

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU As of Friday of this week, the Lenten offering the “Street Kids of Lima” has amounted to slightly under \$2,000. We are still receiving donations each week from some who have forgotten to bring in their Lenten Offering Folders. Your generosity, while not a surprise to me in the least, is deeply appreciated and will go far towards feeding and clothing those 90 children in CIMA, i.e., the **Center for Abandoned Children** in Lima. Again, thank you so very much and may God bless you for our generosity.



CHAPEL FINANCES

I just wish to remind you that our principal source of Income for the Chapel are the Offertory Collections at the 4:00 and 5:30 Masses on Saturday. Please be as generous as possible. One dollar and two dollar offerings may have been appropriate for the 1940s but times have changed. We really should be seeing a lot more \$5.00 bills in the collection baskets.

	4:00	5:30		4:00	5:30
April 2, 2011	918.00	533.00	April 9, 2011	757.00	580.00
April 16, 2011	1,043.00	624.00	April 30, 2011	958.00	751.00

RECENT NEWS About a month ago I suffered a very minor heart attack, a recurrence of heart problems that I have had for 16 years. It left me a little weak, so I notified that Provincial that I thought it was time for me to retire (76 years old). As a result he has sent **Fr. José Cilia, O.Carm.**, a Carmelite from the Island of Malta, who has been living here in the U.S. for over eight years. *(In fact, he will be making his Naturalization Oath of Allegiance in Kansas City next week and will become a full-fledged American citizen.)* I had worked with Fr. José in Peru for many years. He will be with us at least until June when the Provincial Council will appoint a new director for the Chapel-in-the-Mall. I will continue to live in the Carmelite Priory here in Peabody and I am sure that you will frequently see me helping out here in the Chapel.



St. Therese - Carmelite Chapel

at the Northshore Mall, Peabody, MA

Fr. Herbert Jones, O.Carm.

Director

Assisting

Fr. Felix Prior, O.Carm. Fr. Mario López, O.Carm.

Fr. José Cilia, O.Carm. Bro. Damien Chong, O.Carm.

www.carmelitechapel.com

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MAY - the Month of Mary



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY



The month of May is traditionally the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. Perhaps we should spend a little time reflecting on the love and the devotion that we have for Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother. Devotion of Mary is an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church and one that we hold very dear. The first recorded prayer to Mary dating back to about the year 250 was a prayer that we all know, the Sub Tuum Presidium, or in the English, ***We fly to you for protection, Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*** “
The history of Mariology (the study of Mary) goes back to the first century. Early Christians focused their piety at first more upon the martyrs around them. Following that, they saw in Mary a bridge between the old and the new. In the fifth century, the Third Ecumenical Council declared Mary as Theotokos (God-bearer). Churches dedicated to Mary were

constructed across the Christian world, among the most famous being Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. Teaching of the Assumption of Mary became widespread across the Christian world. The Middle Ages saw growth and development for Mariology, and brought major champions of Marian devotion to the fore, including Ephraim the Syrian, John Damascene and Bernard of Clairvaux. Prayers to Mary included the Ave Maria, and chants such as Ave Maris Stella and the Salve Regina emerged and are cherished among our Marian hymns to this day. Devotion to Mary continued to grow.

The Renaissance period witnessed a dramatic growth in Marian art and masterpieces by Boticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael were produced. In the 16th century, the Council of Trent confirmed the Catholic tradition of paintings and artworks in churches. This resulted in a great development of Marian art and Mariology during the Baroque Period. During the Reformation, the Catholic Church defended its devotion to Mary against Protestant views. With the victory at Battle of Lepanto (1571) accredited to her, it "signified the beginning of a strong resurgence of Marian devotions." The baroque literature on Mary experienced unforeseen growth. More than 500 pages of Mariological writings were published during the 17th century alone.

Mariology in the 19th century was dominated by discussions about the Immaculate Conception and in 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed it a dogma. Mariology in the 20th century was dominated by a genuine Marian enthusiasm. Pope Pius XII issued the Dogma of the Assumption and the Second Vatican Council declared Mary to be the Mother of the Church.

As we reflect on Marian devotions during this month of May, it is interesting to note the diversity in the Marian beliefs and devotional practices of major Christian traditions. The Catholic Church has a number of Marian dogmas, such as the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. Catholics refer to her as Our Lady and venerate her as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church; most Protestants do not share these beliefs. Even Muslims regard Mary as the Virgin Mother of Jesus, who is considered a Prophet of Islam.

As the mother of Jesus Christ, Mary has a central role in the life of our Roman Catholic Church. The veneration of her as the Blessed Virgin Mary has grown over time both, not only in prayer but in art, poetry and music. Popes have often encouraged this veneration and from time to time have also taken steps to reform it. Without any question, there are significantly more titles, feasts and devotional, Marian practices among Roman Catholics than any other Christians traditions.

The key role of the Virgin Mary in Roman Catholic beliefs, her veneration, and the growth of Roman Catholic Mariology have not only come about by official statements made in Rome but have often been driven from the ground up, by the Marian writings of the saints

and from the masses of believers, and at times through reported Marian apparitions to young and simple children on remote hilltops. These visions and the devotion they have inspired in the general catholic population have then influenced the decisions of the Holy See via *sensus fidei*. ***"The whole body of the faithful. . . cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural appreciation of faith (sensus fidei) on the part of the whole people, when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful, they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals."*** [From the Catechism of the Catholic Church] The Holy See continues to approve of Marian apparitions on remote mountains, the latest approval being as recent as May 2008. Some apparitions such as Fatima have given rise to Marian Movements and Societies with millions of members, and many other Marian societies exist around the world.

What all this means for us is that we should take advantage of this month of Mary to deepen our own respect and love for Mary the Mother of Jesus. There are so many way that we can honor our Blessed Mother. It is universally accepted that the two most common and popular Marian devotions are the wearing of the Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel and the praying of the rosary. We can add to that the acceptance of the Saturday devotions to our Lady and perhaps honoring her plea that we consecrate our selves to her Immaculate Heart. Total Consecration to Mary, explains St. Louis de Montfort, "consists in surrendering oneself in the manner of a slave to Mary, and to Jesus through her, and then performing all our actions with Mary, in Mary, through Mary, and for Mary" It is also known as "True Devotion to Mary," and "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary," Whatever we we choose to honor our Blessed Mother, we must remember that true devotion to Mary will always lead us closer to her Divine Son. Her primary role was to bring Jesus to us, and now her role is to bring us to Jesus. Ad Jesus per Mariam - To Jesus Through Mary.



MAY MEMORIALS

The **Altar Breads** for the month of May have been donated for the greater honor and glory of God in memory of **Robert J. Shea** by his devoted mother, Arlette.

The **Altar wine** for the month of May has been donated for the greater honor and glory of God in memory of the **Prior Family**.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn during the month of May in memory of the **Kolodziej Family**.

The **Oil** in the Altar Candles will burn during the month of May in memory of **Most Rev. Kilian J. Healy, O.Carm.**

The **Missalettes** for the Lenten and Easter Season have been donated for the honor and glory of god in memory of **Jean Gerard Barbeau** by his devoted wife Roseanne.

