

**"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this." (1 Thess 5.23-24)**

***by Fr. Dominic Borg, O.C.D.***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

The month of June has come and gone, and it left behind it the grace of the "Year of Paul" ( June 28th, 2008 - June 29th, 2009). Time is becoming short because of the amount of work and activities that we are faced with. The end of June has also honoured us with the blessing of the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec; and previous to all these activities, the visit of Fr Provincial and Fr Manny among us! This visit brought with it a few changes: Fr Augustine Vella from Malta has generously offered his time and service to fill in as Administrator at Our Lady of Fatima Parish; Fr Henry was called to Malta and his office as Pastor came to an end on the arrival of Fr Augustine, who God-willing will be with us till the 20th of August. Fr Manny, very familiar and well known by most of you, arrived yesterday (July 5th) and with him he also brought his lovely and friendly Kimba (his dog)! We for sure are happy to have these Friars and the dog among us. Fr Manny has been chosen as the Superior of the House in Scarborough, and also as the Associate to Fr Victor Mallia (our ex-Fr Provincial), who after 20 years as Pastor at our Parish of St John of the Cross at Ta' Xbiex, Malta, has also offered his experience and service to us here in Canada. We welcome him as the New Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Fr Victor, will be arriving on the 8th of August.

As you can see from the above concise report of some activities which took place recently, my hands and those of the Secretariat have been very full, to say the least. These changes will start a new chapter in our Canadian Foundation, where, working together we continue to praise God and advance the spirituality of Carmel.

The OCDS Congress is at the threshold, and soon the month of October is going to usher us with another great blessing. The President, Teresa Martinez, in collaboration with the Secretariat and many other OCDS members and Communities, have been eagerly working hard to see to it that this Congress will be a success and will be another event of PRAISE to our heavenly Father and also an act of Glory to the Church and the Order. Your enthusiasm and zeal, remains a source of encouragement to me and the envy of others!

Our Sisters at Zephyr continue to support us with their prayers, and Rev Mother Sr Therese, assures us of their prayers for the success of the Congress. We will be graced with the presence of Fr Aloysius Deeney, the General Delegate for the OCDS, Fr Provincial (?), Fr Alfred Grech, Fr Victor Mallia, Fr Manny Schembri, Fr Jerry D'Souza from B.C. and members of the OCDS from British Columbia and Alberta! Please continue to pray so that this Congress will bear good fruit and with God's help we continue to move forward in our witness to Carmel. Please encourage others to attend. The support of every member is greatly appreciated and very precious for all of us.

Apart from being the Year of Paul, this year is also the year that will host the Synod of the Bishops in Rome on the Word of God. In our Rule of St Albert, and in our Constitutions (OCD and OCDS) we are highly recommended to meditate on the Word of God, and to act on it! We look forward with great interest and enthusiasm to be fed by the teachings that the Synod will provide us with for our nourishment.

In this edition of Carmel Lights we are reproducing an interesting article taken from Sidic, a famous Magazine that deals with the relationships between Jews and Catholics. Permission was granted to us to print it and to make use of it as we deem necessary. This article is useful in helping us to get a better notion of Our Lady.

Speaking about our Lady, we are honoured to celebrate Her FEAST (July 16th) in London, at St Andrews, in Scarborough, at Our Lady of Fatima, in Zephyr with Our Sisters, and in Newmarket, St Elizabeth of Seton Parish. In Newmarket it is the new Study group which under the direction of Rev Deacon Brian Mason are preparing for the celebration which I am honoured to attend and celebrate with you and others. Your attendance is very much appreciated and highly recommended.

As usual, this issue of Carmel Lights has been ready for more than a month waiting for my introduction, and the patience of the editor and those involved in the production of this magazine is something that edifies me. The amount of work and the many demands are increasing, and for sure your prayers and support, for the Secretariat, Teresa, and myself is very much appreciated. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat, which on behalf of all of you, has generously showered me with donations and gifts and prayers especially for my 36 years of priesthood. May Mary, Our Mother, and St Joseph reward your generosity.

My blessing and prayer for all of you is that you will have the wisdom of God, and spiritual understanding to know what is God's will and to act on it, and to continue to increase in the knowledge of God! (Colossians 1.9-10).

May St Teresa and St John of the Cross guide us toward a beneficial Congress in October. With gratitude and appreciation for all the good work that you, all the OCDS are doing. Keep up the good work, I am very proud of YOU ALL, God Bless.

In Carmel,

Fr Dominic, OCD