



Carmelite Contact

Issue 33 - Winter, 2015.



Carmelite Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2015

The following is a reflection given by Gerard Buckley at the Youth-led Mass on the final evening of the Annual Carmelite Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September/October 2015.

My name is Gerard Buckley. I'm here with the Mitchelstown group. The theme for this year's pilgrimage is *'The Joy of Mission'*; this is one of the strongest driving forces in our Church. For centuries, people have left Europe going out to the Developing World trying to improve the quality of people's lives and that's what we are doing here in Lourdes. As youth helpers, we come here to try and make the trip as enjoyable as possible for the people who travel with us.

As a few of you know, this isn't my first time in Lourdes. This is my fourth trip to Lourdes and my third time in the space of twelve months, each time as a helper. Every time I come here, I get the same feeling as the first time; a feeling of love and a sense that all day to day worries are forgotten. Worries are plentiful, from financial to physical and mental health. For many of us, life is a constant battle against these. For me, my battle started exactly eighteen years ago. I was born on October 1st, 1997. There were a few complications and I spent the first thirty days of my

life in the special care unit in St. Finbarr's Hospital in Cork. Not the greatest start to life! However, on October 31st I finally got to go home and I was the fifth child in the Buckley household. So, other than Congenital Hypothyroidism and severe Lactose Intolerance, everything was peachy – I say *"peachy"* as fruit became the operative word because I was deprived of chocolate, sweets and ice-cream all through my childhood as a result of the Lactose Intolerance.

When I was asked to tell my story of Lourdes, what it meant to me and how it affected my life, I thought: *"In my story there were plenty of untills, buts and ifs that changed how my life has panned out over the past eighteen years"*. It made me think that there are lots of twists and turns in life.

My life was relatively good until, two weeks before my fifth birthday and while we were waiting for a new addition to our family, we received news that dampened all our spirits: my father and grandfather were both diagnosed with cancer within two weeks of each other. It was a massive blow. Despite the hard work of all the medical staff, my father lost his battle with cancer within the year and he unfortunately missed out on my sister's first birthday by a single day. My grandfather hung in until the following year. During their illnesses, both travelled to Lourdes and on their journeys they were both filled with lots of hope. This hope seemed to radiate from them and filled the whole family and put us at ease. Their

trip to Lourdes wasn't only beneficial to them but it had a positive effect on everyone around them. Even after they passed away, the memories of them telling us about their experiences and the people they met stayed with us, together with the positivity they brought back with them. As a family, we tried to keep up this positive outlook on life even though the loss of my grandmother just over a year on from my grandfather was a major knock to us once again. It was during this time that my family, of which there was my mother and 6 children, realized that the most important thing we could do was stick together and look out for one another, which we did for the most part. However, 2006 dealt another massive blow when our family was devastated by the loss of my brother Eamon on December 29th. My brother, for some unknown reason, took his own life. Maybe all that had happened over the previous five or six years had taken its toll, maybe not, we don't know and we never will. One thing though: maybe if Eamonn had turned around and talked to

someone, we could have helped him and prevented him from doing what he did. For this reason, I ask everyone to talk about your problems and your feelings, as it could make all the

difference to you, to your family and the people around you.

I think it's time for an *"if"*. If my mother hadn't brought me to Lourdes at the age of five, I may have never experienced how magical, peaceful and humbling a place it is. It was from that early age that I knew I wanted to return and it was only when Paddy Seery, from the Mitchelstown Carmelite Group, came to the school that I got the chance to return this time last year. It was then that I fully realized the benefits of the experience of coming to Lourdes.

Some of the people I've met here have been amazing and I've made friends for life on these ventures. It also gave me the opportunity to stop, rethink and refocus myself in life. It was here that I realized the power of community, and what it can actually achieve. While writing this, the hardest part was actually trying to write the ending as I had so much to say and not enough time to say it. When you get to the end of your trip in Lourdes I'm sure a lot of you will say to yourself: *"it's over but it seems like we've only just got here."* I thoroughly hope that you have all had the same wonderful experience of Lourdes as my family and I. Thanks for listening and God Bless!

Every time I come here, I get the same feeling as the first time; a feeling of love and a sense that all day to day worries are forgotten.

The Library of the Irish Province of Carmelites

Located in Gort Muire, the Library of the Irish Province of Carmelites was reconstituted in 2006. It contains volumes from the early 1500s to the latest publications, focusing mainly on Carmelite history and spirituality. The Library is intended for all those who are interested in the many aspects of Carmelite life. As well as a reference section and a periodicals section, it contains four primary collections.

The Carmelite Collection is an extensive, multilingual gathering of works by Carmelite authors, and those relating to Carmelite figures, Carmelite spirituality, and the history of the Order. It houses comprehensive sections on the work of Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Edith Stein (Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) and Blessed Titus Brandsma, as well as highly influential but less widely known figures such as Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, Venerable John of Saint Samson and Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi. It also covers the history of the Carmelite Order from its origins on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th century to the present day. It also includes material on the development of the Irish Province and its influence around the world.

The Mariology Collection is one of scholarly works on the study of Mary.

The Spirituality Collection deals with general spirituality and mysticism; including many biographies, collected writings and studies of great figures in Christian Spirituality including a section on the spirituality of other Religions.

The Rare Books collection primarily contains books printed prior to the 20th century, but also some later items which are deemed to have special significance for the Carmelite Order.

The scope of the library spans a period from the birth of printing to the modern day. In addition to traditional printed volumes, it contains pamphlets, digital collections, DVDs and sound recordings. There is a substantial collection of Carmelite periodicals, many of which can be difficult to access elsewhere.

The library is housed at Gort Muire, Ballinteer (near Dundrum), and is accessed by appointment only. Those wishing to avail of its services may contact the librarian by email at library@gortmuire.com or by telephone on +353-1-2984014.

- Ruth Long, Librarian.







The Canonisation of Louis & Zélie Martin



To celebrate the canonisation of Blesseds Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of St Thérèse of Lisieux, on October 18th 2015, a series of events took place. A group (*pictured above*) travelled to Rome for the Canonisation, accompanied by Martin Ryan, O.Carm. (Moate) and Paddy Smyth, O.Carm. (Knocklyon). As part of the celebration in Ireland, relics of Louis and Zélie were venerated in several Carmelite churches, including Knocklyon (*pictured below*), Terenure College, Whitefriar Street Church, Kinsale and Knocktopher friaries.

Louis and Zélie Martin were declared venerable by Pope John Paul II on March 26th 1994 and they became the second married couple to be beatified in the history of the Church when they were declared blessed on October 19th 2008. The first were

Blesseds Luigi and Maria Quattrocchi, in 2001. In his homily on the occasion of the beatification, Cardinal Saraiva Martin, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, remarked that in a time of crisis for the family, the Martins could be a model to follow. Since Zélie died of cancer, leaving Louis to care for the family and then endure the trial and social humiliation of cerebral arteriosclerosis, they can be an inspiration for all those who face the many different kinds of sickness that mark human life:

In his homily at the Mass of Canonization, Pope Francis said: *"The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin practised Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters, among whom was Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus."*





Above: On Sunday, October 18th (the day of the canonisation), the 10.30 a.m. Mass in Terenure College Chapel was celebrated in honour of Louis and Zélie Martin. Robert Kelly, O.Carm., was the homilist and relics of the Saints were venerated.

Below: On Saturday, October 24th, the 3.00 p.m. Mass was in Whitefriar Street Church was celebrated in honour of the new Saints. Patrick Mullins, O.Carm., gave a reflection on the Saints and their lives. Relics were present and venerated in the church.





Teresa 500: Zimbabwe



Members of the Carmelite Family, including O.Carm and O.C.D. friars, nuns, sisters, the Malawi delegation, the Bishop of Mutare and the faithful from parishes run by the Order in the dioceses of Mutare and Harare gathered at St. Joseph's Sakubva for the Fifth Centenary Celebrations of the Birth of St. Teresa of Avila. The day began with a talk given by Sr. Adnella Muchingamwa, HMLC, focusing on the life of the Saint and her teaching on prayer. Her eloquent presentation indicated how Teresa's practical approach to prayer makes her spirituality accessible to people in the present time.

The Junior Carmel from Kriste Mambo High School through a colourful and entertaining drama traced the major events of the Saint's life. They provided a unique synthesis between her story and her spiritual teaching. This point was further developed by Bishop Muchabaiwa of Mutare in his address to the congregation at the end of the Eucharist.

"Relevance of the teaching of St. Teresa of Avila to contemporary Zimbabwe" was the title of the paper presented by Lefani Francis Mwanza, O.Carm., soon after the drama by the Junior Carmel. Through a schema of five points each representing a 100 years of the five centuries since the birth of St. Teresa. Lefani gave a practical application of the message of St. Teresa for 21st century Zimbabwe. It was an electrifying and humerous presentation which had some in stitches. The presentation challenged those gathered to go and put into practice those aspects of the life and teaching of St. Teresa that people found immediately appealed to them.

Presentations on the reality of Carmel in both Zimbabwe and Malawi were the next event of the program. From the Zimbabwean side, Terence Nyatoo, O.Carm., gave a report on behalf of the friars; an HMLC novice gave a report on behalf of the Sisters. A representative of the Carmelite Nuns from the Monastery of the Holy Family in Mutare gave a report on their way of life, and took the opportunity to extend a call for vocations to the cloistered life. Reports were also presented by the Third Order Carmelites from Rusape,

Hatfield and Mount. Carmel Chapters. All three reports showed the vibrancy with which the Third Order is progressing in the Commissariat.

Activity reports were also given by members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Maria Wegomo Kamero Guild) from Mutare while those from Harare expressed their great expectations as their Guild spreads in Harare. From Chinhoyi diocese the Chita cha Teresa Ruvadiki Women's Guild presented a moving report detailing how their guild has survived through the years despite dwindling numbers. Youths from the St. Thérèse Guild, founded by Paul Horan, O.Carm., concluded the group reports from Zimbabwe. Three speakers representing the three groups from the Malawian delegation then shared their experiences in Malawai, which concluded the group reports.

Bishop Alexio Muchabaiwa of Mutare presided at the Eucharist where Jimmy Nyangadi, O.Carm., gave the homily. Jimmy explored the role and vocation of the Christian woman. He noted that women have the power to help transform the lives of their contemporaries through prayer and evangelization as was the case with the Samaritan woman. Towards the conclusion of the Mass, Lloyd Dimma, O.Carm., read the special Apostolic Blessing granted by His Holiness Pope Francis to Vitalis Tendai Benza, O. Carm., as Commissary Provincial, the members of the Order and to the faithful under their care in the Dioceses of Harare and Mutare. Bishop Muchabaiwa in his concluding remarks pointed out the need for integrating various aspects of the life of St. Teresa in our own lives. He noted that sainthood is for the ordinary Christian who lives their baptismal vocation in an extraordinary manner in the ordinary aspects of daily living. After Mass participants at the celebrations were invited to lunch. Many were clad in various clothing items made from material produced by the Commissariat in commemoration of the Fifth Centenary Celebrations.

- Francis Lefani Mwanza, O.Carm.



The Junior Carmel from Kriste Mambo High School give a dramatic presentation of the life of Teresa of Avila.



The congregation included friars, nuns, sisters and many lay Carmelites.



Sr. Adnella Muchingamwa, HLMC, gives a presentation on Teresa's life and her teaching on prayer.



Bishop Alexio Muchabairwa of Mutare presided at the Eucharist.



Lefani Francis Mwanza, O.Carm. gives a presentation on the relevance of Teresa of Avila to contemporary Zimbabwe.



Some of the children who attended the celebrations and participated by dancing and singing.

Teresa 500: Closing Mass



The Closing Mass in Ireland of the Fifth Centenary celebrating the birth of St. Teresa of Avila took place in Whitefriar Street Church, Dublin, on October 15th.

The Most Rev. Charles John Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, was the principal celebrant and homilist. The music was led by the Palestrina Choir, under the direction of Blánaid Murphy, and included a piece, "*Let nothing disturb thee*", composed by Colin Mawby, and specially commissioned for the Mass.

A congregation of over five hundred people attended. The celebration marks the end of a year long collaboration between the various branches of the Carmelite family in Ireland and around the world.

Left to Right: Richard Byrne, O.Carm., (Prior Provincial), H.E. Charles Brown, (Apostolic Nuncio), Vincent O'Hara, O.C.D., (Vicar Prior Provincial).



Left to Right: Sr. Maria Therese Healy, Richard Byrne, O.Carm, Sr. Pia Ignatius Klohe and Sr. Mary Therese Harpur



The music was led by the Palestrina Choir, under the direction of Blánaid Murphy.



Recent Donation to the Archives



Among some old photographs that Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. kindly gave to the Archives lately is the picture of a Carmelite friar beside the Calvary at Moate. After some comparison with images of a similar vintage, the friar has been identified as Father Peter John Wheatley (1836-1919).

John Wheatley was born on December 27th 1836 and joined the Carmelite Order in 1858, taking the religious name Peter. Following his ordination in 1864 he joined the Moate community. As well as serving as Master of Novices and Master of the Professed, Father Wheatley ministered in Whitefriar Street, Kildare and Terenure College. He was Prior of Moate 1898-1909 and 1913-1919. Having taken ill at Easter 1919, Father Wheatley was sent to Terenure College for a change of air and he died there on August 4th. His remains were brought back to Moate for burial.

According to the booklet for the 1938 *Carmel Bazaar and Fete* in Moate, Father Wheatley was fondly remembered for his long association with the town. He was very involved with lay Carmel groups and fostered several vocations to the Order, including that of Father Peter Elias Magennis (Prior General 1919-1931). Father Wheatley erected the Calvary in Moate in 1900, and it is possible that this photograph commemorates that occasion.

Kinsale Friary Church Heating Fund



Left to right: Nicola Desmond, Nora Eaton, Stan Hession, O.Carm., Peter Kehoe, O.Carm., Tina Jones, Paul Eaton and Michael Ahern.

Connie Hare, a daily Mass-goer in the Friary stipulated in his dying wish that, in lieu of Mass Cards and Flowers, sympathisers should make a donation to the Friary Church Heating Fund. Connie always sat beside the radiator under Bl. Titus Brandsma's portrait. His wish says much about the heating system in our church! Connie was also a great fan of Bingo and attended the monthly session in the Friary Centre. Paul and Nora Eaton, Michael Ahern and Nicola Desmond, together with some Lourdes Blue Ties organise a monthly Bingo session to aid the Heating Fund.

As a memorial to Connie, they organised with Connie's grandniece, Tina Jones, a Monster Bingo Session in Acton's Hotel. The Hotel made their Kinsale Suite gratis for the event. A fine night was enjoyed by a bumper gathering and realised €1,645. The cheque was presented to Peter Kehoe, O.Carm., the Prior of the Kinsale Friary.

Noel (Fergus) O'Loan, O.Carm. (1933-2015)

Fr. Noel Fergus O'Loan, O.Carm., was born in Kanturk, Co. Cork in 1933. He made his profession in the Carmelite Order in 1952. He graduated from UCD in 1956 with a B.A. in Irish, English and Maths and, having completed his studies for priesthood, he was ordained in 1960.

In 1961, Fergus went to the Missions in Rhodesia, Zimbabwe as we know it today. Fergus' fine intelligence, his wit and sense of humour, and his essential decency stood him in good stead in his ministry and endeared him to the people among whom he worked. Fergus ministered in St. Benedict's Mission, returning there after the war of liberation helping to rebuild it, Mutare Priory, St. Barbara's and St. Therese Missions, and Kriste Mambo High School. He was proud of the fact that he was elected Superior of the Missions by his Carmelite confreres – serving in that role from 1976-1982. Superior of the Mission is an onerous task at the best of times. Fergus was Superior at a very difficult time in the life of the country as the war of liberation was being fought and missionaries found themselves in an invidious position caught between both sides. The safety and well-being of his Carmelite confreres were major concerns for him. During this time, Carmelites were harassed, jailed and expelled by the Rhodesian authorities. On his return to Ireland, Fergus ministered in Knocklyon Parish and then in Whitefriar Street. He moved to the Gort Muire community five years before his death. One was never long in Fergus' company before he related one of his legion of stories or jokes and you were soon joined in laughter with him. He was a gentleman to care for, always grateful for anything



that was done for him. After a short number of weeks in St. James' Hospital, Fergus died on Sunday, September 6th, 2015. Evening Prayer was celebrated in Gort Muire chapel on Monday September 7th. His funeral mass took place the following day in St. Mary's Church, Carrick-on-Shannon and he was laid to rest with his parents in nearby St. Mary's Cemetery, Carrick-on-Shannon. With thanksgiving and many happy memories we entrust him to our Loving Father and to Mary, Mother of Jesus, to whom he dedicated his life. May Noel Fergus rest in peace. Amen.

- Richard Byrne, O.Carm



First Professions

Six novices made their First Profession on July 4th in Kriste Mambo, Zimbabwe: four from Zimbabwe and two from Mozambique. The Commisary Provincial, Vitalis Benza, O.Carm., received the vows. The homily was given by Christopher Chifamba, O.Carm.

From left to right: Shelton Zimondi (Zim.), Andrew Madhume (Zim.), Anderson Musina (Zim.), Marvellous Murungu (Zim.), Celio Agostinho Junio Machona (Moz.) and Candido Augusto (Moz.)

Michael (Aloysius) Ryan, O.Carm. (1930-2015)

Fr. Michael Aloysius Ryan was born on April 28th 1930 and grew up in the town of Kildare in which is found the Carmelite Friary, White Abbey. Following in his brother's footsteps (the late Joseph Linus Ryan O.Carm.), Aloysius joined the Carmelites and having being received into the Order at Kinsale, on September 21st 1947, he made his First Profession there on September 24th 1948. He was ordained priest on July 11th 1954 at Clonliffe College, Dublin.

One of Aloysius' great gifts was his enthusiasm which touched so many areas of the Province's life. A hugely important part of his life was his love for Scripture; and so, having completed the licence in theology at Milltown Park in 1955, Aloysius went on to spend three years in Rome studying for the License in Scripture at the Biblicum which he was awarded in 1958. After Rome, he spent a year at Jerusalem at the École Biblique which was to have an enormous influence on him. Aloysius came to know and love the Holy Land so much that he returned there often, frequently leading pilgrimages. Later on, he would spend another year studying at the Angelicum in Rome.

Back in Ireland, Aloysius contributed frequently to homily notes in such journals as *The Furrow* and taught scripture to the Carmelite students at Gort Muire and in Zimbabwe. He was much sought after for retreats and talks and was greatly in demand for giving directed retreats.

Aloysius was appointed to White Abbey, Kildare in August 1994 and although he was living in a local



nursing home for the past nine and a half years, he enjoyed returning to the Friary for major celebrations. Aloysius died peacefully on July 2nd 2015.

His funeral took place on July 4th 2015 at White Abbey, on the weekly memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and he was buried in the grounds of the Friary. May Aloysius, who was a faithful child of Carmel, be enwrapped in Mary's protection and live forever in the steadfast love of God. May Michael Aloysius rest in peace. Amen.

- Richard Byrne, O.Carm

Recent Installations

On Sunday October 11th, Martin Parokkaran, O.Carm., was installed as parish priest of St. Colmcille's Parish, Knocklyon, Dublin. Martin has been a member of the Knocklyon community for the last five years. We wish him every blessing in his new role.

On Saturday November 21st, Seán Mac Giollarnáth, O.Carm., was installed as parish priest of Whitefriar Street Parish. Seán was a member of the Knocklyon community for many years, but moved to Whitefriar Street in September of this year. Again, we wish him every blessing in his new ministry.



*Bishop Eamonn Walsh with Martin Parokkaran,
O.Carm.*



Carmelite Institute of

The Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies)

God in whom Christians believe has spoken to humanity in Christ, who is God's final and complete Word... God continues to speak afresh to every generation of believers, to open up for them the immense riches of revelation and salvation in Christ and to enable them to enter ever more deeply and perfectly into the mystery of divine love.

(Module: Faith & Revelation, Unit 15)

The Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies) is an honours undergraduate degree offered by the Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland and accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The degree is a means to study the Carmelite tradition at a formal academic level and to achieve a recognised level of competence in theology, history and spirituality. This might be done for personal or professional reasons. Students will study the essentials of a theological approach to the Christian life and become more familiar with the history of Carmel, its Saints and Blesseds, its tradition and approach to prayer and Christian living.

The programme is part-time and based around reading and studying individual modules in a structured, yet flexible way. The modules include:

Theology

An Introduction to the Old Testament
An Introduction to the New Testament
Sacramental Basis of Christian Living
Faith and Revelation
Carmel and the People of God

History

Carmel: Development of the Tradition
The Origins of the Carmelite Family
Figures of Inspiration: Mary & Elijah
The Carmelite Charism
Carmelite Reform and Renewal in 16th Century
The History of Female Contemplative life
The History of Carmelite Devotions

Spirituality: Saints & Blesseds

St Edith Stein
St Teresa of Avila
St John of the Cross, Carmelite, Mystic, Poet
St Thérèse of Lisieux
Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity
Titus Brandsma
St Thérèse of the Child Jesus as Revealed in Her Letters

Mode of Delivery

The programme is delivered through the CIBI website. Generally, students complete one module per semester.

Assessment

Assessment is by questionnaires and essays.

Discovering Carmel Certificate

The Discovering Carmel Certificate programme is an initial level programme providing the foundation for various aspects of Carmelite Studies. Students can choose from a selection of 40 modules including:

Who are the Carmelites?
The Rule of St Albert
The Carmelite School of Spirituality
St Teresa of Avila
St John of the Cross
St Thérèse of Lisieux
St Edith Stein

Blessed Titus Brandsma.

To qualify for the Discovering Carmel Certificate, which is accredited by the Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland, students must complete eight modules and submit assignments to the satisfaction of their tutors.

This programme can also be tailored to suit the interests of groups or communities who will be facilitated in selecting the modules that best suit their study programme.

Administrative and on-line support for all programmes is provided directly to students by the CIBI office.

Britain and Ireland



The Master's Degree in Theology (Carmelite Studies)

Experience serves a critical function in the spiritual life; that is why there is always a phenomenological dimension to spirituality. In other words, there must first be a person, or event or something we experience or encounter to which we then make a response....From a Christian perspective we understand that experience has both a human and a divine dimension, that it is both immanent and transcendent... We need to understand and explore the nature and dynamics of human experience... We look at patterns of relating that are outlined in scripture and the tradition of the Church but need these to be more thoroughly developed by a descriptive exploration of the experience of others, for instance the mystics in the Carmelite tradition.

(Module: Contemporary Spiritualities, Unit 1)

The Master's Degree in Theology (Carmelite Studies) is a postgraduate degree offered by the Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland and accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The MTh (CS) serves to further educate students in Carmelite Studies in a way that enables them to engage in, and contribute to, academic and critical debate in the field of Carmelite Studies.

The degree allows eligible students who already have a Bachelor's degree in theology, spirituality or a cognate discipline, to develop their skills to the level of a Master's qualification. CIBI students who have completed the BTh (Carmelite Studies) with the required grades and marks, or who have completed the Diploma in Carmelite Studies and can demonstrate a required level of complementary experience or learning by other means, are eligible.

The Master's Degree in Theology (Carmelite Studies) programme enables students to study the essential elements of a theological approach to the Christian life, and to the living of the Carmelite charism in particular, at postgraduate level. It familiarises students with the normative academic disciplines in the field of Carmelite Studies, including contemporary studies in theology, history, spirituality and hagiography.

The reading and assessment offered in this programme reflects the history, tradition and approach to prayer associated with the Carmelite charism, and with the Saints and Blesseds of Carmel.

The programme is in keeping with the Roman Catholic ethos of the Carmelite tradition and is open to those of all faiths and none.

Mode of Delivery:

The programme is delivered through the CIBI website. Generally, students complete at least one module per semester.

Assessment:

The programme comprises four taught modules, a dissertation module, and the writing of a dissertation. The taught modules include:

Carmelite Historiography

St John of the Cross

Reading Edith Stein

Reading St Teresa of Avila

Carmelite Marian Mysticism

Contemporary Spirituality



Contact Us:

For further information contact: info@cibi.ie
Tel: 353 1 2987706

Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland
Gort Muire, Ballinteer, Dublin 16.

The Inaugural Paul Lennon Lecture

The Inaugural Paul Lennon Lecture took place on Wednesday, November 25th, at the Loyola Institute, Trinity College. The lecture was entitled “*Enkindling Love: The Legacy of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross*”, and was given by Professor Gillian T.W. Ahlgren.

Gillian Ahlgren is Professor of Theology at Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Founding Director of the Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice. She is the author of five books, including *Teresa of Avila and the Politics of Sanctity* and *Entering Teresa of Avila's Interior Castle: A Reader's Companion*. Her most recent book, *Enkindling Love: The Legacy of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross*, is due out from Fortress Press in Spring 2016.



Left to right: Dr. Cornelius Casey, Associate Director of the Loyola Institute, Prof. Gillian T.W. Ahlgren, Richard Byrne, O.Carm., Prior Provincial.

Paul Lennon was born in Omeath, County Louth, in 1936. He joined the Carmelite Order on the completion of his secondary education. After his novitiate year at Kinsale, he went on the study at University College Dublin and the Gregorian University in Rome obtaining degrees in Latin and English, philosophy and theology. He later went to the University of Louvain to begin his work on his doctoral thesis. He was awarded a *summa cum laude* for his thesis on “*Realism and Idealism in the Early*

Writings of Johann Gottlieb Fichte”. It was a thesis of enormous work as it meant tracking the development of Fichte’s thought from a variety of lectures, notebooks and jottings but Paul stuck with it.

Paul’s defining academic interest was Philosophy and, in particular, the Philosophy of God. He taught for many years at the Milltown Institute. He had a lively style of lecturing, and it is said that students who had not the slightest interest in the Philosophy of God attended his lectures just for the performance! Paul became President of the Milltown Institute in 1989, the first non-Jesuit to hold this post. The number of students from religious orders was already dropping but there was a marked increase in the number of lay students –women and men. Paul would have been pleased that he is being remembered in the Loyola Institute at Trinity College as he had worked for an academic alliance of the Milltown Institute with this University but the time was not right. However, during his term as President, Milltown was granted recognition by the National Council for Academic Awards in Ireland and by the mid-nineteen nineties was able to award civil as well as church degrees.

Paul also made a significant contribution to the Carmelite Order particularly in the areas of culture, formation and administration. He enjoyed community life which is so central to Carmelite living, and, despite an oftentimes very heavy workload, he made time for fraternal gatherings at local and Province level. Paul died at the relatively young age of 64 in 2004 after a two year struggle with severe cancer.

This lecture was the first of four planned annual lectures to be sponsored by the Order in memory of Paul.