



Nativity Window
Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Mobile, Alabama



Archbishop of Mobile Thomas Rodi with the Carmelite Nuns

Father Francis Casey, S.S.E. founded the Edmundite Southern Missions in 1937 in Selma, Alabama. He hoped to have a monastery “where the prayers and sacrifices of the nuns would silently intercede with God for the success of the Edmundites in their difficult missionary work.”

Father Casey ran the Edmundite Missions on a shoestring, placing his faith and hope in God to prosper the works. Father Casey told those who worked with him, “We should do our very best for Christ in the poor; work hard for all those things we pray for; love the people we work with, and see God’s hand in all things.”

At the same time, Father Casey longed for a cloistered community to be founded in the area, convinced of the power of prayer and the need of the constant intercession which would be made by the nuns of such a community. Since Saint Thérèse of Lisieux – also known as the Little Flower – is the patron of missions, the Carmelite Nuns were an obvious choice.

The Bishop of Mobile, Most Reverend Thomas J. Toolen, however, insisted that the foundation be made in the See City of Mobile rather than in Selma. Discalced Carmelite Nuns from Philadelphia arrived in Mobile to pray for the success of the Edmundite Missions on October 7, 1943.

In the spirit of Saint Teresa of Avila Carmelites from Vietnam came to the Mobile Carmel in February 2011 to live out her words: “I trusted to the great goodness of God, Who never fails anyone who has resolved to leave everything for His sake.”



An Advent Novena to Prepare for Christmas



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*In the Name of the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit*

*O Emmanuel, Savior of Israel,
you are God’s Son among us:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

*O Wisdom of the Most High God,
You rule with gentle might:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

*O Lord of Israel, you gave us the Law on Sinai:
Come with your power to redeem us.*

*O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you are the sign of salvation:
Come and deliver us; do not delay.*

*O Key of David, you open and close by your power:
Come and free us from sin and death.*

*O Daystar, you are the eternal light,
the sun of justice:
Come and cheer us; dispel the darkness.*

*O Desired One of the nations,
You are the King of peace:
Come and make us one.*

Advent Novena



Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

We come to You, Eternal Father,
to offer You honor and glory
for our eternal salvation,
for the salvation of the whole world, and
for the particular needs we offer
during this novena.

In the psalms of David,
in the words of the prophets,
in the dream of Joseph,
your promise is spoken, eternal God,
and takes flesh at last in the womb of the Virgin.
May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts,
take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples
the welcomed advent of redemption and grace.



For those who
are discouraged, we pray:
Give them hope, O Lord.

For those who face terror and war, we pray:
Give them peace, O Lord.

For those who search for work, we pray:
Use their talents in new ways, O Lord.

For those who are uncertain and troubled, we pray:
Help them to trust in You, O Lord.

For those who have lost their way, we pray:
Be their guide, O Lord.

For those who suffer pain and disease, we pray:
Heal their infirmities, O Lord.

For those who seek food, clothing and shelter, we pray:
Help us to aid them as best we can, O Lord.

For those with special needs, we pray:
Satisfy them according to your plan, O Lord.

*Let us place
our needs
before the throne
of God:*

[Pause to express particular needs]



*For the mystery of the Incarnation when the Eternal Word of God became Flesh:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the hardships of the long and weary journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the anguish of not finding a place of shelter for the birth of the Savior of the world:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the mystery of the birth of our divine Redeemer:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the first cries of hunger and tears of discomfort of Jesus in the manger:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the pain of circumcision when Jesus first shed blood for our salvation:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the flight into Egypt and the sojourn in a foreign land:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the humility, mortification, patience, and all the virtues of the Child Jesus:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*For the growth of Jesus in wisdom, age and grace at Nazareth:
Blessed be God for the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*Lord, help us to recognize your presence
so that our faith may abide,
our hope may endure and
our love never fail.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

