

Monastery of Mary, Mother of Grace
Lafayette, Louisiana

September 2013

Our dear Friend,

"If you want to obtain something from God you must 'negotiate' with Him through insistent and convinced prayer of few words . . . with as much familiarity as possible." St. Teresa of Jesus would heartily agree with this advice from our Holy Father, Pope Francis. This was the reason she founded so many monasteries of nuns: that they could "negotiate" with the Lord in "insistent and convinced prayer" for the Church, and the needs of the People of God. "O my Sisters In Christ, help me beg these things from the Lord. These must be the business matters you're engaged in . . . these must be the objects of your petitions" (Way of Perfection 1: 5).

Teresa was a born negotiator, gifted with a shrewd business acumen, a magnetic personality and irresistible charm. These qualities served her well as she "negotiated" her way through the ecclesiastical and political red tape of 16th century Spain, confronting princes and prelates, governors, mayors and country clerics in order to establish houses where nuns and friars could engage in this "business matter" of prayer.

But "negotiating" with the LORD was a different story. While she taught that prayer was "friendly conversation with one whom we know loves us" she also taught: "if you are speaking with so great a Lord, it is good that you consider whom are you speaking with as well as who you are . . ." (Way of Perfection 22:1). Humility, confidence, respect as well as personal familiarity and love are "musts" for the fruitful and lasting "negotiation" of prayer.

Pope Francis adds that courage is necessary to sustain prayer. "There is also courage in standing before the Lord . . . in going bravely to the Lord to ask him things with insistence." This, too, Teresa would heartily endorse. She knew how difficult it is to persevere in familiar prayer to this Sovereign Lord who, despite His indisputable closeness, at times seems so far away or so deaf to our petitions. Courage and perseverance are indispensable to assure the success of our "negotiations" in prayer.

We will have the opportunity to focus on this doctrine of St Teresa and her other wonderful teachings throughout the years of preparation for the celebration of the 5th Centenary of her birth in 2015 and on this year's solemn celebration of her feast (see schedule). Because of this, the usual celebrations honoring St. Therese will be omitted, although her Feast Day Mass and the Blessing of Roses will take place on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:45 A.M. (please note the time).

Please join us for the Novena to St. Teresa (made privately) and the Mass in her honor on Sunday, October 13 at 2:00 P.M. The celebrant and homilist will be Father Celedonio Daimiel OCD. Born in La Mancha, Spain, he entered the Carmelite Order in 1994. After his profession and ordination to the priesthood, Father has served the Order as provincial secretary in Madrid and as formation assistant in Castellon. He now specializes in Mariology. He was invited to help with the Christian and Marian formation of the large Hispanic community at the shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, at Holy Hill, Wisconsin where he now resides. May these Novena days of "negotiation in prayer" with the Lord bring you and your family abundant graces and spiritual strength.

Your devoted Carmelite Nuns

SCHEDULE

Novena to St Teresa of Jesus (made privately) October 7 - October 15

Mass in honor of St. Teresa of Jesus on October 13, at 2:00 P.M.

Father Celedonio Martinez Daimiel, O.C.D., celebrant and homilist

NOVENA PRAYER

ST. TERESA, Jesus gave you to the Church as a marvelous teacher of prayer and holiness. "Negotiate" with Him for us as we reflect on your words and pray with you.

You said: *"Always think of yourself as everyone's servant; look for Christ our Lord in them."* May the prayer of our Holy Father and all ministers of the Church daily renew them as humble servants of God's People.

You said: *"To have courage for whatever comes in life; everything lies in that."* May prayer sustain all who work for peace, the right to life and the freedom to live according to moral and religious convictions.

You said: *"One must not think that a person who is suffering is not praying."* Let those who are afflicted by illness, financial difficulties, unemployment, tragedy, disaster or loss find hope, healing and strength as they offer these sufferings to God in prayer.

You said *"The most powerful prayer is the prayer that leaves the best effects and is followed by actions."* Help families to pray together and show the good effects of this prayer by lives of love and understanding.

You said: *"God withholds himself from no one who perseveres in prayer."* Teach priests, religious and the young persons being called to these vocations to reinforce their consecration with persevering prayer.

You said: *"You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him."* Pray for us and our needs (*mention your intentions*) as we entrust everything to your powerful intercession. Amen.