

**Anniversary of Birth/Death of Mother Angeline –  
Foundress of Carmelite Sisters  
January 21, 2020**

Every saint's spiritual heritage is so large that attempting to read and understand their messages to the world can be difficult and require special studies of the life of this person. Every saint, in their own way, through complete unification with Christ leaves the world with a message, and in fact this message is in reality so much deeper than we can understand it to be. Our human judgments cannot always be precise and completely true in respect to reality. Typically, we make judgments based on our own experiences. As a result, some of the deeper spiritual truths remain unknown.

Today, when we celebrate the birth as well as the rebirth into eternal life of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa – foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, we try to notice aspects of her life which were her foundation for her path to her vocation. It is certain that coming from an Irish family, Bridget Teresa McCrory drew from her spiritual and national heritage some of its most important values in the life of a Christian: faith in God and the passing down of traditions.

She experienced immigration. First with her family to Scotland and then moving to other places when she was within the order, eventually making it to the United States. The experience gave her a very broad

understanding of the world and showed a very clear, spectacular part of life in different places on earth. This immigrant experience also opened her up to poverty and humility, and the material weakness of human nature.

With all her being she tried to serve those who were suffering for many physical reasons, always keeping a smile on her face.

How fitting is it to have Matthew's gospel read to us today – specifically the parable of the builders. Wise builders had their foundation on rock but it did not fall, however foolish ones placed it in the sand where it would fall when wind hit the home. Similarly, Mary Angeline Teresa built her house on rock. This house is

the order of the Carmelite sisters and we give thanks today for it. May we, following her example continue to maintain what she had built for God's greater glory. The reading from Philippians reminds us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God." And so we do this today, praying for the order's strength and thanking for this beautiful gift. The readings ends with, "...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into

practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” And so we put those praiseworthy things we have learned about and witnessed into practice in the same way Mother Angeline did in her life. May we, following in her example, be able to see the Lord in our everyday lives. She was bold, without being brash, had a vision without being a visionary, courageous while still being meek, and full of confident faith while still remaining humble. She was joyful, grateful, and optimistic, had a sense of humor, worked hard, was a sister to her Sisters, an Aunt to her family, a child of the Church yet a valiant coworker with Bishops and priests in the vineyard. Why are we here today? To remember her, yes. To thank God for the

gift of who she was, yes. To try and learn something from her, yes. In addition, to ask her help and prayers for ourselves and all of her Sisters and their ministry. She did this by being a woman of prayer, of faith, a religious who lived in community and built a community where the spiritual life could flourish, and each Sister find her own personal vocation in peace and joy.