



CARMELITE MISSIONS

8501 Bailey Road | Darien, IL 60561-8418  
www.carmelitemissions.org

CARMELITE



MISSIONS



"Thank You for your Kindness and Love"

Your Lenten offering and your support are needed NOW more than ever.



IRISH BLESSING

May You Always Have...

Walls For The Wind  
A Roof For The Rain  
Tea Beside The Fire

Laughter To Cheer You  
Those You Love Near You

And All Your Heart Might Desire.

St. Patrick – March 17  
St. Patrick, Pray For Us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CARMELITE MISSIONS

God our loving Father, you have promised your kingdom of joy and peace to those who turn to You in trust and who are willing to become like little children in your loving arms. Help me to be inspired by the missionary zeal of Saint Therese in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Give me the courage to follow her "little way" of confidence and love so that by her guidance and through her prayers I may come to enjoy eternal happiness with You and with your Son and with the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Please remember that **Mass cards (Deceased, Living, Healing, Thinking of You and Birthday)** are available at Carmelite Missions. An offering to the Carmelite Missions would be appreciated. Your generosity will allow priests, sisters and brothers proclaim the Good News of the Gospel among some of today's poorest people. Through your goodness, our Carmelite missionaries can provide food for the hungry, attend to the sick, teaching and counseling in schools, assistance in orphanages, and provide other services that lessen the pain of desperately poor families in various underdeveloped countries.

Remember the Carmelite Missions when you write your will.



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

Carmelites Proclaim the Good News of Easter Joy!

Your wonderful support of Carmelite Missions has been a great blessing to us throughout the past year. We are grateful that you are part of our Carmelite Family.

Because of your support, our efforts – in the Andes Mountains of Sicuani, the shantytown of Jose Galvez outside Lima, the mission stations at Transfiguration parish in Torreon, Mexico, the monasteries and the schools in the Philippines, the orphanages in India, the Carmelite outstations in the villages of Zimbabwe – will continue without pause throughout Lent and into the Easter season.

That help, dear friend, continues because so many of the poor people that we try to serve are locked in a desperate struggle for survival. Many families look to us at Carmelite Missions – and to you – to provide the basics for their survival: food, clothing, medicine, and even shelter. Your commitment to our work has indeed enabled us to accomplish a great deal. Yet there is still much to be done!

Your Lenten gift will provide medical care through Bishop Michael LaFay for hundreds of handicapped children in the diocese of Sicuani. Your Lenten gift will let Father Tom Jordan relieve the suffering of the

elderly people at Transfiguration parish in Torreon. Your Lenten gift will allow Sister Annie Petta to supply food and clothing to the children of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Quezon City, Philippines. Your Lenten gift will help Sister Maria to give hope and encouragement to the orphans in Andra Pradesh, India.

Your gift will bring relief to hundreds of poor families around the globe as Carmelites proclaim to them the Good News of Easter joy: "CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN."

My prayer during these special days of Lent is that God will bless you and your family with the gifts of good health and abiding joy.

Love and peace,

*Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.*

Director of Carmelite Missions



SAINT OF THE MONTH 🌸 Feast Day, March 4

# Saint Casimir

## Historical Background

The Jagiello dynasty in Poland had its roots in Lithuania. King Louis of Hungary was to have succeeded his uncle as King of Poland. He asked that his daughter Hedwig be given the throne. The nobles of Poland had her crowned “king” and then struck a bargain with the Grand Duke Jagiello of Lithuania. He was thirty-five when he married Hedwig. He agreed to accept Christianity and was baptized. He was most sincere in his conversion and caused the Christian faith to be preached in Lithuania. After Hedwig’s death, he married Duchess Sophie of Lithuania and they had two sons.

The first son, Vladislaus, succeeded his father as King of Poland but was killed at the battle of Varna fighting the Turks. At his death, his brother Casimir took over the throne. At twenty, he was Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland. A few years later he married Elizabeth of Austria (a Hapsburg) who was the daughter of Emperor Albert II, the King of Bohemia and Hungary. They had twelve children, one of whom became Saint Casimir.

## Early Life

Casimir was born on October 3, 1458, in Cracow, the third child but the second son. We know little of his childhood. His mother was his first teacher, and she was a very saintly and wise woman. Anxious that her children not be spoiled by the pomp and luxury of the court, she maintained a strict discipline. Pious, she made sure that they loved God before all else. But she

wanted the best for her children and, true to the Hapsburg style, her daughters all married well in nobility. In fact, she was called the “Mother of Kings.”

At nine Casimir started his formal training under an exceptional tutor, Canon Jan Dlugosz, who had a deep influence on his life. He was a learned priest and taught Casimir and his brothers Polish, Latin, Public Speaking, Religious Education, German, and Physical Education. The Canon had not been anxious to accept the role of royal tutor but agreed when he was aware of the influence for good that he could bring to bear on future rulers. In his writings, Canon Dlugosz described Casimir as “...an excellent youth of rare talents and remarkable knowledge.”

At thirteen, Casimir’s father sent him in 1471 with 12,000 soldiers on an unwise military expedition against the King of Hungary, Matthias, who had been legitimately elected to rule that country. Because of Casimir’s youth and inexperience, the campaign turned out to be a disaster, and it seems to have turned the youngster completely against a military style of life in the future.

The following year, Casimir settled in Cracow, once more studying under Canon Dlugosz. Not only had he become more serious, but now circumstances were changed. His older brother had been made King of Bohemia, and Casimir became the Crown Prince. As an “apprentice King” his father introduced him to the lore of rule and kept him at his side in official functions.

## Training in Piety and Love of God

It is at this time of his life that Casimir’s piety grew and developed into a great love of God that made him a saint. All his actions as Crown Prince he dedicated to God, he developed a deep devotion to Mary, and his reverence for the Eucharist impressed all. Though living in the luxury of a royal palace, he attended daily Mass and he

drew up a program of spiritual exercises that he followed faithfully. He made a commitment to live a life of chastity, and when mention was made



Saint Casimir and Jan Dlugosz by Leon Wyczółkowski

of a possible marriage, he refused.

Nine years were spent studying under tutors and traveling with his father, conferring with nobles, ambassadors, and important visitors. Because Lithuania was part of the realm, he not only visited there but also learned the language. He became a mature man and soon responsibility was thrust upon him. When he was twenty-three, his father elected to go to Lithuania, and he delegated his son to rule as his deputy in Poland.

He had learned his lessons well, and he ruled wisely and effectively. Mortgages were paid off and the treasury was replenished. Banditry was wiped out in the countryside, and the nobles were required to live up to their responsibilities. Strained relations with the Pope in Rome were resolved, and Casimir demanded justice for all. No noble was allowed to trample on the rights of a poor person – he was soon called “the defender of the poor.” A Prussian chronicler of those days writes of him: “He was very wise and virtuous, and all the people could only speak much good of him.”

## Early Death

Unfortunately, in 1483, when he was only twenty-four, Casimir contracted

tuberculosis, a disease that was so prevalent in those days. He continued his religious devotions, but he became increasingly weaker, so much so that when the King went to Lublin for the Diet (meeting with the Polish nobles), Casimir stayed home at the royal castle at Grodno, being cared for by his mother the Queen.

On March 4, 1484, he was so weakened by the disease that the doctors despaired, and Casimir was given the Last Rites of the Church. He calmly prayed through it all, holding a crucifix in one hand and a candle in the other. It was his last day on earth, and that night his body was laid to rest in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin in the cathedral.

His holiness in life attracted the faithful to his tomb, and the faith that they had in his intercessory power with God won many favors and miracles for them. The process to canonize him was started in 1517 by Pope Leo X, and it was concluded four years later, only 37 years after his death. To this day, Saint Casimir continues to be especially honored in Poland and Lithuania, and among people of those nationalities in the United States and Canada a great devotion to him has developed, with many churches dedicated to his memory. 🌸