the service is done in a professional way and with the least price possible!!! One way of manifesting gratitude to these people is for sure...buying the books from us and supporting us in this good cause.

May the season of Advent and the festivities of Christmas find all of us ready to join and benefit from the source of grace that has come to us: TO YOU TODAY IS BORN A SAVIOUR : JESUS CHRIST...

With Mary our Mother and Joseph her Spouse, let us WELCOME HIM WITH JOY and GRATITUDE...

In the name of Our Very Rev Fr Provincial, Fr Manny, Fr Victor, all the Friars, Our Carmelite Cloistered Nuns and the Secretariat, the Board of the Center and myself, we Wish ALL OF YOU God's Gracious Blessings and May we continue to live out The JOY of CHRISTMAS....The Word becoming Flesh in Our Lives !!!

***Have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Blessed New Year.***

Fraternally in Carmel,

*Fr Dominic, ocd*  
Provincial Delegate.