

Join us for
Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 9

Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday April 13

Tenebrae 8:00 a.m.
Eucharist 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday April 14

Tenebrae 8:00 a.m.
Liturgy 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday April 15

Tenebrae 8:00 a.m.
Vespers 4:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 16

Eucharist 11:00 a.m.
Vespers 4:30 p.m.

BALTIMORE CARMEL
News



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Spring 2017

The world is in flames, the battle between Christ and the Antichrist has broken out in the open. If you decide for Christ, it could cost you your life. These words were written by Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Edith Stein, in 1939 during the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany.

How do *we* decide for Christ in the face of

Falsehood and dishonesty

Immigrants facing deportation

So many starving people

Refugees fleeing violence

Radical environmental changes

Polarization and increase in hate crimes

Prayer / Transformation / Love

In February, a group gathered at Carmel to explore the question: Is there something unique that the world needs from a contemplative community? The theme of Hope emerged strongly, and a focus on “Do we really expect anything from the contemplative process of prayer in our world today?”

We are blessed with writers, scholars and prophets in our world today and gain hope and wisdom from them. What if we break open their words together? For example:

We are discovering a universe whose implicate order unfolds in creative, evolving patterns toward a fullness revealed as Love. Contemplation is an intentional opening to that Life within us. It is truly transformative not only of us but also of our world. (Pat Farrell, osf)

The most open-minded and morally motivating stance we can take toward our unfinished universe is one of Hope. We are called to co-create this future together. (John Haught)

Jesus called his disciples to a new future, to create a new transformed earth, a “kin-dom” of equality and inclusivity - where ALL ARE ONE in justice, mercy and peace. (Ilia Delio, osf)

Do we hear the cry and prayer of the Gospel as proclaimed here each Sunday at Carmel? Are we able to trust that our life’s experiences are opening us to a transformative Hope that is leading to more being - and seeing Community as an essential support in this process, and as a sustainer and nurturer of HOPE? (by Lillian Gibbons and Regina McPhillips)

Communion

Inclusion

Harness
the Energy
of
Contemplative Prayer

Love

For the
Transformation
of
the World

Hope

Peace

Elijah stood on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, waiting for the Lord to pass by. (1 Kings 19:11-13) Tornadic winds, an earthquake and a forest fire occurred – but the voice the Lord was not heard in these powerful events. Only after these roars came a gentle whisper that asked Elijah cringing in the depths of his cave, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

These are days of political upheaval and angst. Both national and global disparities in basic resources of life are everywhere. The roar of injustices is heard with every switch of the TV channel or X.org email request to sign a petition and donate money. We hear the tremendous noise and are tempted to cringe in our domestic caves.

“What are you doing here?” is the question that is heard in the gentle whisper of contemplation. In contemplative prayer we can hear the probing call to examine the “what” of our doings and the “you” of the individual gifts of our unique personhood. There is no dichotomy between activity and contemplation. It is the listening of contemplation that gives birth to the question, “What are you doing?” It is the Grace of that time that allows us to hide our face in the presence of the Holy and then walk to the edge of our cave, walk down the mountain and serve God’s people.

Our Sunday Eucharist at Carmel is a gathering of the cave-dwellers who have been listening to the Voice of the gentle breeze. As we assemble, we do so not to flee the world (fuga mundi) but rather experience a prayerful immersion into it. The signs of the times are seen in the light of the Gospel held by the community in prayer. The question of the voice, “What are you doing?” is held together and answered in the discipleships of our lives. (by Peter Fagan)

It is precisely as broken, poor, and powerless that one opens to the dark mystery of God in loving, peaceful waiting. When the pain of human finitude is appropriated with consciousness and consent and handed over in one’s own person to the influence of Jesus’ spirit in the contemplative process, the new and deeper experience gradually takes over, the new vision slowly breaks through, and the new understanding and mutuality are progressively experienced. . . . It is only in the process of bringing the impasse to prayer, to the perspective of the God who loves us, that our society will be freed, healed, changed, and brought to paradoxical new visions, and freed for nonviolent, selfless, liberating actions, freed therefore for community on this planet earth (Constance FitzGerald, *Impasse and Dark Night*, 1984).