

La première extase du 14 au 15 juin 1584 survint alors qu'elle est malade à l'infirmerie. Elle dura seize heures et demie. Le lendemain elle fut guérie de sa maladie. L'année suivante, la seconde extase de vingt-six heures, ainsi que celle de 1592 (vingt-quatre heures) eurent lieu du jeudi au vendredi saint. Ces deux extases se déroulent en des déplacements continuels dans les différents endroits du monastère. Le texte ici traduit se compose des notes prises par ses sœurs carmélites: elles comprennent tout à la fois les paroles de Marie-Madeleine et la description de ses mouvements durant six extases.

C'est l'amour qui est une force extatique qui l'unit au Christ en sa passion. C'est cet amour du Père et du Fils que Marie-Madeleine contemple; c'est cet amour inouï qui la fait sortir d'elle-même et la fait si intimement et amoureusement participer aux souffrances de son Époux. C'est à cet amour que les extases de Marie-Madeleine nous conviennent.

ÉLIANE POIROT, O.C.D.

Hagiographia

HELGA MARIA JAEGER, *Gott lebt! Sie sind seine Zeugen*, Volume 1: *Heilige und Selige des Karmel*, Volume 2: *Diener Gottes und Ehrwürdige des Karmel*, (Straubing: Karmelitanische Gemeinschaft, 2005).

Publisher: Attenkofer'sche Buch und Kunstdruckerei, 94315 Straubing, Germany

Available from: Karmelitenkloster, Albrechtsgasse 20, 94315 Straubing, Germany, 42,90 E www.karmelitenorden.de; karmel.straubing@t-online.de

A few days before a new Pope from Germany was elected, the *Karmelitanische Gemeinschaft* (Carmelite Family) of Straubing published in the German language - at the initiation of Fr. Elias Steffen, O.Carm. - this compendium of all Carmelites who are prominent (some more so, some less) in the spirituality of the Order.

Primarily this book will be of immense value to all those searching to deepen their awareness of the Carmelite charism and way of life. The meaning and value of this double-volume book lies not only in its very precise use of the legion of sources for the historical basis of its 1,120 pages. In a very industrious manner the author, Helga Maria Jaeger - a retired high school teacher of German and History in Straubing and a member of the Carmelite Family - presents a respectable number of short biographies in comprehensible language, combining succinct selections from original source texts (in the German original or in translation) with questions and reflections to aid meditation, before closing with a prayer.

Whilst this publication is primarily addressed to general readers interested in engaging personally with the spirituality of the Carmelite Order, it is also of wider hagiographic, historical, and theological interest, facilitated by annotations and remarks regarding pertinent secondary literature.

The first volume - after a preface and introduction on using the book, an outline of the procedures for beatification and canonisation, and a discussion of *Lectio divina* (pp. 5-30) - presents information on 'Mary of Mount Carmel' and St. Joseph in their patronal roles within the Order. The coverage of the book is global in its treatment of saints and blessed from the whole Carmelite Family over multiple centuries. Carmelites and Discalced Carmelites are included, from all expressions of the Carmelite vocation; hermits, friars, nuns, sisters, and laity. Legendary and less well-known figures commemorated in liturgies past and present, such as Brocard and Cyril of Constantinople, are not overlooked. Indeed, the liturgical memorials of holy men and women in the Carmelite calendar furnish the methodology.

The second volume presents 108 'Servants of God and Venerables of Carmel', chronologically ordered (though following the years of death rather than birth might have been more sensible).

The two volumes are enlivened by a rich selection of meditative pictures (complete with citation of their sources), and some imaginative graphics. Scholars will welcome the full bibliography, and the indices of topics and persons arranged both alphabetical and chronological.

German readers may be disappointed that presentations of figures as prominent as Teresa of Jesus, John of the Cross, and Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) lack references not only to the excellent German editions of their works and contemporary sources, but also to some current critical studies available in German.

This is a minor complaint considering the immense effort that has clearly been expended by a single author. The two volumes of *Gott lebt! Sie sind seine Zeugen* continue the tradition established by Ludovico Saggi in *Santi del Carmelo* (1972) of widening the appreciation of the richness of the Carmelite tradition as seen through its personalities, an appreciation that surely demand the translation of this work (with pertinent reference to supporting literature) into other major languages.

FELIX M. SCHANDL, O. CARM.

Historia

ALBERTO BARRIOS MONETO, CLARETIANO, *Por Cañadas Oscuras. Los orígenes de las Hermanas Carmelitas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Fundadas por la Madre Asunción Soler Gimeno*, Madrid, 1997. Libro Pro manuscrito, 648 páginas.

Comienzo por afirmar que es tarea ingrata hacer recensión de esta obra polémica, desde la primera página a la última, aunque esto no sea lo más grave. Intenta el P. Barrios reivindicar la figura de la M. Asunción Soler (1882-1959), fundadora de las Hermanas Carmelitas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, como reza el título. El fin no puede ser más noble. El crédito que merece el