

Carmelite Prayers

For further information

Who are Lay Carmelites?

PRAYER OF THE CARMELITE FAMILY

Tender-hearted God,

Renew the gift of the Holy Spirit within the Carmelite Family, as we seek to live following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Teach us, like Mary, to contemplate your wisdom. Fill us, like Elijah, with zeal for your glory. Inspire us, like Simon Stock, to ponder your will in times of change.

Like Teresa, John, Thérèse and Titus, may we always live in your presence, and make us prophets of your kingdom. May our lives of prayer, community and service be a sign to the world that God lives, in whose presence we stand.

This grace we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

CARMEL'S SAINTS AT PRAYER

"It is from Christ himself that you will learn to love him."
Bl. John Soreth

"Oh, what a good friend you make, my God!"
St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)

"Well and good if all things change Lord God, provided we are rooted in you."
St. John of the Cross

"My heaven is in the smile of this God whom I adore."
St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Carmelites believe that humanity's yearning for meaning in life can only be satisfied by an experience of God.

Come and share that experience with us!

For more information about Carmelite spirituality for lay people, please contact:

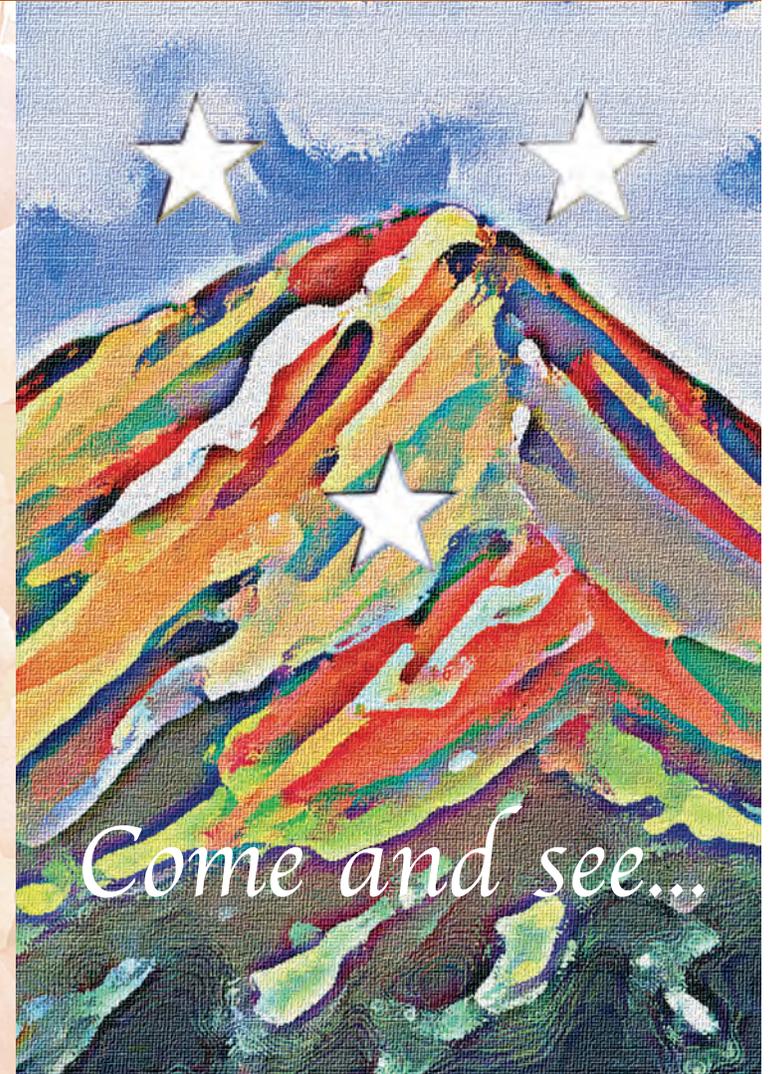
Lay Carmel Central Office
The Friars, Aylesford,
Kent, ME20 7BX, United Kingdom
Tel: 01622 714159
E-mail: central@laycarmel.org

Information about Carmel and its way of life is also available online at:

www.carmelite.org
www.laycarmel.org
www.carmeliteforum.org
www.cibi.ie

"Carmel... where prayer becomes life and life flourishes in prayer!"

Pope John Paul II




The British Province of the
Carmelite Third Order (Secular)

The experience of God is at the heart of Carmel

The Carmelite Third Order

Carmelite Spirituality

The Carmelite Order is one of the ancient religious families within the Christian Church. Most of its members are lay (unordained) people.

LAY CARMELITES

- Are ordinary people responding to an extraordinary love.
- Seek and serve Jesus Christ in the everyday circumstances of their lives.
- Embrace Mary, Elijah, and the saints of the Carmelite Family as models of holiness.
- Find support and community in an international spiritual family.
- Follow an ancient path for today's pilgrim.



THE CARMELITE 'THIRD ORDER'

The international spiritual family of Carmelites began not as a religious order but as a community of mostly lay people gathered on the slopes of Mount Carmel in the Holy Land at the beginning of the thirteenth century. It would be some years before these 'Carmelites' would spread beyond the Holy Land and be given the status of an 'Order' by the Catholic Church.

Over eight centuries many people have felt called to Carmel: some as friars, enclosed nuns, or active religious sisters; others within the context of family life; and others as single people either living alone or in small informal communities.



Saint Elijah, Prophet of Carmel



CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY

Lay Carmelites, filled with the 'charism' or spirit of the Carmelite Order, seek to live their vocation by immersing themselves in the traditions and teachings of Carmel, and in the service of the Church and the world.

The Carmelite charism finds its inspiration and its roots in the lives of Jesus, his mother Mary, and Elijah the 'prophet of Mount Carmel', as we encounter them in the Bible.

Mary, 'Our Lady', is Patroness, Mother, and Sister to all Carmelites. Lay Carmelites live a relationship with Mary by imitating her virtues, especially by listening as she did to the Word of God in the trials and joys of daily life. Lay Carmelites stand with Mary, cooperating with the mysterious will of God who offers love and salvation to all people.

Elijah is for Carmelites the model of a life of contemplative prayer. The prophet gives us an example of loving service that finds its source in a mature relationship with God. Elijah inspires us to testify to God's presence in the world through deeds of justice, peace and love.



Mary, the 'Flower of Carmel'.
Window by Moira Forsyth in Aylesford Priory, Kent.