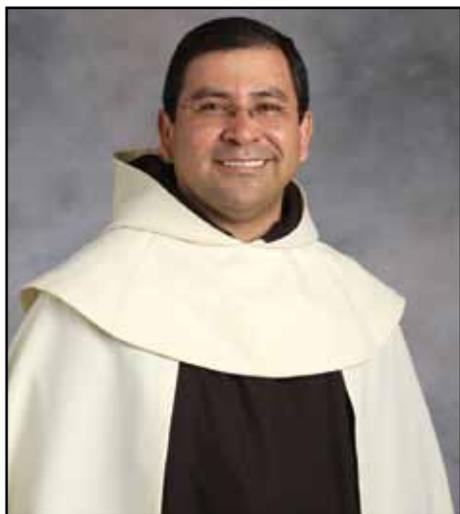


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GENTLE BREEZES — OF CARMEL —



ST. THÉRÈSE PROVINCE OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
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We all know that as soon as we begin a New Year, time goes by so fast; therefore, we are not surprised at how quickly the different liturgical seasons arrive. Here we are, celebrating the joyful Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Easter is a time of many blessings for all of us who believe in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from death.

As in every year, Easter is a time to rejoice for the many blessings that we receive during this holy time. For us in the Province, this Easter season comes with many preparations for the Provincial Chapter that will take place the last two weeks of May. It is a time to renew our Carmelite vocation; it is a time of hope and a time of expectations for all the changes that a Provincial Chapter brings.

For us Christians, Easter is a time of renewing our faith in the Resurrected Christ, and for us friars it is also a time of ending a triennium and a time of beginning a new triennium. A Provincial Chapter is a meeting which takes place every three years. During this meeting, lasting for about two weeks, we speak, study and evaluate the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Province. Moreover, we elect the provincial councilors and the delegate and substitute delegate to the General Chapter. We also make very important decisions regarding our Carmelite vocation and the life of each one of our communities. In other words, we speak about the present and the future of the Province.

Together let us follow Christ, for in Christ we are all united.

It is time to begin another chapter of our personal history, as well as begin another chapter of our provincial history. I think whenever we are about to begin something new, it is somewhat scary, because we do not know what is coming and how much control we will have over our new experiences. There are many things we do not know; yet if we hope in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus and support each other, the future can be less frightening. So let us be united in our Teresian vocation which helps us to live in contemplative prayer and helps us to deeply live the mysteries of this Holy Season of Easter.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for all your support during these six years in which I have served the Province and you as a Provincial. After these years as a Provincial, I learned more about our Carmelite vocation and a great deal about the administration of the Province. I thank God and the Province for giving me the opportunity to serve Him and the province and for all the blessings that I received during this time! I know that the experience gained during my time as Provincial helps me in my relationship with God, and I know it will help me in whatever God asks of me in this new triennium. Please keep praying for me, that with the grace of God, I may know



how to serve the Province in my new assignment. Before I conclude this letter, I would like to thank all of you, on behalf of the Province and on my behalf. May the good Lord bless all of you for your prayers, may He reward your generosity to our Province in your financial support, and may He protect you for your friendship during this triennium that we are about to finish.

For the coming triennium, please remain with us as your spiritual and financial support help us in our apostolate work and in our vocation as Discalced Carmelites. Together, let us follow Christ, for in Christ we are all united. Have a Blessed and joyful Easter. During the Holy Season of Easter your family and personal intentions will be remembered in the Holy Mass.

In Christ and Carmel,
Fr. Luis Castaneda

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The White Robe of the Resurrection

By Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD

Depictions of the Risen Christ in art most often portray Jesus as being clothed in white as he emerges from the tomb or appears to his disciples. This white robe of the risen Christ is symbolic of his divinity and his triumph over sin and death, the triumph that we celebrate particularly during this Easter season.

In the Gospels, the appearance of the Risen Christ is foreshadowed by the accounts of Jesus' Transfiguration. St. Mark depicts the transfigured Jesus' clothing as becoming *dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them* (Mk 9,3). St. Matthew states: *And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light* (Mt 17,2)



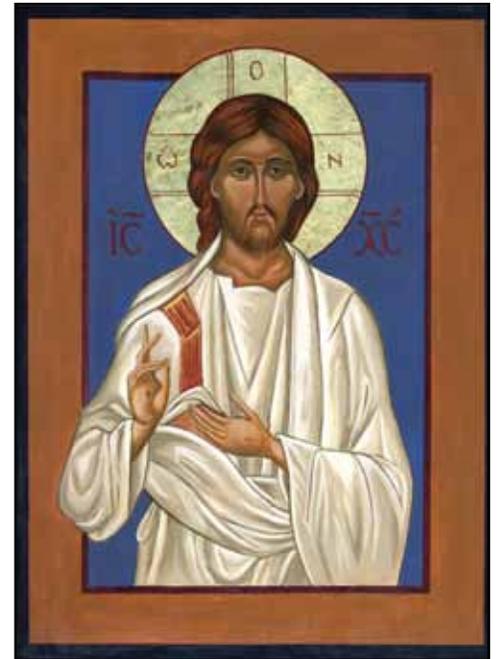
Our new postulant, Alejandro Vidaurre, is 20 years old and was born and raised in La Habana, Cuba. He was a postulant with the Discalced Carmelite Friars in Cuba until he and his family moved to West Palm Beach, Florida this past summer. Once in the US, moved by his desire to be a Discalced Carmelite, he contacted our Province and with good recommendations from the Friars in Cuba he entered our Province as a postulant in January of this year. He is currently in our monastery in Oklahoma City studying English and receiving formation in Carmelite spirituality and religious life.

The evangelists present the Transfiguration as happening after Jesus' first prediction of his passion and death. They present the event as a foreshadowing of his Resurrection. It is Jesus' own divine light that shines forth in his transfigured face and garments. This divine light breaks forth on Easter morning in the victory of Jesus rising from the tomb. His Transfiguration reveals that Christ is the one whom we declare to be "light from light" in the Nicene creed that we profess at Mass every Sunday.

Pope Benedict XVI states in his book *Jesus of Nazareth* that in addition to foreshadowing Jesus' future Resurrection, *Jesus' garment of white light ... speaks of our future as well Through Baptism, we are clothed with Jesus in light and we ourselves become light.* This truth is symbolized by the white garment that the newly baptized receive during the liturgy of baptism.

The image of a white garment also appears in the book of Revelation in the New Testament. In this book, we behold a vision of *a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands* (Rev 7,9). This white robe symbolizes their salvation, their share in Christ the Lamb's victory over sin, death and evil. They are clothed in salvation, sharing in the joy of heaven.

We are told that these people clothed in white *are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. ... The Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes* (Rev 7, 14-15.17). It is Jesus himself, through the shedding of his blood on the cross, who has won for them the victory and leads them to the waters of eternal life.



We, the baptized, have had our robes washed by the blood of the Lamb in baptism. By this sacrament, we were made partners in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus –partners in his suffering, death and resurrection. This is another way of stating, as Pope Benedict XVI does, that we were clothed with Jesus in light.

But the book of Revelation also links the whiteness of the robes of the elect in heaven with their having *survived the time of great distress.* This survival seems to go hand in hand with their having made their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. It seems as though the Scriptures are saying that the elect have been made partners in Jesus' Paschal mystery not only by baptism, but also by having been given a share in the Lamb's own distress, in his own suffering and death.

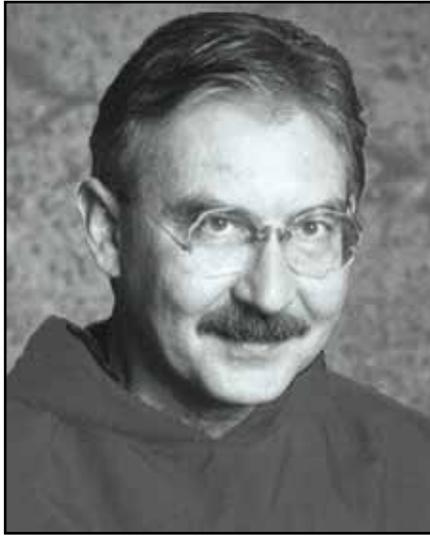
After his Resurrection, Jesus makes it clear to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: *Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?* (Luke 24,26) He presents his suffering and death as the means to his entering into his glory. Through his passion and death, he has washed the robe of our human nature in his blood and filled it with his own divine light – the light that shines forth in his Resurrection.

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Rest in Peace Father John Michael Payne

Father John Michael Payne, of Little Rock, was born on August 11, 1941. His name was Patrick John Payne. Thus, before entering Carmel he went by the moniker Patrick Payne, a name he once declared that he was happy to part with when he entered religious life and took the name John Michael. In the Discalced Carmelite order he was known as John Michael of the Child Jesus.

He was born in San Francisco, California, but became a Texan when Mr. Morgan, his pappy, and Georgina Mahoney Payne, his mother, moved to Mount Pleasant, Texas. He finished his high school in Mount Pleasant and entered Saint Joseph Seminary at Saint Benedict Abbey in Covington, Louisiana. In 1963, he graduated from St. Joseph's Seminary and joined the Discalced Carmelite Friars. He was professed as a Discalced Carmelite on July 20, 1964 at Marylake in Little Rock, Arkansas. He went on to study philosophy in Santa Clara, California. Finishing Philosophy in 1966, he continued his studies of Theology in Washington, D.C. at Catholic University. He was ordained on June 13, 1970.



Throughout his years as an ordained friar in the Province of St. Therese, Father John Michael served in many capacities. He served in the cathedral parish in Dallas, Texas, and served as Superior of Houston, Texas in the mid-1970s. He was given the task of coordinating the withdrawal of the friars from our foundation in Bellaire, within the broad Houston metropolis. (The Province was in the process of consolidating its sparse personnel.)

Then he went on to serve in our house of prayer in Dallas. He was assigned to the house and parish in San Antonio, Texas. He worked for many years as Spiritual Director of the Secular Order of our Province of St. Therese.

Several terms he served as Superior in our Novitiate House in Little Rock, Arkansas; and this is where he died on the afternoon of the Feast of the Epiphany, January 8, 2017. May he rest in the peace, light and joy of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

The White Robe of the Resurrection

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In reflecting on the above passage from the Book of Revelation, our newest Carmelite saint, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity writes: *All these elect who have palms in their hands, and who are wholly bathed in the great light of God, have had first to pass through the "great tribulation," to know this sorrow "immense as the sea," of which the psalmist sang. ... Before being "transformed from brightness to brightness in the image of the diving Being," they have been conformed to the image of the Word Incarnate, the One crucified by love. The soul that wants to serve God day and night in His temple ... must be resolved to share fully in its Master's passion.* St. Elizabeth echoes the words of St. Paul: *This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him* (2Tim 2,11)

Being made a partner in the Paschal mystery of Jesus means that, like him, our path to glory passes through the mystery of his Cross, through the mystery of suffering that constitutes an unavoidable dimension of our life in this world. Only by washing our robes in the blood of the Lamb will they be made white with his victory and risen life.

How do we make our robes white in the blood of the Lamb? When we are experiencing a *time of great distress* in our lives, we can remember that Jesus has made us partners in his Paschal mystery both by baptism and by the trials we are experiencing. If we offer him our sufferings, uniting them to his and persevering in our faith and love and commitment to the Gospel in the

midst of trials, we can trust that he is washing our robe in his saving blood, preparing us to be clothed in the light of his victory and resurrection. These passages from Scripture can serve as an encouragement to us in times of difficulty.

May the risen Christ clothe you in faith and hope this Easter season, that you may come to know and to persevere in his love. He has promised: *The victor will thus be dressed in white, and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name in the presence of my Father and of his angels* (Rev 3,5). May Jesus' resurrection and his promise of a share in his victory be an encouragement for you this Easter season and always. *The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

"I will spend my Heaven doing good upon earth."

– ST. THÉRÈSE



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