



“Look I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.”

Rev.3:8

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is swiftly coming to its conclusion in the Church. In a few weeks we will take the ‘exit door’ to this grace filled Year of Mercy. How blessed we have been this year! Everywhere in our external environment the Church has offered us “doors of mercy” to enter as the visible sign of our embracing the Year of Mercy.

We have experienced this year the spiritual rhythms of entering the doors of mercy, maybe different doors in different places many times, and now we will experience the closing of these visible and external doors by the church as it moves to open a different door to our gaze in the coming liturgical year.

In our interior life doors of mercy remain always there for us to explore. Teresian Carmelite Spirituality teaches us that the key to finding the many doors is prayer. Once we enter within through taking the key and unlocking the door of prayer to our Interior Castle, we have access to the many rooms in which love and mercy abound in rich and vibrant hues and colors.

But unlike the external doors of mercy we have passed through this year whenever we wanted to and as often as we wanted to, our interior doors don’t seem to yield to our plans, our hurriedness and our lack of patience. These doors seem to open ever so slowly.

Most of us have pushed and pulled a few doors in the effort to get inside the seven mansions of the Interior Castle. You might have even kicked a few doors to no avail as well. We soon learn that spiritual growth takes its own time. We cannot force inner spiritual growth and maturity.

It would seem that “tension” always exists between our efforts at spiritual growth, and the need to be grateful for all that we have already been given.

Greater recognition or awareness of the Presence of the Beloved comes not in our efforts to grow spiritually nor in our praise and gratitude for what gifts we have been given already, but in the “tension” there is between the two movements. Rest quietly in this tension where the Beloved resides. Be open, wait, be strong, and have courage. (Psalm 27:14). And remember Rev. 3:8 “Look I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.” He will do it!

Spiritual growth is the Beloved’s work, and seen to be His work as we journey through the many doors of the seven mansions to new discoveries and new truths about the Beloved and about ourselves as He wills and when He wills.

How exciting is our vocation in Carmel!

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