



**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Rev Carlos !!!**

*October 16, 2021*

THE SETUP:

Hi all,

Rev Carlos' 70th birthday is this Saturday 

As you may recall, he asked us - should we feel so moved - to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and write a sentence or two about how his life has changed each of ours for the better. That's the birthday present he wants.

(More than a sentence or two is fine, as well. Short stories, for example. And photographs or artwork, too.)

If you'd be so kind as to email me your words of appreciation (and anything else) by noon on Saturday, I'll assemble them into an attractive booklet and will email it to him. Kathy Ahern will then hand-deliver a professionally printed copy :)

Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Love -

Rolly

Thank-you, Rev Carlos, for being the raised-fundamentalist brother that you are, who raises our spirits with Unity principles and your very human, personal messages. God clearly wants you on Earth, for all these years, to bless us and to be blessed. Here's to many more together! Love,  
Sister Jane

for Reverend Carlos on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday:

“we’re living a dash”

“we are representatives of God on earth”

“whatever the question, Love is the answer”

These are some of your shining words that stay with me always.

But these shining words come from your brilliant mind, which comes from your glowing soul, which comes directly from the light of God. It is not what you say, but who you truly are: the Light of the World.

Your presence in my life has transformed my path to the Light every day and every way, just by being who you are. To know there is someone alive on Earth—WHOM I GET TO KNOW!—who is living the Truth, whose near-death challenges become praise reports, who understands how important it is to love our “enemies” because we are all One, who has overcome so much pain with the power of all-encompassing Love—this is the greatest blessing I have received from you. Thank you, thank you, thank you! You are very much loved.

Have a wonderful, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Deb Burton

Rev Carlos,

Thank u  
For u taught me  
I am not a victim  
Not the sum of what I faced  
That I have within me an Amazing Grace

I am/We are God in hueman form  
Blessed not cursed since the day I was born  
For love and learn  
not forlorn

You taught me to reach for the highest  
The butterflyest

You taught me  
That gay and God really do go together  
In all kinds of weather  
That being spiritual or even religious is not  
Dogmatic  
But paradigmatic

That one can be cool and hip  
and open  
And real and radical  
and  
Really Into God  
And God ain't gonna hit me with his rod

That God does not make you intolerant  
But accepting.  
And loving and all embracing  
Facing everything

You taught me  
it's not what happened to me  
It's what I do with it  
How I grew and flew with it

That I am free  
When I let myself be

That I am the Ma/★ Star of my life  
Not my parents  
Not my enemies

Not my government  
Not no one else  
Just My Divine Self

That there really are angels and faeries  
If we would but see

You taught me how blessed it is to just be  
You taught me  
That just breathing is such a gift  
that gives me a lift.

You taught me  
I am the light of the world  
And that my job is not to judge  
But to shine  
Right on time  
In the rhythm and the rhyme

You taught me how immensely powerful  
We are  
How much we can do if we shine our Light ✨  
You taught me to forgive  
And when I practiced it  
I was finally able to do it

You demonstrated true courage  
As when you stood up  
for  
Gays and lesbians right to marry  
In a church

Someone tried to put u in the lurch  
But you stood up  
To those who tried to burn down your church  
And kill you.

You knew doing right in the end  
would fill and fulfill you  
Even if some did not understand  
You risked your life and took a stand  
For loves command

You taught that  
It's not enough to love a friend  
But those who hate you

And you went to the place of those  
Who hated you  
To really be true to your teaching and preaching

You taught that the Hindus  
Don't have it all wrong  
They got their own God song  
That India was a place to teach u  
Not a Place in which you convert others  
to  
Your way  
That Gods way is broad and open and free

You taught me it is so blessed to be me  
You taught me how to be happy and loving and fun  
And joyful and real and free

So glad to know you  
So I can love me and you and us and we  
So glad to know you  
And now I better know God and you and me

And so glad to have a Rev Brother like you  
As Minister as Friend as Family

So glad to be part of the heart of our Unity Family  
Part of God part of me part of you part of we  
Part of the God's Unity Family

Happy birthday and blessed blessed be at 70

Be healthy happy safe loved wild prosperous loving joyful. And Ever So Free.

Our dear Rev Brother Carlos

Our Family

Love

Shifra  
Sister Rainbow

What I wish to convey to [Rev] Carlos on his 70th birthday is:

I really appreciate your heartfelt honesty and compassion, your warmth and your amazing ability to convey metaphysical concepts into understandable language. Your talent in art and music astounds and pleases me.

What a wonderful mentor you are to me!

Affirming that this day and year ahead will be the best ever and overflowing with joy and peace.

Much love and gratitude,

Esther 

"Thank you God - I have no complaints whatsoever!"

I open my arms wide and say this when I start my morning wake up stretches, so I almost hear Reverend Carlos's voice every morning. I will continue this valuable practice for the rest of my days and I expect to hear Reverend Carlos always with me in that. It's not just this simple practical technique (like many others he has given me), but so much he has done to raise my understanding of our alignment in co-creative experience with God and how that works. I will always be thankful for his teachings and his guidance to our Church community.

Rev. Carlos has nourished us in so many ways! When we used to have our amazing lunches in such jolly fellowship after the service, I helped Sister Karen and others set up every week. If Reverend Carlos had been inspired to cook for us on special days - like his ham on Easter - we were always excited by what a feast we had on the table, thanks to his contributions!

Thank you Rev. Carlos: Live long and prosper, thriving on the nourishment for spirit and body so richly provided all around us !

Maiyim Baron

What I've always appreciated about you, Reverend Carlos, is not so much your ability to preach, and wow! You sure can preach!

I didn't need to think too hard or too long to write this for you. In every one of your talks you pointed me to what's real - Love, forgiveness, honesty and wisdom, and especially made way for me to find those virtues in myself. You consistently taught me that within the follies of being a human being, there's a place to rest in God. I'm grateful for ALL you've shared about yourself, your stories, your experiences, your knowledge, just everything, And there isn't a time that I've heard you at church when my spirit wasn't raised a bit higher than where it was before. Words really do fall short in expressing my gratitude for you.

Happy 70th Birthday! I love you with all my heart, the same way you love me, and all of us at Unity.

Lorraine Salerno

Here's my contribution to Rev. Carlos' birthday present.

I haven't known Rev. Carlos that long since I joined the church only recently, but I can say that I've been enormously inspired by his warmth, wisdom, power, and compassion. I am often astounded by the way Rev. Carlos delivers a sermon that seems directly addressed to my unvoiced concerns. It is not simply that he is expressing God's truth - he is expressing the truth I need to hear exactly at that moment. That is an amazing gift.

I'd also like to relate a story that my friend Don (Bhaskar) Marlin told me about the first time he saw Rev. Carlos. That was at the Hope Community Church in 1990 or '91. The pews were packed and Rev. Carlos arrived like a rock star with his entourage, wearing a suit and headband and his love beads. Rev. Carlos faced the altar, then suddenly spun around beaming and flung his arms out. It was a moment of ecstatic showmanship. My friend Don actually saw beams of white light emerging from Rev. Carlos' arms, the only time he'd ever seen anyone do that...even though Don had previously been a devotee of such great spiritual masters as Swami Mukhtananda. Now that's some power! Needless to say it made a huge impression on Don.

Rock on, Rev. Carlos! May your light continue to shine brightly as an emissary of God's love and power.

William Sarill

Dear Reverend Carlos,  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

I thank you for helping me to recenter myself every time you deliver a message. Your words always help me to remember what is truly important, what truly matters, and to let go of what really doesn't matter but which I can easily get "hung-up" on.

There are two things you have talked about which I think about almost every day. The first is the "dash." I picture that dash on my tombstone and when I do, I think of how very, very short my life-span is. This thought is immediately followed by the thought that if my life is just a dash, I better make the best of today. I better live the best life I can and be the best person I can be. I better use this day and this moment in the best way possible. I cannot tell you how important this has become for me.

The second thing you have talked about which I think about almost every day is gratitude, and "praise is gratitude on fire." Gratitude has become my "go-to" solution for practically everything that ails me. Gratitude has become my salvation.

So, I am full of gratitude for you, your wisdom, your gifts, your love, and your oh-so-precious delivery.

Love,  
Ted Englander

Hola Rolly

Querido Carlos,

So very blessed and privileged to know you. Mariano always looked forward to listening to your words

of divine wisdom.

May the divine protect and prosper you today and always

Feliz cumpleaños, guapo ! 🍷

Nurys Deoleo-Parks

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing”

Hellen Keller

Dear Reverend Carlos,

Happy Birthday!! Welcome to the 70s club! It's so nice to have you be a part of our group. Ever since I first heard you deliver a sermon, your words have been a powerful inspiration to me. It's as if you spoke your message specifically to me, because this was exactly what I needed to hear at that moment. It's magical.

You remind me always to be grateful for all the blessings God has given me, even the ones I would not call "blessings." I know now that EVERYTHING is a blessing because every experience has something to teach me. God is good! Thank you so much for being here at this time in my life. I am so grateful for having found you.

Love,  
Lauren Osornio

Dear Reverend Carlos,

Thank you for being you and always available to listen and share your perspective and wisdom. Your practical and spiritual guidance has grounded me on more than one occasion, while your Sunday sermons always center me for the upcoming week.

Wishing you the happiest of birthdays for the big 7-0 and a year full of good health, happiness, and many blessings. 🙏❤️

Love,  
Cynthia

Rev. Carlos you have changed my life by teaching me that “we are not victims” although we may have been victimized...we are POWERFUL Spiritual Beings! Thank You for reinforcing this Spiritual Principle frequently in your messages. You are on “Fire For God” and embody “Unconditional Happiness” in your consciousness. Thank You for being an example of “Living For GOD” and for actively “Serving The Children of God-Your Brothers & Sisters” here on the planet at this time in human history. HAPPY BLESSED BIRTHDAY Rev. Carlos!

You Are A Gift 🧡 and A Jewel In My Life.

Thank You for being My Spiritual Teacher and Mentor as I Commit to “The Call”!

Love Always & Abundant Blessings,

Martine

Bon et Joyeux Anniversaire Rev Carlos!!

What I most appreciate about Rev Carlos is that he never comes off as though he has got it like that or is holier than thou. He always shares his own human journey and how he uses spiritual principles and understanding to overcome or at least understand his own human journey. This includes dealing with the loss of his sister, invoicing others, and carrying rocks instead of dropping the rocks.

I shall forever appreciate and love Rev Carlos' spiritual leadership.

Blessings and happy birthday my friend and pastor!!

Bob Awkward

Rev Carlos,

The gift you have given me is the example of your total devotion to God and total willingness to live life fully as a human being. You demonstrate how to live a spiritual life, that is, how to make your ordinary, everyday life a spiritual experience. I am still practicing that skill myself, so I deeply appreciate your modeling that it is actually possible. You show us that it is in all of the experiences of life that the way to release our fears is shown to us so we can return our full awareness to the perfect knowledge that we are at one with Source.

I will be forever grateful for your spiritual confidence. Thank you for being in my life.

So much love,

Rev Laura

# *Happy Birthday Reverend Carlos!*

"It's the best day EVER *and* I will not change my mind."

It's all embodied in that sentence. Everything. Everything I have learned from you: grace, compassion, forgiveness, joy and love.

*Everything* I have learned from you. Every way you have nudged and prodded and appealed to my heart to open completely to the truth.



Love - Kathy (and Belle)

Dear Reverend Carlos,

I first got to know you about four years ago.

Of course, in a cosmic sense I feel that we'd already met long ago. And even on this earthly plane, I feel as if I've always known you.

Furthermore, we have been connected for decades through your mom, who my wife Carole heard speak just once (one lecture, attended at the last minute on the advice of a friend) and based on a thunderbolt | awakening | epiphany decided to switch her graduate program at UMass – Amherst from Sociology to Education.

Butterfly wings flapping in the US can change weather far across the globe. Indeed, had she not chosen to study with Norma Jean, perhaps Carole and I would have never even met!

And that first Anderson family intersection was more than a decade before I first met Carole.

In my many times of trial over the past few years, I have turned – more times than I can say – to uplifting words that have come straight from your lips to my heart. These, and many others, are forever etched into my consciousness.

“Be grateful for everything in your life. Everything.”

“Blaming is like taking the poison and expecting it to change someone else.”

“You are not a victim.”

“No test, no testimony. No trial, no triumph.”

“You are the Light of the world. Keep shining.”

I'm not sure how I'd have made it through Carole's recent string of crises without you and your unflagging support. Always patient. Always kind. Always loving. Always deeply wise.

Thank you, my Brother. I'm so Blessed to be sharing this “dash” with you!!!

Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Love –

Rolly