



Flos Carmeli

Lafayette communities to host June 2011 Provincial Congress

By Gerald Alford, O.C.D.S.

The two Lafayette communities, Mary, Mother of Grace and St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, are happy to announce that our Provincial Congress will be held on June 23-26 2011. The theme of the Congress will be **"I was born for you: Holy Mother As Our Guide in the Way of Perfection."**

This theme of course is congruent with the six-year preparation for the big 5-0-0 birthday of our holy mother Teresa in 2015. Part of that preparation is a study of holy mother's writings, and at the time of the Congress we all should be well into one of her most popular books, THE WAY OF PERFECTION.

We want this to be a family get-together of secu-

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lars, friars and nuns engaged in learning, praying and recreating together as Teresian Carmelites, brothers and sisters in Christ. SO, we are planning spiritual, informative, social and recreational communal activities that will celebrate the spirit of our reforming mother who was a doctor of spirituality, a dynamite teacher, a transformed social butterfly and who basically knew that there was a time for penance and "a time for pheasant".

The main speakers we have engaged so far to discuss St. Teresa's WAY OF PERFECTION and related topics with us are Father Gregory Ross, O.C.D., Dr. Susan Muto, Father Aloysius Deeney, O.C.D., Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D., Father Daniel Chowning, O.C.D. and Father Conley Bertrand, O.C.D.S. Our Provincial Council will be discussing with us the [Ratio Institutionis of the Secular Order](#) in conjunction with our provincial statutes. You can find this document at our O.C.D.S. provincial Web site (<http://www.carmelitesok.org/ocdsok/orderdocuments.htm>) We recommend that each community / study group download this document and study it prior to the Congress.

In order to help us apply our Mother's guidance on how to live the Way of Perfection in the world, we are planning workshops that will be conducted by seculars. There will be the special treat of visiting with our Carmelite nuns here in Lafayette and touring their lovely cloister. As always there is the blessing of any Carmelite congress: seeing again Carmelite friends and making new ones from our province as well as expected guests from other provinces. And who knows what other surprises we Cajun Carmelites might have in our crawfish nets for you. And don't forget the savor of our Cajun culture you will enjoy in our food and music. They tell us that some of us even have Cajun accents when we speak!

Our congress will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lafayette, chosen for its lovely and comfortable accommodations and congenial staff. Hotel rates have been discounted for attendees to \$109 per room with the possibility of up to four persons per room. The cost will be \$250 for those registering for the Congress before the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19, 2011), and \$275 thereafter. The registration form is on page 4,

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From the Provincial Delegate

Due to travel, computer troubles, and some health problems, I have been unable to prepare my usual delegate's report for this issue of the Flos Carmeli. I am sorry, although you may not be. But that means I'll have that much more to say in the next issue. So, not to worry. In the meantime, I keep all of you near my heart and in my prayers.

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

A letter from the editor

When I read Gerald Alford's delightful invitation to next June's provincial congress in Lafayette, La. (on page 1), I had to do a Google search—just where IS Lafayette, and how long would it take to drive there from Cedar Rapids, Iowa (my home)? Of course, the lineup of speakers is enticing—see page 2 for that list—as is the promise of being in the company of fellow Carmelites—seculars, friars and nuns. Add that to talk of crawfish and Cajun music, and I was circling those dates on my 2011 calendar and making plans to head to Lafayette next summer. I hope you'll do the same.

The kinks in sending the online version of the Flos Carmeli are being worked out, and more subscribers are choosing to receive the newsletter in that form. Thank you! Whatever we can do to reduce unnecessary expense frees up funds for the order—and makes us a little “greener.” Contact me at tnmhanley@yahoo.com if you'd like that version.

Blessings on the feast!

Martha Hanley, O.C.D.S.

and is also posted on our Web site: www.ocds2011congress.com. So, keep tabs on our Web site concerning this Congress. All the specific information you will need to know will be there as well as contact information for any questions you might want to ask us. We suggest that each community / study group assign a member to track this information on the Web site and share it at community meetings with those without Internet access. We also have tried to initiate an e-mail contact with each community and group to disseminate information. About 60 percent have indicated successful contact so if your community has not been connected this way and desire to do so, contact me at meiteng@cox.net. Important information will be shared with you in this way as well.

Catching some of our excitement

Only a year and a month left before the Congress starts, so start planning to attend. It would be nice to have representatives from all of our communities and study groups.

Y'all come now, chers. We are anxious to "pass a good time" with you.

Laissez les bons temps rouler.

Registration form is on page 4.



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 Council

Happy feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel!

Most of the Provincial Council is just back from attending the Bakersfield O.C.D.S. Congress. **Dorothy** and **Elizabeth** (along with **Father Bonaventure** and **John Eanes** of our Atlanta Study Group) were there for the annual meeting of the O.C.D.S. National Council, and **Henrietta** came on her own. We had a great time and especially enjoyed spending a couple evenings just hanging out with Father Aloysius Deeney talking. Father Aloysius is a member of our Province even though he's been stationed in Rome for the past 14 years serving the Secular Order at the international level, so he enjoys spending some time with fellow Oklahoma Province members. The next issue of the Flos Carmeli will contain the highlights of the National Council meeting.

Martha has made visitations to our Topeka Study Group as well as the Mobile community. **Dorothy** visited the Lafayette – St Joseph community back in March and will be visiting Lafayette – Mary, Mother of God later this year.

The Lafayette communities will be hosting our regional congress next year and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

We're pleased that as of the writing of this report, we have received a few nominations for the Provincial Council election to be held next spring. The PC will be meeting at Marylake in August and we'll review the nominees and contact them at that time. We thank those communities who nominated people and ask the prayers of the province as both we and the nominees discern their placement on the ballot.

The Provincial Council

Henrietta Albright, Martha Burchard, Elizabeth Korves, Dorothy Mansen

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.

Helps for studying *The Life*

By the Provincial Council

We apologize for not alerting you to this sooner but the Provincial Council just found out about it ourselves. The Order has developed a website for the 6 year preparation of the anniversary of Teresa's birth. The website contains a weekly letter, resources, and a rather helpful guide to the study of the Life.

The study guide includes some introductory material and then worksheets with both personal reflection questions and also group discussion questions. Even if you choose not to use these in your community studies of The Life, we recommend using them in your personal reading and study.

The Web site can be found at <http://www.paravosnaci.com/>

Click the small icon of the British flag to get to the English version. The study guide is found under the "Worksheets" tab.

Anniversaries observed

We extend our blessings to the friars below for their anniversaries, and we give thanks to God for the blessing they have been to our province and the church.

Father John Michael Payne— 40th anniversary of ordination (June 13)

5151 Marylake Drive

Little Rock, AR 72206-9424

Father Jerome Early – 20th anniversary of profession (May 1)

Mount Carmel Center

4600 West Davis St.

Dallas, Texas 75211-3498

Father Gregory Ross - 20th anniversary of profession (July 16)

2925 S. Carrollton Road

New Orleans, LA 70118

Oklahoma, Washington provinces represented at O.C.D.S. Western Regional Congress



Members of the Oklahoma and Washington provinces who attended the Western Regional Congress held in Bakersfield, Calif., in June are (from left) Henrietta Albright (Baton Rouge), Dorothy Mansen (Dallas), Elizabeth Korves (Austin), Bernadette Klein (Oklahoma City), Connie Maas (Washington Province), Father Bonaventure Sauer (Oklahoma Province), Suzanne Treis (Washington Province), Deborah Eanes (Atlanta), John Eanes (Atlanta), Amelia Wilken (Sioux City), Bob Charlesworth (Washington Province), Father Paul Fohlin (Washington Province) and Ruth Charlesworth (Washington Province).

The Rainbow

A reflection by Dorothy Ashley, O.C.D.S., Jackson, Miss., chapter

I saw a most unusual though beautiful sight the other day. I had just come from prayer and quiet contemplation inside a local church. When I returned to my car, I noticed a beautiful rainbow of very vivid, vibrant colors of all different hues about two inches long and one-fourth inch wide on the black temperature gauge inside my car. It must have been a reflection of the sun off a black CD that I had only half-way inside the CD player. Nevertheless, I took it as a sign that God had heard my prayers and intentions. Strange, huh? Not really.

When I thought about it later, I remembered Noah and the flood. God told Noah and his sons after the flood, “See, I am now establishing a covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth” (Gen 9:8-11). Then God added:

This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you. I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings. As the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and recall the everlasting covenant that I have established between God and all living beings. [Gen 9:12-16]

Then God told Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on earth” (Gen.9:17). So that rainbow on my temperature gauge was God speaking to me, telling me that he had established a *covenant* with me and that he had heard my *cries* and would answer them according to his will. *Hear the sound of my pleading when I cry out to you, lifting my hands toward your holy place.* [Psalm 28:2]

Contemplation, to me, is listening and seeing God speak in the ordinary—and sometimes not-so-ordinary—circumstances of our daily lives. There is part of our will involved in that we make ourselves available to God and give ourselves to him as best we can, be it in mental prayer, vocal prayer, or the prayer of recollection. But the Gift of hearing him speak within our thoughts, the Gift to be given a spiritual understanding of his presence in our day-to-day activities, and the Gift of the “prayer of quiet” is strictly that—A GIFT, nothing that we ourselves, through our will, memory, or intellect, can originate. Holy Mother Teresa teaches us about all these forms of prayer and gives us counsels and advice about prayer and the life of prayer in her book *The Way of Perfection*, which our community is currently studying.

We will continue to study and grow in understanding of our prayer life as Carmelite Seculars. And, if it be God’s will, he will give *to those he so chooses* the grace to be “within the palace, near the King, [where] they [can] see that he is beginning to give them here his kingdom” (St. Teresa of Jesus, *The Way of Perfection*, ch.31.3).

News from around the province

Compiled by Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

1. Dallas, TX – submitted by Dianne Zemenick

The Dallas *Infant Jesus of Prague* Secular Carmelite Community sadly reports the death of **Francis Church** (of Joan of Arc), OCDS, who died on March 5, 2010 at the age of 82. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Francis at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Coppell, TX, on March 11, and he was buried with full military honors at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Francis and his wife Donatienne have been Secular Carmelites for many years, having transferred to the Dallas Community from Las Vegas, NV. Our Community fondly remembers Francis encouraging members to pray in a special way for each other by preparing a basket with all our names in it each month, then having us draw each other's name. Also, Francis and Donatienne have supported a child from the Uganda Carmelite Mission each month, who is the twin sister of the child our Community as a whole supports.

Francis Church retired from the Army with the rank of Major after more than 20 years of highly decorated service to our country. He then worked in Civil Service for over 20 years as a Military Plans Analyst. Francis and his wife Donatienne were married almost 55 years. They had 7 children, with 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Francis Church will be greatly missed.



St. Louis, MO – submitted by Sharon Schulte

DEACON JOHN COATES(John of the Cross), O.C.D.S. Born April 9, 1929, died on Good Friday, April 2, 2010.

John made his First Profession as a Carmelite Secular on Nov. 17, 1991, and his Definitive Profession on Nov. 20, 1994. He served on the local council 1993-96, and as Formation Director 1997-2000. He was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Belleville, IL, on April 14, 1997. His Funeral Mass and burial were held on his 81st birthday, April 9, 2010.

Our Community of St. Joseph in St. Louis, MO, has lost a fine man, a true gentleman, and a very gentle man. John was always faithful in his attendance, no matter how busy and involved he was with family and Church.

John became Catholic after having been born into a Baptist family. As a young man he entered the Franciscans but there realized God was not calling him to be a Franciscan. He left that order but not the faith.

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John found Carmel after attending an annual retreat at St. Henry's Seminary in Belleville where he heard some tapes on John of the Cross and thought that he needed to hear more. Eventually, after a roundabout search, he came into contact with Dolores Jost, a long-standing member of our community and Director of Formation at the time. When he first contacted her, and they had a discussion together, Dolores later said that she was so edified by his depth and spirituality. She was awed by his perseverance and his determination in overcoming obstacles.

John once wrote in a letter that the path God was leading him on *was dark and confusing, yet I know that God is working in my soul in a secret and hidden way....It is impossible for a Carmelite not to find the God that is hidden in the depths of his or her soul by the very fact that we are people of prayer and prayer by its very nature is a transforming act.....My little gift is the one that He has chosen to give to me for this alone permits and encourages me to seek Him in spite of the darkness in my life. And as God through Jesus is emptying my life of the things of this life and filling my soul with the things of eternity. I don't know how God would have gotten me to this point in my spiritual life had it not been for my relationship with Carmel and the people of Carmel. I thank God through Jesus and Mary for leading me to the mountain of Carmel and if it please God I will die a Carmelite with the names of Jesus and Mary on my lips.*

It must have pleased God because that is exactly how John died.

John called me about two weeks before his death to ask if I knew the source of St. Teresa's words to God, *If this is the way You treat Your friends, no wonder You have so few of them.* I asked others in the community, and we all tried to find them, but had no luck. I emailed Fr. John Michael who answered that the saying isn't in any of her works, but was attributed to her by her first biographers. Why did John want to know where to find this quote? He wanted to read it in context so that he could "make sure I am offering and surrendering the way God wants me to and the way St. Teresa did." This was so typical of John.

John was a bright example to each and all of us, even in the darkness of life's journey. He was always smiling and would never talk about his suffering. No one really knew his prognosis was so bad. He was a true son of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross. We will miss his smile and his gently way, but rejoice in the knowledge that he has completed his journey and completed it well. Thank you, John.

JOHANNA "JOAN" DORE (Mary Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face), O.C.D.S.

Born July 7, 1933, died May 19, 2010. Joan made her First Profession on January 17, 1998.

Once again our Community of St. Joseph in St. Louis, MO, has said good-bye to a beloved member. We take comfort in Jesus' words that our joy comes in knowing she has gone to the Father.

Johanna (Joan) Dore was born in County Limerick, Ireland, on July 7, 1933. She married her husband of 49 years,



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Nicholas, in 1961 in Astoria, Long Island, NY. Joan came to us in St. Louis from a Carmelite Secular community in Palm Bay, FL, in 2005.

Throughout her life Joan was involved with and close to the Church in each parish in which she lived, having been a member of the Legion of Mary in NY, and of many other parish organizations elsewhere. When Joan and her husband moved to Mountain Home, AR, she, her daughter-in-law Edith, and a dear friend, Kate Sullivan, contacted Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD, who was Provincial Delegate at the time. The three were interested in finding a Carmelite Secular community to join, and he suggested they contact the St. Joseph community in St. Louis. What a wonderful blessing for our community! They became isolate members of our community. While Edith moved to NY a few years ago, Joan and Kate enjoyed each retreat with us and in other ways deepened their bond with us. Some years ago, for example, Joan made for our community a beautiful banner with the Carmelite crest on it. It hangs every month on the speaker's stand in our meeting room, a beautiful reminder of Joan.

In the last months of her valiant battle with cancer Joan opted to stop treatment and died peacefully at her home on May 19. Her daughters reported that she was in no pain. A beautiful neighbor girl came each day at 3:00 PM during her last few weeks to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with her. Joan lived her faith and never lost hope. Both remained strong until the end. She kept repeating the words, "Jesus, I trust in You," and when she could no longer say the words, her daughters took over until she died. Kate, Joan's good friend and fellow Secular, emailed me that the wake, which was held in Mountain Home was kept in good Irish tradition, being three days long!

Joan was a great witness to her family. One daughter said, "I finally know what the words of the Hail Mary and 'Jesus, I trust in You' really mean." Her love of God radiated to all her family and friends along with her Irish humor and smile. As Kate said, "Joan was a wonderful mentor to me, a kindred spirit. She truly loved her Carmelite vocation always, her allegiance to Christ and her love of Our Blessed Mother." She has left behind some wonderful memories and a role model each of us have learned from. She preached without preaching. Thank you, Joan, for sharing your vocation, your life, and your love with each of us.

*

3. Little Rock, AR – submitted by Tricia Cromwell, OCDS

Our community was privileged once again to join in representing all three branches of the Discalced Carmelite Order by manning a vocations booth at a local parish festival on May 2 along with the friars at



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Marylake monastery. The Carmelite Nuns had made a beautiful new triptych [see photo on previous page], and the Friars distributed pamphlets and other literature. Shown in the photo [left to right] are, seated in front, Amy Hawley and Jennifer Perkins and, standing in back, Barbara Ford, Tricia Cromwell, and Fr. John Magdalene Suenram, OCD.

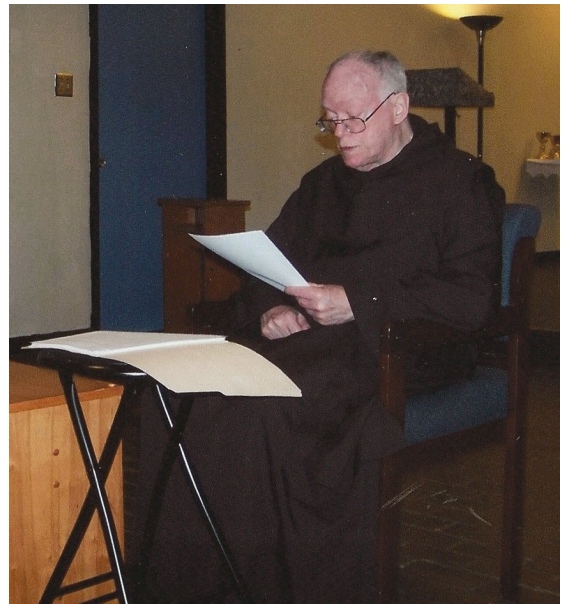
The following Saturday, May 8, we witnessed during Mass in the chapel at Marylake monastery the Profession of First Promise by Mary Davis [in photo just above, at far right] and the Profession of Definitive Promise by Julie Breen Patrick [far left] and Tony Thompson [middle right]. Father Raphael Kitz, OCD [middle left], presided. Following

the ceremony we enjoyed a potluck luncheon with the friars at Marylake.

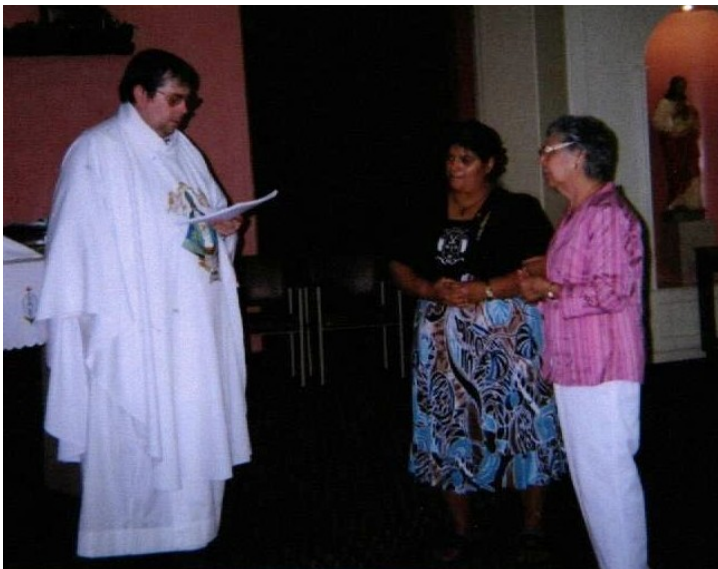
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4. New Orleans, LA – submitted by Pascal Alfano

The New Orleans Chapter sponsored a retreat at St. Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center in Covington, LA, on June 4-6. The topic was the life of St. Teresa of Jesus, our Holy Mother, and her masterwork *The Interior Castle*. Fr. Kieran Kavanagh, OCD, [pictured at right], who has just prepared a study edition of this work, was our retreat master. Members of six OCDS chapters from the south Louisiana area and the Mississippi Gulf Coast attended.



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5. Waco, TX –submitted by JoAnn Greenwood-Jones

Rebecca Blankenstein, of the San Juan Diego OCDS Study Group in Waco, TX, made her Definitive Promise on May 31. The photo shows Rebecca as she makes her profession promise, Fr. John Boiko, with Opal Gonzales, our formation director, standing with her. This was a truly blessed day for Rebecca and for all of us.