



Flos Carmeli

Greetings from the new Provincial Council

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

Throughout this 2014-2017 Triennium, may Our Lady of Mount Carmel be with us and inspire us to do all we can for Her Son, our Mystical Spouse, Jesus Christ, and for each other, as we journey together on the path of Carmel.

First and foremost, we wish to thank Dorothy Mansen, President of the Provincial Council for this past Triennium, for her years of dedicated work and rich contributions to our OCDS family, and Kathryn Ney and Dorothy Ashley for their service during the previous Triennium. We also remain grateful to all of our predecessors who have worked so hard to provide us with our present legacy of excellent legislative re-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

Plenary Council to
convene at Con-
gress 4

Congress news 9

PC and communi-
ties prepare for
Centenary 16

The Story of My
Healing 22

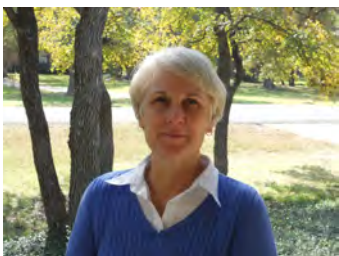
(Continued from page 1)

sourcefulness. May God reward all of you richly!

We, your Provincial Council for the 2014-2017 Triennium, wish to introduce ourselves to you. First, we will introduce our new members who have made the commitment to serve for the next three years. After that time, they will have the option to choose whether or not they wish to accept reappointment. Our new members are:



Kathy DeWine, a Member of the Study Group of the Transfiguration in Knoxville, TN, since 2003. Kathy is married almost 51 years to Larry. They have four grown children and 8 grandchildren. She says that it is thanks to the grace of God, primarily through Larry's generosity, support and humor, that she has been able to keep her Promises in Carmel.

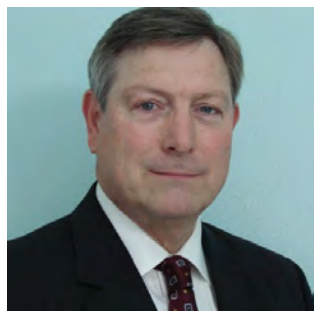


Claire Bloodgood, a member of Triumph of the Cross Community in Georgetown, Texas, is married to Jack for nearly 35 years. They have three sons and a daughter, who are grown up and on their own. Claire says she looks forward to serving the larger OCDS family.



Jo Ann Murphy was professed in Washington, D.C. in 1991. In 2005 she retired to Austin, TX, where she transferred to the St. Benedicta of the Cross Community. She has five children and three grandchildren plus one on the way! Her Carmelite name is the "Bread of Life". Her hope as a Member of the Provincial Council is to nourish and support you with this "Bread."

Our returning members include:



Chris Wood will be serving in the fourth year of his six year term on the Provincial Council. Chris is married to his lovely wife, Helene, and they have five children. He entered the Order in Dallas in 1989 and is now a Member of the Houston Study Group, St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Chris says that visiting with our communities is the best part of being a PC member.



Mary Kay Daniels, also beginning her second triennium of service to the Provincial Council, was elected President at the recent Provincial Council Meeting in Oklahoma City. A Member of the St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Raphael Kalinowski of St. Joseph Community in Sioux City, IA, she credits her wonderful husband, David, for his unswerving support for her Carmelite work. Married for 33 years, with five grown children and four grandchildren, one of whom is in heaven, Mary Kay wishes to truly nurture the “living love of Jesus” within each of us and among us, as she diligently tackles the administrative and presidential duties.

Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, will continue to be our mentor. Father brings practical experience along with a breadth and depth of Carmelite wisdom to the table. We are gifted and ever so grateful to receive his wisdom-filled presence and input!

This new Provincial Council is amazing in dedication, skills and energy. We feel so blessed to be working together. We have challenging and meaningful work ahead... such as reviewing and revising our Statutes and Formation Guidelines, doing our visitations, presenting a forum for the Congress, hosting the Plenary Council Dinner Meeting, organizing the Province-wide centenary celebration, preparing and presenting a workshop for presidents and formation directors, and assisting our communities, study groups and group in discernment in any way we can. We are looking forward to serving you!

In the meantime, let's tend to what's at hand: our upcoming Congress in August! The planning by the Atlanta Study Group has been impeccable, and the venue top-notch! It's so important that no matter how old we are, that we keep learning and developing in our Carmelite vocation and charism, as well as cultivating deepening friendships within our Carmelite family. Our Congress is the perfect opportunity to accomplish both. Also, the Plenary Council Dinner Meeting will be a delightful evening with wonderful dining, dynamic presentations and plentiful constructive and collaborative discussion.

We hope to see everyone at the Congress and community/study group presidents and appointed representatives at the Plenary Council Dinner Meeting!

May the Deep Peace of Christ Be with You and Bless You.

Lovingly in Carmel,

Mary Kay Daniels, Chris Wood, Kathy DeWine, Jo Ann Murphy, Claire Bloodgood

PC summons presidents, community reps to Plenary Council

Every three years at the Regional Congress for our Oklahoma Province, we are required to have a meeting of the Plenary Council. “The Plenary Council shall serve as a consultative body to the Provincial Council and Provincial Delegate. The Plenary Council shall be a means to encourage relationship and communication among the Provincial Council, the Provincial Delegate and the Communities and Study Groups themselves. Representatives to the Plenary Council may bring important issues of the Province to the attention of the provincial leaders at the time of the Plenary Council.” (See XIX.2 of the Provincial Statutes.) **Each canonical community should be represented at the Plenary Council by its president and by a member elected by the community to attend.** (Please send another Council member if your president is unable to come). Each study group should elect one member to represent them.

Therefore, the Provincial Council is cordially inviting community and study group presidents and representative(s) for a collaborative, reception-style Plenary Council Dinner Meeting which will be held during our upcoming Congress at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis on Friday, August 22, at 4:30 pm. This gathering is being planned to be networking friendly and more collaborative than in the past. While Plenary Council members enjoy delicious dining, Provincial Council members will provide presentations to update everyone on their activities. There will be plentiful time for feedback and discussion of issues most relevant to communities. Going forward, the Provincial Council really wants collaborative input from the Plenary Council.

Please send the names of the persons from your community or study group who will be attending to Mary Kay Daniels, mkdocds@cableone.net or to 3001 S. Paxton St., Sioux City, IA., by our deadline, August 10. Include the name and location of your community when submitting the names of your attendees.

Provincial Delegate's Report

By Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

So, then, we had our Provincial Chapter. And while its two weeks of often intense, day-long meetings can seem to us friars truly biblical in proportion, in actuality it came and went with hardly a bump in the course of world events. Probably that's for the best. All that really matters is that our fellow Carmelites, nuns and Seculars, took generous notice. And, of course, that the Holy Spirit saw what was going on and made an appearance or two.

At a Chapter we friars review and evaluate the province, including the nuns and Seculars, in a pretty comprehensive way. Also, we work through our *Provincial Acts*, which is a collection of by-laws regulating our life and governance in matters not covered by our *Constitutions* and *Norms*. We delete, add, reapprove, and revise these by-laws. Then, importantly, we anoint some goals for ourselves, things we need to attend to over the coming triennium. These we try to make as concrete and pertinent as we can.

Our goals for the coming triennium address particular needs in five areas. These areas are (1) contemplative life, (2) vocation promotion, (3) personal and community formation, (4) some specific needs in the province, and (5) care for our senior brothers. As I said, we've set for ourselves a couple of goals in each of these areas, ones that are pretty specific. As the triennium progresses, then, we'll be evaluating ourselves. Please pray that we do make progress in all of them. It will make the province better, and make us a little truer to our vocation.

It is following the Chapter that the new assignments are made. These assignments also include what is called *conventuality*—that is, where each friar will live. You will find in this issue of the *Flos* a list of the new assignments for each of the friars of the Province.

For those of you who are curious and haven't heard yet, I have been asked to continue as OCDS Provincial Delegate—to my great pleasure, if not to that of all—but have been asked to move from my present residence in San Antonio to Mt. Carmel Center in Dallas. Thus, I keep intact my record of having been asked to move every triennium since I completed formation. I believe it's called “damage control.”

New Provincial Council Begins Term

During the days of our Provincial Chapter *your* Provincial Council, the OCDS Provincial Council, that is—yes, I agree, it's hard to keep it all straight—your Provincial Council met in order to introduce its three new members to what lies ahead for them. In doing so, it first needed to plan what exactly does lie ahead for them—that is, for the Council as a whole.

I sat in on most, if not all, of these meetings and can vouch for the fact that your Provincial Councilors work very well together. Their energy and enthusiasm, creativity and clear thinking are all abundantly and impressively present. I feel fortunate to be able to continue in my assignment as OCDS Provincial Delegate. That way I get to work with them through this coming triennium. Indeed, we'll be tackling some very interesting project together.

I want to thank them here, publicly, in this setting, and on behalf of the friars, for their willingness to serve the Province in this way. The work of the OCDS Provincial Council in ministry to the local communities is truly crucial to the life of not just the Secular Order, but to the

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

whole Carmelite Order of the Province, nuns and friars included.

Mary Kay Daniels was elected to serve as president of the Council. She has been on the Council these past three years, along with Chris Wood, who is the other member of the Council continuing from the previous triennium into the new one. They are joined by three new members: Claire Bloodgood, OCDS; Kathy De Wine, OCDS; and Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS. Their photos and introductions are on Page 2.

Provincial Council Attends the Chapter

On Tuesday of the second week of our Provincial Chapter, following their own three days of meetings, the Provincial Council met with the friars. It was a very productive meeting, and, while I may not have been as happy with the participation of the friars as I should have been—they are family, after all, and one is always overly critical of one's family—yet I can say that the participation of your Council was stellar. They represented you well. You should be proud of them.

Each member of the Provincial Council gave a brief report, after each of which some discussion followed. These reports were about (1) the present state of the Secular Order in the province, (2) a look ahead at the coming triennium, (3) the plans of various OCDS communities for the celebration of the centenary, (4) some concerns about the effectiveness of the *Flos Carmeli* as a means of communication in the province, and (5) the Houston centenary event.

As I said, each report generated discussion. And so all of the friars got a good picture of how their Secular Order brothers and sisters in the province are doing and what the Council and some local communities are up to, especially regarding the centenary celebration.

I had already shared with the Council, prior to this meeting with the friars, about the work of the chapter. For example, I spoke with them about the statement of goals for the coming triennium which we friars had prepared. In this meeting of the Council with the friars, though—and I say this without wanting to cast blame anywhere—there was lacking as collaborative a spirit as I'd liked to have seen. In this regard, I have in mind especially n.38 of your *Constitutions*, which reads:

“The friars and nuns of the Teresian Carmel consider the lay community of Secular Carmel an enrichment to their consecrated life. Through mutual interaction the friars and nuns wish to learn from Secular Carmelites to recognize the signs of the times together with them. For this reason, it will be arranged that representatives of the Secular Order are present when the apostolic service of the Order is planned in a geographical area, at a local or provincial level, or serious study is made on the situation in the Church or in society.”

That number says a mouthful and, in doing so, sets a pretty high bar—to mix metaphors and produce a strange image. Oh well. We're still working on it, especially we friars.

Here, then, is a photo of your Provincial Council “working on it” along with the friars, represented in this photo by the lone figure of Fr. Jorge at the right.

(Continued on page 7)



The Province says thank you to Dorothy Mansen

One member of the Provincial Council, someone who has served on the Council for the past six years, and has now completed her term, has stepped down from the Council and returned to—how should I put it?—civilian life in the Order. I mean, of course, Dorothy Mansen. Many of you have come to know her through her visitations of your communities and through her presentations at various workshops.

Dorothy has been extremely dedicated and selfless in your service on the Council. She has also shown her great organizational skills, which she's brought to bear in her work on the Council. It has been invaluable. Thank you, Dorothy, for all you've done these past years. I personally have valued this opportunity to get to know you and come to admire you through our work together. Thank you.

I received the following in an email from Dorothy. I will share it with all of you.

“Recently two past presidents of the Provincial Council, Elizabeth Korves and myself, Dorothy Mansen [shown in the photo to the right], met in Dallas for a reunion. During the afternoon I took Elizabeth to Mt. Carmel Center, the retreat center run by the friars in Dallas. There we were greeted by Fr. Stephen Sanchez, who showed us all the recent renovations at the Center. It had been a number of years since Elizabeth had been there. Both congratulated Fr. Stephen on the wonderful progress that has taken place. As for me, the Center and its improvements are doubly important. I am a member of the Infant Jesus of Prague OCDS Community that has been meeting at the Center for many years. Thus, we benefit directly



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

from these improvements.”

Changes in the Flos Carmeli are being contemplated

For some time now I’ve been—how should I put it?—“concerned” about the *Flos*. It’s gotten out of hand and run away from us. We need to do two things, I think.

First, we should start using other means, like emails, to communicate information or requests coming from the Provincial Council. Such important items, which all should see, shouldn’t be buried in the *Flos* where people may or may not read them.

And then, second, we need to refocus the *Flos*. It’s gotten too long, for one thing. There’s simply too much going on in a single issue. Maybe we ought to keep the *Flos*, at least on a regular basis, strictly a newsletter. Then as spiritual reflections, or poems, or meditations are sent in to me—and I hope they will continue to be so—we can publish an occasional “special addition” of the *Flos* devoted exclusively to submissions of this sort.

With these general concerns about the *Flos* in mind, Jo Ann Murphy, one of the new members of the Provincial Council, conducted a survey of the province asking questions about the *Flos*. She then compiled the responses in a report, which she delivered to the friars at the chapter. Interestingly, her report generated significant discussion.

Here is an excerpt from her report, one which she has prepared specifically for the *Flos*. The following, then, is from Jo Ann Murphy.

I have been asked to write an article for the FLOS about the decisions the Provincial Council has made regarding communication from the Council to the local Councils and communities.

First of all, thanks to all the Communities who responded to the recent survey sent out by the Provincial Council requesting information regarding the readership of the FLOS since it has been distributed electronically as a PDF file these past few years.

The results show that important communications and requests for action from the Provincial Council may go unnoticed if they are simply inserted in such a long electronic document. As a result, future communications from the Provincial Council will be sent out in separate emails to the President of each Community, who will then be responsible for passing on this information to Community members.

These emails will have standard subject lines for easy recognition—for example, "OCDS PC Action: Deadline - [date]," when there is some action or response required, or "OCDS PC Announcement," when there is no action or response required.

The FLOS will continue to be published and distributed electronically as a PDF file, but the second "print" version will no longer be prepared.

Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS
Provincial Council

It’s me again. Notice the final statement above. The “print” version will no longer be published. We’ll try to keep the *Flos* shorter. And as for submissions of a personal, spiritual sort—poems, reflections, meditations, prayers—please continue sending them to me. I think I’ll set them aside until we’ve received enough to publish a “special addition” of the *Flos*, maybe once or twice a year, devoted exclusively to such items.

If you have any concerns of your own about the *Flos*, please let me know. And please continue sending in, one, news items from your communities and, two, personal articles or items of a spiritual sort. Thank you.



2014 OCDS Congress | Province of St Thérèse

August 21-24, Atlanta

<http://2014ocdscongress.net/register>

Traveling by yourself and need a roommate for the Congress at the Congress hotel? Send a note to 2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com for additional information!

John Michael is coming to the 2014 OCDS Congress in Atlanta

Which John Michael? Both!

John Michael Talbot AND Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD.

John Michael Talbot will present a concert on Friday evening.

Fr. John Michael Payne will speak on Saturday! Come join in the spirituality, sharing of wisdom by the Presenters and fun!

2014 OCDS CONGRESS

presents a special evening with

Christian Music Legend, Best Selling Author and
Host of the The Church Channel's TV program

"ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE"

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 - 7:00 PM



DO NOT MISS *this special presentation filled with inspired teaching and the sacred music loved throughout the world! Be rejuvenated during this mid-congress ministry!*

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD!



Sponsor Your Favorite OCD Friar or Brother

Part of coming together at a congress as a Carmelite family is to meet our Carmelite friars, brothers, and speakers. However, it is up to us to help pay for their Congress registration fees and hotel rooms and your assistance would be appreciated. Communities can submit a donation directly to the 2014 Congress Community by check by sending a check to:

2014 Congress/Sponsor a Friar or Brother
Attn: Mary Agnes Larson
6393 Wedgeview Court
Tucker, GA 30084

In addition, individuals can contribute when submitting their conference registration. Please consider sponsoring an OCD religious for the full registration fee, or whatever amount you can provide. It will be a joy to see so many brown habits moving among all the seculars during the Congress, and it is very satisfying to know that a particular priest or brother is there because of your generosity. This was done in the past, most recently at the 2013 Portland Congress with great success. In all cases, we will be sure to let the community and the individual who has sponsored them know. When you meet him at the Congress, perhaps you can arrange to have a meal with him.

Congress items offered for sale



Congress Logo or Shield Tote Bags
Lands' End Medium Natural Open Top Canvas Tote Bag
\$40each – order now and pick up at Congress!
Want it now? Add \$12.65 for Priority Shipping



Carmel Cooks – Food, Family, and Faith
Includes a section of Carmelite Inspired Recipes
\$10 each – order now and pick up at Congress!
Want it now? Can't make it to the Congress?
Only \$5 Shipping

To Order: 2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com
Or send check to Mary Agnes Larson, 6393 Wedgeview Court, Tucker,
Georgia 30084



Small Rosewood Box

Need a place to store your rosary and Holy Cards? This is it. The small Rosewood finished gift box has gold toned hinges and latch to add to the style of the box. The interior of this box has a piece of removable foam and the bottom is lined with felt. The exterior dimensions of the box are 7.75" X 6.25" X 2 3/8." The approximate interior dimensions of this box are 7 1/8" x 5 5/8" x 1 3/8".

The large Rosewood finished gift box is a perfect gift to have laser engraved for that special person. The interior of this box has a piece of removable foam and the bottom is lined with felt. The exterior of the box is 12.25" X 8.25" X 3.5" and the interior is 11.5" X 7.5" X 2" with gold tone hinges and latch attached. The approximate interior dimensions of this box are 11.5" x 7.5" x 2 1/8".

Small- \$30

Large - \$40

**Pre-order now and pick up at Congress!
2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com**

Friars' new assignments and addresses

Provincial:

Very. Rev. Fr. Luis J. Castañeda
906 Kentucky Ave.
San Antonio TX 78201-6016
(210) 735-9127
(210) 735-1389 FAX

Provincial Councilors:

1. Fr. Stephen Sanchez
2. Fr. Bonaventure Sauer
3. Fr. Ralph Reyes
4. Fr. Jorge Cabrera (Secretary)

**

DALLAS

St. Mary of Carmel
2900 Vilbig Road
Dallas, Texas 75212□5137
(214) 747□1433 business
(214) 747□0761 rectory
(214) 748-7481 (Fax)

Fr. Jenaro de la Cruz, Pastor
Fr. James Curiel, Superior

Mt. Carmel Center
4600 West Davis St.
Dallas, Texas 75211□3498
(214) 331□6224
(214) 330□0844 (Fax)
website: www.mountcarmelcenter.org

Fr. Stephen Sanchez, Superior, Program Director, & Prefect of Studies
Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, Provincial Delegate for the Secular Order & Communications Director

LITTLE ROCK

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Novitiate
Monastery of Marylake
5151 Marylake Drive
Little Rock, AR 72206□9424

(501) 888□3052
(501) 888-3080 (Fax)

Fr. John Michael Payne, Superior, Provincial Archivist, & Zelator for the Missions
Fr. Raphael Kitz, Novice Master & 1st Counselor
Fr. Sam A. Morello, Assistant Novice Master
Fr. Jerome Earley
Br. Bernard Joseph O'Neill

OKLAHOMA CITY

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Thérèse of the Infant Jesus
Little Flower Church
1125 S Walker Avenue
Oklahoma City OK 73109-1341
(405) 235□2037 *house*
(405) 235-7023 *Fax*

Fr. Jorge Cabrera, Superior, Pastor, & Postulant Director
Fr. Jesús Sancho, Parochial Vicar
Fr. John Magdalene Suenram, 1st Counselor

(Continued on page 15)

SAN ANTONIO

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Thérèse Parish
906 Kentucky Avenue
San Antonio TX 78201-6016
(210) 735-9127 (Monastery) or 735-9126 (Parish)
(210) 738-0818 FAX (Monastery) or 735-1389 FAX
(Parish)
website: <http://www.littleflowerbasilica.org>

Fr. Gregory Ross, Superior, Vocation Director, & Student
Director
Luis Gerardo Belmonte, 1st Counselor, Pastor, & Editor of
the Apostolate Magazine
Fr. Ralph Reyes, Vicar for the Nuns
Fr. John Henry Bordeaux, Promoter of Causes
Fr. Marion J. Bui, Parochial Vicar

Fr. Luis J. Castañeda, Provincial

Provincial Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/
CarmeliteFriars](http://www.facebook.com/CarmeliteFriars)

Provincial Website: <http://www.carmelitefriarsocd.com>
Provincial Blog: [http://carmelitefriarsocd.com/blog/
blog.php](http://carmelitefriarsocd.com/blog/blog.php)

Province-wide Centenary celebration planned for March 2015

By Chris Wood, OCDS

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

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

This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma OCDS Provincial Counsel 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 in Houston, Texas and will be open to all. In conjunction with this Mass Celebration the province is also sponsoring a conference exclusively for OCDS members and their guests at a near by hotel. The conference begins on Friday evening (March 13) and will run through Sunday noon. The registration fees for the conference 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).

Conference speakers include Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Province of St. Therese and the following guest speakers:

- **Dr. Anthony Lilles** 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.
- **Dan Burke** 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.

Communities plan for Centenary

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS

Our communities are well into planning for the fifth centenary celebration of Holy Mother Teresa's birth. Here's some of what is coming up!

Dallas, TX – Infant Jesus of Prague Community

They are planning a Mass and reception (they are considering having St Teresa's books available). They will be having short radio announcements with quotations from St. Teresa. An icon has been created to be on banners at the Mass and holy cards. Another idea in the works is bulletin inserts and articles in the diocesan newspaper.

They are also looking into the possibility of showing the DVD of her life in a 4 part series at Mount Carmel Center. With OCD friars and nuns close by, they will be coordinating their plans with these other two arms of our Order.

Topeka KS – St. Joseph and the Little Flower Study Group

They are reading, reading and reading!! They are enjoying studying Teresa's letters along with the whole Order.

For the fifth centenary, they plan to print a flier for surrounding parishes' bulletins, telling about the anniversary sharing information about the OCDS.

The community will have a celebration (with refreshments!) within the group and invite the Topeka community to celebrate with them.

Natchez-Vidalia – Our Lady of Lourdes Study Group

They are still working on ideas. One idea is to speak to the confirmation and RCIA candidates about Carmel, and to encourage them to take saint's name of Teresa of Avila if female, and John (of the Cross) or Joseph if male.

They hope to travel to other communities and share in their celebrations as well.

Little Rock, AK – Blessed Anne of Saint Bartholomew Community

Beginning in 2013, they are having yearly Days of Reflection with Dr. Susan Muto in preparation for the 500th Birthday of St. Teresa. They have been inviting folks from all over Arkansas through fliers, advertising in the Arkansas Catholic newspaper and the parishes in the Diocese of Little Rock.

In 2013 they held their Day of Reflection at the local Carmelite nuns' Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus. Attendance was good, with people coming from Little Rock and other cities in Arkansas. Third Order O.Carms came from northwest and southwest Arkansas as well. Admission was free of charge, and they received enough donations to cover expenses. Community members provided lunch. They plan to hold the second and third Days of Reflection in the same way.

All are invited to join the community for a Day of Reflection with Dr. Susan Muto, on November 8, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus, 7201 West 32nd Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. The day will include Mass with Morning Prayer, lunch, and time for reflection.

They will be celebrating St. Teresa's birthday in collaboration with the Carmelite nuns and friars. They are planning a three-day schedule of events, October 15-17, 2015.

On October 15, the Bishop of Little Rock will celebrate Mass at the Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus. On October 16, a collaborative musical presentation will be held. On October 17, the community will host the final Day of Reflection with Dr. Susan Muto at the nuns' Carmel.

St. Louis, MO – St. Joseph community

At the time of this writing, they are still early in the planning stages. They are hoping to celebrate Holy Mother's centenary with the local OCD nuns. In the works is a novena for St. Teresa's centenary on the grounds of the Carmelite monastery, to which the public will be invited. They expect coverage from local Catholic newspaper and our local Catholic radio stations.

The community is discussing other ideas to celebrate the Centenary, including a centenary gift to the Carmelite nuns.

Sioux City, IA – St Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Raphael Kalinowski of St. Joseph

They have invited local Bishop, R. Walker Nickless, to celebrate Mass with local Carmelite nuns, the Sioux City OCDS Community, and invited guests.

They are scheduling a retreat on "Teresian Spirituality" with their local Catholic community.

They are also creating a series of articles for the Catholic Globe.

Topics will include:

- OCD Family, a brief history of the friars, nuns and seculars
- The life of Teresa of Jesus
- Teresian Prayer
- Coverage of Retreat Day and interviews with Secular Carmelites

Austin, TX – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Killeen – La Nubecita de Monte Carmelo Study Group

They are combining their talents to host a public workshop, offering presentations on prayer, based on the teachings of St. Teresa of Jesus. The workshop will have three breakout sessions in both English and Spanish on the following topics: *Principles of Prayer* (aimed at beginners to cover who, what, when, where, why and how); *Distractions in Prayer*; and *Deepening Prayer* (aimed at more advanced participants). A Carmelite friar will give a keynote address on Teresian Prayer in both English and Spanish. He will also celebrate Mass.

Georgetown, TX – Triumph of the Cross Community

They are still in the early brainstorming stage. One idea on the table is a morning of reflection with a special speaker to give one talk on the life and another on the spirituality of St Teresa. This would be followed by a festive reception.

La Fayette, LA #1 – Mary, Mother of Grace

They have arranged for Anthony Lilles to give series of conferences.

Community members are preparing “ditty bags” with handcrafted items, prayer cards, and other “goodies”.

They are creating a free booklet telling the purpose of the celebration and giving information on Holy Mother.

They are having a catered dinner for themselves and the Cloistered Sisters.

Tulsa, OK – Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Study Group

They are planning to have Mass on Sunday, October 18th, 2015 at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa. They are hoping to have Bishop Slattery celebrate the Mass.

In honor of Holy Mother, the group is cleaning and restoring a statue of her, located in the Cathedral.

Articles in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic Newsletter will precede the event.

New Orleans, LA – Our Lady of Prompt Succor Community and their three neighboring communities

They are hosting a day of talks on St. Teresa along with a banquet and Mass presided by Archbishop Aymond of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

All local and neighboring OCDS are invited. They are looking for sponsors to help offset expenses.

Birmingham, AL – St. John of the Cross and St. Paul the Apostle

They have requested the local bishop to say Mass in October, 2015. (Other plans will depend on the bishop's response.)

Our communities' goals include:

Educate the public about St Teresa's life and writings

Raise awareness of Carmelite spirituality

Increase participants' understanding of Carmelite spirituality

Promote a better understanding of Teresian prayer

Provide education on prayer, (both why and how)

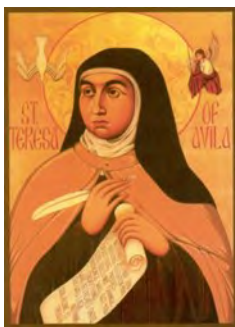
Inspire others to a deeper prayer life

Inspire devotion to St Teresa

Deepen bonds of friendship within the Carmelite community

Increase vocations to Carmel

Give special honor to Holy Mother Teresa



My Healing Story

*By Belle Quesnell, OCDS
San Antonio*

My first contact with St. Thérèse was in 2001 when my younger sister, Victoria, introduced me to her to ask for her intercession. In 2005 I entered the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites and had the chance to learn more about this great saint to whom I started having great devotion. Getting close to St. Thérèse and reading *Story of A Soul* strengthened my vocation to Carmel. With her help I realized that I needed to humble myself and be like a child before God. The story I now share shows how powerful her intercession is before him. It is both a duty and a joy for me to share it with others for the glory of God.

On December 28, 2001, I woke up with a swollen face. I thought it was my allergies. The next day, I woke up with a swollen face again, but this time it looked like I had gained weight in my body as well. I weighed myself and saw I had gained 20 pounds from my normal weight of 105 pounds. I became concerned for the sudden way in which I had gained this weight. I went to Welford Hall Medical Center (WHMC) to get examined, but because I didn't have any other symptoms (no physical pain), I was sent home. "It's ok to gain a little weigh. It's the holidays", they said to me.

The next day I had gained another couple of pounds. I went back to the doctor and was put on a 24-hour urine test since he suspected that I had a kidney disease. The following day I was even more swollen. I didn't even finish the 24 hour urine test because I had to rush into the ER since I could not breathe. When I arrived at the WHMC Emergency Room I was admitted and examined immediately. The doctor looked at my records and realized they should have admitted me the second time I came in because I could have died.

They put me on an aggressive treatment to eliminate some of the fluids I was retaining and submitted me to further tests. They later told me that my condition seemed serious and that they needed to do a biopsy on my kidney. They then explained the process to me. Part of the procedure, they said, required the insertion a big needle in my body all the way into my kidneys. Feeling scared, I prayed and asked God to guide the doctors in the endeavor. I also called a priest to give me the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. At that point I really thought I was going to die.

They performed the biopsy the day after. After staying in ICU for 8 to 10 hours I woke up feeling like I had been run over by a truck. I could not move and my body was extremely weak. After being transferred to the recovery room, I was told that I had FSGS (kidney disease) and would be taking heavy medication, which would help but would also have bad side effects, such as the weakening of my muscles and bones. I was also put on medication to lower my blood pressure and cholesterol which had gone up as a consequence of my condition.

After a couple of months of convalescent leave from work, I got better and started working part-time. In December 2003, I had a relapse and was placed back on heavy medication. I was able to get better, but again had a relapse in 2006. This time I was told that if I didn't get better they would have to give me a stronger medication similar to chemotherapy and that I could even be placed on dialysis. I talked heart to heart to God and begged him for mercy. I also asked St. Thérèse (the Little Flower) and the Mother Mary to intercede for me. I prayed a novena to Our Lady of

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

Perpetual Help and to St. Thérèse since I was determined not to lose hope.

In February of 2007, tired and weak of the medicine's side effects, I asked my sister to take me to a Mass for healing at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Little Flower in San Antonio. During the rite of anointing Fr. Gregory Ross laid his hands on my head and with my eyes closed I felt a warm and very comforting sensation that reached inside my body. When he was done I thanked him and felt I needed to go to the restroom. After doing so I realized that my urine was clear like water! I raised my eyes to heaven and with thanksgiving said to Our Lord: "I claim this healing!" After this I rushed back to the church with excitement. I went back to my sister in the pews and told her, "I'm healed!" She looked at me with a doubting expression on her face, but I insisted, "Yes, I'm healed!"



The following week I went to WHMC to see my Nephrology doctor. I told her I didn't have to take my medication anymore because I had been healed. That same day she ordered a complete lab test. After she got the results she called me and said she had bad and good news. The bad news was that I still had to continue taking my medications; the good news was that I had a complete remission of my kidney disease.

I jumped with joy like a little girl! I uttered, "Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Mother Mary! And St. Thérèse, thank you for your intercession!"

My doctor said that the medication must have really worked. But I told her God had healed me. She looked at me smiling and said, "Whatever you believe, I'm happy for you, but you still have to take that medication." She also said she wanted to continue to see me every six months. I thanked her and went home overjoyed and praising God!

Every time I have gone for a checkup since then the results continue to show that I'm in remission. A couple of years later my doctor changed my appointments so that I see her just once a year. I have a new doctor now because the previous one retired. The last time I saw my new doctor I told him my story. He replied, "I believe you. I believe that God heals."

I know that I did not deserve the grace of my healing, but I thank God from the bottom of my heart for it. I am certain that St. Thérèse played a great role in it, interceding for me, since I prayed a novena to her for that intention and received healing at her shrine. In gratitude I kiss her relics often when they offer them for veneration at the Basilica. Sometimes on her feast day I've had the privilege of bringing forward the gifts during the celebration of Mass. Each time I have walked to the altar I have offered my healing as well. I will always remember that that was the place where I received this great grace, in front of the altar of the Basilica on the National Shrine of the Little Flower.

Baton Rouge Carmelite Seculars mark 35 years

By Frances Smith Locker, OCDS

Thirty-five years ago Mr. Jean Smith placed an ad in the local diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Commentator*, inviting anyone interested in forming an OCDS community in Baton Rouge to come to a meeting at the St. Anthony of Padua Parish Hall on May 20, 1979. Eleven attended, ten of whom expressed interest in learning more. Further meetings were then held each month, with notices continuing to appear in the weekly Catholic newspaper inviting people to attend.

Mary Rolfs and Frances Smith Locker (myself) were present at that first meeting. Barbara Kahn Henry came to the second meeting. The three of us are still here. Others have departed this life or left for other endeavors. Fr. John Michael Payne, OCD, who was provincial delegate at the time, was the friar who worked with us from the beginning to help us get things off the ground and established as we should. Our community is greatly indebted to him.

On September 19, 1979, just four months later, our first six candidates were clothed following mass presided over by Fr. John Michael. These six formed the original community. They were James Hennessey, Mary Rolfs, Shirley Gasquet, Barbara Kahn, Tommie Cason, and Clyde Cason.

Fr. Payne later wrote, "This was a warm, beautiful, and hope-filled celebration, which inaugurated what, with your prayers, will soon become our next foundation of the Secular Order of Carmel."

Also, at that same time, Fr. John Michael appointed Mr. Jean Smith as Director of Formation. Jean, along with his wife Marie, and myself then officially transferred our membership from the Lafayette community to the new Baton Rouge community the following day, September 20, 1979.

Generally at that time Fr. John Michael would come to Baton Rouge for a weekend. He would interview eligible candidates. Then the following day ceremonies were held as needed. Jean and his wife Marie would also meet with Fr. John Michael. They would address business concerns together. So grew our "fraternity," as an OCDS Study Group was called at the time.

On September 18, 1981, two years later, we had our first Professions. Mary Rolfs and Barbara Kahn Henry made their promises along with James Hennessey, now deceased. Believe it or not, the community had thirty members at that time, just two years since its founding.

Adding to the solemnity of the occasion was the presence of the Director of Formation for all Isolates of the Province, Mrs. Azile Wrape from Little Rock. Ruth Fobes, Formation Director of the Mobile OCDS, who had given the Jean and Marie Smith their initial formation, also attended.

For these past 35 years our community has continued to grow, although fitfully at times. This May we had two new members, Joan and Earl Pitre, make their First Profession.

When Jean Smith started our community, he said that this was all for the honor and glory of God. May it remain so. May our Baton Rouge OCDS community continue to praise and honor God as we bring Carmel to all those around us!

News from around the province

Compiled by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Baton Rouge, LA—submitted by Francis Locker, OCDS

A couple announcements.

First, like all of you, our community has a new council. Its members, elected in April, are shown in the photo to the right, posing with our community banner. From left to right are Pam Gaudin, Dana Barton, Ethlyn White (President), and Marie Tuminski.

Second, in May we had two professions. Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Joan Pitre made their First Profession at Our Lady of Mercy Church on May 18, 2014.

And on that same day our community members renewed their Promises/Vows. The photo below shows, from left to right, Earl and Joan Pitre, the newly professed, our new council, and our new formation director, Mary Rolfs, second from right.



(Continued from page 25)

2. Birmingham, AL—submitted by *Sylvia Bresowar, OCDS*

We have just learned of the passing of one of our Infirm members, Muriel Weber. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to locate a photo to include with this obituary.

The obituary. Our sister in Carmel, Muriel Weber, died on January 30, 2014. Muriel was a long time member of the Birmingham OCDS community. Mary Carmel of the Holy Spirit (her name in the Order) was Clothed on May 8, 1955, and made her Promises and Vows at Holy Hill Shrine, in Wisconsin, on May 13, 1956.

Muriel was a registered nurse, and her husband a retired judge. In the last years of her life she resided at the Alexian Village in Signal Mountain, TN. A true daughter of the Church and of Carmel, may she rest in peace.

3. Georgetown, TX—submitted by *Diane Gray, OCDS*



On the Feast of St. John of the Cross this past year (2013) two of our members, Becky Snook and Marianne Gonzales, made Definitive Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The rite of profession was celebrated at the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown, TX. Fr. Jerome Early, OCDS, presided. A reception followed.

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, our provincial delegate, officiated at the ceremony of our canonical estab-

(Continued on page 27)

ishment as a community of the Secular Order this past January. Our community is shown above.

The ceremony was held at St. Helen Catholic Church, and a reception followed in the church activity center. Members from other communities who have been in one way or another associated with us—San Antonio, our founding community, Austin, with whom we are close, and Waco, whose members we mentor—attended this special event to help us celebrate!!

We appreciate the prayers of all of you, our fellow Carmelites of the province, and feel deeply blessed on this very special occasion. We are now a canonical Community!!

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

The Knoxville Study Group of the Transfiguration had our annual retreat at the Maggie Valley Retreat Center on Divine Mercy Sunday. Our retreat coincided with the canonization of Pope John XXIII, for whom our University of Tennessee campus parish is named, and Pope John Paul II.

Shown in the photo below is our community, along with Fr. Jorge Cabrera, our retreat master this year. We are standing outside the front office door of the retreat center. In the front row, left to right, are Dorothy Curtis, Anita Gouge, Fr. Jorge, our retreat master, and Dot Terheyden, our president. In the second row are Kathy DeWine, Carole Amador, Mary Pat Ernst, and Ghislaine Miller. And in the third row are Anne Damers, Jennifer Korr, Doris Ann Bucklaew, Jan Hicks, Janet Swanson, Wink Crabtree, Valerie Ponce, and Brenda Nicholson.

We renewed our vows during the retreat, and Father Jorge offered a blessing for our new Council, Dot Terheyden (president), Anita Gouge (formation director), Adriana Fadden, and George Quinter, these last two not shown in the photo below.



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

A couple events of our community.

On May 4 we were again blessed to represent our Carmelite nuns and friars by manning a vocation booth at the annual Rex Fest of Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock. Shown seated at the table in the photo to the right are our outgoing president, Jeannine Hart, on the left, and Carolyn Barnett, soon to be clothed, on the right. Part of the nuns' beautiful triptych can be seen at the bottom, in front of the booth.

Second, at our May 10 meeting at Marylake Pam McCullough and Carolyn Barnett were clothed in the scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel. After the ceremony Fr. Raphael, of the Marylake community, gave us a conference. Then a joyous potluck luncheon with the friars followed.

In the photo below are, from left to right, Pam McCullough, Fr. Raphael Kitz, our spiritual assistant, who presided at the clothing, and Carolyn Barnett.



6. Fr. Aloysius Celebrates 40 Years a Priest

~For this special occasion, which Fr. Aloysius was to celebrate on May 18, our Provincial Council sent him the following congratulatory email, dated May 16. It was composed by Chris Wood.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Father Deeney,

It is with great joy that we offer our sincere and prayerful congratulations on the occasion of your 40th anniversary of ordination. We join with the people of our province in thanking God for the gift you have been to the Seculars here and throughout the world.

We are sure that your dedication and zeal for the Secular Order has served as an inspiration to those who have worked closely with you, or who have studied your works. We pray that you will continue to touch others with the presence of the Lord and love for the Order of Carmel. On behalf of the Secular Carmelites of the Province of St. Therese, we wish you the very best. Please be assured of our prayers for you during this milestone year, and may Our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you in the years ahead.

Your Brother and Sisters in Carmel,
The Provincial Council

~Fr. Aloysius then answered the next day and sent along the image shown at the right, which includes a saying of St. Teresa's—
“Everything is nothing, except to please God”—
in Indonesian, English, and the original Spanish.

Dear OCDS members of the Province of Saint Therese,

Thank you for your kindness in remembering me on this anniversary. My original contact with the OCDS was with the community that met in Dallas, in Mount Carmel Center. I remember Chris Wood very clearly. He was working with IBM at the time, I believe. That group was a great formation for me to prepare me for the work I did for the Order later.

You will be remembered in the Mass tomorrow.

