



Flos Carmeli

Introducing Provincial Council candidates

By the Provincial Council

On the following few pages, you will find information regarding the four candidates for the Provincial Council. There are three positions open on the Provincial Council and those voted into office will begin serving on June 1, 2011 and serve until May 31, 2017.

Per the Provincial Statutes, canonical communities may vote for two candidates and study groups vote for one. Fr Bonaventure will tally the votes and then inform the candidates. Results will be published in the April Flos Carmeli.

Ballots were mailed out to the presidents of each community at the beginning of January and they are due back to Fr Bonaventure by March 31, 2011.

The full community/study group are to be included in choosing who to vote for. The vote for your community should not be decided by just the council nor just the president. It is to be a decision of the professed members (those who have at least made the First Promise) present at the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

Registration form for Provincial Congress 10

Report of the Provincial Delegate 11

Report of the Provincial Council 16

A letter from Fr General 19

News from around the province 26

(Continued from page 1)

meeting when the community vote is decided.

Please take the time to carefully read and pray over which candidates you think will best serve the Province. This is a very important service to all our members and the current Provincial Council is grateful for the willingness of these four people to step forward and dedicate their time and energy to the **Province**.

The PC Candidates

Dorothy Ashley



Community (name of the city, not the patron): Jackson, Miss.

Year of Profession: 2003

Positions held within OCDS:

As a Study Group: Secretary, President (2 terms), Councilor

As a Community: President (hold this position currently; 1 term), Liturgist (current), Retreat Coordinator (current)

What do you think you can contribute by serving on the OCDS Provincial Council?

It was the Feast of Jesus Christ the King. I was at Mass listening to the Readings and the Homily. The purveying message I remember from the Homily was that although Jesus is King of Heaven and the Universe, He did not use His power to glorify Himself, but, He humbled Himself and became a Servant and suffered in between two thieves....even then, suffering and dying for those He came to serve. My contributions to the Provincial Council

(Continued on page 3)

A letter from the editor

In this issue you'll read profiles of the Provincial Council candidates, along with instructions for the PC election from the current Provincial Council. We're asked to prayerfully consider their candidacies and vote accordingly. We're also reminded of our own upcoming community elections; see the fine article on page 18 regarding discernment of candidates for our local Councils. Don't miss Fr Bonaventure's proposal to establish a central O.C.D.S. office on page 14.

Not to be forgotten is the Lafayette Congress, scheduled for June 23 to June 26 of this year. The most economical registration is due March 19. Hope to meet you in Lafayette!

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

2

(Continued from page 2)

would be fourfold: 1. being a servant to Jesus, Mary, our Queen of Carmel, the Provincial Council, and the Secular Order; 2. being fair in our discussions and policies; 3. proven and trusted leadership; and, 4. enthusiasm and dedication to the Order. Certainly, being a level-headed thinker, I can contribute calmness, fairness and discernment on the Council and to the communities I may visit and serve. In my office as President and spokesperson for my local Council, I have been the one to give joyful news to someone that they have been invited to make their Promises. At other times, I have had to wrestle with telling someone that the Council wants to extend his/her formation, or, discontinue it altogether, but doing so in the most compassionate way possible. I bring to the Provincial Council nearly 8 and 1/2 years of experienced leadership of my Community (6 of them while we were a Study Group and 2 and 1/2 years as a canonical community). Combined with leadership from myself and the local council and with the help and guidance of our Spiritual Director and the Provincial Council, our Study Group *finally* regained its Canonical status. The last thing I would say that I could contribute to the Council and the Order is a passion, enthusiasm and dedication to the Order in the spirit of our founder, Holy Mother Teresa. I desire to see our Order expand with new members who also want to live the Promises of Humility, Poverty, Chastity and the Beatitudes out in the world and be a witness to Carmel to those in our families, parishes, and communities. Whatever I can do to help accomplish this with new prospective members and also help those of us who have made our Promises continue to live them well and help our Study Groups and Communities be vibrant and active, I am willing to do.

What strengths and skills do you bring that you think will benefit your service on the OCDS Provincial Council?

My skills are that I am at least “COMPUTER-LITERATE.” READING and CREATIVE WRITING are very enjoyable to me and am very good with editing and proofreading. I am well-versed in liturgy, being Liturgy Coordinator for my parish and I also am a CANTOR and have experience in COORDINATING and PLANNING LITURGIES, MEETINGS, and OTHER PROGRAMS. My strengths are realizing that I am NOT STRONG and that of myself I can do nothing, but, that “I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me.” “FLEXIBILITY” is second nature to me. I am a good “TEAM PLAYER” and know how and when to be an Indian Chief as well as a plain old Indian. (In other words, I can give instructions, but, also, can take and follow instructions really well.)

What qualities do you have that enable you to fulfill this service?

God gifted me with qualities that have helped me thus far in my dealings with people of varying backgrounds, cultures, and, ages:

1. DISCERNMENT
2. COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS
3. COMPASSION
4. DIVERSITY
5. HUMOR

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Sometimes, one has to know when to speak and when to be quiet....when to observe and when someone is observant of you. One's behavior and mannerisms often preaches a sermon before anything comes from one's mouth. That's part of discernment . If one discerns someone is anxious or unhappy, then, one will know how to communicate WITH that individual, or, how to listen TO those persons. In my work as a physical therapist, I have been around many people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, races, ages, educational levels, and, as a result, I am able to help people to feel comfortable around me. I must admit, I DO have a dry sense of humor and I love to smile. Sometimes, even a Provincial Council can take itself TOO seriously. PC needs someone to say sometimes, "Whoa..aaa, muleteam! Lighten up!!! Brighten up!!!" Smiling at someone helps to brighten their day and also my teeth! (smile!)

Mary Kay Daniels



Community: Sioux City, Iowa

Year of Profession: Jan. 15, 2000 Professed OCDS (Receiving Carmelite formation since 1986: professed TOCarm1993 annulled 1997)

Positions held within OCDS:

Council member: 2005-2008; President: 2008-2011

To serve our brothers and sisters in Carmel, I wish to offer my organizational skills, a mentoring style of leadership, wisdom and competency gained from volunteering and working as an ecclesial minister in the church, and a background in theology (MA, Notre Dame, Historical Systematics) to do all I can, as directed by the Holy Spirit through our provincial delegate, PC, and OCDS communities to allow Carmel to continue to thrive, and pour forth its/our holy charism into the church and the world through loving service.

Since I have a wonderful husband and 5 children, all college age and older, and 3 grand-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

children, I offer the perspective of knowing the demands of family life, practicality, promptness, self-discipline, follow-through, and especially honoring the importance of forgiveness and unconditional love. My constant prayer is, “May God’s will be done in/through all I do. May Jesus be praised!”

I look forward to working with the Ratio. Its wisdom will help all of us to keep our charism pure. I live Carmel the best I can. Carmel is about Jesus, our relationship with Him, out of which comes the quality of respectful, caring and loving relationships we cultivate and nurture with each other to create healthy communities. People, their well being, are very important to me. We are blessed to dedicate our lives to prayer.

Qualities, strengths and skills I wish to share to fulfill this service include

a listening heart, God’s gift of unfailing enthusiasm and a strong commitment to serve and give my very best to whatever I do. I am intuitive and see the big picture of situations, and diligent when tending to the numerous details that are very important to sustaining a flourishing community. Deep in my heart, the joy of the Lord reigns and profound gratitude for all Carmel has done for me. I wish to give back. I have a profound love for our Carmelite saints and family, both in heaven and on earth.



Bobby Pearson

Community: Mobile, AL

Year of Profession: 2007

Positions held within OCDS:

- 2004-05 President, Madison, AL Group in Discernment
- 2005-08 President, Madison, AL Study Group
- 2008-09 President, Madison, AL Study Group

(Continued from page 5)

What do you think you can contribute by serving on the OCDS Provincial Council?

In taking up this cross of fiduciary service for the Order with Our Lady of Mount Carmel, your prayers and His grace to help me, I hope to contribute Elijah's zeal in my collaboration with the other members of the Provincial Council, the Provincial Delegate and local councils, building upon the legacy of previous councils in the continued fulfillment of the council's mission "to assist one another better in formation and the apostolate." [Const. Art. 57]

I bring the recent lived experience of a group in discernment, a study group and as an extended member or isolate to a long established community. Knowing their many trials and tribulations and the deep wound that awaits each one on this journey, I hold them all very close to my heart with a special sensitivity to their needs and solidarity with them.

I bring a few innovative ideas for consideration that are designed to:

Increase the charitable support of our friars by the seculars within the province using an OCDS Scrip™ program on a voluntary basis to capture a percentage of retailer profit on our ordinary routine purchases and buying habits. Non-profit organizations frequently use this method for fund raising.

Increase vocations by increasing the virtual presence of all of our communities on the web making it easier for inquirers to find nearby communities. For the past several years I've averaged one referral a week to communities across the USA provinces from <http://discalcedcarmelites.net>. This site averages 25 visitors a day.

Increase the participation of isolates in their communities by facilitating and enabling wherever it is desired and feasible the virtual participation of isolates in their community's monthly meeting using free or low cost multi-party web video conferencing solutions. This is a common practice in business and works well when you get past the novelty of it.

What strengths and skills do you bring that you think will benefit your service on the OCDS Provincial Council? What qualities do you have that enable you to fulfill this service?

✦ Strengths

1. An understanding of and respect for social justice principles as foundation of frater-

(Continued on page 7)

Winter 2011

(Continued from page 6)

nal charity.

2. And a very great appreciation of fraternal life that can be experienced in secular community.
3. Skills
4. Experience with success and failure in small startups (OCDS – GID/SG, church – bereavement ministry, community – BSA Troop, and business).
5. Technical: MS Office power user, database driven applications, web site design, development, hosting, and multi-party web video conferencing.
6. Shaping the future, building effective relationships, organizing, energizing and resourcing teams, delivering results with integrity and accountability.

Chris Woods



Name: Christopher B. Wood (Chris)

Community (name of the city, not the patron): Houston Study Group

Year of Profession: 1990

Positions held within OCDS: Formation Director, New Caney
President, New Caney
Council, New Caney
President, Houston Study Group
Council, Houston Study Group

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

What do you think you can contribute by serving on the OCDS Provincial Council?

I have a strong commitment to and passion for the Secular Carmelite vocation. If elected to the council I will do my best to carry on the great work done by the previous council members. While I don't think I am any better qualified than many others for this position I believe my 20+ year association with the Order can provide a good foundation for service.

What strengths and skills do you bring that you think will benefit your service on the OCDS Provincial Council? What qualities do you have that enable you to fulfill this service?

I have been a member of four different OCDS communities across the province in my 20 year tenure with the order so I have experience with the different styles and approaches that these communities have brought to the vocation. Also, from my professional life I have a lot of experience working in virtual environments and therefore am quite comfortable with the technology and tools used for virtual meetings / conferencing, etc. (e.g. voice conferencing, web meetings, email, and the like).

Enthusiasm, patience, teamwork, and decision making skills are perhaps the best qualities that I can bring to the council.

See information about community elections on page 18.

Time to make plans for Lafayette Congress

By Gerald Alford, OCDS

Wow!! I just realized that we have only FIVE more monthly Community meetings before WE meet in Lafayette. (The congress runs from June 23 to June 26 of this year.) So, don't be a procrastinator. Time is important in arranging air flights if that is the way you plan to come. Make and act on your plans ASAP. If you need any help with your planning let us know.

Have you registered yet?? Your deposit of \$150 is due by March 19 and the balance of \$100 will be due on May 1. If you register after March 19, your deposit is still \$150, but the balance due by May 1 will be \$125. Wouldn't it be great to have each community and study group represented?

NEW! We now have the presenters or facilitators for the three workshops committed: Gerald Alford from Lafayette will be leading a workshop involving Christian Formation and *The Way of Perfection*; Kathryn Ney, an OCDS member of the Mobile community and psychiatrist, will be making a presentation on human formation relative to *The Way of Perfection*. This should be very helpful in regards to personality issues involved in community and discernment of vocations. And Father Conley Bertrand, OCDS and founder of the *Come Lord Jesus!* program will be conducting a presentation relative to prayer and Carmelite formation. Also, Brother Bryan Paquette, OCD, of ICS Publications will be a main vendor with a stock of Carmelite publications, all to be sold at a 40 percent discount!

Just as a reminder: our main conferences will be provided by Dr. Susan Muto, Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, Father Daniel Chowning, OCD, Father Gregory Ross, OCD, and Father Aloysius Deeney, OCD. See Web site for details.

There will be other surprises, entertaining and inspirational, including small group, special tours of our Carmelite nuns's cloister and a chance to meet personally the nuns themselves. **A very special guest pianist** will be present to delight you. Then there is the great joy of meeting old OCDS friends and making new ones, and of savoring delicious meals and cultural treats in a comfortable and pleasing setting of a very hospitable hotel. Last and best of all - the blessing of being around the Eucharistic table with our Carmelite family in the celebration of the Lord's Supper and listening to the Word of God and to thought-provoking and inspiring homilies.

You want to be in that number of saints to come and march in!

Registration form on following page.



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	Mr. Ms. Mrs. Rev. Bro. <small>(circle one)</small> 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: <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Received Before March 19, 2011 (Feast of St. Joseph)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Received After March 19, 2011</td> <td style="text-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
Received Before March 19, 2011 (Feast of St. Joseph)	\$250.00					
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.)						
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

By Father Bonaventure Sauer. O.C.D.

It is after Christmas, but before New Year's, as I write this report. These days that comprise the Octave of Christmas are a special span of days. Liturgically they have their distinctive character as a series of feast days extending our Christmas celebration. Also, the church returns again to the reading at mass of the First Letter of John—which, I believe, is an ancient tradition that has, through the centuries, colored the Christmas Season with its particular insights into the gospel and what it asks of us.

The Liturgy of the Hours during these days all but repeats each day the office of Christmas Day, letting our praises literally resound. Yet, while that may seem simple enough, the breviary of the Christmas Season still manages to lead many astray. If at one point or another during the two weeks of the Christmas Season you felt yourself getting lost and not knowing where you should be in the breviary, well, take heart, so did everyone else. It's not just the most wonderful time of year, as we're told in song. When it comes to the Liturgy of the Hours, it's also the most confusing.

As for keeping not just our Christian holy days but also the holiday season—when it comes to work and the workplace during these days between Christmas and New Year's, a sort of acceptable slacking off often seems to hold sway. Yes, Christmas is over, and it's time to get back to work. But one shouldn't be working too hard. It's still Christmas, sort of, and New Year's is almost here.

I hope each of you have had a happy, holy, restful, and peaceful Christmas Season, with as much slacking off as you could get away with.

Thanks for your Prayers

Thank you for your many prayers for my mother during her ordeal. When I told her she had all these Carmelites praying for her, she was thrilled—which is to say, deeply grateful and appreciative. While it was questionable at first whether she would make it, she did. And while it took a few weeks, she eventually stabilized and is now regaining her strength. Of course, she was nervous at first about whether or not she would receive the care she needed once she returned home to her assisted living facility—which must surely be the fear many elderly face—her anxieties have been thoroughly allayed. Again, thank you for your prayers.

I can also report that Fr. John Magdalene Suenram is likewise doing splendidly. There's a long road of recovery ahead for him, but he is making sure and steady progress. By the time you read this report he should be back home at Marylake. He, and all the friars—myself especially—greatly appreciate the heartfelt concern and many prayers you poured forth on his behalf. It was impressive and makes me glad and very thankful to be part of such a loving spiritual family.

The Lafayette Congress

Over the past few months I've been able to meet a couple of times with the committee

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

working hard to prepare the OCDS Regional Congress this summer in Lafayette. Their dedication and energy is unending. Keep them and all the Seculars in Lafayette in your prayers as the date of the Congress draws ever closer.

If you are planning to attend the Congress, I would encourage you to register as soon as possible. The deadline for early registration is approaching faster than you think. But registering early can also be a great help to the planning committee as they try to get a sense for how many participants to expect. Also, early registration helps with the expenses incurred in preparing the Congress. So, please consider registering as soon as you can.

OCarm and OCD—Lay and Secular Carmelites

Back in November I gave a day of recollection to a community of Lay Carmelites, that is, to Seculars of the OCarm or Calced Carmelite Order. The subject I spoke about with them, as I have spoken about with some of our own Discalced Carmelite Secular communities, was the practice of prayer and recollection according to St. Teresa of Jesus. I found them very receptive and eager to delve into this core experience of our charism. In fact, as they shared with me their own struggles to practice mental prayer regularly and, in doing so, to discern and better understand the interior movements of God in their lives, I found the questions and concerns they raised much the same as those I've encountered speaking in a similar vein with Discalced Carmelite Seculars.

Of course, there are significant differences between the two Orders, the Discalced and the Calced, the OCD and the OCarm. But there are also similarities. There is a kind of family resemblance, if you will. Those of you who have overseen the process of a Lay Carmelite (TOC) transferring to our Order in order to become a Secular Carmelite (OCDS) are concretely aware of the differences, especially as they pertain to formation. On the other hand, given the similarities we share, there is no reason why—where there is a community (or communities) of Lay Carmelites (TOC) nearby—you might not seek ways for your two communities occasionally to collaborate on some project. I have in mind something like, say, planning a day of recollection together or celebrating mass together—the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel or of St. Elijah might be a good choice—followed by a time to socialize. That way you can get to know each other better and better appreciate how much we do have in common, as well as how our differences can be mutually enriching.

I wish to conclude with a somewhat lengthy quote from our Fr. General Savario Cannistrà. The passage is from a talk he gave to Seculars in Manila this past October. It provides a small window into how he thinks and what issues preoccupy him. Of course, the question he raises is not a new one nor peculiar to him. But that is because it is *the* question, the one that addresses us all, but especially that lies at the heart of any lay spirituality where Christians are called to serve as a

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

leaven in the world. It is the question the asking of which can make of religion a way of discipleship and path of spirituality. Thus, it represents the crisis of faith in our times. For many people today religion—understood as culture, tradition, ritual, law, institutional allegiance and authority—has lost the societal and political meaning it once had. Instead, what they seek from it are discipleship and spirituality or nothing at all.

Thus, the words of our Fr. General:

And now let me turn directly to you Seculars. Teresa was not a lay person, she was a nun. You are lay persons—or better, baptized persons called to live in the world—*Christifideles laici* . . . I would like to put before you Secular Teresian Carmelites a question on which, I believe, each of you should reflect personally. How does the life of a lay person change when he or she chooses to live, in the example and teaching of St. Teresa, a relationship of friendship with Jesus? What change comes to one in one's experience of family, of work, of the many other occupations and relationships that fill our everyday lives?

I believe that, if one is a member of the Carmelite Secular Order, one is given in his or her vocation a spiritual possibility of coming to know the reality of our lives in the world at a different, deeper level. Woe to anyone who would live compartmentalized—that is, where, on the one hand, we listen to spiritual discourses and practice our devotions while, on the other, living out our relationships with others or making our day to day decisions in ways that don't conform to and resonate with our spiritual life—or, equally, where the connection is only external and legalistic . . . This is spirituality as a merely legal relationship. But authentic spirituality and morality must take shape as a matter of personal conscience and motivation. Thus, we interiorize it . . .

Carmel is not easy. When we lament the scarcity of vocations—certainly today we are living in a world that does not favor a choice of this life—we need to consider that a vocation to Carmel is not an easy one. It is a very exacting vocation. Above all it is a vocation which is all or nothing. Precisely because it is contemplative, it either produces fruit or risks becoming *effatus vocis* (a mere hissing of the voice). It either transforms persons from within, bringing inestimable riches to the Church, or becomes something rather trivial. It would be better for us not to aim so high—or so deep—if being Carmelite is not the center and focal point in shaping our way of life . . .

Notice: Where to send dues, etc.

A reminder: Please send annual dues, financial statements and rosters to the following address:

Central Office
c/o Pat Darby
315 N. Greenville Ave., #1214
Allen, TX 75002

Make checks out to "O.C.D.S."

Important! Please read

Proposal to establish an OCDS Central Office and OCDS Provincial Secretary

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, Provincial Delegate

Soon after I began my new assignment as provincial delegate, I noticed one rather obvious issue or point of concern. How can we keep the responsibilities and duties of the OCDS Provincial Council from slowly expanding and becoming unwieldy? The concern is threefold:

—As with any institution, the Secular Order has its administrative tasks. On the local level, for example, you have your secretary, your treasurer, etc., to fulfill these tasks. On the provincial level, for some years now Pat Darby has faithfully fulfilled many of these duties. At the same time, ever since the formation of the Provincial Council, other such duties have fallen on its members. Very possibly we need to reorganize this whole arrangement, which seems to me kind of ad hoc.

—Placing such administrative tasks on the Provincial Council does not seem to me fair or helpful. Those who serve on the Provincial Council do so as volunteers. Moreover, the Council's two primary responsibilities are to make visitations and to oversee Study Groups. Its responsibilities need to remain so focused.

—Lastly, as is true in most institutions, there can often be a kind of bureaucratic job creep with any position. Since the Provincial Council exists with responsibilities extending to the whole province, the tendency is to attach more and more duties to it as they arise. But if we make the work of the Council too time-consuming or demanding, then we severely limit the number those who have the freedom and inclination to serve on the Council.

Given these concerns it seems to me that the Seculars of the Oklahoma Province need to consider putting into place an OCDS Central Office staffed by an OCDS Provincial Secretary—a paid, although perhaps part-time position—in order to meet its growing administrative needs. Obviously the cost of maintaining this office and paying the salary of the secretary would have to come from you, the Seculars of the province. Thus, the office would be put in place in order to serve your needs, and the secretary would, in a manner of speaking, work for you. In his or her more day-to-day responsibilities, the secretary would work with the OCDS Provincial Council and with the friars—especially the provincial and his delegate—in seeing to the needs of the local OCDS communities and individual members of the province.

The Provincial Council and I have discussed this position of OCDS Provincial Secretary and drawn up a preliminary job description. We have in mind such responsibilities as—managing the Flos Carmeli, maintaining a Provincial Directory, collecting dues and keeping the OCDS Provincial Accounts, managing the website, answering inquires, keeping forms and records up to date, sending out mailings to communities, managing other correspondence as it is needed, etc. The job description, of course, will go into greater detail, listing responsibilities and other requirements, and will be used in the hiring process, should we get to that point.

What I would like from you, at this point, is any ideas you might have for the sorts of administrative needs and duties you could see such a position as helping to fulfill in the province. If we were to have an OCDS Provincial Secretary, what would you like to see him or her doing? What would be help-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

ful in the overall management of the Secular Order of our province and in the facilitation of better communication, awareness, and collaboration among its members and communities?

I will take what the Provincial Council has already developed in the way of a job description and finesse it and improve upon it using the comments and suggestions I receive from you over the coming months. Then I will put together a finalized formal description of the office and position to present to the friars at our upcoming Provincial Chapter at the end of May, first of June.

So, please send along to me any ideas you might have regarding the duties of an OCDS Provincial Secretary. My email address is bvsauer@yahoo.com

Of course, there is a first question which I have glossed over. Not only is there the question of whether or not we need such a position—and I think the answer to that question is yes—or whether or not we even want such a position—and again I think the answer is yes. But there is also the question of whether or not we—which is to say, for the most part, *you*—can afford it. The friars might be able to chip in something to help cover the costs of setting up and maintaining such an office and paying the salary of the secretary (with taxes and medical insurance). But most of the expense would have to be met by you.

The Provincial Council estimates, in the way of a salary, \$15 an hour up to a maximum of \$12,000 a year. Of course, there would be added costs, both for start up and on a regular basis—such as office supplies, for example. (By the way, there would be no need for the office to be in any particular location. Indeed, the secretary, who almost certainly would have to be an OCDS member himself or herself, could work out of his or her home.) Thus, in order to arrive at a rough estimate of the overall cost—let us say there are 800 Seculars in the province, an assessment of \$20 a year per Secular would give us \$16,000 to work with, which would probably be sufficient, maybe even more than enough.

Thus, the question becomes, to put it bluntly, are each of you able and willing to pay around \$20 (maybe less) each year in order to set up and maintain this Central Office and Provincial Secretary? If not, then how much are you able and willing to pay? I would like to hear your response to that question as well.

So, there you have it, the proposal. Is it something you'd like to see us move towards? Is it realistic? Can we afford it? I will be very interested to learn how and what you feel or think about the idea. In the next issue of the Flos Carmeli I will report further on where we stand with the proposal. Don't be shy in sending along your comments. I can use your input.

Report of the Provincial Council

Happy New Year!

As usual, the Provincial Council made some visitations during these past three months. **Dorothy** completed her lengthy trip through the middle of the province visiting three groups as well as family along the way. As a result of her visitations and with the recommendations of the mentoring communities, we have granted study group status to our communities in Tulsa, OK and in Lincoln/Omaha, NB. She also visited our Savannah study group. **Henrietta** visited our DeRidder study group as well as the Gulf Coast community in Mississippi. **Martha** went to Little Rock where she was able to also visit Fr John Magdalene in the hospital. **Elizabeth** visited our study groups in Atlanta and Lawrenceville.

During this time we put our final touches to a new statute on how to dismiss members from the Order. This has now been sent to Fr Provincial who will have it reviewed by a canon lawyer to make sure we have everything in proper order before we forward it to the Generalate for final approval.

We've also been giving some attention to the matter of upcoming elections, including that for new PC members. You'll see a number of articles relating to elections in this issue of the Flos. We're also turning our attention to the transition to new members of the PC. As Elizabeth finishes her long term as president, we're trying to make sure that she's passed along the various files and such. Dorothy and Henrietta are working with Fr Bonaventure to update the PC manual and prepare for the Provincial Chapter at the end of May.

Like the rest of you, we've been following the situation with **Fr John Magdalene's** recovery from the bad accident back in October. Regular updates were sent out to the OCDS presidents so our members could hold him in prayer and we rejoice to see that despite over a month in a coma, he's now making good progress at recovery and will soon return home to Marylake. We know that many also sent cards to Father and were happy to hear that our Little Rock OCDS also helped keep him company while he was in the coma. This was such a witness to how Carmel is family for each of us.

We wish all our communities well with the upcoming elections. Thank you to all those who are willing to be on the ballots of their communities and step forward in service to their brother and sister Carmelites.

The Provincial Council

Henrietta Albright, Martha Burchard, Elizabeth Korves, Dorothy Mansen

Winter 2011

Preparing for Community elections

By the Provincial Council

As we look forward to the community elections in the spring, it might be helpful for everyone to reflect upon some of the following questions beforehand.

What are the challenges within this community?

What is the state of the community and how do we advance from here?

What does Carmel have to offer and how is this community addressing that?

How does this community contribute to/share with the local Church?

Is the life of our community vibrant enough to attract new members?

After examining these questions, then each of us should ask ourselves, who among those eligible to serve would best meet the leadership needs of our community to address these needs? That becomes who you should vote to serve on the council.

Being on the ballot and serving on the council of a community is never about honor or privilege. Nor is the election meant to be a popularity contest. It is always about service. The council's primary role is formation and to foster the Carmelite and Christian maturing of the members of the Order (Art. 46). So it is important when we come to the election to take into account what are the needs of this community, not who do I like or who is my friend.

On the other side of the equation is the willingness of each of us to serve if asked. Some say no because they do not feel worthy. God has made us worthy so this is not a reason to refuse to serve.

There is also a difference between being willing to serve and seeking/desiring the position. Occasionally we come across someone who wants to be president. Often one gets the impression that this person misunderstands the role. Either the person thinks it is about prestige or its about power, being in charge. The president only speaks on behalf of the full council. It is the full council that makes decisions, not the president. For anyone to think being president is about being in charge is not healthy for ei-

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

ther the council nor for the community.

Finally, we recall to mind something Gerald Alford once shared: a willingness to give of self in service to the community by accepting leadership roles is a way of putting into practice the three Evangelical Counsels: as an act of chaste love for fellow members, an act of self-emptying for the sake of the good of the community and as an expression of obedience in response to the needs of the community.

2011 Provincial budget

Income - \$40 x 850 members	\$34,000.00
Expenses	
Interprovincial Council dues	\$500.00
Rome OCDS office	\$5,000.00
Carmelite Institute	\$1,000.00
Flos Carmeli printing and postage	\$8,000.00
Central Office salary	\$3,600.00
Interprovincial Council* meeting	\$1,700.00
2011 Congress Expenses for PC	\$3,700.00
Office Supplies and Repairs	\$700.00
Central Office Postage	\$200.00
Annual PC meeting	\$4,000.00
Provincial Delegate	\$2,000.00
Visitation training for new PC members	\$2,250.00
Total Expenses	\$32,650.00
Difference (= Income - Expenses)	\$1,350.00

* - Interprovincial Council - formerly National Council

Winter 2011

A letter from Father General



Carmelitani Scalzi
Corso d'Italia, 38
00198 Roma

6 January 2011

The Epiphany of the Lord

My dear Fathers and Brothers, and, in a special way my dear brothers and sisters of the Secular Order,

The Order is in the time of celebrating Provincial chapters. Some few have already taken place, but most will be celebrated sometime over the next six months. At the beginning of this new year I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the place and importance of the Secular Order in the world we are facing as we go forward.

In December of 2006, Father Luis Arostegui sent to the Provincials a document on the Pastoral Assistance of the OCD Friars to the Secular Order. In the preface to that document it stated the following:

“The Secular Order of the Mendicant Orders is not just an associated laity. Through the connection to the friars of the different Orders, the Secular Order communicates the spirituality of the Orders to the world around it.”

In other words, the reason for the permission given to the Mendicant Orders to have Secular members is to bring the spirituality of those Orders to the homes and lives of people who identify with the Order.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Indeed, the greatest difference between the Secular Order and other movements or groups of associations that might be attached to a convent, monastery, parish, or particular friar is that while those in the later groups are dedicated to the spirituality of Saint Teresa, or Saint John of the Cross, or Saint Therese, etc., the members of the Secular Order have made a commitment to the Order, to its life and its mission as well as to its spirituality. They have expressed this commitment through the Promise which they made.

In the Apostolic Exhortation, *Vita Consecrata*, paragraph 54, Pope John Paul II wrote: *Today, often as a result of new situations, many Institutes have come to the conclusion that their charism can be shared with the laity. The laity are therefore invited to share more intensely in the spirituality and mission of these Institutes. We may say that, in the light of certain historical experiences such as those of the Secular or Third Orders, a new chapter, rich in hope, has begun in the history of relations between consecrated persons and the laity.*

Many congregations of religious are today searching for ways to invite lay persons to identify with the life and mission of those congregations. The Holy Father used precisely what the Mendicant Orders have had for centuries, namely, Secular Orders, as the model or example for what they might do.

The relationship that exists between the friars and the seculars is a grace and a responsibility for both branches. The grace is found in the mutual enrichment of the vocation that each person lives. The relationship of the friars with the seculars reinforces the friars in their desire to live seriously their commitment as consecrated religious. The relationship of the seculars with the friars helps them to live the demands of a serious spiritual life in the midst of a secular environment which is not always friendly to religion.

The responsibility of the friars to the seculars is exercised in two ways, governance and formation. These two ways must go together for either one to be effective. When governance and formation go together it is an experience of guidance, not control. Guidance illuminates the mind and makes the burdens of the Christian life lighter to bear. Indeed, the greatest emphasis in the renewal of the Secular Order since the Second Vatican Council is that of the responsibility for an adequate formation of mature members of the Church and Order. This emphasis is inspired by both *Apostolicam Actuositatem* of Vatican II and *Christifideles Laici* of Pope John Paul II. In many parts of the Order this renewal in the area of formation has been well on the way. In other parts it is still in planning stages. In every part of the Order it is necessary.

The responsibility of the seculars in relation to the friars is exercised in the availability of the seculars to collaborate with the friars in planning the mission of the provinces. The 54th paragraph of *Vita Consecrata* quoted above stated that “the laity are invited to share more intensely in the spiri-

(Continued on page 21)

Winter 2011

(Continued from page 20)

tuality *and mission*” of the religious. This also applies to us as an Order. It is necessary to recognize the place of our lay members of the Order in the development of our presence not only because of demographical changes taking place in certain places, but because the very nature of lay participation in the Church has developed to a new state. The presence of competent and well formed secular members of the Order may be a great help in planning eventual new structures of our presence.

It has already been the custom in many Provinces to invite members of the Secular Order, usually represented by the OCDS Provincial Council, to participate in the Provincial Chapters, dedicating some time to dialog about the relationship that exists between the friars and the seculars. This highly recommended dialog is increasingly important in planning the future projects of our Provinces and addressing the needs and desires of the seculars as we together as an Order seek to make our presence more effective in bringing the message of the Discalced Carmel to the world around us

The spiritual relationship that exists among the friars, the cloistered nuns and the secular members of the Order is a source of great riches to each of us as individuals and as an Order. It also is a source of grace and energy to the Church we serve and to the world in need of the knowledge of the presence of God.

I ask the Provincials to please communicate this letter to the Secular Order members in your Province.

Fraternally in Christ our Saviour,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Saverio Cannistrà". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Saverio Cannistrà, OCD

Superior General

Winter 2011

A letter from the Definitory

Casa Generalizia Carmelitani Scalzi

Corso d'Italia, 38

00198 Roma—Italy

DEFINITORY LETTER

+ Rome, 23rd December 2010

Very dear Brothers and sisters in Carmel:

PEACE.

The day after celebrating the solemnity of Saint John of the Cross and during the days before Christmas, we met once more as a Definitory here in Rome. Our brother Marcos Juchem was not able to be with us as he is in Chile presiding at the Chapter of the recently created Commissariat.

Continuing on with the methodology established at the beginning of the Sexennium, Fr General, accompanied by the corresponding Definitor, has already carried out the planned meetings with the Major Superiors—and in his case, with the Councils—of the following areas: Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Asia, India and Central Europe-1 (Poland and Delegations of the Provinces of Cracow and Warsaw in Eastern Europe).

Looking back on these meetings, what stood out was the positive note which characterized all. First of all, the opportunity was given for a direct mutual knowledge between Fr General and the Major Superiors; secondly, from these meetings came very practical proposals that can be debated in their coming Chapters. Moreover, in some cases, Fr General was able to visit outlying posts of the Teresian Carmel, such as the missions in the North of India.

A general aspect of the proposals born from these meetings was that they were not limited solely to formal aspects of our life, tied more to *doing*, rather they concerned searching for the *being* of our life. Thus, in nearly all cases, there was a call to give new life to our prayer life and to find, through it, an adequate equilibrium between fraternal and prayerful community life and the apostolate.

.(Continued on page 23)

We paid particular attention this time to the Delegation of Israel and Egypt. As you know, we had a meeting in Israel with our brothers of the O.Carm General Council. You will find the first conclusions of this meeting in the accompanying letter *De Custodia Ordinis et animarum salute tractetis*. Both Orders are disposed to open opportunities for dialogue and collaboration in the land of Jesus, which is also the land which gave birth to Carmel. We will inform you of any fu-

(Continued from page 22)

In nearly every place, our Discalced Carmelite friars were able to dialogue with Fr Saverio, sharing with him their worries, problems and hopes.

We paid particular attention this time to the Delegation of Israel and Egypt. As you know, we had a meeting in Israel with our brothers of the O.Carm General Council. You will find the first conclusions of this meeting in the accompanying letter *De Custodia Ordinis et animarum salute tractetis*. Both Orders are disposed to open opportunities for dialogue and collaboration in the land of Jesus, which is also the land which gave birth to Carmel. We will inform you of any future steps that might take place.

On the other hand, in revising the Statutes of the Delegation of Israel and Egypt, which will expire at this time, we decided to separate the Cairo monastery from the houses making up the Delegation. Thus this only house in Egypt will fall directly under the authority of the General Definitory, while the rest of the houses will belong to the Delegation of Israel. At present we are also considering the possibility of sending some friars to this Delegation, for the purpose of making our presence there much stronger.

Concerning the *Stella Maris Project*, know to all, both Fr Ernesto, the bursar of the Delegation, and Fr Attilio, the bursar General, in collaboration with their respective superiors, have been searching in a coordinated manner for the necessary contacts to make a successful start to the project. In this Definitory, we received an Italian advisory group interested in carrying out the necessary work to find a property investor who could carry out the operation.

As President of the Commission which met on Mount Carmel from 5th to 8th December, Fr Augustine Mulloor presented to the Definitory the plan for ongoing formation courses to be held in our Stella Maris Monastery, which you would have already seen in *Communicationes 164*. The proposal having been approved, we are in contact with the Major Superiors to organize the courses and select those taking part. You will receive full information of all this.

With regards to the Teresianum, we can inform you that an internal commission has been setup with Fr General, the Grand Chancellor, as the President. The purpose of the commission is to revise the statutes of the centre and to update, as much as possible, the study levels, while reinforcing the role of the Faculty Council and the already existing commissions.

Last October, Fr General received a letter from the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the People in which the said congregation took back the *ius commissionis* of the Order to be attached to another institute. We received the news with sadness, resignation and obedience to the Church, but however with surprise, since though it was announced in June 2009 that we would have a canonical visitation by the Vicar apostolic, we have heard nothing more of the matter.

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

Having received the letter in the absence of the Fr General, the Vicar General wrote a reply to the Congregation and was in contact with it and the Provincial of Burgos. For his part, Fr Saverio wrote a letter to Mons. Gonzalo sharing with him the solidarity of the Order in these difficult moments. In analyzing this painful and difficult time, we as a Definitory lamented the lack of information we suffered, which prevented us searching for other solutions.

In this meeting we listened to some of the officials and secretaries who work with us in the General House, serving the Order. We will give more time in the coming Definitories to this listening so that we get to know better the work our brothers are doing, so that we can improve coordination amongst us in the tasks we carry out for the good of all.

The circumstances surrounding some of the European Provinces, has caused the Conferences of Provincials to present a redistribution of our foundations and also a new defining of our circumscriptions. Thus, the Provinces of the Iberian Conference have presented a process of restructuring, of which the Definitory has been advised, while among the Italians a survey has been carried out among the friars of some Italian Provinces to implement a similar process. In the meetings that will happen January for the Iberian and Italian zones, we will share our impressions with the Major Superiors and their Councils, in such a way that we can begin to set in motion some of the presented plans.

In reflecting on these and other matters, we faced the need of growing in the radicalness of our commitment to the Lord. First of all we asked ourselves about our own commitment, as a Definitory, to God's plan for our lives, and to his projects, which are what count, more than our ideas and our decisions.

We would like to share with all of you, our brothers and sisters, what seems to us a great challenge: the need to get back to a spirit of obedience which, putting to one side whatever type of personal project, helps us to make a radical decision for God's plan for our lives.

At times the impression is left that our vow of obedience is becoming reduced to a simple formal commitment. On the other hand, the value given to the individual and his needs for self-realization leads us to condition everything that appears to oppose the licit desires of the person. On the other, the loss of a theological meaning to our obedience can lead to our feeling it simply as an instrument that helps us regulate relationship with in the family, without going any further.

Today's men and women seek to be *controllers of their life*, however in Religious Life it is not like that. In responding affirmatively to God's call, we made him our Lord

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

and master, to whom we hand over what we are and have, so that he can make of us what he seeks. This does not suppose a negation of our liberty, neither does it expect of us a passive attitude: allowing us to be led here and there without any feeling.

But it is also certain that we have not made a simple choice, rather we have *grown apart* from our own selves—following the example of Jesus—to be all for others, to serve God, the Church, the Order and the men and women of this world.

The individualism and out-and-out defense of personal reality, which permeates our societies, invite us to restore ourselves as subjects capable of decision, who are not dependant on others to realize themselves. Nevertheless, the example of Jesus ought to overcome this social pressure, so that we feel called to make a radical commitment.

Our predecessors did not even consider their own life as the greatest value to defend. How many young people set off for the missions to devote their life at a tender age? How many of our brothers and sisters, forgetful of their own health, work themselves almost to death, in order to welcome the poor and the sick?

Times have changed and these words may sound *old-fashioned*, however the Gospel is always new and, in these days, presents us with one who, born in Bethlehem obedient to his Father, left aside his divine state in order to take upon himself the poverty of our flesh, journeying in this manner towards death, death on the Cross.

By the power of his Spirit may the Lord make our men and women willing, capable of giving everything, even their own lives for him and for their brethren.

Fr Saverio Cannistra, General

Fr Emilio J. Martinez

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, O.C.D.

1. Deridder, LA—submitted by Henrietta Albright, OCDS



Over the weekend of December 4-5, 2010, Henrietta Albright, who serves on the OCDS Provincial Council, made a visitation of the Deridder Study Group. This photo was taken to commemorate the occasion. In the front [from left to right] are: Ernesto Kufoy, Danithza Kufoy (President), Jeanette LaFrosa (Director of Formation), and Henrietta Albright (Visitor). In the back [from left to right] are: Fr. Jude Brunnert (Spiritual Assistant), and Jeaeane Herr.

2. Little Rock, AR—submitted by Patricia Cromwell, OCDS

On Saturday, October 9, Nancy Lowry took vows of Chastity and Obedience in the Secular Order during Mass at our annual gathering at Marylake Monastery. Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD, was the principal celebrant. Following the Mass, and Father's Spiritual Conference, we enjoyed a potluck luncheon with the Fathers and Brothers at Marylake. Shown in the photo to the left are Fr. John Michael and Nancy Lowry.

On the next day, Sunday, October 10, members of the Little Rock Carmelite Secular Order—Julie Breen-Patrick, Miguel Aguinaga, and Mary Howard—joined with Brothers Jorge and Alberto from Marylake to help man a vocations booth at



Youth 2000, which was being held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Marche, AR, near Little Rock. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the joy and blessing of our Carmelite Vocation.

Shown in the photo to the right, standing in front of the Carmelite table they manned, which was stocked with attractive posters and vocation literature for display, are [from left to right]: Brother Alberto, Julie Breen-Patrick, Mary Howard, Brother Jorge, and Miguel Aguinaga



3. Mobile, AL—submitted by Paul Schubert, OCDS



The Secular Carmelites of Mobile made their annual retreat the first weekend of October.

Here are three pictures from the retreat:

The first [to the left] is of our three new members, those who, through clothing, were received into formation. They are, from left to right, Marie Langan, Douglas Ammons, and Nancy Volovecky.

In the second photo [see next page, at top] five of our members stand before our retreat master during the concluding mass of the retreat and profess their promises, first or final, in the Secular Order. They are, from left to right, David McAleer, Mary Ann Shanahan, Karen White, Gloria Schneider, and Bobby Pearson.

Lastly, a third photo [see next page, at bottom] shows the entire group of 75 retreatants. Seculars from Mobile were joined for the retreat by Seculars from Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach, FL, Jackson, MS, and Chattanooga, TN.



Winter 2011

4. New Caney, TX—submitted by *Elizabeth Oglvie, OCDS*

Below is a photo of our community's five newly professed members. All made First Promise on July 31, 2010 at St John of the Cross Parish in New Caney, Texas.

They are [from left to right in the photo]—with their devotional titles in parenthesis— Melinda Langland (of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), who joined our community in September 2007 after having completed her aspirancy period in Denmark; Sheila Yepsen (of St. Therese); Betsy Anderson (of Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified); Angelita Acosta (of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross); and Ray Broussard (of Jesus).

The ceremony of profession took place during a mass presided over by Fr. Hai Dang,



who received each promise on behalf of the Order. We wish to congratulate these new members for their perseverance and ask your prayers as they continue their journey.

5. Oklahoma City, OK—submitted by *Susan Staudt, OCDS*

On September 25-26 Dorothy Mansen, OCDS, who serves on the Provincial Council, conducted a visitation of the Oklahoma City Secular Order community. She was assisted by Fr. Bonaventure, OCD, the OCDS provincial delegate.

Below [see next page, top] is a photo of Dorothy, at the far left, along with the Oklahoma City Council—[from left to right, after Dorothy] Vicki Caudell (formation director), Susan Staudt (president), Katherine Payne, Patti Robinson, and Corliss Elsworth. Fr. Bonaventure towers high above them all. somewhat disconcertingly, in the back.



6. Omaha, NE—submitted by Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS (president, Sioux City)

Omaha-Lincoln Group in Discernment Designated a Study Group

On November 16th, 2010, the Omaha-Lincoln, NE, GID Coordinator Mary Phillips received word from our OCDS Provincial Delegate Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, that the Omaha-Lincoln GID had been officially designated a Study Group of our Province. At the recommendation of the Provincial Council, Fr. Bonaventure appointed Mary Phillips to serve as President of the new Study Group, with Molly Vacha as Formation Director. Abbot Raphael Walsh, OSB, of Mount St. Michael's Benedictine Monastery in Elk Horn, NE, who has been serving as the community's Spiritual Assistant, was also officially appointed to continue in this role. "You have been patient and understanding throughout the whole process, bringing to birth a new Study Group in our province. Carmel is now officially present in the Lincoln/Omaha area. May God continue to bless you," wrote Fr. Bonaventure.

The community, which was formed in September of 2007 under the auspices of the canonical community in Sioux City, IA, is preparing to begin accepting visitors in May and would like to start Aspirant Formation in September. The community is working on choosing its name. President Mary Phillips commented, "We are grateful to God for His goodness in bringing Carmel to the Omaha and Lincoln areas. We are thrilled and humbled to be on this journey and have grown into becoming a committed and loving community. I think the Lord has planted us on fruitful soil as there also appears to be interest from others in learning more about

the Secular Carmelites and discerning whether they, too, had been made ready for our membership to grow."

Newly appointed Formation Director Molly Vacha also commented, "When I look back over my years in Carmel, there have been faith struggles that I am not sure I would have been able to continue on with prayer and peace if not for the solid teaching and support of the community I found within my Carmel family. I am grateful for our group's growth and I pray we continue to search and learn—that we, as Therese taught; reach without hesitation into that 'basket of toys' with both hands and begin to comprehend the abundance of gifts present for us to give and receive on Mount Carmel."

Members of the community include: Bernadette Howie, Won Mee (Julie) Jang, Theresa Kottwitz, Mariann Kozisek, Eleanore McNulty, Carol Schade, Steve Vacha, Lavetta Vamosi, and David Wooten. Pictured here are [from left to right] Steve and Molly Vacha, David Wooten, Bernadette Howie, Theresa Kottwitz, and Mary Phillips.



Congratulations to all and may rich blessings continue to shower upon them!

00:00:00

\$34,600.00

(Income - Expenses)

\$2,000.00
\$4,000.00
\$3,000.00

7. Natchez, MS/Vidalia, LA—submitted by Elizabeth Boggess, OCDS

The celebration for Camille Durkin's Definitive Promise [which, I'm afraid, I can't find a date for] was very successful by all counts. Fr. O'Connor estimated that at least 75 people attended—including Camille's entire class of fellow students participating in the Loyola-New Orleans extension program here in Vidalia, as well as the class facilitator. Our dear sister in Carmel Bussy Calhoun was unable to leave her assisted-living facility because she is without a portable oxygen unit. So we took her a piece of cake and some of the roses from the reception afterwards."

Here [see next page] are a couple pictures taken by Father O'Connor at the festivities following mass. I really like them as expressions of our joy!"

00:00:00
\$34,000.00

850 members

Winter 2011



The first photo [to the left] shows Camille with her cake and a bouquet of red roses nearby. It has become our custom to have red roses as altar flowers during mass. It serves as an unspoken homage to St. Therese.

In the second photo [below] are, from left to right: Roma Golden, Elizabeth Boggess, Camille Durkin, and Kot Morris—members of our community.



8. Georgetown, TX—submitted by Lydia Peña, OCDS

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, TX. Msgr. Louis Pavlicek, pastor at St. Helen’s, presided at the Mass. [See photo at right, with Msgr. Pavlick posing Marianne and Rebecca] A reception followed afterwards at the Parish Activity Center. It was a most happy day for our community.



9. Marylake, AR

Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD, who is the senior friar of the province and remains as vibrant, active, and youthful as ever, celebrated his 80th birthday this December 17. Here, to the left just below, you can see the cake, prepared lovingly by Fr. Raphael’s Little Rock OCDS family, sporting eight candles, each bearing the weight of a full decade of life.



On the next page are two further photos from the occasion. First, on the left, Fr. Raphael contemplates that life of 80 years, now shining brightly, as he summons up a wish before blowing out the candles.

Then, secondly, at the right, Fr. Raphael does the honors, cutting the cake with panache. We have to assume he’s had lots of practice.

All of us of the Oklahoma Province are grateful for his years of faithfulness to the spirit of Carmel and to the life of steadfast prayer. God has granted him the wisdom of a contemplative soul, and he has shared that wisdom generously with others. May God continue to bless him and keep him in health of mind and body.



From a homily by our Fr. General Savario Cannistrà, given on the feast of St. Teresa of Jesus:

If we consider with sufficient honesty the reality of our religious life, if we are ready to admit its voids and incoherencies, the loss of hope and love which often characterizes it, a return to St. Teresa and to her teaching becomes an insuppressible demand, for therein lies our joy. How could we hope to be happy if our vocation and mission, instead of being a vital force that moves us from within, were to become a heavy and meaningless yoke merely to be borne? Yet this happens sometimes, and it is painful to notice that often we look elsewhere for that purpose and joy in life which the Lord has placed in the treasure of our Carmelite charism and identity—an identity with which we are called every day to be more united, challenging the external, but especially the internal, voices that repeat to us that our way of life is senseless, a scandal, mere foolishness.



Carmel Clarion Communications

A Resource for Carmelite Spirituality

Carmel Clarion 2011 OCDS Cal- endar

Our calendar features a two-color layout and includes **Church Feast Days, Carmelite Feast Days** and a **Notable Quote** for each day of the year.

These are available for a limited time, while they last, for only **\$5.00 each**



Current subscribers to the *Carmel Clarion* will automatically receive the 2011 OCDS Calendar.

<http://www.carmelclarion.com/ocdsalendar.html>

Contact information:

1-877-845-4560 (toll free)

Tel: (202) 640-2201

Fax: (202)-269-3792

E-mail: carmelitecds@live.com

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.

“O Lord, how true that all harm comes to us from not keeping our eyes fixed on you; if we were to look at nothing else but the way, we would soon arrive. But we meet with a thousand falls and obstacles and lose the way because we don’t keep our eyes—as I say—on the true way. It seems so new to us that you would think we had never walked on it.”

From *The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila , Volume Two* translated by Kieran Kavanaugh and Otilio Rodriguez Copyright (c) 1980 by Washington Province of Discalced Carmelites ICS Publications 2131 Lincoln Road, N.E. Washington , DC 20002-1199 U.S.A.
www.icspublications.org

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.