



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.



The 36th Anniversary of the Birth and Death of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O. Carm.



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

Just as our bodies need refreshment and rest, so too do our souls. And for centuries, Catholics have established places where we can step away from our busy schedules and contemplate the deeper mysteries of life. Whether it be at a retreat house, shrine, or hermitage, these holy places help to reorient and refocus ourselves back to an existence centered on God.

Most often, these springs of spiritual refreshment tend to be located in rural, pastoral locations, for to be surrounded by God's creation tends to foster deep prayer and reflection. The vast ocean, the soaring mountains, the serene forest immerse us in a reality that is larger than ourselves, and remind us of how all of it came to be through God's hand.

Early in the history of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, Mother Angeline purchased a large tract of land in the Hudson Valley, with sweeping views of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains, to serve as their motherhouse. Generations of sisters have spent their formative years here, a place of quiet and serene beauty. And it not uncommon to see sisters strolling the long road that cuts through the property, praying their rosary or simply reflecting on some spiritual matter. Through all the varied seasons, the sisters there are immersed in God's creation. It was important to Mother Angeline to have this place, a place of natural beauty, for the spiritual renewal and nourishment of her daughters in Carmel.

The Catholic tradition has always looked to the natural world as evidence of God's Providence and design: The earth is the LORD's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it on the seas, established it over the rivers. (Psalm 24). Who, but God, could create both the striking magnificence of the redwood forests and the delicate engineer-

ing of the hummingbird? Who, but God, could establish the vast canvas of stars in the night sky, or the great variety of animals that populate our planet?

In recent years, our reverence for the natural world has taken on a more serious tone as we witness and experience the effect of climate change. While some may not regard this as a traditional Catholic concern, both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis have urged Catholics to be attentive to this important issue. Pope Benedict wrote in the Papal Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (2009): The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing, she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction.

Essentially, care for our natural world is a pro-life position, as Pope Benedict himself wrote, "Today, more than ever, it appears clear to us that respect for the environment cannot fail to recognize the value and inviolability of the human person in every phase of life and in every condition. Respect for the human being and respect for nature are one and the same, but they will both be able to develop and to reach their full dimension if we respect the Creator and his creature in the human being and in nature." To be pro-life is, certainly, to fight vigorously for the unborn and to protect the dignity of our elderly. But it is also to value and reverence the world that God has entrusted us with, the world that God has made us stewards of. To ignore the plight of our earth is, as Pope Benedict says, essentially suicide. Our interdependence with nature is not a trivial matter, but necessary for our survival.

Our current ecological consciousness postdates Mother Angeline's time on earth, but were she alive today, one would

expect her, with her sensitivity and with concern for the most vulnerable, to reflect deeply on how we can better care for the world that God has given to us. And Mother, in her day, was regarded as "ahead of her time" (and by suspicion by some) as she introduced a new way of caring for the elderly. However, at the heart of everything she did was her profound love for the elderly and for the Church. Mother understood that her "new" ideas were only radical in that they demanded caring for the elderly as Jesus himself would. Sometimes looking at things in new ways can be disorienting and seem "radical", but if we do so rooted in our faith and trust in the Lord, we can be assured that we will not be led astray. May we take to heart the words that Pope Francis has written, "Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."

New from The Mother Angeline Society Gift Shop



Absorbent stone coaster with cork backing. Printed with the Carmelite Shield and a quote of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa: "Be Faithful In Little Things." Measures 4.25"

\$5.00 | \$10.00 (with shipping)

Greetings from Father Mario

Dear Members of the
Mother Angeline Society,

Peace be with you during these winter months. We pray for you always, and truly depend upon your ongoing prayerful and financial support of the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. Each month you and your intentions are remembered in the Mass and we ask God's blessings for you always.

I was reflecting recently on Mother Angeline and what she might have thought about the Right to Life Movement in our country, the continuing groundswell of people of all different faiths, colors, ethnic origins and ages and how they simply will not let this vital social and cultural issue go away: the right to life for all, from natural birth to natural death. Life is precious, and it is precarious, and it needs men and women of good will to stand up in its defense as well as for the protection most particularly, of those who are truly vulnerable. Morality has changed so much in the last fifty years and, sadly, not always for the better. Economics and yes, even selfishness has weakened the regard and respect that was granted to all people, including the unborn and the elderly. In one generation, the two ends of life's spectrum began to be seen more as burden than as blessing.

Mother Angeline was not political, but she was very conscious of society and its trends and its needs. From the beginning of the Congregation in 1929, Mother Angeline was concerned about the middle class and the



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

lonely, and the dignity and preservation of families and married couples. She treated fragile old people with loving and gentle care, and taught her Sisters and their coworkers to do the same. Every resident was precious and every life valuable and each person who came into a Carmelite Home was to be received as Christ Himself would be received. This produced a culture and atmosphere of life and optimism. I am sure she would have stood with all the efforts of the Carmelite Sisters to preserve the quality of life for the residents in the Homes, and to provide palliative care and excellent end of life care for all residents. In every possible way, the whole person's physical, spiritual, psychological and social welfare were to be attended to with compas-

sion and dignity. I'm sure Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa would have stood up with the Right to Life movement and seen it as a blessed way to speak up for God's children today.

Please continue to keep the Cause of Mother Angeline in your prayers. She who was a Model of Fidelity, will certainly pray for all of you. Your financial sacrifices for the Cause and your spreading of the message of Mother Angeline to others make all the difference. God bless you and Our Lady of Mount Carmel watch over you always.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Mario, O.Carm." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm.
Vice Postulator



**Sister Mary O'Donovan,
O.Carm.**

If you or someone you know is thinking of a religious vocation and interested in our ministry to the elderly as a Carmelite Sister for the Aged and Infirm, contact our vocation director at smaryod@stmhcs.org or call 518-537-5000.



**To schedule a tour of the Mother
Angeline Heritage Center contact
Mary Ann Iaccino or Sr. Patricia
at 518 537 5000.**

**[https://motherangeline.org/
heritage-center-2/](https://motherangeline.org/heritage-center-2/)**

Celebrating the 36th Anniversary of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa

On January 21, 2020, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm celebrated the 36th anniversary of their beloved Foundress, Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory. Mother Angeline Teresa died on January 21, 1984, the same day as her birthday. The liturgy was held at Saint Teresa's Motherhouse chapel with Very Reverend Mario Esposito, O.Carm. as the principal celebrant. The event was attended by invited members of the clergy, friends of the Congregation, invited guests from D'Youville Life and Wellness Center, members of the McCrory family, Avila Sisters, Postulant and Novices. The Carmelite Pre-Novices of the Saint Elias Province were present, and the Novices of both American Provinces, from Middletown, as well.

The theme of this year's anniversary is "Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, Model of Fidelity." Enjoy the photos of the day and we also provide you with Father Mario Esposito's homily.

Excerpt from Fr. Mario's Homily

... "Three dozen years ago in 1984, all were saddened at her death - a peaceful death, yes - but none the less the passing of such a beloved and important person in the life of so many. Now, however, we see more clearly that Mother Angeline lives on and she is not the only one who was a model of fidelity. We too, today, and in every house of the Congregation are being faithful to her memory, to renewing again a sense of her spirit, to asking anew what she can teach us, and to express in a real Catholic way our sense of solidarity with the Church on earth and in heaven in the communion of the saints. Though Mother Angeline has returned to the house of the Father, her daughters and her charism live on, always growing despite many challenges, as even now we

welcome the D'Youville Life & Wellness Community into our Carmelite family and System. Living and growing, though, are not the products of luck or chance. Living and growing are possible because the roots are deep and the ground is solid, and the house is built with the right materials and supports.

This is not the first time we have explored Mother Angeline's virtue of fidelity on her anniversary. We return to a form of this theme this year to try and learn even more about what it means when we say that she modeled this virtue. I would say that she lived the virtue of fidelity in her total consecration to God and vocation, and in the fact that all of her life was ordered toward a loving union with God, and compassionate service to her Sisters and to her beloved old people. Prayer, devotion, community spirit, innumerable acts of kindness, all of these strengthened and demonstrated Mother's fidelity which was unshakeable."



Above: Chapel Display;
Below: Offertory Procession



Above: Fr. Mario Esposito, O.Carm.



Above: Mother Mark Louis Ann, and Council, Sr. Pauline Leblanc and D'Youville staff and Board Members



Left: Mother Mark Louis Anne, Concelebrants, and Council

Why a Palliative Care Culture is Needed Now More Than Ever

Recently, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of states considering death with dignity laws. These laws make it possible for terminally ill patients to use prescribed medication to end their lives peacefully rather than suffering a difficult death. The New York State Assembly has introduced a number of death with dignity bills since 2015. New York legislators are now considering a bill called the Medical Aid in Dying Act in the state assembly and in the senate that would allow terminally ill patients who meet certain requirements to request life-ending medication.

The Catholic Church and groups that advocate for the disabled and elderly are strongly opposed to the legislation. The Evangelist, the official publication of the Diocese of Albany, NY, quoted Bishop Scharfenberger in a February 2019 article on this proposed law: "Legislation that removes equal protection from any human life devalues all human lives. Despite sanitized language, it sanctions murder by another name for some utilitarian purpose, typically political or economic. As we are seeing after the Reproductive Health Act, so also with proposed 'assisted suicide,' will more lives be deemed useless, inconvenient or dispensable. It is the Christian way - and the way of any humane society - to accompany the sick, disabled and most vulnerable, not to eliminate them."

In this article Sister M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm, said of the legislation. "I don't agree with it in any sense. It's not permissible according to our Judeo-Christian tradition to take life. You can call it whatever you like - it's still taking a human life." The Catholic Church has long supported palliative care, even if that care may hasten death. The Church has never taught that you must use all available means to sustain life when life is clearly near its end.

Palliative care, by definition, is specialized care for people with a serious illness; it does not have to be a terminal illness. The goal is to bring comfort in all areas of suffering not only for the resident, but also for the family.

Since 1929, it has been the mission of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm to care for elders by serving in, sponsoring, or cosponsoring long-term care facilities. A key value of the Carmelite Sisters' philosophy of elder care is keeping the dignity of the person intact. Essential to realizing this is understanding each person's story and



recognizing his or her suffering in terms of mind, body and spirit. This includes reaching out to family and loved ones who are attempting to make sense of the pain they too are experiencing. Carmelite palliative care helps people through this time without their needing to turn to a lethal dose of pills. It draws on the support of the sisters, staff, and family to maintain the dignity and individuality of the person until the end.

"The dignity of the human person should always be respected first, and (assisted suicide) takes the dignity away," Sister Peter said. "Being compassionate to people means we are called to 'be' with and accompany them, always affirming their human dignity no matter how incapacitated they may (or have) become."

"When we are privileged to sit by the bedside of those who are critically ill and in the dying process, we begin to understand the sacredness of this time for families and friends as they share in conversations and in silence," she said. "We witness the true meaning of the word 'compassion,' which literally means 'to suffer with' and it allows us to honor their shared experience as they accompany their loved one on this journey to God. Pro assisted-suicide organizations such as Compassion and Choices have robbed the meaning from our understanding of 'compassion.' We need to take its meaning back." Sister Peter adds that it really comes down to putting yourself in God's hands.

"We trust God's plan," she said. "Would you rather be trusting God's plan for each person or allow legislation to determine a plan? You decide."

Remembering Two Doctorate of Humane Letters Awarded to Mother Angeline

Doctorate Degree photo Brother Gregory Nugent, F.S.C., President of Manhattan College



Many colleges bestow honorary degrees on people for their lasting impact on society - presidents, musicians, authors, scholars, clergymen, business leaders, and sports figures, to name a few. Universities usually award this degree to a distinguished person, having no previous connection to the university, at the end of a graduation ceremony to signify that the degree is the highest the university can grant.

One such honorary degree is the Doctorate of Humane Letters, usually given in recognition of achievements related to the humanities or for charitable work - not through academic efforts but instead gained through significant contributions to society. An honorary degree is a degree *honoris causa*, 'for the sake of the honor', meaning that the degree is an honorary title meant to show respect. In 1970, Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Manhattan College and one from Siena College.

These citations are an acknowledgement of Mother Angeline's revolutionary approach in caring for the elderly: making the latter years of elderly people's lives meaningful and happy, with love and individual care.

Manhattan College Riverdale, NY

CITATION

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

MOTHER M. ANGELINE TERESA, O.CARM.

"All too frequently the charity that begins at home—and stays there—burns out into cold gray ashes; but the blazing flame of Christian charity that leaps the borders of homeland to warm and enlighten the people of other lands burns with an everlasting flame.

And so, Mother M. Angeline Teresa, who came to our shores during World War I, a wandering apostle like so many of her Irish forbears during the dark ages of Europe, came to us from Ireland by way of France. In 1929, in the depth of the depression, Mother [Angeline], in concert with Manhattan's alumnus, Patrick Cardinal Hayes, founded the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. From its original seven members the Congregation has grown to 500 Religious and is serving the aged and infirm as far south as Florida and as far west as Davenport in some 35 homes*.

Some of our Christian heroes and heroines, in the face of the anguish of human existence, have dedicated themselves to the poor; others to the vibrant young; it is of the fiber of Mother Angeline's vocation to confront the so-called "absurdity" of human decline and death and to transmute it into charity. If we might paraphrase an encomium of one of her countrymen: In the realms of suffering her charitable work rises like a Te Deum, its outpouring major key sounding liberation to the dying and comfort to those in need.

Plunging her charity into its eternal roots, she has kept it clean of all debasement. She has ever kept the delicate balance between the individual and the person, so that today in all her homes an environment has been created to preserve both individualism and personalism.

In recognition of her great work Manhattan deems it an honor to confer on Mother M. Angeline Teresa the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters."

Brother Gregory Nugent, F.S.C., President

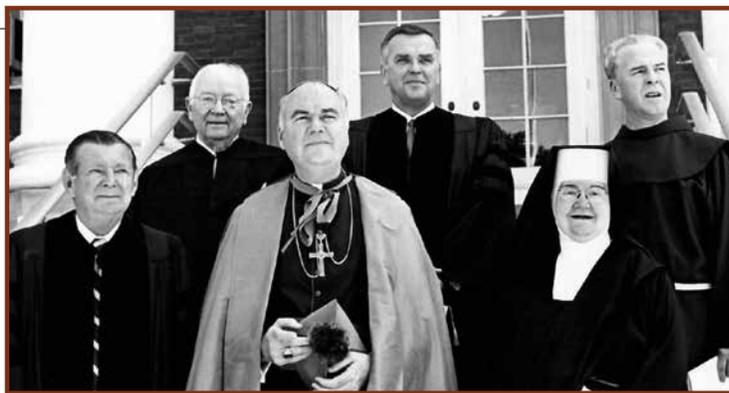
Brother Stephen Sullivan, F.S.C., Academic Vice President

October 18, 1970

** meaning approximately*

Siena College Loudonville NY
REVEREND MOTHER M.
ANGELINE TERESA

“Pope Pius XII, of happy memory, once made this wise and felicitous observation: “True religion and profound humaneness are not rivals. They are sisters.” This quotation can indeed serve as a brief summary of the many years of Christ-like labor which Reverend Mother M. Angeline Teresa has devoted to the love and care of neighbor. Before pronouncing her vows as a religious of the Carmelite Order, she had pursued her studies in her native Ireland and subsequently in Scotland and France. Then, as a Carmelite nun, she came to the United States, and it was in our own country that she founded the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Today her Congregation consists of almost five hundred religious who staff thirty-three homes, some of which are in locations as distant as Iowa and Florida, Ireland and Scotland. But the guiding principle inspiring this work of Christian love is not numerical growth but rather the God-given dignity of the individual person, aged or infirm, regardless of race, color or creed. This noble aposto-



*Doctorate degree photo Most Rev. Edwin B. Broderick,
Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, with clergy*

late had gained the approval of Popes Pius XI, Pius XII, and Paul VI; and in the year 1961, Reverend Mother was awarded by Pope John XXIII the medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. Within the past year, the Church has seen fit to confer upon Saint Teresa of Avila, the great reformer and mystic of the Carmelite Order, the title of Doctor of the Church. And so, Reverend President, Siena College can feel honored in conferring upon this daughter of Carmel the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.”

May 31, 1970

Presented by Reverend Brian Duffy, OFM

Members of The Mother Angeline Society

Thank you for joining us in praying for the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O.Carm. Your interest and prayers will help make Mother more widely known which will help advance her Cause. The benefits as a member of The Mother Angeline Society are:

- Receiving a bulletin, issued twice each year
- Two masses offered every month of the year
- Special remembrances in the prayers of the Carmelite Sisters
- Intentions of the members are included in an annual novena of Masses in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Please consider bestowing an annual membership upon someone you know, to share in these benefits. An acknowledgement letter will be sent to the new member, along with a prayer card. An enrollment form can be found at the bottom of the insert in this bulletin.

Thank you.



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

CARMELITE SISTERS
FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM
ST. TERESA'S MOTHERHOUSE
AVILA ON THE HUDSON
600 WOODS ROAD
GERMANTOWN, NY 12526

www.CarmeliteSisters.com
www.motherangeline.org

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Ministry Corner

Welcoming the D'Youville Life and Wellness Community into Our Carmelite Family



*Naomi Prendergast, Sr. Prescille,
and Mother Mark Louis Anne*

A few years ago our Congregation was approached by D'Youville Wellness and Life Center in Lowell, Massachusetts to look at the possibility of their becoming a sponsored entity (Member) of the Carmelite System. At the time they were looking at various options for the future, realizing the difficulty of remaining a stand-alone entity and wanting to

preserve their Catholic identity.

D'Youville (pronounced Dooville) was sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (Grey Nuns). Their foundress, Elizabeth Bruyere had been a Sister of Charity of Montreal and, when sent to more remote sections of Canada, ended up forming a new Congregation. The Sisters' presence in the United States is diminishing and they are planning for the future of their ministries. After many meetings and discussions and considering all their options, Sr. Prescille, the Provincial of the Sisters, asked if they could join the Carmelite System as a sponsored entity and we agreed.

On November 7, 2019 Mother Mark and the Council attended the Lasting Impressions Gala. At

this event Sr. Rachele Watier SCO, spoke beautifully about their Foundress Elizabeth Bruyere and Mother Angeline Teresa. She said "The charisms of both our foundresses just seemed to go hand in hand. We know you will take care of our mission". She then asked Mother Mark and Naomi Prendergast to come forward and accept the flame of their mission and their legacy. "Take our past and bring it to a bright future". Two beautiful lanterns were presented to Mother Mark and Naomi Prendergast as symbols of Passing on the flame.

As part of our celebration for the 36th Anniversary of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa on January 21st we invited several members of the D'Youville Life and Wellness Community to join us at Avila. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet each other and rejoice over preserving their legacy and expanding our ministry and Catholic healthcare.