

RESURRECTING HOPE, RESTORING DIGNITY: HOW THE CARMELITE SISTERS EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF EASTER EVERY DAY

In a world often driven by speed, success, and self, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm stand as a living testament to something far more enduring — sacrificial love, compassionate service, and hope. Their mission, inspired by the life and legacy of Venerable Mother Angeline Teresa McCrory, finds its deepest alignment not just in healthcare or ministry — but in the very heart of the Easter message.

THE PERFECT REFLECTION OF CARMELITE CARE

Easter is, at its core, the triumph of life over death, hope over despair, and light over darkness. For the Carmelite Sisters, this is not merely a season — it is a way of life.

As Mother Angeline herself once declared:

“If you have to fail, let it be on the side of kindness. Be Kinder than Kindness Itself.”

This spirit of radical love — a love that mirrors the sacrificial and resurrecting love of Christ — flows through every layer of their ministry, especially in how they care for the aged and infirm. They see beyond aging bodies and weary minds. They see souls still worthy of dignity, laughter, and love.

THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE: AN EASTER LEGACY EVERY DAY

Across their sponsored ministries — from nursing homes and long-term care residences to their educational arm, the Avila Institute of Gerontology — the Sisters live out what Easter truly means: new life even in old age, hope even in suffering, resurrection even in decline.

Trish Gathers, President & CEO of The Carmelite System, captures this beautifully in her favorite reflection:

“This is sacred ground — to care for someone at their most vulnerable is to stand at the doorway between life and eternity. And it is here we are called to bring dignity, compassion, and joy.”



Trish Gathers

This idea is foundational to everything the Carmelite Sisters do. Whether educating caregivers through Avila Institute programs, preserving the legacy of Catholic healthcare through Carith Ministries, or serving residents directly — their mission echoes the empty tomb of Easter morning: Love always rises.

CARITH MINISTRIES: PRESERVING OF CATHOLIC POST-ACUTE HEALTHCARE

Easter is also about what endures beyond the grave. And just as Christ rose to establish an eternal Kingdom, so too the Carmelite Sisters, through Carith Ministries, are securing a lasting footprint for Catholic post-acute healthcare.

Formed under the visionary leadership of Trish Gathers and her unlikely partnership with Yossi Levine — Carith Ministries ensures that the mission, values, and sacred spaces created by the Sisters are not lost to history but preserved for generations to come.

In Trish's words:

“Buildings may age, people may pass, but mission must endure. Carith is about protecting the sacred — preserving not just the places, but the purpose.”

From preserving senior care residences to creating pathways for new ministries, Carith Ministries is the Easter promise in action — death does not have the final word; the mission rises again and again.



St. Peter Di Maria, Sr Kevin Lynch, Sr Margaret Costello, Mother Mary Rose Henry, Sr Philip Bowden, Sr Anthony Veilleux, Sr Diane Mack, Sr Anne Brown

THE AVILA INSTITUTE: FORMING HEARTS TO CARRY THE MISSION FORWARD

If Carith secures the footprint, then the Avila Institute of Gerontology forms the heartbeat. Through education, research, and training, the Avila Institute ensures that future generations understand not only how to provide clinical care — but how to minister with compassion, patience, and spiritual sensitivity.

Sister M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm., Director of the Avila Institute, often says:

“You cannot care for the body without caring for the soul.”

This reflects the Easter reality the Carmelite Sisters embody daily: the human person is body and soul, fearfully and wonderfully made, and always worthy of love — especially in their final chapters.

AN EASTER ROOTED IN MISSION

As Easter reminds the world that love conquers all, the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm quietly remind us that resurrection happens every day — in nursing homes, care facilities, community outreach, and hearts that refuse to give up on the aged, the forgotten, and the vulnerable.

Their mission, anchored in the words of Mother Angeline,

continues to proclaim through their ministries:

“The care of the aged is a mission of love — an apostolate that brings us to the very heart of Christ.”

BE PART OF THE EASTER STORY

As the world celebrates Easter with lilies, hymns, and hallelujahs — the Carmelite Sisters invite all of us to participate in resurrection living. Through supporting their ministries — the Avila Institute, Carith Ministries, or the homes they lovingly sponsor — we, too, can become co-authors of hope, healers of hearts, and stewards of sacred spaces.

Because Easter is not just a season.

It's a mission.

It's a movement.

It's a way of life.

And in the world of the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm — Easter never ends. Whether in season or out of season the difference is - Love.

Learn more

<https://www.carmelitesystem.org>

www.avilainstitute.org

<https://www.carithministries.org>

For partnerships you can email: pgather@carmelitesystem.org or call +1 518-728-5234.