

"And Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, and he let none of the Words of the Lord fall to the ground." (1 Samuel 3.19)

by Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

Like the young Samuel, each one of us grows, but not always "up". The Jewish sages tell us that whenever we pray to God, He usually answers us with one of these three responses: Yes; No; and the most common one; Grow up! Scripture tells us that Samuel "grew up". He learned how to be flexible to the direction of the Word, and in doing so, he has become mature and wise in the sight of God: he let none of the Words of the Lord fall to the ground!

I am writing this short note on the eve of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Feast which is at the heart of every member of the Maltese Province of the Discalced Carmelites. Our Province is under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! It is this great symbol of God's love for us that pushes us to act and tirelessly render service to our brothers and sisters who are waiting to experience God's love through our actions. At this point I want to steal the opportunity to thank all the members of the OCDS who have served their brothers and sisters in Carmel during the past three years that they have been in Office. My sincere thanks go especially to all those who for some reason or other have not sought re-election or because of health reasons are not in a position to continue to serve the Community or take any office. May the Lord in His kindness reward you for your dedication and hard work with great love.

We congratulate the newly elected Presidents and members of Councils, while at the same time pray for them to work with love and zeal for the glory of the Church and Carmel.

During the last few months we were honored to be visited by Our Fr Provincial, Fr Victor Mallia, OCD, and also the Definitor Fr Stephen Watson. During his stay, Fr Provincial and I have signed the documents for the hand-over of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Scarborough. Fr Carmel H. Muscat, OCD will be installed as Pastor by His Excellency Bishop Grecco, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto at a later date. The date of the hand-over is June 27th. Fr Henry will be working in this Parish with a friend of his, one of our Fathers from Taiwan. We congratulate both Friars, and continue to assist them with our prayers.

As I am writing this short note, I am preparing to leave for Kingston for a day of recollection with the OCDS members of the English and French Communities. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of them, and to share their enthusiasm and faith! Next week, God willing, I will be visiting our OCDS brothers and sisters in Richmond, British Columbia on the 23rd of June. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

The preparations for the OCDS Congress in Toronto are moving very well, thanks to the enthusiasm and great work of the OCDS Secretariat. Please continue to pray that it will be done in such a way that we work together for the glory of God, the Church and Carmel. Encouraging people to attend is one way of advertising for the Congress.

Another gift from God is the printing of the new Formation Booklets that are just coming out of print while I am writing. A job well done with great study and zeal behind them. May God reward all those who have contributed in one way or another towards the writing, editing, typing, reviewing, printing and advertising of these gems!!! Please show your support by buying these booklets.

Because during the month of July I have a few talks and retreats to give in B.C., I will not be able to

celebrate with you the Feast of Lady of Mount Carmel. However, Fr Pius will be coming to supply for me during my absence. Thank God he will be able to be driven to Toronto and celebrate the Eucharist for all those of you who can make it to join the Community of St Joseph in their celebration of this great Feast. In September I will, God willing, visit the newly formed OCDS Community at Thunder Bay. The enthusiasm of the President and Council and the members has filled me with great expectation and urge to visit and share with them a few days of reflection and relaxation. As you can see, the Secretariat is very busy co-ordinating these things, and your support and prayers are very much appreciated.

Even though my blood brother, Carmel, and his wife Rose, have come to visit me all the way from Malta, I still have to be in Malta in January in order to give the annual retreat to our Friars, and another to the O.C. Friars. Fr Provincial told me that a few other talks are waiting for me as well. The reason that I am sharing this with you is so that you will join me in our mission to preach the Good News and also to spread the Charism and Spirituality of Carmel. In February, God willing I have a mission at St Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. Dear brothers and sisters, please do keep me and these missions in your prayers so that the people who come to listen will meet Christ and experience God's unconditional LOVE .

As we continue our task, to praise God with our prayers and actions, May Mary, Queen and Mother of Carmel, protect us and guide us to the land of Peace! May the spirit of St Teresa, St John of the Cross, and St Therese, continue to grow within us and manifest itself outwardly through our deeds: "Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3.18

Enjoy your summer holidays and do not forget to make them holy - days!

May God Bless each and every one of YOU.

In Carmel,

Fr Dominic, OCD