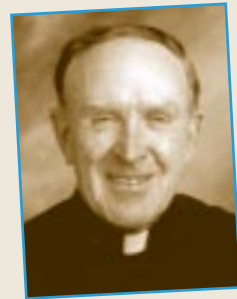


FATHER JOHN MALLEY, O.CARM. DIRECTOR OF CARMELITE MISSIONS

Dear Friend of the Missions,

The month of June and the coming of summer are always beautiful times in our lives. Whether we are young or old, it is so nice to think that our days will be warmer, the sunshine and light will last longer in the evenings, and our friends will be out and about, possibly coming for a visit. I share my hopes and prayers that you and your family will enjoy this wonderful time of the year with good health and joyous spirits.



In this mission newsletter, I have often told you about the special care of the elderly that your kind gifts make possible, whether it be in our Carmelite health clinics in East Timor or in our nursing homes in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic or Trinidad. In this letter, however, I would like to stay closer to home and to mention briefly the incredible work that is being done by our Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm in the United States and Ireland.

In our Saint of the Month for June, the life and work of the foundress of these Sisters, Mother M. Angeline Teresa, is being featured. At the present time, her cause to be made a saint is being studied, and it is proceeding well. Many of the elderly in the nursing homes that are directed and staffed by the Sisters are turning to Mother Angeline as a friend who gives them comfort and guidance.

The Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm were founded by Mother Angeline in September 1929, almost simultaneously to the time of the Great Depression. Yet, her deep faith and trust in the Lord overcame the many obstacles of the 1930's, and today the congregation has 25 communities and nursing homes with well over 200 Sisters. They continue the special charism of Mother Angeline — that each person, no matter how old or infirm, is still a precious gift from God and is to be treated with dignity, care and love. May the good Lord continue to bless the work of these Sisters, and may many young women desire to join them in their beautiful and challenging work in the Church.

In closing this newsletter, I want to thank each one of you who responded so generously to our appeal in April for the victims of the tsunami in Sumatra, Indonesia. Our Mission office has been able to continue helping Father Yulius and our Carmelite seminarians in both their short term goal of providing food, clothing and shelter for the refugees who are staying near our parishes in Medan, as well as for their long term goal to rebuild the shattered lives of the victims. May God bless you and your family and loved ones for your generosity and kindness.

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

MOTHER M. ANGELINE TERESA, O.CARM.

FOUNDRESS OF THE CARMELITE SISTERS OF THE AGED AND INFIRM

Genuinely holy people are revolutionaries. They take the Gospel seriously (too often it is taken as an impossible dream or an out-worn ideal), and they are so overwhelmed by the personality of Jesus Christ that they strive to make Him present in their world, no matter what the sacrifice.

Mother M. Angeline Teresa (1893-1984) was such a revolutionary. She founded fifty-nine homes for the aged, welcomed hundreds of Sisters to her fledgling Congregation, but above all, she cultivated a strong, healthy spirituality based on Carmel's living out of the Gospel ideal. The aspect of Christ's merciful mission that attracted Mother Angeline was His compassion, expressed in the need to make the latter years of elderly people's lives meaningful and happy.

In the 1920's she perceived this need in a revolutionary way: "At the time I was called a revolutionary, but I went ahead with my plans for creating a new hotel-like residence for the aged, where they would have full freedom and privacy and would be encouraged to retain their independence. It would provide living quarters for aged couples, and recreational facilities, as well as medical care."

Early Life

Mother M. Angeline Teresa — Bridget Teresa McCrory — was born on January 21, 1893 in Mountjoy, County Tyrone, Ireland. When she was seven years of age her family migrated to Scotland. At the age of nineteen she left home to become a Little Sister of the Poor, a Congregation engaged in the care of the destitute aged. She made her novitiate



Father General, Joseph Chalmers, at Roxas Carmel (Philippines)

in La Tour, France, and after profession she was sent to the United States.

In 1926, Mother Angeline was appointed Superior of the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Bronx, New York. During an annual retreat in 1927, she felt urged to reach out to do more for the aged people she cared for. She felt that the European ways and many of the customs of France did not meet the needs and customs of the people in the United States. She also felt that old age strikes all classes of people leaving them alone and frightened.

A New Congregation

Being unable to effect any necessary changes in her actual situation, Mother Angeline sought advice and counsel from Cardinal Hayes of New York. Not only did he encourage her, but he likewise felt more could be done for the aged people in the New York area. Eventually, this need was recognized all over the United States. In order to accomplish what she felt urged to do, and with the blessing of the Cardinal, Mother Angeline and six other Sisters withdrew from the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor. They were granted permission from Rome to begin a new Community in the care of the aged, putting into effect Mother Angeline's ideals.

Mother Angeline had always shown a special love and compassion for the elderly going back to her childhood. She valued the sacredness of life from conception to the grave. She saw that much emphasis was put on the youth, but old people were avoided, forgotten or overlooked. She felt that their last years should be lived in dignity and respect — that they had earned a special place in society. She envisioned

residences where older people could be independent; where they could find the dedicated care of the Sisters, a homelike atmosphere, the consolation of Mass and the Sacraments, the assurance that they would be cared for in sickness, and that while they enjoyed good health, they would be free to come and go as they pleased.

In one of her letters to the Sisters she wrote: "Try to see Christ in each of the old people, entrusted to our care. Be kind to them as you would be to Christ Himself, and endeavor to meet their needs with all the love Mary must have shown in caring for the new born Babe in Bethlehem."

Affiliation to the Carmelite Order

During the troubled years of 1927 to 1929, Father Dionysius Flanagan, major superior of the Carmelite friars in New York, took a deep interest in Mother Angeline and her companions. On the feast of St. Therese, the Little Flower, in 1929, when Mother's spirits were particularly low, Father Dionysius unexpectedly brought her a bouquet of red roses; she took it as a sign of her future. The Sisters were living in a former rectory, St. Elizabeth's on Broadway in New York City, and almost immediately they began receiving elderly applicants. With her great sense of humor, Mother described their first applicant:

"Our first applicant was a frail old gentleman



Lay Carmelites at Star of the Sea Monastery in Tanay

of eighty. From his pocket he drew out two hundred single dollar bills. They were soiled and worn; by the looks of them they must have been in circulation as long as himself. Placing them carefully on the table before me, he said, 'Mother, I want you to take this money and keep me for the rest of my life and bury me.' The old gentleman seemed to have about six months of life in him, and it seemed a good offer at the time. I accepted and gave him a home. Twenty years later he was still with us. And true to my promise, I buried him at the ripe old age of a hundred. He got his money's worth."

(continued on next page)



Pre-school Children in Flores, Indonesia



New Chapel and Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Trinity, Laguna (Philippines)

SAINT OF THE MONTH

MOTHER M. ANGELINE TERESA, O.CARM.

(continued from previous page)

When the possibility of affiliation to a religious order was discussed, Mother Angeline recalled the roses of St. Therese of Lisieux. Father Dionysius introduced her to Father Elias Magennis, the Prior General of the Carmelites, who was visiting America at the time. The Sisters asked for affiliation to Carmel, and with a speed that surprised Cardinal Hayes, the Prior General had the proper indulgences from the Holy See and the affiliation took place on July 16, 1931.

Growth as a Congregation

The community was blessed with vocations almost immediately and from one small residence accommodating the seven Sisters and seven elderly people, the community expanded. At the time of Mother's death, it numbered over 300 professed religious, 30 residences for the aged and infirm, and was giving care to thousands of elderly men and women each day.

In 1971, Mother Angeline Teresa wrote in a circular letter: "The need of our special apostolate, which was a seedling in 1929, has been recognized by both Church and State. The challenge of providing high quality care is ours. We are the standard-bearers against those who would exploit the infirmity of old age for their own profit."

What did Mother Angeline have that enabled her to accomplish so much in so short a time? She had great faith. Her confidence in God was boundless. She had great compassion for the aged and was deeply concerned when so many had no place to go in their declining years. She was courageous and had a unique ability of inspiring enthusiasm in others. There was strength in her leadership combined with simplicity and humility. She never attributed success to her own endeavors. So often she told the Sisters that, from the

very start, she asked Our Blessed Mother to be the superior of the Community. When new foundations opened, she was always radiant with joy and would say, "We have a new Tabernacle for Our Lord."

Final Years

Mother had great regard and reverence for the priesthood and urged the Sisters to pray for priests, even establishing one Saturday in the month as "Priests Saturday." Like her great Patroness, St. Teresa, she believed that "with God, all things are possible." On one occasion, when a Sister was hesitant in taking a responsible assignment and told Mother that she couldn't do it, Mother told her, "I know you can't. Neither can I, but did you ever stop to think that Jesus and you can?" Mother Angeline was also a woman of prayer. Her deepest concern was for the spiritual welfare of her Sisters and also of the elderly residents, making sure that provisions were made for both. Prayer preceded every important decision. She accepted the trials and disappointments inevitable in the office she held with remarkable composure and even joy, thanking God for the crosses He sent her.

Mother Angeline guided the Congregation for many years and through trying times. Her efforts were blessed abundantly. The end came on January 21, 1984, the feast of St. Agnes, and her ninety-first birthday, in the presence of Mother Michael Rosarie, her successor, and many of her devoted Sisters and three priests.

It is no surprise that this upholder of the rightful reverence for the dignity of the elderly and sick is being proposed for beatification. With Blessed Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Mother Angeline Teresa, the foundress of the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm, is a most suitable patroness of the aged and infirm.



Christmas Choral Group Visiting Cabanatuan Carmel



Sister Divine Grace and Children at Laguna Carmel