



“God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful” [1Cor 1:9].

Together we approach the future with Great Hope!!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

“We, the women and men of the Church, we are in the middle of a love story: each of us is a link in this chain of love. And if we do not understand this, we have understood nothing of what the Church is....” - Pope Francis

These inspirational words of Pope Francis remind me of the place of Carmel within the Church, that our calling is to be her sons and daughters (St Teresa), and our vocation is to be love in the heart of the Church (St. Therese). Nothing less than love explains and gives meaning to the adventure of love God has planned for each and every one of us. Every part of our life is the unveiling of a loving plan that unites us closer to God and fulfills us. Nothing happens by coincidence, and we firmly believe that “tout est grâce” (All is Grace – St Thérèse).

Looking back throughout the years we are witnesses of God’s faithfulness. Not that our feeble faithfulness was lacking, but God surpasses all expectations. His merciful love is above all telling. We have been able to accompany the growth of the Secular Carmel, from the first communities established years ago to lately the establishment of several communities in Canada. We are connected to one another. The dedication of one and all, the feeling that we do pertain to a large family, and the faithfulness of attendance to community meetings and special events organized by the Secretariat has made every sacrifice worthwhile and rewarding. Thanks be to God.

Our deepest gratitude is addressed to each one of you who have made Carmel alive and fruitful. We are all pieces of mosaic marble who make up this masterpiece of God. Our special thanks to those who have dedicated so much time and energy, unwavering faithfulness, obedience and availability for the good of the Order. We cannot but include here in a particular way the

Coordinators and their Secretariat who have accomplished so much: Teresa Martinez started the fledging communities, saw to the union of communities already established and the birth of new ones in formation; hence her commitment to provide in many ways guidelines for the running of the Secular Carmel, offices and particularly good formation guidelines so necessary for any community life.

The creation of the Spirituality Centre was another landmark in the life of Carmel in Canada. Marguerite Mason picked up the helm and saw to the establishment of new communities, promoting once again the life of prayer inherent to Carmel. Our prayers and best wishes go to both, accompanied by our everlasting gratitude and humble praise. May the Lord who does not leave unpaid any service rendered to Him, keep them in his love and bless them abundantly. They have made a difference in Carmel not only by what they did and accomplished but because they are who they are.

And now Gladys McMullin has been asked to render her services as the new Coordinator. I have had the privilege and joy to assist close at hand to the love and filial dedication of our three Coordinators, the last two as directors of formation in communities in formation I was following as spiritual assistant, namely the Community of the Flower of Carmel (Zephyr) and the Community of Lucia dos Santos (Scarborough), and I have been profoundly impressed by the Carmelite spirit of all three. My heartfelt thanks and prayers to Gladys who has accepted this duty and office. Carmel has so much to offer and I am sure that Gladys will bring out the best and steer it according to God's divine plan. As she continues this chain of love, under the guidance of Fr. Dominic, Provincial Delegate, may she experience the wonders of God's love. May each brother and sister in Carmel show their cooperation and collaboration for the greater good of the Order, and sustain her with our prayers, in words and deeds.

God bless you, dear brothers and sisters in Carmel. Our God is a God of love.

Fr. Manny Schembri, OCD
Provincial