The 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Sunday, July 16, 2023



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Honored in Melrose Park, III.

Corner of 23rd and Augusta



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The Provincial Council of
The Scalabrinian Missionaries joins
The Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

On their 130th Feast in Veneration of Our Blessed Mother

V. Rev. Miguel Alvarez, cs. - Provincial Superior Rev. Humberto Barrios, cs., Rev. Julio Lopez, cs., Rev. Rosemond Sylvester, cs., Rev. Giovanni Bizzotto, cs. -Provincial Councilors

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Welcome to the Midwest's Oldest and Largest Italian Feast A Religious Celebration Honoring Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

On behalf of
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Shrine,
the Feast Committee welcomes you
to the 130th year honoring
our Blessed Mother.

For over a century, the Feast Committee has been promoting the devotion to our Blessed Mother under the ancient title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Year in and year out, these committed men spend countless hours and a lot of effort in order to make out of every Feast a huge success.

May la Madonna del Carmine shower abundance of Graces

over all these devoted men and may this beautiful tradition continue to inspire many more in the years to come.

Dear Devotees, Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

I greet and welcome all of you to our beautiful and joyful 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, certain that we all together rejoice in our Mother's arms with gratitude for her tender intercession for all of us.



Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S. Pastor

The Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a center of genuine religious devotion to the Blessed Mother, a sacred place of prayer, recollection, and spiritual refreshment with a full program of sacramental and pastoral activities. Our mission is to promote the devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to all its parishioners and the community at large. On this celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel I want to invite all the devotees and those who love the blessed Virgin Mary to enjoy our feast.

This year, Our Lady of Mt Carmel welcomes you with renovations and fresh views. After more than three decades the parish has decided to change the carpet, acquire new pews, and bring the baptismal fountain to the main church space. The initial idea was only to change the carpet and refinish the pews, but after considering that our worship space has not had a major restoration for quite a few years we decided to do more.

I invite you to come out to the Novena and see the difference in the walls of the Shrine, the confessionals, the front door adjustments, the handicap accessibility and many more details that were repaired. My dear friends, it is a wonderful time to get together, to pray and to ask our Mother Virgin Mary of Carmel to intercede for our needs with these fresh repairs.

I want to commend all those participating and applaud the arduous work of our Feast Committee and Altar & Rosary. They have worked tirelessly for so many moments to organize the Novena and feast days because they love this parish and tremendously care for the devotees of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Allow me also to recognize and commend all those who have conducted our devotion and tradition to La Madonna del Carmine for so many years. We do realize how much our community has been reshaping its image. I want to acknowledge Mayor Serpico and all the workers of the Village of Melrose Park that make this Feast possible as well.

Every July the Parish and Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel pray and process in the streets of Melrose Park. All of us who are here feel that this event is the effort of a whole town, a community loved and blessed by Madonna del Carmine. And this year we pray on the streets of this town because we know that Our Mother will always protect us.

Lastly, "mille grazie" and I am certain that you will continue loving, venerating and supporting La Madonna del Carmine and I pray that the Blessed Virgin Mother of Mount Carmel embraces and presents you and your entire family to Her Son Jesus asking to pour His grace and blessings upon you to experience the tenderness and sweetness of Our Lady's loving intercession.

Blessings to all of You.
Bendiciones a todos ustedes.
Benedizioni a voi tutti.
VIVA LA MADONNA DEL CARMINE

Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S. Pastor and the entire Feast Committee of OLMC

Congratulations on the Fr. Benjamin Franch Biretta Award ... May You Have Many More Mathlaks to Take!



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Congratulations and Best Wishes 130th Jeast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



Village of Melrose Park

Mayor Konald M. Serpico Congratulations
Phil Schwartz
For being
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Fr. Benjamin
Franch
Biretta Award



Village of Melrose Park **Senior Club**

Congratulations to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast



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Mom, Dad, & Bobby

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Thank You Chief Schwartz for All You Do for the Church and Us ... Congratulations on the Fr. Benjamin Franch Biretta Award!



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Chief Schwartz, Congratulations on the Fr. Benjamin Franch Biretta Award ...



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With grateful hearts the Reyes Family treasures the graces received from our loving Mother



To Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Your Feast Day. Happy 130th Anniversary!

Paul and Michelle Rauzi

Best Wishes on the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

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With gratitude to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, special patroness of the organization, the woman after whose example we pattern our own lives as Christian women.

Viva La Madonna Del Carmine!

The Altar and Rosary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine

Congratulations on 130 Years!

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Holy Name Society Congratulations to the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel!

Best Wishes,

The Cerami Family





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Congratulations on the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



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In Memoriam

The Honorable Donald E. Stephens

Congratulations on the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel!

BEST WISHES AND
CONTINUED SUCCESS,
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Congratulations
on the
130th
Feast of
Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel!





Proud to have featured the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the cover of every July issue for the past 20 years.

With heartfelt appreciation to all who work tirelessly and sacrifice much to perpetuate the Feast tradition. God bless the Feast Committee, Altar & Rosary Society and our Pastor, Fr. Leandro

For more information and advertising rates, call 708.343.0205 or email mel60160@aol.com.

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In Loving Memory of Bob Adams Congratulations on 130 Years! See you at the Feast. ADAMS FAMILY

Congratulations 130th Anniversary Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



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In Loving Memory
of
Joe and Lena
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From the Scudiero Family

In Loving Memory of



John Misasi Josephine Misasi

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May Our Lady Hold Them Sately in the Palm of Her Hands

Mary Jo Deena, Caserma Dalí Isabella, and Ezra James Paladino

†Rose, †Anthony (Duke) and Mary Ann Caserma Michael, Susan, Joe, Krista, Jonathan, William Michael and Noah Graham Maratto, and Benjamin Wagner

Frank Misasi

Best Wishes to Our Lady of Mount Carmel for a Successful 130th Feast Celebration



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Woodrow J. Fischer
Congratulates the
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast
Committee
for its Dedication
and Pledges
Continued Support
of the Committee's
Good Works!

Happy 130th Anniversary to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast!



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In praise and thanksgiving to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for abundant blessings and for many answered prayers. We are honored and very happy to be celebrating the 130th Feast and 130 years of tradition. Our family is very proud to be part of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and very grateful to all of you who are part of the Pones St. Joseph Candle House family. We love you all and are so very happy to be participating in our 55th procession together! May Our Lady continue to bless us and may we celebrate many, many more years together.



We are very grateful to our parents/grandparents Anthony and Mary Pones for being a wonderful example of devotion and love for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and for sharing the many traditions and blessings of being part of both the parish and the Feast. We love you and miss you so very much.

Tony and Judy Pones

Tony and Sandy Pones

Steve, Chickie, Nina, and Isabella Saviozzi

Judy Pones and John Pones



Congratulations
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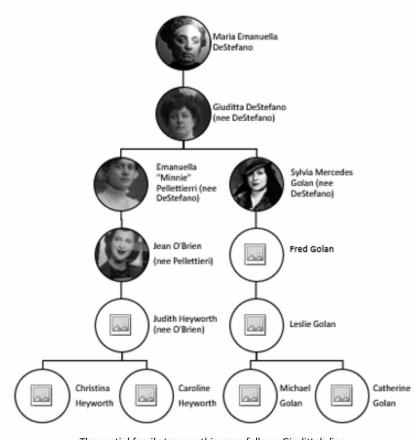
Banda Napoletana

CALIENDO'S BANDA NAPOLETANA Mrs. Maria Emanuella Carmela Pellettieri DeStefano would be so pleased that the promise she made to Our Lady more than 130 years ago has been passed through the generations such that the great-grandchildren of her grandchildren attend the OLMC festival today.

Maria Emanuella's family members who attended the very first festival included: Maria Emanuella, Maria's 3 daughters (Giuditta, Isabella, Giusepina), and Maria's granddaughter (toddler Emanuella "Minnie" Alphonsina; born 1890). Minnie's sister, Sylvia Mercedes, was born in 1895 and became part of the tradition at that time.

Maria Emanuella was born in the small Italian village of Laurenzana in 1847. She married Emilio Antonio DeStefano who was born in the same small village in 1846. The pair began their family in Laurenzana and had a total of eleven children together. Their local church, Santuario Madonna del Carmine, celebrated the Madonna's feast day every July 16th. Devotion to the Madonna and Child was also very strong in Napoli, Naples which is the port from which the DeStefano family emigrated to the United States in the 1880s. While in Naples, the DeStefano's prayed for safe passage in a church called Santa Maria del Carmine. That church is now a minor basilica and a World Heritage UNESCO site recognized as a World Shrine to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & Child. Maria's parents had already emigrated and settled in the Chicagoland area when Maria and Emilio settled in Melrose Park.

The story of Maria Emanuella has been passed down the family line with an oral tradition. When Maria's husband became seriously ill in the late 1880's, she naturally prayed to the Madonna to intercede with Our Lord. Maria pledged to build a shrine to Our Lady and ultimately lead the effort to do so on her family's farmland. Maria commissioned artisans from the Basilicata region of Italy to create a replica of the Madonna & Child statue from her little village of Laurenzana. Replicas of the intricate hand-made clothing and crowns were also commissioned. From the first feast celebrations in Melrose Park (circa 1894) the women of the DeStefano family cared for the Madonna and her garments. It was an annual family tradition to come together, hold vigil, pray, relay family stories, and dress the Madonna in preparation for the festivities.



The partial family tree on this page follows Giuditta's line.

Congratulations Phil Schwartz For being recognized with the Fr. Benjamin Franch Biretta Award

From Ron and Eugenia Coletta

Congratulations on the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Wt. Carmel

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130 Years of Devotion

Beginning Grandparents Joseph & Mary Augustine

From Clay & Josephine Fornaro Gina, Rocky, Rocco, Rena, Paul, Maria, Joey, Alyssa, Lisa, Pauly,

Joey, & Anthony, & Mia

Happy 130th Feast! Viva La Madonna Del Carmine!

Ray Perpignani

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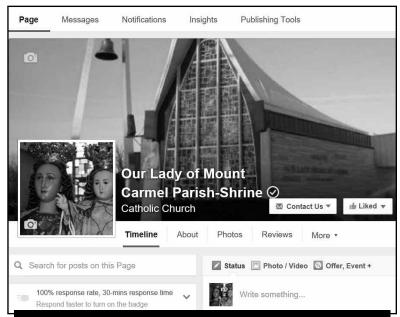
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Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel





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