



Flos Carmeli

Register early for 2011 Provincial Congress; Space limited

By Anita Trahan, O.C.D.S.

As announced in the last issue of Flos Carmeli, the 2011 O.C.D.S. Congress will be held in Lafayette, La., from June 23 to 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Our two Lafayette communities of Mary, Mother of Grace, and St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, have been working hard preparing to welcome all of you to what promises to be a grace-filled celebration in anticipation of our Holy Mother's 500th anniversary of birth in 2015.

We are already receiving many registra-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

Registration form for Provincial Congress 3

Report of the Provincial Delegate 4

Report of the Provincial Council 8

A letter from the Definitory 11

News from around the province 14

The Garden of Carmel 19

tions from outside our province, and so we want to encourage all of you within the province to reserve your spot as soon as possible. We have a maximum number of 350 spaces, and after that, registration will have to be closed.

The registration fee is \$250 for those who register before March 19 (Feast of St. Joseph). You can split this fee into two payments--\$150 before March 19 and the remaining \$100 due by May 1, 2011. For those who register after March 19, the registration fee is \$275 (you can pay \$150 down and the remaining \$125 before May 1, 2011). See the registration form in this issue.

So make plans to join us in Lafayette as we celebrate our Carmelite vocation and honor our Holy Mother, St. Teresa, as we develop the theme of our Congress— **I WAS BORN FOR YOU: Holy Mother as our Guide in THE WAY OF PERFECTION.** Our hope is that at this Congress you will experience a time of spiritual renewal coupled with some good, wholesome Carmelite recreation with the friars, the nuns, and your secular brothers and sisters in Carmel.

See you in June 2011!!

Registration form is on Page 3.

A letter from the editor

This issue is packed with news—a reminder to register for the upcoming (June 2011) congress in Lafayette, La.; an update on the search for candidates for the provincial council; instructions on how to prepare for our own community elections; and a beautiful letter about our vocation from the Definitory, which includes our Father General, Fr. Saverio Cannistra. Plus the feature that you write—News from around the province—and that Father Bonaventure compiles.

As always, there's lots doing in the province. The *Flos Carmeli* is your guide to how to participate. Happy reading!

In Carmel,
Martha Hanley,
O.C.D.S.

2



OCDS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS
Oklahoma Province
Crowne Plaza Hotel
 1801 West Pinhook Road
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
June 23, 2011 – June 26, 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print Clearly

Last Name	First Name	<small>(circle one)</small> Mr. Ms. Mrs. Rev. Bro. Other:				
Mailing Address	City	State Zip				
Preferred Contact Phone Number	Other Phone Number	*E-mail (for registration confirmation)				
Emergency Contact Name / Phone	Affiliation: <input type="checkbox"/> OCDS <input type="checkbox"/> OCD <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Province: _____ OCDS Community/Group Name: _____					
Arrival date: June 20 21 22 23 24 (circle)	Staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel? _____ (You are responsible for making your own hotel reservation.) Please contact the Reservations Desk at: 1-877-227-6963 A Registration Code will be issued to you upon receipt of your completed Registration Form and Deposit to enable you to receive the discounted room rate of \$109.00 per night. This discounted rate will be guaranteed until May 22, 2011. Congress Registration required prior to Hotel Reservation					
Transportation: Driving Flying (circle one) (Shuttles available at the Lafayette airport through the hotel. Call 337-233-8120)	Carmelite Monastery of Mary, Mother of Grace on Saturday, June 25 (at no extra cost) We are invited to visit with the Discalced Carmelite Sisters and tour the interior of the Cloister. Complimentary bus transportation will be provided by the Congress. (The Monastery is only 10 minutes from the hotel) Please let us know whether you have any special transportation needs (wheelchair, etc.)					
<input type="checkbox"/> (Special Transportation Needs)						
Please complete the Registration Form and mail it to the address listed below with your non-refundable Registration Deposit of \$150.00. We regret that Forms without this deposit will not be processed.						
<p align="center">Registration Fee:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Received Before March 19, 2011 (Feast of St. Joseph)</td> <td align="right">\$250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received After March 19, 2011</td> <td align="right">\$275.00</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center">All balances are due by <u>May 1, 2011</u></p>			Received Before March 19, 2011 (Feast of St. Joseph)	\$250.00	Received After March 19, 2011	\$275.00
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Received After March 19, 2011	\$275.00					
Make your check or money order payable to "OCDS Provincial Congress - Lafayette." You will receive a confirming Registration Code by email* (if provided above). Otherwise, a confirmation will be mailed. (You can help us out by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your Registration Form and Payment.)						
<p align="center"> Mail your completed Registration Form and Payment to: OCDS Provincial Congress - Lafayette Jeannine Meaux, OCDS 1604 West Pinhook Road, Suite 301 Lafayette, LA 70508 </p> <p align="center"> http://www.ocds2011congress.com </p>						
Please send questions to: Anita Trahan, OCDS Congress Chairperson at ocds2011congress@gmail.com or call 337-332-3754 or 337-288-2658						

Report of the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

One of the special benefits of my job is having so many generous souls ready to remember me in prayer even without my having to ask. Thus, when in the summer issue of the *Flos Carmeli* I mentioned having some health troubles, the prayers came out in force as well as your many expressions of concern. It was unexpected, humbling, and deeply moving. Please accept my thanks to all of you for your care and kindness. It is good to belong to such a wonderful spiritual family, as I'm sure each of you can attest to in your own way.

Speaking of storming heaven—I would ask your ongoing prayers not for myself but for us friars of the Oklahoma Province, which is your province as well. This coming May 30 through June 10, 2011, we will be holding our triennial Provincial Chapter. It seems like a long way off, but it's not. In fact, come this January we will begin the process by which we elect a provincial for this next triennium. We as a province have some tough issues facing us, which we will need to address at this upcoming Chapter. And we will need a healthy dose of that wisdom and fortitude which only the Holy Spirit can provide in order to do so fully, freely, and openly. Thus, I ask your prayers for us over these months ahead as we prepare ourselves and our communities for this upcoming Provincial Chapter.

In 2005, for the first time, and then again in 2008, for a second time, a special day at the Provincial Chapter was set aside during which the OCDS Provincial Council attended the Chapter and met with the friars. At this meeting the Council presented to the friars a kind of State-of-the-Province report for the Seculars of the Province. The friars in turn shared with the Council some of our own issues and the deliberations and decisions concerning them that we had been pursuing at the Chapter. There will once more, now for a third time, be just such a “day for the Seculars” at our upcoming 2011 Provincial Chapter.

At its own meeting this past August—which you can read about below as well as elsewhere in this issue of the *Flos Carmeli*—the OCDS Provincial Council discussed what they would like to see happen at this “day for the Seculars” during the Chapter. What are some topics, questions, concerns they'd like to see discussed? Are there projects and initiatives for the new triennium which the friars and Seculars might work together on? It was generally felt that we need to go into this “day for the Seculars” with a little better preparation than was the case at the Provincial Chapters of 2005 and 2008. I suppose it falls primarily to me, as OCDS provincial delegate, to see to it that this happens.

Regional Congresses

A small contingent of us represented the Oklahoma Province at the Regional

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Congress in Bakersfield, Calif., this past June. Fr. Aloysius was there and gave a presentation on the new OCDS *Ratio*, among other things. I was happy for the chance to visit with him again. He is a member of our province, in case you're not aware, and he and I go back a long way. Yet I hadn't seen him in some years.

Fr. Aloysius is in his fourteenth year as General Secretary to the Secular Order. It is hard to overstate the significance of his service to the Secular Order in this capacity over these years. He has seen it through what is without doubt the most important process of renewal and reformation in its history. The Order as a whole, and not just the Seculars, is in his debt.

With the promulgation of the new OCDS *Ratio Institutionis* this renewal is, in a manner of speaking, complete. The groundwork is now in place for the Secular Order to go forward into a very promising future. Perhaps, then, within the next few years Fr. Aloysius will be able to return to our province as another friar is called to serve as General Secretary. It would, of course, be a happy occasion for us to welcome him home, as I'm sure all of you, the Seculars of our province, would be especially pleased to have him so close at hand to call upon from time to time.

Fr. Aloysius shared with us, reflecting upon his experience of working with the Secular Order throughout the world, his conviction that regional congresses have played an especially important role in the life of the Secular Order here in the US. He considered them one of the main reasons the vocation is so strong and dynamic here.

While we were in Bakersfield, Fr. Aloysius shared with us, reflecting upon his experience of working with the Secular Order throughout the world, his conviction that regional congresses have played an especially important role in the life of the Secular Order here in the US. He considered them one of the main reasons the vocation is so strong and dynamic here. Perhaps surprisingly congresses are not so common in other parts of the world. But here in the US they have formed a regular part of the life of the Secular Order for many years now. And through these many years they have afforded Seculars an experience of the Order that is broader and more inclusive than what they can receive in their local communities alone. Such an experience, of course, strengthens and matures the vocation. Those of you who have been able to attend a regional or national congress before will know what Fr. Aloysius means by such a statement.

Our own province will be hosting the next OCDS Congress, which will take

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

place in June of 2011. You should already be aware of it. It will be held in Lafayette, La., and the two communities there are hard at work preparing for it. They have most of the program and schedule in place. Fr. Aloysius will be there, as he was in Bakersfield. Fr. Daniel Chowning, OCD, of the Washington Province, whom some of you may know, and Dr. Susan Muto, who is no stranger to Carmelites, will give presentations on Holy Mother, drawing upon *The Way of Perfection*. A panel of Seculars will speak on the new *Ratio*. And there will be workshops to pick and choose from, as well as time for fellowship, prayer, and an outing of some sort into Cajun country. Between now and then, please keep this congress in your prayers, and especially remember the two Lafayette communities as they work to finalize all those devilish little details.

August Meeting of the Provincial Council

As I indicated above, this past August the Provincial Council met. It was a productive meeting, and I believe you can read a report of it in this issue of the *Flos Carmeli*. Among matters deliberated over the Council reviewed and refined our present policy on Groups in Discernment—that is, fledgling communities of Seculars being “mentored” by whatever techniques or methods we might avail ourselves of so much the better. Why, then, exclude centering prayer if it can help us practice recollection, at least as a possible resource? Any technique for practicing recollection is simply a way to try to keep ourselves collected—that is another, established community until such time as they are ready to form a recognized Study Group of the Province. The Council also worked to finalize a proposed statute that spells out a process to follow in cases involving possible dismissal from the Order. In time this proposed statute will be submitted for approval to the Generalate in Rome and, if approved, for inclusion in our Provincial Statutes.

Another significant item of discussion was the upcoming election of three new provincial councilors this spring. Five are supposed to serve on the council, although only four have done so through most of this triennium. Two on the present council will complete their term of service at the end of this present triennium. The other two—Dorothy Mansen and Henrietta Albright—will continue on the council through the next triennium. Thus, in order to bring the council up to its full number of five, three new councilors need to be elected going into the new triennium.

The present Provincial Council has received and processed all the nominations submitted. A ballot should go out shortly after the first of the year. Those who serve on the Provincial Council provide an invaluable and indispensable ministry to the Secular Order of our province. On behalf of the friars, I wish to thank all those who have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot this spring and to serve on the Council

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

if they are elected. Your dedication is obvious and your generosity much appreciated.

Is Centering Prayer New Age?

On more than one occasion I have been asked about centering prayer. The concern seems to be whether or not centering prayer is New Age and thus to be avoided. In a sense, then, the concern is an instance of a more general concern to avoid anything that seems somehow New Age.

I am hardly an expert on either centering prayer or New Age spirituality, whatever being expert in such things might mean. But in general I cannot see how there is anything inherently wrong or un-Carmelite about centering prayer. It's simply a technique for practicing recollection. And since recollection is, it seems to me, essential to the practice of prayer, then, whatever techniques or methods we might avail ourselves of, so much the better. Why then exclude centering prayer if it can help us practice recollection, at least as a possible resource? Any technique for practicing recollection is simply a way to try to keep ourselves recollected, that is, centered—and not distracted during our time of prayer. Indeed, for Carmelites, any prayer technique is just that, and little more—a way of avoiding distractions and trying to keep ourselves alert (not sleepy) and present (not mentally wondering here and there) during our time of prayer.

Of course, any experience or method of prayer needs a larger framework in which to be set forth, articulated, reflected upon, and understood. It needs a spirituality. New Age, of course, is just such a spirituality. It is not a type or method of prayer. It is a spirituality—a way of interpreting our spiritual experiences and practices. Thus, centering prayer is not of itself New Age. But within the context of New Age spirituality, it can be understood and presented as New Age.

By the same token, one could say something similar of any prayer technique or practice—as, for example, the recitation of the rosary. One could write an article setting forth the meaning of praying the rosary within the framework of a New Age spirituality. And I suspect somewhere on the internet one could find just such a thing.

Unfortunately, if that were my only introduction to praying the rosary, then I'd probably think of the rosary as a New Age prayer. But of course we know it's not and would be quick to judge such a presentation on the rosary a perversion of its proper use in prayer. In the same way, those Catholic authors who have written on centering prayer from within a framework of Catholic spirituality might say much the same thing of those who would make of centering prayer something New Age.

Report of the Provincial Council

Happy feast of St Teresa!

Its been a busy few months for us. **Dorothy** has been on a lengthy road trip that included visitations to the Tulsa Group in Discernment, the Lincoln/Omaha Group in Discernment and finally our Oklahoma City community. **Henrietta** visited Houston – Holy Trinity along with a brief meeting with the council our Houston #3 Study Group. **Elizabeth** visited our study group in Covington and our canonical community in New Iberia.

The Provincial Council held its annual meeting in August at Marylake. In addition to plenty of work, we were able to once again visit our nuns in Little Rock. They are always very welcoming and invited us to join them for Evening Prayer. The nuns will soon be welcoming two new postulants. Especially enjoyable was the opportunity during the weekend to get to know the two friar novices, **Br. Jorge and Br. Alberto**. That Saturday evening, they joined us in the guesthouse for a couple hours to share their vocation stories and learn about the Secular Carmelite vocation.

During our meeting we discussed the upcoming elections for the Provincial Council. We wrote up a job description to provide to those nominated to help with their discernment about serving. We have contacted the nominees with this job description and they are currently in a discernment process. Please hold them in prayer. Along these same lines, we looked at our PC manual and what needs to be updated for the new members next year and how to best provide them some orientation.

We reviewed the job description which we have been writing up for the Central Office. Pat Darby has decided to retire from this important position after many years of service (for which the whole province is grateful). We'll be expanding the duties of that office and are looking into how to provide a salary and other necessary details before we can post the position.

That Sunday, **Fr Provincial Gregory Ross** joined us at which point we went over the details of a new statute that we are working on. This statute will give a detailed process regarding how to dismiss a Definitely Professed member from the Order. Once we put our final touches upon it, Fr Provincial will run it past a canon lawyer prior to submission to the General Definitory for approval. We also discussed some possible ideas for our discussions with the friars next year at the Provincial Chapter.

In addition, we dealt with many other items such as assigning next year's visitations, the status of a couple of our study groups who are struggling, printing vs. emailing of the Flos, and few other miscellaneous matters.

The Provincial Council

Henrietta Albright, Martha Burchard, Elizabeth Korves, Dorothy Mansen

Fall 2010

Preparing for elections: The nominating process

By Dorothy Mansen, Provincial Councillor

Next spring all canonical communities will hold elections. Before that takes place, however, each council will need to appoint a nominating committee. It will be that nominating committee that will prepare the ballots to present to the voting members of the community for the election.

In choosing a nominating committee, there are a few things that the council should take into consideration. Anyone who is to be considered to serve on this committee should have a good understanding of what the council does so that they can explain to a candidate what will be required of them as president and/or council member. It is helpful, too, if they know some of the background of a candidate in relation to their service to the community in the past. They will have to know if a proposed candidate actually qualifies (see Statutes). The members of a nominating committee need to be able to seek out possible candidates in order to have enough candidates to give members a choice when they vote. (This means two or three candidates for president and more than five for council are needed.) In the event that a full ballot cannot be reached, a request for a postulation will have to be filed with the Provincial Delegate to allow a member who has already served two terms to be allowed another term.

The appointment of the nominating committee takes place two months prior to the election. This allows enough time for the committee to accept nominations, seek possible candidates, and qualify those nominated. Elections take place prior to the date of the Provincial elections of the friars which will take place -the end of May this year.

In some communities a questionnaire is passed out to each member by the nominating committee that asks if they are willing to serve and in what capacity. The nominating committee, after qualifying a person, calls them to confirm their willingness before placing them on the ballot. The ballots will then be presented when the election takes place. At this time additional nominations may be accepted from the floor. If they qualify and accept they will be placed on the ballot.

There's one other suggestion for how the nominating committee might do its work. The committee could contact every member of the community who is eligible to serve on the council (that would be all professed members who are not completing a second term in a row on the current council). Ask each person, "If elected, are you willing to serve?" Then the ballot consists of all those who answer yes. All the definitively professed would be listed on the ballot for president. And all the professed would be listed on the ballot for council.

In the months prior to the election all communities need to review all the Statutes involved with elections and duties of the offices to be filled.

Study guide for *The Way of Perfection*

By the Provincial Council

We've been getting several inquiries about when the order will send out a new study guide for *Way of Perfection*. We are just as eagerly waiting for it as everyone else. There has been no news yet of when a study guide or new worksheets will be available. Since the study is supposed to start here in October, we assume a new guide will be made available any time now.

We suggest that you regularly check the order's Web site for updates. The Web site is at <http://www.iwasbornforyou.com/>

In particular, check the tab for "Worksheets," as that is where you'll find the detailed questions for discussion and reflection.

It is not clear to us if there will be another short study guide in addition to the worksheets, but we'll sent out word once we hear something.

A letter from the Definitory

DISCALCED CARMELITE GENERAL HOUSE
Corso d'Italia, 38
00198 Rome – Italy

Very dear brothers and sisters in Carmel:

PEACE

On beginning this sixth meeting of the General Definitory, we remembered our brother Anthony Pinheiro, who died unexpectedly when we were finishing the last meeting. Just before beginning the meeting, we offered the community Mass of the Holy Spirit for his eternal rest. His memory was very much present to us during these days. During this Mass in the General House, Fr General said to us: Anthony always had a word to say to us in the homily when he presided at the Mass. Now, with his life and his death, he gives us the last word, a witness to radical commitment to obedience, love and willingness to fulfil God's wishes and those of his superiors. He left everything to come to Rome and here he left aside his life. May he rest in peace.

Our meeting, which began of 10th September, was used by Fr General and the Definitors to share what they had done during the Summer. In these months there was time for Fr General to improve his Spanish in Spain and for Fr Albert to go to Ireland to improve his English. There also remained some time to have a little rest.

We also used this time to carry out some duties. For example, Fr Augustine, who was present at the Funeral of Fr Anthony in India, finished visiting all the Provinces and other areas of jurisdiction, as well as all the monasteries in India. Fr Robert made a visit to Lebanon and Fr Marcos visited the Carribean, Mexico, the Latin American presences in Europe and Egypt. Fr Peter visited the friars and nuns in Taiwan-Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia. This also included a visit to the Discalced Carmelite nuns in East Timor. Fr Paul was in Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya and Fr John, after representing Fr General and the Definitory at the funeral of Fr Finian, was in Malta, Ireland, England and Scotland. In his turn, Fr Emilio told us about the work of the commission for the Teresian centenary and the congress celebrated in CITEs at the end of August on the Book of her Life.

After this first exchange, we had to face the first great issue of the Definitory: that of reorganizing the Latin American jurisdictions, which we had been studying over a long period. During the visits made by Fr Marcos, he was able to acquaint himself with the opinions of the religious of these regions and also of the Spanish Provincials who had some juridical responsibility in the areas concerned. Finally, we took the following decisions: to create, beginning with the three Vicariates already existing, the Commissariats

(Continued from page 11)

of the Caribbean, Chile and Peru; to unite into one Vicariate, dependent on the Burgos Province, our presences in Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, in the hope that they could become a Commissariat in the future; to transfer our presences in Ecuador, as a Vicariate, to the Province of Colombia; to encourage the Central American Province and the General Delegation of Venezuela to work out an agreement of collaboration.

Amongst this process of growth and spread of the Order, so evident in what is happening in the Americas, this Definitory took the agreeable decision to erect a new Province, that of Delhi in India, which until now had been a Commissariat.

We also spoke about our foundations in Europe and their problems, mainly of the ageing of the religious and the lack of vocations. We tried to make suggestions to the various circumscriptions to help them find solutions. Concerning this point, Fr Emilio will meet shortly with some of the Italian Provincials and he will be joined by Frs Albert and Robert to be present with the European Provincials at the meeting of their Conference, which will take place at the end of October.

At the meeting of the young European Carmelites, which took place from the end of August to the beginning of September, the idea arose of preparing a “school” or a “house of evangelization” for Europe, like the traditional “Mission Seminaries”, where Discalced Carmelites, coming from other areas to help the Order in this continent, could prepare themselves adequately for this work. This house could also be of use for the European religious to follow updating courses on their mission in Europe. In this Definitory we also took the first steps which we hope will mature and make this idea more viable. We are open to any collaboration in planning this project.

As in the last meeting, we continued to discuss our Deserts. For example, in Europe the Deserts suffer more or less the general problems and receive much criticism. We believe that this way of life, protected by our Constitutions and which is greatly appreciated by us, must be taken care of and protected. By talking with the Major Superiors, we will try to work out viable and valid proposals to support life in our Deserts.

With regards to the economy, the situation at the moment is more stable, in great part thanks to the help and loans we have recently received. On the other hand, we have begun to work on the possibility of organizing meetings of the Provincial Bursars with the Bursar General, in particular geographical areas which are deemed opportune.

With regards to our own life as a community, we discussed the life of those living in the General House, who make up the community. Together with our brothers who help us and offer an invaluable service, we want to live our life of prayer and community as Teresian Carmelites which goes beyond just our work. To do so we concentrated on the positive elements of our life in order to strengthen them and we also took note of what is negative, in order to overcome it. As has happened in recent sexenniums, the Vicar General will make a pastoral visit of the General House community this year, from 18th to 25th November.

The Piacenza monastery of Discalced Carmelite Nuns had the kindness of sending us a letter discussing our reflections in the last letter. This was something very pleasing to us, stimulating our work.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

In revealing ourselves in a new way to today's world, making our presence evident, we could feel dizzy on seeing the extent of what is happening at the moment, so complex and diverse, that so abundantly weighs in upon us. Really, it is difficult to work out those things which allow us to make our charism visible. Without doubt, each community must find the just means, through knowledge of their own circumstances and that of the world surrounding them.

However, it is also certain that there are essential elements that are common to us all and which permit us to give form to our charism in our circumstances. As Fr General said to our European students at their meeting in Malta: "We are not talking about changing our Teresian charism, just as we are not talking about changing the Gospel. We are talking about living it in a way that is most suitable for the time. For the charism has not changed, but the world has changed, the men and women called to live this charism or receive its witness have changed. To deny the need of permanent renewal is really equivalent to denying the unquestionable history of the Church, which has always adapted to the world that was contemporary to it.

In this duty of living our charism in a way more adequate to our times, the processes of community discernment are decisive and important. But, before all, a fundamental element stands out: that of personal commitment. Each one of us must make a quasi-moral choice to make the Carmelite religious life visible in our times.

The community option does not allow us to escape our personal option. The community is made up of the total of all the individual options, which have decided to chose a poor life, not important, built upon fraternity in a world that is often divided, built upon prayer and silence in a world full of noise, built upon unselfish service in a world obsessed with possessions and power, built upon nourishing wisdom in a world that is often banal and empty.

Above all, our vocation is not a process of self-realization, rather it is a journey of commitment to others, of overcoming ourselves in order to give ourselves to others through prayer, community life and apostolic work (hidden in contemplation or visible in work), in the effort to establish God's Kingdom in a way that often seems paradoxical or not understandable, yet strongly part of the person of Jesus, who lived absolutely beyond his own personal needs. It means trying to be the people our Holy Mother Teresa wanted us to be.

To go out of ourselves means, above all, to hand over our personal choices and our desires for personal development so that they contribute to the good of the Order which we love, for the good of our community which is our family, for the good of our monasteries and convents, which are our houses. We reach this only through a personal choice, founded on the conviction that what we are doing is for the love of God and others, that what we are seeking is to make ourselves servants, following Christ's example.

With every best wish, your brothers:

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, General
Fr Emilio J. Martínez
Fr Albert Wach
Fr Augustine Mulloor
Fr Robert Paul
Fr Marcos Juchem
Fr Peter Chung
Fr George Tambala
Fr John Grennan

News from around the province

Compiled by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Birmingham, AL—Community of St. John of the Cross and St. Paul

submitted by *Thais Forrest, OCDS*

Susy Stokes—Susana Teresita of God the Father—made her Definitive Profession on Saturday July 10, 2010. The profession was made at a mass with Fr. Bonaventure, our provincial delegate, presid-



ing, concelebrated by Fr. Anthony Mary, MFVA, of the Catholic TV channel EWTN, and Fr. Jaya, assistant pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Homewood, Al. The mass was held in the parish rectory chapel. It was a joyous day for Susy and the whole community. At the pot luck luncheon following we were joined by Bishop Emeritus David Foley, their Spiritual Assistant. Pictured at the left are Susy, professing her Promise, Fr. Jaya, in the back, and Fr. Bonaventure, studiously receiving Susy's Promise.

*

2. Covington, LA—Community of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

submitted by *Suzette*

Marie McGoey, OCDS

Elizabeth Korves, OCDS, President of the Provincial Council, made a visitation of our Study Group in early July. To the right is a photo of Elizabeth with members of our Study Group, along with a few husbands who



showed up for the delicious, catered dinner which closed the visitation that Saturday evening. We are gathered for the photo in Juana Caeli, the guest parlor of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Covington. It is where our Study Group regularly meets.

Elizabeth's visit was most fruitful and enjoyable. She said she felt quite at home with us. We certainly felt at home with her. Elizabeth is a "dynamo" of a Carmelite Secular! We appreciate so much her commitment and dedication to our vocation. We were very blessed to have had her spend an entire weekend with us. Thank you, Elizabeth.

*

3. Georgetown, TX—Community of the Triumph of the Cross

submitted by Lydia Pena Watson, OCDS

On the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16, 2010, four members of



our Study Group—Ramona Zelasko, Diane Gray, Mary Miranda, and Maron Burke [pictured at the left]—celebrated the Rite of Final Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The rite took place during the 6 PM Mass at St. Helen's Catholic Church. Fr. Will Straten, Associate Pastor at St. Helen's, presided, and Fr. Howard Goertz and Msgr. Louis Pavlicek concelebrated. A reception followed at the priest's residence.

*

4. McAllen, TX—Community of Bl. Miriam of Jesus Crucified

submitted by Jesus Campos, OCDS

On September 12, 2010, at San Juan Diego Parish here in McAllen, Texas, six members of our Community were clothed in the scapular and admitted into formation. One member, Iris Rodriguez, then made her definitive promises during a Mass celebrated by the Community's Spiritual Assistant, Fr. George Gonzalez. Pictured in the photo [see next page] from left to right

are Dora Longoria, Clarice Jones, Juanita Herrera, Iris Rodriguez [who made her Final Promise], Irma Wolcott, Stephanie Dominguez, Fr. George Gonzalez [our Spiritual Assistant], and Erica Prezas.



5. Tulsa, OK

submitted by Barbara Tinervia, OCDS

From Wednesday, August 4, through Sunday, August 8, members of four OCDS communities—Oklahoma City (along with Sr. Sylvia Negrete, CST, their Spiritual Assistant), Little Rock, Tulsa, and one from Dallas—made a silent retreat at Subiaco Benedictine Monastery near Clarksville, AR. The retreatants, along with Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, are pictured to the left, gathered in the hot sun on the steps near the Abbey church.



The retreat was organized by members of the Tulsa Group in Discernment, being the first retreat of its kind. All went well, and the work of the Tulsa Group was

(Continued on page 17)

much appreciated. Fr. Bonaventure served as retreat master and, for his part, was impressed by how attentive the participants remained despite his best efforts to put them all to sleep.

6.



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Marylake Monastery—Little Rock, AR
submitted by Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD

Two New Novices

In the summer, our chapel's air conditioner cannot handle the heat upstairs next to our attic, which is like a sauna in the afternoons. We have converted one of cells in the professed section into our vespers chapel. The clothing of our two new novices was scheduled for First Vespers of Our Lady of Mt Carmel on July 15th. Since they requested to be clothed in the chapel, we sweated it out on that afternoon for the ceremony.

This first picture [to the left] shows us waiting for the programs to be printed. They were 15 minutes late due to some last minute changes that needed to be made. In the photo from left to right are Br. Joseph Le, superior of our monastery in San Antonio; Fr. Marion Bui; Fr. John Magdalene; Brad Wagner, one of our two new novices; and Br. Daniel Lacourrege. Also present but not shown were Jorge Morales, the second of our two new novices, and Fr. Sam Anthony Morello from our house of studies in New Orleans. Finally the programs arrived, and vespers began.

After the entrance song, our Father Provincial, Gregory Ross, who presided over the clothing ceremony, asked the two postulants, Jorge and Brad, "Dear Brothers, what do you ask from us?" They responded [as shown in photo to the right], "We wish to try your way of life, and are willing to be tested ourselves, that we may follow Christ wholeheartedly, in this Order of Discalced Friars of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel." The Provincial then says, "May the Lord grant you this help."

Then came the prayer where we found out what names the two new novices have taken: "Let us pray. Lord God, you give us the desire to hear your call. Listen favorably to the prayers of your servants—Jorge Maria del Cordero de Dios, and Alberto de la Madre Dolorosa—as they ask to join our community. Grant that the life in common of the Friars of the Blessed Virgin Mary may become a communion of love."





After the ceremony, during which Jorge and Brad received the habit, we gathered on our back porch for some pictures. Here are our two new novices all decked out on their clothing day in five layers of wool, a reminder undoubtedly that they have entered the monastery in order to suffer.

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7. Obituary—New Iberia, LA
submitted by Irene Mouton, OCDS

Mamie Migues LeLeux, 77, a native of Delcambre, LA, and a resident of New Iberia, LA, passed away on Friday, July 30, 2010, at her residence. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Elmer; five daughters, Bethene, Amy, Connie, Lisa, and Lori; and 13 grandchildren.

Mamie was a member of our community *Mary, Beloved of the Trinity*, in New Iberia, LA. She was a Secular Carmelite for 16 years. Mamie loved Carmel, and we loved her dearly. During her last days, she invited us to worship with her at her home. She blessed us with her presence, and by her example shared her profound faith in God's will.

Mamie's dates in Carmel are: she first entered on April 17, 1994, and was clothed on December 18 of that same year; she made her first promise on December 15, 1996, and her final promise on January 16, 2000. She professed vows on December 17, 2000.



The following poem was submitted by a member of the Alexandria, LA, community. She wishes to remain anonymous.

The Garden of Carmel

Abloom in the garden of Carmel,
The soul takes up its root,
Thus nourished in fertile soil
Bursting to bear its good fruit—

Abundance of dew, living water,
Sprinkled gently like rain from above,
By spirit of truth and of wisdom,
It grows deeper in knowledge of love

—The love that does blossom from heaven,
That settles deep within heart and in soul,
Spreading virtue throughout each petal,
Every leaf, by its Master's control.

Divine Master, vine grower, my Beloved,
I cling to thy merciful care
That wherever my place in your garden
Thy love never fail me to share.

Abloom in the garden of Carmel,
May my soul take up its rest.
In the hands of the Master and Maker,
Of him who does fashion me best.

Parting Words

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Province, which has jurisdiction over O.C.D.S. members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas. For subscription information contact Martha Hanley, editor, at tnmhanley@yahoo.com.

All my longing was and still is that since he has so many enemies and so few friends that these few friends be good ones. As a result I resolved to do the little that was in my power; that is, to follow the evangelical counsels as perfectly as I could and strive that these few persons who live here do the same. I did this trusting in the great goodness of God, who never fails to help anyone who is determined to give up everything for him.

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