

## GARDEN IN OUR COLLEGE CAMPUS

Mount Carmel, consisting of numerous connected hills that extend from the plains of Esdraelon to the Mediterranean Sea, a distance of about 12 miles, is a prominent cliff of Central Palestine. No mountain in or around Palestine preserves its ancient beauty so much as Carmel. Its groves are luxuriant though few; it is no place for crags and rocks for wild goats, but its surface is covered with a rich and perpetual verdure. The whole mountain-side is dressed with blossoms, flowering shrubs, and fragrant herbs. The head of the bride in Cant 7:5 is compared to Carmel. It is ranked with Bashan on account of its rich pastures (Isaiah 33:9; Jeremiah 50:19; Amos 1:2). The modern Arabic name of the mount is Kurmul.

So Carmel basically is a Garden and that is one of the aspects of my Congregation which is very dear to me after Prayer. Garden is one of the best places to seek God in tranquility and peace. Each leaf, each petal, each blade of grass speaks of God's creative, imaginative power and omnipotence. No doubt one is definitely nearer to God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on the earth. In fact the greatest gift of a garden is the restoration of the five senses. It is a love song, a melodious duet between a human being and Mother Nature. It is so true that Green Fingers are an extension of a Verdant Heart. Oh Yes! If you are a gardener, I think you can put, 'Plant Manger' in your CV. They say that the best fertilizer for the plants is the gardener's shadow. It is so true that each time one of your garden plants die, you too die a little. I believe and my experience is that gardening requires a lot of water and most of it is in the form of perspiration.

In Carmel College campus, I had been noticing a patch right from 1993; full of wild shrubs and herbs, thorny bushes and stubborn weeds all of which are grown very tall and disorderly. Clearing the patch was a herculean task as the roots were thrust deep and firm. Three years ago, I hired a daily wagger for three days to clear it and make it cultivable, my profound gratitude to her for a job well done. For three continuous years now, the plot is yielding abundant fruit and colorful flowers throughout the year.

It has become the best place in the campus for just relaxing and of course an untiring sight to behold, a feast for the eyes. Vegetables like chilies, tomatoes, radish, green and red amaranthus, brinjal grown in abundance and has been enjoyed by sisters, employees and even parents. There are about 12 different colored periwinkles, poinsettias of three colors, five different colored pentas, zinnias of about four different varieties and at least 20 different colors, roses of six colors, gerbera of three colors, hibiscus of five colors, cock's comb of three colors, buttons of two colors, 10 o'clock flowers of five colors, anthuriums of four different colors, balsams of two colors, marigold of three colors and three variety to list some of the flowers. A patch that was wild with plants that no one would look at is now frequently visited by insects, birds and of course human beings. Students often click photos and selfies there. I am so grateful to God for this miracle. I feel so good to be there, just lift my eyes, hands and voice to God in praise and thanks. I know it is His work and I am just an instrument in His mighty productive hands.

Dr. Sr. Maria Lizanne A.C.

Vice Principal



**BEFORE CLEARING**













**THESE ARE JUST ONE-TENTH OF THE FLOWERS WE HAVE IN OUR GARDEN**