



THE MOTHER ANGELINE SOCIETY

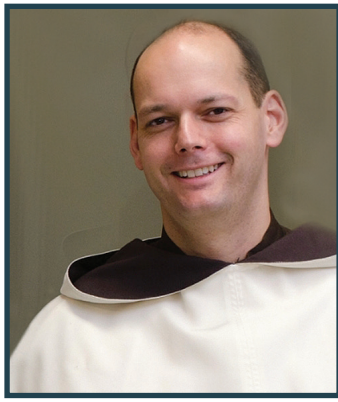
The Mother Angeline Society is dedicated to promoting the cause for beatification and canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O. Carm, foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and advancing her charism in the church.



Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. APOSTLE OF MERCY TO THE AGED



*Thirty-second Anniversary of the Birth and Death of
Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O. Carm.*



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

As I write this article for this edition of the Mother Angeline Society Bulletin, I can't help but be grateful for the technology that allows me to be able to carry out this task with relative ease. The software automatically corrects my spelling, the margins and tabs are automatically set, and I can always go to Google, rather than dust off my dictionary, when I want to look up a word. It wasn't so long ago though that when we wanted to write something, we would have to use the typewriter, and when we wanted to carry out some research, we would head to the library and open up the encyclopedias. Yes, technology has done great things to speed up our lives and make things more efficient. Just recently, I was in one of the Carmelite Sisters' Nursing Homes and saw that they had just recently placed flat screen computers on all the floors as a way of modernizing and facilitating all the laborious record keeping involved with resident care.

But with all technological developments, there are benefits, and there are downsides. For example, social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) allows us to connect with family and friends all over the world. We can keep track of who's on vacation, who is heading off for college, and who just got married. We can learn about the sad events that happen in life, and offer prayers and support for those who are sick. It has made the world seem that much smaller, knowing that we can instantaneously connect to anyone, anywhere on the planet. On the downside, however, all this technology has so pervasively worked its way into our lives, that for many people, as soon as they open their eyes in the morning, they reach for their phone, desperate to find out what happened in the virtual world while they

were slumbering. This obsession keeps on all day until they go to bed. Who hasn't been to a restaurant where there isn't a table full of people, all looking at their phones, not talking to one another?

Along with this, social media has precipitated a level of personal sharing never before seen in modern society. All day, every day people put up pictures of the most banal events, hoping that someone will "like" them. Younger people love to post "selfies" of themselves, hastily composed self-portraits taken with their phone. Relentless self-promotion has become the norm as we all scramble for more and more ways to expose our lives to the world, seeking approval and affirmation.

In this "look at me!" culture that we currently inhabit, where people can become their own "brands", I sense that Mother Angeline would have us reevaluate the role that technology has in our lives. Mother certainly was in favor of using modern techniques and advances in the Nursing Homes that her Congregation administered, particularly if they enhanced the lives of the residents living there. It was one of the founding principles of the Congregation that their homes be "up to date" and equipped with the best possible facilities.

But when technology increases our human tendencies for narcissism and self-absorption, it impedes our relationship with God. When we continually focus on ourselves, our accomplishments, our desires, we close ourselves off from the deeper relationship that God wants to share with us. Mother wrote what she believed true happiness to be: *"The secret of happiness for me is self-forgetfulness and continual self-denial. My love for God should be strong enough to destroy all love for self and bear weariness and sickness with no outward signs."* Mother knew and believed that the Christian life was to be patterned after Christ's own life, who lived not for

Himself but for his Father and for our salvation. His miraculous works were not intended to glorify Himself, to garner attention for Himself, but as signs of the Kingdom of Heaven.

It is this interior life, not a superficial virtual one, which gives life its meaning and worth. It is with a spirit of detachment, a very Carmelite theme, do we move ever closer to God, as Infinite Mystery. Again, Mother found this to be true in her own life: *"When we make it the habit of living in the Presence of God, we soon learn to live retired interiorly in complete silence and abandonment. We feel moved by a mysterious action which directs, supports, and influences us. To dwell within our own soul is to have heaven on earth, to become the intimate companion of Jesus and to contemplate the Blessed Trinity assiduously."*

Mother's words are quite a contrast to some of our contemporary values; not many people today speak about self-denial and abandonment in any kind of positive way. Yet, they have been known as key elements of a spiritual journey since the foundation of Christendom. As we continue through this 2016, may Mother's wisdom and guidance help us to seek out what is really of value and not to be lured by only what is passing.



Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the
Mother Angeline Society,

Greetings and blessings to you in this New Year of 2016, as well as in the Jubilee Year of Mercy so proclaimed by Pope Francis. What an opportunity of grace for all of us, and what a blessing to be able to take a moment to recall God's abundant mercy and love for each of us, as well as the Christian call, inherent in our baptism, to be messengers of mercy for others. The "year of favor" proclaimed by the prophets and fulfilled in Christ is brought to our attention once again, a time of grace, and mercy and peace.

Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. was truly an Apostle of Mercy to the Aged. Each year we take some aspect of the life and charism of Mother Angeline as a point for our reflection and it seemed so natural to understand the mission and ministry of Mother Angeline and her Carmelite Sisters for the Aged & Infirm as a true work of mercy – caring for the sick, watching over the elderly and frail with a tender love and great compassion, and protecting the dignity and meaning of human life when it is most vulnerable. Really, isn't mercy, and the works of mercy really manifestations of love in action? Mercy is a fruit of love. God is love, and God shows His love through His mercy – the mercy he showed in the act of creation, in the many ways He reached out to His people Israel in the Old Testament, and ultimately in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus who broke the bonds of death, and opened the floodgates of God's mercy for us. We invoke Mary as the "Mother of mercy" and, for sure, Christ is mercy. The followers of Christ are charged to share His mercy and love with others, particularly those most in need.



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

We cannot find a moment in the Venerable's life that she was without the mercy of Christ being made practical and effective in the lives of others. The Nursing Homes Mother Angeline established were always havens of mercy where each resident was cared for carefully, personally and lovingly in the hour of their greatest need. The atmosphere created by the Carmelite Sisters continues to be rich in compassion, love and solicitude demonstrated practically in the million kindnesses shown to residents, their families and the staff. Our world so needs beacons of mercy and life to bring light and joy and peace into a world that can be so cold, so unfeeling. Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa was an apostle of mercy as well in the sense of how she responded to the call of Christ, and was sent – like an apostle – to bring His mercy to others in many places and at many times, and to establish homes where Christ the compassion, mercy

and love of the Father might reign.

Thank you so much for your ongoing financial and prayerful support in the promotion of the Cause and Charism of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm., with an eye to her eventual beatification and canonization. For sure, Mother is an ageless witness to Christ's values, His mercy and His love. May God bless you, and Mary keep you always.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Father Mario, O.Carm." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.
Vice Postulator

I Have Called You into the Land of Carmel

The commitment and dedication of Father Christopher Byrnes, O.Carm. and Sister M. Benigna Consolata, O. Carm. (pictured to the left) continues at St. Patrick's Home, Bronx, New York. St. Patrick's, the first formal Home of the Congregation opened in 1931 by Mother Angeline Teresa and her six companions is located a few miles from St. Simon Stock Priory and Church where the Carmelite Friars have ministered since 1920. Friars from there, such as the Very Reverend Dionysius Flanagan, O.Carm., were instrumental in helping Mother Angeline at the time of the Congregation's foundation.

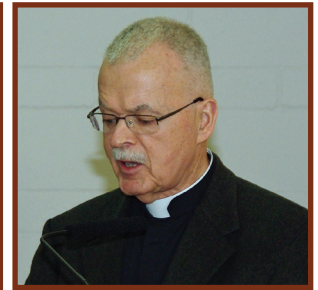
Now, in the same house, the two oldest Carmelites in New York continue to live and, through their presence and little helping acts, continue to minister and witness. Sister Benigna will be celebrating her 80th year in Religious Life this year and Father Christopher his 72nd anniversary of Profession, a combined 152 years! They are the eldest in age and profession in their respective communities. We are blessed to have both at St. Patrick's where they continue to serve and to be present to the people of God. May Our Lord and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel continue to watch over them.

The 32nd Anniversary of the Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. Apostle of Mercy to the Aged

This theme was chosen in order to highlight the mercy which Mother Angeline demonstrated in her loving and generous care of the elderly, the vulnerable, and the infirm. As the Church celebrates the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, it seemed natural to recall the mercy which characterized the virtues of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, shown in the charity, magnanimity and forgiveness that marked her living and her ministry.

On January 21, 2016, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm celebrated the life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa and the 32nd anniversary of her passing to eternal life with a Eucharistic celebration held at Saint Teresa's Motherhouse. The Most Reverend Brendan Comiskey, Bishop Emeritus of Ferns, Ireland, was the celebrant and homilist along with four members of the clergy who joined the celebration. Also present were members of the McCrory family, invited guests of the Carmelite Sisters, Carmelite Friars and their novices.

Bishop Comiskey shared an encouraging insight in his homily on the centrality of mercy in the life of the Venerable. The 'secret' of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, according to the Bishop, was her having made the Word of God the source and inspiration for her life, vocation, and mission. Furthermore, it is not enough to think of her exemplary life with grand admiration, but more importantly, to contemplate the goodness of God who accomplished great things in her and through her.



Top: Main Celebrant at Mass – Most Rev. Brendan Comiskey, SS.CC

Middle: Left to Right – Most Rev. Bishop Comiskey, Fr. Brian McWeeney, Fr. James Donlon

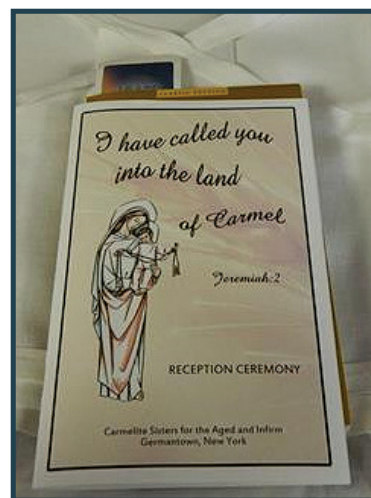
Bottom Photo: Concelebrants of Congregational Mass, Mother Mark and Council

Left: Apostle of Mercy Display at celebration after Mass

Reception of a New Carmelite Novice

On February 14, 2016 Sr. Melissa entered the next phase of her religious formation. She happily received the Carmelite habit and was formally accepted into the Congregation as its newest member. She also received her religious name and category, becoming Sr. Mary Philomena Anne of Divine Mercy, O. Carm. Father Paul Denault, O.Carm. conducted the Reception Ceremony and celebrated the Sacrifice of the Mass.

We join Sr. Philomena Anne on this happy occasion and pray that her journey in Carmel will be blessed and bear abundant fruits for the glory of God!



*Top Left:
Sr. Philomena Anne*

*Top Right:
Ceremony Program*

*Bottom Left:
Mother gives habit
to Sr. Philomena
Anne*

*Bottom Right:
Father Paul blesses
the new novice*

Holy Door Pilgrimage Site for the Year of Mercy

The Year of Mercy was officially launched by Pope Francis on December 8, 2015. The Holy Father began this year-long celebration by opening the "Holy Door" of St. Peter's Basilica. The Jubilee is celebrated not only in Rome but all around

the world. For the first time Holy Doors are open in single dioceses, either in the main cathedral or in local historical churches. The Diocese of Albany New York designated Saint Teresa's Motherhouse as a Holy Door pilgrimage site.

the love, compassion and mercy of God and sharing that mercy with others.

On January 17, 2016 the first event to celebrate this year of grace took place at St. Teresa's Motherhouse Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began at 3 pm and was followed by Benediction and Evening Prayer with the Sisters. Quiet time for prayers and devotions before the Blessed Sacrament was also made available. Earlier in the afternoon an optional tour of the Mother Angeline Heritage Center was offered.

Future events will be posted on the Carmelite Sisters website: www.carmelitesisters.com when they become available. Please check with site directly before finalizing your plans. The phone number is 518 537-5000.



The rite of the opening of the Holy Door symbolizes the idea that the Church's faithful are offered an "extraordinary path" toward salvation during the time of Jubilee. It is a call to conversion into a life of embracing



L-R: Father Benedict Fee and Father Mario Esposito, O.Carm.

I have been involved in the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Mother Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O.Carm., since July of 1992. So often I have seen photos of and read about the birthplace of Mother in 1893 in Northern Ireland, in a town then called Mountjoy. Finally, last September 13th, 2015, I had the opportunity to visit and it was a marvelous moment.

A Dream Come True by Father Mario Esposito, O.Carm.

We left Our Lady's Manor in Dalkey, Dublin with Sister Maria Therese, O.Carm., at the wheel, accompanied by Sister Margaret Edward, O.Carm., and Sister Theresa Marie, O.Carm. We drove up into Northern Ireland to County Tyrone in the Archdiocese of Armagh, and were warmly greeted by the Parish Priest of Clonoe Parish, Father Benedict Fee. Father is an indefatigable proponent of Mother's Cause. The Sisters and I joined in the parish Mass at Clonoe, and wouldn't you know that one of the altar servers, a girl, bore the same name as Mother Angeline's own mother, Brigid Taggart!

A small shrine for Mother is set up in the Church. During the homily, I emphasized Mother Angeline's hospitality and care for people, particularly the Aged and Infirm. After Mass and greeting the many people present, the Sisters and I were interviewed

for the newspaper the *Irish Independent*.

After a lovely lunch in the Presbytery and my meeting privately with some parishioners, we all went to the Brocagh Parish Church where Mother Angeline was baptized and, where again, there is a small shrine near the baptismal font. Despite the rain, many people were present for the rosary and my talk. I spoke about Mother Angeline's total giving of herself to the Lord and to the work of the Church and care of the elderly. It was touching and so moving to be there where so many early events of Mother's life unfolded, and to see the faith and character of the people, while in a sense, exploring Mother Angeline's roots. I will never forget this experience, and will always treasure visiting the Venerable's home, a dream come true, and gaining a still deeper insight into Mother's character.

The Resident's Corner *Ozanam Hall and the Papal Visit*



As part of His trip to the United States, on Thursday, September 24, 2015, Pope Francis departed Washington, DC, and arrived at Kennedy Airport in New York City in the evening. He stepped off the aircraft to a red carpet ceremony and was greeted by a welcoming party of Catholic worshippers from various parishes, nursing home residents, and other followers. The Pontiff took the time to personally greet as many of them as possible and he accepted their gifts.

Sister Madeline Angeline Fasano, O.Carm., several staff members, and three residents from Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Bayside, New York were



among those who greeted Pope Francis at the airport. One of the Ozanam Hall residents was Mrs. Anna Ambrosino, who has seen four popes in person. "He was standing right there," Ambrosino said excitedly. "I kissed his hand, his ring, and uttered 'His holiness, God bless you... He said that we should pray for him.'" Mrs. Connie Angiolillo, 93, savored the opportunity to see Pope Francis in person. "Next time I see him it will be in heaven," she said. "I'm 93! He's love. He's Christ on earth." Mr. Eric Stoerzer, also a resident, was able to welcome Pope Francis.

Ozanam Hall, administered by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and



Infirm, is a 432 bed facility that was opened in 1971. The home is named for Frederic Ozanam, a 17th century lawyer and philosopher known for his charitable works such as the founding of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Ozanam Hall specializes in short term rehabilitation as well as skilled geriatric care.

Left: Representatives from Ozanam Hall exchanging greetings

Middle: Sr. Madeline leading the 3rd Mystery of the Rosary

Right: Sr. Madeline, Diane Torres (Admission Dept.) In Front Anna Ambrosino, her sister Connie Angiolillo and Eric Stoerzer

Mother Angeline Ministers of Care: Manhattan *by Mother Mark Louis Anne, O.Carm.*



Above: Sr. Mary Ann Dennehy, O.Carm. stands besides Sr. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm. as she presents

On a crisp but sunny January 30, our Sisters literally set sail on the Ferry from Staten Island to Holy Rosary Church on the very tip of Manhattan, which is also the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton. Module I training for Mother Angeline Ministers of Care was conducted in the hall below the small brick church, which is almost swallowed up by the high rise glass and concrete structures around it. Before the sessions began, a visit was made to the Shrine, and one could not help reflect on the strength and courage of both Mother Seton and Mother Angeline, and how apropos the site was for training. The beautiful

we reach out to the homebound elderly, who are often isolated and cut off from the mainstream of parish life.

For more information about hosting this educational program in your parish, please contact Sr. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O. Carm., (518) 537-5000 or visit www.avilainstitute.org/ministries.htm

bronze statue of Mother Seton in the back of the church was designed by Sr. Margaret Beaudette SC, who also sculpted our statue of Mother Angeline. Attendees were from various parishes in lower Manhattan and were eager to learn and establish their own branch of the ministry. They are being encouraged by their pastors, one of whom was present for the whole day. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as

The Mother Angeline Ministries of Care (MAMC) is a volunteer parish outreach program that focuses on bringing Christ to the homebound and sick of our faith community. Trained outreach volunteers mirror Mother Angeline's spirit of kindness, joy, and prayer. They allow each person to feel the compassion and love of Christ in a deeply personal way. Through the care and concern for each individual

visited, the Ministries also promote Respect for Life, especially in its later stages. It adheres to the moral and ethical teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and abides by diocesan policies and procedures which govern its activities.

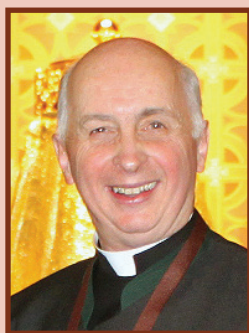


Sr. Michelle Ann Rebo, O.Carm.

The 2015 Flos Carmeli Awards for Excellence in Service for the Elderly

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and the Avila Institute of Gerontology offer the Flos Carmeli (Flower of Carmel) Award to recognize people who embody the spirit of Mother M. Angeline Teresa. The Flos Carmeli Award is conferred at a special ceremony during the AIG's seminar in October.

The award is a way of honoring individuals who have contributed in a unique and personal way to bettering the life of the elderly and advancing respect for life. All entries are reviewed by a panel comprised of a member of the long term care community, a member of a not-for-profit organization, an ethicist, the Postulator for the Cause of



The 2015 Flos Carmeli Recipients: Very Reverend Benedict Fee, Régine Lambrech, Ann Gail Jones and Shirley Harmon

Mother Angeline or his delegate, and a board member of Avila Institute of Gerontology, Inc. The Prioress General and General Council make the final decision from the list of nominated finalists. AIG presented four awards for excellence and was proud to celebrate these diverse individuals who brought their skills, their love, and their devotion to the Carmelite mission.

The Very Reverend Benedict Fee and the Clonoe Parishes, and Régine Lambrech were recipients of the 2015 Flos Carmeli Award for Preserving and Sharing the Wisdom of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O. Carm.; Ann Gail Jones received the Flos Carmeli Christian Witness Award, and Shirley Harmon was the Flos Carmeli Award recipient for Hospitality. Congratulations!

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The Feast of All Carmelite Saints Celebrated at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



On Saturday, November 14, 2015 the Carmelite family gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to celebrate the Feast of All Carmelite Saints. More than 150 people gathered to celebrate the 5th Centennial of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila. Fr. Emiel Abalahin, O.Carm. spoke about the life of St. Teresa of Avila and what St. Teresa means to us today. Fr. Emiel's doctoral

thesis topic is on St. Teresa. The day of reflection began with Morning Prayer followed by a presentation by Fr. Emiel. Mass was followed by lunch and a presentation in St. Albert's Chapel. The day concluded with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and Benediction. May all the Carmelite Saints continue to inspire us to follow Jesus more deeply in our lives.

Top Left: Fr. Emiel Abalahin, O. Carm.

Top Right: National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel

Bottom Left: Sr. Patricia and Sr. Lois promoting the Mother Angeline Society

Bottom Right: Third Order Carmelites



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
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Infirm
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Germantown, NY
12526