



*“MY SPIRIT REJOICES
IN GOD MY SAVIOUR”*

(Lk 1.47)



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

The above title is a reminder that the JOY that started with the Annunciation ... and continued on with the Birth of Jesus (To you TODAY is born a Saviour) ... continues on with the finding of Jesus in the Temple, is also present at the Wedding Feast in Cana of Galilee and reaches its climax at the EMPTY TOMB : *“Christ, our Paschal Lamb has been sacrificed...LET US CELEBRATE !!!”* (1 Cor 5.7-8)

Indeed, Pope Francis hit the nail on its head when in paragraph 6 of the Apostolic Exhortation: *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) writes: *“There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without EASTER...”* (E G #6).

When we listen to the catechesis of the Church, where we are told to use God’s Word in abundance especially during the High Season of Lent, we find ourselves wrapped with the joy that is caused by meditating and studying God’s word. Jesus himself did tell us this : *“These things I have said to you, so that my own joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full!”* (Jn 15.11)

One of the classical texts of the Torah is without any doubt, Deuteronomy Chapter 32, the valedictory canticle of Moses!!! In verse 7b of this Chapter we read: *“ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you.”* (Deut 32.7b)

Moses, who was a great leader and a great lover of his people, wanted to make sure that the people that God entrusted in his hands would have a great foundation for the future. He could see no better foundation than God’s love manifested with great deeds of wonder in the events of the Exodus from Enslavement. There he placed on the shoulders of the parents and the elders the duty to continue to explain and speak about the importance of these events: *“REMEMBER the days of old...”* (Deut.32.7a)

In living the remembrance of the Paschal Mystery, we tell a story...

(And they will TELL you ... Deut. 32.7b). In Hebrew the word for TELL is *sippur*. One cannot overlook the fact that the word *Sippur* is phonetically similar to *Sapir*... a sapphire!! We are

enticed to draw the obvious conclusion that when we TELL the events of the PASSOVER we are recommended to tell (le'sapair) the story of the Passover with such clarity and brilliance that can be compared to that of a very precious gem ! Once we are in this mode ... another interesting fact is that in Hebrew, the word for language is Safah, which in gematria is equal to 385! This number is the same number for the Hebrew word Shechinah: *the Divine Presence*. In the PROCLAMATION and the LISTENING to the Narratives the Divine Presence becomes operative among us to save us from our own particular ENSLAVEMENT: CHRIST HAS SET YOU FREE...DO NOT SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO THE YOKE OF SLAVERY AGAIN ! (Gal.5.1)

"In every generation every Jew should feel that he himself is being liberated from Egypt..." Throughout the high Season of Lent we become more conscious of our own enslavement and yearn to be liberated from our own Egypt... our own sins. BUT Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel, though it is for sure a source of joy for all of us to be taken out of Our exile, it is even more so, a source of JOY, to have the EXILE being taken out of us!!!

May This Passover find us ready to enter into its JOY and FREEDOM!!!

In the name of all the OCDS ,English Canada, I want to Congratulate our Newly Re-Elected Most Rev Fr Provincial, Fr Manny Schembri, ocd... and we look forward to see him among us ... together we have worked very hard to see the growth of the OCDS in Canada.

The work for the OCDS Congress is progressing nicely, the Board of the Secretariat and the Board of The Center are working very hard and in co-operation with each other...I am very grateful for each and all of them for their hard work and co-operation. Soon we will be asking for more volunteers and delegates, and looking forward for your co-operation in the booking and the registration for the CONGRESS...Please do not leave it to the last moment. The OCDS DIRECTORY with much labour in collecting information is ready, and can be bought from Carmela, Office of Statistics. For more news and updates please see the News section.

Last...but not least, may what the Jewish people say about Sukkot as being Zman Simcat'teinu... be applied to Our EASTER: *Zman Simcha'teinu... The Time of Our JOY!!!*

May the Paschal Triduum be a source of Joy that will carry us all the days of our lives ... God Bless and ...Have a Joyous and Blessed Easter 2014 .

Fraternally in Carmel,

Fr Dominic, ocd
Provincial Delegate.