



Flos Carmeli

Henrietta Albright resigns from PC; new candidates sought

There is always much joy at this time of the year as we all happily celebrate the feast days of our Holy Mother St. Teresa and St. Therese. In addition October 19th marks the 15th anniversary of St. Therese as a Doctor of the Church. How blessed we are to have these great saints as our models. We would like to hear from you how your Community/Study Group celebrated the feast days.

We were all saddened when Henrietta Albright who had been serving as president on the Provincial Council since 2011 found it necessary to officially resign after what has been a difficult recovery from her accident last January. Henrietta's dedication and contributions will always be remembered. She remains in our hearts and in our prayers and she is very thankful for all the prayers that were said for her.

As soon as the Workshop in Houston was completed the Visitations for the year began. The Visitations that would have been done by Henrietta now sent the four remainder councilors scrambling to work them in to their schedules as well as the three that they each had been assigned previously. Dorothy Mansen who had been acting as presi-

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dent right after Henrietta's accident then agreed to stay on as president until such time as the vacancy on the council could be filled and an election for president could take place.

The Communities and Study Groups that were visited since June are:

The San Juan de la Cruz Community, Houston (Mary Kay Daniels),

The La Nubecita del Carmelo Study Group, Killeen, TX (Dorothy Mansen),

Our Lady of Confidence and St. Joseph Study Group, Savannah, GA (Dorothy Mansen)

Covington, LA Study Group (Dorothy Ashley).

All councilors are busy preparing schedules for Visitations as the bulk of the them will be taking place this Fall.

Father Bonaventure, Dorothy Mansen and Mary Kay Daniels attended the Inter-Provincial Council Meeting and the Regional Congress held near Boston in August. Dorothy served as chairperson for the two days of the IPC meeting. Next year the Washington D.C. Province will furnish the chairperson. Dorothy had been invited by the Washington, DC Province to be one of the speakers at the Congress and her talk was well received. We were very happy to see some familiar faces from our Province there too. (See Mary Kay's report , next page, for details).

On another note we would like to remind the presidents of the communities and study groups that they are responsible to see that members who need hard copies of the *Flos Cameli* receive them. It was suggested that for groups that have a large number of such members, they might assign people in the community to one individual each to see that they receive a copy. In essence a "buddy system" could be set up.

Also please send all forms, updates and for study groups, your minutes and request to make Promises to Barbara Tinervia, OCDS, in the Central Office: 9515 E. 99th St., Tulsa, OK 74133. We would like to take a moment to let everyone know how great assistance to the Provincial Council that Barbara has been since she started last February. She has been very helpful too in suggesting new uses for databases that will simplify record keeping.

Even though our Province covers 14 States and some communities are quite a distance from each other, we have observed that they are feeling more and more like extended family to each other. They express interest in what other communities are doing and about each other's welfare. This truly is a blessing to the Order. All are looking forward to our next Congress in 2014 in Atlanta, GA. which will be held at the Marriot Marquis Hotel.

The Provincial Council,

Dorothy Ashley, Mary Kay Daniels, Dorothy Mansen, and Chris Wood

Boston Congress brings renewal, inspiration, instruction

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS

“*Our Lady’s Commandment: Do whatever He tells you*” was the theme for this year’s OCDS Congress, held from August 16-19, in Wakefield, MA. Sponsored by the Washington, D.C. Province, the Congress was organized such that the reflections and presentations centered upon Mary, our Virgin Mother of Carmel.

In a letter at the beginning of the Congress book, V. Rev. John Sullivan, OCD, Provincial Superior, wrote: “Here in Wakefield I am happy to go on singing her praises along with you as we reaffirm our Carmelite love for the ‘Lady of the Place’ as the ancient Carmelites referred to Mary in their Wadi on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land.” Father Sullivan invited participants to consider the Congress as an opportunity to have a visit with a dear mother. On Saturday morning the Votive Mass of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was celebrated by Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston.

Congress Chairperson Loretta Gallagher, OCDS, introduced Congress participants to the “exquisite scissored paper-cuttings” of Our Lady created by Dominican Sister Mary Jean Dorcy whom she became acquainted with in high school. (Sister’s story and artwork can be found in her book, Spring Comes to the Hill Country, by Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy with Dan Paulos, Roman, Inc., 1984) The beautiful and delicate images of Marian apparitions and titles highlighted the Congress Book, making of it a work unto itself that invites meditation.

Special guests and speakers at the Congress included Father Donald Calloway, MIC (author of his autobiography, No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy, Marian Press, 2010); Father Leonard Copeland, OCD, who gave a presentation on “Lumen Gentium: The Major Marian Teaching of Vatican II”; Father Paul Fohlin, OCD, whose topic was “LaBruna: Carmel’s Earliest Book of Spirituality”; Father Leopold Glueckert, O. Carm., who presented on “Mary and the Carmelites: An Eight-Century Love Affair”; Paula Allyce Keene, OCDS, who shared her story “Deliverance from Witchcraft”; John Leidy, OCDS, who spoke on “Guiding Formation with the Ratio”; Dorothy Mansen, OCDS, who presented on “Operating an Effective Council”; Maureen O’Riordan who spoke on “Mary in the Life and Spirituality of St. Therese”; Father Thomas Otang’a, OCD, who spoke on “Our Lady’s Place in the Carmelite Order”; Margaret Spurrell, OCDS, who spoke on “A Model for Ongoing Formation”; Loretta Gallagher who presented on “Imitating Mary: Supporting Our Priests”; Douglas Treadwell, OCDS, who spoke on “St. Joseph: Spouse of the Virgin, Guardian of the Redeemer”; and the Archdiocese of Boston African-American Catholic Choir, who fully engaged and blessed everyone at the banquet.

Not lacking and always of interest to attendees were the more than a dozen vendors. Brother Bryan was there from ICS Publications and brought along every current book ICS has available.

The Ca-AZ Province extended a musical invitation to everyone to come to the Portland Congress in Portland, Oregon June 20-23, 2013. It will be held at the beautiful Portland Double Tree Hotel in central Portland. The theme of the Congress is *Seeking Christ through the Interior Castle in Carmelite Secular Life*. Registration begins Dec. 1, 2012.

Our Oklahoma Province will be hosting the 2014 Congress in Atlanta. More information will follow. Start planning now to attend.

Inter-Provincial Council drafts Statement of Purpose

Our Oklahoma Provincial Council's Acting President, Dorothy Mansen, served as Chairperson at the 2012 OCDS Inter-Provincial Council Meeting held on August 14 and 15, prior to the opening of the Boston Congress. Attendees participating in this meeting from the California-Arizona Province included Provincial Delegate Father Donald Kinney, OCD, Cindy Sliger, OCDS, Lucy Okoh, OCDS, and Thelma Prisco, OCDS; from the Washington, D.C. Province, Provincial Superior Father John Sullivan, OCD, and John Leidy, OCDS; and from the Oklahoma St. Therese Province, Provincial Delegate Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, Dorothy Mansen, OCDS, and Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS.

The Inter-Provincial Council which consists of the Provincial Council members and Delegates from the three Provinces replaced the National OCDS Council in a decision made at last year's meeting that preceded the Lafayette Congress. The Inter-Provincial Council will basically carry on the same work as they did previously as in sharing "State of the Province" reports which provides overviews of the year's events of each of the Provinces and membership statistics, discussing challenges, clarifying issues, and sharing resources.

Accomplished at this meeting was the drafting of a *Statement of Purpose* that defines the actions of the Council. This was completed with all three Provinces contributing content. This Council will be able to address OCDS matters that are on a national level and nurture the relationships of the Provinces in the future.

A suggestion for a community apostolate

Communities are always seeking ways for an apostolate that might involve all their members. At the Boston Congress Brother Bryan, OCD, spoke of an endeavor that ICS Publications is embarking on. They have designed a beautiful 4 fold colored brochure on card stock paper. The title is "*The Prayer of Recollection*" by St. Teresa of Avila. The hope is that this prayer card (brochure) will be in the card rack of every parish by the 2015 Centenary celebration of the birth of St. Teresa.

This could be achieved not only by communities and study groups purchasing and distributing them, but also by presenting a copy to the pastor and asking if he would like to purchase brochures for his parish. Brother Bryan did say that in order to keep the integrity and quality of the brochure to a desired standard they have been copyrighted and thus are not to be copied. Please use the order form at right. If you have any questions please contact Brother Bryan at 1-800-832-8489.

The Institute of Carmelite Studies
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Secular Members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Province of St. Therese



Save the Date: August 21-23, 2014

The Atlanta community (Doctors of Divine Love) in conjunction with ALL the Georgia OCDS Communities will host the 2014 Congress. **October 2014 begins the study of St. Teresa's Letters** and will be a focus.



We invite you to experience some "Southern Hospitality" while staying at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, a destination downtown Atlanta hotel conveniently located in Peachtree Center, with indoor MARTA access Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport just 15 miles away

2014 Congress Prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the blessing of hosting the 2014 Congress. With zeal we will carry out the task entrusted to us and serve our Carmelite brothers and sisters. Pour forth Your Spirit upon our endeavors, guide us in our decisions, and strengthen us in our labors. May we find You in the "pots and pans", as Holy Mother Teresa did.

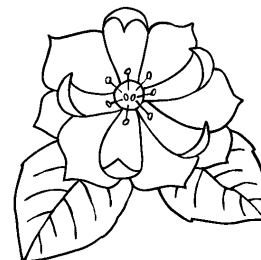
Bless and protect all those who will travel and attend this Congress and may their hearts be aflamed with Your love.

In Jesus' name we pray



Have an idea for a workshop?
Send ideas to: 2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com

Additional information closer to the event



Provincial Delegate's report

By Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

Report of the Provincial Delegate

By Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

First a word about the *Flos Carmeli* itself. The publication—should we call it a newsletter? A magazine? What?—is going through a bit of a transition period. Switching to a mostly electronic and web-based version, away from the more traditional print version, will allow us in time to try out new features and formats. Thus far the electronic version has been pretty much the print version, only in digital format. That might change. Indeed, with a little creativity and technical knowhow the sky's the limit for where we might go with the *Flos* and what we might do with it.

So, then, if any of you have any ideas or suggestions for the *Flos* and for how we might develop it and improve it, please let me know.

Also, given the possibilities opened to us by publishing and distributing the *Flos* electronically, now is a good time to reassess its content and purpose. The *Flos* at present is the sole publication of the province. Like this current issue, its content can be quite varied. There are the usual reports and news items, there are occasional announcements and articles, just as you will find here, and there are from time to time statements officially promulgating provincial policy. Perhaps the *Flos* is getting too cluttered. Maybe we could contemplate putting together a second provincial publication of some sort—published twice a year, say—which we could devote to articles, reflections, meditations, poems, all of a spiritual nature, submitted by members of the province. The *Flos Carmeli*, then, we would continue to publish as a kind of provincial bulletin devoted solely to news, announcements, and information. The question is—what do you think?

Once again, if you have any ideas, suggestions, preferences, along these lines, or along any other, regarding the content and purpose of the *Flos*, please let me know.

The OCDS Regional Congress in Boston

Back in mid-August, from August 16 to 19, I attended the OCDS Regional Congress in Boston, hosted this year by the Washington Province. The theme was *Do Whatever He Tells You*, and the plenary presentations concerned Marian spirituality within the Carmelite tradition. If you are interested, you can order CDs and DVDs of the talks at www.2012congress.org/cd-dvd-order-form

Loretta Gallagher, OCDS, a member of one of the Secular Order communities in the Boston area, served as chair of the committee that organized the congress. She also hosted the event itself. Loretta is a most joyful and generous soul, with boundless energy and zeal for Carmel. She is also a most considerate and sensitive person, a fact that showed itself especially in her personal attention to all. As with our own congress in Lafayette last summer, Carmel did itself proud with this congress in Boston, and I found it a pleasure to be part of it.

Our province contributed to the congress in one significant way. Dorothy Mansen, OCDS—who as you know serves on our Provincial Council—was asked by the planning committee to conduct one of the workshops at the congress. She spoke on the topic “Operating as an Effective Council.” In case it needs saying, she did an excellent job, even fielding questions like a pro following her presentation. Of all the workshops hers was the best attended. Even the four provincial delegates at the congress—who as friars are not known for being teachable—were there in the audience. Wonders never cease.

There was a small but worthy band of “Oklahomans” at the congress, nobly representing our small but worthy Province. Here (next page) we are looking for all the world the happy campers:

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Dorothy Mansen, Mary Kay Daniels—also a member of the Provincial Council, as you know—and I arrived at the Boston Congress a couple days early in order to participate in a meeting of the OCDS Inter-Provincial Council. As the name of this gathering suggests, the Inter-Provincial Council is a sort of super-council composed of provincial council members and provincial delegates from all three US provinces. It is a purely informal body, though. There are no by-laws. Nor does this council exercise any authority

or have any set function in the Order. It provides simply the opportunity—since we’re coming together for the congress anyway—to meet and share among ourselves regarding various issues we are all facing and then exchange ideas about policies and practices. What we learn from each other has proven helpful enough to justify the time and expense of the meeting.

On the Sunday following the close of the Boston Congress Mary Kay Daniels and Dorothy Mansen were joined by their husbands—and Mary Kay by her son, a student at Columbia, who came up to Boston from NYC for the occasion—and the six of us went downtown and had lunch together at a sidewalk café. It was a delightful outing, the weather was gorgeous, and the company exceeded in quality what any good Carmelite deserves—although we didn’t object. Here we are seated happily about our table, from left to right—John Daniels, the Columbia student; some guy in a plaid flannel shirt hoping for a free meal; Bob Mansen, Dorothy’s devoted husband; Dorothy herself; Mary Kay, cheerful as always; and Dave Daniels, Mary Kay’s equally always cheerful husband. Now don’t you wish you could serve on the Provincial Council and enjoy such outings to downtown Boston? Maybe someday you can.



The 2014 Regional Congress in Atlanta

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Flos* you will find a formal announcement regarding the 2014 regional congress. This year, 2012, the congress was in Boston, as I wrote about above. Next year, 2013—June 20-23, to be exact—the congress will be in Portland, OR, hosted by the California Province. Thus, in 2014 the responsibility for the congress falls once more to us. And to answer the call the OCDS community in Atlanta has generously stepped forward, working with the other three OCDS communities in Georgia—Conyers to the south of Atlanta, Lawrenceville to the east, and Savannah. We extend to them our thanks for agreeing to serve the province, and indeed the whole Order in the US, in this really important way. Thank you.

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The venue for the congress has already been chosen. I was in Atlanta for a few days this past August to meet with the planning committee. And on Sunday while I was there one of the hotel staff led us, the planning committee and myself, on a walkthrough of the facility. Very impressive, I must say, to put it mildly. As a setting for the congress it will be most conducive. As an ambience for such a gathering the hotel itself is, in a word, stunning. Here, to the left, is a photo, very unprofessional, snapped from my phone. It captures a view of the towering indoor atrium, 50 stories high, that greets you upon entering the hotel lobby. Yes, the word “stunning” isn’t overmuch. The banquet hall, conference rooms, and gathering space where the business of the congress will be conducted are equally impressive. All who attend won’t soon forget the experience, I’m sure of that.

I’m also confident that the Georgia communities will organize a congress whose content is substantial and inspiring. Already they have begun developing a theme and arranging for presenters. They’re also planning for workshops and panel discussions. It should be a rich and full few days.

I am a little concerned, though, that since the Congress in Atlanta will be only a year out from the National Congress in Milwaukee—the one at which the Seculars of the US will be celebrating St. Teresa’s Fifth Centenary—our Congress may end up competing with it. Some may be saving up to go to the 2015 National Congress and so feel they have to sacrifice attending the 2014 Congress in Atlanta. There is also a second, more general concern regarding the cost of attending congresses period, no matter where or when they are. Which of us are being denied this wonderful experience of the OCDS vocation solely because of cost? I think the Congress in Atlanta will be an exceptional event, and I would like all who wish to have a chance to attend. As the date of the Congress gets closer, therefore, we will need to consider possible ways to keep these concerns from becoming a factor for anyone.

Four Notices:

(1) The Lisieux Carmel has asked for help in spreading word that their archives are now online. They wrote: "Here it is—the archives of the Lisieux Carmel can be found at <http://www.archives-carmel-lisieux.fr/> Some promotion will help us a lot: thank you so much!"

(2) From the Provincial Council, for Release:

ATTENTION: Study Groups and Communities should be aware that the addresses on the forms downloaded from the former OKLA OCDS website are outdated. If you are still using those forms you need to update

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them so that you will send all forms to the current office at:

OCDS Central Office
9515 E. 99th St.
Tulsa, OK 74133

Correct forms can be found on our new OCDS website: www.thereocds.org

(3) The friars have hired a new web designer to redo and improve our provincial website. We are excited about what she will be able to accomplish for us. At present that means the website is under construction. It will remain so until December when we will launch it anew. The address will be the same, of course, www.carmelitefriarsocd.com. As December draws near, then, perhaps you might want to go take a visit to the site and see what's what.

(4) Please make submissions for the *Flos Carmeli* to me, Fr. Bonaventure. This is especially true of submissions you'd like seen included in the *News from around the Province* feature. Do not be afraid to send along a short blurb and photo as appropriate. There will be no limit to what we can publish in the electronic version of the *Flos Carmeli*. The version sent for printing and distribution might be abbreviated, though, especially when it comes to photos. But I am very thankful for any submission sent.



Fr. Aloysius hams it up with students of the Carmelite Province of Indonesia. He is now residing at their student house in Jag Jakarta.

“The Spiritual Canticle” by John of the Cross

A new translation by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

A few years ago I worked up my own translation of *The Spiritual Canticle*. I enjoyed the exercise and found it a good way to study the poem more closely. In the next issue of the *Flos Carmeli* I will include a few reflections on the process of translating the poem along with a few notes on how I read the poem as a narrative, as a love story. Before seeking a spiritual meaning for the poem, which is what we are ultimately called to do, we must first read it simply as it is, in a straightforward way. That was my intention in translating the poem. Here, then is my translation. Enter at your own risk. Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

*

The Spiritual Canticle by St. John of the Cross

The Bride

1. Where did you hide yourself,
Beloved, and leave me sobbing?
Like a deer you fled
Once having struck me;
I ran after, calling . . . You were gone.

2. O you shepherds who climb
Up past the sheepfolds to the hilltop,
Should you happen to see him
Whom I love the most,
Tell him I droop, I ache, I die.

3. No, let me go seeking my beloved
Over mountains, along rivers—
I will gather no flowers
Nor fear any beasts;
I shall pass fortresses and frontiers alike.

4. You forests and deep thickets
Strewn by my beloved’s hand,
Lush pastures
Overlaid with flowers,
Tell me, has he passed this way?

5. Spilling out unbounded graces
Hurriedly he passed these groves;
Fleetinglly gazing,
His glance alone
Left them blanketed with beauty.

6. Oh, you who alone can heal me,
Hand yourself over completely;
Beginning today
Stop sending messengers
Who tell me nothing of what I want—

7. For all who roam freely here
Recount your countless graces,
Yet wound me the more
And leave me dying
Muttering their, *uh, what can I say?*

8. So, why do I go on like this,
Not living where you live, O life?
I die shot through
With arrows sharpened
By all my heart conceives of my beloved.

9. Since you’ve wounded my heart, why,
Why don’t you make it whole?
You’ve stolen it—
Why leave it lying
And not make off with what you’ve plundered?

10. Yes, make still these vexing afflictions
Since none but you can do it;
Let my eyes see you,
Who are their light,
And then I will possess them for you alone.

11. O pool of crystal clear water,
If on the silvery sheen of your surface
Suddenly should appear
The eyes I desire
That lie etched deep within me . . .

12. Oh, look away, my beloved;
I fly like a bird.

The Bridegroom

—My dove, come back,

The wounded deer
Lingers on the hill
As your flight fans and refreshes him.

The Bride

13. O my beloved, the mountains
And hidden wooded valleys,
Fabled islands,
And roaring rivers,
The whistling of love-laden breezes,

14. The night's utter stillness
At the first streaks of dawn,
Hushed music,
Far-echoing emptiness,
The supper that refreshes and delights:

15. Our bed as gentle as flowers,
Enlaced with lions' dens,
Draped in purple,
Set upon peace,
Canopied with countless gold shields . . .

16. Along the track of your footprints
Young women make their way—
At the nip of a spark
And heady spiced wine,
At the smell of balsam spread on the air—

17. Yet I in my beloved's wine cellar
Drank deeply, then stepped out
Staggering here and there,
Blinded to all;
I lost the flock I once had tended:

18. For there he had pressed me close
And taught me a delectable knowledge;
There I gave him
Myself completely,
Promising to be his bride.

19. My soul is now set to work
Expending all its means in serving him;
Not tending sheep,
Nor any other task,
Its whole work is in this work of love.

20. If from today among the townfolk
I'm no longer to be seen as before,
Then say I've strayed off,

Dazed and lovesick;
Though I lost my way, I was found.

21. With flowers and deep green leaves
Gathered in the cool of the morning
We now weave garlands
Abloom in your love,
Tied round with one strand of my hair—

22. That one strand you once toyed with
As it hung fluttering at my neck,
For the sight of it there
Seized your heart,
And the look in my eyes pierced you.

23. When you gazed at me in return,
Your eyes impressed their grace upon me;
I felt so desired
That my eyes were enabled
To adore all they saw within you.

24. Oh, please do not despise me;
Though once you thought me common,
See, I am fair,
Now that your look
Has traced such beauty upon me.

25. Round up for us the foxes,
For the grapevines are thick with flowers;
As we gather rosebuds
Like tiny pinecones
Let no one be seen on the hill.

26. Keep still, sickly north wind;
South wind, come, stir up love:
Kiss the garden
Till its flowers abound
And my beloved can take pasture among them.

The Bridegroom

27. She has entered now, my bride,
The orchard she once dreamt of;
Contentedly she rests,
Her head lying
In her beloved's tender arms.

28. Here beneath this apple tree
You were given to me in marriage:
I offered you my hand,
And you arose,
Here where your mother once had fallen.

29. Quick darting birds,
Lions, antelope, and leaping deer,
Hills and marshes,
Languid breezes,
Fears that keep watch in the night:

30. By the soft strumming of the harp,
By the enchantress' song, I conjure you:
Cease your raging,
Rattle not our walls,
Let my bride sleep in peace.

The Bride

31. Woodland maidens of Judea,
Off among the flowering rosebushes
Resin drips;
You, too, keep back,
Do not think to come knocking at our door.

32. And you, my dearest, now hide yourself;
Look away, off towards the mountains,
Saying nothing,
But see my companions
Wandering together along the far isles.

The Bridegroom

33. Now the little white dove
Has borne her green branch to the ark,
And look, the turtledove
Has found his heart's mate
Down by the grassy riverbank.

34. All alone she dwelt
And alone has now built her nest;
Alone he leads her,
Her dearest one,
Who alone, too, bears a wound of love.

The Bride

35. Together we shall delight, beloved,
And walk lost in your beauty,
Over mountain and hill
Where clear water flows,
Then on into the thick dark wood,

36. Until climbing ever higher
To where caverns are niched in the rock,
Beyond all sight
There we shall enter
To drink musty wine of the pomegranate.

37. There you shall set before me
That which my soul once groped for,
And there give me quickly,
You, my life,
What you gave me once that other day:

38. The breeze breathing in, breathing out,
And the sweet song of the nightingale,
The grove exquisite
In the quiet of the night,
With a flame that does not burn, yet consumes . . .

39. And no one is watching any longer,
Neither can Aminadab be seen,
For the siege has ceased,
And the cavalry charging
Has dismounted before the castle's moat.

A trip to Epiphany Academy, Pittsburgh

By Patty Still, OCDS

I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to share with my Carmelite Brothers and Sisters my recent trip to Pittsburgh when I officially began the Epiphany Certification Program in Human Formation and Spiritual Development with Dr. Susan Muto. Much of what I am about to say is truly amazing, and it is difficult to find the words that will give credit to this most Divinely Inspired Epiphany Program, began by Father Adrian van Kaam following his experiences during World War II, and directed by Dr. Susan Muto, who is truly a servant of God and continues the work of Father Adrian van Kaam.

Like Father van Kaam, many of our Carmelite Saints and other Saints discovered unity with God during much suffering and/or imprisonment. Father van Kaam was no exception. During World War II, Father Adrian van Kaam courageously assisted those in need in many ways, both physically and spiritually. In these efforts, he saw and experienced a need for a new psychology for human development and spiritual formation. He was a well educated, highly credentialed priest with a doctorate in psychology. However, during the war, there were many questions deep that arose for which there were no answers. How can human beings behave so differently during such a time – from saints to so evil? What can man hold onto during such difficult times?

As a result of this struggle during the war, Father van Kaam began the Epiphany Program, which was to be a new and valuable program for any and everyone on Human Development and Spiritual Formation. For him to go forward in this leap of faith required – again – much courage since he would have to challenge his colleagues in psychology in realizing that you cannot consider the human being without considering the God-given spiritual part of their makeup. What Father van Kaam and Dr. Susan Muto have sacrificed to bring this incredible depth of Human Formation and Spiritual Development to the world is incredible, and I hope and pray that I am able to convey the importance of this program for all.

As a Secular Carmelite, I learned through the teachings of our dear Carmelite saints about the importance of prayer, self knowledge, detachment, perseverance, determination, and finally total surrender in an effort to seek union with Our Holy Triune God, who lives within each of us. As time went on and our group went deeper and deeper into our formation programs and teachings, I felt an ever increasing desire for “more”; in my heart, I knew there was more. I really didn’t have a clear understanding of what I was the journey in self knowledge involved.

The first time I heard Dr. Muto speak, I knew that this was it; this is what I needed in order to go deeper into my Carmelite spirituality; this is how I will be able to enter within to find Our Holy Triune God. I knew then that I would pursue these teachings. And, I feel now, deep within my heart, that this is what Our Dear Holy Mother St. Teresa held within her heart and tried to convey in her writings since so much of the teachings of the Epiphany are based on the teachings of our Carmelite saints. The Way of Perfection is the Way to Union with God, and Dr. Muto takes us hand in hand to find the beautiful Presence of God Within.

There are so many spiritual gifts that I received while at the Epiphany Academy, it is difficult to focus on only a few. However, I will share one of many special gifts -- As a Facilitator for our Covington OCDS Group since 2002, I had read and taught over and over that God is within, that we must go within to find Him, and that we must see God in others. At Epiphany, I realized that I knew these truths intellectually, but *now* I know them in my heart! I realized what I need to let go of in order to find the Essence of God within so that I could cling to Him always. This was such a freeing moment for me, and yet I know that I am not giving this experience justice. It is a mystery; I will not even attempt to explain it. But it is a truly special gift – one of many. And I have only at-

tended two of the six sessions!

Another valuable lesson and gift of Wisdom that I learned at Epiphany is that God's time *really is different*. I arrived on a Wednesday, July 11, to attend two of the six sessions, with classes each day from 9 – 5, except Sunday! I thought – this is going to be tough. But I soon learned that I really do not know much at all! These classes went by as if it were just one day. When I returned to New Orleans around noon on Friday, July 20, I went directly to work. I entered the office and realized that this program had brought me to such a higher level – I'm not sure how to describe it – that I could not recall the names of the people I worked with just 10 days ago! I truly felt that I was in some strange place. It took me some time to come back to earth.

At the Epiphany Academy, I became ever more aware that God is trying to offer us so much. The information provided at Epiphany is so spiritually deep, especially in our Garden of Carmel, that it is impossible to capture it in a simple presentation. One aspect of the program is learning how we are continually giving and receiving from others, constantly and continually. Therefore, it is important that we are aware and come to know the Essence of God within each of us so that we can bring His Love to all with whom we have contact.

At Epiphany, we are taught to be more aware of God's Essence within through self knowledge, which then helps us to remove the barnacles covering and hiding His Essence. And this journey of self knowledge is much deeper than just letting go of desires to control, quickness to anger, etc. Although these are certainly things to be aware of, the journey in self knowledge taught and discussed at the Epiphany goes much deeper. We are brought to a greater understanding of human formation and spiritual direction, learning to release the person of Adam and Eve within us in order that God and the Image He Created Us to Be can shine forth. Every human being has to go through transformation "to a new awareness". We go through a passion, crucifixion, and resurrection at a personal level, many times over, in order to remove the barnacles covering His Essence within.

I learned the importance of letting go of the "I" in all things and so resting in God's Essence within – the Love of God within – so that His Grace can flow. Again, I knew this intellectually but now I know it in my heart. Although our formation program is excellent, this program takes everything to another level. For example, the teachings and discussions on surrender go deeper and, as we all know, it is SURRENDER that all of our Carmelite saints say is necessary. Therefore, it is important that we know how to surrender, and the Epiphany Program does just that.

A wonderful book on surrender is one of Epiphany's recommended readings -- "He Leadeth Me", an autobiography by Father Walter Ciszek, Jesuit Priest. This is an incredible story of his life as a prisoner for 23 years in Russia after he was falsely accused of being a German spy. He discusses his hardships, abuse, terrible conditions, etc. Much like Father Adrian van Kaam, he learned much from his World War II experiences. He says:

"Weak from hunger, weary and pained after long hours of interrogations, distracted by doubts and growing fears for the future, overcome by anxieties and the abnormal sensitivities induced by constant separation and loneliness, I had to learn to turn to God as best I could and when I could. I had to learn to find Him in the midst of trials as well as nerve-racking silences, to discover Him and find His Will behind all these happenings, to see His hand in all the past experiences of my life, to praise and thank him and ask His blessing on all those faces that crowded to memory when there was no face to be seen each day except those of the guards, to ask pardon for my many failures and to ask constant fatherly protection against the evils that seemed to surround me on all sides."

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The reason I mention this book is that Dr. Muto sought spiritual direction from this most wonderful Priest before his death since she had to make a choice between a lucrative career as a journalist and the position Father van Kaam was offering her, which not only did not pay as well but involved more work. She had heard of Father Cizek, and was able to get a meeting with him. She explained her dilemma. He asked her what her heart told her. She said that it seemed it was saying, "Let the journalism job go". He said, well, then, you must let it go. He then said that he knew her new work with Father van Kaam would serve as a seed planted in many that would bear much fruit. The Epiphany Program truly is a seed much needed at our time to help many find God's Essence within and bring the Love of God to others so that they in turn can teach others to find God within. It helps us remember that there is indeed a Universal Call to Holiness.

I cannot help but think that when one is yearning for God's Love, they will not stay where they do not find God's Love. Instead, they will earnestly seek it out. Therefore, it seems that we Seculars should all strive to let the Light and Love of God within shine brightly, and the Epiphany Program is the substance by which we can do this -- enhancing our Carmelite formation in a most beautiful and spiritual way. It does not replace our Carmelite formation, but significantly enhances and clarifies it. As we learn how much we give and receive to others each day, it is so important that we give and receive what God has intended. As human beings, I see now how we are so much more in our relations with others than what is physically visible.

We have a responsibility, as described in *Lumen Gentium*, to bring God's love and message to others. The Epiphany Program provides a new understanding and appreciation of the incredible magnitude of this responsibility. Should you be interested, there is a website—www.epiphanyassociation.org—or you can call 412-341-7494. Let's please keep Dr. Muto, her staff, and the Epiphany Program in our prayers. And I am sure they would appreciate donations. They are a non-profit.

News from around the Province

Compiled by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Baton Rouge, LA—submitted by Clarence Landry, OCDS

We ask that you remember in your prayers Jackie Hargroder, a member of our Community here in Baton Rouge, who died on September 3, 2012. Jackie made her Temporary Promise in 1982 and her Definitive Promise in 1985. For several years she suffered from Alzheimer. This afternoon, September 5, our members met at the funeral home to recite the Office for the Dead. I encouraged all our members to offer Mass and Holy Communion for Jackie, preferably at her Funeral Mass.

Also, please pray for Eve Chenevert, who is 90+ years of age. She fell recently and was unable to get up for some hours until a neighbor found her. She then spent some days in the hospital until being moved to a long-term care facility, which will probably end up being her permanent and final residence. You have heard the expression "dynamite comes in small packages." That sums up Eve—small in stature, great in determination, hard-headed, as some describe her, and very resolute in practicing her faith, including her Carmelite vocation. She has before steadfastly refused to move to a nursing home, refusing as well the electronic emergency warning device to wear in case of a fall. She shed tears when she could not see well enough to read her Breviary.

Many in Baton Rouge suffered from Hurricane Isaac, mostly from flooding and loss of electrical power. Frances Locker, one of our long-time members, lost power for several days. was lucky, losing power only for 23 hours.



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2. Huffman, TX—submitted by Elizabeth Olgilvie, OCDS

A year ago, on September 24, 2011, our community celebrated both a Clothing and a Profession as part of our annual community Day of Recollection. The photo above shows Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, receiving the First Promise of Kathryn Scuggins, whose devotional title is St Therese of Lisieux. Standing beside her, in the dark jacket, is Josie Perez, our formation director.

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The Profession took place during Holy Mass in the chapel of the Carmelite Nuns in New Caney.

The second photo [at the bottom of the previous page] was taken during the Clothing later that morning, which was celebrated at the church of St. Philip the Apostle in Huffman, TX, north of Houston, the parish where we meet. Shown in the picture, from left to right, are James & Betty Vincent, Lilibeth Angriam, Mary Comeaux, Carmen Grego, Windy McMichael, and Josie Perez, formation director.

3. Knoxville, TN—submitted by Mary Ernst, OCDS

Two members of our community, the Study Group of the Transfiguration, made their Definitive Promise on March 18, 2012.

They are pictured in a photo to the right taken just after the ceremony. They are, from left to right, Brenda Nicholson—with Fr. John Dowling, who presided at the ceremony and received their promises—and Susan Hendershott, along with Anita Gouge, our formation director.

Two other members of our Study Group made their Definitive Promise on August 19, 2012. They are Dorothy Curtis and Beth Small. At the same time, Glenn “Wink” Crabtree was received into formation, being clothed in the Brown Scapular. Fr. Randy Stice, our Spiritual



Assistant, presided at this ceremony. They are shown in the photo below, from left to right—Wink Crabtree, Dorothy Curtis, Fr. Stice, and Beth Small.



Both ceremonies, that in March and that in August, were celebrated at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Farragut, TN, a suburb west of Knoxville. It is where our community meets.

4. Killeen, TX—submitted by Dorothy Mansen, OCDS

From June 29 to July 1, 2012, Dorothy Mansen, acting president of the Provincial Council, conducted a visitation of the Killeen TX Study Group. It is the only Spanish-speaking OCDS community in the province and has the title *La Nubecita Del Camelo* Study Group—or *The Little Cloud of Carmel* Study Group—obviously a reference to the cloud “no bigger than a man’s hand” seen by St. Elijah from atop Mt. Carmel as it hovered far out over the sea, a foreshadowing the Virgin Mary.

The photo below was taken at the time of the visitation. Pictured, from left to right, are Dorothy Mansen, visitator, Marianna Sanchez, councilor, Julia Diaz, president, Luz Aida Acosta, treasurer, and Angel Acosta, director of formation. Oh, yes, there’s someone else—La Nubecita herself perhaps—standing quietly, humbly in the background.



2013 Pilgrimage to Spain

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 at tmhanley@yahoo.com.

You are invited to visit the places Teresa walked in her beloved Spain. The pilgrimage is scheduled for April 23 to May 1, 2013. Cost from Houston is \$2,890 prepaid, plus tips, all included. For more information, contact Margarita Dufilho, OCDS, at 832-693-8717 or Inspirational Tours at 800-231-6287 or www.inspirationaltoursinc.com.

Getting the Flos to members

Community presidents, please remember that the Province no longer mails out copies of the Flos Carmeli to communities. It is the community's responsibility to get a copy to each of your members, either via email or by print. This includes all isolate, aged, or infirm members. Thank you!