

"Mary, inexhaustible source of hope"

EIGHTH DAY

Intention of the day: For victims of abuse

7 - 15 JULY 2025 - CARMELITE MISSIONARIES - ROME



1. INTRODUCTION

On this day of prayer, offer our prayers to the Lord, pleading for all victims of abuse, especially in the heart of our Church. We acknowledge that "no matter how much is done, it will never be sufficient to plead forgiveness and seek to repair the harm caused". Therefore, in humility and hope, we continue to walk the path of truth and reparation.

The Church has taken important steps in this process, such as the creation of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors in 2014, and it has responsibly assumed the commitment to listen to, accompany and protect every victim with respect and mercy. The Pope's letter of August 20, 2018 also invites us to convert, strengthen the culture of denunciation and act with transparency and justice, always with a heart open to the mercy of God.

May the Blessed Virgin, Mother of all, continue to guide our hearts during this prayer, and may she obtain from the Father the graces necessary to heal the wounds of the victims and strengthen in us the commitment to justice, reparation and mercy.

2. VIDEO FOR REFLECTION AND THEME PROMPT:

LINK: For victims of abuse – The Pope Video 3

3. OPENING PRAYER

Mother of Mount Carmel, Virgin of Contemplation, receive today, our hearts with its joys and afflictions, intercede for our needs and pray for us to your Son, Jesus. Amen

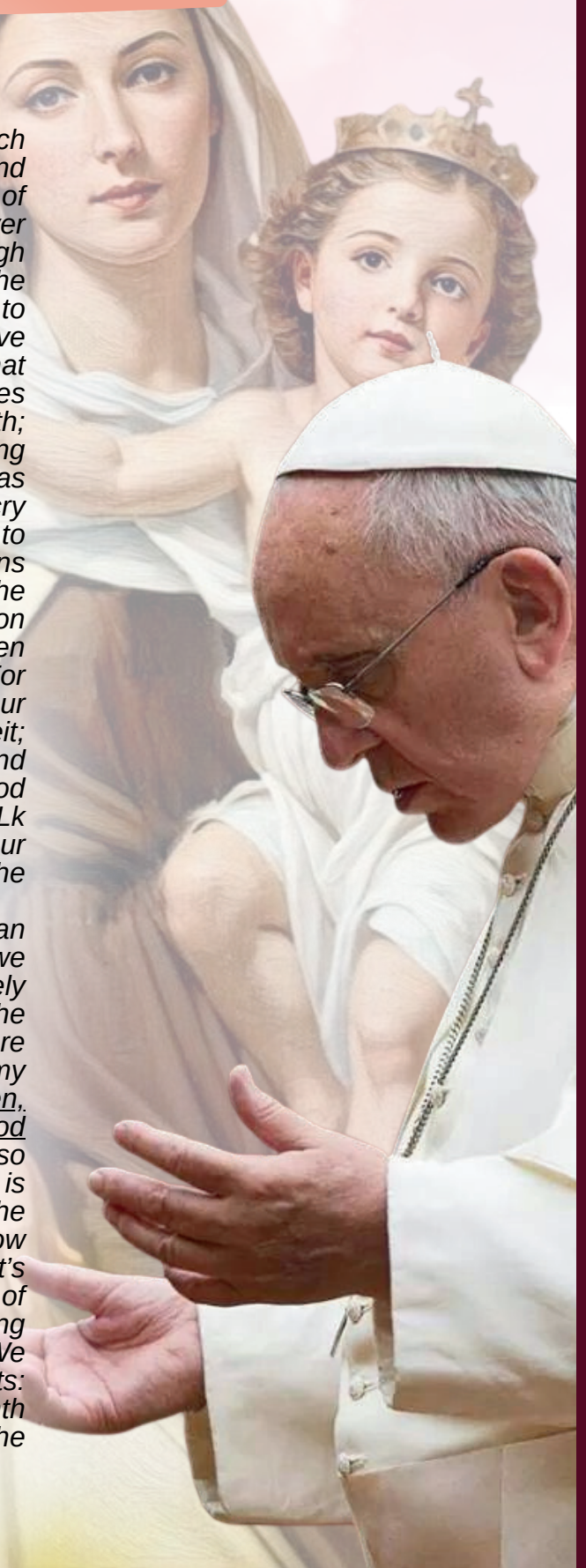
4. BIBILICAL ENLIGHTENMENT (Psalm 72, 12-14)

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

5. WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary's song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (Lk 1:51-53). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: “How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ's betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: Kyrie eleison – Lord, save us! (cf. Mt 8:25)” (Ninth Station). (Letter of his holiness Pope Francis to the People of God 20 August 2018)



6. LET US TALK TO MARY

We pray together this Prayer for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse and then remain in silence for a few minutes.

Heavenly Father,
Who loves and cares for all your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable, we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults who have been sexually abused and whose trust and innocence has been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for the many shattered lives.

We pray that in their communities and families they will find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace, their wounds may be healed and they may once again know peace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen.



7. CONCLUDING PRAYER

Consecration to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

*Virgin of Mount Carmel, O my Mother,
I consecrate myself to You,
and I entrust my entire existence into Your hands.*

Accept my past with all that has been.

Accept my present with all that is.

Accept my future with all that will be.

With this total consecration

*I entrust to you all that I have and all that I am,
all that I have received from your Most Sacred Son
and from your Most Holy Spouse.*

*I entrust to you my intelligence,
my will and my heart.*

*I place in your hands my freedom, my
anxieties and my fears, my hopes and
my desires, my sorrows, and my joys.*

*Take care of my life and all my actions
so that I may be more faithful to the
Triune and One Lord, and with your help
attain salvation.*

*I entrust to you, O great Lady, my body and
my senses, so that they may always be pure
and help me in the practice of virtues.*

8. FINAL SONG

[LINK: Mother Mary](#)