



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

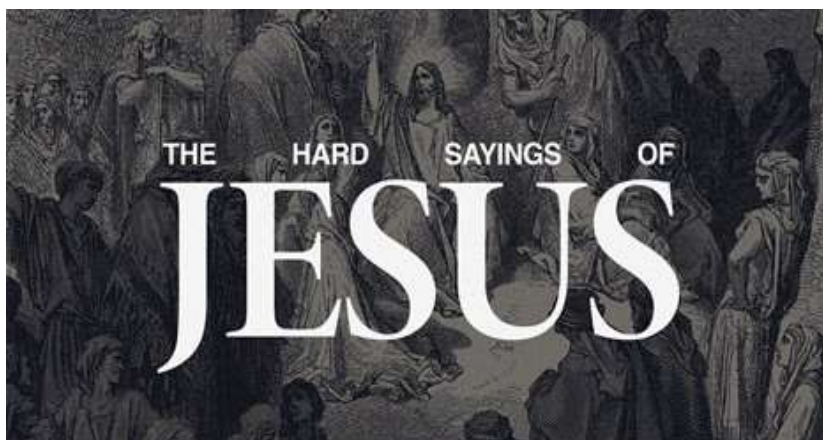
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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 *"IN EVERY AGE, O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE"*

Jesus is speaking to people traveling with him about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. So, Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way.

When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult



sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

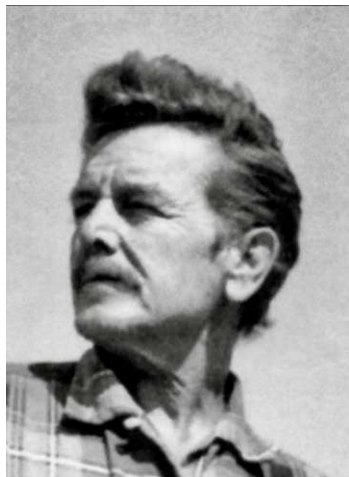
"TÚ ERES, SEÑOR, NUESTRO REFUGIO"

Jesús habla a la gente viajando con él sobre las dificultades de seguirlo. Este grupo de personas sospecha de Jesús, buscando atraparlo haciendo algo malo. Jesús les habla en parábolas, enfatizando que si bien existe un camino correcto para ser discípulo y entrar en el reino de su Padre, es un camino difícil de seguir. Entonces Jesús se dirige a la multitud y les habla del discipulado. Jesús explica que, cuando se trata de hacer una elección por el Reino de Dios, nada puede interponerse en el camino. Cuando Jesús describe "odiar" al padre y a la madre, no está hablando de sentimientos. Más bien, enfatiza con mucha fuerza que elegir ser un discípulo significa que todo lo demás (la familia, el dinero, tu propia vida) debe quedar en segundo lugar. En la versión de Mateo de esta historia (Mateo 10:37), Jesús no se refiere a "odiar" al padre o a la madre, sino a amarlos más que a Jesús. Jesús deja muy claro que ser discípulo no es fácil. Significa llevar la propia cruz. A esta predicación exigente de Jesús, le siguen dos parábolas breves (una persona que construye una torre y un rey que marcha a la batalla) que hacen un punto obvio: no comience lo que no puede terminar. El discipulado es difícil y es algo a lo que podemos comprometernos solo si estamos preparados para anteponer el Reino de Dios a todo lo demás.

MADONNA IN THE VILLAGE

By Elizabeth Barratt, Carmel Valley Historical Society Historian
(Reprinted with the author's permission.)

Known locally as “The Immaculate Heart of Mary,” the graceful statue of the Virgin Mary has occupied a spot at White Oak Plaza for nearly 70 years. The saga of the figure, and its serendipitous journey to the heart of Carmel Valley Village, was recounted by its sculptor, Djey Owens. In his 1977 volume, “Poetry and Sculpture,” he published a melancholy poem to the Madonna which he titled “Our Lady of Sorrows,” possibly referring to his thwarted early efforts in finding a home for his cherished masterpiece.



Djey Owens, 1950s
Photo Courtesy
Carmel Art Association

Hurt and rejected, Owens loaded the Madonna statue into his pickup and left Santa Barbara County, heading north without apparent destination. Along the meandering drive, he ended up in Carmel Valley Village at Marion Wilson's White Oak Art Gallery. She agreed to let him place the statue in the plaza next to her newly opened shop.



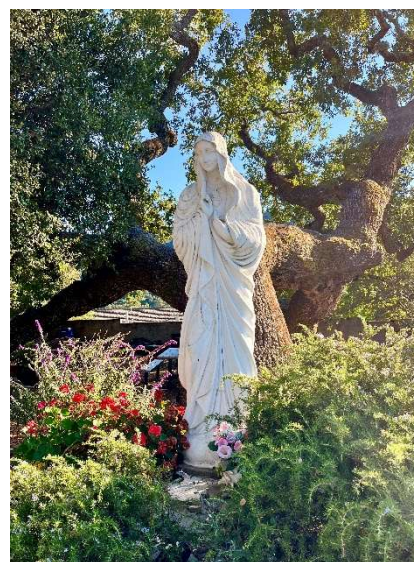
The Immaculate Heart of Mary-1949
Sculptor Djey Owens Photo by Ron Pierce

The simple account goes like this: in 1949 Owens had been commissioned to create the statue for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church of Montecito, California, which by coincidence shared the same name as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Carmel Valley. Sadly, once Owens had finished the statue, the church rejected it. But there was more to the story: a parishioner had offered the church a different statue. Created by a sculptor named Jose Ferreira Thedim (1894-1971), the likeness portrayed the Virgin Mary as she appeared to three small shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. The parish accepted the donation in lieu of Owens's commissioned work.

Hurt and rejected, Owens loaded the Madonna statue into his pickup and left Santa Barbara

For Carmel Valley, the Owens legacy remains in his “Immaculate Heart of Mary” statue, still standing next to the former White Oak Art Gallery, once the Del Monte Milk House, now the Corral Tasting Room. Seeking income in 1962, Owens had decided to put the statue up for sale and many residents feared the graceful figure would be purchased and vanish from view. Fortunately, Mary Delfino and her late husband, Peter, bought the work and left it in place for the entire community. The form depicts the Madonna gently cradling her Immaculate Heart with one hand while the other softly points to it, and to a crucifix the sculptor claimed was blessed by Saint Pius X.

Now a beloved and irreplaceable Village landmark, the Madonna received ecumenical blessings by local religious leaders in 1964, again in 1971 and a rededication in 1989 during the Carmel Valley Centennial observances. And that is how, seemingly by happenstance, the lovely statue found its meandering way from Montecito to a permanent home in Carmel Valley.



MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 6TH – SEPTEMBER 14TH

*Sat. Sept 6th 4:30 Vigil: **People of the Parish***

*Sun. Sept 7th 9:00: + **Rick Loiacono***

*11:00: + **Health of Lisa Helzer***

*Wed, Sept 10th 12:00: + **Jeanette Machado***

*Thurs. Sept 11th 12:00: + **Carlos Montoya***

*Fri. Sept 12th 12:00: **Int. Lester Uy***

*Sat. Sept 13th 4:30 Vigil: **Int. Joe Kordsmeier (91st birthday)***

*Sun. Sept 14th 9:00: **People of the Parish***

*11:00: + **Ida Venegas***

*1:00 (Spanish):+ **Pilar Paredes***

WEEKLY COLLECTION

AUGUST 30 & 31-: \$2,211

Thank you for your generosity to our parish community.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST'S DESK...



It is conflicting when Jesus is presenting his way of life, we must prefer him, even than our own families. Jesus isn't asking us to reject our loved ones or lives, but to place everything in right order with Him at the center. True discipleship means being ready to let go, to trust, and to follow, even when the path is difficult. Jesus helps us to follow him with open hearts, willing to carry our daily crosses with faith, knowing that you walks with us every step of the way.

Shalom! Father Jhonnnatan

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DID YOU KNOW? Catholics are one of the largest religious groups in the United States, outnumbering any single Protestant denomination. The U.S. has more Catholics than all but three other countries – Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines – according to the

Vatican's 2021 Statistical Yearbook of the Church. **Today, 20% of U.S. adults describe themselves as Catholics.** This percentage has been generally stable since 2014. But it is slightly lower than in 2007, when 24% of U.S. adults identified as Catholic.

Here's another fact:

About three-in-ten U.S. Catholics (29%) say they attend Mass weekly or more often. Larger shares say they *pray daily* (51%) and say religion is very important in their lives (44%). By comparison, Overall, 21% of U.S. Catholics say they attend Mass weekly *and* pray daily *and* consider religion very important. *Source:*

Pew Research Center





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SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Wednesday — Friday, 12 noon

Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 PM

Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM in English

Spanish Mass: 2nd Sunday of the Month

1:00 PM in the Church

4th Saturday of the Month at 7:00 PM in
Cachagua

Reconciliation

Saturday at 3:30 PM and by appointment

Office Hours

Wednesday — Friday 1:00 PM — 3:00 PM

Sundays: 10:00 AM — 11:00 AM

*"At the heart of silence is prayer. At the heart of
prayer is faith. At the heart of faith is life. At the
heart of life is service."*

— St Teresa of Avila

PARISH MINISTRIES

Pastoral Council

Finance Council

Faith Formation

Bereavement Ministry

Human Trafficking

Music Ministry

Parish Hall & Kitchen Rental

Social Media

Website

Eucharistic Ministers

Coffee Hospitality

Sacristans

Lectors

Ushers

**For more information about our ministries,
follow the link in this QR code:**



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