



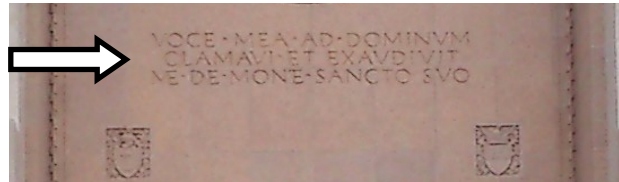
### Beginnings: Carmel in Carmel, CA

Bishop Jonannes MacGinley, the first bishop of Monterey-Fresno, attended the canonization of St. Therese of Lisieux in 1925 and received permission to have a Carmelite Monastery in the new diocese. Five nuns from the Santa Clara, California, Carmelite monastery came to Carmel and lived in a temporary building until this monastery was built in 1931.

The inscriptions chosen for the Chapel express the spirit of the Carmelite Order and the specific title of the monastery. There are several allusions to the beautiful setting of the building.

**The statues** on the front of the Chapel are left: St. Teresa of Jesus, and right: St. John of the Cross.

### Translations of the Latin Inscriptions

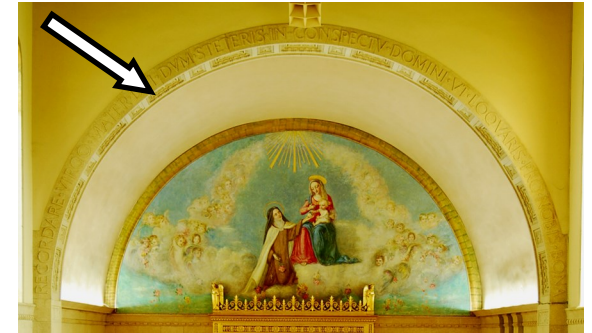


Above the front door of the Chapel is a verse from Psalm 120 (121) carved into the lintel: *“Levavi oculos meos in montes unde veniet auxilium mihi”* **(I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me.)**

Directly above the lintel, is a bas-relief tympanum of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel with her Divine Son. She is listening to the petitions of two of her most illustrious Carmelite daughters: on the left is St. Teresa of Jesus (16th century, Spain), foundress of the Discalced Carmelites; on the right, St. Therese of Lisieux (19th century, France), secondary patroness of the monastery.

Lifting your eyes higher on the façade is a verse from Psalm 76 (77): *“Voce mea ad Dominum clamavi et exaudivit me de monte sancto suo”* **(Aloud to the Lord I cried, and He heard me from His holy mountain.)** It is an invitation to enter the House of God and listen, as well as speak to Christ Who dwells in the tabernacle on the altar.

Inside the Chapel carved along the arch that frames the sanctuary is a phrase taken from the Mass of Our Lady of Grace: *“Recordare, Virgo Mater Dei, dum steteris in conspectu Domini, ut loquaris pro nobis bona”* **(Remember, Virgin Mother of God, when you stand in the sight of the Lord, to speak good things for us.)** Mary is the mother of all Grace.



The painting above the altar depicts St. Therese interceding with the Mother of God, and receiving roses from the Christ Child for all who pray here. She had promised: *“After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth.”*



The bas-relief on the tabernacle door is a bronze pelican feeding her young a symbol of the Eucharist. The tabernacle altar has a medallion of a lamb, symbol of the victorious resurrected Christ.

The Infant of Prague and St. Joseph are enthroned in two niches above the two sanctuary doors leading to the Sacristy and to the cloister Oratory where the nuns attend Mass.



The side aisles in the nave of the Church have hand-carved wooden Stations of the Cross and statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the left side and St. Therese of the Child Jesus on the right side.



Over the side exit door: is the Latin phrase: "Nostra conversatio in caelis est" "Our conversation is in Heaven" Depicting St. Teresa and St John in conversation, levitating in ecstasy.



Over the main exit doors: the bas-relief commemorates Pope Honorius III confirming the Carmelite Rule in the year 1226.

The Carmelite Order's founding inspiration was taken from the Old Testament Prophet Elijah. The Book of Kings tells us that Elijah prayed on Mt. Carmel in Palestine. He was guided by a "double spirit": the spirit of contemplation and the spirit of apostolic zeal.

The first hermits who lived on Mt. Carmel, in this double spirit of Elijah, dedicated a little chapel to the Blessed Virgin Mary and undertook the obligation of living the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in allegiance to Christ and His Virgin Mother. It was not until 1207, however, that St. Albert, Bishop of Jerusalem, gave the

hermits of Mt. Carmel a formal Rule of Life. All Carmelites today keep this Rule. The words of the Prophet Elijah -- "With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts" is the Carmelite motto.

In the 16th-century, the Spanish Carmelite Nun, Saint Teresa of Jesus, was inspired to return to the "double spirit" of Elijah and the Rule given by St. Albert of Jerusalem by reforming the Carmelite Order. In 1562, in Avila, Spain the first reformed monastery of Discalced Nuns was founded. St. Teresa restored the eremitical "desert" spirit of silence, solitude, poverty and prayer of the Carmelite tradition within the context of a life of apostolic prayer lived in small communities of no more than 21 nuns.

According to Teresa's insight, the Carmelite Nun is a woman who lives in solitude for others. Her enclosure wall is not a sign of separation, but a sign of commitment. She is an Ecclesial woman; her life is centered in the Eucharist (Mass), where she receives Christ and offers herself in union with Him for His Body the Church and for peace in for the world.

#### Foundation History:

In 1908 the Francis J. Sullivan family financed a temporary monastery in San Francisco in order to bring their daughter, Sr. Agnes Sullivan, a Carmelite nun in Boston, closer to home. Then in 1917 the Sullivans built a Carmelite Monastery in the heart of Santa Clara on the old Judge Bond Ranch for the San Francisco Carmelites. In 1931 the family built this monastery, as a memorial to Francis J. Sullivan (1852-1930), the father of Sr. Agnes of Santa Clara. He is buried under the side altar.

#### Historical Note:

People often ask "Are the Carmelites named for the town of Carmel? It is the other way around! Carmelite Friars on the expedition with the Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino, who discovered the river in 1602, named it "Carmel" for Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the request of the Carmelite Friars.

#### CONVENTUAL MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Daily (except Thursdays)  
9:00 a.m. Sundays

Chapel and grounds are open daily from 7:30 - 4:20  
The monastery has a small gift and book store.



## Carmelite Monastery of Our Lady of Grace and Saint Therese

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Carmel, California 93923

www.carmelitesistersbythesea.org

