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"I have seen the Lord". (John 20:18)



Carmelite Institute of Spirituality

Newsletter Spring 2011

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The Lord is risen! Happy Easter Season!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are celebrating with great joy the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. During forty days we prayed, fasted, and tried to intensify our acts of charity. The great celebration of Easter is now here. We are glad because Jesus has fulfilled what He promised us. Jesus said: "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised" (Lk 9:22). Jesus Christ spoke always openly of what was going to happen to Him. His disciples did not understand fully what Jesus was saying but the day when they saw Him risen from the dead in His glorified body, they were able to understand what Jesus had told them.

We rejoice because Jesus, by His suffering, death, and resurrection, has brought joy and hope to all of us; without fixing our eyes on the resurrection of the Lord nothing would make sense. The apostle Paul tells us that "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith" (1 Cor 15:14). But we know that He is risen and we can exult and cry out "Alleluia!"

The morning of the resurrection, Peter and another disciple went to see the empty tomb after Mary of Magdala had run to let them know that the stone covering the Lord's tomb had been removed. They saw the empty tomb and returned home realizing that what Jesus had announced had been fulfilled. Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping and something amazing happened: "She saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. They said to her 'Woman, why are you weeping?'" (Jn 20:12-13) Mary thinking that they had taken the body of the Lord, asked them where they had laid Him. She turned around and saw Jesus who asked her "Woman why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She did not immediately recognize Him but Jesus said to her "Mary!" (Jn 20:14-17). Only then was she able to recognize the risen Lord.

Many times in our lives when we feel that the Lord is far away and we think there is no hope, Jesus comes to ask us what He asked Mary, "Why are you weeping?" The Lord wants to enter into dialogue with us, He wants to console us and remind us that we are not alone; He is very near to us in our sufferings and afflictions. He knows Mary and all of us by name. Jesus knows what we are going through in our lives

and encourages us to be strong. He reminds us that we too, like Him will have to suffer and die but that is not the end. Jesus has promised us that He will come and take us with Him. He has promised us that He will raise us up from death. We can rely on the Lord's promises because throughout His life He proved His word to be trustworthy. Jesus has conquered death and sin and gained eternal salvation for all of us. Let us continue to grow in union with Christ and try to be His true disciples so that all of us can testify with Mary "I Have seen the Lord". (Jn 20:18).


We continue to pray for our pillars, gardeners, volunteers, and all those who come to the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality seeking a deeper union with God.

Last February we had a garden cleanup party. I would like to thank all our gardeners and volunteers who came to help us. We invite you all to visit our garden and enjoy it; it looks very beautiful and flowers are beginning to blossom.

We finished the reroofing of our St. John of the Cross house; it needed it badly. We chose a brick color for the roof that matches the St. Teresa of Avila house and enhances the colors in our garden.

Please come and visit. May the Lord reward you all for your generosity and keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,


Fra. Ramiro Casale OCD

P.S. If you received this newsletter by mistake or do not want to continue to receive it, please contact our office and we will be glad to assist you. Also, if you prefer to receive it electronically, please call the office and provide an e-mail address.

God bless you!

Upcoming Days of Recollection & Information:

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| May 21, 2011 | Heritage/Unity Day |
| May 28, 2011 | DOR St. Maximillian Kolbe |
| June 12, 2011 | OCDS Information Day |
| June 18, 2011 | DOR St. Teresa Margaret Redi |
| August 28, 2011 | Potluck for Pillars, Gardeners & volunteers |

For driving directions, please call the office 360-629-4032