



THE MOTHER ANGELINE SOCIETY

The Mother Angeline Society is dedicated to promoting the cause for beatification and canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O. Carm, foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and advancing her charism in the church.

Fall 2024

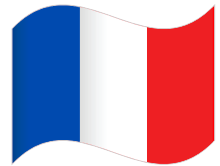


Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm Observe the 95th Anniversary of the Community

September 3, 1929 – September 3, 2024



Ireland



France



Scotland



*United States
of America*

*Our Founding Sisters (L-R):
First Row: Mother Louise,
Mother Angeline-Foundress,
Mother Leonie Second Row:
Mother Alodie, Mother Alexis,
Mother Teresa, and Mother
Colette.*

*Our Present Council (L-R):
Sr. Veronica Robert, Sr. Cyril
Methodius, Sr. Jeanne Francis,
Mother Mary Rose-Prioress
General, Sr. Theresa, Sr. M. Peter
Lillian, and Sr. M. Richard Carmel*

Mother Angeline's Journey in Faith

*The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm follow the example and vision
of their Foundress ministering to Christ in the person of the elderly.*

After her childhood spent in Ireland and Scotland, Bridget Teresa McCrory, at the age of nineteen, left for France to become a Little Sister of the Poor.

In 1926, she was assigned to a home for the aged in New York but felt the European customs did not meet the needs of the American elderly. Her efforts at change were not agreed to by her Congregation so she sought the advice of Patrick Cardinal Hayes. To accomplish what she felt God was calling her to do, and with the blessing of the Cardinal, Mother Angeline and six other Sisters made the very difficult decision to withdraw from the Congregation of

the Little Sisters of the Poor. They were granted permission from Rome to begin a new Community incorporating Mother Angeline's ideas.

When established in 1929, The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm was the first American Community of religious women founded solely to care for the aged. Today Carmelite facilities are in Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Dublin, Ireland. Our communities offer an array of senior care services, including skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living and rehabilitation services.



From the Pen of **Brother Robert Chiulli, O.Carm.**

As you can see in the pages of this latest issue of the Mother Angeline Society bulletin, a magnificent new statue of Mother Angeline was created, and then installed and dedicated at her home parish in Scotland. However, this is not the first statue of Mother Angeline that has been commissioned. The first one resides at the Carmelite Sisters' Heritage Center in Germantown, New York. This statue, inspired by the Sisters' recollections about Mother, depicts Mother at prayer in her pew in front of the Blessed Sacrament. It is interesting how these two statues of Mother, one of her at prayer, and the other with her in service to her beloved "old people," encompass the totality of Mother's life.

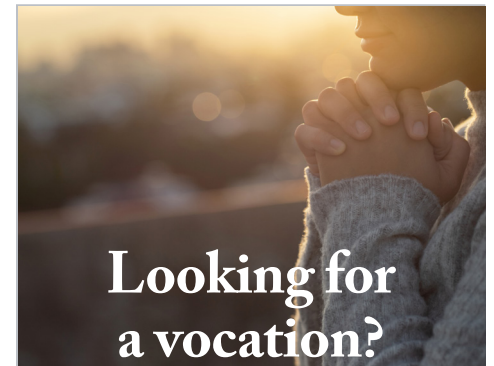
As a Carmelite, Mother Angeline was an intensely prayerful and reflective woman who continually strove to deepen her relationship with the Lord. For her, nothing was more important than her time in prayer, whether it be praying the Divine Office, attending Holy Mass, or spending time in quiet contemplation. Even with the many demands upon her time as the founder of a religious community with a busy apostolate, she made sure to never neglect her spiritual life. Her continual orientation towards God reminded her that any success or achievement in her life and ministry was only possible because He allowed it. No doubt she kept Psalm 127, "if the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor" always in her heart.

Mother's profound prayer life allowed her to trust the Lord when she felt the divine inspiration to leave her original religious community to start a new congregation dedicated to the compassionate care of the elderly. Mother Angeline was deeply committed to providing homelike care for the elderly in need, and to treat them as Christ would treat them. In this new statue of Mother Angeline in Scotland, one can see Mother Angeline holding the hands of both an elderly gentleman and a woman in a wheelchair. This personifies the kind of care Mother wanted for the men and women living in the homes she founded: a care that was personal and genuine; a care that recognized the individuality of each resident and respected their independence.

Also in the statue, Mother is placed in the center, between the woman and the man, representing how we need to stand in the midst of people when we minister to them. We need to walk the journey with them, share the same path, just as Jesus did when he brought his words of hope and salvation to the people of Israel. And lastly, on the faces of Mother Angeline and the two elderly people, one can see a sense of hope and confidence. Part of Mother Angeline's vision was to prepare the residents in her homes for their Eternal Home, a place of endless peace and comfort. She wanted to tend to their souls as much as to their bodies, and to make sure that their

spiritual needs were being met. Old age can be a lonely time, often filled with fear. So, Mother established a place where the elderly can enjoy the autumn of their lives free from many of the burdens that can make aging a continuous struggle.

I pray that you may have the opportunity to visit these statues in person someday and grow in deeper appreciation of the life and ministry of this remarkable woman.



If you or someone you know is thinking of a religious vocation and interested in our ministry to the elderly as a Carmelite Sister for the Aged and Infirm, please visit us at a "Come and See" Weekend.

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

October 11-13, 2024

November 15-17, 2024

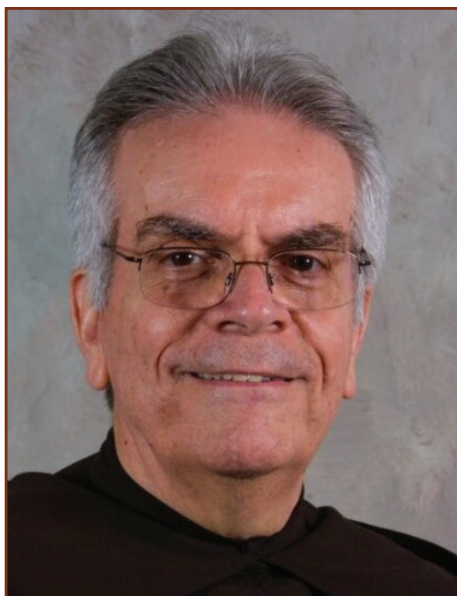
*To learn more, contact our
vocation director,
Sr. Mary O'Donovan at
srmariyod@stmhcs.org or
call 518-537-5000.*

Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the
Mother Angeline Society,

Peace be with you as we come to the end of the summer of 2024. I pray that you are well. As members of the Mother Angeline Society, you are important to us, and your prayerful and financial support of the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. is vital to the entire process. You and your intentions are remembered in two Masses each month and in the daily prayers of the Carmelite Sisters. We truly count on you to help us in making Mother Angeline better known within the Church community.

To truly know ourselves personally, as a family, or as members of a group, it is important to explore and understand one's roots. Many people today invest in DNA testing, and genealogy studies so that they can shed light on and illuminate their origins, their ancestry. In religious communities, the members spend a good amount of time studying the history and spirituality of their religious family, so as to know and live the charism, for example, of the Carmelites or another Order, more profoundly. This past June, I had the privilege, along with Mother Mary Rose, O.Carm., Prioress General, and five other Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, to visit Mossend, Scotland, as well as Carfin, to see the actual places where Mother Angeline lived for years before entering the Little Sisters of the Poor, where her family moved after leaving Ireland, and where she received her first Holy Communion and Confirmation. What an extraordinary time! We were hosted by John and Thomas Mallon and Brian Timmons, who run Sancta Familia Media, members of Holy Family Parish, that have been steady and effective promoters of the Cause of Mother Angeline. Holy Family Parish was her parish, and that of her fam-



*Very Reverend Mario Esposito,
O.Carm., Vice Postulator*

ily. Devotion to Venerable Mary Angeline, and awareness of her genuine reputation for holiness flourish there, and it was touching and heartwarming to experience it.

As you will see in other parts of the Bulletin, a beautiful statue of Mother Angeline with some of her beloved old people has been erected at the Church, and the local people know of Mother and the meaning of her charism. In terms of roots, the faith and commitment of the people to the Church is strong, and steady, and you can see how Mother was shaped in that atmosphere. At St. Francis Xavier Church in Carfin where the young Bridget McCrory made her communion, you can see the signs of devotion to both Our

Lady of Lourdes, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus, devotions Mother kept throughout her life. All of us were overwhelmed as we saw the environment that nurtured Mother Angeline, and a place to which she returned whenever possible. For sure, we came to know Mother's roots a bit better, and it was wonderful to behold. Meeting the Irish pilgrims there who came from the parish of her baptism in Northern Ireland, completed the whole experience. I truly felt like I knew Mother Angeline better afterward.

Thank you for your ongoing financial and spiritual support of the mission of the Mother Angeline Society that seeks to make the Venerable better known, and to advance her Cause in the Church. The life and legacy of Mother Angeline continues to nourish and strengthen the work of the Carmelite Sisters and build up the Church. Each day we ask her help and prayers, and trust in her loving companionship on the pathways of life. God bless you and may Our Lady watch over you always.

In Christ,

Father Mario, O.Carm.

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.
Vice Postulator

Favors Received

We received three reports of favors attributed to the intercession of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: F.P. for the successful outcome for heart surgery, B.W. for a successful removal of a cancerous growth, and M.D for finding employment.

Tracing Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa's Journey in Faith



Top: Blessing and dedicating the plaque and new shrine site to Mother Angeline. Above: Holy Family Church in Mossend, Scotland. Pictures courtesy of Paul McSherry

On June 19, 2024, six of our Carmelite Sisters and Father Mario Esposito, O.Carm. traveled to Scotland to attend the dedication of a new shrine to Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa. Joining the celebration were pilgrims from Brockagh, Ireland (the town of Mother's birth and childhood) and several relatives of Mother Angeline. The event was hosted at the site of Holy Family Parish in Mossend, Scotland, where Venerable Angeline Teresa was a parishioner and grew in her faith. Mother's journey in faith from Ireland to Scotland and then to America was well represented.

Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Joseph A. Toal followed by the blessing and dedication of the new shrine to Mother Angeline. However, the statue was delayed in customs, so an image of the statue and a memorial plaque were unveiled.

At long last the statue arrived and it is beautiful! Mother is shown holding the hands of two elderly people. Our Carmelite Charism Statement says, "to clasp the hand of an aged person and give meaning to the autumn of life."

Those words came to my mind when I saw this statue – what a beautiful way to depict our Mission and the wonderful legacy that has been left to all of us.

– Sr. Patricia Margaret Rawdon, O. Carm.

Celebrating

25, 50, 60, 70, 75 and 80 Years
of Religious Jubilees



From Rev. Stash Dailey's Homily:

"My interaction, my learning from the Carmelite Sisters, began in 1996 when I was a freshman in High School." Father Dailey shared his memories as a high school weekly volunteer at St. Raphael's Home visiting the residents and family members on a list given to him from Sr. Michelle. He fondly related a story of having black raspberry chip ice cream brought to Sr. Michelle and Mother Mary Rose and the Sisters when he was a seminarian, and then as a Priest.

When new Priests asked for advice for visiting the elderly Fr. Dailey said, "I remembered St. Raphael's Home, the good Sisters telling the volunteers... 'when you walk in a room you see that person as the Father sees that person. That individual is His child, His daughter or His son. When you engage them and encounter them you love them the way Jesus loves them, and when you speak, you speak what the Holy Spirit says to say. We give what we have been given.'

In God's Providence this simple priest has traveled from Ohio shaped and formed as it were, by the spirit of Mother Angeline, to celebrate with you a Holy Mass where we approach God is all mystery, all love, and we dare to thank Him for all of the gifts He has given to our Jubilarians."

On June 1, 2024, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held to celebrate religious jubilees of thirteen of our Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Mass was followed by a reception and social gathering.

The Principal Celebrant and Homilist was Rev. Stash Dailey of the Diocese of Columbus. Very Rev. Mario Esposito, O.Carm. was Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Jim Hess, O.Carm., Rev. Ashley Harrington, O.Carm. and Rev. Senan Taylor, OFM Cap. were also concelebrants.

The Carmelite Brothers from Saint Elias Province assisted at the liturgy. Three of the Jubilarians could not be present for the celebrations and were especially remembered. Sister Mary Ann Immaculate Wasilko, our 70th year Jubilarian, was also remembered with love and gratitude, having gone to her eternal reward during her jubilee year.

Jubilarians Pictured Above:

(L to R) Sr. M. Therese Eileen Mulvaney (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Theresa of the Eucharist Pham (25 Yrs), Sr. M. Cyril Methodius Kasper (50 Yrs), Sr. M. Margaret Edward of All Saints Costello (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Joseph Augustine Thornley (75 Yrs), Sr. Maureen Carroll (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Philip Ann of All Saints Bowden (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Veronica Robert Bien (50 Yrs)

Not Pictured:

Sr. Theresa Margaret Cave (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Michelle of All Saints Moore (60 Yrs), Sr. M. Rose of the Sacred Heart Spencer (80 Yrs), Sr. M. Bernadette Murphy (60 Yrs), and Sr. M. Matthew James of All Saints Gay (60 Yrs)

Entered Eternal Life:

Sr. Mary Ann Immaculate Wasilko (70 Yrs)

Celebrating the Eucharist: A Reflection on the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress



The National Eucharistic Congress took place in Indianapolis, Indiana July 17-21, 2024, as part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative sponsored by the Bishops of the United States. The purpose of the revival was to inspire and prepare the People of God to be formed, healed, converted, united, and sent out to the world through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. Activities focused around cultivating a greater understanding of and love for the Eucharist. These activities included daily Mass, general sessions, breakout sessions, Eucharistic processions and adoration, and musical performances.

Nine sisters represented our Congregation and promoted The Mother Angeline Society. They joined their fellow pilgrims (roughly 60,000) in welcoming Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist to Lucas Oil Stadium. What a gift it was to be here for that historic moment! Know that the Sisters carried you in their prayers during these days of Eucharistic Revival.

Left photo (L-R): Sr. Mary of Jesus, Sr. Theresa, Sr. Peter Lillian, and Sr. Lois Wetzel. Middle photo: The Sisters with thousands in attendance Right photo: Eucharistic Procession into the Stadium

A few comments from the sisters who attended:

"It has awakened in me the privilege we have every day to receive Jesus in the Eucharist and despite our humanity, he gives us the strength to overcome our faults."

"My thought is one of gratitude, the energy, enthusiasm, and power of the Holy Spirit will stay with us for a long time. The Emmaus encounters, the many people we meet on the way. The Youth had such a strong witness of faith, I was in awe of that. One of the bishop's said to the youth, 'you are not the church of the future, you are the church of now.'"

The 2024 Carmelite Institute of North America Symposium

The Carmelite Institute of North America Symposium was held from July 28 to August 1, 2024, at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. This year's theme, "From St. Therese to St. Titus: Lessons for the 21st Century," explored the spiritual teachings and legacies of these saints. The symposium drew connections between their teachings and provided insights on how their models can help address today's spiritual and social challenges.

Attendees included Friars, Nuns, Sisters and Lay Carmelites, as well as Carmelite Brothers and Sisters in initial formation. Sr. Ann Dailey traveled to attend this wonderful Carmelite event and promoted The Mother Angeline Society. Sr. Christopher Jude, Sr. Lois Wetzel, Sr. Dolores, and Sister Theresa Pfeffer also participated in the symposium.



Sr. Lois Wetzel, Sr. Dolores, Sr. Theresa Pfeffer and Sr. Ann Dailey

Ministry Corner *Rehab*

This year, we are reflecting on a momentous milestone as the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm reaches its 95th anniversary of their foundation! Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence in West Palm Beach, FL is a mirror of work started by the Carmelite Sisters who established this facility in 1960 and expanded it in 1964.

Now, Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence is known and sought out for our all-star therapy department. Our short-term therapy department strives to help address resident-specific needs with an individualized holistic treatment plan to address balance, strength, endurance, range of motion, functional ability, communication, and swallowing. The team uses positive encouragement, engaging activities/exercises, family involvement, and plenty of education. The greatest achievement for the therapy department is to watch their residents walk out the front door to return home with their loved ones, able to care for themselves again with revived strength and functional abilities.

Residents may need short-term therapy. Our therapists specialize in rehabilitation for residents who had joint-replacement surgery, a stroke, heart surgery, cardiac disease, gastrointestinal illnesses, renal disease, or pneumonia, and/or injuries after a fall. Treatment focuses on improving balance, strength, endurance, and overall functional mobility, and is customized to treat each resident's individual needs. Our occupational therapists create a plan of care to help residents regain everyday skills needed to perform daily tasks - doing laundry, dressing, and preparing meals. If residents are experiencing challenges with speech, communication, and swallowing, usually following an event such as a stroke, our speech therapist effectively improves these skills.

Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence is excited to announce the introduction of a specialized treatment program being provided by certified therapists targeting residents with Parkinson's disease (PD). Lee Silverman Voice Treatments (LSVT) are research-based treatment protocols designed specifically to address the motor, sensory and non-motor symptoms that many people with PD face. Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence has the only therapy department within a senior living community with specially trained LSVT certified clinicians that can offer these treatment programs in the West Palm Beach area.



Speech language pathologist (SLP) during a dysphagia treatment cuing the resident for an effortful swallow. SLP's hand place on resident's larynx to assess strength of laryngeal muscles during his swallow.



This group photo includes various departments – Activities, Rehab, Nursing and Administration. “Together we can make a difference. Let us help you reach your goal with caring hands caring hearts.”

But our residents also receive something in addition to our expertise staff and specialized treatment programs. Our therapy team gives them hope and the support needed to create goals that will keep them motivated to keep moving forward during their rehabilitation. Our therapy team strives to provide all services with kindness in conformity with our beloved Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa ideals. As she famously said: *‘If you fail, let it be on the side of kindness. Be kinder than kindness itself to the old people.’*

CARMELITE SISTERS
FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM
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GERMANTOWN, NY 12526

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Annual Vietnamese Day to Celebrate Our Lady of La Vang

Four of our Carmelite Sisters who represented the Formation Team and The Mother Angeline Society attended the Annual Vietnamese Day to celebrate Our Lady of La Vang. The two-day event was held on July 13-14 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – National Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang in Middletown, NY. The theme chosen for this year was Mary: Model of Synodality in Prayer and Eucharist. The Invited speakers were The Most Reverend Gerardo Colacicco, The Most Reverend John Nhan Tran, Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm., Rev. Jude Tam Tran, and Rev. Micheal Hong Pham. The schedule of events over the two days included conferences, a variety show, a candlelight procession, and a concert.

The Sisters could only attend the first day of the event, but the experience of the deep faith and friendliness of the Vietnamese pilgrims was enriching. It was a joyous day and a wonderful opportunity to bring witness to religious life and to raise awareness of our Foundress, Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa.



Sr. Mary O'Donovan, Sr. Francis Patrick Casey, Sr. Helena of Mary and Sr. Patricia Rawdon