

## Spiritual Reflection – June 2014



### Prayer and Work

***„Prayer and work must go hand in hand.“*** (Mother Frances of the Cross, Amalia Streitl, Letter to Father John Francis Jordan 1883-1885, 39(86), 8 p.119)

These words of Mother Frances come from her vision in which she saw both mountains arching and inclining toward the other, one higher than the other. In one of them she recognized Carmel, in the other, Alverno. She recognized the will of God that He wanted her to leave Carmel to unite the active life with the contemplative. Prayer and work have their own values; they are to stand in line with each other. We are to see our work as a service of the church and do it faithfully.

Many of us can still remember when we first entered the community. During different common works such as cleaning vegetables, sorting laundry, etc. we prayed together; today we do that as we drive the car.

Mother Frances was a woman of prayer and she encouraged the sisters again and again not to stop praying. Prayer always gave her strength and the ability to trust during the great difficulties that she had to endure.

In the prayer, *“O Mary introduce me into the mystery of love and suffering that I may truly become the spouse of the crucified, that never withdraws from his bloody feet, until the crucified love will say: come up higher, take your place in the middle of my heart”*. This expresses well the desire of Mother Frances.

I hope all of us will continue to combine prayer and work so as to receive many graces and blessings from God for our lives and for the encounters we have with our neighbors.

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