

**Subject:** Parish Update: July 19, 2022

**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:47:55 AM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

**To:** Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

## **Celebrating Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Finding and Raising Up New Leaders**

**By Fr. Alex**



*When our Blessed Mother was born, I am sure that Saints Joachim and Anne didn't necessarily realize the gift they had been given -- that their child was born immaculately and would become the first Tabernacle of God. But they prepared her to be a leader, a strong mother to endure the challenges ahead of her. If not for them, Mary wouldn't have had the courage to meditate on the truths of her Son's life in her heart.*



*This past Sunday, it was a joy to celebrate our Blessed Mother under her title **Notre Dame of Mt Carmel, Our Patroness**. She intercedes for us constantly and is our example. Under her mantle, we find the guidance and strength to raise new leaders in our Church. Last year, I noticed that the parish was ready to gather as a family for the first time since COVID started, and what better way than to celebrate our patroness.*







*However, an idea that stays with just one person is not enough. It needs to find others to carry it forward, and this was found in a wonderful team of Agnes Loughlin, Vinnie & Gerry Wolfe, and Yvonne Orchison-Yip. This year we added a new person to our team, Ann McLoughlin. This team made this event happen not with just the sound of a*



*sparkler but the bang of a firework finale.*



*An incredible witness has been how sometimes people need a little push to move forward. As you walked into our sanctuary space, I am sure you noticed all of the flowers that decorated and elevated our worship—allowing us to recognize God’s beauty here on earth. So much of this was thanks to Yvonne, who never thought she could be a leader, but Father knew better.*

*"Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast Day has a significant meaning for me and has brought about the BEST of my creativity, faith, and my own personal growth. Last year, I started meditating with my Rosary daily while prepping for the feast. Not only has it helped me with caring for my mental health, but it also gave me the courage, confidence, and faith to venture into my own business, Flowers With Grace, and I'm forever so grateful." Yvonne Orchison-Yip*



*And the inspiration goes even further! Yvonne welcomed and engaged young parishioner Marley Zeris in helping prepare flower arrangements for our homebound parishioners.*



*That is what our renewal is about -- raising new leaders from all segments of our parish family. We want to gather all of the family under the mantle of Mary. An idea can start in one person's mind, and it can flourish to join a whole parish with it. But we must always allow our light to shine and not hide it under a basket. That is why it was so important to see our procession in the community; we witness that we are proud to be followers of Christ and to share His love. Let us always seek to find those who have the potential to lead, just as our Lord Jesus Christ sought the twelve. And then, we can turn to Mary for the example of humble service to her Son.*

Special thanks to Denise Panyik-Dale for capturing these special memories from our celebration. Click [HERE](#) to view more.

## **#ListeningChurch: Synod on Synodality Update**

**By Carolyn Tortorello and Michael Letterese**



*"Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. So often, our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another."*

*Pope Francis, Synod 2021 2023*

Pope Francis instituted the Synod on Synodality in October of 2021 to encompass all churches across the globe to listen to what their communities had to say. In that spirit, each parish in the diocese of Paterson named two delegates to act as their “ears” and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church.

We (Mike Letterese and Carolyn Tortorello) were honored to take on this listening role. Our goal as delegates was to encounter, listen and discern. We were asked to meet with different groups within our parish. Ultimately, we met with over 25 members of our parish community – living in different circumstances as well as

following different paths in their faith journey.

Each group we met was open and willing to share their thoughts on the three questions we asked each person we met:

1. *Based on your own experience, how are Jesus and the Church related to one another?*
2. *How has the Church journeyed with you in life?*
3. *How can the Church further assist in accompanying you in the spiritual life?*

Even though we met with different groups on different paths, we realized that most people have the same beliefs and are looking for the same answers.

The information we collected was compiled with the responses of over 100 parishes in our diocese. The diocese then sent that report to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to be further compiled with our nation's dioceses' responses. From there, a report is sent to the Vatican to be further compiled with worldwide responses. It is planned that a summary report of findings will be issued later in 2023.

## **Flowers With Grace: Touching both Givers and Receivers**

As mentioned above, Yvonne Orchison-Yip's talent with flower arrangements has been a great blessing to the celebration of Our Lady and a few other parish events; but how did she end up involved in the Outreach to the Homebound ministry?





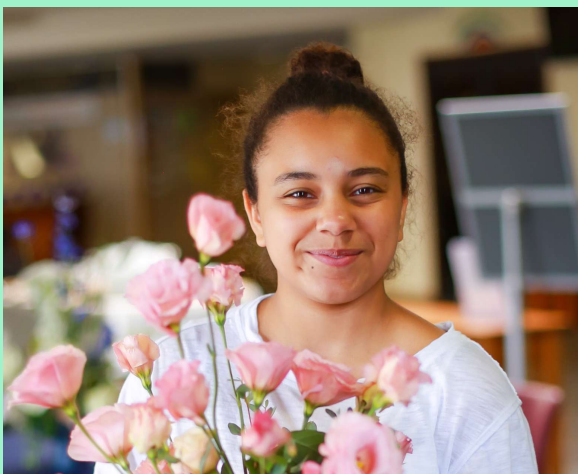


*"It was because of my grandma (Ah Ma) who passed away at 109 a couple of months ago in Vancouver. When she was living in the nursing home, she was so happy when we visited her and even more so when we brought some of her favorite snacks and a small arrangement of flowers; flowers made her day! With my recent journey with flower arranging, I felt called to give back in the best way I could, that is creating flower arrangements for our homebound to let them know that their parish cares about them.*

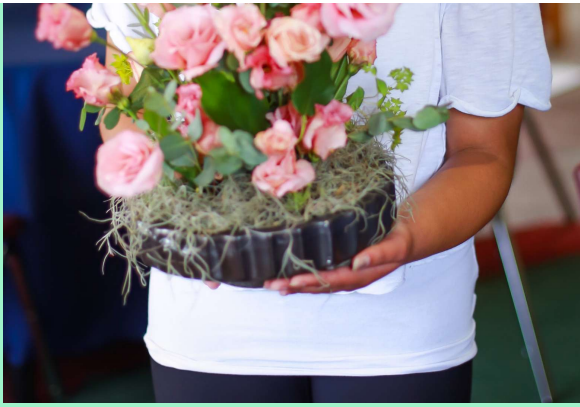
*"While preparing at the church for this year's feast, I ran into Lauren Zeris, who mentioned that her daughter Marley loves flowers, and she would love to be a florist in the future. I was so thrilled to hear that! Marley and I chatted, and I offered to mentor her. She came back day after day, and I could see how much she loves flowers and how determined she was to learn. She created all the Homebound bud vases and designed one of the pink Lisi arrangements for the feast! Marley also came up with the note cards for each arrangement!*



*"How wonderful for our homebound parishioners to be reminded that they are loved and that young people in our community care about them! It was so rewarding to share my flower journey with Marley!" Yvonne Orchison-Yip*



*"Ever since I was younger I always enjoyed flowers! I love roses which is why my Confirmation name is Saint Rose. My grandma has a hard time leaving the house, which is why I have a special place in my heart for the homebound. It will make them smile and know someone is thinking about them. Yvonne has taught me so much about flowers, and she has been a*



wonderful teacher." Marley Zeris

*"I was a recipient of this gift, and I cried again. To feel a part of the love of this parish family, to feel someone spent time donating and making these. Until you are on the receiving side, in a situation like any of us at home, you can never know the full impact this gesture has. You brought the love of Our Lady and yourselves into my home, and for that and so much more, I thank you, I appreciate you, and I love you too. God continue to bless you all." Maryann Kuhlmann*



Jim Baratte, who serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to our Homebound, visited Peg O'Connor over the weekend to bring her Communion and the beautiful flower arrangement. He tells us that Peg, who turned 98 on July 7th, very much appreciated the flowers from the parish!







Terry Smith delivered the beautiful flowers to homebound parishioner Connie Cetrulo, who said, "*Flowers are lovely, please send my thanks to the designer. It was a beautiful gesture!*"



*What are your passions? What are your talents? What are your strengths? How might God be calling you to lean on these His gifts to you, to love and serve others?*

## Family Mass Summer Travels Disciple-Ship Third Stop: Poland!

By Diane Byrne, Family Faith Coordinator

For this week's Disciple-ship, we traveled across the Atlantic Ocean and into other bodies of water to Poland, where I introduced our families to **Stanislawa Leszczynska**. Stanislawa helped the Jews during World War 2 by sneaking food into the ghetto. After she got caught trying to help, Stanislawa



was sent to a concentration camp. While there, she was able to use her skills as a midwife to deliver babies.

© TASS via Getty Images



Even though Stanislawka witnessed many people treating others poorly, she never said anything negative about those people. She believed that actions were bad, not people. We should try to emulate Stanislawka and treat all individuals like children of God.

## Vacation Bible School: Looking Back

Over 70 young campers participated in our Monumental VBS last week, making new friends, enjoying fun activities, and most importantly, learning in creative and relatable ways how God's greatness is a gift in their young lives, always present, always loving, always helping them face the challenges that come their way.







Our team of crew leaders, volunteers, and staff members preparing, supporting, and leading this monumental offering for our young kids are at the heart of its success. They gave countless hours of time, energy, and talent to make this program happen, and we are so grateful for their faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to our mission!





### Growing Up With VBS:



*"Notre Dame of Mount Carmel's VBS is absolutely amazing. At one time, our daughters were campers in the program, and over the past three years, they have grown to be leaders. This year, in particular, was extra special because we served as a family; Maya was a Crew Leader, Marley was the Station Leader for Craft n' Play, and I was the Station Leader for KidVid Cinema.*



*"I can't even begin to explain the joy that came from this experience. We thought it would be fun to dedicate a whole week in the summer to serve our parish. And what better way than to teach our parish children how monumental God is! We had a blast with the children; better yet, we formed friendships and bonds with families like us in our church.*





*"To us, VBS is a constant in our lives. It's not something we plan on doing once or twice. Instead, we look forward to something special every year and plan to make it last forever. Our daughters and I wish VBS lasted all summer. On the last day of VBS, I asked the children what their favorite part of it was, and they said, "EVERYTHING!" The children of NDMC, my family, and others who have experienced VBS are blessed beyond belief and, without a doubt, have felt the Holy Spirit." Lauren Zeris*

### **Two Brothers' Experience:**

*"Lorenzo told me VBS is really a lot of fun and wished it was longer. He would run in every morning to his group leader with a smile on his face -- this is a HUGE compliment coming from him..."*



*Luca helped with snacks; he will be going into 6th grade and was very hesitant to come to volunteer at VBS. It was really funny to hear him tell me, "Mom, there is a boy that does not like or want the snacks," and also telling me, "Today is clean-up day, so I hope no one makes a mess." Luca was really into helping ensure there was no mess, and while he is a picky eater, for him to recognize another child being fussy about the snacks was an eye opener for him.*



*Both my boys were happy and content. As a mom, I felt the Lord working with my children. It brought a sense of calm over our home." Suzanne Cosco*

## **Operation Appalachia Preparing for Mission!**

Our Operation Appalachia Ministry will be heading to West Virginia on July 31<sup>st</sup> to help fix homes for those in need. They are running a Raffle to help fund their trip and will be in our Gathering Space after Masses in July.



The Drawing will take place on July 31<sup>st</sup>! Please stop by the table in the Gathering Space to purchase a few raffle tickets and learn more about this wonderful outreach ministry!

## HAPPENING...



**Parish Office Hours:** Please note that our Parish Office will close at Noon on **Fridays, July 22, through Friday, September 2.**

**This week's Mass  
& Memorial Lamp**

**Parishioner  
Announcements**



## MEN'S GROUP

*Join us in faith and friendship!*

*We explore a different topic each month and offer an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Our next gathering is*

**SATURDAY, JULY 23rd, 8:00-10:00 AM**

*Downstairs in the Resource Library*



### NEW DISCIPLESHIP GROUP



**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-8:30 PM,  
AUGUST 3, 10 & 17**

We all have frameworks that help us make sense out of life. For many of us, that framework is religion. But frameworks fail. Life happens. And you may be left wondering...or maybe even wandering away from faith entirely.

In this 3-part series, Andy Stanley re-frames faith - not around the people, institutions, and religious rules that may have caused us to wander, but instead around Jesus and the



wander, but instead around Jesus and the wonder of His love.

Facilitators: Mike Letterese &  
Patty Migliore-Torres

Register online at  
[www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

## **JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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