

The Scapular

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

Vol. Two Issue 4 August 2025

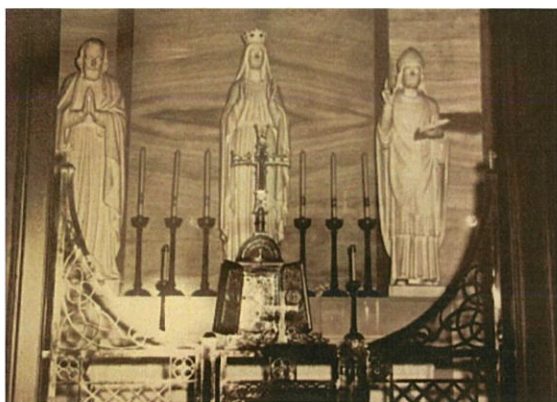


A warm welcome from Brother Robert Chiulli, O. Carm.



As the Prior Provincial of the North American Province of St. Elias, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our National Shrine of Our Lady of Carmel. This shrine, located in Middletown, NY for nearly 35 years, serves as a special place for prayer and pilgrimage within the Carmelite tradition. We believe that as you stroll the grounds, surround yourself in the natural beauty, and immerse yourself in the silence, you will experience Christ's peace in your heart. Throughout the year, the shrine hosts a range of activities, including masses and informational talks on topics related to Carmelite spirituality. This shrine ministry

is particularly dear to Carmelites as we see it as a way of sharing our charism of prayer with others. We believe that our 800-year tradition of contemplation, as lived in an exemplary way by such saints as St. Teresa of Avila, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Titus Brandsma, is something the world very much needs today. We need to take time to stop and ponder, as Mary did, of how God is working in our lives. Mary, as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is that perfect model of contemplative prayer as she was always attentive to God's will for her life. My prayer for you is that as you spend time at our Shrine, you may come to know more deeply God's plan and love for you.



The Feast of Our Lady of Knock. An Irish Carmelite Tradition.

When the intrepid Carmelite founding fathers arrived in New York from Ireland in 1889, they brought with them a boatload of Irish traditions to nourish the spirits of their Irish parishioners at Our Lady of the Scapular (OLS) in Manhattan.

Once the Irish Carmelites had planted their roots on 28th Street, it didn't take long for them to integrate their devotion to the Blessed Mother. Although the 1879 apparition of Our Lady at Knock with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist had only happened a decade before their arrival, the Carmelites dedicated themselves to elevating the importance of this miraculous event at Knock. The Carmelites ultimately established a Shrine to Our Lady of Knock at OLS as seen in the top left photo.

After OLS merged with nearby St. Stephen's in 1990, The Lady of Knock statues were temporarily moved to the Carmelite property in Purchase, New York. It was the first time the statues were placed outdoors.

Not long after the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was established in Middletown, the Knock statues were moved there where a new Our Lady of Knock Shrine was constructed and blessed on October 24, 1991. (Photo on lower left shows the same statues that were once at OLS.)

The devotion to Our Lady of Knock continues today. **All are welcome to an outdoor Mass at Our Lady of Knock Shrine on Sunday, August 17th at 6 pm.**



The Blessed Mother was with us at the National Shrine as we celebrated two events dedicated to thanking her for the love she shows us.



What culminated with the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the National Shrine on Wednesday, July 16th, began nine days earlier with a novena for our Blessed Mother. Nine Carmelites (Fathers Maurice Cummings, Paul Richmond, Marlon Beharry, Francis Amodio, Justin Maria Cinnante, Mario Esposito, Nicholas Blackwell, Von Erick Maria Sandoval, and Gerard Tang Choon) celebrated Mass and each delivered a homily on Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Novena set the stage for the Feast Day Mass. And while this annual Mass is always well attended, no one ever expected to see so many faithful fill the Shrine with a spirit that could be felt by everyone. It became apparent that the extreme...and oppressive heat... could not deter the more than 600 people who came to worship at the National Shrine.

From the entrance procession to Bishop Gerardo's homily, from the blessing and distribution of over 800 Scapulars to the amazing singing under the direction of Maxine Martin, and from the procession to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine for the crowning to the tasteful banquet in Pilgrim Hall, no one could have hoped for a more beautiful day.

And who could forget the fun-filled Feast Festival on July 13th where once again the Shrine's Anthony Annunziata pulled out all the stops to provide joy for attendees of all ages. Again, despite the oppressive heat, the festival proved to be another Shrine success.

Fr. Gerard Tang Choon, O. Carm., Rector of the National Shrine, went on record to say that he was overwhelmed by the response to the Novena, the Feast Day Vigil in Italian, and the actual Feast Day celebrated by Bishop Gerardo Colacicco. With so many people to thank, Fr. Gerard was lost for the proper words to express how indebted he is to Fr. Gregg Durham, O. Carm. (the Feast Day's Master of Ceremonies), his loyal staff (Carol Bezak, "Tony," Cheryl Avery, Erin Higby and Matthew Cinelli), Tim Conklin and Dan the crew that keeps events at the Shrine running smoothly X and the many selfless volunteers who continue to make the seemingly impossible very possible.

The annual Feast of Our Lady of LaVang: A note from Fr. Anthony Trung, O. Carm.



Dear Bishops, Fathers, Religious Brothers and Sisters, beloved pilgrims, and all members of our faith community,

As we come to the close of three grace-filled days, united in prayer and fellowship, we give heartfelt thanks to God for blessing us with the opportunity to celebrate this 9th Annual Our Lady of La Vang Marian Congress.

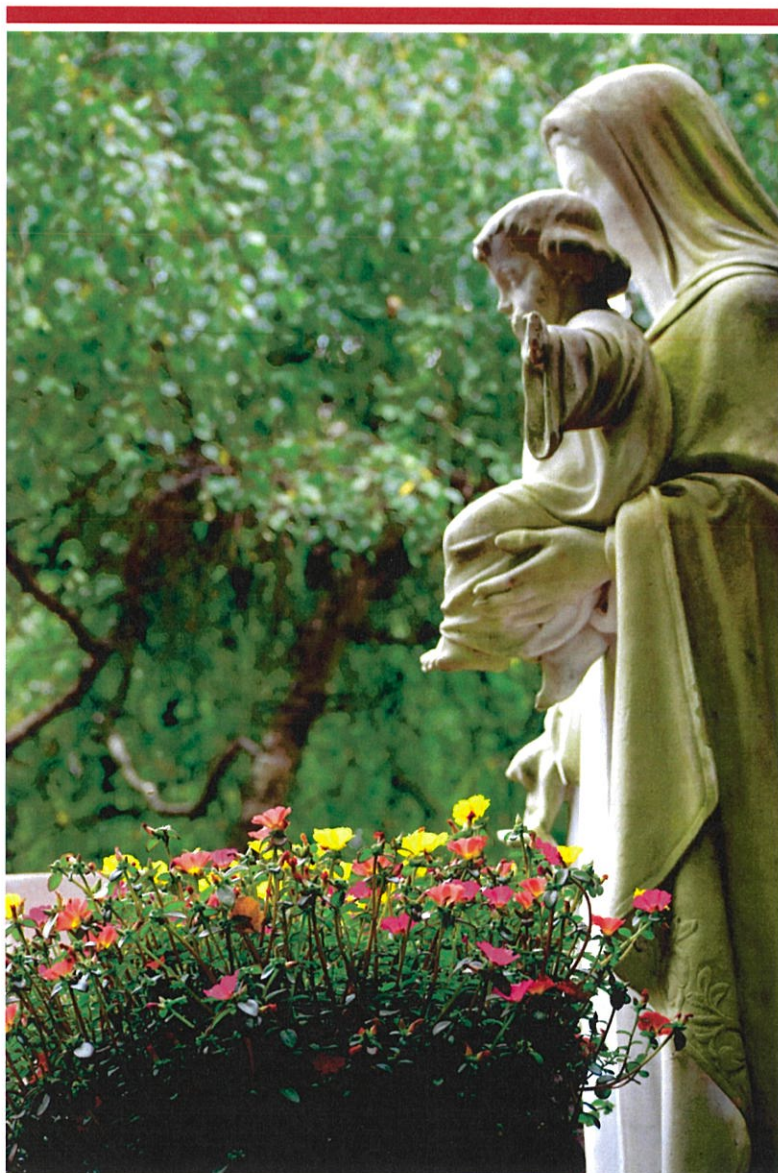
We thank our Blessed Mother, Mary, Our Lady of Hope, who has gathered us together, inspired us, and walked alongside each of our families.

May she continue to strengthen our faith, keep hope alive in our hearts, and guide every family in peace and love.

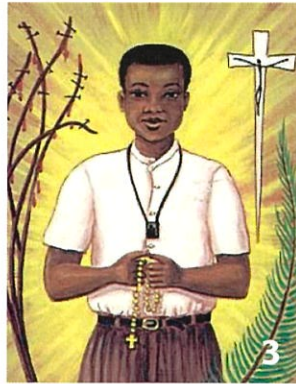
We express our deepest gratitude to our Bishops, priests, religious, benefactors, volunteers, and all of you who have helped make this Congress truly meaningful and spiritually enriching.

As we return to our daily lives, may the hope we have shared here become a living witness in our families, transforming our homes into places of faith, love, and the Gospel.

May Our Lady of La Vang bless and protect us until we meet again next year, July 17 to 19, 2026. Thank you all, and see you at the next La Vang Marian Festival!



August Carmelite Saints/Blesseds...pray for us.



1 - St. Albert of Trapani - August 7th

Albert was born to Benedict degli Abati and Joan Palizi. His parents promised that if they were blessed with a son, he would be dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He joined the Carmelites at 18. He became a mendicant preacher to the Sicilians, making many conversions. He spent a number of years in Trapani. In 1296 he was prior provincial of the Carmelite Province of Sicily. He was celebrated for his passionate love for purity and prayer. He died in Messina in 1307. He was the first saint who received devotion in the Carmelite Order, and was even considered its patron and protector. In the 16th century, it was decided that every Carmelite church would dedicate an altar to him.



2 - St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) August 9th

Born into a prominent Jewish family in Breslau, Germany Edith abandoned Judaism in her teens. A budding brilliant philosopher, she stopped believing in God when she was 14. Edith Stein was so captivated by reading the autobiography of Teresa of Avila that she began a spiritual journey that led to her baptism in 1922. Twelve years later she imitated Saint Teresa by becoming a Carmelite, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

After living for four years in the Cologne Carmel, Sister Teresa Benedicta moved to the Carmelite monastery in Echt, Netherlands, in 1938. The Nazis occupied that country in 1940. In retaliation for being denounced by the Dutch bishops, the Nazis arrested all Dutch Jews who had become Christians. Teresa Benedicta and her sister Rosa, also a Catholic, died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942, the same day they had arrived at the notorious death camp. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Teresa Benedicta of the Cross in 1987 and canonized her 12 years later.

3 - Bl. Isidore Bakanja - August 12th

Bakanja, a member of the Boangi tribe, was born in Bokendela (Congo) before 1890. He converted to Christianity in 1906 at the age of eighteen. A gifted catechist, he was working on a rubber plantation and was forbidden by the owner to spread Christianity among his fellow workers. On April 22, 1909, the superintendent of the business asked Bakanja to take off his Brown Scapular. His boss tore it off and had him severely beaten. Bakanja died, Rosary in hand and wearing the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, on 15th August of the horrific wounds inflicted on him in 'punishment' for his faith. Bakanja was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II in April 1994.

4 - Bl. Angelus Augustine Mazzinghi - August 17th

Blessed Angelo Mazzinghi was born in 1386 in Florence, Italy. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1413. His spirituality was all the time rooted in his devotion to Our Lady and the Eucharist. Blessed Angelus' personal holiness, his qualities of leadership, and his dedication to the Word of God in preaching meant he led many to renew their commitment to the Carmelite Way. He died at Florence in 1438 and was entombed at the church of Santa Maria del Carmine in the same city.

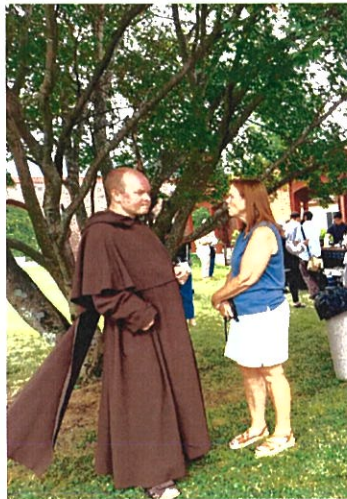
5 - St. Miriam Baouardy or Mary of Jesus Crucified - August 25th

St. Miriam of Baouardy - was known as the little Arab girl and the lily of Palestine. Twelve of her thirteen brothers died in infancy and her birth was an answered prayer to Our Lady. Her parents died when Maria was only three years old and she was raised by a paternal uncle. At the age of 13, she was to be betrothed in an arranged marriage, but insisted on a religious life. She eventually entered the cloister of Carmel, taking the name Mary of Jesus Crucified and made her final profession on November 21, 1871. She founded the Carmelite monastery in Mangalore, India. She was known for her devotion to the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin and St Joseph. Early on August 26, 1878 she felt as if she was suffocating and she died. She was canonized on May 15, 2015.

6 - Bl. Jacques Retouret - August 26th

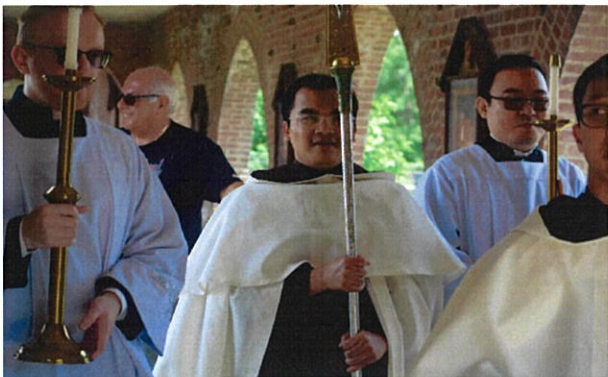
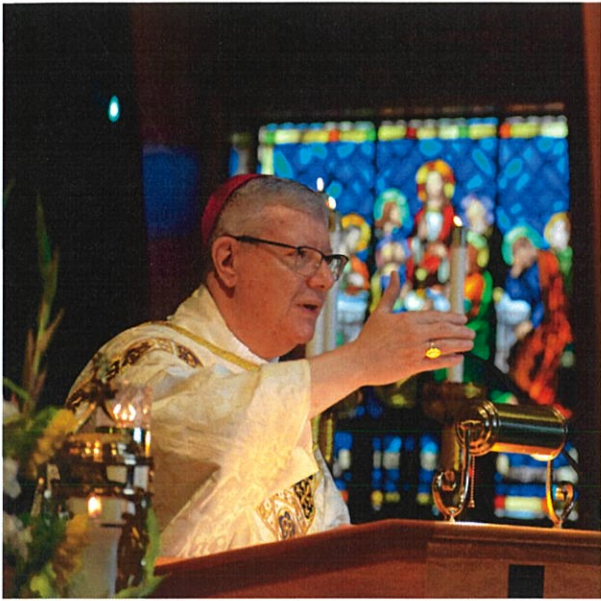
Jacques Retouret was born in Limoges, France, September 15, 1746 into a family of merchants. At the age of fifteen, he entered the Carmelite house in his hometown. After ordination his zeal and learning were widely admired and large crowds of people were attracted to his preaching. The French Revolution did not spare him. Like most of his clergy, Jacques refused to accept civil law, which sought to control the Church. He was arrested and sentenced, along with many other priests and religious, to exile in French Guinea in South America. Taken to Rochefort, he was locked up in a prison ship. The conditions of the prisoners were indescribable: they were piled on top of each other, starving, afflicted with disease, suffering heat or cold with oppressive smells, and persecuted by their captors. Jacques died at Madame Isle, a short distance from Rochefort, on August 26, 1794 at the age of 48. He was beatified, together with 63 other priests and religious, as martyrs for the faith, on October 1, 1995 by Pope Saint John Paul II.

National OLMC Shrine Feast Day Festival

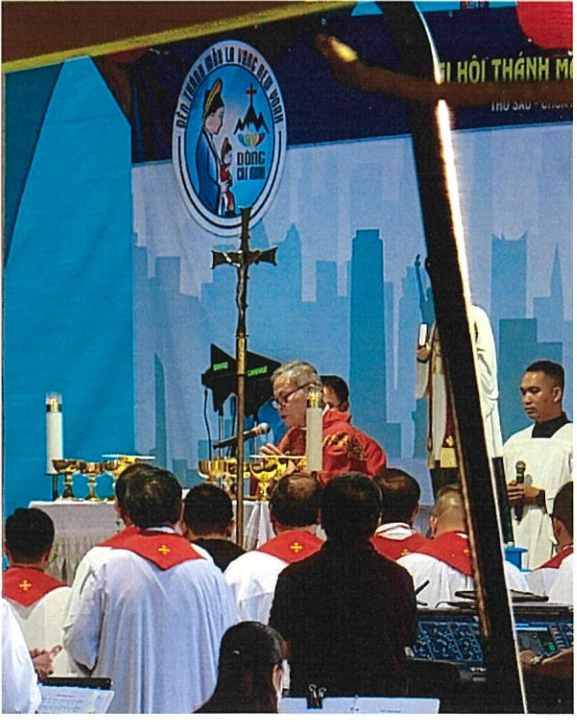


2025 Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel shines at the National Shrine of OLMC





Annual Feast of Our Lady of La Vang



MASSES

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am
Saturday & Sunday: 12 Noon

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 10:45 - 11:45 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Every Friday: 9:30 - 11:20 am

SHRINE HOURS: Mon-Fri: 7 am to 4 pm

Sat: 10 am to 4 pm Sun: 10 am to 3 pm

***GIFT STORE:** Tues -Sat 10 am to 4 pm

Sun: 10 am to 3 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in AUGUST the Gift Store & Shrine Offices will be closed every Monday. 11:30 Mass will be celebrated & the Shrine will be open

AUGUST SHRINE EVENTS

Aug. 2, Saturday, 7:00 pm: *Monthly Spanish Mass*

Aug. 7, Thursday, 10:30 am: *Carmelite Spirituality Series: "Saint Albert of Trapani"* (Edith Stein Conf. Rm.) with Lars Anders Cardinal Arborelius, OCD

11:30 am - Mass: Feast of Saint Albert of Trapani celebrated by the Cardinal

Aug. 14, Thursday, 4:30 pm: *Vigil Mass - Solemnity of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary*

Aug. 15, Friday, 11:30 am, *Mass - Solemnity of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary* (Holy Day of Obligation)

Please note: There will be no healing Masses in Spanish nor in English in August. These Masses will resume in September.

Únase a nosotros en el Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo el primer Sábado de cada mes para nuestra Misa en Español



SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL
At the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sabado el segundo de agosto 7 pm
"¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!"

70 Carmelite Drive - Middletown, NY 10940 - 845-343-1879

Join us in welcoming Lars Anders Cardinal Arborelius to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to celebrate the feast of a beloved Carmelite Saint

The feast of St. Albert of Trapani



Lars Anders Cardinal Arborelius, OCD is a senior-ranking Swedish Catholic prelate who has served as Bishop of Stockholm since 1996. Pope Francis made him a cardinal, the first ever from Scandinavia, in 2017. He is a member of the Discalced Carmelites and was considered a candidate in the 2025 papal conclave.

The Cardinal will give a talk at 10:30 am on Carmelite Spirituality in the Edith Stein Conference Room, followed by the feast day Mass at 11:30 am during which he will bless the St. Albert Water

THURSDAY AUGUST 7th

70 Carmelite Drive - Middletown, NY 10940 - 845-343-1879



Join us at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The Feast of the Assumption

Vigil Mass Thursday - August 14th 4:30 pm
Feast Day Mass Friday - August 15th 11:30 am

70 Carmelite Drive - Middletown, NY 10940 - 845-343-1879



Knock Shrine Blessed in Middletown

The Knock Shrine of Our Lady of Knock was miraculously moved to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was blessed and dedicated in 1991.



Please join us at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to celebrate the

Feast of Our Lady of Knock

SUNDAY AUGUST 17th 6 pm

at Our Lady of Knock Shrine

70 Carmelite Drive - Middletown, NY 10940 - 845-343-1879

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries, the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names—Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption—from at least the fifth or sixth century. Today it is celebrated as a solemnity.

Special thanks to Erin Higby, Shrine Gift Store Associate, for providing *The Scapular Newsletter* with the professional photographs she took of Shrine events that are featured in this issue.