

Flos Carmeli

A year celebrating Holy Mother's 500th birthday begins

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS, of the Provincial Council

Warmest Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ, Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

First and foremost, we've important business at hand: it is **important** to respond to Father Debastiani's request for timely information before November 30th. Father Alzinir Debastiani lives in Brazil, and is our Order's General Delegate to the Carmelite Seculars. He made an excellent presentation at our Congress about our OCDS Constitutions and Community Life and St. Joseph. He's providing us with an opportunity to truly be church, to be the laity who step up to the moment, and contribute our wisdom and experience, all lived grace, to supply information useful for his leadership and our Carmelite Secular Order going forward. He's interested in our quality of relationships with our friars and nuns and with each other, and our assessments of our Formation Program. Please respond to your community president as he or she leads a discussion that will in turn, provide important input for Father. He poses meaningful questions. I am paraphrasing:

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue

Provincial Vth Centenary Celebration planned for March 5

Report of Plenary Council meeting at Congress 13

Community Apostolate review 16

2015 Teresian meeting in Avila 23

(Continued from page 1)

Given that our witness of familial communion is a “light that attracts” and evangelizes, how are our relationships between the members of our communities and the friars, nuns and other seculars in our areas? What is the quality of our relationships?

How do you assess the formation you are receiving in your communities? (This information will help us on the Provincial Council too. It’s most relevant. So go for it! Speak your minds!)

Do you have suggestions to improve our present Formation Program to empower each of our members to live more fully their lay Carmelite identity and vocation and contribute more to the evangelization in the family, at work and in the social world?

Give examples of the more significant and specifically apostolic works that are being done individually or communally in your community.

How does your community make the OCDS known and promote vocations?

What do you think about setting up an OCDS International Council as a consultative body? How should it be organized?

What message would you have for the friars who will be attending the upcoming General Chapter in the light of the challenges of today’s world and the urgent need for evangelization (“signs of the times”) as evidenced in the United States?

Please give thoughtful consideration and reflection to these questions. Pray about them. Share with your communities from your experience and feelings. Your presidents will forward your information to me, and the Provincial Council Members and I will put all in a good form to be sent to Father Debastiani. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to contribute to the future of our Carmelite Secular Family, and to make a meaningful difference.

Another #1 Priority: What makes for a delightful and successful year-long Fifth Centenary Celebration peppered by days of reflection, special speakers, Masses celebrated by our local Bishops, and special Carmelite articles in our diocesan papers? **An incredible person to celebrate such as our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus!** Her liveliness and joy, wisdom, authenticity, integrity, high spiritedness, dogged perseverance to do God’s Will, and her wonderful guidance to all of us to develop our relationship with Jesus through mental prayer and living the virtues, especially humility, detachment and charity, continue to inspire and enrich us as well as our whole Church. **Our Carmelite Secular Family will gather to celebrate in Houston, from Friday, March 13, through Sunday, March 15, with a concelebrated Mass by Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, conferences by outstanding guest speakers, and a birthday party dinner filled with surprises and fun.** Plan to come and celebrate! See further details in this newsletter. The more the merrier!

Piggybacking the Fifth Centennial Celebration will be the triennial Workshop for new elected Presidents, Directors of Formation, and Council Members, which will take place all day on Friday, March 13, at the Houston Omni Hotel. **If you are a new President or Director of Formation, or a new Council Member, be sure to come to our upcoming Workshop for Presidents, Directors of Formation and Council Members.** You can’t beat the price: FREE! Including food! You just pay your discounted hotel room fee for the overnight on March 12th – which can be split four ways. Participating in the Workshop will make your tenure on the Council so much more effective and all will go more smoothly for you. Workshop participants are asked to come the previous evening for dinner and an opening session. See the article that follows.

And yet another #1 priority: be sure to **relish in the richness of Our Lord’s goodness to all of us by reflecting on, praying through, and integrating the knowledge and wisdom shared at our recent Atlanta**

Congress. I wish to extend profound gratitude to Mary Agnes Larson, Chairperson, and to every person who contributed time and resources to make the Atlanta Congress so nourishing and inspirational. May God reward you for your diligent work. Indeed, “**Blessed is the Heart in Love, Centered on God Alone!**” We are so richly blessed from your dedicated work!

Our Congress Plenary Council Dinner Meeting was a great success too! The delightful mingling and resourceful community collaboration set a momentum for the new Provincial Council to launch its service. We treasure your input and efforts, and we’re working with your suggestions. A summary of our conversation follows in this newsletter.

The IPC, Inter-Provincial Council, with Provincial Council members from the Washington, California-Arizona and our Oklahoma Province, met immediately preceding the Congress. What transpired were a clarified mission statement and a useful sharing of wisdom and resourcefulness benefitting all of our provinces.

As you may have heard through the grapevine, it’s ten years now that **our Statutes** have been serving us. It’s time to review and revise them. This Council is to also review **our Formation Program**. Therefore, **I wish to invite anyone who wishes contribute input regarding clarifications and additions and/or deletions, please e-mail your suggestions to me at mkdocds@cableone.net . Type Statutes Input or Formation Program Input in the subject line. The Provincial Council will work with your input, and I will certainly acknowledge your contribution.**

May I leave you in Christ’s Peace---as I continue to pray that the living love of Jesus expresses itself through all of our words and actions. Let’s continue to be with Our Holy Mother in a very special way everyday as a way to honor her and ask her how she would like for us to share our Carmelite spirituality.

May the Deep Peace of Jesus Be with You and Bless You,

Lovingly in Carmel,

Mary Kay Daniels, President

On Behalf of the Provincial Council Members Chris Woods, Claire Bloodgood, Kathy Dewine and Jo Ann Murphy



The Provincial Council members preparing for a panel presentation at the congress: from left, Claire Bloodgood, Kathy DeWine, Chris Wood, and Mary Kay Daniels (bending over in foreground). Barbara Tinervia, Central Office Administrator, is at top right.

New Council members invited to free March leadership workshop

The Provincial Council will be providing an excellent opportunity for newly elected Council Members to attend a day-long Leadership Workshop beginning with a Reception-style Dinner from 7-8:30 pm and Night Prayer on Thursday, March 12, and sessions from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Friday, March 13, piggybacking the Houston Centenary Celebration which begins that evening, to be held at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside, in Houston, TX. Thursday evening's dinner, and Friday's breakfast and lunch will also be gratis for Workshop participants.

The purpose of the Leadership Workshop for Council Members is to provide a strong knowledge base to empower excellent ministry to community members while serving on the Council. Previous workshop attendees consistently express gratitude for the background and resourcefulness presented which helped them to create very positive experiences while they served their communities as Council Members. Topics include and are not limited to the following: The Operating of an Effective Council, Budgets-Policies-and Dues, Healthy Community Life, Formation and Discernment, The Ratio and Stages of Formation, Mental Prayer, Vocation Promotion, Apostolates, and other Enrichments that you are welcome to suggest.

To register for the Leadership Workshop for New Council Members, please go to <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com> . The deadline for registration for the Workshop is **January 12, 2015**. **The sooner you register the better!**



*Secular Carmelites of the Province of St Therese
Provincial Council*



What: OCDS Provincial Council Celebration - Vth Centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Jesus

When: Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2015

Where: Omni Houston Hotel Westside
13210 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Activities: Celebration Mass, Prayer, Music, Conferences, and Birthday Party!

Link to Registration website: <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com/>

This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma OCDS Provincial Council in conjunction with the Houston OCDS communities. The highlight of our celebration will be a Mass concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The Mass will be held at 10:00am on Saturday at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church and will be open to all. After the Mass Dan Burke, Executive Director of the National Catholic Register will give a presentation on St. Teresa for all in attendance. This will be followed by a reception in the church hall. Our objective is to promote to the Church at large the teaching of this great saint and its relevance in our time. The province will arrange for buses to transport OCDS members from the hotel to the church and back to the hotel after the reception.

As part of this celebration the province is also sponsoring a conference exclusively for OCDS members and their guests at the Omni Hotel. The conference begins on Friday evening (March 13) and will run through Sunday noon. The friars of the Oklahoma Province will give talks, we will pray together, have a closing Mass at the hotel on Sunday prior to departure, and a special plated dinner and "birthday party" on Saturday night to celebrate as a Discalced Carmelite family!

In order to keep the registration fees as low as possible the province will be picking up the costs for the buses, speakers, and entertainment. The registration fee for the event is \$125 per person plus a special room rate of \$99 per night (up to 4 people per room at no additional charge). There is a \$10 discount available for early registration (prior to January 1, 2015).

Saint Teresa ~ Vth Centenary Celebration Agenda

Houston, Texas, March 13 - 15, 2015



"The important thing is not to think much but to love much."

Friday, March 13, 2015

3:00pm	Arrival and Registration	Omni Hotel
6:00pm	Lenten Meal	Omni Hotel
7:00pm	Conference 1	Omni Hotel

Saturday, March 14, 2015

7:00am	Continental Breakfast	Omni Hotel
8:00am	Bus Transportation	Omni Hotel
9:00am	Morning Prayer	St. Cyril Catholic Church
10:00am	Vth Centenary Mass	St. Cyril Catholic Church
11:30am	Presentation by Dan Burke	St. Cyril Catholic Church
12:15pm	Reception with Refreshments	St. Cyril Catholic Church
1:15pm	Bus transportation to hotel	St. Cyril Catholic Church
3:30pm	Conference 2	Omni Hotel
4:30 pm	Evening Prayer	Omni Hotel
6:00pm	Banquet Dinner & Celebration	Omni Hotel

Sunday, March 15, 2015

7:00am	Continental Breakfast	Omni Hotel
8:30am	Morning Prayer	Omni Hotel
9:00am	Conference 3	Omni Hotel
10:30am	Closing Mass	Omni Hotel
12:00pm	Close / Departure	Omni Hotel

Conference Speakers



Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D., OCDS Conference Speaker

Fr. Bonaventure is a friar of the Discalced Carmelite Order of the Oklahoma Province of St. Thérèse. Currently he serves as a member of the Provincial Council for the friars, and the Provincial delegate for Nuns and OCDS of the province. Fr. Bonaventure has served in a variety of capacities for the Order including Provincial. He currently lives in community at the monastery in San Antonio, Texas.



Dan Burke, Guest Speaker for the Vth Centenary Celebration at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church

Dan Burke is the President and Founder of the Avila Foundation, Executive Director of EWTN's National Catholic Register, co-Host of Register Radio, an international speaker, author, and founder of the award-winning site dedicated to authentic Catholic spirituality, *Roman Catholic Spiritual Direction*. Dan lives in Birmingham, Alabama with his wife and children.



Dr. Anthony Lilles, Guest Dinner Speaker at the OCDS Conference on Saturday evening

Anthony Lilles, a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, completed his graduate and post-graduate studies in Rome at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas. Currently, he is an associate professor of theology and a Board Member for the Society of Catholic Liturgy. His expertise is in the spiritual doctrine of Blessed Elisabeth of the Trinity and the Carmelite Doctors of the Church: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of Lisieux. He and his lovely wife, Agnes, live in Colorado with their three children.

Reflections on the Congress

Hands folded in prayer
Hands offering help
Hands holding documents
Hands folded in prayer

Hands reaching across Georgia
Hands working on budgets and timelines
Hands designing website, banner, decoration
Hands folded in prayer

Hands completing registration
Hands holding phones for conference calls
Hands packing, driving, traveling
Hands folded in prayer

Hands moving boxes
Hands setting up tables
Hands distributing welcome bags
Hands folded in prayer

Hands reaching across the country
Hands clapping
Hands hugging friends
Hands folded in prayer

Hands eating, drinking, celebrating
Hands sharing Mass
Hands folded in prayer
Hands joined in prayer

Mary Agnes Larson, OCDS

Wrap-up from the Atlanta Congress

By Mary Agnes Larson, OCDS

I would like to thank the members of the planning committee and current Presidents

Julie Armaganian - Lawrenceville

Karen Burton - Lawrenceville

Chad Cooper – Conyers

Deb Eanes - Atlanta

John Eanes - Atlanta

Lenora Everett - Savannah

Karen Harris - Atlanta

David Jean – Conyers

Mary Agnes Larson- Atlanta

Jillson Parks - Savannah

Mary Shusta - Atlanta

Mgsr. Terry Young - Atlanta

Fr. Douglas Sauer, OCD

Current Presidents

Dawn Kernan - Atlanta

Jean Lamson – Savannah

Eldy Pick – Conyers

Elizabeth Uhle – Lawrenceville

The Congress Planning Committee would like to offer special recognition and gratitude to:
Deacon Mike Mobley, St. Stephen the Martyr Parish for guidance and assistance.

Our Communities for their continued support, whether it be emotional, spiritual and often physical. In addition our families, friends and loved ones who have prayed, cared and carried us forward.

The Chairs and Co-Chairs of the past Congresses, for your prompt and cheerful recommendations.

The Speakers, Workshop Presenters, and Provincial Council for giving of your time and knowledge.

The Friars, especially Fr. Alzinir F. Debastiani OCD, who have traveled, shared their wisdom and allowed us to get to know them.

The Province, Friars and Provincial Council for their help.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta staff and the Archbishop for approving, guiding and celebrating with us.

As Chair of the Planning Committee, I would especially like to acknowledge the Atlanta community. I could send out a request for help about something as I headed to bed and in the morning it would be ready. In addition, the past and current Council provided 100% support for the Congress.

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D, our Provincial Delegate for his guidance, advice and patience over the last couple of years in planning the Congress.

I have to include the Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Teresa of Avila and all those Carmelite saints we have prayed to over the past two and half years. Thank you, for the graces you have bestowed on us.

There were 213 registrations, with attendees from all three of the US Provinces, Nairobi, Canada and Rome.

A few fund raising items are still available at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/CarmeliteGifts?page=2>

Thanks to all of you – we were able to cover our expenses!

Dr. Keith Egan's talk will appear in an on-line journal called *Church Life* that is published by the University of Notre Dame's Institute of Church Life. The editor says that the issue on saints should appear on-line in October. The link to information about the journal is at <http://icl.nd.edu/church-life-a-journal-for-the-new-evangelization/>

The Fr. Alzinir Francisco Debastiani, OCD talk can be found at <http://www.ocdsatlanta.org/presentations/>

As reminder you can get all the talks (either audio or video) from **Champions of the Truth Presentations** and the link is at <http://2014ocdscongress.net/shop>

Some upcoming OCDS events to note on your calendar:

OCDS Province of St. Therese Event Registration Houston, Texas, March 12 - 15, 2015 <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com/V-Centenary-Registration.html>

St. Teresa of Avila's Gift to the 21st Century. The Carmelite Institute of North America is proud to assume the work of the Carmelite Forum previously held at St. Mary's College in South Bend! June 28- July 2, 2015 at Saint Mary's of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL visit

http://www.carmelstream.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/02/2015_CarmeliteSymposium_finaldraft3.pdf

The 2015 OCDS National Congress, Oct. 14-17, 2015, Milwaukee City Center Hilton Hotel visit www.2015ocdsnationalcongress.com

Immersion in the World of Teresa of Avila and the Heart of Carmel, October 9 to November 12, 2015, Tour to Spain. Visit CarmelStream for more information. http://www.carmelstream.org/th_event/carmelite-institute-pilgrimage/

For 2016 – The Western Regional OCDS Congress will be held June 23-26, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Jose, California. For more information watch for updates at <http://www.ocds.info/>

Larger Celebration: The larger calendar for the celebration of events at <http://www.teresa-5th-centenary.org/calendar-of-events/calendar-of-events.html> be sure to visit it often for updates and new events.

Deb Eanes , OCDS, and Mary Agnes Larson, OCDS, members of the Atlanta community that planned the Congress. Mary Agnes was chair of the planning committee.



OCDS Atlanta Congress 2014

Kathy Dewine, OCDS, Provincial Council

Our 2014 Congress in Atlanta, August 21-24, was an intimate affair by many standards. The numbers were not as high as we'd hoped, but the Teresian spirit and virtues were in evidence everywhere. The opportunity for meeting and getting to know each other from around the country expands our identification with our Order and vocational family. Father Luis Joaquin Castaneda, O.C.D. Provincial for our Oklahoma Province of St. Therese, warmly welcomed participants, especially thanking those whose prayers and hard work produced the Congress. A highlight for many was the up close and personal encounter with our new General Delegate, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, OCD, from Rome.

I think most would agree that Father Alzinir personifies those Teresian virtues of humility, detachment and charity in which our Lord is forming us in Carmel. He opened his Conference Friday morning with a quote from Pope Francis: "Humanity will be worse for every selfish choice we make." We were directed to "choose deep down to be for others, with others", to recognize that, in Carmel, "I am a mission on this earth." Fr. Alzinir, whose native language is Portuguese, did his best to communicate with us through the language barrier. With the help of the California friars who hosted him prior to the Congress, practicing his English pronunciation and translating his Conference, and of our own Fr. Bonaventure who served as master of ceremonies as well as reading the body of Fr. Alzinir's presentation, we were well-instructed about the implications of our new additions to the OCDS Constitutions: on community responsibilities and the exalted role of St. Joseph in our Order.

Our General Delegate assigned homework for all of us:

Study the new additions to our Constitutions, personally and in our communities: III - B on Fraternal Communion, and 31 - A, on the role of St. Joseph in the Teresian Carmel.

And make the changes that are needed to live them out.

It is always a pleasure to witness the humility of our OCD friars, who seem to find their own pleasure in the company of their Secular brothers and sisters. At a Congress, we also get to witness the easy camaraderie among the friars themselves, with its little glimpses into private jokes! This was particularly evident in Father Bonaventure's introductions of speakers. Our first Conference, by Fr. Stephen Sanchez, was on Teresa's epistolary - letters of spiritual direction - which revealed her strong distaste for letter-writing when she had so many spiritual and administrative duties to attend to. Fr. Stephen pointed out that, as with most of us, Teresa "continually grew into her integrated discipleship." He asked us, "How often do we allow our preferences to dictate our discipleship?" We were encouraged to mine our holy mother's letters for the virtues we are called to emulate, magnanimity in service being one, as demonstrated in the quality of her spiritual direction and love expressed in her letters, as well as her diligence in writing them.

Each of the Workshops offered good formation for growing in our capacity for community life. "I see out ... but I cannot see myself," Betty Turicchi pointed out to those attending her workshop on Conflict Resolution. We need one another to see ourselves, to know ourselves. Lack of insight, she explained, is a problem in



**Father Alzinir Debastiani, OCD,
General Delegate**

interpersonal relationships, and sometimes especially for those with delegated authority.

Proper motivation in accepting roles of leadership does not often come with the skill to practice delegated authority. For instance, we must learn the tools for direct communication rather than indirect communication, if we are to become transparent in our relationships in community. Jesus demonstrated direct communication as he addressed conflicts; we need to follow his example here as in all things.

Dr. Keith Egan, in his keynote address, reflected on the reality that “The quality of one’s life depends on the quality of one’s relationships.” St. Teresa’s direct way with our Lord was consistent; her many terms of endearment manifest a dynamic, loving, confident friendship with Him whose love she knew intimately. “I don’t know what they fear, who fear to begin the adventure of mental prayer, the prayer of recollection,” Dr. Egan quoted. We are blessed to be conversation partners with Teresa through her writings, and we are blessed to be in contemplative conversation with our Lord through lectio divina, mental prayer, the Sacraments, study of His Word.

Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD, shared interesting information about many lesser known Carmelites, including Bl. Baptist Spagnoli, Bl. Teresa Mary Manetti, OCDS, Bl. Alphonsus Mary Mazurek, OCD, St. Joachina Vedruna de Mas, OCDS, Bl. Maria Sagrario, OCD, and Bl. Josepha Naval Girbes, OCDS. He also mentioned that we lost 25 friars in the Spanish War of 1936, five of whom served in the Oklahoma Province at one time.

I think many were surprised by the vulnerability revealed by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, our own Provincial Delegate, as he deepened our appreciation for St. Teresa’s poetry and even shared some of his own. “The experience of God eludes and escapes our language barriers,” Father asserted, at times some are given to articulate it with a certain spiritual intuition, as our holy mother was. His Sunday morning Conference left us with a happy anticipation of exploring Teresa’s poetry with a more open mind and heart, perhaps daring to free our own poetic intuition.

The entertainment provided by John Michael Talbot Saturday night showcased the gifts of his guitar and his voice, grown more sonorous than ever.

I have to applaud the energetic, unobtrusive multitasking talents of James Louviere, of Champions of the Truth, for singlehandedly recording the talks and workshops at our Congress, and providing most of them soon after they were given! I remember he had a team working with him in Lafayette, in 2011, but this time he managed an impressive feat “alone with the help of God”.

Our Vendors were generous with their products, many at discounted prices and excellent selections. The Congress souvenirs, from tee shirts to treasure chests, were beautiful. ICS, as always, had their library of Carmelite books on display, some at 40% off. The exquisite artwork sold by Charles Kazmer of Blessed Art, beautiful fundraising items from the Georgia groups who hosted the event, Carmelite clothes and other items from Living Vine; I am certain I’m not the only one who did Christmas shopping before Halloween this year! Hope to see more of you at our upcoming 500th centenary events.



Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, Provincial Delegate

ry,
so
al

Report of Plenary Council meeting at Atlanta Congress

OCDS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS IN ATLANTA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014

The meeting of the Provincial Plenary Council was opened with prayer by President, Mary Kay Daniels. The members of the new Provincial Council and the Provincial Delegate were introduced to the assembled presidents and delegates, and the proposed agenda was presented, to consist of three topics:

Reports

Previously submitted questions and answers
Father Provincial's requests for collaboration

Reports

1. President Mary Kay Daniels, Sioux City, Iowa, announced that there will be a workshop for Community and Study Group Presidents, Formation Directors, and new Council members on March 13, 2015, in conjunction with the Provincial celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of our holy mother, Saint Teresa of Avila. She then introduced Councilor Chris Wood of Houston, TX.
2. Chris Wood gave a description of the Centenary Celebration. This event will take place in Houston, and will begin with the Workshop, with participants gathering for Evening Prayer and a meal Thursday evening, March 12, 2015, at the Houston Omni Hotel. The workshop itself will take place Friday, March 13. The anniversary event for the general membership of the OCDS will begin Friday with an evening meal appropriate for a Friday of Lent and a conference on St. Teresa by Father Bonaventure, our Provincial Delegate. On Saturday, the events will be open to the general public, and will consist of Liturgy of the Hours, a procession and a special mass at St. Cyril's Church (bus transportation will be provided free of charge for those staying at the Omni). Religious from all branches of the Carmelite Family present in the Houston area will be participating in the liturgical celebrations. There will be special music. O.Carm. will sponsor a reception in the Church Hall after the mass, and there will be a conference by Dan Burke, representing the Avila Institute, again for a general audience. OCDS members will continue their celebration with a program at the hotel Saturday afternoon and a banquet. There will be additional programs on Sunday morning, with the event ending at noon. The registration for the event is \$125, and the hotel rooms are priced at \$99 (occupancy up to 4 people per room), but at the present time, there are a limited number of rooms available, so we are asked to sign up soon! Note that the only cost for the workshop is the additional hotel night.
3. Kathy DeWine, Knoxville, Tennessee, reported on the past Triennium. We are the smallest of the three Provinces. In 2011 there were 23 canonically-established Communities, 15 Study Groups, and 1 Group in Discernment. In 2013, there were 24 Communities, 12 Study Groups, and one Group in Discernment. There are approximately 850 total members, but this number is decreasing as we age.

Barbara Tinervia, in the Central Office position, has made a tremendous difference in the functionality of the Province.

Two Provincial Councilors have had to resign, one for professional reasons and one for health reasons.

There was no Province-wide election due to lack of nominees, therefore the Provincial Delegate appointed the new Councilors. The term of office has been reduced from 6 years to 3 years. Travel costs for Visitations will continue to be subsidized by the Provincial Treasury.

Father Bonaventure then came to the podium to underline the need to attract young members through vocation awareness.

4. Jo Ann Murphy, Austin, Texas (formerly of Washington, DC in the Eastern Province), announced that she will be assisting Father Bonaventure with the Flos Carmeli (only 22% of recipients are reading the pdf version). We are to continue sending Community news items to Father Bonaventure, but general articles and articles of a spiritual nature should be sent to Jo Ann at jmurphy12513@gmail.com. Provincial Council communications that require action on the part of local communities will go to the Presidents for distribution via email. Any deadline will appear in the subject line.

5. Claire Bloodgood, Georgetown, Texas, reported on the survey of Community and Group Apostolates. We are reminded that the purpose of the community or group apostolate is to spread Carmelite spirituality. She cited communities which sponsor speakers, sell books, provide Carmelite literature to seminarians, give classes to priests (in a large city), hold schools of prayer, teach *lectio divina*, and give teachings on Carmelite saints.

Questions and Answers (submitted by attendees in advance to the PC):

Q/A: Concerning indigent members (persons without any transportation and/or financial resources): If the person is Professed and there is a sudden loss of assets, we need to act out of fraternal charity. If the person comes to us with a genuine call to Carmel, God will provide what is necessary, but the Council must look at the long view: Is the call to some other contemplative life: can the person's spiritual needs be met in private prayer or in a prayer group other than Carmel? The local council must try to discern what is best.

Q/A: Can more talks on Carmelite spirituality from retreats and Congresses be made available online? Jo Ann Murphy pointed out that there are numerous copyright issues involved! For example, the company which records the conferences at our Congresses owns those copyrights, and Friars must give permission before their Retreat talks can be posted online. We are reminded that there are two websites in our province, one for the Friars (carmelitesok.org), and one for the Seculars (thereseocds.org), and that there are a lot of resources published on those two sites. It might be possible for Mount Carmel Center (where Fr. Bonaventure is now resident) to podcast some of their presentations.

Q/A: A case study concerning a person who was clothed but moved twice before making any Promises, and asked twice for medical excuses; then finally asked for Isolate status from a different Province. Since she was never professed, she was never a member, and therefore can't be an Isolate. The policy is that if one has made the First Promise, one may be released and then return ONE time, but not twice. If a Professed member has medical problems, one is placed on Infirm status, not Isolate.

Collaboration

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Father Luis asks us to consider three areas of collaboration:

1. Revision of Statutes and Formation Guidelines at the 10-year mark, as required by our Constitution.
2. What is the solution to the lack of nominations and thus the failure to hold Provincial Council elections this year?
3. How can we help inculcate “One, International and Authentic” vocation into our general membership?

Area 1: Ask the general membership to review the Statutes and comment on them. Father Bonaventure stated that some statutes may be deleted, some added, and some edited. With regard to the Formation Guidelines, the Provincial Council is considering assembling a group of present and former Formation Directors to study and make recommendations over the next three years. Province thinks that we need to simplify them and make them more flexible.

Area 2: As a result of the problems encountered in this year’s nominations, the Provincial Council is considering two changes: the term in office is reduced from 6 to 3 years effective immediately (with the possibility of a second 3-year term), and the Provincial Councilors will be appointed by Father Provincial’s Delegate, as was the case for the first Provincial Council. There will also be a change in the Visitation process, which will lighten the load on all participants. Effective immediately, there will be a Pastoral Visit every 6 years, and a Familial Visit at the 3-year interval between Pastoral Visits, following the model of the Friars. Visitors will be trained to look for potential Provincial Councilors when they are with Communities and Study Groups, and make recommendation to the Provincial’s Delegate accordingly.

Area 3: Fr. Luis, our Provincial, is concerned that we understand our Vocation is not individual, but Carmelite, which means being part of the worldwide Community. It depends on a personal relationship with God expressed through the Carmelite Community experience and the living out of the Beatitudes.

Elizabeth M. Boggess OCDS
President and Formation Director
Our Lady of Lourdes Study Group,
Natchez, MS - Vidalia, LA

Results from poll on OCDS Community Apostolates

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, Provincial Council

We had a good response from our Province's OCDS communities and Study Groups on their apostolates. In this article we've highlighted those apostolates that meet the criteria for an OCDS Community primary apostolate:

- The spread of Carmelite spirituality
- Personal contact with those being reached out to
- Involvement of all (or nearly all) the Community members

Carmelite Doctors Study Group, Atlanta GA

Apostolate:

1) **Our study group invites guest speakers to Atlanta usually twice a year. Open to public and basing their presentation on a Carmelite topic. Sometimes we have an OCD friar speak but we also invite someone like Susan Muto or Ralph Martin. We have a table with OCDS information and books for sale at these events.**

2) **We attend the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress each year, selling books for ICS publications, rosaries, scapulars and misc other Carmelite items. Next year we hope to incorporate a scapular enrollment during one of the session breaks.**

Secondary Apostolate:

3) We support our **priests** by giving them scapulars and scapular books at their ordination. Included in this gift is an **OCDS brochure**. We are working on also sending anniversary and birthday cards to them as a reminder that we are here praying for them. (This is a new position in our group called "Archdiocesan Liaison"). By doing this, **we hope that our priests will remember to refer anyone with our spirituality to our study group.**

4. St. Francis Food Table for the Poor

Mary, Beloved of the Trinity Community, New Iberia, LA

Apostolate

Provide monthly teachings on Carmelite spirituality at two church parishes

Also, provide monthly teachings on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other matters of the Faith at another church parish

Secondary apostolate:

Provide cleanup apostolate for a local retreat center several times a year

(Continued on page 17)

***BVM of Mt Carmel & the Holy Mother St Teresa of Jesus Community (MS Gulf Coast)
Gulfport, MS***

Apostolate:

We pray for and **maintain contact with the seminarians** studying for the Diocese of Biloxi (sending small gifts and **items of Carmelite spirituality**).

Secondary apostolate:

We are working on one that can be done by a small community spread over a large geographic area.

BVM of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus Community, Oklahoma City, OK

Apostolate:

Sr. BJ Pantry- providing cash donations, food/supplies and service to feed and clothe the poor.

Secondary apostolate:

Distribute pamphlets *St. Teresa's The Prayer of Recollection*

Mary Spouse of the Holy Spirit Study Group, Covington, LA

Apostolate:

Annual Mass of the Roses in October in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux. Members participate in the readings of the Mass and **assignment of members to the various Carmelite booths** – Vocations, Holy Face, Carmelite Saints, Carmelite readings, works of art by the Carmelite Sisters, etc.

The Secular Carmelites' children and grandchildren under teenage years and the little girls Society of St. Therese also participate by carrying the roses up to the altar after Mass for blessing and distribution.

Secondary apostolate:

A prayer card sent to all who have requested group's prayers.

St. Joseph Community, St. Louis MO

Apostolate:

Our **media apostolate** began in 1996:

"Through prayerful inspiration, after much discernment from our Secular Carmelite community and with much help and support from our Carmelite Nuns at the Carmel of St. Joseph, we began our "New Media" podcasting apostolate on the feast of Pentecost June 4th, 2006.

(Continued on page 18)

“Today our Podcast contains over 100 different meditations to help "jump start your prayer" and lead you into a deeper prayer and quiet meditation. The reflections we have gathered through the plethora of writings from the great Saints of Carmel (and from lesser known Carmelite Religious) will aid in your education of the wonderful and historic tradition of mystical prayer found within the Holy Catholic Church. It is a form of prayer which begins and ends in a deep longing for loving union with the Eternal Triune God where a soul seeks ‘the light of truth will come to purify, enlighten and enkindle his soul.’

“Our new media outreach continues today with an active social media outreach via Twitter.”

Community’s Internet sites:

Website: www.meditationsfromcarmel.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515768725174908/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#carmelitesstl>

Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew Community, Little Rock, AR

Apostolate:

Sponsoring Days of Recollection. Currently the community has plans to sponsor a Day of Recollection with Susan Muto for the next two years. This is advertised in the Catholic newspaper statewide, and parishes are asked to put a notice in their bulletins. In the past the community sponsored Days of Recollection with our Carmelite Fathers, advertised in the same way.

Secondary apostolate:

Working at vocation booths in local parishes. The community regularly works at a vocation booth in a local parish every year, representing the Carmelite nuns and friars. We have also **sponsored vocation booths at Youth 2000 retreats in a local parish.**

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face Study Group, Houston, TX

Apostolate:

Share Carmelite Charism, during the year, serving various functions at St Theresa Church, Houston.

Also each month, after our meeting, we bring food and other items to Casa Juan Diego for the poor and we **share the Carmelite charism.**

Secondary apostolate:

We bring brochures to our individual parishes inviting people to our annual retreat where we share the Carmelite charism

(Continued on page 19)

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Community Austin, TX

Apostolate:

School of Prayer. The primary apostolate is under development, but our upcoming 2015 Centenary Event is an effort in the Diocese towards the growth and further establishment of this apostolate.

Secondary apostolate:

Vocations Awareness. The secondary apostolate is ongoing but under consideration by the newly elected council as to best ways to improve its effectiveness and implementation.

Our Lady of Lourdes Study Group (Natchez-Vidalia), Natchez, Mississippi

Apostolate:

Intercessory prayer

St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux Community, Jackson, MS

Apostolate:

Food Ministry: Assisting the Carmelite Nuns by providing some of the food used to feed the homeless that come to the Carmelite Monastery in Jackson.

Secondary apostolate:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day Mass: Leading the congregational singing, providing the musician and serving as host and hostesses.

St. Teresa of Jesus Community, Cedar Rapids, IA

Apostolate:

Prayer & support for priests and priestly vocations through shared prayer at meetings and plans to attend diocesan vigils for vocations as a Carmelite Community

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and St. Raphael Kalinowski of St. Joseph Community Sioux City, IA

Apostolate:

“We prayed and fasted for a month on an apostolate. The majority wanted prayer time as our apostolate. We made a Eucharistic Adoration schedule showing which parish in our city and surrounding area was offering Adoration. Our community decided to pray especially for the following:

(Continued on page 20)

Priests

Seminarians

Those who have left the church

Souls in purgatory

Parents and caregivers

Carmelite nuns

Carmelite mission in Kenya

Growth and success of community and our apostolate”

Secondary apostolate:

“Some expressed an interest in learning **Lectio Divina**. Mary Kay Daniels invited members of our **community and** her **parish** to meet at her home for Lectio Divina. Twice she opened her home for several sessions of Lectio.”

Blessed Miriam of Jesus Crucified, McAllen, Texas

Apostolate:

Provide scapulars to confirmation classes and assist with their investiture by providing the parish priest with the rite from the Scapular Rite and Ritual and giving a brief presentation and talk beforehand to give those confirmandi receiving the scapular a correct understanding of it.

Secondary apostolate:

Our members give talks at parish and diocesan events about prayer and Carmelite saints.

St. John of the Cross and St. Anthony Community, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

(Clarence Landry will be representing the Community at the Congress.

5814 Golden Pheasant Ct. Baton Rouge, LA 70817

cland205@aol.com)

Apostolate:

Serve the needs of the Missionary of Charity Sisters at St. Agnes Parish by providing food and goods and volunteers

Secondary apostolate:

Donate to our OCD nuns and seminary fund; donate religious prayer cards and literature for

(Continued on page 21)

the prison ministry; visit local nursing homes and members who are shut-ins.

Holy Spirit Community Mobile Alabama

Apostolate:

In the past our Community has been focused on our Carmelite Sisters in Mobile.

With the arrival of our Vietnamese Sisters the community assisted the Nuns in learning English.

Working on:

We are working on a new apostolate moving forward.

A building is being built on the Carmelite Monastery grounds for meeting/ reception group gathering space. **We are hoping to bring Carmelite Instruction to the Local Church Community when the building is complete.**

St. John of the Cross and St. Peter the Apostle (or is it St Paul?) Community, Birmingham AL

Apostolate:

Working on day of Prayer: Introduction to Carmelite Spirituality

St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel Community, Lafayette, LA

Apostolate:

We have experimented with a community apostolate of presenting a series of talks on prayer open to the public. That proved to be unsatisfactory as a community project.

We are now developing a brochure to be disseminated to church parishes describing our community and our vocation, and **offering twice a year the services of a team of 4 or 5 community members to provide parish and diocesan organization upon their request with presentations on the brown scapular and on prayer using audiovisual materials and relevant hand-outs.**

The Transfiguration Study Group, Knoxville, TN

Apostolate:

None at this time. Are discussing. Will be canonical in September.

Meanwhile has an "apostolate prayer" that they pray as a group.

St. Therese, the Little Flower Study Group, Lawrenceville, GA

Apostolate:

(Continued on page 22)

Working on establishing one, not sure which one we will do yet

Infant Jesus of Prague Community in Dallas, Texas

Apostolate:

It was cleaning Mount Carmel Center. That is no longer needed/phased out.

No apostolate, will work on one after Centenary plans are completed

The Most Holy Trinity Community; Huffman TX

Apostolate:

No formal apostolate yet. **Working on one.**

Triumph of the Cross Community, Georgetown, TX

Apostolate:

Still working on ideas. **Have participated in parish ministry fairs. Offered talk on St Thérèse' life and spirituality last year, which was well attended.**

International Teresian Meeting in Avila, August 2015

From: Fr. John M. Suenram, OCD

Oklahoma Province

Discalced Carmelite Friars

Dear Members of the Secular Order of Carmel,

Teresa of Jesus, the foundress of the Discalced Carmelite Order, was born in 1515. This means that in 2015, the Order of Carmel will be celebrating the 5th Centenary of the birth of the person whom we call “Our Holy Mother.” There are many events that have been scheduled for next year.

I am writing to inform you of an international event called an “International Teresian Meeting” that is being organized to take place in Avila, Spain from the 10th through the 14th of August 2015. The purpose behind the gathering is that all the participants may grow in their understanding of the spirituality of St. Teresa while experiencing a spirit of “brotherhood, freedom simplicity and humility.” It is also hoped that the participants will adopt a spirit of missionary availability and become ready to answer the question, “What do you want from me?” There will be time for study, reflection and prayer. There will also be an opportunity to visit some of the principal places associated with Teresa’s life and ministry to the Church.

It has been suggested that up to 2,000 people may take part in this International Meeting. The event is open to all but in a special way Carmelite Seculars are invited to take part. I have been chosen by our Province to act as a coordinator to help organize participation on behalf of our Province. Pre-registration is to take place by the 31st of this month. Each person who pre-registers is expected to pay a registration fee of 25 euros, which translates to \$32.52.

The exact fee for participation in the meeting itself has not been specified, but it has been estimated that it will cost between 210 to 335 euros. Details regarding fees will be forthcoming. For now, we must think about organizing for participation. So, I would ask you to canvas your members so that we can get a good head count from your various groups, specifying names and providing contact information for each person who plans to attend. Later I will ask for the proper fees to be submitted.

The following information comes to us from the Secretariat for the Centenary of St. Teresa of Jesus.

Accommodations

Accommodation will be in retreat houses, residences and hotels. Four types of accommodation with different prices depending on the type selected will be offered. There will be also opportunity for registration without accommodation, to cover participation in the activities of the meeting and the common meal.

The price will include a solidarity fee for participants of the most prosperous and nearby countries to help those who come from more distant and disadvantaged regions.

Program

Monday, **10th** August

19:30. Opening Celebration of the meeting.

Dinner

Tuesday, **11th** August

8:30 to 9:00 h: Breakfast (in places of accommodation)

9:30 to 11:30 h: Morning Prayer (distributed by languages)

Shared reflection (by languages)

12:30 h. Eucharist

14:00 h. Meal together

16:30 to 18:30 h. Reflection in groups (by languages)

20:30 h. Dinner at accommodation

22:00 h. Recreational activity

Wednesday, **12th** August

8:30 to 9:00 h: Breakfast (in places of accommodation)

9:30 to 11:30 h: Morning Prayer (distributed by languages)

Reflection: essential elements of Teresian spirituality (by languages)

12:00 to 13:30 h. Workshops, panels experiences, etc..

14:30 h. Meal together

16:30 to 18:30 h. Workshops, panels experiences, etc..

19:00 h. Eucharist (by language)

(Continued on page 25)

20:30 h. Dinner at accommodation

22:00 h. Recreational activity

Thursday, **13th** August

8:30 to 9:00 h: Breakfast (in places of accommodation)

9:30 to 11:30 h: Morning Prayer (distributed by languages)

Reflection: Mission clues from Teresian spirituality (by languages)

12:00 to 13:30 h. Workshops, panels experiences, etc..

14:30 h. Meal together

16:30 to 18:30 h. Workshops, panels experiences, etc..

19:00 h. Eucharist (by languages)

20:30 h. Dinner at accommodation

22:00 h. Prayer Vigil

Friday, **14th** August

8:30 to 9:00 Breakfast at accommodation.

10:00 am. Closing Eucharist presided by Fr Saverio Cannistrà, OCD

Languages of the meeting:

Spanish, Italian, English, French, Portuguese and Polish.

Visits to the Teresian places:

Those attending the meeting will be distributed in three groups; each day a group will visit the main teresian places of Avila

There will also be free time for

– Prayer

– Sacrament of Reconciliation

– Expositions and cultural activities

In addition, during the meeting you can visit the exposition called “Edades del Hombre”, the museum at the birthplace of Santa Teresa, the convents of the Reform, namely, “The Incarna-

tion” and Saint Joseph, among others places.

I am asking that this information be disseminated quickly and responded to in the same fashion. I may be contacted at jmsocd@me.com, 1125 S. Walker Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73109, 405-235-2037.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. John M. Suenram, OCD

Appeal to restore monastery on Mt Carmel

GENERAL COUNCILS

Order of the Carmelites of Ancient Observance

Order of the Discalced Carmelites

Joint Commission for the maintenance of the Wadi es-Siah

Rome, 1st of September 2014

To:

PP. Provincials,

Other Superiors,

Mothers Federal,

Prioresses of the Monasteries,

Mothers General of the Affiliated Congregations,

Responsible for the TOC, for the OCDS and other Lay Carmelite groups.

Greetings from Rome!

Conscious of the common heritage and spirituality that we share, and as you may already know, our two Orders, O.Carm. and O.C.D., have been developing different joint projects over the past two decades, we would like to invite your participation in the work of conservation on Mount Carmel.

During our meeting in Rome last June, both the General Council of the Order of Carmelites and the Definitory General of the Discalced Carmelites decided to initiate fund raising in their respective communities in order to support the restoration and conservation of the ruins of the first Carmelite monastery at the Wadi es-Siah on Mount Carmel, Israel. Since the restoration done in the 1970's at the site there has been a gradual deterioration of the fabric and environs of this precious physical part of our ancient heritage. It now needs conservation work on the actual structure, protection of the site itself and especially access for pilgrims who climb Mount Carmel to pray and reflect at the place of our ancient hermits, near the well of the Prophet Elijah. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the State authorities and the city of Haifa.

As part of the celebrations for the 8th centenary of St. Albert of Jerusalem, our Lawgiver; His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, will preside at the Eucharist on the 12th of October next here in Rome together with Fr. Fernando Millán Romeral, O.Carm., Prior General, and Fr.

Saverio Canistrà, O.C.D., Superior General.

We would like to invite all our parishes, shrines, spiritual centres, monasteries, convents, schools, as well as other institutions and houses associated with us, to join in this important celebration by organizing a collection for this restoration on that same Sunday, i.e., on the 12th of October 2014.

We would hope that this might also be an opportunity for us to appreciate our origins and strengthen the bonds that unite all the members of the great Carmelite family around the world.

You can find some information on Wadi es-Siah and the ruins of the first Carmelite monastery at www.wadi.info.

That our Mother of Mount Carmel, the “Lady of the place”, might enlighten and guide us in this worthy project.

Yours in Carmel,

Fernando Millán Romeral, O.Carm.

Prior General

Saverio Canistrà, O.C.D.

Superior General

A new tradition for the Covington community

It is one of those items that many do not think about and most never want to have to use. It takes a special person to understand its value and foresee the need for a pall. This was the case for the Community of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Our group did not have a pall and, fortunately, for the two occasions when one was needed, we borrowed the pall which the New Orleans community has. Those two occasions were what caused Rosalie Quigley to think about the need for a pall and of making a beautiful one someday, one that would remind all who saw it of the deceased's life in Carmel.

Rosalie Quigley is a founding member of the Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit OCDS Community, which dates back to 1997. In her love for us, then, she volunteered to make the pall for the community.

After much searching, Rosalie found a pretty piece of cream-colored gabardine cloth. She had already measured out an “example” pall, borrowed from St. Joseph's Abbey nearby, in order to determine the right dimensions and so the amount of fabric she would need.

Meanwhile, our Carmelite Sisters here at the Covington Carmel contributed to this labor of love. The Sisters had been given an embroidered Carmelite Coat of Arms. It was a donation to them from the family of George Gowey, Jr. The Sisters recognized that this embroidered piece of art would be the perfect centerpiece for the pall. Rosalie then hand stitched it in perfect position, attaching it to the pall with a lovely piece of gold trim that royally framed the piece.

As Rosalie was creating the pall, a dear member of our community was growing more and more ill—Betty Ketchum, who mused that she might be the first to have to use it. In addition to being sisters in Carmel, Betty and Rosalie were good friends. Betty's intuition proved correct. The pall was first used during her rosary and funeral services. In fact, it was during these two services for Betty that the pall was officially blessed.

A pall is not one of those items that is uppermost in our minds as we found our communities and help them grow. But we newer members are grateful to our founding members who continue to recognize these important, though often unacknowledged aspects of what it takes to make a community into a family. Our community pall is one such grace-filled addition to the growing traditions of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit OCDS Community.



News from around the Province

Compiled by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Covington LA---submitted by Mary Engler, OCDS

A Glorious Day. The monthly meetings of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Community are always filled with love and smiles, formation and sharing. We've come to expect good days like that when we meet.

On occasion, though, a day comes along that exceeds our greatest expectations, and that was the case on August 16. On that day, our community accepted the First Promise of two members, Jeff Mendow and Ann Shiell. Presiding at Mass and receiving their professions was Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD. We celebrated Jeff and Ann's commitment and Father's very welcomed visit with a marvelous social after Mass.

The day started as always with our members breaking up into formation study groups. Then we held our business meeting as usual. And third we were treated by Fr. Bonaventure to a sneak preview of his talk about St. Teresa of Avila's poetry which he planned to deliver at the 2014 Congress in Atlanta the following weekend. Father's talk was delightful and particularly information about an area of St. Teresa's works which many never get the chance to study.



When our study of poetry concluded, we attended Mass in the Guardian Angel Chapel of the Carmel of Covington. Jeff and Ann made their first promise as our whole community happily witnessed their professions. When Mass was finished, we retired to the meeting room for a community social. After receiving Father's blessing, everyone enjoyed the food, drinks, and desserts that each contributed. The day ended with big smiles, gratitude, and joyful good company.





Covington, LA, an obituary – submitted by Suzette McGoey, OCDS

Our beloved sister, Betty Keating Ketchum passed away on Monday, June 02, 2014. At the time of her death she was living in a nursing home in Mandeville, LA with her husband of 61 years, Thomas Ketchum.

**

In January, 2013 Betty became infirmed and was unable to attend meetings. She stayed in touch with us through our members.

Betty was clothed June 13, 1998 and made her profession September 8, 2001 in Covington with Fr. Jerome Earley, OCD, taking the name Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

Betty was one of the original members of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit OCDS Group. She was very active in the Community! She was best known for her shell collecting on Sanibel Islands in Florida, her famous “chocolate covered strawberries”, cooking for the Carmelite Nuns and much much more. Betty will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace!

2. Houston, TX (Holy Trinity)—submitted by Rebecca Segura, OCDS

We just heard from Benny Snoga that his sister Gladys Snoga passed away on Saturday, August 30. She was still a member of our OCDS community, in fact, one of our founding members, now under infirm status, having retired to San Antonio in order to be closer to her family. The rosary was at the Angelus Funeral Home in San Antonio on Thursday, September 4, with the funeral the next day at St. Gerard's Church, also in San Antonio.

The photo of Gladys to the right is dated Feb. 27, 2008, and was taken before she moved to San Antonio. May she rest in peace.



3. Huffman, TX—submitted by Elizabeth Ogilvie, OCDS

An obituary. Beverly Charlene (Williford) Walton, ODCS—pictured on the left—was born June 17, 1942, to parents Bill and Margaret Williford. She had a long career in administration, retiring from her position as Director of Legal Administration at Texaco, Inc., after 18 years of service. She was a member of St. John of the Cross Catholic Church in New Caney, Texas, and a member of The Most Holy Trinity community in Huffman Texas.



Beverly was clothed in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on September 13, 2003, and made her Definitive Promise on August 30, 2008, taking the devotional title “St Theresa of the Child Jesus.”

Due to her husband’s terminal illness and her own decline in health, our community has been without Beverly’s quiet strength and warm heart since February 2009. Even while Infirm the community still felt her love and commitment through her gifts of heart and her prayers. Even new members knew her by reputation from those of us who spoke of her kindness and exceeding generosity of heart.

She served her community in many ways, and held the office of Treasurer for several years. After much physical and spiritual suffering, Beverly passed away peacefully on July 5, 2014. Her funeral took place on July 10. She was

preceded in death by Bill, her beloved husband of 42 years; and is survived by her daughter, Cheryl McDonald-Hamilton, and Cheryl’s husband Avery, and granddaughters Laura Stine and Heather Vincent, and even a great-granddaughter Allison Stone.

A clothing. The Most Holy Trinity OCDS Community of Huffman, TX, had its annual retreat on August 16 2014, at the Mount Carmel House of Prayer in Houston. During the retreat our Aspirant Zenaida Bondoc-Quinty was clothed in the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; her husband Tim was present for the ceremony. Fr. Victor Perez, parochial vicar of St Jerome Catholic Church in Houston, officiated the ceremony, our community retreat, and at Mass. The photo, taken at the time, shows Zenaida in the middle, with her husband Tim at her left, and Fr. Victor at her right.



4. Knoxville, TN—submitted by Dot Terheyden, OCDS

An obituary. Ronald Horace Haynes, OCDS, was born on July 13, 1941, and died June 17, 2014, in Knoxville, TN. His name in Carmel was Joseph Mary of the Divine Child Jesus. A Requiem Mass was offered for him on Friday, June 27, 2014, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Knoxville. In honor of Ron—who practically never missed attending Mass, despite his frailty and confinement to a wheel chair in recent years, and who treasured especially the Extraordinary Form—we arranged that his funeral afford all of us the opportunity to attend a good old-fashioned Requiem Mass, celebrated in Latin, though using the new form, and with the traditional Gregorian chants of the Mass for the Dead included. Burial was at Oak Ridge Memorial Park, just outside of Knoxville. Ron was preceded in death by his wife Karen and by one son, Greg. He is survived by three other sons, Ronald Jr., William, and Stephen.

Ron was self-educated, and devoted to his Catholic Faith and Carmelite vocation. The vocation was very precious to him. He was clothed in the Scapular on May 28, 1983, made his First Promise on May 29, 1985, and made his Definitive Promise on May 28, 1988. He professed vows in Carmel on July 16, 1991. Moreover, Ron studied deeply many subjects and was a voluminously reader. He enjoyed especially studying the documents of the Church, the Latin language, the Fathers of the Church, and, later in life, philosophy. He was a chess aficionado and kept pet birds, was an enthusiastic ham radio operator, a marksman with a rifle, avid amateur photographer, and, interested in martial arts, had attained a black belt in judo, karate, and taekwondo.

Requiem aeternam dona Ron, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.

**



5. Lafayette, LA (Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel)—submitted by Gerald Alford, OCDS

At our monthly meeting in May before the Easter devotional renewal of the Promise/Vows, our Spiritual Assistant, Rev. Conley Bertrand, formally installed the newly elected council and their appointees. As shown below, they are, from left to right—Donna Patin, treasurer; Karen Perron, newly elected councilor; Roberta McCurry, reappointed as secretary; Gerald Alford, newly elected president; Marella Theriot, reelected as councilor; Laura Lane Bruce, reappointed Director of Formation; Mary George, newly elected councilor, and Fr. Bertrand, our Spiritual Assistant.

I



In June, in remembrance of their ordination anniversaries, and in anticipation of Father's Day, the community acknowledged with gratitude the two wonderful priests in our community, Fr. Conley Bertrand and Fr. Mitchell Guidry [see photo below]. Fr. Bertrand, aka Fr. Jeremiah, OCDS—at right in the photo—has been spiritual assistant to our two Lafayette communities for 50 years. Fr. Guidry—at left—is pastor of Our Lady Queen of All Saints Catholic Church in Ville Platte, LA. He is now in formation for the temporary promise.



**

6. Sioux City, IA—submitted by Wavie Greigg, OCDS

An obituary. Barbara Jean Gilbert, Isolate of the Sioux City OCDS Community, died Thursday, July 3, 2014, in St. Cloud, MN, at the aged of 85. Many members of our community still cherish the notes of encouragement they received from Barbara. She was truly a woman of faith, wisdom, and grace. Unfortunately no photo of Barbara was available.

Barbara was born on January 2, 1929 in Blair, Nebraska, to Roy and Flossie (Lycan) Dolan. She married Marshall Gilbert on August 7, 1949 in Blair, Nebraska. She joined the Catholic Church in 1976 at Fort Dodge, Iowa and was always very active in the parishes to which she belonged.

As a Secular Order Carmelite Barbara made her definitive promise on December 18, 2002, at the Carmelite Monastery in Sioux City, Iowa. In July, 2011, she moved to Cold Spring, MN, to be nearer family. She loved gardening, reading, her spiritual studies, and her beloved dog Charlie.

She is survived by her daughters, Sr. Julianne Gilbert, OSB, of St. Joseph, MN, and Christianne Jacobsen of Springfield, SD, by three granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, and by her brothers and sisters in Carmel.

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 at tmhanley@yahoo.com.

“As for the dryness, it seems to me that the Lord is now treating you as one who is strong. He wants to try you in order to know the love you have for him, whether it is present in dryness as well as in spiritual delights. Take it as a very great favor from God. Don’t let it cause you any grief, for perfection does not consist in delight but in the virtues. When you least expect, devotion will return.”

From *The Collected Letters of St. Teresa of Avila, Vol. II* trans. by Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, copyright 2007, Washington Province of Discalced Carmelites Inc. ICS Publications, 2131 Lincoln Road NE, Washington, DC 20002-1199. www.icspublications.org.

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!