



**April, 2018**

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen! May this Paschal greeting of the Eastern churches find you and yours in peace, walking this pilgrimage of life with ever-increasing fervor in this season of Easter.

My life in Biloxi, living out the spirituality of Blessed Charles de Foucauld, continues to be a source of joy and challenge. Recently, I took a new position at the local Veterans Affairs hospital that finds me doing IT work all over the hospital with every type of employee. This is a change from the past several years, where I was able to work from home on remote projects. I am grateful for that past position, as it gave me the freedom to complete a graduate program in Spiritual Theology; however, now the time has come for a second phase in my spiritual life.

My goal now is to take all of that learning and experience and set it afire. Too many times, things that I have read and gained over the decades have, I am sorry to say, been lumped without transformation into a pile of damp wood; instead, it all should have been stoking a tremendous interior blaze. So, with the help of the Holy Spirit, my focus is to coax it all into flame. Providentially, I discovered a wonderful, hidden saint who is helping me to do this – St. Teresa Margaret. Like many of her fellow Carmelite saints such as Therese of Lisieux and Elizabeth of the Trinity, she died very young, but reached the loftiest heights of sanctity. Her goal was to dwell continually in the roaring fire of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but to do so in a way that was hidden and not outwardly pretentious or spectacular. She is an ideal guide for those of us who are working in the secular world and seeking to transform it from within. For this newsletter's meditation, I am allowing her simple, yet

challenging, maxims to speak to you. If you follow them, who knows how they might transform you?

The Easter season is about the transformation of life. God desires to transform us continually, moving from glory to glory, culminating in our glorified nature in Heaven, but even the rest of nature will be mysteriously perfected and made new. This thought came to mind while I was reading CS Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, which is an allegory of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. He masterfully illustrates a glorified Heaven and Earth where even humble stones, streams, and birds bring his soul to rapture. While I was sitting in my backyard at sunset, pondering these things, I heard the rough call of seagulls behind me, flying high above. I looked up and saw with great wonder how their bellies and wings had become gold against a peerless cobalt sky. Those common, squawking, unspectacular birds became magnificent and eternal.

May this Easter season bring you to transformation! Please pray it does the same for me!

-Matthew



## *Meditations*

**from**  
**St. Teresa Margaret**  
**of the Sacred Heart**

I propose, O my God, to have no other aim than love in all my actions, interior as well as exterior, remembering that I ought to render love for love.

We should not be disturbed, whatever the circumstances in which God places us, but let us allow Him to act, uniting ourselves to His intentions; in this way we will love with pureness of love.

If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred aspects, we ought always to consider them from the best point of view.

As he who loves a creature often thinks of her, so the one who loves God is always mindful of Him.

All things come to an end; therefore take heart, for just as one thing gives way to another, so eternity will come at last. On the contrary seeing how quickly the things of this world end ought to console us, because we are drawing ever nearer to that goal to which all our works ought to tend.

Your Heart will be the altar of this, my consummation in You O my God; and You will be the priest who will immolate this victim in the fire of Your holy love!

You unbeliever, O you who do not dare draw near to Him, make the test and prove how good and generous is our most loving God!