



# 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.*



## Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm.



Model of Prayer  
For Our Time



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

With the holidays long past, and springtime upon us, it is that time of year where we start cleaning out the closets, drawers, garages of all that stuff that seems to have mysteriously accumulated. Even those of us who try to consciously limit our consumption seem somehow to have more things than we really need. Of course, the internet makes shopping so easy. With only a click or two, that item that before would have taken a trip to the store and hours of browsing, can be on our doorstep in a couple of days. And then where to put this stuff? It is interesting to see the proliferation of self-storage units in small towns and large cities alike, as we run out of places in our homes to store all this stuff.

In my musings about material possessions, I am reminded of the re-creation of Mother Angeline's office and bedroom in the Mother Angeline Heritage Center, located at the Carmelite Sisters' Motherhouse in Germantown, NY. Mother's quarters are refreshingly uncluttered. There are a few books, small statues, and holy pictures, things that would help Mother focus on what she considered most important, her relation-

ship with God. Mother had an eye for good taste, and wanted the chapels in her convents and nursing homes to be decorated with art that was dignified and graceful. And the small items in her own rooms reflect Mother's style: a simple, but elegant, piety.

For the visitors who come to the Mother Angeline Heritage Center, what can be learned about Mother Angeline as they gaze at her desk, bookcase, and bed? How do things she lived with, and surrounded herself with, reflect something about her personality? Mother had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and all the saints, so one finds in her room a few small statues and pictures. No doubt, Mother, as she went about her work, desired to be surrounded by holy men and women. As she made the many important decisions in guiding the Congregation she founded, she likely called upon their support and guidance.

One also sees in the rooms that several of the items are gifts from friends or dear associates. Mother was known within and outside the Congregation to be a generous and thoughtful woman, the type of person who would remember anniversaries and

important events, who would send a sympathetic note to one going through a difficult time. She deeply cherished her relationships with her sisters, her family, and her friends. And her sisters and friends cherished her, and would often send her small gifts as expressions of gratitude.

And one can glean from that lack of ornamentation in Mother's rooms that poverty was an important virtue for her. As the Superior General of a religious congregation, one might think she was entitled to an elaborate and sumptuous residence. However, Mother's simple office and room conveyed her deep belief that we are made for God, and to serve Him, not to acquire possessions. As Mother wrote to her sisters, "Our Blessed Lady practiced Poverty and knew its blessings as no other creature could know them. Let us learn from her...so that like her we may truly abandon all things and find Christ."

If you haven't yet made a visit to the Mother Angeline Heritage Center, I would recommend you plan a visit soon and discover what there is to know about this remarkable faith-filled, visionary woman.

### **New from The Mother Angeline Society Gift Shop**

Check out the new gift items available. These new items can be found on the enclosed order form.

**NEW**



#### **20 oz. Stainless Steel Travel Mug**

Stainless Steel Travel Mug with imprinted Carmelite shield. Pourable plastic top with an open drinking slit. The mug is 6 ¾ inches tall x 3 ½ wide at the top and has a 20 oz. capacity.

\$10.00 | \$12.00 (with shipping)

# Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the Mother Angeline Society,

Peace and blessings to you as you receive our Winter – Spring Bulletin. You are always remembered in our prayers and monthly Masses and we remain grateful for your prayerful support and interest in the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm.

During 2019 we are reflecting on Mother Angeline Teresa as a **Model of Prayer for Our Time** as a theme. Anyone who knew Mother Angeline or has read any letter, conference or note that she wrote, will recognize that prayer and reflection were a constant in her life. Every project, every decision, every exhortation to her Sisters seems to be touched by her spirit of prayer. She constantly sought the guidance of God the Holy Spirit in all things. She invoked Mary and the Saints of Carmel as a source of inspiration for virtuous, religious living. She presented Christ, the compassionate Good Shepherd as the model of care for the aged and infirm. Every major moment in the life of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged & Infirm was wrapped in prayer – novenas of intercession and preparation, Masses of thanksgiving for graces and helps received. Those around her could see her devotion to, above all, the Mass and Holy Eucharist, to the rosary and scapular of Our Lady, and to the word of God, the Divine Office and the prayers that shaped her religious



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

life, and that of her beloved daughters in Carmel. A deep and abiding trust and confidence in God grew through her time of prayer and union with her Beloved Spouse.

Prayer changes us, and we know this. How we stand before God and with God affects everything we say and do. A deep harmony between soul and body can be recognized in actions and attitudes. In today's very fragmented world we need such a model as Mother Angeline. Prayer brought her charity, joy, peace and zeal. It was genuine and people noticed it. Each of us can learn from her wholeness and dedication to the Lord what marvels prayer can accomplish. Above all, it was the Venerable's contemplative way of prayer that was so edifying and brought forth a ra-

diance that can only come from faith and love.

Let us learn from Mother Angeline, a model of prayer, what great things come from the life of prayer, from the heart and hands of our Loving God. May the Lord and His Holy Mother be with you each day of this year. You are always in our thoughts and prayers and we remain grateful for your prayerful and financial support of the Cause. Please help us make Mother Angeline better known.

*Father Mario, O.Carm.*

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.  
Vice Postulator



## Mother Angeline Artwork and Quote

4" x 6" Brushed Aluminum Framed Photo taken in the Grotto at the Mother Angeline Heritage Center with laser engraved quote of Mother Angeline: *"I think the best of all prayer is just to kneel or sit quietly and let Jesus pour Himself into our Souls."*

\$7.00 | \$10.00 (with shipping)

# 35th Anniversary of the Birth and Death of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa

On January 21, 2019, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm celebrated the life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa and the 35th anniversary of her passing to eternal life with a Eucharistic celebration held at Saint Teresa's Motherhouse. The theme chosen for this celebration was "Model of Prayer for Our Time". The Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm. was the principal celebrant. Other members of the clergy con-celebrating were Rev. James Hess, O.Carm., Rev. Patrick Buckley, Rev. Roberto Perez O.Carm., and Rev. John Moyna.

The event was attended by many of the McCrory family, the Carmelite Sisters, Carmelite Friars, pre-Novices and Novices and invited guests. Adding to the excitement of the day was the presence of EWTN's production crew. The life and legacy of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa will be the future subject of EWTN's series called "They Might Be Saints."

## Excerpts from Fr. Mario's Homily:

"Today, we are keeping an anniversary and remembering Mother Angeline. She is worth remembrance, for she – along with her companions – did great things. She was certainly the inspiration, the leader, the soul of the group, the nucleus of a new religious family.

...I think we can learn again that she was a woman of prayer for our time. Here is the heart of who she was. When I am asked about who I think Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa is and what is the secret of her holiness, I answer: she was 100%. She was always 100% the same – same dedication, same drive, same goals, same love, no change, no variation. By this I don't mean she was unbending or unable to adjust and change, but her core – firmly rooted in faith and prayer, never wavered. She was 100 % for God, 100 % for her Sisters, 100 % for the Church and for the old people. No duplicity, no compromise, always acting from the center which was united with the Lord in prayer and love. For me, this is her holiness, something to ponder and appreciate the heroic virtue of being steadfast.

...Mother Angeline spent hours in prayer – a fact that no one can deny. When she chose a religious family to affiliate her new work with, she chose Carmel whose very charism is of prayer. And her own prayer life contained all the elements of a well-rounded prayer experience: a deep love and devotion for the Eucharist and the Liturgy; a practice of spiritual reading and devotion to the Sacred Scripture – often saying that the reading she loved best was of the gospels – devotional prayer to Mary and the Saints and, finally, and most noteworthy, a love for silent prayer, contemplation and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, heart speaking to heart. Here is the soul of her character.

...We are remembering a woman that from her own inner core and dedication to God and doing His will, could face



*Top: Anniversary cake; Middle: Concelebrants of the Anniversary Mass, Mother Mark Louis, and Council; Bottom: The McCrory Family*

down the opposition of her former religious congregation, the depression, and all nay-sayers, to launch a new ministry in the service of God's elderly, a new religious family and, in a sense, a new active way of living the Carmelite contemplative charism in our world. She did this by being a woman of prayer, of faith, a religious who lived in community and built a community where the spiritual life could flourish, and each Sister find her own personal vocation in peace and joy. She is a model of prayer, and the completeness of her dedication even until death can remind each of us that, as Blessed Titus Brandsma, a Carmelite contemporary of Mother Angeline once wrote, "For the Carmelite, prayer is not an oasis in life, it IS life."

Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, pray for us.

# Day of Prayer Held in Framingham, MA

Left Br. Robert Chiulli, O.Carm.; Right: Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm.

The Mother Angeline Society held a Day of Prayer on October 6, 2018 at Carmel Terrace in Framingham, MA. Events included celebration of the Mass and presentations on Mother Angeline given by Br. Robert Chiulli, O. Carm, Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm. An excerpt from Brother Robert's presentation:

*"....When Mother felt the grace of God calling her to leave the Little Sisters and start a new community, she knew that she was taking a risk, one she believed was inspired by the Holy Spirit...In order to provide spiritual support for this fledgling community, she wrote to Cardinal Hayes the following: 'Our only aim in requesting this affiliation (to Carmel) is that of leaning up our work, so young and inexperienced, against one of the greatest religious families in the Church.'*

*Mother Angeline had to move from knowing about the Carmelites to being a Carmelite. She had to do this as the community was just taking shape. She was responsible for imparting a Carmelite character as she herself was also learning about the Order, its heritage, its charism. By joining Carmel, it provided the community with a spiritual identity, a connection to a history, a tradition.*

*I think that her choice of being a Carmelite was more than a way of establishing some kind of legitimacy for the community, of being pragmatic, but a reflection of Mother's genuine desire for her commu-*



*nity, her Sisters to be Sisters who prioritized prayer, who sought God in all that they did in their work for the aged, and to keep that focus on God and on doing his will... What we are doing today is a result of her legacy, her vision, which is of uniting care for the elderly with a spirit of prayerfulness.*

*... With these words of Mother Angeline Teresa, I think we would do well to remember them and to live by them. I would ask that you make God the very center of your existence. The human heart is made to love. God should continually be in our thoughts."*

## Carmelite System

*Celebrating 20 years of being a Beacon of Hope for All We Serve*



The mission of caring for the elderly began in 1929 when Mother Angeline McCrory founded the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. In 1999, the Sisters formed a non-profit corporation known as the Carmelite System for the Aged and Infirm, Inc. In 2010, renamed The Carmelite System, Inc. it was headquartered in a new building on the grounds of the Motherhouse in Germantown. The Carmelite System is a not-for-profit health system consisting of facilities located in Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Dublin, Ireland where senior care services are provided, including skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living and post-acute care.

The Carmelite System is unique in its focus on service to the elderly, following in the tradition of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. The Carmelite System fosters the healing ministry of Christ in Catholic health care by proclaiming the value and dignity of the aged and infirm, and providing collaborative ways to meet the needs of today's elderly. The hallmark of programs and services rendered is a commitment to compassionate, loving care of the highest standards, with wise stewardship of resources.

The System staff are committed to assisting member facilities to achieve quality care in long-term care and short-term rehab within a homelike and dig-

nified setting. Not only do they zero in on the important components of clinical services, but they also promote the collaboration of services such as mission effectiveness and quality improvement. The Carmelite System provides financial and business services, management of information services, strategic planning, public policy, and education.

"We want our homes not to be better, but the best." Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm.

*L to R: Sr. Julie McCarthy, Sr. Theresa Marie Pfeffer, and Sr. Margaret Edward Costello with residents*

# Recent Videos about Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa are Available Online!

Have you seen the new videos found on the motherangeline.org website? Mother Mark Louis Anne Randall, O.Carm, narrates the Moments of Mission programs, complete with numerous archival photographs of people and places. The Mission of Care session highlights Mother Angeline Teresa's vision of caring for the elderly, and what it means to be an older person needing long-term care in a nursing facility. The Early Life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory takes a look at how Mother's earliest experiences helped form the person she became, and how these experiences helped form her philosophy of caring for the elderly.

Filmed at the Mother Angeline Heritage Center, in a three part video series: 1) *Who is Mother Angeline Teresa*; 2) *Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: The Carmelite*; and 3) *Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: Her Legacy*, Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm. recounts Mother's life and spirit in the foundation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Two interviews are also available. An interview with Bishop Hubbard gives insight of Mother from the Bishop's first-hand experience and friendship, and an interview with Very Rev. Mario Esposito, O.Carm. summarizes the progress of Mother's Cause.

John P. Mallon and Brian A. Timmons of Santa Familia Media created, *Venerable Mary Angeline and Scotland*. This video relates their pilgrimage made to St. Brigid's Church in County Tyrone, Ireland where Mother Angeline was baptized. As part of the 150th Anniversary of Holy Family Church in Mossend, Scotland, they noted where Mother discovered her vocation to religious life. Mallon and Timmons share their hope that Mother will become a saint for Ireland, Scotland and the United States.

In their second video, *Venerable Mother Angeline a Saint for Scotland?* Mother Angeline's childhood in Scotland and her vocational life is depicted. Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa's journey to founding The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm is chronicled through photographs and motion-pictures.

All these recordings help in sharing the message and meaning of the life of Mother Angeline for the Church and world. This helps make Venerable Angeline Teresa better known, and as awareness rises, so do reports of favors received through Mother's intercession as people reach out to her.



*Moments of Mission: Caring for the Elderly video*



*Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm. in the Mother Angeline Heritage Center*



*St. Brigid's Church, County Tyrone, Ireland*



**Sister Mary  
O'Donovan,  
O.Carm.**

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, contact our vocation director at [smaryod@stmhcs.org](mailto:smaryod@stmhcs.org) or call 518-537-5000.



## EWTN Filming St. Teresa's Motherhouse

by Mother Mark Louis Anne, O.Carm.

Photo Courtesy: Karen McCrory

The Carmelite Sisters were invited to participate in a project to be aired on EWTN as part of a series called "They Might Be Saints". From January 18-21, Avila was bustling with activity as interviews were conducted and scenes from Mother Angeline's early life were filmed.

Despite a major snowstorm that meant moving schedules around, with God's help everything was accomplished. The Producer, Michael O'Neill, was open to Mother's family portraying her in the

scenes, so Karen, Angeline, Katie and Michael McCrory depicted Mother and her family during Mother's teenage years in Scotland. Some of the filming was done in St. Sylvia's Church and Rectory in Tivoli, NY. The McCrory family welcomed two Little Sisters into the house (Sr. Veronica and Sr. Mary of Jesus), and Angeline portrayed Mother arranging flowers in the local parish and taking a book from Dean Cronin's library the evening before her entrance into the convent.

Later, Brigid McCrory Amundson played Mother as a Little Sister of the Poor receiving blessed roses from Fr. Flanagan,

O.Carm. (Fr. Jim Hess) and meeting with Cardinal Hayes (an actor) accompanied as far as the door by Sr. Julie. There is no dialogue in the scenes, but a voice-over narration will be used. Filming was also done at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, IL to show our ministry to the aged and infirm.

We thank Michael and his crew for their patience and dedication in making Mother's story come alive and Mother's family for going the extra mile to the point of looking like the cast of *Downton Abbey*! The episode will be aired later in the year on EWTN. Stay tuned for details.

## A Video Featuring New Palliative Care Program by Carmelite Sisters Wins Emmy Nomination

by Stacey Sumereau

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm recently formalized a groundbreaking palliative care program that raises new standards for palliative and end-of-life care in the United States. Kaplan Multimedia, Inc. teamed up with the Carmelite Sisters to produce a thirteen-minute film capturing the hallmarks of the program titled *The Difference is Love*. The film's excellence was recognized with a nomination for a 2017 Suncoast Emmy Award under the category "Societal Concerns."

Palliative care, often confused with hospice care, is specialized pain relief that can be administered to anyone with a serious illness, even if he or she has no life-limiting prognosis.

The Carmelite Sisters' philosophy that life is precious until the end, stands in stark contrast to the movement of promoting physician-assisted suicide throughout our country. Not only does *The Difference is Love* highlight the Carmelite Sisters' unique approach, but it also tells the stories of those whose lives have been made better by the program. The message is a hopeful one, that holistic, loving care and a natural death are a better alternative to an earlier death from a belief that life as an elder is meaningless. "It was affirming to know that the National Academy of Arts and Sciences recognized the importance of Palliative Care and its significance to our elders and those who are facing debilitating illnesses," said Sr. Peter Lillian,

AIG director.

Joel Kaplan, director of photography, and Linda Corley, writer and producer, each bring over thirty years of experience in the film industry and a combined twenty-one Emmy nominations and fifteen awards to their work. "It's one of my most meaningful nominations because the subject matter has significant impact on society. It's gratifying to be in a field where your information helps direct, inform and enlighten," said Linda Corley. Stacey Sumereau served as Associate Producer, and John Sumereau served as Production Assistant. The film can be viewed on the Carmelite Palliative Care website, [www.carmelite-palliative.org](http://www.carmelite-palliative.org).

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FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM  
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## Members of The Mother Angeline Society

Thank you for joining us in praying for the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O.Carm. Your interest and prayers will help make Mother more widely known which will help advance her Cause. The benefits as a member of The Mother Angeline Society are:

- Receiving a bulletin, issued twice each year
- Two masses offered every month of the year
- Special remembrances in the prayers of the Carmelite Sisters
- Intentions of the members are included in an annual novena of Masses in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Please consider bestowing an annual membership upon someone you know, to share in these benefits. An acknowledgement letter will be sent to the new member, along with a prayer card. An enrollment form can be found at the bottom of the insert in this bulletin. Thank you.

## Favors Received

On October 2, 2018, I fell and fractured my skull and my brain was bleeding. As a result, my left leg would not move. I spent 34 days between hospital and two rehabs.

When I was in the ICU, a Sister brought me a small picture of Mother Angeline and told me to pray to her and she would help me. I prayed to her everyday asking for help. I heard many disturbing stories as a result of brain injuries. Not able to walk, talk, memory loss and not being able to take care of oneself. I did not have any of those results.

I truly believe that Mother Angeline healed me and I am so grateful to her.

*A.N., a resident at the Villa's at St. Therese, Columbus, OH*



Those who believe their prayers were answered through Mother Angeline Teresa's intercession are encouraged to contact the Carmelite Sisters, or you may write to:

The Postulator's Office  
Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm  
600 Woods Road  
Germantown, NY 12526