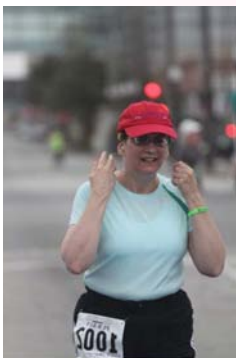




Flos Carmeli

Introducing the new Central Office Administrator



Barbara Tinervia

Hello, fellow Secular Carmelites! I'm Barbara Tinervia, the new Central Office Administrator. I'm very pleased to be able to offer support to our Provincial Council with administrative tasks, making it easier for them to continue to support each of us and our communities. My duties are primarily concerned with keeping data up-to-date and tracking finances. In carrying out those duties, I may have to reach out to communities to request further

information. For instance, we are compiling a database that will include information about each Secular Carmelite not just each community. Last year information was needed on how many Definitely Professed members we had in the Province. With a database, such information is easy to compile. Without it, much work with paper files was required to get that information.

Just a bit about me: I have been a Definitely Professed member since 2004. I am currently the President of my Study Group and have previously been a Councilor in a canonical community. I work in a hospital

Cont. on page 2

Inside this issue

Provincial Delegate's report 4

Provincial Council's report 9

News from around the province 16

Central Office Administrator cont.

pharmacy as a technician. What that bit of information means for you is that I work odd hours and this can delay my response to you should you send me an email or leave me a voicemail. Email is always the best way to reach me as I can respond at odd hours without waking you up. If you have a question that needs an immediate answer, please be sure to specify that. You also may want to go directly to a Provincial Councilor with such a question. Otherwise, please rest assured that I will answer you, but it could take a day or two.

I appreciate in advance your patience with me as I “learn the ropes” with the many tasks that Pat Darby did so well for us. May the Good Lord bless and keep all of you!

Note from the Provincial Council] We are very blessed to have Barbara and are gradually introducing her to the various duties. We have started her off with processing the 2012 dues. The next big assignment will be to build a data base of all the members in the Province. She has started by entering the community and leadership information. When she is ready we will begin asking communities to provide specific information about members, basics like name, address, phone and email but also specifics such as clothing and profession dates.



Passing the baton: Pat Darby, OCDS, at left, met with new Central Office Administrator Barbara Tinervia, OCDS, last month to discuss Central Office responsibilities. Pat, now retired, was secretary for the province for many years (see story below).

Thank you, Pat Darby

On behalf of the entire Secular Carmelite Family of the Oklahoma Province, the Provincial Council wishes to extend special gratitude and acknowledgement to Pat Darby who is now retiring after 18 years of providing a most faithful and diligent contribution to our Province through initiating and editing the newsletter as it developed into the *Flos Carmeli* as we know it, and for her hours of work serving as secretary for the Province

Pat recounted: “Looking back over the years, I count many blessings – mostly, my friendships and working closely with the Friars and being able to learn from them. Father Anthony, his wise and often humorous lectures when he was our spiritual assistant; Father John Michael and his dry wit and warmth that he tried unsuccessfully to hide; Father Joseph Neilson and his love for the Blessed Mother that was such an inspiration to me; Father Mary Phillip and his humble consecration and devotion to duty; Father Aloysius Deeney, his leadership that has taken him all over the world and benefitted all of us; Father Stephen Sanchez and his amazing improvements of the Center here in Dallas; Father Jerome Earley who accepted my vows in Rome during the first International Congress in the Basilica of St. Teresa on her Feast Day! And

Thank you, Pat Darby cont.

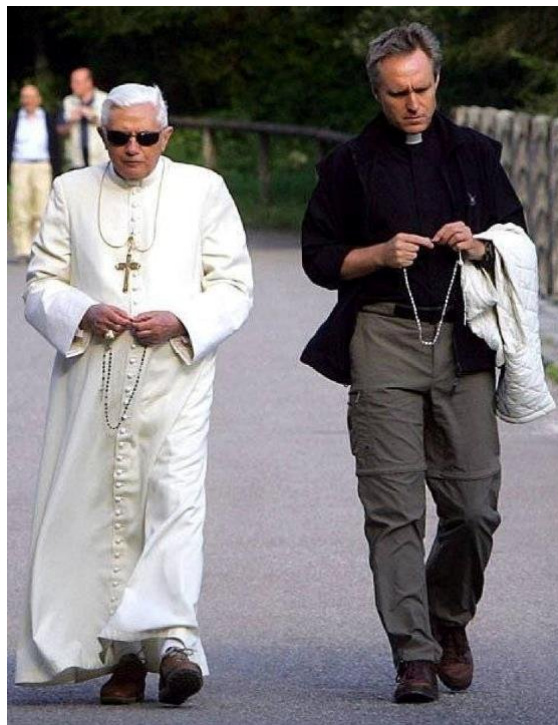
last, but certainly no least, our current Provincial Delegate, Father Bonaventure, who has been such a blessing in his dedication to our lives as Secular Carmelites. The many Congresses that opened the doors to so many meetings and friendships and cemented the feeling that this is indeed a ‘family’...It still amazes me when I consider the gift that this vocation is for all of us.”

Provincial Council President Henrietta Albright stated, “We are most grateful for Pat’s substantial contribution to Carmel and for the loving care she put into all she did. We wish her a wonderful retirement, filled with blessings, and indeed we will miss her.”

Oklahoma OCDS launch new Web page

The OCDS Provincial Web Page has been moved. The new address is <http://thereseocds.org/>. Please check out the new format, and change your bookmarks. Also be sure to change the address in any formation material and/or handouts. Former provincial president Elizabeth Korves has agreed to monitor the new site. Thank you, Elizabeth!

The Holy Father at prayer



Provincial Delegate's report

By Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

I'm going to omit any report of my own and instead include two obituaries in its place. One is for a friar of our Province, Fr. Joseph Neilson, the other for a former General of our Order, Fr. Camilo Maccise [pronounced *Mahk-SEE-say*]. They died within a day of each other back in mid-March.

First, though, a word from Fr. John Michael:

"Below is a link to my blog. There you will find a history of the first Secular Order Congress in our Province, which took place in 1952.

As a follow-up, the Congress of 1953 was held in Boston. It opened with a solemn Mass at our Nuns in Roxbury said by Archbishop Cushing, not yet a Cardinal. Fr. Evarist Foix, our Provincial at the time, was asked to speak at the banquet. The story was told by Leo Champagne, president of our Lafayette chapter, of how Evarist formed the first chapter of the Secular Order in our province. In 1933 he founded the arch-confraternity of the brown scapular in Oklahoma City with a five dollar donation. He needed that donation to make a banner for this group. Our parish only took in seven dollars a week in the collection basket at the time. From that brown scapular confraternity, Father Evarist then began the Secular Order in our province.

My blog can be found at <http://oklahomaocdsview.blogspot.com>

Fr. John Michael, OCD"

1. *Obituary for Fr. Joseph Neilson, OCD*

From an email sent out by Fr. John Michael announcing the death of Fr. Joseph:

"Our brother, Joseph of St. Thérèse, died this morning [March 17, St. Patrick's Day] at 4:30 AM in San Antonio TX. 'Let us then show mercy to the poor and those who today are lying on the ground, so that when we come to leave this world they may receive us into everlasting dwelling places.' [Gregory Nazianzen's reading for Saturday of the 3rd week of Lent] Nazianzen was Father Joseph's favorite theologian, and as any good Irishman St. Patrick would have been one of his favorite saints. And so it was that on this final year of his life here on earth, the two came together on the morning of his death. Father was always prepared to pray for each of the deceased of our province on the anniversary day of his death. He had them all written down in his breviary. Let us today return that favor and pray that the soul of our departed brother may now rest in peace. He had a painful end from bone cancer."

Here, then, is the obituary for Fr. Joseph, likewise prepared by Fr. John Michael:

Joseph A. Neilson was born on December 28, 1932 in Manhattan, New York City, to Frederick Neilson and Josephine Clancy. His father died when Joseph was young, and his mother supported her two sons by working as a cook for a wealthy family in Manhattan. After being taught by the Christian Brothers in primary school, he graduated from Fordham, a Jesuit High School. "My brother George was away in WW II, and while I was at home alone and sick, I picked up Therese's *Story of a Soul*. That was my discovery of the Carmelite life."

He was received into the Carmelite order by Novice Master Patrick Ahern in San Antonio in September 1951. Early on the morning of May 15, 1952, Brother Joseph and his fellow novices closed down our novitiate in San Antonio and headed north to Little Rock. They arrived at Marylake, the site of our province's new novitiate, around sunset. Felix greeted them at the back porch, took them into the chapel, and invited the novices to view the rest of the monastery while Brother Victor prepared supper. Joseph was lucky to get a separate cell because, when the new group of postulants arrived from

Provincial Delegate's report cont.

Mt. Carmel Center in Dallas on June 16, the new boys spent their first evening at Marylake arranging a large room downstairs into a dormitory.

Brother Joseph was the first novice to make his profession at Marylake, on the Feast of St. Thérèse in 1952. He had taken the religious name Joseph of St. Thérèse. Joseph and Sam Anthony Morello were then sent to Rome to study theology and were ordained there on April 29, 1962.

Fr. Joseph's first assignment was at Marylake, and in 1966 he was elected 2nd Provincial Councilor and Novice Master. In 1969 he was sent to be the new superior of our Houston community. When Houston was closed, he went back to Marylake. He spent 1975 as a hermit in a hermitage on the back of property of Marylake. Then in 1978 he was again appointed Novice Master.

Joseph loved to run. After running from Marylake to the Carmel in Little Rock, a distance of 13 miles each way, regularly for a year, he took part in the Boston marathon. He was always in demand by our nuns throughout the province (and beyond) for conferences on Carmelite history and spirituality. His spiritual conferences were known for being very "thorough," sometimes lasting much of the morning or into the afternoon.

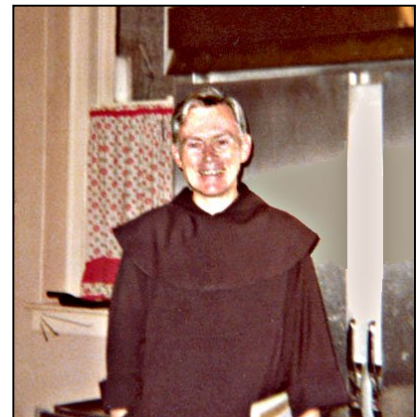
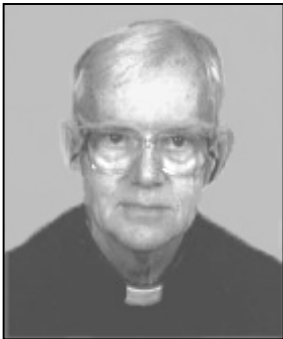
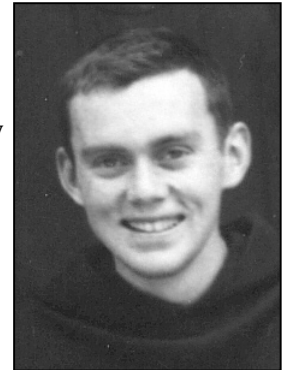
In the late '70s, Joseph took on the cause of protesting abortion. He became spiritual advisor to groups picketing abortion centers in Little Rock, then in Oklahoma. The

Pearson Foundation, concerned with pregnancy counseling, named him their national Chaplain in St. Louis in 1984. He set up White Rose Counseling Centers in Texas and Arkansas. Being born on the feast of the Holy Innocents, he felt called to this apostolate.

Joseph had a genius level intelligence. I never realized how encyclopedic his knowledge was until I examined the library he was in

charge of at Marylake. One would expect the library to excel in the books he had gathered in the areas of theology, history, scripture, and spirituality. But poetry, art, music, and even the novels he collected for those sections of the library—these collections were also superb. You could ask Joseph a question about anything from Elvis to Stephen Hawking, and though he might not have an immediate answer, he knew exactly where it could be found, and not by a Google search. Joseph never took to the computer. But he knew where the answer was in a library book.

The old stereotype of the absent minded professor comes to mind when you notice how a brilliant mind like Joseph's was quite incompetent when it came to practical matters. Growing up in Manhattan, Joe never saw the need to learn how to drive. But the day finally came at Marylake when he asked one of the brothers to teach him. Noticing how one of the most difficult things to master was backing up, Father Joseph practiced driving the car around the large oval drive at Marylake backwards. He reasoned that if he hit anything, it would not be anything serious, only a chicken house or milk barn. But he was a terrible driver. One of his great feats was ending up perched on top of a



Cont. on page 6

Spring 2012

Provincial Delegate's report cont.

three-foot tall concrete barrier in the middle of a Houston freeway, facing backwards no less. None could imagine how in the world he ended up there, but he did.

On November 29, 1986, when Father was stationed at Mt Carmel Center in Dallas, he was in a terrible automobile accident that damaged his brain stem. This severely affected his movements and his speech. From November to August he stayed at a Dallas Rehab Institute, and then was sent to Tangram, another rehab facility near San Marcos, TX, where he remained until he was able to move back to Mt. Carmel Center.

In 2002 he was sent from Dallas back to Marylake where he carried on a prodigious career in spiritual direction. Speaking of moves, we Carmelite friars are always being moved about from one house to another. Joseph was so devoted to the vow of poverty, that he was able to make all his moves carrying everything he had in two suitcases and a handbag. I know of no Carmelite in modern times able to accomplish such a feat.

After a number of falls at Marylake, where he lived from 2002 to 2009, Fr. Joseph needed to be moved to a nursing home in San Antonio. He accepted this unpleasant "assignment" with great resignation. It was there, following a battle with cancer, that he died at 4:30 AM on March 17. Leave it to the Irish to die on St. Patrick's Day.

Fr. Joseph's body was flown to Marylake. There, on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00 PM, a rosary was said for him. And the next morning at 10:00 the funeral mass was celebrated, attended by many friends from Little Rock, Dallas, San Antonio, and Oklahoma City. He was buried at our provincial cemetery, which is at Marylake. May his soul, beloved by so many, now rest in peace.

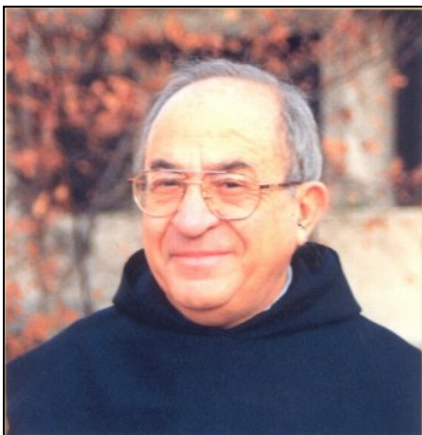


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2. Obituary for Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD

Prepared by Fr. John Michael, Payne, OCD

"Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many." [Morning Prayer for Friday of the Third Week of Lent] On that day of the week, Friday [March 16], when we commemorate Jesus' death, Camilo Maccise passed from this world into eternal life. It was a long death agony which began March 8 as word came to us from the Provincial of Mexico: "Por otro lado, P. Camilo entra en agonía."



Some men bring great honor to their native land. I doubt few took much notice of the Province of San Alberto [the Province of Mexico] until Camilo arrived in Rome. Today he stands as one of the great Americans of the 20th century. Silverio brought honor to our Order in the first half of that same century. Camilo stood out from the rest in the second half. He was so greatly esteemed that the Generals of all the Religious Orders in the world elected him their president during his twelve year term of office as our Order's Father General from 1991-2003.

He stood up to the pope on the matter of our nuns' legislation as he struggled to get them to draft Constitutions in line with Rome's revised Code of Canon Law following the Second Vatican Council. Some Carmels, supported by members of the Curia, wished instead to return the Order to the 16th Century post-tridentine Constitutions adopted by St. Teresa. Fr. Camilo as General resisted this movement.

Provincial Delegate's report cont.

Camilo was a true polyglot. I once asked our Father Aloysius, provincial at the time, how to write congratulations in Spanish to Camilo on his fifty years as a Carmelite. Aloysius replied, "Forget it; thank him in English; he speaks English better than you!" One time Camilo prepared himself for a visit to Holland by brushing up a bit on his German. By the end of the week, he was speaking to the Dutch in their own language, Dutch. I once watched coverage of the pope's visit to Israel on TV with Camilo. He interpreted for me what the airport attendants in Tel Aviv were saying in Hebrew.

Camilo was a man America should be proud to claim as her own, especially we Estadounidenses [United-States-ers] who are tempted to think that only we are the Americans that matter.

Father Camilo died at 12:23 AM on Friday, March 16.

From Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

Here's a photo of Fr. Camilo at Mt. Carmel Center in Dallas. He was making a pastoral visitation of our province. I wish I could remember when exactly it was taken. Alas, I'm drawing a blank. I was provincial at the time. He always treated me with the great kindness and respect.



When asked by members of the OCDS Provincial Council to share with them something about Fr. Camilo—we were corresponding via email about other issues at the time when word first arrived that he was dying—I wrote the following. This was a little before his death.

"He is a classmate of Fr. Sam Anthony's in Rome, which would mean he was ordained around 1959 or so. He's in his late 70s or maybe 80, I don't know. [Actually he was only 74.] He has a doctorate in Scripture and has written on this subject. He was in Rome during the 70s serving as a definator. Then, of course, in 1991 he was elected General and served two terms, till 2003.

As General he did lots and lots of things, with many initiatives regarding the friars, the nuns, and the Seculars. He came to visit our province a couple of times. I know him fairly well. He is a true polyglot and speaks, besides Spanish, of course—he's from Mexico, of Lebanese descent—English, French, Italian, German, Arabic, Hebrew, and probably one or two other languages.

While he was General, he had his enemies in the Holy See, and they tried to snare him about this or that supposed statement he'd made, calling him in to face accusations that were often vague in nature, or about petty matters, or based on some misunderstanding. On such occasions he held his own very

Cont. on page 8

Provincial Delegate's report cont.

well. He used to say about his time as General that he had no trouble with “Peter,” only with “Peter’s secretaries.”

While General, he also served as president of the Union of Superiors General. I think he had some influence in the composition of the post-synodal document *Vita Consecrata*, the definitive statement of our times about consecrated life.

Notably, with respect to the Seculars, he established the Secretariat for the Secular Order in Rome and called Fr. Aloysius—with whom he is very simpatico—to come to Rome to serve in this capacity and oversee the writing of the *Constitutions*, etc.

Here is another testimony to Fr. Camilo, this one from the Provincial of Mexico, Fr. Enrique Castro [shown speaking in the photo at right]. It comes from the eulogy he gave at Fr. Camilo’s funeral mass.

Father Camilo was a great traveler who carried the message of the Gospel to all corners of the earth. Now he has undertaken that final journey to the bosom of the Father.

He with a beacon of light, enlightening many—friars, nuns, religious of other congregations, and lay people—with his wisdom, clarity of mind, and intelligence, always inspired by the teachings of Christ.

His teaching was not restricted to the classroom, though. He was above all a prophet of an *inculturated* spirituality, one that lives the Gospel in everyday life.

Father Camilo always put great importance on helping each person find and follow his or her unique vocation. He wrote many articles intended to help religious renew their own commitment to their call. He also greatly valued the special vocation of the laity.

Father Camilo leaves us as well the example of his friendship. As a good son of Teresa, he was a living example of her teaching “the more holy, the more personable or congenial.” He was someone always open to dialogue and honest conversation, seeking to diffuse tensions and conflicts and find conciliation and understanding.

As an excellent communicator he wrote many letters to many and, with the advent of the computer age, innumerable emails. By these means he listened, advised, and guided countless individuals and communities who consulted him from all around the world.

He was generous with everyone, and always open and simple in his dealings. He put humor in his conversation.

The life of our dear Father Camilo was a gift to Carmel and the Church. We have received condolences from all over the world. We ask that, like him, God make of our lives a living word of his love and truth.



Report of the Provincial Council

Henrietta Albright: The last three months have been extremely productive for the Provincial Council. The annual PC meeting was held in Dallas in February, a new Central Office Administrator was hired to replace our long time assistant, Pat Darby and the OCDS Provincial Web Page was moved.

Annual PC Meeting was held the weekend of February 9th through the 12th. An entire day was spent on planning the Leadership Workshop to be held in Houston in April. Visitation assignments for 2012 were made. At the same time outgoing Central Office Administrator Pat Darby had an opportunity to meet with the new Central Officer Administrator Barbara Tinervia. Please see Dorothy Mansen's report for more details on the PC Meeting and Barbara's self introduction. Past PC President Elizabeth Korves successfully moved our OCDS Web Page to <http://thereseocds.org/> check it out and change your bookmarks.

On a personal note I would like to thank all of you for your emails, cards, notes and most especially your prayers. Two weeks before the start of the PC meeting I fell and broke my right arm right below the elbow. Since this was the second break in that particular spot I did a good bit of damage requiring surgery. I subsequently missed the PC meeting. Again thank you for your good wishes.

Dorothy Ashley: Greetings and Peace during this Easter Season!

Lent definitely was a time of greater reflection and growth not only in spiritual matters, but, also in learning and settling into my role as a member of the PC. I have come to be amazed (again) at the workings of the Holy Spirit in gifting each of us separately in areas that collectively help us to function and collaborate together as a dynamic, balanced Provincial Council working for the best interests of the members of our Province. St. Paul expressed it best to the Romans: "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them....according to the faith." (Romans 12:4-6).

I have reflected on this and want to share with you my reflections. In the simplest of descriptions, a body has a head, neck, torso, arms, hands, legs and feet. Any "body" missing any one or more of these parts is going to be severely handicapped. As we met in Dallas to plan for our future Leadership workshop this spring, plan visitations to Study Groups and communities, plan our budget for the Province, and to meet and welcome our new Central Office Administrator, Barbara Tinervia, it became apparent to me what part of the "body" each of us had been gifted by the Holy Spirit to function as. Henrietta Albright, our President of the PC, is the natural "head." She earned her "headship" due to her experience and wis-

Cont. on page 10

Spring 2012

Provincial Council report cont.

dom of being on the PC three years prior and serving the Oklahoma Province. But, due to her unfortunate accident, she could not attend. However, what part of the body supports the head? It is the neck. Though it sits underneath the head, it helps it to turn in different directions and gives it stability. The “neck” on our PC’s “body” is Dorothy Mansen who is assisting Henrietta in a HUGE way since her fall

Next is the “torso” which is the center of the body and gives the whole body stability as well as a place for attachment of the neck, arms and legs. That would be Father Bonaventure Sauer, our Provincial Delegate. He is the “stabilizer,” the one who allows free movement of the body’s appendages, but, his presence and wisdom is always eminently there which is security (aka “stability”) for other members of the body.

Barbara Tinervia, our new Central Office Administrator, and Mary Kay Daniels constitute the arms and hands of our PC “body.” Mary Kay is a “doer.” She is the hands, being very much “task-oriented.” Assign her a project and she goes about it with enthusiasm and dexterity. Now that Barbara is helping the PC (and the Province) and learning her new role, I equate her role as being similar to the purpose of our arms—to provide extra assistance, particularly, to the hands, to allow greater reach (more time for the other parts of the body to focus on their particular area(s)), and, to bring balance to the “body” as a whole.

Our legs provide for us mobility, strength, and, balance. That describes Chris Woods. Chris helps to keep the PC moving into the 21st century with his abundant computer experience and knowledge which has been an invaluable resource for conference calls, video conferencing, wireless networking, and as a software resource person. Being able to be “computer-savvy” as a PC in this digital age adds strength not only to our “PC body” but also to our Province.

Lastly,...the feet. The feet support the entire body, providing comfort to the body when all underlying structures in the foot are as they should be. The function of a foot depends heavily upon its underlying structures. In order for a foot to propel us from one step to the next efficiently, however, it must be able to change between a hard, rigid structure to a softer, more flexible one. I think that ability to change and adapt is the gift that I bring to the PC- flexibility and the ability to look at, read, hear and understand a perspective that may be different from my own with calmness and fairness, thus preventing the “structures” in the feet from being mal-aligned and causing pain.

“God gave us faculties for our use; each of them will receive its proper reward. Then do not let us try to charm them to sleep, but permit them to do their work until divinely called to do something higher.” (St. Teresa of Avila)

Mary Kay Daniels: I remain grateful that our Provincial Father Luis Castaneda, OCD, visited us while we were working at our annual planning meeting in Dallas. He graciously offered his assistance to the Provincial Council stating that he is looking forward to being and working with all of us Seculars. I am also grateful for how effectively our PC worked together at our recent February meeting quantity and quality of the work we accomplished. To whomever prayed for

Provincial Council report cont.

the success of our meeting, I thank you! This meeting was a living out of prayer through and through.

It was one of my tasks to create and coordinate the questionnaire for the Workshop. I continue to receive responses and if anyone reading this who is attending the upcoming Workshop has yet to respond, please return your questionnaire to mkdocds@cablone.net at your earliest convenience. Your input enhances the direction of our preparations, and we wish to use our upcoming Houston gathering to supply you with all you need to lead your communities optimally.

I was fortunate to be able to get to know Pat Darby at least just a little bit, as I had a short interview with her for the FLOS before she retired. We were so blessed to have her with us helping out for so many years. I wish her the richest of God's blessings.

I'm now in process of preparing Workshop presentations on the two topics: Lectio Divina and Community. I'm also in process of contacting communities for upcoming visitations. This year I look forward to visiting the Study Groups in Atlanta and Lawrenceville, GA, and the San Juan Community in Houston.

I wish everyone a very blessed Easter Season. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Workshop in Houston!

Dorothy Mansen: With spring just around the corner we are taking time to let you know what we have been involved with during the last months of winter. I joined the other Councilors in the interviewing of the applicants for the Central Office position. This took place in January. We were able to accomplish this by the end of January and the new administrator, Barbara Tinervia was able to join the Provincial Council and Fr. Bonaventure for four days of meetings held at my home.

With Henrietta having just been released from the hospital and unable to come, I found myself not only making up the four day menu and readying up the house, but also preparing the schedule for the meeting and keeping everyone following the agenda.

We were surprised by a visit from our Provincial Superior, Fr. Luis Castaneda, who joined us for breakfast on Saturday morning. It was indeed a joy to spend time with him. He expressed his desire to assist in any way that the Seculars might need his help.

Pat Darby came in the afternoon to meet with Barbara and was able to show her what she has been doing for the Province these past years. It was indeed a busy weekend!

When the last Councilor was driven to the airport on Monday my house became very quiet again. At the same time and up to now, I have been in charge of the registration for the Houston workshop in April. Trying to fit everyone who would like to attend has been a challenge as we are pressed for space. Presently I am, like the other Councilors preparing the presentations that I will give at the workshop.

Report of the Provincial Council cont.

Letters were sent by our new Central Office Administrator, Barbara Tinervia, to the communities and study groups that will be visited this year and so, I am in the process of establishing dates for the visitations I have been assigned to make.

I am looking forward, as each one of you is too, to the beautiful Holy days that are fast approaching. May this Easter bring a new reality to the gift of eternal life that our dear Savior Jesus Christ has obtained for each of us.

Chris Wood: In February, the Provincial Council gathered in Dallas to plan our 2012 activities. At the meeting we welcomed our new Central Office Administrator Barbara Tinervia, and worked through a few of the details associated with her new position. Dorothy Mansen and her husband Bob graciously opened their home to us for the weekend. As a council we were blessed to be able to share wonderful meals together, spend time in prayer and work on our activities for the upcoming year. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Dorothy and Bob for their hospitality throughout the weekend.

Our gathering was both a productive and blessed experience. During the meeting I was happy for the opportunity to see Pat Darby again. Pat and I started our journey in Carmel together; back in the late 80's in Dallas. However, it had been several years since I'd last seen her so it was great to catch up on old times and learn that she'd been doing well. As the meeting progressed, we set our visitation schedule for year. In 2012, I will be visiting with the communities in Omaha NE, Jackson MS, and DeRidder LA. Over the next few weeks I will be working with each community to lock down a date for the visit. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone in these communities.

Our Leadership Workshop for 2012 is just around the corner and I am excited about the great response we have received from those registered. We have some excellent topics lined up for the agenda and the Cenacle Retreat Center in Houston is a beautiful and peaceful location. During the workshop I will be leading the topic on Formation and the Ratio Institutionis. Over the coming days I'll be wrapping up preparations and finalizing our agenda.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter season!



Fr Bonaventure Sauer, Provincial Delegate, at left, and Fr Luis Casteneda, Provincial Superior, center, gathered in March with (from left) PC members Dtorohy Ashley, Chris Wood, Mary Kay Daniels and Dorothy Mansen. PC President Henrietta Albright was absent due to illness.

PILGRIMAGE TO CARMELITE SPAIN

SEPTEMBER 12 – 20, 2012

\$2,599* PER PERSON (ADD \$119 DEPARTURE TAXES, \$400 FUEL SURCHARGE AND \$239 FOR OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE)\$3357 w/ insurance*

DEPART BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

PROMOTER: THAIS FORREST, OCDS



DAY 1 USA / MADRID

Depart Birmingham airport for your overnight flight to Spain.

DAY 2 AVILA

Arrive early morning in Madrid where you will be met by your tour guide and transferred to Avila, the City of Kings and of Saints, completely encircled by 11th century walls. This is the birthplace of St. Theresa one of the greatest mystics of the Church. Celebrate Mass at the Convent of St. Theresa. (D)

DAY 3: AVILA

The walled city of Avila is most famous for being the home of St. Teresa, one of the only female doctors of the Church. Avila's atmosphere has changed very little since the days of St. Theresa, to whom the city is dedicated. St. Theresa, the great mystic, was the first woman to be named a Doctor of the Church. In the morning we will visit the city of Avila: the Cathedral, which contains many of St. Theresa relics; The crypt of the Convento of La Santa, built on the site of the house where she was born, is home to the most comprehensive museum dedicated to her life, and La Encarnacion Convent, the first convent she found. Dinner and overnight in Avila. (B,D)

DAY 4: AVILA / ALBA DE TORMES / SALAMANCA

After breakfast in the hotel, we will depart towards the city of Alba de Tormes. The town boasts of possessing the mortal remains of St Theresa of Avila in the church of the Carmelite Convent where her miraculously pierced heart rests in a glass reliquary. Continue to Salamanca. The group will enjoy an orientation tour of Salamanca, a famous university city, including a visit to the University, which was founded in 1223 by Alfonso XI of Leon. Also visit the Plaza Mayor and the famous Cathedral. Dinner and overnight in Salamanca. (B,D)

DAY 5 SALAMANCA / MEDINA DEL CAMPO / FONTIVEROS / SALAMANCA

Depart Salamanca for Medina del Campo. Visit the Carmelite Monastery. Continue our journey to Fontiveros, birthplace of Saint John of the Cross, where we will visit the Carmelite Convent and the Church of San Cipriano where St. John of the Cross was baptized. Return to Salamanca for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6 SALAMANCA / SEGOVIA / MADRID

Early morning departure from Salamanca for Madrid. En route, stop in Segovia. Arrival to the city and sightseeing tour with a local guide: Alcazar, Roman Aqueduct, Gothic Cathedral, San Miguel Church where the Catholic Queen Isabel was crown, the Carmel Monastery where St. John of the Cross is buried and the Corpus Christi Church, one of the most important synagogues in Spain converted into a Church in the XIV Century. Dinner and overnight in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 7 MADRID / TOLEDO / MADRID

Depart Madrid in the morning for Toledo, one of Spain's most ancient and charming cities. Here you will visit the El Greco Museum, tour Old Town have lunch (on your own) together at a Parador perched above the city. Enjoy the afternoon wandering the quaint streets. There will be ample time to shop for Toledo's famous gold jewelry and cutlery. Return to Madrid for dinner at the hotel and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: MADRID

Today we have a half-day orientation tour of the beautiful capital of Spain. From your motorcoach you will see the Prado, the Royal Palace, and other important sites. Transfer to your hotel for the balance of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 9 MADRID / USA

Depart for Madrid Airport with same day arrival at New York area airport. (B)

Included Highlights:

- * **Airfare:** Roundtrip from Birmingham Airport.
- * **Accommodations:** 7 nights Superior Tourist Class Hotels (3 star hotels).
- * **Meals:** 7 Breakfasts & 7 Dinners
- * **Sightseeing:** As listed in the itinerary.

Also Included: Daily Mass, Airport-hotel transfers, hotel tips & taxes, baggage handling, Touring by Private Air Conditioned Motorcoach, Services of Professional Pilgrimage Escort.

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NOTE: A separate Registration Form must be submitted for each person attending the Congress.

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At the time of this printing, the Logan Express Shuttle is available from the airport to the Peabody terminal for \$12.00 one-way or \$22.00 round trip. For more information and the complete schedule, visit www.massport.com. Once at the Peabody terminal, call the Sheraton Hotel (781-245-9300) for complimentary shuttle transportation to the hotel.

Do you plan to commute daily to the Congress? Yes No

Do you plan to stay at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel? Yes No (First priority for confirmed registration)

If yes, you are responsible for making your own hotel reservation. Please contact the Sheraton Reservations Desk at (888) 627-7205 and ask for the OCDS Congress discounted group rate of \$109.00 per room per night (based on availability). This rate will be guaranteed until July 16, 2012 and includes the nights of August 14 -19. Due to space limitations, the Congress has a firm limit of 300 participants, so it is best to submit Registration Forms and make hotel reservations as soon as possible in order not to be disappointed. You must have a confirmed registration in order to attend the Congress. Because the Congress must meet its contracted room and board quota, priority for confirmed registrations will go to those staying at the hotel. Confirmations will be sent via e-mail, phone or postal mail on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the hotel quota is reached, commuter applications will be processed and confirmed in the order in which they were received, depending on space available

Are you interested in a trip to Boston Harbor/Faneuil Hall on Friday night? (Extra cost involved, approximately \$35)
Yes No

Please complete this Registration Form and mail it to the address listed below with your non-refundable (but transferrable*) Congress Registration Deposit of \$150.00. Forms without this deposit will not be processed. *For details, please contact Congress Chairperson

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News from around the province

Compiled by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Austin, TX—submitted by Randall Scott, OCDS

Judy Carrico, a longtime member of our Austin community, passed away on November 3, 2011. She was born May 25, 1938 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Having lived in Arkansas and Illinois her family moved to Rockdale, Texas. Reading was always her passion. She worked in the library through high school. She worked as a secretary at an aluminum company after high school. Judy married and had three children, two daughters and a son, and then two grandchildren. Judy and her husband owned a dog kennel for many years.



After her husband died she continued to operate the kennel by herself for about 10 years. Judy sold the kennel and went to work at Emmaus Catholic Books and Gifts Co. where one of her main responsibilities was to respond to orders from the Carmelite Catalog that came from across the country and throughout the world. She saw this job as an opportunity to use her love of books to bring spiritual works to people who desire a deeper relationship with God.

Judy grew up Protestant. The churches she attended did not satisfy her longing. She searched through many religions and discovered St. Teresa and Thomas Merton. They provided a new dimension of prayer and contemplation that gave an answer to her longing. She entered the Catholic Church and discovered that most Catholics knew nothing of their mystical heritage. After several years of feeling isolated, she learned that a Carmelite community was forming in Austin. Going to a meeting, she knew she had found a home. There she discovered people who understood her desire for a deeper prayer life. She made her profession in 1986.

**

2. Covington, LA—submitted by Suzette McGoey, OCDS

On Saturday, February 11, 2012, our Study Group was visited by Fr. Gregory Ross, OCD. After formation instruction on the Introduction to Holy Mother St. Teresa's *Book Of Foundations*, Father Gregory shared his thoughts on *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Dr. Brant Pitre, a professor at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. It was a beautiful meeting, and all of our members were overjoyed to have Father with us. Thank you, dear Father Gregory.

Above is a photo of our Study Group, gathered with Fr. Gregory in the guest parlor of the Covington Carmel.



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Spring 2012

3. Georgetown, TX—submitted by Lydia Pena, OCDS



On December 10, 2011, at St. Helen's Catholic Church, our Georgetown Carmelite Community celebrated the First Promise of Carole Lockamy and Kim Lawlis, the renewal of First Promise by Cindy Johnson, and the Definitive Promise of Steve Hardin. Mass was presided over by [Fr. Robert Becker](#), pastor at St. Helen's. A reception followed in the St. Rita Activity Center. Pictured in the photo, from left to right, are Cindy Johnson, Carol Lockamy, Kim Lawlis, and Steve Hardin.

Secular Carmelite vocations continue to flourish in our area, and in January we welcomed five aspirants. Our group now consists of 28 members, including 12 Definitives, 10 in formation, and 6 aspirants. In February our spiritual assistant, Fr. Jerome Earley, OCD, visited our community and gave us a wonderful introduction to our 2012 study of St. Teresa's *Foundations*. Shown below are the members of our Study Group with Fr. Jerome.

4. Houston, TX (Holy Trinity)—submitted by Becky McGinnis, OCDS

Fr. Bonaventure gave our retreat at the Deer Trail Monastery with the Holy Trinity and St. Jo-



Cont. on page. 18

seph Community of Houston, Texas, on the last weekend in February. The talks focused on the Beatitudes and how they are reflected in the Secular life. During the concluding Mass, Father presided at the First Promise of Myrna Fernando and Veronica Lee. Below is a photo of our community with Fr. Bonaventure, taken at the time of the retreat. Myrna and Veronica are standing side by side in the second row, the second and third from the left.



An obituary for Donna Rombs, OCDS [October 3, 1948—January 2, 2012]

On January 2 a precious member of our community passed from one life to another. Donna Miriam of the Crucified Christ had been a member since 2007, moving through the aspirancy and novitiate while dealing with life-threatening cancer. While many would have complained about all the doctor visits, treatments, hospital stays, and the excruciating pain, Donna beamed with the light of an inner peace and joy, fueled by her constant seeking of the Lord in her Carmelite spirituality and vocation.

Born in Louisiana, she was raised Southern Baptist in a poor farming community. She graduated with a BA in merchandising from LSU and moved to Houston to work for Sears. She there met her husband, Ronnie, who had just returned from Vietnam, on a blind date. After a whirlwind courtship of five weeks, they were married.

Ronnie, Donna's husband, was raised Episcopalian and convinced his wife to convert. They then raised their two sons in this church, living in Alvin, TX, with Donna being the main and very active church-goer. Along the way they went on Cursillo retreat. Donna was trying to get her husband to be more active in the church. Both of their hearts were awakened to the Catholic Church through this experience, and after a yearlong quest of reading and prayer they entered the RCIA program at Sacred Heart Parish in Manvel, TX. Within a few short years Donna had brought her children and many other family members into the Church.

After 56 years of good health Donna was diagnosed with colon cancer in the fall of 2004. She was told at first that she had only 2½ years to live. In 2007 Donna convinced her husband to take her to a Discalced Carmelite Secular Order meeting. At that time she began a dogged pursuit of Carmel. Because of constant interruptions, though, due to her illness, she had to prolong her aspirancy and novitiate. But she was

faithful to prayer and formation. Following one interval away from community, she was asked to reread *The Story of a Soul* and write how the saint's story touched her in both her life and her vocation. Her husband later related how she spent endless hours late into the night reading and praying with St. Therese. She had found in Therese a soul-sister. Her doctrine of spiritual childhood reverberated in Donna's heart. In October 2011, then, Donna made Final Promise as a Discalced Carmelite Secular.

In her reflections on *The Story of a Soul*, Donna wrote the following: "For the first two years that I had cancer, God allowed me the peace I needed to handle the difficult situation. Things changed. Lord, where are you? . . . Suffering has value? . . . In the last few years I feel as though I'm going in circles getting nowhere. St. Therese's words have so inspired me . . . and answered so many of my questions. She has shown how to live with God and how to die with God."

For those who were blessed to know Donna, her qualms about her personal spirituality were unnecessary. She never complained at all, just endured with that beautiful, peaceful smile that so characterized her and gave encouragement and love to all she came in contact with.

Her life ended as she'd lived it—surrounded by her husband, her children and grandchildren, and nourished by the treasures of the Church she loved. Having been put on hospice before Christmas, Donna slipped away quietly in the early hours of the morning on January 2—truly a daughter of the Church and a child of God.



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5. Knoxville, TN—submitted by Kathy Dewine, OCDS

The following photo [shown at the top of the next page] was taken at the time of our visitation October 14-17 of last year.

Pictured are, in the front row (from left to right): Beth Small, Dorothy Curtis, Adriana Fadden, Ghislaine Miller, Anita Gouge, Mary Pat Ernst, and Missy DePersio—

—in the middle row (again from left to right), Doris Ann Bucklaw, Janet Swanson, Kathy DeWine, Theresa Nardi, Fr. Randy Stice, our Spiritual Assistant, Jack Spicer, and Susan Hendershott—

—and in the back row (also from left to right), Brenda Nicholson, Jennifer Korell, Wink (Glenn) Crabtree, Dorothy (Dot) Terheyden, Dorothy Mansen, our Provincial Visitor, Robin Vaccaro, Jan Hicks, and Mary Kay Daniels, also a Provincial Councilor, who was assisting Dorothy, the Visitor, and so learning the process of making a visitation.

Cont. on page 20



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6. Lafayette, LA (St. Joseph)—submitted by Janice Coleman, OCDS

An obituary for Lucille Arceneaux LeBlanc (of the Sacred Heart), OCDS

Lucille was born on November 7, 1927, in Carencro, Louisiana. She was one of ten children. She was married to the love of her life, Stanley “Slim” LeBlanc. While they had no children of their own, Lucille’s tender heart embraced her many nieces and nephews as if they were her own. A faithful member of St. Genevieve Church in Lafayette, Lucille served her church family as a member of the Altar Society, the St. Ann’s Society, and the Catholic Daughters of America. She was a faith-filled, gracious, dignified lady, a true friend, and a successful businesswoman.

For many years, she served the Carmelite nuns in Lafayette devotedly in various capacities. At the age of 73 she became a Carmelite herself when she made her First Promise on May 15, 2005, as a member of the Secular Order community of Mary, Mother of Grace, in Lafayette, LA. She had been clothed on May 19, 2002. She was chosen to transfer to the new community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, when it was established in Lafayette a few years later. She made her Definitive Promise as a member of that community on October 10, 2008.

Our sister died at 83 years of age on Sunday, January 29, 2012. A cancer survivor three times, she suffered valiantly with never a word of complaint. Lucille understood and offered her terrible sufferings to Our Lord as He wished. Her humble and loving presence in our community and her willingness to be united with Jesus Crucified in her suffering provided us all an example of a Carmelite Christian life enlightened and enriched by God's grace. May His Majesty reward her for her determined, faithful, loving service of Him and His Church.

Lucille is survived by her loving husband, Stanley, by three sisters, numerous nieces and nephews, many wonderful friends, and her entire Carmelite family, all of whom are looking forward to reuniting with her one day, experiencing anew her gentle spirit.



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“We lost two pioneer Carmelites of our province on the same day—Anna Calhoun of Vidalia, LA, and Mildred Bosch of New Orleans. Anna was born on March 21, 1920, made profession on December 8, 1960, and died this past January 5. Mildred was born on October 12, 1913, made profession on April 26, 1964, and died the same day, January 5 of this year. Both were much loved.

We would not have a Carmelite presence in the Vidalia/Natchez area were it not for Anna “Bussy” Calhoun. She kept the community going through some dry years hosting both ongoing and initial formation classes in her home. Hers was the heart and soul of Carmel. May she rest in peace.

As for Mildred Bosch, she was such a gracious lady. It was always a treat to visit with her. And now I can practically hear the Carmelites in heaven welcoming these two ladies, Anna and Mildred, with lighted candles and alleluias, for having run the race and kept the faith here in our place of exile. We must always remember that we are where we are because we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Your brother in Carmel, Fr. John Michael, OCD”

7. Natchez, MS—submitted by Elizabeth Boggess, OCDS

*An obituary for Anna Elizabeth “Bussy” Calhoun OCDS
March 20, 1920 - January 5, 2012*

The Natchez-Vidalia Study Group reports, with sorrow for our loss and joy for her entry into Paradise, the death of Anna Elizabeth “Bussy” Calhoun on January 5, 2012, following a massive stroke on the morning of December 31, 2011. Her immediate family consisted of two nieces, and they graciously welcomed the members of the Natchez-Vidalia group as visitors to her hospital room and in carrying out Bussy's wishes for her funeral expressed in a letter regarding Carmelite traditions. Among her requests was to be buried in the Ceremonial Scapular, which had been placed over her heart for the duration of her last illness, and from which she evidently took great comfort, resting her left hand on it most of the time.

Cont. on page 22

As the Mass of the Resurrection was to take place on Saturday, January 7, and since Bussy was a supporter of the traditional First Friday devotions (the Vidalia Carmelite devotion *par excellence*), the family asked all her friends to attend this observance rather than have a formal visitation and rosary that evening. At Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia, the First Friday Devotion consists of Adoration with Rosary followed by an Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, then Benediction. Mass follows Reposition. This was a most meaningful observance for our small community.

On Saturday, January 7, the Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia at 11 AM. Fr. George Pookkattu, Pastor, presided, assisted by Fr. Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS, our former Spiritual Assistant, and Fr. David O'Connor, our present Spiritual Assistant. The readings reflected



Bussy's absolute faith in God and her love of the Eucharist. Fr. Paul was the homilist, sharing many of his experiences with Bussy over the nine years he served as her pastor.

During the hour visitation which preceded Mass, the four members of our community helped greet visitors outside the church (which is rather small) and direct them to the family inside. During Mass, Beth Boggess and Roma Golden placed the pall on the casket, and Camille Durkin and Kot Morris served as Gift Bearers. Following Mass, Bussy was interred next to her parents in the Natchez City Cemetery.

Bussy received the Scapular on December 6, 1959, in the first group of 10 members at the time of the foundation of the Vidalia Community. She made her Definitive Profession on December 8, 1960, a year later, as was then the custom. At the time it was also customary to select a name and title *in religion*, and she chose "Mary Francis of the Holy Spirit." She served as secretary of the community and through the succeeding 52 years held every elected and appointed office multiple times, notably Director of Formation until 2004. She was serving as Councilor at the time of her death.

Her contributions to the spiritual and apostolic life of her parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia, Louisiana, were numerous and included participation in the Ladies' Rosary Society, the Altar Society, and the First Friday Devotion. She had a special ministry of hospitality, which she extended to the priests and sisters who serve the missionary parishes in northeastern Louisiana. When the Diocese of Alexandria began to receive missionary priests from India and assigned them to the Vidalia area, Bussy made sure they were welcomed and provided for with such things as winter coats. In 1995 she was named "Guardian Angel of Vidalia." She was also recognized by the Diocese of Alexandria for her many achievements in support of the Church.

Bussy was born in Vidalia on March 21, 1920, the daughter of Robert Dabney Calhoun and Anna Maria Perrault Calhoun, who was clothed as a Secular Carmelite on the same day as her daughter. Bussy was an accomplished legal secretary, working with her attorney brother, Nathan, for many years, specializing in the complexities of land titles in a river parish going back to French and Spanish times. Subsequently she put her expertise to work in a younger attorney's office, who remarked, at the visitation prior to her funeral mass, that Bussy had a very gentle way of suggesting he "take another look" at the documents in question when she thought he was to make a mistake. This was her characteristic way of assisting those in Formation as well.

Bussy was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Nathan and his wife Jean, and her brother Robert Jr. and his son. She is survived by two nieces—Mary Ann Carter and her husband Mark, and

Katharine Calhoun, all of Vidalia—by one grandniece, Tamara Calhoun of Romans, France, and by two grand-nephews, Mark Carter, Jr. and his wife Jessica, and Will Carter. Bussy also had the joy of welcoming a great-grandnephew into this world and of knowing another was on the way.

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8. New Orleans, LA—submitted by Ada Jordan, OCDS

An obituary for Mildred Bosch (of St. Margaret Mary of the Sacred Heart), OCDS

Mildred, a longtime member of the New Orleans community of the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order, died January 5, 2012, at the Chateau de Notre Dame (a nursing home) in New Orleans, LA, at the age of 98. She was born October 12, 1913.

She served the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order, after her Profession on April 26, 1964, as Formation Director, Councilor, Treasurer, twice as President, and Secretary. She truly loved Carmel and lived her Carmelite vocation to the very end.

I met Mildred in the early 70s at a morning Mass we both attended. We got to be friends, and, in 1979, she invited me to a Retreat given by Fr. Joseph Neilson, OCD. That was the start of my own vocation to Carmel. Thank you, Mildred.

In 1997 Mildred became inactive due to poor health. She moved to the north shore, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans, so as to be closer to her son and his wife. As long as she could drive she would never miss Mass. She was very upset, then, when she could no longer drive. When her son could no longer take care of her, he looked for a nursing facility that had Mass each day, which brought Mildred back to New Orleans, to the Chateau de Notre Dame.

As long as she could walk she would often have her Breviary in her hands, spending time in the Chapel saying her prayers and adoring the Lord. She was a true contemplative. When it got to the point where she could no longer walk, Lorraine Ortego, Mary Phyfer, and I helped her son and daughter-in-law by making sure someone was with her each day. She did appreciate our visits.

She once told her son that she thought the Lord must surely have forgotten her, seeing how she had lived so long. We know you are now Home at last, Mildred. We know you are happy. May you rest in peace.

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.

“Believe and hope for I am He who can do all things.”

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