



# *Novene to our Mother, our Lady of Mount Carmel*



*During these days, we aim to prepare ourselves with joy for the celebration of solemnity of our Mother of Mount Carmen, from experience and teachings of our Founder.*

## *Day 1.- Mary, THE WAY to contemplate the Church*

For us, CMT Sisters, it is necessary to come to Mary in order to discover the Church, the final object of Christian charity.

Fr. Palau presents Mary as “the way” to discover and love the Church; and this is the great truth that should be preached in the world, the fundament of the mission.

The original thing is his personal vision of Marian devotion that is devotion and love for the Church.

For many years, Fr. Palau thought that Mary, the Mother of God, could be the object of his love, and he was trying to increase his love for Her. He, the searcher of truth of the true way for Marian devotion, saw in Mary the Mediator between the two lovers (the Christian and the Church), the Ambassador who sends him with full authority to preach the Law of Grace: love for God and love for neighbor, that is, love for the Church, because God and neighbor are the Church. At the end, it helped him to clarify “the object of love” for Her.

Expressing his feelings and journey, he left us a program of true Marian devotion:



*«It's been many years since I was making efforts of spirit exciting my love for Mary, the Mother of God, and my devotion for Her wasn't satisfying me. My heart was searching for my Beloved, I was searching for my Spouse, and in Mary I could see only acts, deserving gratitude, love of a child, but my love couldn't find in Her its object. In this mission that I ended in this island, Mary was brought in triumph by the children of the peoples. And I heard one word, and this word came from the lips of the Mother of God, and this word was: 'Until now you haven't known me, because I haven't revealed myself to you; from now on, you will know me and love me., I will keep this word» (MR 1,5).  
It's Mary's attitude in the Gospel of Saint Luke (Lk 2:19.51)*

Palau never did nor lived anything without Mary, but in the Church and from the Church.

## Silence

### Prayer

MARY, GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS:

I want to feel the dust of the road  
To come to God detached of all.

MARY, GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS:

To transform my way  
In a personal encounter with the Church.

MARY, GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS:

To be and live a bit like you,  
Without another compass than your faith.

MARY, GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS:

To tell Jesus that even with my weaknesses,  
His resurrection is for me a reason for joy,  
A call for conversion,  
An opportunity for a new life.

MARY, GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS:

To walk the way you walked.  
Amén.



## Day 2 – Mary: **FURNISHED FIGURE** of the Church

The precious Carmelite heritage of love for Mary, mother, sister and model of virtues, comes to us, CMT sisters, with Francisco Palau and its proper characteristics. Mary is above **all the great revelator of the Church.**

Palau contemplates and announces Mary as the perfect type of the Church. The key idea of his thought respecting Mary is the one of a mysterious unity and holiness of Mary in relation to the Church. Without forgetting the gifts and titles traditionally attributed to the Virgen Mary, he isn't considering her isolated but he contemplates her in the totality of ecclesial mystery: Mary is a part, a member and a type of the Church, mediator and perfect figure. In palautian spirituality we have to contemplate Mary as a singular member, created and constituted to be the unique, perfect and furnished type of the Church.

Year 1864 marked a sign in his process with a vision of Mary completely inserted in the mystery of the Church. He discovered Her as furnished and perfect figure of virginity and maternity of the Church, and proclaimed Her totally linked to Christ in his mystical Body:

*«It's been many years since I was making efforts of spirit exciting my love for Mary, the Mother of God, and my devotion for Her wasn't satisfying me [...] In this mission that I ended in this island, Mary was brought in triumph by the children of the peoples. And I heard one word, and this word came from the lips of the Mother of God [image of the Virgin of Carmen], and this word was: 'Until now you haven't known me, because I haven't revealed myself to you; from now on, you will know me and love me., I will keep this word' (MR 1,5). "In order that the virginity and maternity, purity, holiness and beauty of the spouse of my Son, the Holy Church, would have a perfect and furnished type in human conception that would represent her, the eternal paternity of God has chosen me" (MR 1,12).*

Contemplate and loved in this way, Mary became for Father Palau and his doctrinal teaching a prototype to discover, love, announce and serve to the Church. Mary revealed to him with this missionary perspective that she wasn't an ultimate and perfect object of love, she wasn't an object that could give meaning to his vocation and mission. This object could be only the Church.

### Silence

**Prayer:** *Virgin of listening and contemplation, Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are, that she may never be closed in on herself or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom. (Pope Francis, EG 288)*

### Song

**Yo busco una Iglesia viva que resplandece en María,  
Esclava del Señor y tipo de la Iglesia en todo su esplendor.  
Una Iglesia santa con solo un corazón es la "cosa Amada" que busco yo (2v.)  
Construyamos juntos la fraternidad: las palomas pueblan el azul de paz;  
somos piedras vivas de la gran ciudad: ¡Una Iglesia nueva está surgiendo ya!**



## Day 3 – Mary, THE MIRROR of the Church.

The intimate secret of this Theresian Carmelite was his passionate love for the Church and for Mary, “the mirror” of this Church. He liked calling her like this, looking at her like this. The Church and Mary in one and only love. In the short time he spent in convent, he assimilated perfectly the motto of Carmel: “All of Mary”, but he trespassed it with originality further than the forms of his times. His doctrinal thought was availed by the Vatican Council II and post council doctrine.

When Palau “looks” at Mary, he “sees” the Church.

*«Don't look – she told me- this mirror that I am; look in me at the image of the Church, your beloved, engraved by the finger of God himself. And I looked at this image and then I saw in Mary my Beloved, I saw the Holy Church” (MR 4,2). “It cannot be any other way. I am a shadow that figures in you a Virgin whose name is Mary. In me and through me you will see this beautiful Virgin. In Mary you will see another Virgin by the name of the Church, the Spouse of immaculate Lamb» (MR 4,4,)*

Therefore, the first step is to “look at Mary”, focus our gaze in Her, discover Her beauty, her virtues and perfections. After that, we will come to this conclusion: to gaze in Mary upon the Church.

*«God in his wise providence created a perfect type that would represent her purity, her virginity, her maternity and fecundity and beauty. And in the effect, it was convenient that this woman would be a virgin, immaculate, always pure and mother, and that both in moral and physical order she would reunite in herself all the gifts, all the graces and all the perfections which would be possible in a pure creation. This was and is the Virgin Mary, Mother of God; she is the clearest mirror where a man can contemplate the Holy Church. And as through Christ we go to Father, through Mary our heart is elevated in the flames of love to its beloved, that is the Church» (MR 11,21)*

### Prayer

Mary, alive member, mother, figure and mirror of the Church: pray for us, so we might be faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, live our faith in community and be active members of the Church.

*«I greet you, oh Mary, Mother of God, because God has formed you so beautiful, so pure, so perfect, as it was convenient for you being destined to become a Mother of God» (cf MR 4,1).*



## **Day 4. – Mary, AVAILABLE for the will of God**

Mary is for Francisco Palau “the Woman” available for the will of God, “the Missionary Virgin” given totally to the plan of God and who motivates human beings to live the vocation of total consecration to the Church, Christ and neighbor. She is the model and figure the most furnished and perfect of availability to the project of God.

The attitude of Mary is the one of being on the way. The Gospel says: “*The Virgin went and started her journey...*” (Lk 1:39).

Mary was the pure and total availability for the Lord, even in the darkest and most difficult moments of her life. She was a free and voluntary availability, generous and grateful offering to the will of God.

The commitment and availability of the Virgen Mary were unlimited and unconditional, proven through many situations and suffered discomforts, without hoping for glory or prestige. It was a true commitment of faith and love. They are for a source of consolation and a model of life to follow. As a Mother of the Church, she shows to us, with the example of her life, her tenderness and attention, and indicates how to dispense our spirit to be open for relationship of love with the Church.

That was possible thanks to her “yes”. To the angel who asked of her availability to become the Mother of Jesus, Mary answered: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to your word”. “One’s availability to God – says Pope Francis – is found in one’s willingness to take on the needs of one’s neighbour”.

### **Song - Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (Carey Landry)**

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death. Amen.*

*Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.*

*You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one.*

*Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.*

*Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts.*



## Day 5 – Mary, the SERVANT

Every member has and exercises its service in the way so that in the Church-Servant all of us we are servants of one another.

Fr. Palau felt in love with the image of the Church-Servant; he understood that it was the most excellent form of showing his passion of love for the Church:

*“Because I love you, in serving you I find occasion of pleasing you [...], my heart driven by this incontrollable passion desires to serve and please you” (MR 9,7).*

The Church herself clarifies these feelings:

*“You will find me alone in cloister, deserts and hermits, and shepherd in the middle of the peoples, pilgrim in the roads, and all in all and all parts where charity exercises its acts and functions” (MR 20,11).*

It is necessary to come to Mary in order to discover the Church. To come to her doesn't mean an abundance of cult and ostentation, but to take interest, offer oneself totally to the task of making the Church known, serve her in our neighbor, proclaim her, take care of her, heal her of her wounds, etc. this means to truly love Mary. The first commandments for his directees are pervaded by this style: to be servants to one another; the one who acts as head should be the most sacrificed of all in this ministry of service, because to employ oneself in the service of others is to be truly of God and to take care of Him in his moral body (see *Letter 6, 7, 12*)

What are the needs we see as most urgent in others? What initiatives do we undertake to serve? How to ensure that our whole life is service?

### Silence

### Prayer

We ask you, Mary, to help us construct a Church-Servant of persons that would answer with concrete actions to human needs; that would be attentive to what is happening around, sensitive to difficult situations we live.



## Day 6 – Mary, the MISSIONARY

Francisco Palau considers and presents Mary as “missionary”, necessary in the task of evangelization, even up to the point that to proclaim Mary as missionary is already a proclamation of the Church:

*“From now on, in this mountain, my name is Mary and it will be the Virgin-Mother of God the one to represent me in my relationships with you. Given that our spiritual bond is already consummated, there is no more need of insisting in the matters of love. You love me, I love you, and love is deeds” (MR 1,19). “Preach in the worlds this great truth: I am not the ultimate goal of human love, but only a figure of the Church, pure Virgin and fertile Mother, and this is your Beloved One designated by the love of Gospel that is the law of charity” (MR 8,15).*

It is in missionary dimension of Marian devotion where Fr. Palau focuses, in a particular manner, the advocacy of Carmel to whom he calls openly “Missionary Virgin”.

The Carmelite has always seen the Virgin as the ideal of his religious congregation, the mirror in which it should see itself to practice virtues. This exemplar dimension, he brought it always deep-seated in his spirit.

Mary is the “Missionary Virgin” committed to the plan of God who stimulate human being to live his/her vocation of total consecration to the Church, Christ and neighbors, ambassador sent from the bosom of the Trinity to announce that it is not she the object of love of a Christian, but it is the Church. Marian devotion for us is ecclesial and missionary devotion:

*“Don’t look at me as the perfect and ultimate object of your love, because I am not; it is the Church” (MR 1,12).*

*“She told me: Go, preach the Gospel. This is the law: Love God for being who He is, infinite goodness, and your neighbor as you love yourself” (MR 1,20).*

*“Mary, the Mother of God, a perfect and furnished type of the universal Church, comes into your heart to treat not the matters of love, but the interests that look for the spiritual good of the Church herself” (MR 9,11).*

Pope Francis writes:

*I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. (EG 27).*

The Church is for the street, a Church that journeys. A Church always going out, missionary, a Church that doesn’t waste its time in grieving for things that don’t function, for values of old times that are no longer present.

### Silence

**Prayer:** Oh Mary, in you we see the face of the Church called to live her own vocation: “It is necessary that I announce also the Kingdom of God in other places”. We come to you to ask your help in discovering the missionary impulse that we need as the Church of Christ. Amen.





## Day 7 – Mary, the LISTENER OF THE WORD

Mary is the “Virgin-Listener” who welcomes with faith the word of God. The art of listening of Mary is not a simple listening, superficial, but it is to hear with attention, welcoming, availability for God. Mary is attentive to God, she listens to God, with fear, and she perceives at the same time the greatness of the Most High and her own deep humbleness.

Mary listens also to the happenings, she reads the events in her life, she lives attentive to the concrete reality, she doesn't stop on superficialities but deepens to catch the meaning.

Mary is also the Virgin of prayer. She prays to glorify, give thanks, recognizes the greatness of God and her own humbleness. But also, in prayer Mary encounters the truth of God about her: “They will call me blessed”, not because of me, but because of the great deeds that God has made in me.

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is the Woman **that listens**: she allows God to talk to her and this word penetrates her heart like rain in a fertile ground. Mary shows to us herself in the Annunciation fully owning her life, with the wisdom of a virgin who knows to listen and penetrate the message, with interior richness that is grown only in silence and contemplation.

### Song

Oyente de la Palabra que guarda tu corazón,  
siembra en nosotros amor;  
jardinera de virtudes,  
muéstranos tus actitudes  
para que florezca Dios. (Bis)

### Prayer to Mary, woman of listening, of decision, of action

**Mary, woman of listening**, open our ears;  
grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus  
among the thousands of words of this world;  
grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live,  
to every person we encounter,  
especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

**Mary, woman of decision**, illumine our mind and our heart,  
so that we may obey, unhesitating, the word of your Son Jesus;  
give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along,  
letting others direct our life.

**Mary, woman of action**, obtain that our hands and feet  
move “with haste” toward others,  
to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus,  
to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. Amen”

*(Pope Francis, 05/31/2013)*





## Day 8 – Mary, WOMAN OF PRAYER

Francisco Palau presents Mary as an example of love that has its preference in the fragile, poor and marginalized. He listens to the Church who tells him: “Mary, the Mother of God, the perfect and furnished type of the universal Church ... your heart is disposed to take care for the poor and marginalized of the Church (cf MR 9, 11)

“Prayer is an intimate, friendly and familiar relationship that a man has with God”, this way Palau explains it in his writings (Catechism of Virtues 18, 33) and says that for preparation it is enough to make a simple act of love; for this to prepare ourselves interiorly and making echo of his words, we sing: *Para orar, te basta un gesto de amor*

*muy sencillo y muy simple,  
es querer lo que Dios quiere,  
no querer lo que no quiere,  
es abrirle el corazón,  
y ofrecerse a cuanto exija y disponga de ti (Letter 42)*

During her life, Mary was coming to her Son pleading for the needs of her other children. The clearest example we see in Cana of Galilee where she obtains from Jesus that he would convert water into wine, to help in the necessities of just married. And with her cries she achieved that Jesus would go ahead of his time of self-revelation to the world as savior and that his disciples would believe in him. And the most consoling part for us is that this prayer of intercession she continues exercising from heaven, because she never abandons her mission of intercession and salvation.

The Church also should be this “Virgin of prayer”, community of prayer, who filled with faith and hope, every day presents to Father the needs of her children, glorifies Lord without ceasing, and intercedes for the salvation of the world. In Francisco Palau dominates the *prayer of intercession*, and in it the figure of Mary appears as fundamental. The most notable aspect is her powerful intercession as Mother, that is, filiation:

“She is mother and the most tender one of all mothers”, “Powerful mother”, “Omnipotent mother”, “Merciful mother”, “Mother of the sinners”, “Mother who looks tenderly for her children”.

Father does whatever Son asks of Him; Son does whatever his Mother asks, and Mother never denies to her children any grace that they ask with confidence. And if on the earth a Good son never denies to his mother any just and necessary grace, with more reason in heaven Jesus Christ will deny to his Mother whatever she asks him that is just and necessary.

He calls Mary “Powerful Mediatrix” referred explicitly in favor of the Church. The act of intercession that is founded in love for children and continues being her mission in heaven: “From Mary to Jesus and from Jesus to Father”. *“In prayer, offer yourself to Our Lady, put yourself under her protection and trust in her. Let us trust in God and in his mother, let us entrust them all our concerns and we will never be confused in our hopes” (Letter 56, 3)* **Silence**

**Prayer:** You, who makes all things new, renew our hearts with the strength of your Spirit, so that with renewed spirit of communion we might collaborate in your deeds. Mary, Mother of the Church, who knew to live in intimate union of love for God and neighbor, pray for us.



## Day 9. – Mary, **LADY OF VIRTUES**

The first step to discover the beauty of the Church is to “look” at Mary, show her beauty, her virtues and perfections.

Fr. Palau writes: *“All perfect, pure, holy that exists and is preached about Mary can be preached in even more excellent way about the Church”* (MR 11,19).

All virtues of Mary are presented in unique meaning, all of them meet at one point: her mission as co-redeemer, her voluntary and efficient cooperation in salvation of human race. Virtues, Palau writes, is “a quality that does good whom has it and all things” (MM 1,2)

Mary herself is not the center of devotion, but Palau always saw her and presented her in her salvific dynamism since her Fiat during incarnation until her Yes under the Cross: “Only one thought occupied Mary fully during her whole life, o better: all her thoughts tended, came to stop in only one object, and that was: a man is lost due to the sin and needs to be saved”.

In order to cultivate virtues, we need to love them first. It is to recognize and promote the values of a person, excluding all that may lower its dignity.

**Theological experience** is the focal vital point of Francisco Palau. His relationship with the Church is understood always from this point of **FAITH, HOPE** and **CHARITY**. Theological attitude dynamizes concrete life: *“They remain without action”* (Catechism 74,4).

**FAITH:** is the key of interpretation of his experience (Catechism 38,2-3; 764,13)

**HOPE:** it keeps him in the attitude of searching, so that the difficulties won’t discourage him (Catechism 3; 733,7; 820,30-31)

**CHARITY:** is a fundament and center of interior growing and personal harmony: “All Christian perfection is based on charity. All virtues, divine, human, infused and acquired..., all is directed so that charity might make its course in you” (Catechism 37,1).

**Prayer:** Mary, I put today in your hands all virtues, all gifts, all things I have received from God, and I commit myself to take care of them, cultivate them and preserve them. Present them to your Son.



### **Song: Señora de las Virtudes**

Señora de las virtudes, Tú que das paso a la luz,  
tú nos muestras a Jesús, tú para el hombre eres puerta,  
caliente pan, casa abierta y escuela de la virtud.  
Inícianos en tu escuela, como siervos del amor,  
para aprender la lección de servir, siembra inquietudes  
y riega tú las virtudes con la gracia del Señor.