

The Scapular

The monthly newsletter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Vol. One Issue 1 May 2024



Fr. Gerard Tang Choon, O.Carm. Rector

*In an effort to upgrade our communications we are happy to launch – **The Scapular**, which as you will read, was the name of the original magazine from the Carmelites. This monthly newsletter will keep you updated on activities taking place at the Shrine.*

Who's who at the National Shrine.

I take this opportunity to re-introduce myself, the first Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel I am originally from Diego Martin, Trinidad in the Caribbean. The first of five children. I am of mixed English, Venezuelan, Chinese, African American, Italian, Scottish and Carib ancestry.

I entered the Carmelites in 1995. I graduated from St Thomas Aquinas College with a BA in Philosophy and my first profession as a Carmelite was May 31, 1999. In 2003, I was ordained a Carmelite, with a degree in Theology from the St John Vianney Seminary, and an MPhil in Cultural Studies.

I have served as Parish Priest in four parishes – St John the Baptist, St Mary's, St Michael's and Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe. For the last three years I worked at our Carmelite Shrine in Licata, Sicily. My hobbies include working out, walking, history, genealogy and gardening.

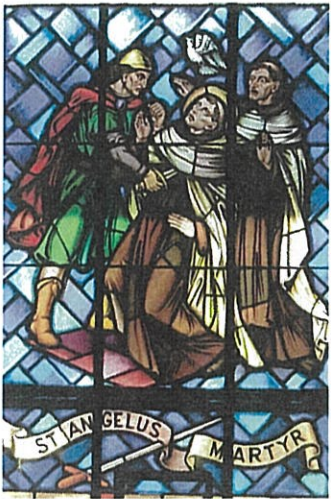
My hope is that the Shrine can be a beacon of hope and peace where people can experience the Presence of God, be inspired by the Virgin Mary and the saints of Carmel and grow spiritually, and learn to become the person that God has called them to be.

The first time I visited The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was on the feast day, July 16th. At that time, I was ministering at my parish, St. Monica's Church in Sussex, NJ as Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation. This particular visit to the Shrine was one of several planned summer outings that I would coordinate for parishioners for cultural or spiritual refreshment. Little did I know that the following year, my faith journey and continuing ministry work would bring me here as Director.

My background in faith formation began when I was asked by my pastor to help develop and teach a new endeavor in faith formation, a ministry of Baptismal Preparation for expectant parents. After several years of formal faith formation instruction, I then became a teacher of Religious Education for second graders preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion, then eventually moving on to high school Youth Ministry. (continued on page 3)



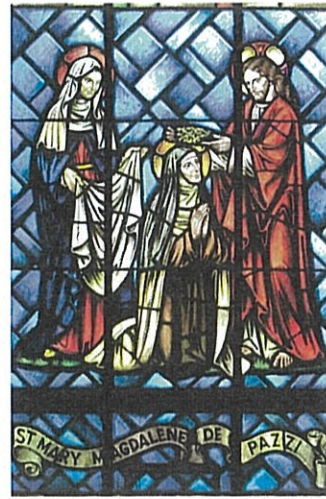
Carol Bezak, Administrator
National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



1 - May 5



2 - May 16



3 - May 25

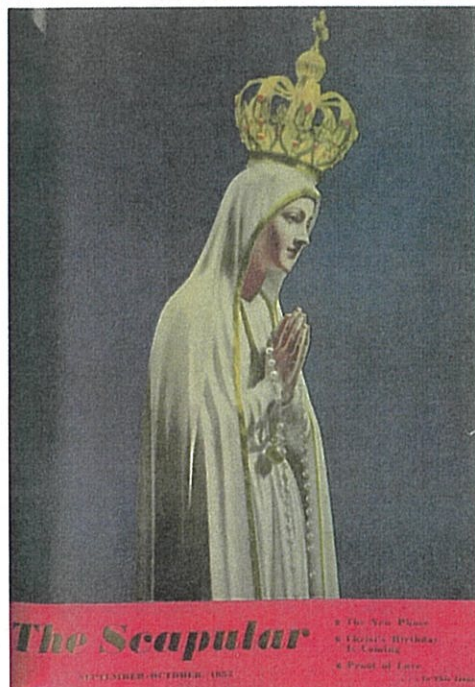
Celebrating the Carmelite Saints in May

(1) Saint Angelus was our first Carmelite martyr. He entered the Carmelite Order at the age of eighteen. After his ordination he traveled through Palestine where he became known for his preaching and miracles. He came to Sicily, and his fame as a miracle-worker caused crowds to come to him. Angelus wanted to convert a Cathar knight named Berenger who had been living in an incestuous relationship and had convinced the knight's companion to leave Berenger. In retaliation, Berenger had him killed. Angelus died asking for his assassin to be pardoned. (2) On May 16, the Church calendar today commemorates Saint Simon Stock, an Englishman known for his holiness of life and for his special love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to tradition, he was born in Aylesford, entered the Carmelite Order and later became Prior General associated with the vision of the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He died in Bordeaux. (3) St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi was born into one of the richest families in Florence. At 16, her parents did not accept her decision to become a nun, but her will to enter the convent was stronger. She had many visions and lived doing great penances for the good of the world. She had an experience in which her heart was exchanged for that of Jesus, and later experienced the pains of crucifixion. The constant physical sufferings and hard spiritual trials weighed heavily on her, but she was enriched by God with extraordinary graces.

(3 cont.) She once said: 'Trials are nothing but the forge that purifies the soul of all its imperfections'. She received the stigmata, many visions and ecstasies, and a great devotion to Mary Most Holy as a most pure virgin. She died on 25 May 1607 and was canonised on 28 April 1669. Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi continues to be an inspiring spiritual figure for the Carmelites.

Other Carmelite Saints in May

- 4 - Bl. Angel Prat Hostench & Companions, martyrs
- 8 - Bl. Aloysius Rabatà, priest
- 9 - St. George Preca, priest
- 22 - St. Joachina de Vedruna de Mas, religious



What's in a name?

This month the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel launches a new newsletter with an old name. Over 80 years ago the Carmelites of the New York Province began publishing a bi-monthly magazine, *The Scapular*. For over 30 years this award-winning magazine was recognized as publication that offered the faithful articles on faith, family, world events and topics that impacted Catholics. Using the same name is our way of continuing a Carmelite tradition.



MAY EVENTS

- May 2
Healing Mass (Spanish) 7:00 pm
- May 5
Blessing of Vietnamese Martyrs Pavilion 1:00 pm Mass
- May 9
Feast of the Ascension Mass 11:30 am
- May 11
Italian Mass 4:30 pm
- May 19
Pentecost Sunday Mass 12 noon
- May 26
Holy Trinity Mass 12 noon
- May 30
Healing Mass (English) 7:00 pm

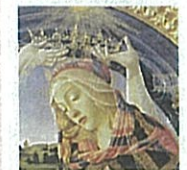


FOUR SEASON MARIAN ANTIPHONS

HYMNS ATTRIBUTED TO OUR LADY

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

SALVE REGINA



AVE REGINA CAELORUM

REGINA CAELI



THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL
TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2024 @ 10:15AM
PRESENTED BY: FR. VON ERICK MARIA SANDOVAL, O.C.A.R.M.

Carol Bezak continued from page one

I began working part-time as parish secretary at St. Monica's and entered the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, NJ taking evening and Saturday classes in pastoral ministry and theology to better equip me to serve the people of the parish. It was at this time that I was also a part-time student at Sussex County Community College in Newton, NJ and actively pursued starting a Catholic Campus Ministry Club there. With the help and guidance of the Diocesan Campus Ministry office, I was appointed Campus Minister under the Diocese of Paterson and helped students to find a spiritual home through Mass on campus and planned activities.

I eventually completed several formal ministry certificates in parish ministry and administration and was appointed Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation for the parish. With a love and zeal for theology studies, I continued my coursework at St. Elizabeth's to complete a BA in Theology and eventually completed the MA in Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Ministry.

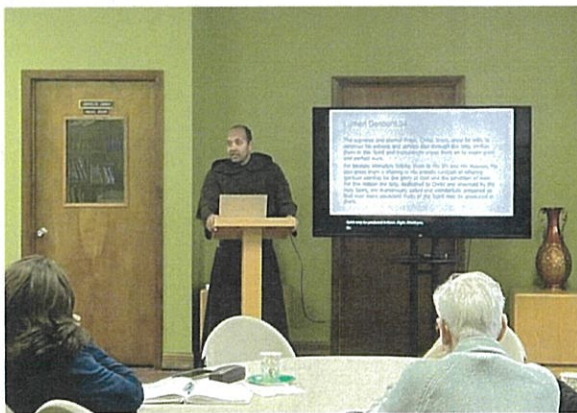
I am a board member and currently the President of NASPA (National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate) an organization that strives to connect Shrines together and learn from each other in meaningful and important ways, which was founded under the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

I continue to offer retreats, classes and small group faith formation sessions and have taught several academic classes to our Carmelite novices here.

Almost ten years of ministry here at the Shrine has allowed me to meet people from all over the world and I love getting to know the groups that come to visit on pilgrimage or pray with us daily or on Sunday. We are always striving to keep the Shrine a place where people can encounter God under the mantle of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Carmelite saints.



Trials are nothing else but the forge that purifies the soul of all its imperfections. - St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi



APRIL AT THE SHRINE

Every month the Shrine Calendar is filled with events from daily and special Masses and prayer group meetings to presentations and retreats.

April was especially busy. Pictured here are just some of the events at the Shrine. Fr. Marlon Beharry, O. Carm. presented "The Eucharistic Prayer," part of a series inspired by Pope Francis' designation of 2024 as a year of prayer. On Saturday, April 20, Our Lady of Antipolo arrived. A Mass in honor of Our Lady was celebrated on April 27 by Bishop Esmilla, Aux. Bishop of Philadelphia. A potluck dinner & fiesta followed. Confirmation candidates from St. Simon Stock spent the day in prayer and meditation.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

A Ministry of the Carmelite Friars of St. Elias Province

MASSES

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am

Saturday & Sunday: 12 Noon

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 10:45 - 11:45 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Every Friday: 9:00 - 11:25 am



70 Carmelite Drive - PO Box 2163

Middletown, NY 10940

www.ourladyofmtcarmelshrine.com

Help us beautify our outdoor gardens and prayer spaces around the Shrine!

May 10-12

Donations of home baked goods would be greatly appreciated!



BAKE SALE



carmelitegiftstore.org
845-344-2226

Special
Mother's Day
offer...
25% off
every item
in our store
May 4 - 12



Make sure to visit the Heritage Room when you visit the National Shrine.

The Heritage Room provides visitors with an opportunity to view the historical documents, photographs, and artifacts of the New York Province of St. Elias. Currently the exhibit is dedicated to the Province's Irish heritage.