

Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

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To deepen our understanding
of our Faith and increase our
Love for God

October 2009

October Focus



Summer temperatures remained with us through the month of September, but the calendar does not lie, we are in autumn.

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Revelation Bible study groups. There are more than 30 people in the study groups and much information is being gained about the final book in the Bible.

This is the third month of highlighting priests of St. Albert's, and another prayer for priests. The committee is looking for a different prayer for each of the 12 months of "The Year of the Priest". If you have one not already printed in the newsletters, give a copy of the prayer you have to one of the committee members so we may share it in future newsletters.

*"Life giving vine, come, feed and nourish,
Strengthen each branch with life divine;*

*Ever in you O may we flourish, Fruitful the branches on the vine.
Lord, may our souls be purified, So that in Christ may we abide."*

verse text — Shepherd of Souls, in Love Come, Feed Us, verse 2

Upcoming Events

- > TLC begins the 3rd week of October. This year's study —The Sacraments.
- > Christmas Mission—In early January. Watch for more details in future newsletters and bulletins.
- > Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), coming to St. Albert's. Women's January 23rd & 24th. Men's January 30 & 31st. See next month's newsletter for more info.

Dictionary for the Laity

The word for this month is mentioned in our saint of the month column.

Cloister: Derives from the Latin word *clausura* (to shut up).

1. Cloister refers to the building structures or an enclosed space for religious living-working quarters.
2. Cloister also refers to the legal restrictions of those of the religious community in regards to interaction with the outside world.

There are men and women religious communities that are cloistered. Their interaction with the outside world has varying degrees depending on the vows the individuals of the religious community take.

Some examples of interaction or non-interaction with the outside world may be:

- ◆ Allowed to receive mail.
- ◆ Allowed to receive visitors provided the religious remain behind a grille, (with restriction of who and how often a visitor may come).
- ◆ Permission to leave the cloister is restricted and requires the bishops approval.

Church legislation in regards to cloistered communities is to safeguard the virtue of chastity. The religious consecrates himself to God. In a cloistered community a person is able to shut out the world and thereby become more focused on God and the need of prayer and praise to God.

Source—New Advent.org

Parenting Tip of the Month

"Patience is a virtue."

Have you ever heard the above quote? The person who first said that probably had children or was exposed to them on a constant basis. From the small things, to the big things, children can try our patience. On a recent EWTN Mass broadcast the priest mentioned folding his hands in prayer close to his mouth. He explained that it helps him to remember to ask the Holy Spirit to guide his words. When children are trying your patience, or there is an irritation in your daily life, try saying a prayer with your folded hands close to your mouth asking for God's guidance and words of wisdom.

St. Albert's Lending Library has a video depicting St. Teresa of Avila's life and two of her books: *The Way to Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*. October would be a great month to check them out!

Friendly Defenders

Saints - Holy Objects

Question #2: Why do you wear medals of saints and the scapular? That's superstitious.

Catholic Response: God can work through physical objects.

Bible Verse: "So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them." *Acts of the Apostles 19:11-12*

Description: Grace that is received from holy or blessed objects is not due to the objects themselves, but because of God's grace working through the object.

Related Verses: *Acts of the Apostles 5:15-16, 2 Kings 13:21, Mark 5:25-29*

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Words of Wisdom

from our saint of the month.

"We gain more in a single day by trials that come to us from God and our neighbor than we would in ten years of penance and other exercises that we take up ourselves."

St. Teresa of Avila

Pope Benedict XVI

October Prayer Intentions

General: That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist.

Mission: That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity.

St. Teresa of Avila — October 15th



Teresa was born in 1515. Her father was a gentleman of Avila, the beautiful fortress town in central Spain; her mother died when Teresa was twelve years old. Her late teen years were divided between lying sick at home and living in a convent, first as a student, then as a novice.

Teresa's major work did not begin until she was past forty. After a religious experience in which an angelic apparition pierced her heart (also known as transverberation), filling her with pain and delight, she was ready to do whatever Christ commanded.

She wrote: "I am Yours. I was born for You. What do You, Master, want to make of me? It is You alone who live in me. What do You desire that I should do for You?"

Her service to Christ and the Church would be to return the Carmelite Order in Spain to its original simplicity and austerity.

Reform of the Carmelites

The Carmelites formed one of the great new religious movements in the Middle Ages. An order of hermits began in the late twelfth century on Mount Carmel in Palestine. The formal order of Carmelite nuns was begun in 1452. The Carmelites lost much of their original vigor and fervor and also acquired property. Teresa came to consider her own convent too lax and too dependent on revenues. She believed that nuns should live from alms and go shoeless.

In 1562, Teresa opened her own convent, called Saint Joseph's for shoeless (or discalced) Carmelite nuns. Her nuns wore coarse brown habits and veils, slept on straw, ate no meat, and rarely if ever left the cloister. For five years Teresa was the mother superior of Saint Joseph's, schooling the nuns in the way of prayer and self-sacrifice.

In 1567 the Carmelite officials in Rome approved her reform. She moved across Spain, founding discalced communities, usually of only thirteen women each. On her travels she met Juan de Yepes, better known as John of the Cross, a young Carmelite priest, who became Teresa's chief collaborator in reform and in the spread of Spanish mysticism.

A Woman for God

Both Teresa and John were accused of pride by opponents of their Carmelite reform. She was misrepresented to the Order's general and was directed to cease founding new convents. King Philip II of Spain intervened for Teresa and John, and a division was effected between the calced and discalced Carmelites—each would operate independently. Even though her health was failing, Teresa resumed her organizing, traveling by carriage over rough roads to administer the seven convents she had founded and to lay plans for others.

The gifts of God to Teresa were many. She was wise, yet practical; a mystic and yet an energetic reformer. She was a woman for God, a woman of prayer, discipline, and compassion. Her heart belonged to God. She was misunderstood, misjudged, and opposed in her efforts at reform. Yet she struggled on, courageous and faithful. In the midst of her illness and opposition she clung to God in prayer and surrender.

Teresa was also a woman for others. Although she was a contemplative, she spent much of her time and energy seeking to reform herself and the Carmelites, to lead them back to the full observance of the primitive rule. In all the people she touched, she was a woman for the service of others, a woman who inspired.

Of her five books, the most widely read is *The Interior Castle*, her analogy of the soul's progress from self-knowledge into the presence of God. She wrote it for her nuns.

A Dedicated Life

Teresa spent her sixty-seven years seeking to know God, and to know herself in relation to God. All self-knowledge, she taught, depends on recognition of the dignity and beauty of the soul created in God's image. For her the response of her soul to Christ was an arduous, mystical pilgrimage toward a poverty of spirit, a spiritual perfection. "Be patient," she advised the nuns in her care, "let grace be the guide through the rooms of the soul's interior castle. Be brave and dare with a holy boldness."

Teresa knew well the continued presence and value of suffering, such as physical illness, opposition to reform, and difficulties in prayer; but she grew to be able to embrace suffering and even desire it. She prayed, "Lord, either to suffer or to die. How true it is that whoever works for You is paid in troubles! And what a precious price to those who love You if we understand its value."

Teresa was declared a saint in 1622, and in 1970 Pope Paul VI made her the first woman Doctor (distinguished teacher) of Catholicism.

Source—Best-Loved Saints by Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.

Reflections on the Priesthood by St. John Vianney

What is a priest! A man who holds the place of God—a man who is invested with all the powers of God. "Go," said Our Lord to the priest; "as My Father sent Me, I send you. All power has been given Me in Heaven and on earth. Go then, teach all nations..... He who listens to you, listens to Me; he who despises you despises Me."

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priest; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priests; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in purgatory.

But above all I recommend to you the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way. O Jesus, keep them close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen

With Grateful Thanks!

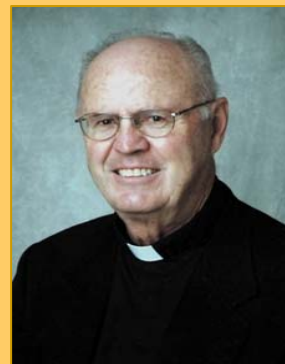


Fr. Ronald Harrer, OMI

Born: 04/17/1942
Ordained: 1970

Served St. Albert's from
1997 to 2001

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Mark Willenbring

Born: 10/13/1931
Ordained: 06/01/1957

Lived & Assisted at St. Albert's from
2001 to 2003