

CONTEMPLATIVES



The work of the Association of Hebrew Catholics (AHC) is carried out with the essential prayer support of many friends, bishops, priests, and religious, both near and far. Moreover, a few certain hermits, cloistered sisters, and laypeople have been called individually, in the silence and solitude of contemplative prayer, to include God's will for the AHC.

If you are attracted to the work God has given to the AHC, we warmly invite you to consider joining us in sustained contemplative prayer which is at the heart of our apostolate.

On September 14, 1989, AHC founder Fr. Elias Friedman, OCD made the following request in a letter to a Carmelite:

“... it occurred to me that the Association (AHC) needs a contemplative branch. Why not found the contemplative branch of the AHC? The aim would be to pray for the aims of the AHC and develop its spirituality. Think it over ...”

Twenty-one years later on the feast date of Our Lady, Mother of Divine Grace, July 23, 2010, this group was founded through a special grace given to the Carmelite above, together with another Carmelite. We pray for the work of the AHC and for ‘all Israel’s’ recognition of their Messiah (CCC 674), our Lord Jesus Christ, in accord with the will of God and for His glory.

Our charism is (1) Eucharistic, (2) Marian, (3) penitential, and (4) joyful! It is lived out most

AHC Patrons



Our Lady of the Miracle infused the Faith into Alphonse Ratisbonne 20 January 1842



St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) “Come, we will go for our people.” August 1942



Elias Friedman, OCD “... pray for the aims of the AHC ...” Sept. 14, 1989

“The mission of your association responds, in a most fitting way, to the desire of the Church to respect fully the distinct vocation and heritage of Israelites in the Catholic Church.”

Most Rev. Raymond L. Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, May 2006

“Please be assured of my prayers for your efforts devoted to studying and calling attention to the Jewish roots of our Catholic faith and for your work to help Catholics of Jewish origin to find their place and role in the Church.”

Archbishop Robert Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, Sept. 2010

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AHC Contemplative Affiliation Form

Name

PLEASE PRINT

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Country

Phone:

Email:

I wish to affiliate as an AHC Contemplative.

I am faithful to the teaching and discipline of the authentic Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

PLEASE CHECK (✓) BOTH LINES ABOVE IF YOU WISH TO AFFILIATE.

Signed:

Date:

fruitfully through such practices as daily Mass, consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, frequent Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, Scripture and spiritual reading. We encourage studying the works of Saints Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Louis de Montfort, Thomas Aquinas, and others who will nourish our contemplative prayer life. We look to the prophet Elijah as a model of zeal and fidelity to God – past, present, and future.

We do not meet together. There are no dues. We are simply united in the Holy Spirit in bonds of contemplative prayer. The AHC will occasionally send a letter to everyone to share good news, to encourage, and to request special prayers. All of your contact information is confidential.

AHC Patrons: We pray to the patrons of the AHC – Our Lady of the Miracle and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross – to guide the work of the AHC and to inspire Catholics of both Jewish and non-Jewish origin to collaborate in our mission.

AHC Contemplatives must be faithful to the teaching and discipline of the authentic Magisterium of the Church. This is emphasized due to current dissent on issues such as: abortion, contraception, extra-marital sex, same-sex “marriage”, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, women’s ordination, and others.

Letter of recommendation: If you wish to join the AHC Contemplatives, please ask your parish priest, spiritual advisor, or a faithful Catholic who knows your spiritual life and practices to write you a letter of recommendation. You may also write us your own letter about your spiritual life.

We especially invite the homebound, the elderly, and the sick to offer up their sufferings to God, in union with Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross, for the work of the AHC.

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the Church...” (Col. 1:24)

MISSION OF THE AHC

“The glorious Messiah’s coming is suspended at every moment of history until His recognition by ‘all Israel’...” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 674)

It was, in part, to take up this challenge that Fr. Elias Friedman, OCD launched the Association of Hebrew Catholics. Father believed that the time had come when Jews in the Church were to come together to preserve their identity and heritage. Through this means, the final aim of their election could be realized, that is, their collective Jewish witness to Jesus and His Church. This witness, reflected in the statements below, can provide AHC contemplatives with much material for prayer.

A collective Hebrew Catholic witness:

- Can help restore the understanding of the Church as *Jew and Gentile* reconciled in Christ;
- Can help remove obstacles for the Jewish people to consider the Gospel as they come to see their identity and their heritage being preserved within the Church;
- Can help Messianic Jews and all non-Catholic Christians discover the fullness of faith in the Catholic Church as they come to see the Jewish people living out their heritage within the Church;
- Can help Muslims discover that Jesus was not only a prophet, but that Jesus truly died on the Cross, rose again, and that He is the Second Person of the One God;
- Can help those of other faiths, or of no faith, discover the truth in the person of Jesus as they come to see many Jews attend Mass to worship the Jewish Messiah;
- Can help all Catholics grow in their faith as they learn and experience their Jewish roots.

AIMS OF THE AHC

The aims, therefore, of the Association of Hebrew Catholics include the following:

- To gather the Jews who have entered the Church and to help rekindle their *irrevocable* calling, providing a collective witness to Jesus and His Church;
- To preserve the identity and heritage of the Jewish people within the Church;
- To provide pastoral support for those Jews who have entered the Church;
- To provide support for Jews who are searching and inquiring about Jesus and the Church;
- To be an integral part of the *new evangelization*, contributing a vibrant and rich Jewish perspective;
- To be an eschatological sign of the *ingrafting*, which may have already begun;
- To help all Catholics understand the Jewish roots of their faith;
- To be a witness to the Jewish people that the Cross is not a sign of persecution, but rather of *sacrificial love*, that Jesus is the *glory of Israel*;
- To be a witness to four millenia of God’s *merciful providence and fidelity*, first to the People of Israel, then to the peoples of the world, and finally, to this world of the 21st century that is in flight from God;
- And finally, to hasten the day when *all Israel* shall proclaim:

*Blessed is He who comes in the
Name of the Lord.*

ברוך הבא בשם יהוה
(*Baruch haba b’Shem Adonai*)

To apply for affiliation as an AHC Contemplative, please fill out the attached form and send it with your letter of recommendation to:

AHC Contemplatives
4120 W Pine Blvd
Saint Louis MO 63108