



THE MOTHER ANGELINE SOCIETY

The Mother Angeline Society is dedicated to promoting the cause for beatification and canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O. Carm., foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and advancing her charism in the church.



Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm.
MODEL OF HOSPITALITY

"We can never show our dear old people too much kindness and love."

"Let us never lose sight that there is no substitute for love."

The 33rd Anniversary of the Birth and Death of Venerable Mother Angeline Teresa, O. Carm.



From the Pen of **Brother Robert Chiulli, O.Carm.**

Change. It comes whether we want it to or not, whether we welcome its effect in our lives or choose to ignore it as best we can. Certainly we have recently seen a great deal of change in our country with the election of a new president, and this change has generated a range of emotions from excitement to anxiety and fear. But regardless of how it arrives, change means stepping into an uncertain future, trusting that what has gone before will be a suitable foundation for what is to come.

Mother Angeline, by her own admission, was not a bold personality, not one who sought out change for novelty's sake. She was often described by those who knew her as being somewhat reserved, and perhaps even a bit shy, never seeking to be the center of attention. However, God chose this woman to be brave, to journey out into the unknown and to trust that He would always be there to guide her.

Mother Angeline began her religious life as a Little Sister of the Poor, a French Congregation dedicated to caring for the indigent elderly population. And it was in the Little Sisters of the Poor that Mother's vocation for caring for the elderly matured and deepened. For some fifteen years, Mother served as a dedicated vowed religious, looking after the old people in her care in the manner that the Little Sisters of the Poor prescribed for all their houses. However, after some time, Mother Angeline began to believe that the method of care the Little Sisters of the Poor required for the aged in their homes did not fit the American mentality, and that a new approach was needed.

At first Mother tried to gradually implement small changes that broke from the uniformity that the Little Sisters man-

dated, but this was met with disapproval from her superiors. At this point, the internal conflict within her began to swell. She deeply loved her Congregation, and believed wholeheartedly in the vow of obedience. However, she also felt that her vow of hospitality, a fourth vow the Little Sisters profess, was not being lived to the fullest under the constraints she was put under. Changing the style of care for the elderly without her superior's consent would be disobedient and dishonest; continuing to deny the old people the type of care she believed they were entitled to would empty her vocation of its meaning to serve the elderly as they would serve Christ himself.

The easiest thing for Mother to have done would be simply to do nothing, to accept the situation as it was and hope, in some sort of vague way, that maybe things would change for the better. Why agitate her superiors, why complicate things by insisting things could be done differently? It would have been simpler for all involved just to maintain the status quo. However, being a woman of profound integrity, Mother could not accept such a weak and uninspired solution. To be true to her vocation, the vocation God instilled in her, she had to move beyond what was comfortable and stretch out into something

new, something unknown and without any guarantees of success.

After consulting with people she trusted and after much deep prayer, she knew the right course, the honorable course, would be for her to leave the Little Sisters of the Poor and to find a new way to live out this vocation of caring for the elderly. The result of this decision led to the foundation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. The path was not always smooth, and there were failures, along with successes, but in time, God was able to use Mother Angeline to accomplish His will because she trusted in His Providence more than she feared any change.

When asked what inspired her to start a new order, Mother responded, "I never intended to start a new order. It was part of God's plan. It grew from a desire to bring about some changes in the kind of care provided at that time for older persons." Mother's response to a divine invitation is a reminder that God sometimes calls us to venture beyond what we know, beyond what is safe and predictable, so that He can put us on the front line of building up the Kingdom of God.

Celebrating 25 years

by Mother Mark Louis, O.Carm.

How quickly time passes as we go about our daily routines. It has been five years already since Pope Benedict declared Mother Angeline Venerable. The date was June 28, 2012, and I remember receiving the news as we were about to begin a meeting of the New York Catholic Providers group held at the Terence Cardinal Cooke nursing facility in Manhattan. There is more than a little irony in the fact that we were not far from where Mother Angeline began the Congregation and were in a facility named for a Cardinal from New York City who himself is a candidate for sainthood.

Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the
Mother Angeline Society,

Greetings in the Lord! We thank God for another year as we continue to pray and work for the advancement of the Cause of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm, and to trust that in God's time, her merits and virtues will be recognized and her progress toward beatification and canonization move forward. We hear of many favors that individuals believe they have received through the intercession of Mother Angeline and even more so, we see over and over again the effects of her inspiration in the lives of people, in the work of caring for the elderly and ill, and in promoting the value of life and the sanctity of life as it comes under attack in so many subtle but lethal ways. Mother Angeline is a wonderful patroness for the cause of life, and her values and virtues indispensable in maintaining the attitude of charity and respect for the vulnerable that should mark the lives of Christian people and human society.

This year we are remembering Mother Angeline as a **Model of Hospitality**. This is more than a phrase or slogan. It goes to the heart of our Venerable as a person. By habit, by virtue, she was hospitable to others. It seems not to even have been a decision she made, but rather her way of being. Welcome others, offer a kind and consoling word to those needing to be comforted, help those in distress and make a home for the elderly where they can enjoy their golden years with respect, peace and security. An important part of Mother's hospitality was spiritual as well. She counseled that the elderly should be welcomed and treated as if, first, they were our own parents,



*Very Reverend Mario Esposito,
O.Carm., Vice Postulator*

and then, welcomed as if we were welcoming Christ Himself. The chapel, the Tabernacle where Christ dwells in the Eucharist, was to be the center of each Home, because Mother knew that Christ was the supreme host who alone could grant all who came to Him what they most needed. She taught her Carmelite Sisters by example and word to bear this sense of hospitality and to offer without measure the charity and welcome of Christ to others. Thus, pastoral care must be an integral part of the care of the aged and infirm, because Christ is always the "pastor" that cares for His flock.

Truly, Mother's sense of hospitality was nothing less than the application of the beatitudes, the gospel of Christ: to care for the poor, naked, lonely, and hungry and to do so as if we were caring for Him, and to care without measure. Hospitality must come from the heart, from the soul. The interior disposition of each of us needs to

be refreshed and purified by God's love, by prayer, and by constant practice so that we can offer what is needed generously. We thank Mother Angeline for her sterling example of hospitality, and pray for some portion of her spirit so that we can make our world a more welcoming and Christ-filled place.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Mario, O.Carm." The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.
Vice Postulator

That day was the culmination of a long and involved process beginning with the creation of the Mother Angeline Society (originally the Teresian Society) in 1987, the petitioning of Bishop Hubbard in 1989 to begin a Cause for Mother for sainthood, and finally the actual opening of the Cause on the Diocesan level on **August 15, 1992 – twenty-five years ago**.

Very Reverend Mario Esposito O.Carm. became the Postulator of the Cause after the death of Rev. Jude Mead,

C.P. who laid the groundwork for all that needed to be done. Bishop Hubbard then appointed a Diocesan Tribunal to hear the testimonies of many who knew Mother. These testimonies, her writings and other pertinent material were then assembled by Sr. M. Teresa Stephen, O.Carm. and her dedicated group of volunteers. They followed the strict procedure of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and sent over 12,000 pages to Rome in a crate so large a Sister could sit inside!

We are delighted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Opening of the Cause on the Diocesan Level and look back in awe on all that has been accomplished. We continue to make Mother's story better known through print and social media and teach her mission and philosophy to all involved in our ministry with the elderly. Now if we could just have a miracle attributed to Mother, our process would move to the next step. We pray this will happen soon.

The 33rd Anniversary of the Birth and Death of Venerable Mother Angeline Teresa, O. Carm., Model of Hospitality



On January 21, 2017, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm celebrated the life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa and the 33rd anniversary of her passing to eternal life with a Eucharistic celebration held at Saint Teresa's Motherhouse. The theme chosen for this celebration was "Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, Model of Hospitality." The Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm. was the principal celebrant. Other members of the clergy concelebrating with Father Mario were Rev. Joseph Finch, Rev. Patrick Buckley, Rev. Paul Denault, O.Carm., Rev. James Dorr, CM, Rev. Timothy Ennis, O.Carm., Rev. Sunny Matthew, O.Carm. and Rev. Justin Cinnante, O.Carm. The event was attended by the McCrory family, Avila Carmelite Sisters, the Carmelite Friars Pre-Novices and Novices, and the staff at Avila as invited guests.



An excerpt from Fr. Mario's Homily :

"Anyone with a basic understanding of Mother Angeline's life or how her Carmelite Sisters conduct themselves and their facilities, can understand the theme we are reflecting upon this year: Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: Model of Hospitality. After the cut, Hospitality remains one of the four core values with which the Sisters flavor their ministry and mission.

Along with shared commitment, sanctity of life and compassion, each aspect of the care of the elderly is to be marked by a sense of hospitality. In short, each Carmelite Nursing Facility strives to be a home, a place of welcome with a person-centered environment, which is warm and supports the human and spiritual journey of each resident of any faith.

How true it is that even the elderly and those rounding out their years nevertheless remain on a journey, unfinished like each of us, until the moment that the Lord calls us to the fullness of life with him. Each man and woman needs to feel that they are in a loving and caring environment so that they can continue to grow, to cope with the weaknesses of old age, and to have people around to calm their fears and to love them. Hospitality is an irreplaceable aspect of that atmosphere.

... My brothers and sisters - while hospitality seems nice, and even quaint, it is work! Offering hospitality can be inconvenient, particularly when we are tired or stressed. Hospitality demands that we step out of ourselves and our own interests, in order to focus on, listen to, and help someone else. Hospitality, as a fruit of charity, always brings us back to God, praying and beseeching that He gives us the open heart, spirit and energy to listen to the other person and make him or her feel not as a stranger, but as a family member, loved and valued. For this, we need grace, a grace that Mother Angeline received and modeled and practiced heroically as a virtue.

... Mother Angeline knew this virtue of hospitality inside and out and in a thousand ways, taught it and modeled it for others....Venerable Mary Angeline Tere-

Bishop Howard Hubbard, D.D. Remembers Mother Angeline's Hospitality



sa brought light, and love and a listening ear to countless bishops, and priests, to her own Sisters and Sisters from other Congregations, to her family and to her beloved old people. We ask her, as a Model of Hospitality to keep our hearts and souls open to others, and to always be willing to offer to the next person, whatever the cost, the grace of hospitality and love.”

Pg 4 Top Left: Concelebrants of Anniversary Mass, Mother Mark Louis, and Council

Top Right: Display at the Chapel

Bottom Left: Fr. Mario Esposito, O. Carm.

Bottom Right: Sr. Paul Anthony Videtich, O. Carm.

Pg 5 Above Top: Offertory Procession

Above Bottom: "Cup of Tea" Cake

During the summer of 1958, Father Joe Connolly, the Chaplain of the Carmelite Motherhouse in Germantown, invited Matt Clark and myself, both college seminarians at the time, to attend a night game between the New York Giants and St. Louis Cardinals at the old Polo Grounds.

It was a wonderful treat to watch the great Stan Musial hit two homers into the right field bleachers and witness the incomparable Willie Mays make some spectacular catches in centerfield. Because the game concluded so late, on the way back home we stopped at the Motherhouse for a night's sleep.

The following morning we gathered for breakfast in the chaplain's dining room and Mother Angeline stopped by to greet us. What a magnetic personality she had. She treated the future bishop of Rochester and myself like the most important people in the world. She assured us of her prayers for our perseverance in the pursuit of priestly ordination. In addition, she gave each of us a relic of Pope Saint Pius X to serve both as our intercessor and role model. What an unexpected and treasured gift!

Nineteen years later, I encountered Mother Angeline again when as the newly ordained Bishop of Albany, I had the privilege of presiding at the liturgy when the novices took their first vows in the Motherhouse Chapel. Mother was in failing health but still radiated her love for priests and the priesthood. After the ceremony, all the clergy in attendance were treated to a gastronomical feast, capped by a special gift to remember the occasion.

My final meeting with Mother took place on her deathbed a few days before she passed. Although in and out of consciousness, she acknowledged my presence and assured me she was uniting her redemptive suffering for the benefit of myself and the priests of our diocese.

Mother Angeline will hopefully be canonized for founding the dynamic community of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and for her pioneering ministry in the field of gerontology. But I'll always remember her for her palpable love of priests and her encouraging kindness to two lowly seminarians.

Top Left: Mother Angeline and Bishop Howard Hubbard, D.D.

Top Right: Bishop Howard Hubbard, D.D.



100th Fatima Centenary *by Sister Helena of Mary, O.Carm.*

Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, New York held an Enthronement Ceremony of a special statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on February 4, 2017. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Francis Amodio, O.Carm. and Scriptural Rosary was prayed by Lay Carmelites, Carmelites in initial formation, and the public. Our novice Sister Philomena and I attended the ceremony.

The history of the Statue of Mount Carmel was explained in a booklet at the event. "In the final Fatima vision on October 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Lucia Dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, clothed as Our Lady of Mount Carmel and holding the Brown Scapular in her hands. Lucia joined the Discalced Carmelite nuns in 1947. Father Donald O'Callaghan, O.Carm. and Father Albert Ward, O.Carm. visited Sister Lucia at her convent in Coimbra, Portugal to speak with her about how Mary appeared as Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the last vision. With the help of Father Louis Gonzaga Oliveira, O.Carm., Father O'Callaghan commissioned the famous sculptor, Jose Ferreira Thedim to create a statue based

on Sister Lucia's interpretation of the vision. The statue embodies the vision exactly as described by Sister Lucia. Our Lady is holding the Brown Scapular in her hand. The presence of Jesus as a child in this vision is also significant because he seems to be waiting and anxious to receive into his small arms all who will take the scapular.

The statue of the final vision was blessed on September 13, 1949 by the Bishop of Fatima before being shipped to New York. It was displayed at Our Lady of the Scapular Carmelite Parish in Manhattan and blessed by Francis Cardinal Spellman on July 16, 1950. The Carmelites left Our Lady of the Scapular-St. Stephen's in 2007 but the statue remained in Manhattan. In November 2014, Father Mario Esposito, O.Carm. asked that the statue be returned to the Carmelites of the Saint Elias Province and in July 2015 it was brought back to Middletown, New York. Father Michael Kissane, O.Carm. directed that the statue be cleaned and restored to its former beauty. Plans are currently underway to have it permanently installed at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, New York."

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Statue at the National Shrine in Middletown, NY

The year 2017 marks the 100th year of Mary's apparitions to the three children at Fatima, Portugal. In order to celebrate with dignity this centennial, Pope Francis has mandated a Jubilee Year, with the inherent plenary indulgence, from November 27, 2016 to November 26, 2017. The National



*Above Top:
Janice Smircich
and Ryan
Mahoney,
Museum Director*



*Above bottom: Irish American Heritage
Museum in Albany, NY*

Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. – Irish American *by Janice Smircich*

One of the goals of the Education sub-committee of the Cause and Charism Commission is to spread Mother Angeline's story and make her better known. On January 27, I visited Ryan Mahoney, the Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum. Since Mother was from Ireland, what better place to share her story!

The Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, New York, has a mission to preserve and tell the story of the contributions of the Irish people and their culture in America. Through many activ-

ities, programs, exhibits, collections of artifacts, records, and library, visitors are able to examine the importance of their own heritage as part of the American cultural mosaic. The Museum serves as a national repository for the National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, as well as the American Irish Legislators Society of New York. Its unique library holdings are accessible to anyone in the world through the interlibrary loan program. The website is: <https://irish-us.org>

I brought books, pamphlets, and other material to Ryan, about

The Resident's Corner *Carmel Richmond Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center*



Carmel Richmond Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center (“Carmel Richmond”) could be considered a continuation of the work started by the Carmelite Sisters in Arrochar, Staten Island, in 1938, at St. Joseph’s Home located on Lily Pond Avenue. On August 17, 1938, Mother M. Colette, with six other Sisters, was assigned to open this new foundation, which was placed under the protection of St. Joseph. This home was a four-story building, and had accommodations for thirty-six Residents. The Sisters continued to provide care for the elderly until 1955, when capital improvements became necessary but the cost prohibitive. It also appeared to be only a matter of time before the home would be torn down due to the construction of the Verrazano Bridge. In February of 1955, St. Joseph’s Home was sold. As early as 1964 the Archdiocese of New York, jointly with the Carmelite Sisters, initiated plans for the construction of a home for the aged on property owned by the Archdiocese on Old Town Road, Staten Island. Various representatives of Catholic Charities of

the Archdiocese of New York worked on the project throughout the years. Mother M. Bernadette de Lourdes represented the Carmelite Sisters and lent her expertise to the planning group since the project’s inception. The actual construction of Carmel Richmond began in August of 1971, and in 1973, Mother Fidelis Regan and six Sisters greeted the first ten Residents of Carmel Richmond.

Carmel Richmond is a 300 bed skilled nursing facility and is one of 12 nursing homes on Staten Island that collectively have a capacity of over 3,000 beds. Realistically, all nursing homes on Staten Island draw their occupancy mainly from one of two hospitals in Staten Island. These two hospitals are Staten Island University Hospital (primary) and Richmond University Medical Center. With the large number of nursing home beds on Staten Island and only one hospital that actually offers a large rehab program, we remain in good standing regarding preferred status and choice. Admissions to Carmel Richmond have also come from Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan.

In carrying out our services to the elderly, Carmel Richmond has always sought to extend the healing ministry of Christ to those entrusted to our care. Besides meeting the physical, emotional, and social needs of our residents, every effort is made to provide for their spiritual needs as well, regardless of religious affiliation. Through the Pastoral Care Department, arrangements are made for the celebration of daily Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sisters, dedicated lay staff, and Eucharistic Ministers bring Holy Communion to those requesting the same and unable to attend Mass. Prayers are also offered at the bedside of the sick and dying, and emotional support is given to families experiencing the loss or sickness of a loved one.

Left to Right: Sister Mary Ann Wasilko with resident, Sister Angelica Rose Mora with resident and the Chapel

the life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa. Ryan was anxious to learn more about Mother Angeline and the Carmelite Sisters. All the materials I shared will be on display and be available to those who come to visit the Museum. This is just another way we can help others to learn about Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa and her vision for the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.



Left: 1880s silk hand painted two sided banner: St. Patrick and St. Brigid in the collection

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FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM
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www.motherangeline.org

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Favors Received

I would like to relay a blessing in our life that I feel Mother Angeline may have had a part in. Our daughter and her husband have been trying to conceive a child for over two years and have had difficulty doing so. I have been praying to Mother Angeline since that time for her and her husband to have a baby...and that prayer was answered.

I was so thrilled to learn of Mother Angeline's cause for Sainthood several years ago because my mother's cousin, Sister Christine, was part of the Order until she went to Our Lord in 2014. Just as Mother looked out for our cousin in her early years in the Order, I am confident that Mother is now also willing to look out for some of Sister Christine's family. My daughter did indeed receive many prayers from many people during her struggle but I am convinced that Mother's intercession was a key factor given our family's connection to your Order.

7/16 T.T.

I was speaking to a man JB this morning from the townland of Drummurrer in the parish who told me that he had a growth on his face below his left eye some time ago. He visited his local doctor who made an appointment for him with a consultant in Belfast but the man also went to the shrine of Mother Angeline in Brocagh and took home some Holy Water from her Baptismal font. He rubbed this water on his face every day and when he finally met the doctor in Belfast the doctor told him there was no sign whatsoever of his ailment on his face! The man (JB) truly believes he had a favor from Mother Angeline.

7/16 BF



Those who believe their prayers were answered through Mother Angeline Teresa's intercession are encouraged to contact the Carmelite Sisters, or you may write to:

The Postulator's Office
Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm
600 Woods Road, Germantown, NY 12526