



Flos Carmeli



Dorothy Ashley



Mary Kay Daniels



Chris Wood

PC welcomes new members

Dorothy Ashley of the Jackson, Miss., community; Mary Kay Daniels of Sioux City, Iowa; and Chris Wood of the Houston Study Group were elected to six-year terms on the Provincial Council in the recent election. They replace Elizabeth Korves of the Austin, Texas, community, and Martha Burchard of Sioux City. Henrietta Albright and Dorothy Mansen will continue to serve on the council.

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Community Councils information requested

Please detach form and mail it to Pat Darby, 315 N. Greenville #1214, Allen, TX 75002

City: _____ Name of community: _____

Active members: _____ Spiritual Asst.: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

PRESIDENT: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

FORMATION DIRECTOR: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

COUNCILORS: Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

TREASURER: Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail copies of Flos Carmeli to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



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		(circle one) 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.					
Registration Fee:					
		Received Before March 19, 2011 (Feast of St. Joseph)		\$250.00	
		Received After March 19, 2011		\$275.00	
All balances are due by <u>May 1, 2011</u>					
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.)					
Mail your completed Registration Form and Payment to: OCDS Provincial Congress - Lafayette Jeannine Meaux, OCDS 1604 West Pinhook Road, Suite 301 Lafayette, LA 70508					
http://www.ocds2011congress.com					

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

Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

Most of you have been conducting your community elections over the past couple of months. We friars, too, have elected a new provincial. His name is Fr. Luis Joaquin Castañeda. Originally from Mexico, he has lived in the States for a good while now and has family here. He obtained a licentiate in formation from the Salesianum in Rome. His work in the province has been mostly in the area of formation, although he has also served as superior of our house in Oklahoma City. Now we have asked him to serve us—and you—as our provincial superior.

Fr. Luis will take office at the start of our Provincial Chapter, which opens on Monday, May 30. It used to be that the friars elected the provincial at the Chapter itself. But for the past 15 years or so—I can't remember exactly—we have elected the provincial prior to the chapter by means of a general election in which all the friars of the province participate. This way of electing the provincial is increasingly the norm throughout the Order, I believe.

When it was still our practice to elect the provincial at the Chapter itself and only by those friars who attended the Chapter—not all friars of the province did—our *Constitutions* required that all friars of the province be consulted in some manner prior to this formal election of the provincial at the Chapter itself. Thus, in our province we would conduct a kind of nominating ballot, in which all the friars took part, to determine which candidates the friars who attended the Chapter would be able to pick from in electing the provincial. It was in this process of nominating candidates for provincial that we used to use a ballot similar to the one you use for the election of local councilors. One could write down three names, ranking them 1, 2, 3, and assigning them three points, two points, and one point accordingly. As a nominating process this way of casting one's vote had certain advantages. In the course of an actual election, though, it is questionable whether it serves any purpose, while being perhaps unduly complicated.

It is my suspicion that the way in which you vote for councilors—using a ballot on which you rank your three choices—is derived from our old way of nominating candidates for provincial. But now that you've had some experience electing councilors in this way, we might ask whether you find it a good procedure. Is it a helpful and serviceable way of conducting the election? When casting your vote, do you find being able to write three names and rank them accordingly a good way to express your wishes for whom you'd like to see on the council? Or is the procedure overly confusing and not particularly helpful? Is this manner of ranking your choices beside the point, giving results which are not really representative of the base of support a candidate might have in the community? Is there, in other words, a better, simpler, and more accurate way of conducting your election of councilors?

I would invite any of you who have thoughts or ideas in response to these questions to please send them along to me. I would be most interested in hearing from you.

Central Office/Provincial Secretary

I didn't receive the number of responses I expected to my proposal in the last *Flos Carmeli* about establishing an OCDS central office and secretary in the province. I am appreciative of those who did take the time to write. Thank you. As a rule the responses I did receive were positive. You saw the need for such a position and felt that, generally speaking, it would be affordable.

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Provincial Delegate report cont.

Of course, the increase in dues was a concern to some, as is to be expected. I am quite sensitive to this concern. Please be assured of that. And let me make another point. This proposal—the idea of setting up an OCDS central office run by a provincial secretary—is not something I just dreamed up. Nor is it something I would ever try to impose on you. It comes from the perceived needs of the Secular Order in the province and is a way of trying to address those needs. Think of it as putting in place a kind of “staff” for the Secular Order of the province. As with a parish or chancery office, we need someone to help run things on a regular, day-to-day basis, so to speak.

Where does the proposal go from here? Between now and the upcoming Provincial Chapter at the end of May, I will prepare a formal statement of the proposal which will include a detailed job description and some mechanism for financing the position. I will then present this proposal to the friars at our Provincial Chapter, giving them a chance to suggest changes and improvements before seeking their formal approval. We will also discuss it when the OCDS Provincial Council meets with the friars at the Chapter. This meeting will be either on June 6 or June 7—the date isn’t finalized yet. The friars will discuss other matters with the Provincial Council on that day, of course, not just this proposal, as together the province plans for a new triennium.

You will probably be hearing more about the proposal in the next issue of the *Flos Carmeli*. In fact, we might even publish the job description along with the proposal for how to finance it. You would then have an opportunity to offer further comments and criticisms. And I’ll try to come up with some way to seek the general approval and permission of all the Secular Order communities in the province before proceeding further. We would then be looking at, say, September at the earliest as a start-up date for the position, provided things goes forward at all. About that we shall see.

A Word about Dues

I have never been particularly happy with the use of the word *dues* to describe what you are doing in helping to support your community and the province financially. The word *dues*, to my mind, conjures up images of a country club or of some private organization to which one is required to pay a membership fee in order to belong. But that, of course, is not what you are doing. There is not—or at least there shouldn’t be—a membership fee to belong to the Secular Order. Rather, each local community, as well as the province as a whole, and the Order itself with its general office in Rome, has its operating expenses. These expenses have to be met somehow. So, like any family or ecclesial community, we pool our resources.

Of course, there is more than one way to do that—for a community to pool its resources and meet its expenses—but at present the way it is done among yourselves is for the local community to decide upon an appropriate assessment or fair share for each member. The local council, with the help of the treasurer, calculates the community’s upcoming expenses over some timeframe. Three years is a good block of time for planning’s sake. These expenses will include things like stipends, facility use fees, costs incurred in the apostolate, charitable donations, etc. They will also include the assessment the province itself places on each local community in order that the province might meet its own expenses—which, for its part, includes the assessment the general office in Rome places upon the province.

So, then, the local council prepares a kind of budget and calculates the community’s projected expenses. Then it asks the community to decide what each member will need to chip in for it to meet its expenses. According to your *Provincial Statutes* [see *XVIII (1)*], it is up to the community itself to

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Provincial Delegate report cont.

determine this amount. The budget prepared by the council is thus a basis for the community to deliberate over and decide this question. Although it would be wise for the council to work up a three year budget to assist the community in its deliberations, it might also be a good practice for the community to return to this question every so often—probably yearly—to review what its projected expenses are and see if the assessment (or dues) it has decided on appear to be sufficient to meet those needs or are perhaps too little or maybe even too much.

Indeed, there may be years when the community's expenses turn out to be less than what was projected. In such circumstances the community might lower or waive some portion of the amount being asked for from each member. Or the opposite might happen, and some unexpected expense pop up, requiring the community to consider raising the amount asked for, at least in the short term. I do think that all of you understand these matters, no doubt better than I do.

Statute XVIII (1) goes on to state: "A member's inability to pay dues, temporarily or indefinitely, is a matter to be handled by the Local Council with discretion and sensitivity. If necessary, more affluent members are encouraged to contribute more to make up any loss of income"—something they are usually glad to do. Of course, as all of you understand, no one should try to take advantage of this generosity. Indeed, a willingness to assume responsibility for helping to support one's community financially is an essential part of the vocation. Yet a Secular's ability to meet that responsibility will vary from person to person and across different times and circumstances in life.

If you look at the province's financial report prepared by Pat Darby—which is published in this issue of the *Flos Carmeli*—you will see that the provincial account is nicely in the black. We will most likely have some added expenses during this present calendar year since our province is hosting the Regional Congress in Lafayette this summer. Thus, it's good to have the extra on hand. (Oh, and there's the provincial delegate's upcoming sabbatical at the University of Hawaii to keep in mind.) At the same time, if at the end of this year we continue to have such a surplus in the account, then the province might actually be able to waive part of the assessment it asks of each community next year. If we do try to set up a central office, though, along with a provincial secretary, then this surplus in the account might come in handy for covering start up costs without having to ask anything additional from the communities at this time.

A note about the Congress

Due to some miscommunication through the central reservation desk for the Crowne Plaza Hotel, some of you may be under the impression that our room block for the Lafayette Congress is full. This is NOT the case. We have plenty of rooms still available!!

For the best service, **please call the Lafayette Crowne Plaza directly at 337-233-8120 to make your hotel reservations.** They will be happy to help you. You can even speak directly to Miranda Dore at Ext. 173 should you need to. Be sure to mention "Secular Carmelites-OCDS" to get your reduced rate of \$109. You can also receive the reduced rate for Tues and Wed if you are coming in early. Also, should you need any further assistance, please call Anita Trahan, Congress Planning Chairman, at 337-332-3754 or 337-288-2658 and she will be happy to assist you.

Oklahoma Province financial report

Prepared by Pat Darby, O.C.D.S.

Oklahoma Province Financial Statement January – December, 2010

INCOME

Beginning Balance	\$15,177.22
Deposits	\$31,494.48
Dividend	5.03
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$46,676.73</u>

EXPENSES:

Interprovincial Council dues	\$ 500.00	
Rome OCDS Office	5,000.00	
Flos Carmeli printing & postage	4,002.60	
Central Office Salary	3,600.00	
Provincial Council Expenses	8,682.92	
Congress Expenses	\$1,725.64	
Interprovincial Meeting	1,947.00	
Annual PC Meeting	2,011.18	
Visitation Expenses	969.10	
Total	\$8,682.92	
Office Supplies and Repairs	113.66	
Central Office Postage	44.00	
Provincial Delegate	2,821.04	
Bank Charges	82.50	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>		<u>(\$24,846.72)</u>
<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>		<u>\$21,830.01</u>

Spring 2011

Report of the Provincial Council

We begin by thanking our four candidates who agreed to be on the ballot for the Provincial Council election. And we welcome aboard **Mary Kay Daniels** (Sioux City), **Dorothy Ashley** (Jackson) and **Chris Wood** (Houston – St Therese Study Group) who were elected. They will officially begin their six year term on the PC at the beginning of June. Thank you to all our communities for taking the time to read the information on our candidates and vote.

During these first months of the year, **Dorothy** has made the visitation of the Lafayette – Mary Mother of Grace community as well as McAllen. **Martha** has visited Little Rock and Cedar Rapids. And **Elizabeth** visited Conyers.

Dorothy M. and Henrietta have been hard at work on the transition from the current PC to the new one as well as the meeting with the Provincial Chapter. They held a meeting with **Fr. Bonaventure** in Lafayette to plan out the orientation for the new members and have been going through our notebook to make sure things are up-to-date. **Elizabeth** has been passing along all sorts of related files to insure important material is not lost as she completes her term as president.

The friars will be holding their Provincial Chapter during that last week of May and the first week of June. The OCDS Provincial Council will meet with the friars on the afternoon of June 6th. We ask that you hold the friars in prayer during this important gathering.

During that same time, the PC will be holding its annual meeting, June 3-7.

And finally, we look forward to seeing everyone in Lafayette in June!

The Provincial Council

Henrietta Albright, Martha Burchard, Elizabeth Korves, Dorothy Mansen

Spring 2011

PC requests feedback on Dismissal Statute

In the past few Provincial Council reports, we have mentioned our work on a new statute regarding how to dismiss members from the Order. The Constitutions grant the Local Council the ability to do this however, they do not outline the proper procedure. In order to dismiss someone from the Order, it is important that certain aspects of Canon Law be followed in the process. The process must be fair and give the individual the right to appeal.

*Currently the draft of our dismissal statute is with a canon lawyer for review to affirm that we have developed a procedure that meets that standard. While we await feedback from the canon lawyer, we thought we'd make the **draft** statute available for feedback.*

If you wish to provide feedback, please send it to:

*Mary Kay Daniels OCDS
3001 S Paxton St*

Sioux City, IA 51106

mkdocds@cableone.net

The deadline for feedback is June 30th.

Draft

The Council may dismiss a member under the grounds provided in Canon 316 (nn.1-2) of the *Code of Canon Law* or under any of the following grounds considered as “just cause” in accordance with Canon 308:

chronic absenteeism (*Provincial Statutes XVI.5*);

willful violation of the Constitutions and/or Provincial Statutes;

grave abuse of authority;

actions that seek to divide the community or damage the reputation of another;

serious and repeated disruption at community meetings;

violent or threatening actions towards another;

serious violations of the Promise, and in particular of the evangelical counsels of chastity and obedience as they are set forth in the Constitutions, nn.13 and 15.

Before considering dismissal the Local Council shall first address the problem with the member in at least two private meetings. The matter should be handled with charity and prudence.

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Dismissal Statute draft cont.

dence. At the first meeting a letter should be given to the member detailing the problem, any steps the Council would like to see the member take in addressing it, and how the council might be able to help the person in doing so. A signed copy of this letter should be placed in the member's file. The Council may suggest that the member take a leave-of-absence for some agreed upon period of time if that would seem helpful to the member and/or to the community. There should be a follow-up meeting to this first meeting.

If the member fails to take the steps asked for within six months of the first meeting, and if the problem persists unchanged, then the Local Council shall again meet with the member and inform him or her that dismissal is being considered. The member shall be given a letter to this effect, a signed copy of which shall be kept in the member's file. The Council may again request the member take a leave-of-absence. If the member refuses, the Council may remove the member's active and/or passive voice. (Removing passive voice means that the member cannot hold any office or assume any other responsibility in the community. Removing active voice means that the member cannot vote in any community election or in deciding business or other community matters.)

Formal Consultation of the Provincial (see *Constitutions* n.47e). If the member has not addressed the problem as asked within the next six months, the Local Council shall consult the Provincial (or his Delegate) regarding the possible dismissal of the member from the Order. The Provincial (or his Delegate) should review the process followed by the Local Council. Once he is assured that the Local Council has acted properly in following the above process and that the problem is indeed sufficiently grave to warrant dismissal, he shall inform the Local Council, and the Local Council may proceed with the dismissal. Notice of the dismissal must be given to the member in writing, with a signed copy placed in the member's file. The Local Council may request the presence of the Spiritual Assistant as an observer when they meet with the person about the dismissal. Upon dismissal, the person is released from the Promise and is freed of the obligations assumed as a member of the Order. Barring reversal on appeal, dismissal from the Order is final. The person is not permitted to re-enter the Order at a later date.

Appeal Process. The member has a right to appeal this decision. In the letter of dismissal the Local Council shall notify the dismissed member of this right and explain how he or she may proceed with an appeal.

The dismissed member should first appeal in writing to the Provincial (or his Dele-

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Dismissal Statute draft cont.

gate). This appeal must be made within 90 days of receiving the dismissal letter. The Provincial (or his Delegate) shall respond to the appeal within 90 days of receiving it. He should meet with both the dismissed member and the Local Council to review the situation. He may consult with the Spiritual Assistant. He may also seek the advice of the OCDS Provincial Council.

He will then respond in writing to the dismissed member either supporting the Council's decision or reversing it. Or he may suggest another option to follow, should one present itself. Copies of the appeal and the response will be placed in the member's file.

After the Provincial (or his Delegate) has responded, and if the dismissal has been upheld, the dismissed member may appeal in writing to the OCDS General Delegate. The dismissed member shall be informed of this right by the Provincial (or his Delegate).

At any point in the process, the member, the Local Council, the Provincial (or his Delegate) may consult the OCDS Provincial Council for their advice. Since the Provincial Council has no juridical personality, it may only offer advice. It may not render a binding decision.

All involved shall maintain confidentiality throughout so as not to damage the good name and reputation of any other.

Letter from the Definitory

+ Rome, March 7, 2011, Memory of Saints Perpetua and Felicity

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Carmel:

PEACE.

From March 1st to the 6th, we met in Rome to hold our eighth meeting as a Definitory. On 5th March, some of us had the pleasure of being able to assist at the Ordination to the Diaconate in the basilica of San Pancrazio of eleven of our students from the International College of Saint John of the Cross by His Excellency, Cardinal F. Arinze. As a most joyful and unforgettable corollary to our meeting, Mons. João Braz de Aviz, recently appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Archbishop Prefect of the CICLSAL, visited our General House today to have a meeting with Fr General and the Definitory, and afterwards to join with us in Evening Prayer and supper.

Concerning the topics discussed during these days, we first of all evaluated the more recent regional meetings at which Fr General presided, keeping in mind that in many places meetings were also able to be held with our Discalced Carmelite Sisters.

During this meeting we also discussed at length the situation of our Discalced Carmelite Friars in the Church of San Miguel de Sucumbíos. As you already know from our last letter, the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples had decided to withdraw the *Ius Commissionis* from the Order and give it to the *Virgo Flos Carmeli* Society, the “Heralds of the Gospel”, and appointed the Most Rev. Fr Rafael Ibarguren, EP, as Apostolic Administrator.

Since Fr General was unable to go himself to Sucumbíos, he sent Fr Emilio J. Martínez, his Vicar, on a fraternal visit, for the purpose of evaluating the situation of our friars there and resolving, as far as possible, difficulties that have arisen.

After visiting in Bogotá Fr Jorge Mario Naranjo, the Provincial of Colombia and Superior of the missionaries, he set out for Quito where he was able to meet Mons. Gonzalo López; and from there he travelled to Sucumbíos, accompanied by Fr Carmelo Hernández, Delegate of Ecuador, and Fr Pedro Tomás Navajas, the Provincial of Burgos and former superior of the missionaries.

A positive fruit of the visit was being able to establish channels of communication and to be able to talk with our Discalced Carmelite Friars living in the Vicariate of San Miguel de Sucumbíos (ISAMIS), under the new administration; he was also able to get to know the other religious and lay missionaries who work with them. They were able to have an interview with the new Administrator, in the hope of establishing channels of dialogue guaranteeing the presence of the Order in this area. It is the desire of this Definitory to keep these channels of communication open and to help solve any difficulties that may arise; we hope we can do so by open dialogue with the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples, the Most Rev. Rafael Ibarguren, EP, the Apostolic Administrator, and naturally, with our Discalced Carmelite missionary brothers and their Superiors.

With regards to the Delegation of Israel, we continued working in this Definitory to strengthen our presence there. It was a pleasure to receive the willing acceptance of some religious to go to the Holy Land to take up posts in the Stella Maris and Muhraqa monasteries. Thus, in the coming months, Frs Milton Moulthon, Gustavo Prats, Saverio Gavotto and Arnold Boehme will join the Delegation. We are pleased that these friars and their Superiors have been

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Definitory letter cont.

willing to accept these transfers so as to serve the Order in a place of such importance to the Discalced Carmel.

What remained to be discussed about the Delegation of Israel, were the Carmelite formation courses; they are already prepared and will be held on Mount Carmel (Stella Maris). The Spanish-speaking group will begin, and in the coming weeks the different Provinces will be reminded of the content and conditions of enrolment for these courses prepared by Fr Augustine Mulloor and the Secretary for Formation, Fr Johnson Perumittath.

In the last *Letter* we informed you that we carried out a survey within some Italian Provinces, with the idea of beginning a process of restructuring and unification. On seeing the results of the survey, the Definitory decided, according to the provisions of n° 147 of the Constitutions and n° 156 of the Norms, to take over the government of the territories of the Roman and Tuscan Provinces for a triennium, constituting them as a circumscription “ad instar Commissariatus” with the view of erecting a new “Province of Central Italy”. They appointed Fr Gabriele Morra as the Commissar.

Both Provinces will celebrate their Chapters in April and May, 2011, in the presence of the new Fr Commissar and the Definitory in charge of the area, Fr Emilio J. Martínez. In their Chapters, each one will elect a Delegate and two Councillors who, together with the Commissar, will make up the Council of the new area of jurisdiction.

Over and above the doubts and fears that such a decision could generate – new in the recent history of the Order – we trust we have interpreted the Lord’s will in bringing it about. It is a process we begin in hope, since we trust in the help of the Holy Spirit to pour out his fruits of love, happiness and peace on us and our brothers as together we undertake what we hope will be a good success. To the illustrious past of these Province is added the present courage to begin this process and the hope of a future founded on the desire to go forth, faithful to what Our Holy Mother Teresa said: “Now is the time to journey forth”.

These journeys towards union and restructuring seem to be a sign of our times, especially in those geographical areas most troubled by the lack of vocations and the ageing of our friars and nuns. Thus, in the meeting of the Provincials and the Councils of the Iberian Peninsula with Fr General and the Definitory entrusted with this area, the unanimous decision was taken to begin a process throughout the coming triennium, weighing up the possibility of one sole Province for the whole Iberian Peninsula, analysing carefully all the advantages and the disadvantages.

In the same way, our Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Spain have decided to begin a similar process, coordinated by all the Federations, which will allow them to draw up a map of foundations that are reasonably sustainable, being attentive in the process to the evangelical and teresian criteria that the communities themselves will be establishing.

After analysing the financial situation of the Centre of the Order for 2010, we passed on to study other questions relating to the Provinces questions concerning monasteries of the Order which needed our attention.

We approved some decisions of recently celebrated Chapters or Chapter Congresses and discussed the petitions from the Provinces or Commissariats of Malabar, Andhra Pradesh and Madagascar. Andhra Pradesh will transfer the house for philosophy students to Pendurthy because of the increasing number of vocations. Madagascar will establish a parish in the Diocese of Morondava, where one of our friars, Mgr. Fabien

Definitory letter cont.

Raharilamboniaina is Bishop. We also studied a letter from the Delegation of Egypt, as well as the collaboration agreements recently signed by the Manjummel Province with the Roman Province and the Vicariate of Australia.

Concerning the Teresian Centenary, Fr Emilio J. Martínez informed us of the latest developing initiatives, about which you will be informed, especially through the Web page www.paravosnaci.com. We are anticipating here some cultural initiatives of the Order which, in this sexennium, will form part of the Centenary. With the help of the Definitors in charge and the Conferences of Provincials involved, we would like to plan three congresses: one in the Czech Republic for central and eastern Europe, another in India for Asia and one more in Africa. The various American CICLAS are already preparing to involve the whole S. American continent, for which this Definitory offers their collaboration.

We returned to the subject of formation, this time discussing initial and ongoing formation, in charge of Fr Augustine Mulloor. Briefly, the courses of formation for formators and community animators will begin in the Asian and African zones. There are 26 religious enrolled: 16 from India, 3 from the Philippines, 2 from Indonesia, 2 from Tanzania, one from Cameroon, one from Nigeria and one other from Malawi.

Our Order has already studied on various occasions the way of inserting our charism and activities into the “New evangelization” plan. The recent creation of a Vatican Dicastery for this important matter, invites us to reflect anew on this important initiative. In the light of this, Fr Albert Wach presented a first draft to be studied by the Definitory, so that we can share and complete the result of our work with you, our brothers and sisters.

Fr George Tambala presented “Congress for Africa” to be celebrated from 6th to 10th February next year in Nairobi. This Congress will reflect on the Carmelite identity and mission in Africa, trying also to take helpful decisions dealing with the changes that time has brought about for our missionary work there. It will seek ways of preserving and sharing with the African people what is specific to Carmel. It is also necessary to develop channels through which African Carmel can have a greater voice and autonomy. The different circumscriptions are already studying work documents prepared for this purpose.

In dialogue with our Secretary for the Missions, Fr Julio Almansa, the Definitory discussed the concept of mission, which has changed, and not only in Africa. Before, when speaking of the missions, what was understood was going to foreign countries, to distant lands, to men and women of other countries to preach the Gospel to them.

Inspired by the words of Fr Jesús Angel Barrera, OP, we understand that this situation has now changed, because the frontier is not so much a geographical limit, but it means going out from, abandoning a situation – generally agreeable and tranquil – to open ourselves to new possibilities that are not so secure, but which could offer us the possibility of change and growth. The frontier then becomes a symbol to define new social and human spaces and horizons more than having a geographical connotation.

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Definitory letter cont.

If the concept of mission has changed, it does not mean that mission has disappeared. In the same way that the *classical* missionaries left their world, their security, all they knew, to cross frontiers that took them far from what was their homeland where they had to face previously unknown difficulties and risk-filled situations, missionaries today are not infrequently required to cross new frontiers, without leaving where they are.

Meeting our brothers and sisters in these visits allowed us to come in contact with Discalced friars and nuns disposed to leave everything. There we are not moving in the field of words; we are in direct contact with brothers and sisters who are disposed to *risk their lives*, if they have not already done so.

There are very many of our brothers and sisters who, without thinking of themselves but of the Order and the Church, are willing on the word of their Superiors to leave everything, to change place, to leave aside all their securities and often their trusted certainties, in order to respond to the new needs of a changed world.

For example, the journey undertaken by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Spain, to begin a process of restructuring their foundations; like Jesus, like Teresa, they are not seeking to remain in security, but to take risks and start walking, like pilgrims.

They are also seeking help from their brothers so that these processes are not hindered, and so as not to arrive at the same old solutions; from what we have seen and tried, this only make matters worse and, at times, create situations of great anguish, situations that are next to impossible to resolve.

We have also witnessed the capacity to take risks that are imbued with trust, in our brothers of the Roman and Tuscan Provinces, in the Iberian Peninsula, in our brothers in India who are coming to the help of many of Carmel's presences in Europe, in those friars who have accepted our proposal to strengthen our presences in the Holy Land, etc.

It is normal to have fear in crossing this frontier, aware that this requires us to leave aside what is secure and to be open to the unknown. But we must trust in the strength of the Spirit, the Comforter.

For our part, as a Definitory, we cannot remain impassive, faced with the calls for help we receive from our brothers and sisters who are living in difficult situations, precisely because they feel anchored down by structures that hinder them living their lives as Discalced friars and nuns with dignity. We ask you for your prayers and help at this time to be faithful to this endeavour. With fond regards, your brothers:

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, General

Fr Emilio J. Martínez

Fr 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 Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

1. Georgetown, TX—submitted by Lydia Pena



On December 11, 2010, two of our members, Marianne Gonzales and Rebecca Snook, made their First Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The rite was celebrated during the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown. Msgr. Louis Pavlicek, Pastor of St. Helen's—shown in photo at left, along with Marianne and Rebecca—presided. A reception followed at the Parish Activity Center.

We invite you to visit our community's new blog at— <http://triumphofthecrossocds.blogspot.com/>

On January 8 2011, we celebrated 3 Clothings at St. Helen's Catholic Church during Morning Prayer. Anita, Cecilia and Mary [pictured at right] asked to be admitted to the period of formation in the community and then received the scapular and a copy of the *Constitutions* of the Secular Order. Congratulations!



2. Lafayette, LA: *Two Obituaries*—submitted by Gerald Alford

Carol Mae Fontenot

Carol Mae of the Blessed Sacrament was born April 1, 1942, and died Sept. 2, 2009, at the age of 67. She is survived by her husband Bernel, two sons, two daughters, and eleven grandchildren. Carol joined Carmel at the community of Mary, Mother of Divine Grace, where she was clothed on June 23, 2002, and made her definitive promise on October 21, 2007. She was chosen for the new community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel in 2005 where she took an active role in teaching our Aspirants.

An only child, Carol quickly acquired many brothers and sisters in Carmel. Her gentleness and sweet disposition endeared her to everyone she met.

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Leaving her presence, you walked away enlightened, uplifted, and comforted. Carol was not one to dwell on self; rather, she was most generous with the graces she received from her Lord, giving away what she received. She loved neighbors and friends coming over for coffee. In fact, she wanted her home to be known as the “Coffee House.”

Going somewhere with her as the driver was indeed an adventure. True, she got you to your destination on time, but it was the getting there that was the fun part because no matter how simple your directions were, she had her own route there, which caused many giggles and belly laughs.

Her ministries included being a Eucharistic Minister and Adorer in her home parish of Sacred Heart in Ville Platte, LA. She was active in the *Families Are In* Project, where she ministered to families of prison inmates. She was a member of the *Come Lord Jesus!* Program for several years, and for many years was a devoted elementary school teacher in both public and private schools. Her memory will forever be cherished by her family and friends who regarded her as a gentle rock always there for them.

Rita M. Comeaux

Our sister Rita was born January 10, 1926, and died at the age of 83 on July 23, 2009, the feast of Mary, Mother of Divine Grace. She was preceded in death by her husband Odel, and leaves to mourn her one daughter, five sons, one sister, ten grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren.

Rita’s spirit was one of joyful love, always praying and giving, striving to ease the burdens of others. To her, loving and serving her Lord and her neighbor were one and the same. Hers was a joyful spirit. Rita loved a good joke and was always ready and able to make you laugh.

Our Lady brought Rita to the community of Mary, Mother of Divine Grace, where she was clothed on December 20, 1964, choosing the name of Sr. Rita of the Immaculate Conception, and thus her long and very fruitful journey began. Rita wore many hats in the service of her Lord and his Church, bringing her very strong Carmelite spirit into many areas. She was a Catholic Daughter for sixty-one years, belonged to the Altar Society, and to the Rosary and Cenacle Prayer groups. She also served as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, taught CCD, and volunteered wherever help was needed.



But her greatest devotion was to her Carmelite community. Her simple wisdom drew us to her, knowing that the many trials and sufferings she endured made her understanding, compassionate, and always supportive. When our community grew too large, in 2005 we were split into two and Rita was chosen for the new community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel. While she took it hard to leave the Monastery group at first, she soon adjusted and her already lively devotion to St. Joseph grew and grew.

She suffered very much the last nine years of her life, but did so willingly and with great love and patience, offering her sufferings for her Carmelite family. Those of us who knew her were blessed indeed, and find great joy and hope knowing she went home on the feast day of Mary, Mother of Divine Grace, the name of her original community.

News cont.

3. Little Rock, AR—submitted by Tricia Cromwell

In November of 2010 our community was blessed with a visitation made by our Provincial Councilor Martha Burchard from Sioux City, Iowa. Martha's visit was most supportive, encouraging, and helpful for our community. She is shown [in the photo to the right] sitting in the middle with members of our local council before the fountain at the front entrance of the Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns in Little Rock.

Thank you, Martha, for your service to us and to the Province. We miss you.

In January Mary Davis made her Definitive Promise during Mass at the Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns. Our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD, was the celebrant. Shown in the photograph below are Mary and Fr. Raphael. Congratulations to Mary. We welcome her into our family.



4. McAllen, TX—submitted by Jesus Campos

On the next page is a photo of our community taken during our annual retreat, which was led this year by Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD [back row, in the middle]. The retreat was held at the Benedictine Sisters Monastery of the Good Shepherd in Rio Grande City, TX, on the weekend of January 14-16, 2011.

News cont.

5.



New Orleans, LA: *Obituary*—submitted by Ada Jordan

Odette Marie Rivette, OCDS

Born: October 4, 1913 in Jeanerette, LA

Died: February 1, 2011 in Mobile, AL

Clothed: August 19, 1964 in Lafayette, LA

Professed: August 1, 1965 in Lafayette, LA

Made Vows: July 16, 1981 in Lafayette, LA

Odette Rivette of “Sister Marie of St. Elias” left Lafayette and came to New Orleans because of health problems. She joined the New Orleans community in June of 1991, transferring from Lafayette.

While in New Orleans, she was able to attend the meetings, which she never like to miss, whenever there was someone that could pick her up from *Mary Joseph Residence*, across the River from New Orleans. We would also pick her up for our Days of Recollection and our retreats whenever she was able to attend.

Odette stayed in New Orleans until July 2005. It was a move she didn’t want to make. But the Little Sisters of the Poor, who ran the *Mary Joseph Residence*, had to close it. All the residents, therefore, had to find another place. Odette was fortunate to be one of those who were able to move to *Sacred Heart Residence* in Mobile, also run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, which allowed her to Spring 2011



News cont.

continue under their care. She called that home her “diamond” and was very happy there. Linda, Mary, and I, from the New Orleans OCDS community, visited her several times while she was in Mobile. We were her “three,” as she said. We got to meet her family on the occasion of her birthday.

A memorial mass was said for Odette at *Sacred Heart Residence* in Mobile. Her nephew called to see if any of us could make it. He knew how much his aunt loved us, her sisters in Carmel. Thanks to Carol, an OCDS of New Orleans, who did the driving, I was able to attend. I offered the eulogy for Odette. We were happy to see two members of the Mobile OCDS community at the mass.

A funeral mass and burial was held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 12, in Odette’s hometown of Jeanerette, LA. Carol, Mary, and I attended. I was privileged to once again offer the eulogy.

Odette wanted to be buried in the Carmelite habit, such as she is shown wearing in the photo here [on the previous page]. We brought the pall with the Carmelite seal, made by the Carmelite nuns in Covington, LA, to drape over her coffin. Odette loved Carmel and knew all the Carmelite saints. She loved talking about the saints. She suffered much and said in one of her letters that it was a grace to be on the cross with Christ. Odette Rivette from Jeanerette—may you rest in peace!



6. Oklahoma City, OK—submitted by Bernadette Klein

A mass with the Rite of First Promise was held at St. Joseph’s Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont, Oklahoma, on Sunday January 16, 2011. Fr. Ralph Reyes, OCD, presided. Avril D’Cruz, Zofia Schmit, Betty Sharp, Bill Urell, and Barbara Basgall made First Promise. [Pictured here are, from left to right, in back, Bill Urell,

News cont.

7. Tulsa, OK—submitted by Barbara Tinervia

The Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Study Group in Tulsa, OK, had a celebration Retreat



with the Rite of Clothing on January 15, 2011, at the Church of the Madalene. Msgr. Gregory Gier celebrated Mass for us. Immediately after Mass, Anna Hansen, Shirley Folwarski, Glenna Craig, and Andrea Knepp [shown at left, along with Msgr. Gier and Barbara Tinervia, formation director] were clothed in the Brown Scapular. Lunch and conferences were part of the celebration.

8. Carmel of Mobile, AL

We have a new Carmel in the province. Eight Carmelite nuns from Vietnam arrived on Sunday, February 20, to *re-found* the Carmel of Mobile. Below is a photo taken while the sisters were still in Vietnam. As you can see, five of the eight sisters are in white veils, meaning they are still in initial formation. We welcome them to our Province. May God watch over and bless this new endeavor.



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.

“If you grow accustomed to having [the Lord] present at your side, and he sees that you do so with love and that you go about striving to please him, you will not be able—as they say—to get away from him; he will never fail you; he will help you in all your trials; you will find him everywhere. Do you think it’s some small matter to have a friend like this at your side?”

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O.C.D.S. Community Prayer

Dear Lord, teach us to care deeply for one another. Help me to understand that we are united by a special closeness within the larger family of Carmel. This union we share is both my responsibility and my strength. Make me realize at all times that others in the group are dependent upon my prayers, my understanding and my friendship, and in time of difficulty, give me the faith to see that they are remembering me. Distance is no deterrent to my union with each one, because in the sphere of love we are all brought together. Today and every day I ask your grace for myself and each member of Carmel that we may find happiness and peace in our journey towards you. Amen.