



## *My Treasured Possession*



Mother Eliswa says, *“My dear children, by the fact that we have entered Carmel and we wear the scapular, we are the daughters of Holy Mother St. Teresa”*.

We are privileged to have twin celebration today. I wish happy feast of St. Teresa of Avila to all the Carmelites all over the world and happy birthday of our beloved Foundress Mother Eliswa to all the members of the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites (CTC).

St. Teresa of Avila asserts, *“God alone suffices”* and Mother Eliswa declares, *“His gaze is upon us”*. In both edicts we have the summary of a Biblical truth which is contained in this text from Exodus, “Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be *my treasured possession* out of all the peoples” (Ex 19/5). However it suggests that Israelites were to enjoy special privilege if they were to obey God’s word and keep this covenant.

All wealth, regardless of the owner, is a treasure. The Bible uses treasure metaphorically. Wisdom is to be treasured in the mind, i.e. valued and taken to heart. Jesus often uses ‘treasure’ figuratively. A man’s heart is where his treasure is, i.e. his interests are determined by what he values most. Paul’s phrase “treasure in earthen vessels” (2 Cor 4/7) contrasts the glory of the divine gospel with the weakness of its human ministers. Wisdom and knowledge are treasures to be found only in Christ (Col. 2/3). To possess these eternal treasures is greater joy than having even a royal treasure. Out of the good treasure of their hearts good men bring forth more good.

Our Mother Eliswa through her life of apostolate and ministry in the Church began to share this treasure with everyone and very especially she dedicated herself to the cause of women folk of the society. She became a prophetess to them through her sensitiveness to the pulse of the people. She initiated a new culture of educating women and sharing the light of Christ with them, by opening their eyes, giving them a new vision and a new hope. By this she began a revolution of change through education in the society. It slowly spread far and wide. We witness its effect on the life of women and girls upbringing which has shown drastic change in every sphere.

St. Teresa a reformer of 16<sup>th</sup> century and Mother Eliswa a revolutionary of 19<sup>th</sup> century, both were *called as chosen vessel and send as treasured possession by the Master Divine*. They were really the prophetic presence in the world of their time. They were daring, courageous women to go ahead with the new perspective of life discovered in the depth of their Abba-experience.

If only we her daughters be submerged to the depth of Mother Eliswa’s Charism and absorb the spirituality of St. Teresa, we will be able to complete and continue the noble mission of Christ as St. Teresa of Avila says,

*“Christ has no body now on earth but yours.  
Christ can bless the world. Yours are the eyes  
compassion on a troubled world”*.

Let me live to the end as a treasured His aroma in the world. Amen!



*Yours are the hands with which  
with which Christ can shine*

possession of my Master and become

***Happy Feast of St. Teresa & Happy Birthday of Mother Eliswa!***

**Sr. Leena ctc**

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