

# ABBA! AN ATTRIBUTE OF ASSURANCE AND ALTRUISM

## Fatherhood in the Mission of The Carmelite System and Carith Ministries

**A**BBA - a deeply intimate term that translates to "Father," but carries richer meaning. Abba is not just a figurehead, it is not just the pop music group formed in Sweden in 1972.

Abba is *source, sustainer, provider, protector, teacher, foundation, and guide*. These are attributes and the living legacy of every father who walks in love and faith.

As Father's Day draws near, we pause to reflect on a word that holds both sacred weight and tender intimacy—**Abba**. Rooted in ancient Aramaic, it carries a depth that transcends language. It is a cry of trust, a whisper of belonging, and a declaration of relationship. *Abba* is not a distant figure but a near and nurturing presence.

At **The Carmelite System Inc.**, sponsored by the **Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm**, we witness this divine fatherhood mirrored each day in the quiet strength of caregivers, administrators, spiritual leaders, and lay professionals who walk in the spirit of *Abba*. In every nursing home, care center, and outreach program, men of faith rise not just as workers, but as living expressions of God's fatherhood—shielding the vulnerable, sustaining the weary, and building up those entrusted to their care with love. And love, in this tradition, is not passive or abstract. It is active. It is embodied. It is what *Abba* looks like in motion.

Just as *Abba* is the source from which life flows, our mission is to be a source of compassionate elder care with dignified service. We don't simply administer care—we *nurture life* in its most fragile and sacred form.

In our 2,300+ residents across New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Ohio, we see the fruits of this love in action. Our caregivers, clinicians, administrators, and staff are not just employees—they are protectors, providers, teachers, and companions. They mirror the heart of *Abba* in every lifted burden, every offered prayer, every sustained moment of dignity for those in the autumn of life.

### CARITH MINISTRIES: PRESERVING THE FOOTPRINT OF THE FATHER

**Carith Ministries** was established as a visionary response to the growing need to **preserve Catholic healthcare spaces and sacred ministries from disappearance and decline**. It exists to safeguard what is holy, to protect the vulnerable, and to honor the spiritual foundation that has sustained the Church's caregiving mission for centuries.

Much like the way *Abba* provides a stronghold, Carith serves as a modern-day protector—a guardian of the mission's heart. Through partnerships, stewardship, and philanthropic collaboration, Carith builds bridges where others see barriers. It keeps the light on in sacred places that serve those most easily forgotten.

In this way, Carith embodies the essence of *Abba*—a steady hand, a shield of strength, and a quiet guide ensuring that what is sacred does not disappear.

### A LEGACY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

In a world that often redefines fatherhood by output rather than im-



Wayne Schubert - With over 40yrs of service.



Wayne Schubert - Executive Director Carmel Terrace

pact, we are reminded through *Abba* of the divine standard: not authority for authority's sake, but **leadership rooted in love, presence, and spiritual covering**. The world needs more fathers who reflect the character of *Abba*—leaders who build with mercy, correct with wisdom, serve with humility, and love without condition.

At the Carmelite System and through Carith Ministries, this legacy continues and, like *Abba*, they do not walk alone. The Carmelite Sisters—spiritual mothers formed in the legacy of **Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa**—remain at the core of our mission, nurturing this ministry with unwavering commitment and servant leadership. Yet alongside them stand the men of our mission: fathers, sons, brothers, priests, and professionals who lead not with power, but with presence.

We see it in our chaplains offering the comfort of Scripture at a bedside. In a son who advocates for his aging parent. In the administrator who stewards resources with prayerful discernment. In the volunteer who spends hours sharing stories with a lonely elder.

This Father's Day, we celebrate not just biological fathers, but *spiritual fathers, servant-leaders*, and every man who has become a beacon of hope and stability in someone's life. We see them in our chaplains who offer the Word when words fail, in our maintenance staff who keep sacred spaces whole, in our executives who make decisions with prayerful integrity, and

in the devoted sons who visit their aging parents with the same care once shown to them.

**Happy Father's Day** from The Carmelite System Inc. and Carith Ministries. May we always reflect the heart of *Abba* in every act of care and every breath of service. **Because the difference is love.**

### Partner With Us

*The mission of safeguarding Catholic healthcare ministries for future generations depends on those who believe, serve, and persevere. To give, partner, or learn more about how you can help protect these sacred spaces, visit [www.carith.org](http://www.carith.org) or call +1 518-728-5234.*

*Together, we can transform overlooked "stones" into lasting "diamonds" of care and compassion.*

*Carith Ministries is sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Just like their sister ministries; the Carmelite System Inc., a Catholic not-for-profit health system that provides the platform that involve increasing the availability of geriatric care.*

*Located in New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois.*

*With over 3,500 employees and 120 Sisters who continue to serve throughout our communities, which are located in seven states and Ireland.*

*Learn more : (<https://www.carmelitesystem.org/>)  
email: [pgather@carmelitesystem.org](mailto:pgather@carmelitesystem.org)  
or call +1 518-728-5234.*



Mike Ferrick - showing off his family pictures sewn inside his jacket as a reminder of who he is.



Mike Ferrick - CEO D'Youville Life and Wellness Community