

Flos Carmeli

From the president: Plans for the new year

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS, of the Provincial Council

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

The grace of time seems to be moving like a swift and peaceful breeze! 2015 has quietly sprouted -- a wonderful fresh season for new holy beginnings and goals from more disciplined health habits to more generous outreach to the poor, especially as we continue to celebrate Holy Mother Teresa's 5th Centenary. Are we being more fully present to Holy Mother Teresa and resonating with her teaching more completely? Are we being more loving and present to one another? Are our ways and habits matching up with Holy Mother's wisdom? Are we sharing more in her magnanimity and joy, prayer, humility, detachment, charity, and great love for Jesus, and persevering in the path of virtuous living? Is our prayer continuing to more fully integrate our lives and blossoming into fruitful actions? Are we being more useful wherever God has placed us? The only day we are given to live well is today, this moment, so let's go for it!

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The Leadership Workshop for Local Councils, March 12-13, and Houston Celebration from March 13-15 are around the corner. The details can be found in the next few pages. You are cordially invited! The Houston Celebration is shaping up to be a pure delight, as well as prayerful and educational. You must come if you can!

As this issue of the FLOS CARMELI goes to print, the Provincial Council members are busy re-writing final edits for responding to Father Debastiani's questionnaire (Thanks again for all of your responses!) and preparing for the annual planning meeting to be held in Dallas towards the end of January. Together we will gather in prayer, first and foremost for the well-being and blessing of each person in our Carmelite family, for rich graces for everyone and their families, for our nuns and our friars, and for graces for each of us to do God's Will individually and together; and for guidance by the Holy Spirit that we all keep attuned to who God wants us to be as Carmelite Seculars and do what Our Holy One wants for us to do! As we move forward, we pray for listening hearts and obedient spirits for ourselves and for each of you.

We invite you to pray for these intentions too!

We will be assigning visitations for the upcoming year and tending to PC business. We continue to invite anyone who wishes to contribute input regarding clarifications and additions and/or deletions for the updating of our Statutes and Formation Program by sending e-mails with Statutes Input or Formation Program Input in the subject line, to Mary Kay Daniels at mkdocds@cableone.net

The PC has made a decision regarding The FLOS. Beginning with the next issue and into the future, we would like to include a Question and Answer section. Again, please send your Questions to mkdocds@cableone.net and put FLOS Question in the subject line. Shared wisdom and responses to mutual concerns benefit everyone. Your questions are important.

As we move forward into the New Year, we wish to encourage four actions:

- Sharing our deep peace with others. Blessing people with rich, wholesome, loving and quiet peace from Christ's depths in our hearts. Our world is crying for peace. Carmel is to be a wellspring of peace for all humanity. Let's let our inner peace flow everywhere we go!
- Fully participating in Holy Mother Teresa's centenary celebrations
- Continuing to be of generous service to Our Blessed Mother, as we've been given special graces to do so as Carmelites.
- Remembering that "...you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge..." (I John: 2: 20). Therefore, let's live out of our graced anointing more consciously and intentionally, and let our witness to Jesus and to Carmel become a living knowledge we generously share with our families and friends and parishes, especially as we Carmelites, among ourselves, "love one another"... (I John: 4: 7).

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 Wood, Kathy Dewine, Jo Ann Murphy, and Claire Bloodgood

All Council Members Invited to FREE March Leadership Workshop

The Provincial Council will be providing an excellent opportunity for all (not just new) 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 all Council Members, please go to <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com> . The deadline for registration for the Workshop is January 12, 2015. The deadline is almost here, so please register right away!



*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).

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
4:30pm	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



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



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 wife Agnes live in Colorado with their three children.

Budgeting for travel to the next Plenary Council

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS

Hello OCDS Presidents!

It was good to meet so many of you last fall at the Plenary Council. For those who were not able to be there, you were missed very much. We hope to see **all** of you at the next Plenary Council in 2017.

Please be aware that St. Therese Province OCDS Communities are obligated to send two representatives (Study Groups send one representative) to the triennial Plenary Council, (see the Oklahoma Provincial Statutes, section XIX for details). This meeting is held during our Province's OCDS Regional Congress. If your local council is not already aware of this, please put it on the agenda to discuss.

Normally, Communities pay the expenses for their representatives to attend the Congress. This includes transportation, hotel room, registration fees, and meals. This should be a budget item in the Community's three-year financial plan.

It is not too early to begin planning for 2017. If your Community has not already done so, please consider setting up a "Congress fund", earmarking money in the budget for the fund, or even setting up a separate savings account for this purpose.

Communities normally set aside money from regular members' dues. Some Communities find that dues are not enough to cover this expense. They may have special fundraisers, garage sales or bake sales for example. Or have special collections just for their Congress fund.

Thanks and God bless.

Provincial Delegate's Report

By Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

A happy New Year to all of you—belatedly, I know, but I trust you welcomed in the new year with hope in your hearts. Also, I pray each of you had a most blessed and light-filled Christmas season. I received cards and Christmas greetings from many of you. Thank you. It was kind and thoughtful of you to remember me, and it certainly helped to make the season bright.

A different sort of New Year

I guess you could say that we Carmelites are this year, 2015, celebrating a new year of a somewhat different and ultimately more important sort. I'm thinking of the centenary year which, though it's already officially begun, we now begin really in earnest. Throughout most of 2015 we will get to recall not only the birth of St. Teresa our Holy Mother. We get to recall with joy and gratitude the birth, through her, of our religious family and of the charism that Carmelite she has entrusted to us.



Many of you are planning very public celebrations of this special occasion. On behalf of the friars, let me say that we are impressed and truly appreciative. Yes, thank you for your enthusiasm, your dedication, and your hard work.

A gentle reminder. As your plans go forward for those local celebrations of the centenary which you're putting together, of whatever sort they may be, please send the details to me. I will see to it that they get posted on the Order's centenary website www.centenary-5th-teresa.org

As for what we friars are planning on the provincial level—as our individual houses will be making their own plans—here is a quick rundown:

March 28, Holy Mother's birthday—there will be a special mass at the basilica in San Antonio. There may also be some other festivities.

May 10—the San Antonio Mastersingers will perform a recital of choral music from the time of St. Teresa, 16th Century Spain. It will be held at the basilica in San Antonio, of course.

June 8, the first day of this year's Provincial Assembly—again in San Antonio, we will open our Assembly with a day of talks which the nuns of the province will be invited to, concluding the day with a performance that evening of "The Interior Castle" by the musical troupe La Aperta. A reception will follow.

Lastly, October 15, this time in Dallas—we will close the centenary year with a special mass at the cathedral in Dallas. There may be other festivities planned. The Dallas OCDS is assisting with preparations for this event.

Of course, this closing celebration in Dallas will be right at the time of our OCDS National Congress in Milwaukee. And since I will be in Milwaukee for that event, I'll have to miss this provincial event in Dallas. Oh well. It's a happy conflict to have to settle—to miss one good thing for the sake of another.

The General Chapter

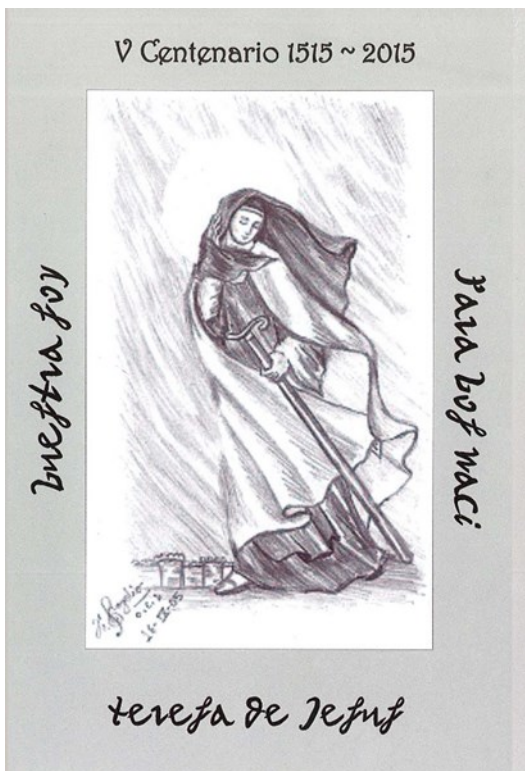
During this special year the friars—with the participation, direct and indirect, of the nuns and the seculars—will be celebrating, if that's the right word, our General Chapter. The dates for this Chapter are May 2 through May 24. Hence, before it's over it will have come to seem longer than Lent.

This Chapter will be held at CITEs, in Avila. For those of you who may not know, CITEs stands for Centro Internacional Tereiano-Sanjuanista, which of course means the “International Teresa-St. John (of the Cross) Center.” It is a house of the whole Order, not of any particular province of the Order, one of the few we have of this sort.

I will be attending the General Chapter, not because I'm special, but because the friars voted, at our Provincial Chapter last May, to send me. As with your Plenary Council, which meets triennially at the Congress, the Provincial Statutes ask that the president of each community attends, but also an elected delegate. So it is with us at the General Chapter—which is held only every six years. The provincial attends, of course, but also a friar elected by the province. This office is called the provincial socius. And I am our provincial socius for this coming General Chapter. It is not an office any of us particularly covets.

So, I will be there, trying to stay afloat and awake throughout the proceedings. And your very own General Secretary, Fr. Alzinir, will be there as well. It will be good to see him again. He will be giving his report on the present state of the Secular Order and its prospects going forward, which are probably looking pretty good.

Let me insert here a thank you for your thoughtful and conscientious responses to Fr. Alzinir's questions. Your Provincial Council has done the work of synthesizing and summarizing them so that they can be sent to him in a useable form—considering that he is himself having to synthesize and summarize responses from all over the world. I'm sure he found the responses of the Oklahoma Province by far the best, clearest and profoundest, of all the provinces in the world. Or, if he didn't, he should have.



The review and revision of the Provincial Statutes and Formation Guidelines

Your Provincial Council will be meeting here at Mt. Carmel Center towards the end of January. I will be joining them, of course. High on the list of things to talk about will be the review and revision

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of the Statutes and Formation Guidelines—no, not the review and revision itself, but the process for accomplishing it over the next couple of years. Please keep your eyes and ears peeled for future news of this process as it goes forward. It is very important.

Conducting this review and revision will be an interesting and especially fitting way for you as a province to take the grace of our centenary celebration and move forward with it. Your Constitutions articulate your vocation. The Provincial Statutes spell out how to implement this vocation with regard to certain specific matters. And the Formation Guidelines provide the basics for how to receive and nurture someone called to this vocation. Thus, what better way to continue the process of reflection on your charism beyond the centenary year itself than by reviewing these authoritative instruments for living out your vocation in our province?

My Carmelite family comes through

When I returned to Dallas following my mother's funeral, there was a stack of cards waiting for me. More would arrive over the coming days. There were cards offering condolences and assuring me of prayers—for myself, my family, my deceased mother. There were, of course, others notifying me of masses being offered on my mother's behalf. Some, knowing that I'm a fan of poetry, took the time to type up a special poem expressing our Christian hope and include it in a card.

While not all of these cards were from Seculars or Secular Order communities, most were. It was consoling beyond measure. I know that I don't deserve such thoughtful and loving attention. But I also know that that's not the question. We are family. That's all that matters.

It was my initial intention to answer each card with a thank you. Even in the best of circumstances, I doubt I would have succeeded in such a wide-eyed aspiration. But, in actual fact, when I went to open the cards, I found that I couldn't. It was all a bit too raw for me. Thus, I had to wait for over a month, letting the stack of cards sit untouched on my desk. By the time I was able to open the cards and work my way through them, Christmas was already fast approaching. And of course Christmas, as you know, is where good intentions go to die.

[The photo of my mother at the right was taken, I believe, in 1959, or perhaps the following year. Thus, she would have been 33 or 34 at the time. Her oldest son would have been 5 or 6.]



I do wish, sincerely and whole-heartedly, to thank each of you who, as individuals and as communities, wrote expressing your care, your condolences, your prayers, and the assurance of masses offered for me, my family, and my deceased mother. Since this gesture—represented visibly in that stack of cards—was initially so overwhelming, I couldn't at first take it in. But I did in time. And once I did, it was a balm. Thank you.

As for my mother, she always delighted in being part, through me, of this Carmelite family. For most of past few decades, by her Carmelite family she understood the nuns and friars. But in recent years this family came to include the Seculars as well. Thus, from her present transcendent vantage point, to know of your prayers for her and for her son has been I'm sure something she's taken particular joy in. My mother was a joyful person. And thanks in part to you, not even death could rob her of that.

Best practices around the province:

Vocations promotion

[It was suggested to the Provincial Council that we set up a section in the FLOS CARMELI to share ideas, especially those related to successful Apostolates, ideas for generating awareness of our Carmelite Order, and for promoting vocations. The article below was written by Sandra Gremp, OCDS, of the Austin Community of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. It describes a project that was very well received by the Catholic Schools in the Austin area. You may contact Sandra at sandra-gremp@austin.rr.com for further information or if you have any questions. Please feel free to submit articles for future publication in this section to Jo Ann Murphy at jmurphy12513@gmail.com.]

Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit. Pope Francis

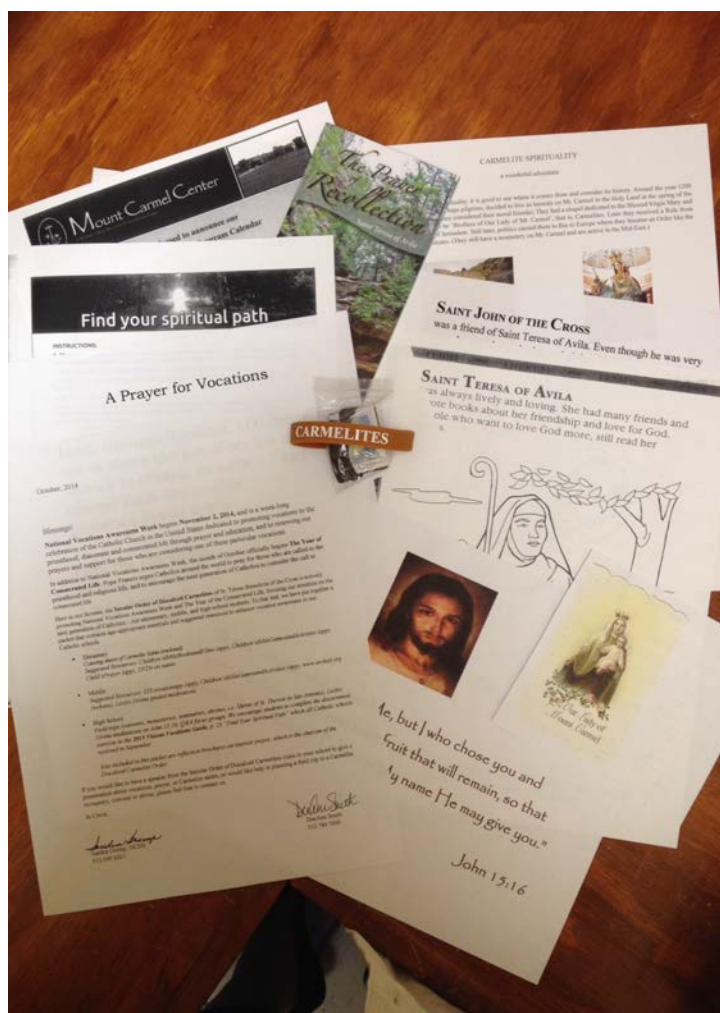
Vocation Awareness...Let us be taken where the Spirit leads us! With community prayer and personal consciousness, we begin to be guided along our individual path placed before us by our Father God.

For us, the OCDS Community of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross in Austin, TX, it started with an idea from the Vocation Awareness committee to outreach to all diocesan Catholic schools. How, to whom, where to begin?

These were some of our our suggestions on how to increase vocation awareness among the youth. We hope they may inspire other OCDS communities to implement a vocations awareness program for youth:

Brainstorming with young adults in a focus group, getting their ideas and how to implement, proved quite helpful. Of course, technology was mentioned for daily/weekly blurb on FB, Twitter, various diocesan websites promoting Vocation Projects (www.archstl.org), available vocation apps.

As thoughts evolved to that end, we put together a packet (pictured above) that contained age-appropriate materials and suggested resources to enhance vocation awareness for students of elementary, *(Continued on page 12)*



middle, and high school levels.

Elementary: coloring sheets of Carmelite saints; Children'sBibleBooksandFilms (app); Children'sBibleGamesandActivities (app); Child'sPrayer (app); DVDs on saints

Middle: STLvocationapp; www.archstl.org website; Lectio Divina guided meditations

High School: Field trips (convents, monasteries, shrines, i.e. shrine of St. Therese in San Antonio; Lectio Divina meditations on John 15:16 I chose you...; Q&A focus groups; discernment exercise in the 2015 Visions Vocations Guide, page 23 Find Your Spiritual Path (received in September by Catholic schools).

Included in the packet were a cover letter of introduction and explanation of contents, resources, the Carmelite Reflection brochure on interior prayer, calendar of events of the Mt. Carmel Center, Carmelite Spirituality article, prayer cards etc. Also, included in the cover letter an invitation was given to them to have a speaker from OCDS come to their school to give a presentation about vocations, prayer, and Carmelite saints, or if they would like help in planning a field trip to a Carmelite place of interest, we could assist.

These packets were mailed to 22 Catholic Schools in the Austin diocese followed by a call to the Director of Religious Education in each school giving them notice to be expecting it and to answer questions they may have regarding our suggestions. Interest from several schools came from calls and an invitation to be a panel presenter at their Vocation Day event.

As a continued effort to keep vocation prayer awareness alive in our hearts each month there is a suggested monthly activity promoted in our community i.e. Say Pope Francis' vocation prayer, give awareness to children in your family etc.

We pray that the fruits of our labor be abundantly blessed.

LORD OF THE HARVEST,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. AMEN

Pope Francis

Smartphone app created for Vth Centenary



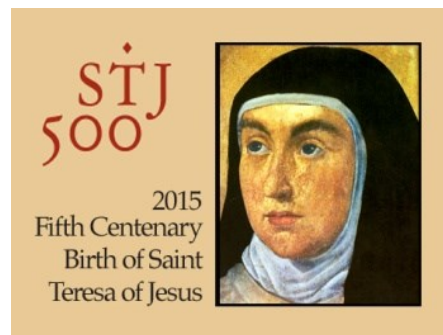
To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Ávila (1515-2015), members of the California-Arizona Province have created a Smartphone app. With it you can read an inspirational message from the writings of St. Teresa of Ávila and the Gospel of the day every day of 2015, starting on January 1.

Download the iPhone app from the App Store (Apple) by searching for "STJ500" (A Year With St. Teresa of Ávila). The app for Android phones is available on GooglePlay. Please feel free to share this endeavor with our Carmelite brothers and sisters, laity and friends of Carmel by simply forwarding them this message.

Follow us on Facebook on the page "STJ 500 - A Year with St. Teresa of Ávila" We wish you a wonderful anniversary. The Discalced Carmelites of the Provinces of Austria and of California-ArizonaApp for Android

Vtn Centenary stamp project

At the nuns' Tri-association meeting held in Attleboro, Mass., in May of 2013, we discussed the value of having a single image for the Centenary to be used both to reinforce public exposure of the Centenary year and as a kind of branding. The three nuns' associations decided to work toward an image that will be used for a holy card and a postage stamp. This handout provides instructions on how each Carmel can print custom stamps with the Centenary stamp image approved by the three nuns' associations. The friars' provinces represented at the Tri-association meeting also agreed to participate in this project.



Instructions:

1. Go to Stamps.com to establish an account. Click on Get Started to begin.

Important Note on fees: When you establish an account at Stamps.com, you can use their service for a trial period of 4 weeks for FREE. Beyond the 4 week trial period, you will be charged \$15.99 per month to use their service.

2. The website will guide you through a set of forms that you will need to fill in to establish an account.

The first page is "Sign up for a new account." Be sure to write down the USER ID and PASSWORD that you enter. You will need them later to get into your account.

The next page is your charge card information.

The third page instructs you to send for a welcome kit. If you want to purchase a postal scale, choose that option on this page (\$9.99). You can choose "none" (it is the default option) for no scale then click "Send it Now" to get your Welcome kit.

3. The next page will tell you that you have successfully established a new account. Click the "Download" button to download the Stamps.com software onto your computer. The software will show up as an icon on your desktop.

4. To order stamps, double click on the Stamps.com icon on your desktop. You will be asked to login and enter your USERID and PASSWORD.

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5. On the bottom of the left side menu, click on “Online Store” to enter that page. Choose CUSTOM NETSTAMPS LABELS (not Original Netstamps). Click on it.

6. On the Customs Netstamps page, you will see pricing for each sheet of Custom Netstamps labels, priced according to the number of sheets you purchase. Click CRE-ATE Netstamps.

7. The next page asks you to upload the photo (or the Centenary image of OHM). This is the image that was designed by Sr. Mary Grace of Terre Haute Carmel:

Send an email to Sr. Bernadette Therese (sbtocdcca@gmail.com) or mmary-clare@gmail.com to get an electronic copy of this image and save it to your hard drive. Your prioresses will have received a copy by now.

8. Browse for this image on your hard drive and upload it. Click NEXT.

9. The next page will give you a sample of the stamp with the image you uploaded.

10. Enter the number of sheets you want to order and proceed to checkout.

11. Within approximately 4 to 7 business days, you will receive your Custom Netstamp labels. You will now need to affix postage on these labels.

12. When you have your Netstamps lables, login into your Stamps.com account by clicking on the Stamps.com icon on your desktop.

13. On the left side menu, click STAMPS.

On the left side of the page under Postage Details, choose: “I want the value of each stamp to be calculated.

The default choice for “Mailpiece” is a 1 oz letter.

Under ‘Mail Class” choose “first class”

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On the right side of the page under “Print Details,” enter the serial number of the Custom Netstamps label sheet. It is located on the top right of the label sheet that you will print postage on.

Choose the number of stamps you want to print; for a full sheet of 24 stamps, check the “print all” option.

Once you choose the number of stamps you want to print, the cost of the stamps is automatically calculated.

Now you will need to buy postage to cover the cost of the stamps you will print.

Click on “Buy Postage” on the lower left corner of the page. A window will pop up and you can choose “Other” and enter the exact amount of postage you need to print your stamps. (The minimum amount of postage you can buy is \$10.00. One full page of first class stamps is \$11.52.) You can enter this exact amount by clicking OTHER then entering the amount of postage you want to buy. Another window will pop up to confirm your purchase. Click yes to confirm purchase. Wait for your purchase to be approved. When approved, the lower left hand corner will show the amount of postage you have to spend.

NOTE: all 1 oz. first class postage on Stamps.com is \$.48 per stamp, a discount of one cent from the normal \$.49 cent rate.

Load your Netstamps label sheet on your printer and click “Print Postage.”

An important tip: In order to save on the monthly fee of \$15.99, I suggest that you decide how many stamps you would like to print for the centenary year and print all the stamps within the 4 week free trial period. It takes over a week to get your custom labels so order your NetStamps labels right after you establish your account. Once you print all the stamps you need for the year, you can call Stamps.com at 1-855-782-6734 to cancel your account. If you do not make this call, your charge card will automatically be charged \$15.99 each month.

You are done!

If you have any questions, you can email Sr. Bernadette Therese at sbtocdcca@gmail.com and I will help as I can.

Registration opens for 2015 Carmelite Symposium

June 28 - July 2, 2015

St. Mary's Of The Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL

You can register at the Carmel Stream website

<http://www.carmelstream.org/symposium-registration/>

Here a small sample of the program

- St. Teresa's Historical Context: Leopold Glueckert, OCarm, PhDSt.
- Teresa's Carmelite Character: Keith Egan, TOC, PhD
- Insights from St. Teresa's First Communities: Barbara Mujica, PhD
- New Scholar in Theology: Emiel Abalahin, OCarm, Pontifical Gregorian University, Graduate Student in Spirituality

Other speakers include:

- Brian McDermott, SJ, PhD, Georgetown University
- Sr. Constance FitzGerald, OCD, Baltimore Carmel
- Donna Orsuto, S.T.D., Professor, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome
- Steven Payne, OCD, PhD, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

There will also be roundtable discussions with the speakers. Be prepared to enjoy good fellowship, good food, and Teresian entertainment.

For more details, please download the [Symposium Brochure](#).

Christmas message from Provost General

Below is a copy of the Christmas Message from P. Saverio Cannistrà, Provost General, that was published in the Carmelitas Descalzos Newsletter. To subscribe to this newsletter, please go <http://www.carmelitasdescalzos.com/>. Select English as your language and enter your email address:



CHRISTMAS 2014

P. Saverio Cannistrà, Preposito General

In the mystery of Christmas, God asks man to receive him. He calls at the door of our home, our world, our daily tasks: he wants to enter, find a place where we are, our things, our thoughts, our affections; he does precisely what every human who comes into the world does, every guest (expected or unexpected) who shows up at our doorstep. Man always asks the other man to make room for him, to give him time: without this, he cannot live. And the miracle of Christmas is this: if God makes himself man, it is because he needs man to take care of him. This, as paradoxical as it seems and contrary to any natural or philosophical idea about God, is nevertheless understandable. Perhaps what is more difficult to understand is that this welcoming defines man's salvation. Man is saved the moment he cares for God. Receiving the God-made-man,

man receives himself, he welcomes himself in the most authentic and radical way, and is able to love himself at last.

Yes, because the problem is that man does not love himself at all and does not take care of himself at all. When we read in the Gospel of Luke, “because there was no room for them [for us] in the inn,” or in the Gospel of John, “He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him,” it is really about man himself that the Gospel is speaking. This is what Christmas primarily, fundamentally brings to light: we discover that in our lives and dwellings, in our minds and hearts, there is no place for ourselves, for what we truly are, for that incessant dynamism that is man, for his infinite potential for love. Everything is already scheduled, the agenda is already full, a bit like our calendars at the beginning of the new year.

And of what is this man made, who bids enter and find lodging within us? I believe it is the Word of God, if we read between the lines, that gives us many elements to reconstruct his countenance and understand his nature.

The first element is **time**. He is a man made of time, who needs time. He needs almost a year to learn how to walk, and more than a year to learn to talk, and then more years to learn to read, write, work.... Jesus spends thirty years in Nazareth growing in years, wisdom, and grace. Many days, months, years, which are not consistently the same, but are steps that succeed each other and are consequences of each other. Time does not repeat itself, it continues, as we say, “inexorably”; yet, not: it evolves in a beneficial manner, salvifically. I ask myself if we still have that same sense of time, of existence, of its “unfolding,” which is actually a making way, or on the contrary, if we are attached to the moment, to many moments, each identical to the other, without progression, without direction, one piled upon or imprinted on the other. We are in a hurry to see results, to possess tangible goods which in reality are only ephemeral images, made of the same stuff as dreams. The God who becomes man asks us to welcome man in his temporalities, who grows and matures slowly.

The God who enters our life is also the man that contains **inner** spaces and landscapes. The birth of Jesus is surrounded by a series of experiences that happen in solitude and interiority. The gospels speak of angels, that is to say messages that envelope Mary in her awaiting, Joseph in his questioning, the shepherds in their nocturnal vigil. And we are told that all these people discovered a different reality, hidden from the eyes of the world, but that generates life, light, and new hope. “They were filled with joy and Spirit,” in the words of the Gospel of Luke. Joy and Spirit spring from within, like a fountain that issues from the depths of the rock. Man is made of this rock: in him there is something very solid, very resistant. But is there room for this solitude in our world, which we now sometimes qualify as “fluid”? Do we want to be solid? Do we really want to resist the winds and currents that beckon, distract, and tempt us? Are we not afraid to be anchored down, when everything seems to let itself be carried away by a sweet drifting? Yet faith is being steadfast, faithfulness is remaining steadfast, peace is being steadfast, not in the sense of being inert or like the peace of a cemetery, but a wanting to profoundly root ourselves in something that is true: constant and trustworthy despite everything. It is the Word, the *Logos* from which we come, but which “the world did not know.” Many words, too many senses, many paradises attract us.

And lastly, this man that bids us receive him and recognize him is made of **flesh**: the Word became flesh. This is what the Gospel of John tells us. It does not say: he became man, but rather, he became flesh, even knowing that in a certain way flesh suggests corruption, vulnerability, fragility. Flesh is subjected to cold and heat, hunger and thirst, tiredness and sleep. Flesh has desires and passions. Flesh undergoes shock, trembling, and bleeding. But it also receives caresses and embraces, it receives warmth from fire and enjoys ocean breezes, it is anointed with perfumed oils and covered in linens. Flesh is not a reality to be considered only from a medical point of view or erotic passion. Flesh am I: my feelings, my reactions to the world in which I live, my earthly condition from which we try to protect ourselves or gnostically flee. Therefore, we speak of post-human or post-mortal man or society, following the ideal of the manmachine whose parts can be replaced or transformed. Perhaps we don't realize that this worldview is subtly overpowering our minds, daily drawing us further away from the body of flesh of which we are made and which contains and cares for our truest self. Because it is the body that is the true subject of the spiritual life and there is nothing better than the mystery of the Incarnation to remind us of that and cause us to meditate on it. Let us not disdain the body; let us not be gnostic, or else along with the body we will also lose the spirit. The body of Jesus is placed in our hands for us to welcome and, with him, also welcome our own bodies with their history, wounds, emotions, and weaknesses. Bodies that ask us to care for them, not only by going to doctors, but also by deeply listening to them, living and savoring to its marrow the reality of our being in the world.

For this did God come into the world, for us to learn to be in him, in truth and grace, without evading but also without chains: free as only men who have learned to be genuinely human can be.

NEWS FROM THE DEFINITORY

Definitory Letter (23)

+ December 28, 2014

Very dear brothers and sisters in Carmel:

PEACE.

We are writing to you on this Holy Family Sunday with the wish that all the Christmas festivities will be for you happy and tranquil in the presence of the Lord who came to save us. As a Teresian family we place you in the hands of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to grow in being brothers and sisters capable of sharing the life and experience of God for mutual enrichment.

The recent General Definitory meeting took place from the 16th to 21st of December. Beforehand on the 15th, we met with the O.Carm General Council, as we habitually do each six months . . . [W]e shared the results of the campaign to gather funds for the restoration of Wadi-es-Siah. We continue receiving donations and, with regards to the Discalced Carmel, the response continues to be positive . . .

As we said before, we began the actual work on 16th and Fr Saverio gave us a report on the commission which is preparing the General Chapter. That meeting was in Rome from 17th to 22nd of November. The commission decided not to prepare [a preliminary working document to be studied] before the Chapter, but to present to the Chapter a document which could be studied [first] by all the members of the Chapter. Only then [would] the fruit of the Chapter's work be sent as [a working document] for the communities to discuss and improve by their suggestions . . .

Fr Romano Gambalunga gave us a report on his activities as the Order's Postulator . . . [M]iracles have already been approved for the canonization of Blessed Mariam of Jesus Crucified (the little Arab) and the married couple, Luis and Celie Martin-Guerin, the parents of St Therese. We hope to know shortly the date of their canonization. With the necessary technical advice, Fr Romano is preparing a specific Web page for the General Postulation, which will be linked to that of the Order, which will report his activities and the progress of the different processes . . .

Dr. Borrego [communications director of the Order] also explained to us that, before the Chapter, he will be in contact with the delegates for communication in the various circumscriptions, to find out what their impressions are on the Order's communications and what improvements they would like to see in the next sexennium . . . [W]e ask the Councils of the circumscriptions to deal with the topic of the Order's communications in one of their sessions before March: positive and negative elements, things to improve or include on the Web page, and strategies of communication in general, etc. Replies can be sent to: ocdinform@gmail.com and the Discalced Carmelite nuns and the Secular Order fraternities are also invited to give their opinions . . .

To strengthen the Order's presence in the Cameroon, Fr General asked help from the Avignon-Aquitaine and Genovese Provinces. The fruit of this petition was the incorporation of Frs Marco Gazzoli and Marie-Joseph Dol into the mission . . .

We have received good news about the foundation of new Carmelite monasteries in Asia, Madagascar and Latin America . . .

To end, Fr Emilio Martínez told us about the latest happenings in the fifth centenary, especially the pastoral results of the world-wide pilgrimage of Saint Teresa[‘s staff], the Camino de Luz, which is being received with great enthusiasm in all the places through which it passes.

We wish you a very happy Teresian year, full of celebrations in honour of our Mother, Teresa of Jesus. We entrust you to her with brotherly love.

Your brothers:

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, Superior General [and the general Definitotry]

Praise to God and the Virgin Mary

Collection for restoration of first Carmelite monastery proposed

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 respec-

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tive 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

Carmelite news from around the world

Carmelite News from around the world

For more detail on these stories, please visit:

<http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/noticias>

Holy Women

On December 6, 2014, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints to promulgate a decree concerning the miracles attributed to the intercession of two new saints from the Holy Land:

Blessed Marie de Jésus Crucifié (Mariam Bawardy), a professed nun of the Discalced Carmelite Order; and Blessed Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of Jerusalem.

Teresa of Ávila in dialogue with Africa

Father George Tambala, definitor for Africa, opened the Teresian Congress in Africa with words of welcome. “This is the most important event of the 5th Centenary on a scientific level in the African continent. It completes and broadens the interesting horizon presented by the agreements and symposiums that have taken place regionally”.

The Congress was held in Nairobi, Kenya, and was organized by the Anglophone and Francophone conferences of superiors. It represents a milestone in the collaboration between both provinces. The objective was to establish the bases of a new plan for Teresian studies in Africa with the hope that the Carmelite family on that continent will make a valuable contribution to the understanding and propagation of the spirituality of Saint Teresa.

The Congress was opened with a talk by Father Emilio Martínez, Vicar General of the Order, who presented the main objectives of the celebration of the Centenary. In his opinion, the Centenary should primarily make the person and doctrine of Teresa known as a way of union with God through prayer and fraternal life in community, in the same way as the Saint explains in her writings.

In the afternoon, the Nigerian priest Father Emmanuel J. Nnadozie presented an interesting conference of the essential elements of the Teresian charism from an African perspective.

Women took the floor during the second day of the Congress. Sister Collete Marie and Sister Domitille, Discalced Carmelites, provided a portrayal of Saint Teresa from a feminine perspective.

Father Zacharie Igirukwayo talked about a topic of enormous intercultural interest: the itinerary proposed by Saint Teresa in The Interior Castle from the point of view of African rites of passage.

Father Reginaldo Cruz, Xaverian Missionary residing in Kenya, talked about African models of holiness, particularly in the Teresian Carmel. In the ensuing dialogue, a lively discussion on the fruitfulness of Teresa's charism and its ability to incarnate in the spirit and culture of Africa took place.

During the last day of the Congress Father Jerome Paluku gave an exhaustive presentation on the foundations of the missionary spirit of the Order, all related to the Teresian charism.

Father Thomas Otonga, Kenyan Carmelite, concluded the conference with a talk titled, "Teresa of Jesus and Africa: Dialogue or Monologue?" Fr. Otonga underscored the key cultural characteristics that facilitate the assimilation of the Teresian message on the African continent. He highlighted the possibilities it offers to help with the work of evangelization.

Camino de Luz

Path of Light is a homage to and recognition of the "restless and roving nun" that walked the length of Spain founding Discalced Carmelite convents.

The pilgrimage left Ávila on October 15, 2014 and will return there on March 18, 2015. At that point it will begin its travels through Spain. Path of Light will take Saint Teresa's cane

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through 30 countries in the five continents and will travel 117,000 kilometers (72,700 miles) in 164 days.

The Path of Light team has just completed the Latin American part of the pilgrimage.

Photos, videos and narratives of the trip can be seen online at www.stj500.com/caminodeluz.

New Carmelite museum in the province of Krakow

Toward the end of November 2014, the new “Museum of Carmel” in Czerna was opened. The museum is in the lower part of the pilgrimage center next to the convent. It has, among other objects of interest, many items used daily by the residents of the old monastery and a notable collection of items used by Saint Raphael Kalinowski.

The solemn Eucharist for the opening was presided by Father Albert Wach, the Order’s Definitior. In his homily, Father Wach said that the museum is in keeping with the spirit of Saint Raphael Kalinowski, who always had a profound respect for the legacy of past generations.

The Cause of Father Marcel of the Immaculate

The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception was chosen to celebrate the first session of the diocesan investigation on the life, virtues, and reputation of holiness of the Servant of God Father Marcel of the Immaculate, Carlo Zucchetti. This solemnity was not chosen by chance; it was selected as the proper frame for the profound devotion Father Marcel had for the Immaculate One.

Father Marcel, son of the Teresian Carmel, spent a large part of his life in the convent of Saint Jerome in Ferrara, the former home of the Society of Jesus. He lived the sacrifices of his life with extraordinary and ordinary love, a commitment that had Jesus as its only objective.

It was a day of great celebration for both the diocesan community and the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

News from around the province

Compiled by Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

1. Austin, TX—submitted by Diu Van Dinh, OCDS

Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS, conducted a visitation of our Austin Community on November 15, 2014. All went well, thanks be to God, and in fact was a wonderful, grace-filled experience for us as a community. The following photo was taken at the time.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Dieu Van Dinh (myself, a member of the Council), Mary Kay Daniels (our Visitator, whom, as you can see, looks very happy), and the four other members of the Council—Sarah Green (President), Kathy Rasmussen, Marsha Brenda (Formation Director), and Olga Lopez.



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

An obituary for Dianne Gotay, OCDS

On November 12, 2015, our Community of St. Paul the Apostle and St. John of the Cross, Birmingham, AL, lost one of our beloved members, Pauline Dianne of the Immaculata, OCDS [pictured at the right]. She was 74. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Homewood, AL.

Dianne made her First Promise on August 15, 1995, and her Definitive Promise on March 8, 1998. She suffered from long time illnesses and lived the example of abandonment to God's will through Carmelite spirituality.

She enjoyed designing holy cards, doing illustrations for a Marian magazine and children's books, and offering her artistic talents to our Community.



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Dianne was preceded in death by her loving husband, Jose. She is survived by her son Nicholas, by her stepson Mark (wife Shirley), and by her other stepson Mark (wife Carolyn) and their two children Alexander and Maria. Dianne was grateful for the many prayers, for providing transportation to and from our meetings, and for the support shown her through the years by our members. May she rest in peace.

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



We are pleased to announce the members of our new Council, along with other officers of our community. They are, as shown in the photo to the below, from left to right: Kim (Council Secretary), Lansing (President), Cindy and Mary (Councilors), Marianne (Treasurer), Steve (Councilor), and Lee (Community Secretary). Not pictured is Dolores (Councilor).

We pray for you. Please pray for us.

4. Houston, TX—St. Therese Study Group

Our Annual Retreat—submitted by Marcela Tristan, OCDS

On September 19-21 our study group of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face had our annual retreat with Fr. Stephen Sanchez, OCD. It was, of course, an excellent and rich retreat.

Shown in the photo below [see next page], which was taken at the time, are, from left to right, in the front—Tommy Todd (seated), Mary Sandford (also seated)—Mary made her Definitive Promise during the retreat—Karen Sumner, Diana Sepulveda, and Marcela Tristan (kneeling).

Standing in the back, this time from right to left—so that the group forms circle around the altar—are Teresa Langford, Selin Fulton, Elizabeth Borges, then the statue of Our Lady, then Margarita Dufilho, Father Stephen, Henrietta Rottman, then the banner of Holy Mother, then Gordon Travis, Dina Motufar, Martha Duffy, and Florence Riley.



A Painting of Holy Mother—submitted by Margaret Dufilho, OCDS

The artist of the painting shown below, who wishes to remain anonymous, has thus signed the work "A friend of Carmel." As it so happened, she was born on October 15. Hence, the devotion. But she participates in a Carmelite study group that meets at St. Vincent's parish in Houston, which I coordinate. It is a joy to have her among us as she is a most charitable and compassionate person. Since she often suffers from such terrible neck pain that it leaves her totally unable to paint for some number of days, I would say it is a wonderful thing, then, that she was able to paint this picture of Holy Mother in just 3 days.

As for myself, I plan eventually to take the painting to one of my Carmelite friends who has agreed to make the image into a banner to be used by our St Therese OCDS Study Group—not to be confused with the Carmelite study group that



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meets at St. Vincent's.

I asked the artist to write something about the painting. Here's how she replied:

“I would like to tell you how I came to paint St. Teresa of Avila. I went to the wrong class at my parish, which turned out to be a class on Carmelite spirituality. But I stayed there, and that journey of discovery into St Teresa's way of prayer was destined to be my way of discovering how I can use my gift of art as part of my prayer.

I have previously expressed my artistic bent through the restoration of statues and the writing Byzantine icons. Although I love this style of paintings, still I grew up with Western art, which therefore has more meaning for me. When I heard, then, that the only painting of St Teresa was not thought to have been painted by a very gifted artist, I thought, why not, let me give it a try myself, using the original as a guide I sincerely asked God's help, and it humbles me and makes me happy to have my efforts appreciated.”

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

We are pleased to share with you this happy occasion—the canonical establishment of the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order community of the Transfiguration in Knoxville, TN.

On Sunday, September 7, at St. John Neumann Church, our community was officially erected as “canonical.” We began over 15 years ago with just a few members. Now having received the approval of our Fr. General in Rome, along with the recommendation of our Fr. Provincial here at home, and with over 20 new members all in joyful concurrence, the decree of canonical establishment was received and read at a ceremony presided over by our Provincial Delegate, Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD.



In the photo to the left are Dorothy Curtis, community member, standing at the podium as she led the intercessions during the ceremony of canonical establishment, and Fr. Bonaventure, trying to look prayerful.

In part, the decree establishment read: “Since Nicholas V . . . in his Bull Cum Nulla fidelium . . . invested the General of the Order . . . with the perpetually valid faculty of erecting Secular Order [communities] . . . throughout the world . . . I accept the petition to erect a Community of our Secular Order with the title of The Transfiguration, in the City of Knoxville, in the Diocese of Knoxville (USA)....” Applause followed.

day, as well as the seriousness of this new responsibility of greater autonomy. He reminded us that our actions do impact the whole Order. Thus, we are to strive to keep the charism of Carmel, especially as it calls us to the daily practice of interior prayer, as faithfully as we can.

Our community then offered prayers for a deepening in our prayer lives, our community life, and in the practice of the beatitudes and evangelical counsels. We asked the Lord to help us be faithful to the entire family of the Teresian Carmel—friars, nuns and seculars—and to our contemplative, apostolic, and Marian ideals, strengthened by the Spirit of divine grace, peace, and wisdom.

After the ceremony of establishment, Fr. Bonaventure celebrated Mass with us. In attendance throughout was our community’s long-time Spiritual Assistant, Fr. John Dowling, some Seculars who came down from Chattanooga to be with us, and family and friends, of course.



The Knoxville Secular Order community of the Transfiguration—shown below following the ceremony—wishes to extend its gratitude for all the love, prayers, and support it has received through the years by so many, without which this day would not have been possible.

6. Little Rock, AR—submitted by Tricia Cromwell, OCDS

During Mass at our October 18 meeting at Marylake, Janie Krone and Joseph de Prez made their First Promise, and Amy Hawley made her Definitive Promise, with Father Jerome Early presiding. After the ceremony and Mass Fr. Jerome, of the community at Marylake, gave us a conference, followed by a joyous pot-luck luncheon with the friars.

In the photo to the right are, from left to right, Fr. Jerome, Janie Krone (newly professed), Amy Hawley (definitively professed), Joseph de Prez (newly professed), and Julie Breen Patrick, our Formation Director.



7. Mary Kay Daniels, Provincial President, visited the New Orleans Community of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on October 24-26, 2014. During her visit, she met with council members both together and individually and gave much useful advice on attracting new members to our community. Mary Kay observed all the formation groups and also met with several members of the group to get a better insight on the relationships and spirituality of our members. We were blessed to hear and participate in a wonderful presentation given by her on Lectio Divinia where she discussed ways to increase the knowledge of God's Word through reflections and contemplative prayer with God. The three day visitation was a very fruitful and enlightening experience for our community.

Shelley Thomas, OCDS

President

Disalced Carmelite Secular Order of Our Lady of Prompt Succor

New Orleans Louisiana Community



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.

“Oh, my daughters, how well God repays! You have a Lord and Spouse with whom nothing takes place without His seeing and understanding it! Thus, even though the things be very small, do not fail to do what you can for love of Him. His Majesty will repay for them; He looks only at the love with which you do them.”

From *Meditations on the Song of Songs*. In *The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila, Vol. II* trans. by Otilio Rodriguez, OCD, and Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, copyright 2008, 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 isolates, aged, or infirm members. Thank you!