



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.

Spring 2024



Strengthened by the Eucharist

*Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of
Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa's Entrance into Eternal Life.*



*In the Eucharist, our Mother Foundress found the light to guide the way and the strength to carry on.
The Eucharist was her lamp in the darkness, the light of her soul.*



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

The season of Lent is always a reminder of the centrality of prayer and sacrifice in the Christian life. During this time, the Church pays special attention to how Jesus was completely disposed to following the Father's will in his life, no matter the price to be paid. And as disciples of Jesus, we too need to be reminded that our purpose in life is not to satisfy our own dreams and yearnings, but to obediently follow the call of Him who has brought us into being, and who desires that we spend eternity with Him.

This idea of sacrifice is one that is very much at odds with our modern culture, as our economy, our civilization is built on being able to satisfy any desire, any whim as quickly as possible. As soon as I have an idea of some object that I cannot simply live without, I can just go to my computer, and with a few keystrokes, have the item delivered to my front door the next day. Never in history has it been so easy and so convenient to acquire what we want. And yet, what is the price we pay for all this convenience? We buy more than we need, and need more places to store the stuff we buy. What happens though when after we buy and buy and buy, we feel even less satisfied than we did before? This consumption frenzy simply masks the emptiness and longing we all bear, and we distract ourselves from the larger questions about life and its ultimate meaning.

A man who learned the value and worth of suffering and sacrifice first-

hand was the Jesuit priest Walter Ciszek. Fr. Ciszek was an American priest who felt a call to minister to the Russian people during World War II. With the rise of communism in Russia, religion was suppressed and devotion to the State took its place. Burning with a desire to speak about God to the Russian people, Fr. Ciszek learned their language, and then made his way first to Poland, and eventually to the Soviet Union. However, the ministry was far, far harder than he expected. He was suspected of being a Vatican spy by the Russian authorities and placed in solitary confinement for four years. After this, he was sent to a labor camp in Siberia for fifteen years. As you might imagine, the deprivations Fr. Ciszek experienced were severe, and they almost broke his body as well as his spirit. The work was grueling and relentless, the food was barely enough to keep from starving, and Mass could only be celebrated secretly, and at great risk. But through grace, Fr. Ciszek grew to understand the redemptive value of his suffering, *"It is not the Father, not God who inflicts suffering upon us but rather the unredeemed world in which we must labor to do his will, the world in whose redemption we share."* Fr. Ciszek began to see the events of his life—both the sufferings and the joys—as united with the will of God, and a means by which God is reconciled with the world. Suffering, once understood as united with the will of God, and not as some form

of cruel punishment, took on a new, deeper, supernatural meaning, *"a true sharing in the saving acts of Christ,"* as Fr. Ciszek wrote.

Mother Angeline, only a few years older than Fr. Ciszek, also possessed a deep understanding of the role of suffering in the Christian life, and of conformity of our will to God's, *"The happiest man in the world is he who has peace of heart—and peace is found in resignation to the will of God... Faithful not only when all is going well, and we are just where we want to be, doing the work we want to do; but faithful to Him in adversity and hardship, faithful when the Cross is almost unbearable; faithful when being faithful costs something. This is the fidelity that makes saints out of ordinary beings!"*

Both Fr. Ciszek and Mother Angeline remind us that when we prayerfully lift our attention away from our own wants and desires and look to the Cross, we will see the price of our redemption, the redemption we participate in by our own sufferings. And both of these holy people knew that this alignment of our will with God's could only be made possible and sustained through regular prayer, particularly the Eucharist. As we continue through this Year of Eucharistic Revival, may one of its fruits be a greater conformity of our will with God's.

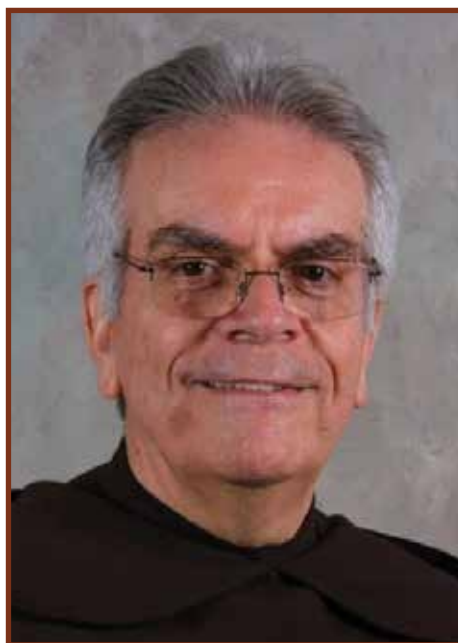
Cover Credit: Words written by Sr. Sharon Rose Carmel, O.Carm. and display design and artwork by Sr. M. Ambrose, O.Carm.

Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the
Mother Angeline Society,

I am happy to greet you in this New Year of 2024. I pray that you are well, and that the New Year has begun well for you. 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 invaluable in this 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.

On Mother Angeline's 40th Anniversary of death, January 21, 2024, the Sunday of the Word of God, Pope Francis announced a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee in Rome, which bears the title and theme that the Church consists of Pilgrims of Hope. As baptized Christians, we each have a place in not just the life of the Church, but also the mission and ministry of the Church. Each jubilee celebrates an anniversary of the redemption won by Christ through His life, death, and resurrection. This Jubilee Year means to renew us – and in our world today with all of its struggles and darkness – in the real-



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

ity that Christian Catholics singly and together, need to be pilgrims and proclaimers of hope. Mother Angeline often went to Rome for Jubilee years, and she certainly would enter into the theme of hope, that virtue which is a gift of God and enables us trust God and believe that he will give us the grace and strength we need to attain eternal life and fulfill His plan for us. The Venerable's life and ministry breathed hope and she was able to inspire and lift up those around her with that spirit, enabling them to serve the aged and infirm with compassion and hope. Let us make beneficial use of this year of prayer.

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. With holy hope, may we continue to light up the world with Christ. We seek the support of her prayers, and her companionship as pilgrims of hope. God bless you and may Our Lady watch over you always.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Mario, O.Carm." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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



New! Mother Angeline Keychain

Designed and made under the direction and supervision of the Carmelite Friars in Vietnam. Made of inox, a corrosion-resistant steel with Mother's image on one side the "With Us Always" inscribed on the other.

\$6.00 each. \$7.50 with shipping.



Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: Strengthened by the Eucharist



On January 20, 2024, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm observed the 40th anniversary of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa's entrance to eternal life with a Eucharistic celebration held at Saint Teresa's Motherhouse. The actual date of Mother's passing was January 21, 1984, which was also her birthday. The theme of this year's celebration is *Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: Strengthened by the Eucharist*.

The principal celebrant of the Mass was The Most Reverend Gerardo Colacicco with Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm. as the Master of Ceremonies and homilist. Rev. James Donlon, Rev. James Miara, Rev. James Hess, O.Carm., Very Rev. Patrick Keating and Rev. John Moyna concelebrated. The Carmelite Brothers of the Saint Elias Province assisted at the liturgy.

Other invited guests were the McCrory family, Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, Sisters of Life, Little Sisters of the Poor, staff members of the Avila Institute of Gerontology, the Carmelite System, Saint Teresa's Motherhouse dietary department and other guests. The celebration concluded with a special reception in Carmel Hall.



Top Photo: Theme Poster Display

Top Left: Sr. Kevin Patricia Lynch, O.Carm. proclaimed the 1st reading;

Bottom Left: Sr. M. Paul Anthony, O.Carm. proclaimed the 2nd reading

Top Right: Sr. Mary Suzanne, O.Carm. offered the intercessions

Bottom Right: Most Rev. Gerardo Colacicco



*Top Photo: Most Rev. Gerardo Colacicco, Mother Mary Rose, O.Carm. Concelebrants and Council;
Middle Left: Celebratory Dinner;
Bottom Left: Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.*

*Right Top: Offertory Procession;
Right Bottom: Celebration Cake*



Excerpts from Fr. Mario's homily:

"... the two principal ways of thinking about the Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion can be summed up in two short phrases: the Eucharist draws us into union with

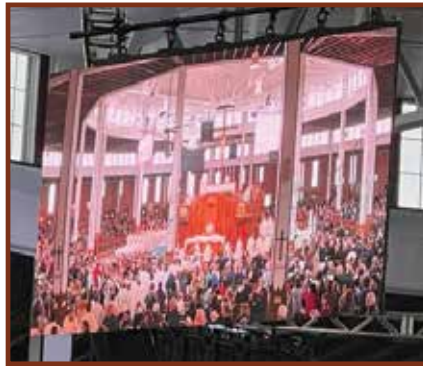
Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist gives us grace and strength to live our Christian life and be of service. They are not contradictory, and both are found in the life and spirituality of Mother Angeline.

... As Catholics, we believe in nothing less than this: in the Eucharist we receive into ourselves absolutely the Lord Jesus, body and blood, soul, and divinity....Mother Angeline emphasized over and over again, in a true contemplative spirit, that the first response to this presence of Christ on the altar during Mass or in the tabernacle, should be silence, reflec-

tion, a pondering and welcoming of the Lord Himself into our souls, giving Him permission to dwell and reign within us, in a loving way which changes us, and makes us more like Himself. Both in art and in words, we have all seen Mother Angeline sitting before the Monstrance, gazing face to face and heart to heart with Jesus, adoring and be united with Him. How fortunate are we who live and work where there is a chapel, that any time of day, we can enter into the Eucharistic presence and be drawn into a deeper bond with our Savior, like the Venerable who prized such moments.

... My friends – we are happy to remember Mother Angeline today in this Mass and to pray for her on the 40th Anniversary of her return to the house of the Father. She continues, though, to teach us and by her example, helps us to know how much, like her, we need to be strengthened by the Eucharist. Loved, adored, praised, and blessed be Our Lord Jesus in heaven and in the most holy sacrament of the altar. Amen."





New York State Eucharistic Congress held on October 20 through 22, 2023

In New York state over 8,000 Catholic people gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville for the New York State Eucharistic Congress. Mass was celebrated in both English and Spanish, nationally known Catholic speakers gave presentations, there was a Eucharistic procession, and Eucharistic adoration. This congress, organized by the eight Catholic Dioceses in New York, is part of the three-year national Eucharistic Revival sponsored by the bishops of the United States.

Members of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, members of the Formation Team from St. Teresa Motherhouse, as well as Temporary Vowed Sisters attended this event. Sr. Helena of Mary, O.Carm. and Sr. Mary O'Donovan represented the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, and promoted The Mother Angeline Society.

Auriesville was chosen as it is the site of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs, where St. Isaac Jogues, St. Rene Goupil and St. Jean de Lalande were all martyred in the 1600s and

where St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a great figure of Eucharistic adoration, was born. The martyrs that died in Auriesville came to bring the Eucharist to the Native people.

In July 2024, Americans will gather for the first time in 83 years for a National Eucharistic Congress. The national movement will culminate in two major events involving Catholics across the entire country. Thousands are expected to participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage beginning from each corner of the country and ending in Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress, a five-day event, July 17 – 24.

Top left: Promoting Mother's Cause: Sr. Mary O'Donovan, O.Carm. Brother Robert Chuilli, O.Carm., Sr. Helena of Mary, O.Carm. and Sr. Dolores Carmel, O.Carm.

Top Middle: Large screen projection of the Mass

Top Right: Bishops process into Shrine for Mass

Bottom Right: A procession on the grounds of the Shrine



**Interested in Religious Life?
Contact 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 srmariyod@stmhcs.org or call 518-537-5000.

Ministry Corner *The Importance of the Dietary Department*

Article written by Dorothy Imhof, Director Dining Services with Morrison Living Department, Carmel Richmond Nursing Home



Everyone knows how important proper nutrition is, especially for the elderly. It helps with healing and overall well-being. The social aspect of dining also cannot be overlooked. Preparing meals or going out to eat for special occasions is all part of a healthy lifestyle. When residents come into our nursing home, we understand that food and dining will be very important.

Here at Carmel Richmond, we have another reason that this experience is valued... It's part of our Mission! Our value of hospitality encourages us to provide a welcoming environment for each resident. Shared Commitment motivates us to all work together to provide good nutrition in a home like setting.

Above: Dorothy Imhof reviewing menus with Sr. Mary Ann Wasilko, O.Carm.

We take extra care around Holidays and Feast Days to provide the residents with a special meal or a favorite dessert. Recently we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Mother Angeline Teresa's entrance into eternal life. Mother is the foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. It is her legacy that we honor. Sr. Mary Ann Wasilko always comes into my office to discuss a special menu and to be sure that wine is served along with the meal for January 21st and other Feast Days and Holidays.

It is these little extra touches that bring comfort and dignity to our residents and demonstrate that here at Carmel Richmond – The difference is Love.

Since the writing of this article Sr. Mary Ann Wasilko, O.Carm passed away on March 4, 2024 at Carmel Richmond Nursing Home. May she rest in peace.

The Cause and Charism Commission Welcomes Five New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new Cause and Charism Commission members:

1.) Fr. Von Erick Maria Sandoval, O.Carm. assigned to St. Simon Stock Priory in the Bronx, NY; **2.) Sr. Maria Robert Mullen, O.Carm.** assigned to Mother Angeline McCrory Manor in Columbus, OH; **3.) Sr. M. Dolores Carmel Benitz, O.Carm.** assigned to Marion Manor in South Boston, MA and **4.) Mrs. Theresa Prendergast** a Pre-K educator and a member of the Carmel Connection. **5.) Mrs. Janice Smircich**, a retired teacher at All Saints Catholic Academy in Albany, NY is rejoining for a third



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3.



4.



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term - first joining in 1997. The new members are eager to become involved and to assist in advancing Mother Angeline's Cause.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank Ms. Jean Cutrone, Ms. Sarah McCrory and Sr. M. Paul Anthony, O.Carm. for their work on the Commission. Sr. Mary Paul Anthony, an avid public speaker for Mother's Cause, is leaving the Commission due her reassignment to St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, IL - she will continue giving presentations upon request. All their time and effort are sincerely appreciated, and they will be missed.

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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.



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