

"We are the clay and You are the Potter" (Isaiah 64:8)

by Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

We are at the end of another year and at the beginning of a new one. This past year, which was the year dedicated to the Eucharist, has left us with many memorable events for which we ought to be very grateful. One cannot help but count among the great blessings the OCDS Congress which we lived together with great joy and enthusiasm! The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Carmel were so present that I dare to say that they were tangible. Though it is true to say that behind the organization of it were a few master minds, it is also truthful to say that all of us present in one way or another contributed to the success of the Congress. Yes, it can rightly be said that the Word of God became alive to all of us through the lives and writings of Our Saints.

Life is a journey, and so is faith. As we continue to travel and to grow in our faith, the Church comes to our rescue by means of the liturgical seasons. We are living this rich and powerful season of Advent in preparation to the great feast of CHRISTMAS: the Birth of Jesus in our Lives. It goes without questioning that the prophet Isaiah is the Prophet of Advent. The first reading of the Word of God that the Church presents in front of us as we enter Cycle B of the Liturgical Year is taken from Isaiah. The title of this editorial is taken from the First Reading of the First Sunday of Advent. At the threshold of this journey toward Christmas, we are gracefully reminded that we are being molded with the Word of God and the events of our lives. God is the potter, we are the clay in His hands! The potter takes the clay and molds it and shapes it into the image or idea that exists only in His own mind. We, the clay, ought to trust the potter. It is true that sometimes there is pressure on the clay as it is being stretched out during the process. In the process of becoming, it may even have to be beaten and molded again.

Advent is the time of remolding. God, our Potter, who out of the earth molded man and woman and made them the Crown of His creation, is still molding you and me as He continues to breathe upon us His breath of the Spirit. We are being molded into the image of His Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of waiting. We are reminded of this in every Eucharist that we celebrate. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the presider states "...wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

It is with great joy and encouragement, that as I travel from coast to coast, visiting and ministering to the OCDS Communities, I watch Jesus Christ and Carmel growing maturely in the brothers and sisters of the OCDS. During these last few months I had the opportunity to visit Halifax, Calgary, Toronto, Markham, Windsor, and other places where I was literally ecstatic with the joy of receiving new members in formation. Speaking of formation, a committee has been formed to work on a new booklet for formation, especially for those who are responsible for formation, and those who are in formation, preparing themselves for the investiture with the Scapular, or making their promise or vows.

Once again I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the great Spirit that you naturally manifested during the Congress. Our Fr Provincial, Fr Eliseus, and all the Fathers present were awe struck with the Carmelite zeal that was felt in our meetings. I am not saying this to flatter you, no; but it does help to hear a word of encouragement every now and then. God bless you and reward all of you for your dedication. The Organization of the Congress was, to say the least: praise worthy!!!

Since this is the last issue of the Carmel Lights for this year, I want to take the opportunity to thank all those in the secretariat and members who work very hard for the spreading of the Good News and the Spirituality of Carmel, starting from the Carmel Lights and its excellent production, the contributors and all those who work quietly behind the scenes in the vineyard of Carmel. May Mary, Joseph (the Saint of the impossible) and our Holy Mother St. Teresa, reward you and BLESS YOU.

This editorial would be incomplete if I did not, in the name of Our Friars, wish all of you and your families and friends the Blessings that the Christmas Season brings with it. During the time of Advent, one of the most powerful quotes which sustains me is the one from the Prophet Isaiah:

"The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord';

and you shall be called,

'Sought Out, A city Not forsaken.'" Isaiah 62.11-12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel, Christmas comes to meet us with the message that **we are the Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; we are being Sought Out, and no matter what, we are: A City Not Forsaken.** The Joy and Peace of Christmas is always there for us to benefit from. May the Prince of Peace, and the Joy that comes to us with His Word and His Presence, be always with you as you continue to journey in history towards the Land of PEACE !

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006,
FILLED WITH GOD'S CHOICEST BLESSINGS

Yours in Carmel,

Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD