



FATHER JOHN MALLEY, O.CARM.
DIRECTOR OF CARMELITE MISSIONS

Dear Friend of the Missions,

During this month on November 25, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day in the United States. Last month our friends in Canada observed the same kind of holiday. It is good that we do set aside a special time to remember our many blessings and to express our gratitude to God for all His goodness.

In the United States this year, national elections are being held on Tuesday, November 2. Often such elections can be quite divisive, but hopefully no matter which candidate for national or state government may be elected, all of us can still realize how blessed our country has been in God's loving Providence. Since the Proclamation of President George Washington in 1789, we have acknowledged our trust in God.

In many countries around the world that are helped by Carmelite Missions, there is no official Thanksgiving Day. Yet our missionaries are so grateful for the support that they have received because of the generosity of wonderful friends like yourself. Almost every day our mission office receives a letter of thanks for such generosity.

God's goodness usually comes to us through the care of other people. In those who reach out to us with any kind of help, we do feel the touch of God Himself. "God is love," St. John tells us, so whenever we are loved by others, God is truly present to us.

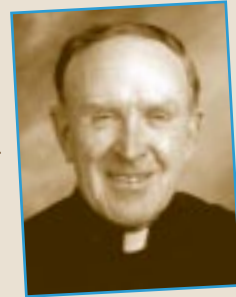
Your gifts to Carmelite Missions and your concern for the people we serve are a source of God's love for me too. You make THANKSGIVING not just a day or a moment for me but a way of life.

As a small token of my gratitude to you, I have arranged that your deceased loved ones will be remembered each day at Mass during this month of All Souls. You may wish to list their names on the enclosed card. May God bless and reward you with love during this month of November...and always.

Love and peace,

Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.

Father John Malley, O.Carm.
Director of Carmelite Missions



REMEMBER THE CARMELITE MISSIONS WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR WILL

SAINT OF THE MONTH

SAINT LOUISE MARILLAC



Children in Flores, Indonesia, Eager to be Photographed

Louise Marillac was born on August 12, 1591 before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. Her father, Louis de Marillac, was a noble, and he appears in history to have been a pious and good man but without strength of character. After the birth of Louise, his wife died. Alone with a young daughter, he sought to marry again and did so to a widow who had three children of her own...a wife who was not about to accept Louise into her home.

Early Life and Schooling

Louis had been very close to his daughter, taught her to read and write and to understand poetry and music, yet he was not able to keep Louise at home. As a result the young girl was sent to a very exclusive school for girls at Poissy run by the Dominican nuns. Here Louise found peace. In class she was proficient, she relished the chapel and the closeness to the nuns, but she was lonely. She had been so close to her father, and now because forty miles separated them, it meant she could seldom see him.

And things became worse. When she was twelve, her father had financial reversals, and so he could no longer afford the school at Poissy. Louise was taken out and put in a school in Paris that required work as part of the tuition. A year later, her father died and this added greatly to her loneliness. She was described in



Novices in Flores

those days as: "a tall, slender, solemn and serious girl with an aristocratic mien; and she laughed little." Her heart was drawn to God. She said: "I accept everything, dear Lord, as a portion of your passion."

Marriage

At sixteen she came in contact with the Poor Clare Nuns in Paris and made a secret vow to join them. She was going ahead with these plans, but because of her poor health her spiritual director advised her against it. She was told that marriage was her vocation, and so at twenty two, on February 5, 1613, she married Antoine LaGras at St. Gervais' Church in Paris. Fortunately this was a good match for Louise as her husband was the secretary to the Queen Regent.

Though she was involved with court functions and parties, Louise found that her heart was not really in those activities. She much preferred to go out among the poor and be of help to them, but at the end of 1613 she gave birth to her son Michael and his care took up much of her time. Soon even more of her time was taken up at home. Her aunt died, and Louise took in seven young cousins. Because she herself had been deprived of so much parental love, she made sure to share her love with these children.

Service to the Poor

At this time St. Francis de Sales was her spiritual director, and she grew in holiness. Her husband died when her son was twelve, and because she was having trouble raising him, Louise sought the help of a Parisian

priest, Vincent de Paul. He advised her to put Michael into a boarding school for better guidance. He then asked for her help: to join other widows who worked among the poor in many of the parishes of Paris.

One day when Vincent and Louise were talking, he told her of all the needs that he had encountered throughout the city: children without mothers, young girls without hope, the poor and sick everywhere, people begging without food or clothing—would she help?

Would she! After having thought it over, she told Vincent: "God has inspired me to dedicate my whole life to Him through a vow of service to the poor." The same vow that Vincent had made years before! Vincent had the idea of "Confraternities" in every section of Paris; groups of women who would seek help in order to care for the poor and the sick. This was a wonderful outlet of energy for pious, rich and noble ladies—but someone had to coordinate it all. Louise had a new job.

The Beginning of a Religious Group—The Little Company

Everything went well, until the noble women became tired and sent their servants to do the tedious work instead. Vincent and Louise would not agree to this, and so peasant girls were brought in from the country to help care for the poor. But they needed training, and Louise was asked to do that. The young women were lodged in her home, but soon that was too small. She moved to a house on Rue Chapelle, where the girls were taught to read and write, to sew and clean. They were prepared as teachers, and Louise wrote a catechism so that they would have a text for

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Celebration of a First Mass Outdoors, Flores



Carmelite Seminarians at Theology House, Malang

Isn't it strange! The foundress of the Daughters of Charity in France initially was a married woman and the foundress of the Daughters of Charity in the United States almost two hundred years later was also a married woman. We speak of Mrs. Antoine LaGras and Mrs. William Seton; both better known under different names, Louise Marillac and Mother Elizabeth Seton, both canonized saints!

SAINT OF THE MONTH

SAINT LOUISE MERRILAC

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their lessons among the poor. They were also taught how to care for the sick. In the midst of all this work, Louise watched out for her son too, making sure that he grew in age and wisdom.

How well this worked! Soon all Paris was enthusiastic about the work that Vincent de Paul had begun and that Louise was carrying out. At this time a plague broke out, and Louise and her young women spent endless hours caring for the victims abandoned by their own loved one because they were afraid of getting the plague themselves.

When the plague finally ended, all Paris was in acclaim of these country girls dressed very simply in the costume of the Ile de France, a white cornette and collar, with a blue dress. The young women asked Louise for some rule of life, and there was talk of forming an Order. But all groups of religious women in those days lived in the cloister, said the Divine Office, and wore habits. This was not the aim of Vincent or Louise. Much prayer and thought were given to the situation, and finally they decided to form what they called the “Little Company.”

The authorities in the Church still wanted any nun to be in a convent with a habit and veil—cloistered from the world, and so it was necessary that the young women not be called a religious congregation. Louise would be the superior of a small community, but with no veil, no habit, no convent as such, just a residence where they lived and worked among the poor and sick. They made private vows, and their life was a model of



New Chapel in Malang, Indonesia

simplicity and service. Such a lifestyle won the support of all, and within ten years over 100 women had joined the “Little Company.”

Daughters of Charity

Louise instilled in her followers a deep love for God that would be translated to the poor and to the unfortunate. Children were taught to read and write, and to learn their catechism. The poor were visited, fed and cleaned. Unwanted babies and orphans were taken in, and the Great Foundling Hospital of Paris was established, an institution that continues today under the name of “Hospice des Enfants Assistes.”

By 1642 the “Little Company” was well enough established so that its members could take public vows, though they continued to dress in the costume of the women of Ile de France. They still did not desire to assume the appearance of the nuns of their day. The young candidates were trained to be teachers, to be nurses, and to be social workers. Louise even had her daughters go out to the battlefields and assist the wounded soldiers.

By the time Louise was 69, she could look back over her life with a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Her son Michael was now a responsible adult, married and raising his own family. Her “Little Company” had become an officially recognized religious Order in the Church, the Daughters of Charity, and they had even spread to other countries. Her 27 years of work for the poor and the sick were over. On March 12, 1660, she was given the Last Rites of the Church. Three days later on Passion Sunday, her personal journey came to an end. Her Daughters of Charity would continue her great work. With great simplicity and asking to be alone at her last moment, she gave her soul to God.



Brothers of Elijah and Daughters of Carmel in Prayer, Cicanyere