



# 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.*



*Fifty-five years ago the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Papal Award was obtained by Francis Cardinal Spellman for Mother Angeline*



Just as the Second Vatican Council began its great work of rejuvenating the Church, Pope John XXIII honored Mother Angeline with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal (For Church and Pope), bringing worldwide recognition to Mother's work with the elderly as an example of the innovative care and service the Church needs to provide to its flock.

Seventeen years later Mother was again recognized by a Pope. This time it was Pope Paul VI who granted her the Benemerenti medal (To a well-deserving person) to honor a life time of service to the elderly and to the Church. This award came just before the 50th anniversary of the Congregation, and it is the same year that Mother stepped away from the day to day management of the Congregation.

These experiences drew the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm closer to each of these Pontiffs because they reached across the globe to single out the Congregation with these gracious papal honors. The Sisters returned to them their gratitude, loyalty and prayers.

For Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, being recognized by the Holy Father was an honor she treasured. Fifty-five years later, we are sure that she is smiling on her daughters as we honor the wishes of our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, by participating in the Holy Year of Mercy. Having so many people pass through the holy Doors at our Motherhouse has been an honor and a privilege.



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

The Motherhouse for the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm sits serenely on a bluff overlooking the majestic Hudson River, and commands an impressive view of the Catskill mountains. The scenic property of 86 acres was purchased by Mother Angeline in 1946 and renamed Avila-on-the-Hudson. Mother Angeline not only intended it to be a place for the administration of the community, and for the formation of future Sisters, but also a place of beauty and contemplation where the Sisters could be spiritually and physically renewed in their work with elderly.

When the Sisters first acquired the property, there were wide lawns, groves of trees, and a large, white residence of 19 rooms. Certainly a suitable locale for establishing a Motherhouse. Over time, as the Community grew, more buildings were added: a Generalate, a Novitiate, and a gymnasium. However, the most important building, the building Mother Angeline was most eager to have completed was the Chapel. In the span of buildings that comprises the Motherhouse complex, the Chapel is located right in

the middle, in the center of everything. This is hardly an accident of design. Rather it is an expression of Mother's vision, her philosophy that prayer (both liturgical and private) must be at the center, at the core of all we do.

In the Carmelite Sisters' nursing homes that I have visited, I have noticed that the Chapel is always located in a prominent location, a place that is centrally located and easy to find. This is not always the case in other nursing homes or hospitals, where the Chapel (if there is even one) is often tucked away in an obscure corner of the facility. Again, Mother Angeline's values continue on in the homes her Sisters administer, as they hold fast to the belief that God must be at the center of all we do, He should be the focus of all our desires, He should be the One around whom we build our lives.

Buildings are quite literally concrete expressions of our values and priorities as a society, and if we take a cursory survey of architectural history, we see how our values have shifted over the years. For example, in medieval cities, the dominant structure was the cathedral, usually an impressive edifice of stone and glass which provided the medieval imagination with a taste of heaven. With the industrial

revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, massive factories with towering smokestacks dominated the horizon. Wealth, and the acquisition of material goods, took on a new prominence in people's lives. And now today, our cities contain glass and steel skyscrapers, where transactions of high finance are carried out, and where millionaires (and billionaires) take up residence. It seems that our cities no longer have a place for God; or maybe, more accurately, God no longer has a place in our lives. And as creatures of flesh and blood, we need concrete (or brick or stone) reminders of faith and worship; we need to constantly recall this world is just passing, and that we are meant for eternity. This is why the first building Mother Angeline constructed after she purchased the property for the Motherhouse was a Chapel. Without a firm and solid grounding in God, she knew all her plans and dreams were in vain, as she herself said, "Our work with the aging will only be successful to the extent that it is the fruit of our prayer". Let Mother Angeline be a reminder to us about keeping what is truly important at the center of our lives, even in the midst of all the distractions around us.



## The Resident's Corner — Kahl Home

In 1954 the Bishop of the Roman Catholics Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, asked Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa O. Carm, to consider establishing a home to care for the elderly population of the Quad Cities. A substantial family home in Davenport had been donated to the Diocese and it was an available location. The challenge was accepted, and on March 18, 1955, Kahl Home welcomed its

first residents. At the time Kahl Home had a capacity for 21 residents. As the waiting list grew, so did the need for more space. In 1963 Kahl Home expanded its facility to house 128 residents, with another renovation in 1987 to increase the number of residents to 135.

In 2012 Kahl Home finished building a state of the art facility in northeast Davenport. The facility was designed to promote com-

# Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the  
Mother Angeline Society,

Peace be with you as we continue to journey through this beautiful YEAR OF MERCY. What a wonderful opportunity we have had to discover again and celebrate with faith the love, compassion and mercy of the Lord poured out upon us abundantly. May we bring ourselves forward with trust to the fount of love and mercy, and drink in abundance of the sacramental and healing graces of Christ. As members of the Mother Angeline Society, during the month of July and before the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mary – the Mother of Mercy, you have been remembered in a Novena of Masses for your intentions. May Our Lady continue to watch over and guide you in the following of her beloved Son, Jesus.

The work of our Society is to pray for and promote the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. We must never lose track of our goal and our mission. While it has been more than three decades since Mother Angeline entered eternity, her life and charism continue to inspire the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and their co-workers in their ministry of caring for God's beloved aged children and defending life no matter how fragile it may become. In speaking about the Saints, Blesseds and Venerables, the Church reminds us: "When we consider the life of those who have faithfully followed Christ, we are inspired with a new reason to seek the City that is to come and we are most safely taught the path by which, amid the changing things of this world and in keeping with the state in life and condition proper to each of us, we can arrive at that perfect union with Christ,



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

which is holiness." (Divinus Perfectionis Magister, Prologue) Devotion to the Saints and prayers to them are always more than pious exercises. These models of faithfulness provide us with inspiration and examples of how to follow Christ and only by our following of Christ can we attain that holiness and union with God which fulfills the goal of Christian living: to become Christ-like ourselves and not only reach heaven, but on the way to make this earth just a little more beautiful and blessed.

Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa reveals for us a life of faith, the value of prayer, and the riches that come from serving those who are in need. No matter what our station in life, each of us can grow in faith, each of us can be more prayerful, and each of us has reserves of energy that can be poured into the service of those in our family, neighborhood, Church and world who need help. Thus, the Saints become

our teachers while, at the same time, being our heavenly friends.

Thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support of the mission of the Mother Angeline Society. Please continue to pray for Venerable Mary Angeline's Cause and help us to make her known to others. May we constantly learn from her wonderful witness of charity and love for God and our elderly neighbor. God bless you and Mary keep you always.

In Christ,

*Father Mario, O.Carm.*

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.  
Vice Postulator

munity living, devote more space to rehabilitative therapy, and provide more opportunities for residents to maintain an active lifestyle. The Kahl Home can currently accommodate 135 residents, and is also Sister Pia's first mission assignment.



*Left: Sr. Pia and Dolores Cassidy enjoying the outdoor patio.  
Right: Sr. Jacqueline with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Berkompas.*

# Carmelite Sisters Celebrate 25, 50, 60, 70 and 80 Years of Religious Consecration to God



On June 4, 2016, twelve Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm celebrated their 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th and 80th Religious Jubilees. The event was held at the Chapel of Saint Teresa's Motherhouse and the day was perfect for such a joyous occasion and the beauty of Avila-on-Hudson was ever at its best. The principal celebrant was the Most Rev. Mitchell Thomas Rozanski. Also present on the altar were Fr. Xavier Santiago, Fr. Patrick Buckley, Fr. Michael Wood, Fr. Michael Kissane, O. Carm., Fr. Finch, and Fr. Stanley Kolasa, SS.CC. The event was attended by family members and friends of our Jubilarians.

Bishop Rozanski gave an inspiring homily which drew attention to the Jubilee celebration being held during this Year of Mercy. We thank the Carmelite Sisters Congregational Choir led by Mother Mark Louis Anne, O. Carm. for providing the music for the liturgy. We offer our gratitude to all the Jubilarians who have given so many years and so much of themselves to the service of God, the Church and our Community. May God bless each of them abundantly during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Divine Mercy and may Our Lady of Mount Carmel enfold each in her mantle and draw them ever closer to her Son.

*Top Photo: Front row seated left to right: (60 Years) Sr. Mary Ellen Bernadette Magano, O. Carm.; (80 Years) Sr. M. Benigna Consolata, O. Carm. Back row left to right: (50 Years) Sr. Alice Webster, O. Carm., Sr. Joseph Marie of the Holy Spirit Maloney, O. Carm., Sr. Shawn Bernard of the Holy Spirit Daniel, O. Carm.; (25 Years) Sr. M. Francis Pio Bucha, O. Carm.; (60 Years) Sr. M. Shawn Bernadette Flynn, O. Carm.; (25 Years) Sr. M. Julie of St. Joseph McCarthy, O. Carm.; (60 Years) Sr. Teresa Kennedy, O. Carm., Sr. M. Patricia of the Queen of Carmel, O. Carm.; and (70 Years) Sr. M. Xavier Frances Marchiony, O. Carm., and Sr. Carolyn Therese Kane not present in the photo.*

*Bottom Left: Mother Mark Louis Randall, O. Carm.*

*Bottom Middle: Sister Benigna and Sister Leda dancing*

*Bottom Right: Fr. Stanley Kolasa, SS.CC.*



## Profession of First Vows — Sister M. Pia Ignatius de la Cruz, O. Carm.

On June 11, 2016, Sister M. Pia Ignatius de la Cruz, O. Carm. professed First Vows in the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. She exchanged the white veil of a Novice for the black veil of a newly Professed Sister. The ceremony was held in Saint Teresa's Chapel of the Motherhouse in Germantown, New York. The main

celebrant was Rev. Gregory Houck, O. Carm. who is a member of the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. Also present to con-celebrate were Rev. Pat Kelly, Rev. George W. Hommel, Rev. Joseph Finch and Msgr. Michael Barimab Apau. Sister Pia's mother Carmen Klohe, her brothers Alexander and Paul Klohe, close friends and other family members also attended.

Sr. Pia Ignatius is a native of Leonia, New Jersey. She graduated in 2006 from Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing in Teaneck, New Jersey, as a licensed practical nurse and has worked as an EMT prior to her joining the Carmelites. Sister Pia will join her Carmelite Sisters to begin her first Mission assignment at the Kahl Home, Davenport, Iowa on June 20, 2016.

*Congratulations, Sister Pia Ignatius! We wish you God's blessings as you continue to give yourself to the service of the Aged and Infirm. May you find lasting happiness in your Carmelite life!*

*Top Left: Carmen Klohe proclaims the first reading*

*Top Middle: main celebrant Rev. Gregory Houck, O. Carm.*

*Top right: Sr. Pia's brother proclaims the second reading*

*Bottom left: Sr. Pia professes first vows before Mother Mark*

*Bottom Right: Sr. Pia enters the chapel wearing the black veil*

# Mother's Charism

## Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O. Carm. becomes Better Known in Brazil through Pope Francis and a Little Girl



*Top Left and Right: Pietra receives a special blessing from Pope Francis and a hug. Bottom Left: Pietra looking happy and healthy. Bottom Right: Pietra and her family at Mother Angeline's grave*

Several of our Sisters were privileged to see Pope Francis when he visited the United States. One of these visits took place at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and resulted in a beautiful friendship between the Carmelite Sisters and the Braga family. Marcia and Pietra Braga were in the Cathedral hoping to "catch a glance" of the Holy Father. Our Sisters were instrumental in getting them close enough to make that happen. Not only did they see him but he stopped to give Pietra a special blessing. Pietra is 9 years old and was being treated for Cancer at Sloan Kettering Hospital. The family had moved into the Ronald McDonald house from Brazil so they could be together during Pietra's treatments. That evening we gave them a blessed badge of Mother Angeline and told them we would be praying for healing through Mother's intercession.

Marcia, Marcos, Pietra and her twin brother Tales, made two trips to visit us at Avila, where they had a tour of the Heritage Center and prayed at Mother's grave. Since that time, Pietra's condition has improved and the family will be moving back home to Brazil in August. Please join us as we continue to ask Mother Angeline to intercede on Pietra's behalf.

## The Cause for Beatification and Canonization Crosses the Northern US Border into Canada



*Father Jay Comerford, O. Carm., Retreat Director of Mount Carmel Monastery*

For more than a century the Mount Carmel Monastery in Ontario Canada, overlooking Niagara Falls, has been home to the Carmelites. It opened as a monastery and hospice June 10, 1899. It became a seminary in 1920 and in 1979 it adopted its current role as a Spiritual Center. On March 13th a presentation on Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O. Carm., as part of the monthly Carmelite Spirituality Series, was given by Father Jay Comerford, O. Carm. a Retreat Director there.

Father Jay's presentations on Mother Angeline include listing some of the innovations Mother

introduced into the care of the elderly--most of which are now enshrined in law in most homes for the aged. Fr. Jay noted, "She was truly revolutionary. Like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, she too received a "call within the call" to do something a bit different from the way she had first set out."

Mother Angeline isn't a stranger to Father Jay. During a preached retreat last summer on 20th Century Carmelite Saints or Saints-to-be, Mother Angeline was the final person he talked about. Father Jay recalls: "of the people I spoke about, Mother Angeline was the only one I had met..."

## The Message “*The Difference is Love*”™ is Taken All the Way to China



Left to right: Sr. Maria, Sr. Karol, Sr. Therese, Sr. Pauline, Mary T. O'Neill, Sr. Fabian, Sr. Francis and Sr. M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm.

Six Chinese Sisters from five different Congregations recently completed a 120-hour Geriatric Spiritual Care certificate program through the Avila Institute of Gerontology. The Sisters were in the United States under the auspices of the Maryknoll China Education Project, which since 1991 has brought priests and women religious to the United States for studies at Catholic institutions. The six sisters are the first brought by the project to study geriatric spiritual care. *“Each of their Congregations is already engaged in providing assisted living and nursing home care, as well as other programs of ministry to the elderly in China,”* said Sister Janet Car-

roll, Maryknoll China Programs liaison. The goal, “is having this team of Sisters extend their training to other sisters and lay partners upon their return to their local dioceses in China.”

The need for such training becomes clear: traditionally, adult children took care of elderly parents and relatives, but in the midst of rapid ur-

banization, young people are leaving their relatives for jobs in cities. That means families are facing some of the dilemmas long experienced by Americans, whether elderly people should be placed in nursing homes once they have difficulty living on their own. As a result, nursing homes, once rare, are becoming more common in China, as is the need for increased attention to institutional care for the elderly.

The Sisters’ stay was the first time Avila had hosted a group of students from outside the United States for the Geriatric Spiritual Care Program, making the Chinese Sisters pioneers for Avila, as well as for Maryknoll.

When interviewed, Sister Maria Wang of the Our Lady of All Souls Congregation, said she was particularly enriched by the program’s emphasis on how best to help those with dementia - stressing the need for patience, the need to listen attentively to residents’ life stories and seeing, as best as possible, ‘the whole person.’ It is the difference between holistic care and custodial care,” she said, noting that the holistic emphasis is an important part of the need for a spiritual approach to elderly care. The time at St. Patrick’s Manor in Framingham, MA, impressed the Sisters because of the way small things add up. This can include making sure that residents dress carefully and pay attention to looking good. *“They were elegant, and that’s important,”* Sister Pauline Yu said of the residents she met. The mere act of presence with residents is vital, said Sr. Theresa Liu, of the Daughters of Charity congregation. *“Just being with them is important,”* she said. *“Be with them, listen to them.”*

The challenge now for the six Sisters who have returned to China is imparting what they learned in the United States to their local contexts. Sister Fabian Han of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters: *“We’ve only tended to pay attention to the physical needs...”* she said. *“We really haven’t paid attention to psychological and spiritual needs. Now we will. That is what I am bringing back home to China.”*

Six weeks before I was ordained a priest, I was at Carroll Manor in Maryland where I taught American Church History to the elderly. While I was sitting in the lobby waiting for the home’s administrator, suddenly a young Sister rushed in the door carrying satchels. She talked to the receptionist about room assignments. Then a tall, older Sister walked in and sat in the chair next to the front door. It was Mother Angeline.”

“I was startled to recognize her. Then my internal dialogue began - should I go over and talk to her or not? What would I say? Knowing that I may never have another chance, I got up and walked over. I introduced myself as a Carmelite Deacon who was about to be ordained and that I had been teaching the elderly at Carroll Manor for two years...that back in 1968 as a novice, on Saturdays I worked as an orderly at Garvey Manor

in Hollidaysburg, PA. And that I was from Joliet, Illinois where the Sisters ran St. Pat’s Residence in the converted Louis Joliet Hotel. She thanked me for my service in her different houses. She asked the date of my ordination so she could pray for me on that day. After this chance meeting, I rushed home for vespers and dinner. I said to myself, *‘Well, I got to meet a saint!’”*

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## Holy Door for Jubilee Year

Saint Teresa's Motherhouse, as an official pilgrimage site with a Holy Door for the Jubilee Year of Mercy held two events this summer. On June 12th Sr. Caterina Esselen, O.L.M. gave a conference on "Trusting in God's Mercy" followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Later a second conference "Being Merciful to Neighbor (Sharing Mercy Received)" was followed by veneration of the relics of St. Faustina.

On July 15th, coinciding with the Vigil of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, an invitation to join the Sisters in a chanted Evening Prayer was included in the pilgrimage event. The next event for this celebration for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is scheduled for October 22, and the last event on November 18, 2016.

**For information, visit the Carmelite Sisters' website at [www.carmelitesisters.com](http://www.carmelitesisters.com) or call 518-537-5000.**



*Sr. Caterina Esselen,  
O.L.M.*



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



## SAVE THE DATE – ROSARY RALLY

October 22, 2016 at 2pm  
St. Teresa's Motherhouse  
600 Woods Road  
Germantown, NY 12526  
**Call 518-537-5000 for  
directions and information**