

Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Fall 2017
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From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Hello Carmelites,
Praise be Jesus – now and forever.

As many of you have already heard, our dear Kathy Rasmussen, the coordinator for our OCDS Congress, has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of colon cancer and is undergoing treatment. We are praying, not only for her complete healing, but also that she will be able to attend the Congress. Her example of holy detachment has been awe-inspiring – blessed be God. Please lift Kathy up in prayer.

May I express, from all of us, our deep gratitude to Kathy and the whole congress team for your months (not to say years!) of dedicated work. We feel deeply blessed for the gift of you.

Many thanks also to the Communities and Study Groups of the Province who responded so generously to the call to help make the Congress a success. What a beautiful thing it is to see so many dedicated Carmelites giving of their time, talents, and treasure to serve their fellow Carmelites.

In case you haven't noticed, we have a few more topics clarified and posted on the provincial website. <http://www.thereocds.org/policy/provincial-policy/>. We gathered together what had already been stated in the past and put it together in concise documents.

- OCDS Community bank account (includes easy instructions for opening a bank account in the community's name)
- Members of disbanded Communities and Study Groups
- Public use of the large ceremonial scapular

Community and individual apostolates summaries

You should have already received these through the president of your community.

Section XV(1) of the revised Statutes requires Communities to use the Provincial Record form. We are happy to announce that work on this new, electronic form has been completed and a new records management policy has been put into place. Detailed information on how to implement the new records management form was sent to all Presidents on September 9. Each local council needs to appoint a

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From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council—

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Records Manager and send this information to the Central Office Administrator, Barbara Tinervia, by October 15, 2017. Further information can be found in the Records Management article in this issue (Pg. 13-14).

Work on the Formation Guidelines continues. The revision team is currently reviewing the study materials to evaluate how well they support the formation goals – retiring some materials and replacing with others. This takes time to do well; it is better to be thorough than to be fast. Meanwhile, communities will continue to use the 2004 guidelines, which have served us so well all these years. Formation guidelines will be one of the topics at the PC's general session at the Congress.

Save the date!

Plans are already underway for the **2018 Leadership Workshops – September 20-23**. The focus will be on formators, formation, and discernments. As I write, we are negotiating the contract for the venue. More details to come.

Please continue to pray for those who have suffered through Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Many of our members were affected and are still dealing with the aftermath.

Please pray also for us on the Provincial Council. You too are in our thoughts and prayers daily. May God bless you abundantly.

With Prayer for Holiness, Peace, Joy and Bountiful Love in Christ for All,

Claire Bloodgood, OCDS

President, Provincial Council for the OCDS Oklahoma Province

On Behalf of the Council Members:

Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS

John Stevens, OCDS

Anna Peterson, OCDS and

Mary Therese Bellman, OCDS

Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

Poem by Ashbury

Address

I am in San Antonio as I write this report. Over the past few weeks I've pulled my things together and hauled them south to San Antonio—it took two trips. There I began dismantling them again, arranging them cozily about my new abode. The space is smaller. So I have to work at this arrangement with what I have of spacial awareness and, like an interior decorator, come up with the ideal place for everything.

You know, sometimes my schedule gets busy—I can't tolerate too much, though—while at other times I live the life of the leisure class. These past few weeks have been decidedly of the former sort, even a bit maddening. But I've made the move, kept my other duties in the air, more or less, and, to top it off, was even able to celebrate the feast day of St. Therese here at the Basilica. [See the Church's facade pictured grandly at the right.]

Let me mention here my new address in San Antonio. It is:

Little Flower Church

906 Kentucky Ave.

San Antonio, TX. 78201

My phone number is, of course, the same, being my cell phone number. But if you want a more official phone number to the Basilica, it's 210-734-9126. All of this is on our provincial website.



It's been a while since I was last able to be here for this special event. Even when I was stationed here, I often had to be away on the feast day. But not this year. This year I got a full taste of how the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower honors its Patroness and, by gratefully acknowledging her holiness and wisdom, gives glory to God.

The celebration begins the night before, on September 30—a Saturday this year—with what is called the “transit” of St. Therese. First, there's a re-enactment of her death using as a script the account of her death by one of Therese's blood sisters—I forget which one, probably Pauline. The text is read by a single female voice, and the performance borders on the overly dramatic. But it is interspersed with glorious musical interludes from the choir, which redeems the whole. (What makes the reading a bit overly dramatic is how the reader, trying to imitate the saint's struggle to breath in the last hours of her life, huffs and puffs her way through Therese's lines in the script. Someone less jaundiced than I might find it quite stirring.)

Then a statue of St. Therese lying flat, as if “in state,” is solemnly brought forward on a bier, accompanied by candles, while the choir sings that beautiful anthem *Canticle of Love*.

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Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

(Continued from page 3)

Those attending—and the church was pretty full—exit their pews, also carrying lit candles, and follow Therese in procession around the nave of the church. It's a moving moment for many—for most, no doubt. Hearts are softened and made docile. The divine Spirit bends low and breathes gently over the waters.

The next day, Sunday this year, the mass of the Solemnity of St. Therese, otherwise known as the Mass of the Roses, was celebrated at noon. The Archbishop of San Antonio, Most Rev. Gustavo Siller, presided and preached. A flock of white-robed altar boys fluttered here and there about the sanctuary, outnumbering the priests in attendance. The choir was stellar, as always, the church full to overflowing.

The Liturgical highpoint occurred at the end of mass following the final prayer, but before the blessing and distribution of the roses. Another statue of the Little Flower, this time standing tall, is wheeled in on a pedestal, preceded by members of the Little Flower children's choir carrying lit candles. Once again the anthem *Canticle of Love* is sung, swelling to full voice. And, at the moment Therese arrives at the steps leading up to the sanctuary, a shower of lovely pink rose petals wafts down like feathers from above. No, it's not a miracle, although it may have appeared so to some. But it would be too difficult to explain here how the feat is accomplished. You'll have to come to the Basilica someday and be shown the secret.

By the way, and for future reference, in the Order throughout most of the world, St. Therese's feast day is just that, a feast day. But our Province makes an exception since she is patroness of our Province. Yes, we are the Province of St. Therese, and so we —nuns, friars, and Seculars—keep her chosen day as a Solemnity. Thus, when October 1 falls on a Sunday, as it does this year, the Solemnity of St. Therese takes precedence, in our Province, over the Sunday of Ordinary Time. And every year, in our praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, we use Evening Prayer I the evening before, as if it were a Sunday. Of course, the proper breviary doesn't offer Evening Prayer I for St. Therese, for obvious reasons. Therefore, it's probably best to use Evening Prayer I from the Common of Virgins. Or you can use Evening Prayer II from the Carmelite Proper, repeating it the next day. Clear as mud, right?

Eclipse

I hope you enjoyed the eclipse, however you got to experience it. I was in Colorado Springs the weekend before, giving a retreat to OCDS from Colorado Springs, of course, but also from Ft. Collins and Grand Junction—a wonderful experience for me.



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Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

(Continued from page 4)

Instead of flying home directly after the retreat, I rented a car, got a hotel room, and spent the night and next day there. On Monday, I drove not west, into the mountains, but east, into the wide-open plains of eastern Colorado. [See photo at the left.] This is some of my favorite country in the country. I don't know why or how to explain it.

Of course, I was hoping to have the eclipse literally engulf me. So I didn't bother bringing a pair of those special glasses, seeing how I didn't much care about looking up at the thing. Instead, I wanted the sudden "darkness at noon" to descend around me, confusing the cattle and horses and birds of the field near where I'd pulled over to the side of the road and parked. I wanted the moment to bless me with its mystery.

Alas, it turned out to be a bit of a dud. I realized quickly that, although the eclipse blocked out 90% of the sun where I was, still 10% of the sun in Colorado, on a bright and nearly cloudless day, was enough to make the much anticipated darkness not dark, but "clear as the day." Oh well. The best laid plans of mice and men *gang aft a-gley* (which, translated, means "gangs up on me").

Congress fast approaching

In case you've just emerged from a coma, the OCDS Congress in San Antonio is only a month away. [The photo at the right captures a portion of the painting of St. Therese which we have on display in the undercroft of the Basilica. The hands and the face were painted by Celine, St. Therese's quite artistic sister. The painting was donated to us by the Carmel of Lisieux in gratitude for building the Shrine.]

You know, I haven't had to do much of anything to help prepare for this Congress. I've offered my "thoughts and prayers," as they commonly say about tragic events, usually not happy ones like the upcoming Congress. This Congress really is your baby, and you've seen to it that the child has grown and become strong, filled with wisdom, and that the favor of God is upon it.

Whenever I encounter Seculars here and there across the country, I always ask, Are you coming to the Congress? In reply many say, Yes, I'm looking forward to it. So, in addition to serving our own Province through this Congress, all of you who have had a hand in preparing it—you know who you are—have also served the Order throughout the US.



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Report from the Provincial Delegate

By *Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.*

(Continued from page 5)

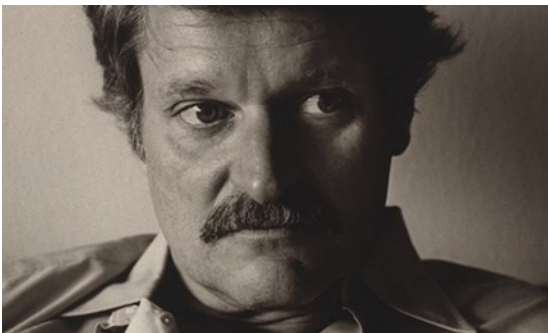
And another thing—he says, pointing skyward—this collaborative model you’ve used, brain child of last triennium’s Provincial Council, which has proven remarkably successive despite a brown-habited naysayer or two, is setting a new standard for all three Carmelite provinces of the US, the Washington and California-Arizona Provinces included. You have blazed a new trail for Congresses going forward, one that will not only keep them doable, which is important, even necessary, but also ensure their vitality as a spiritual work of the entire province. So, my thanks and sincere gratitude to all of you. The Spirit is indeed a-movin’ in our land.

*

On September 3 of this year the American poet John Ashbery [pictured below] died. He was 90. Not only did he live a long life, he remained active as a poet up to the very end. Thus, he left behind him a considerable output. He also came to occupy a very notable place among contemporary American poets and will probably go down in history as one of the major English-language poets of the 20th Century.

I can’t recommend that you just jump right in and start reading him, though. His poetry is an acquired taste. The language is remarkable, and the imagery brilliant. But his poems are usually quite difficult to follow—not because the ideas are all that difficult to grasp, but because the poetry seems to meander about as if in a dream, leaving the reader often scratching his or her head. In my view, his poems have a clear emotional and expressive content. But sometimes they don’t seem to “mean” anything. Here’s an example, a few lines from a poem chosen at random from his next-to-last book, published in 2015.

It was him who got into some scrape yesterday.
We knew all along he had followed the corrugated path
picking up crumbs like there was no tomorrow, which
there isn’t. But as long as you’re here
we may as well begin.



PC Channel—Reminder about 2016 Statutes

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

Hello Community Councils!

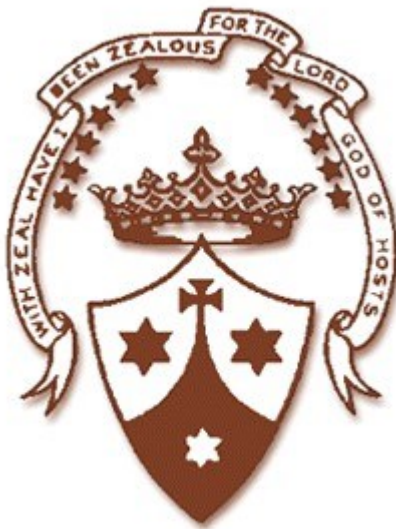
Please remember that the 2016 Statutes have been promulgated as of December 2016.

The previous statutes are no longer to be used by the community or given to candidates for study.

A hardcopy version will be available after the Formation Guidelines are finished and approved by the General Definitory. Meanwhile, please use the legislation documents available on the provincial website. <http://www.thereseocds.org/legislation/>

Please direct your members to print out the new statutes and insert them into their book of legislation. Councils may provide printed copies for members who are not able to print out their own.

Communities are asked to go over the new statutes together and discuss their impact on the local level. Ten to 15 minutes per month would be ample. The “Statutes Q&A” articles in recent editions of the *Flos Carmeli* may be used to stimulate the discussion.



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PC Channel—Questions about Statutes, Part 4

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

(Continued from page 7)

More on Community Life

- Why isn't a member on Leave of Absence encouraged to continue mental prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours?

Leave of absence releases from the requirements of the vocation. It is time off from everything, without pressure. It would be surprising if the member did not continue his/her prayer life, but we didn't feel this was something for the statutes to direct.

- Why is someone on Leave of Absence prohibited from attending community meetings and retreats? Aren't they still members?

Leave of absence is not permission to be absent from some things and attend others. It is a break from the community and the vocation for a set period of time.

If that doesn't seem right for a given individual, Extended Excused Absence might be a better choice [2016 Statutes sec.VIII.7].

- How can a person be released from the Definitive Promise? Isn't it supposed to be "definitive"? And why wouldn't they be welcomed back with open arms? The Church welcomes back those who have fallen away.

Carmelite Seculars make the Definitive Promise with the firm intention that it is life-long. But members may find that they were mistaken in their vocation. It does happen. Sometimes because the person did not understand the commitment; sometimes because the Council was mistaken in its discernment; sometimes because God is simply calling the person elsewhere.

The Promise is accepted by the Order and the Order can release a person from it. The nub is that the member is released from obedience to the Superiors of the Order. For Carmelite Seculars that means the local Council, the Provincial of the Friars and his Delegate, and the Superior General and his Delegate. (The constitutions and the statutes are promulgated by our Superiors.)

While release from the Definitive Promise is a major matter, not to be sought without serious reason, it is not the same as leaving communion with the Church. The Oklahoma Province OCDS does not readmit ex-definitive members because doing so would undermine the seriousness of making the Definitive Promise.

Age Requirements

- Maturity is more than just age. Why isn't there something in this section on requiring spiritual and emotional maturity?

Spiritual and emotional maturity are addressed in the Ratio. The subject would belong more properly in the Provincial Formation Guidelines or in Best Practices than in the Statutes.

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PC Channel—Questions about Statutes, Part 4

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

(Continued from page 8)

Community Size

- How did you come up with the number 40-50 for a community split?

We felt that this would be likely to ensure enough members for changes in leadership for both groups. A community split is not necessarily mandatory at this size; only that the community will consult with the Provincial Delegate.

On the other hand, a community may consult the Provincial Delegate if they are interested in splitting at a smaller number.

- Why is the decision to start a new Community determined by the Provincial Delegate and not the Provincial Council?

The Provincial Council has never had the authority to give permission to found a new Community or Study Group. They may, however, help the Provincial Delegate weigh the pros and cons.

Establishment of an OCDS Community

- Is there a minimum or maximum number of members required to start a Study Group?

Study Groups need enough members to begin to function as a community. The Provincial Delegate and founding community evaluate whether the new group is ready for Study Group status or should start as a Group in Development (GID).

- What are the “other considerations” besides distance for forming a new GID?

Distance is the most common reason for starting a GID. Another might be based on the primary language of the members. We left it open-ended to allow more flexibility for local needs.

- How does a community determine whether to found a Study Group or start a GID?

There are so many variables that consulting with the Provincial Delegate is needed. Size and leadership experience are important factors.

- What if a particular member does not want to move to the newly formed community?

That would be something for the local Council to figure out. Splits can be made on geographical lines, or by parish affiliation, or by volunteers, or by drawing lots. Or by any other way that seems good to the Council and community. Just be sure there are enough active professed members to make the group viable.

- Can you give examples of why a GID or Study Group would need to be disbanded?

The most common reason is chronic lack of vocations and dwindling membership.

Other (far less common) reasons would be refusal to follow the Constitutions, statutes, and provincial policies, especially regarding formation; ongoing, irresolvable conflict within the group; refusal to accept correction from the Provincial Delegate (or the Mentoring Community Council in the case of a GID); or the group over time does not develop an OCDS identity.

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PC Channel—Questions about Statutes, Part 4

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

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- What are some examples of how a Community is “unable to function”? And what does “under the supervision of the Provincial Delegate and the Provincial Council” mean?

The most common “unable to function” situation is a community becoming too small. Some communities suffer from a chronic lack of new vocations and end up with shrinking membership due to age and illness.

Others situations (which in truth are pretty rare) are the same as the reasons for disbanding a Study group or GID.

“Under the supervision of the Provincial Delegate and the Provincial Council” means that the community would have the same supervision and support that is usual to Study Groups.



*Happy Feast Day, Carmelites!
May God richly bless you and yours.
St. Teresa, pray for us.*

*from your Provincial Council,
Claire, Jo Ann, John, Anna, and Mary*

PC Channel—Q & A - Communities Skipping Meetings

Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council, July 2017

Question:

This has been brought up by several people in our community.

Can a community skip a regular community meeting during the year?

We know the Statutes permit an OCDS retreat or day of reflection to take the place of the monthly community meeting, but other than that is there another provision for a community skipping a monthly meeting?

Answer:

This question seems to come up especially during the summer months. Many members take vacations during the summer, and it can be a challenge to work around the community's meeting dates.

Here are the basics:

- Communities don't take the summer off. Members are expected to take their OCDS commitments into consideration when making vacation plans. If it is genuinely outside their control, they can talk with their local Council about the need to miss a meeting.
- The local Council can cancel a meeting due to bad weather (blizzard, hurricane, threat of tornado) or impassible roads (deep snowfall, flooding).
- The local Council can change a meeting date if it falls on a holiday weekend.
- They may change or cancel if there is an unavoidable conflict with a major community responsibility, such as a deceased member's family setting the funeral for the day of the meeting.
- Just as they may have a retreat in place of the regular meeting, the community can go to an OCDS Congress in place of the meeting. That would be if almost everyone is going. Otherwise, the community would have the regular meeting, and everyone attending the Congress could be excused. Or the meeting day could be moved.

Councilors filling in:

Question:

Both our President and Formation Director are going to the Congress in November. The problem is that it is on the weekend of our community meeting.

Does that mean we can't have a meeting, since neither of them will be there to preside?

Answer:

The short answer is another Council member can preside over the meeting.

The President and Formation Director fill in for each other when either is unable to perform their regular duties. Following this principle, another member of the Council fills in when necessary.

PC Channel—Submissions

Submitted by John Stevens, OCDS, Provincial Councilor

Request for Articles

I am asking for submissions--especially for personal reflections and testimonies as well as book reviews. Please submit only articles which are well-crafted and focused on our Carmelite charism. Book reviews should be about books with Carmelite themes and/or authors. A book which is relevant to our Carmelite charism would also be acceptable if you can show how it helps us live that charism. Submissions should be about ½ page to 1 ½ page long.

Submission due date for articles occur four times per year:

- on January 1st,
- April 1st,
- July 1st and
- October 1st.

Please send your submissions to jtstevens@hotmail.com

Yours in Carmel, John Stevens, OCDS, Provincial Councilor



PC Channel—New Records Management Policy

Submitted by Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS, Provincial Counselor

On September 9, 2017, an email was sent to all Presidents in our Province announcing the launching of our new Records Management Policy and procedures. Section XV of our newly approved Statutes requires local communities to use these official Provincial Records Forms and to follow Provincial Record Management Policy. **All forms previously in use during the last 10 years are now obsolete and are replaced by the new electronic forms also distributed to the communities on September 9.** These may be found as well on the Provincial website: <http://thereseocds.org>.

Each community is required to name a Records Manager by October 15, 2017 who will manage the new electronic records and act as the liaison with the Central Office Administrator, Barbara Tinervia. A new electronic Permanent Record Form for each individual in your community needs to be sent to the Central Office before December 31, 2017. The Records Manager for each community will send the new electronic Permanent Record Form together with instructions on how to fill it out to each person via email. If a person is unable to fill out the electronic form themselves (requires a computer and software that can create a .docx file), then the local Records Manager will ask them to fill out a paper form. The Records Manager will then copy data from the paper form into the electronic form for the individual.

Once all the electronic forms have been collected, the local community will be able to create a local community directory automatically and the Central Office will be able to create a Provincial wide directory. Please address questions and concerns to your Records Manager who will try to answer them based on local Community policy. Issues that cannot be resolved by the local Record Managers should be forwarded by them to Jo Ann Murphy, email: jmurphy12513@gmail.com.

One key area of concern is security of the electronic forms. All of the files are encrypted with 256-bit AES during and after transfer to the Provincial electronic storage site. In addition, upon transfer, the software also applies TLS/SSL channel protection. And securing the files is not limited to potential hacks only, but to protection from potential hardware failure as well. After the forms are uploaded to the Provincial storage area, multiple backup copies are kept in different physical locations.

If you are attending the OCDS Congress in San Antonio in November, I will be present to answer any questions you may have during the Provincial Council panel session. Thank you for your time and patience in helping us move from paper to electronic record forms! The new Records Management Policy is printed below:

Records Management Policy

Goal: To move from paper records to electronic records for the Permanent Record Form (PRF).

This will allow the Forms to be filled out and updated electronically, to be kept in a local computer folder and then sent electronically to a Provincial folder set up for that Community. It eliminates the need to mail paper copies to the Province, and it also enables the Central Office Administrator (COA) to search the records electronically. It also provides a backup copy of local Community records. Should these be lost, they can be restored from the Provincial Records Management folders.

Once the electronic copies of the Permanent Record Form are created, then it will be possible to create both a local Community Directory and a Province-wide Directory automatically using a Microsoft Word procedure provided by the COA. [It is not policy that the local Community must use this method to create its Community Directory.]

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PC Channel—New Records Management Policy

Submitted by Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS, Provincial Counselor

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The Province will also be able to inform Communities whether an individual attempting to become a member of its local Community is eligible/ineligible based on the past action of another OCDS Council, for instance, if they have been previously dismissed from the OCDS.

1. These electronic forms replace all paper forms previously used in the Province:

- The individual's Permanent Record Form (PRF)
- The Transfer and Acceptance Form (to be used whenever a person transfers into the Community)
- A Guest Form (use of this form is not required by Provincial Policy)

2. Roles and Responsibilities

a. Local Council

- Establish the role of Records Manager in your Community and appoint someone to this task.
- Establish your own Records Management Policy that provides further guidance on how you want the forms to be filled out, etc.
- Make sure your local records policy and that of the Province is followed.

b. Individual Member

- Fill out your Permanent Record Form (PRF) according to Provincial and local requirements.
- Update your record form whenever there is a change, especially to your status, phone, or address, and provide this to the local Records Manager.

Records Manager

- Follow the process provided by the Provincial Council for the Records Manager. Follow any additional requirements found in your local Records Management policy.
- Review the individual Permanent Record Forms to make sure they are accurate, especially the Formation Level and status field of the individual. Make sure the form is saved with the individual's name (lastname_firstname.docx) into your OCDS Records folder on your computer Desktop.
- If a person leaves the Community, fill out Sections V and VI of their Individual Permanent Record Form and update the Status Field and Current Date.
- Upload the Permanent Record Forms to the Provincial cloud storage area when there are Status changes, at the end of the calendar year, and as requested by the COA or your local records management policy.

News from around the World—Communication 33 (June 2017)

A short biographical resumé of the life of Fr. Felipe Sainz de Baranda OCD (3.10.1930-26.07.2017)

Fr. Felipe was born on 3rd October, 1930 in Baranda. The son of Eugenio and Leonor. He entered the Teresian School in Calahorra (La Rioja) in 1941, where he studied humanities until 1945.

On 4th October 1945, he took the habit in the Carmel in Burgo de Osma (Soria), at the start of his novitiate, which culminated with his religious profession on 5th October 1946.

He then went to Burgos, where he studied Philosophy for the first two years in the Monastery of the Order. He completed his studies in Oviedo in the year 1949.

He returned to Burgos to begin studies in Theology and after taking the course for the first two years and having made his Solemn Profession in October 1951, he was sent to the Order's International College in Rome. On 19th December 1953, he was ordained a priest.

On completing the Institutional course in 1954, he obtained a degree in Theology, whilst studying for a Doctorate from 1954-1955.

From 1955 to 1958, he studied Sacred Scripture, where he received a degree in 1958.

In October 1958, he was designated Professor of Scripture and Patristic Studies in the Theological College in Burgos, a position which he managed at the same time as being Director of the Mount Carmel Review from 1960.

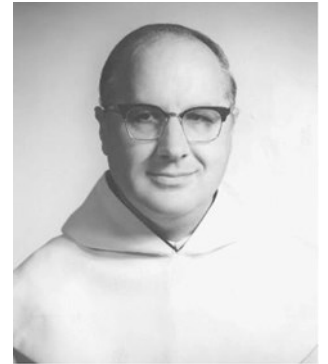
In 1963, he was made Second Provincial Counselor and afterwards Master of the theologians and then Prior of the Community from 1966 to 1969, a period in which the new Church Carmelite in Burgos was being built.

In 1969, he was elected Provincial and re-elected to the same position in 1972. Before finishing the second triennium, he was elected First Definitor and then Vicar General of the Order, in the Chapter, which took place in 1973.

At the end of the six year term, he was elected Propositor General in 1979 and again in 1985 until 1991.

In the same year, he left for South America, where he remained as Provincial Delegate, a position he managed with his work as a formator in Paraguay and Uruguay successively, with great dedication to the diffusion of carmelite spirituality, by means of Spiritual Exercises to communities of Carmelite nuns the world over.

Since the end of 2015, he was part of the community of St. Joseph in Burgos from where he followed all the events of our Order in Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay, with great interest.



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A letter from Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, Superior General OCD, on the occasion of the death of Fr. Felipe Sainz de Baranda



Fr. Felipe has left us. It was not expected, because - despite his age and a few health issues, which he had - he was in good health and above all, because we never expect that someone like him could leave us.

I cannot forget the first time I met him. I had just entered Carmel. I was a postulant in Florence and Fr. Felipe came to preside a profession in the convent of our nuns. His powerful voice, his imposing figure: everything spoke of a true General. But at the same time, one could see his simplicity and fraternal dealings with us and with the nuns. As we were accompanying Fr. General, we were able to enter the nun's cloisters and his manner of joking with them about small pots and pans was a delight. I could see that he knew how to create a fraternal and family atmosphere, midst an atmosphere of mystery sacred and inviolable present in the rooms of the house.

This first impression as father of the family has been confirmed by everything I have come to know about him since, beginning with his tireless work during the eighteen years when he was in the General House, first as Vicar General and later as General. I can say that his presence, right up to the present day, has left an indelible imprint on the government and life of the Order. For the last few years, we have been reading and re-reading the Constitutions, which were approved and revised at the time that he served as Superior General. We also owe the first missionary initiatives of the Order to his period of government, above all in Africa. Houses of formation for our young people was a constant concern for Fr. Felipe, who worked hard to make them a reality in several countries. It is not by chance that Fr. Felipe, when his second term as General, came to an end that he should have asked to be moved to Uruguay, where he was master of novices for many years, making use of all his experience and wisdom.

We all know that the nuns' Constitutions was one of the heaviest crosses that Fr. Felipe had to bear and that the text which was approved in 1991 was the fruit of his own suffering, battles and tears. His affection and his generous surrender to the Discalced Carmelite nuns continued to the last stage of his life, as confessor and assessor in many Latin American countries.

Fr. Felipe, your departure makes us feel more alone and abandoned. Nonetheless, we know that we can rely even more on your friendship and strength now, which we so greatly need. You have left us an enormous legacy: you have given us a true love of our family and of the whole Church. Thank you, Felipe! We will never forget you!

Venerable Maria Felicia of the Blessed Sacrament

On June 1, the medical board of the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints gave a positive opinion concerning the cure of Angel Ramón (Paraguay, 2002) as a presumed miraculous healing



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through the intercession of the Discalced Carmelite **Venerable Maria Felicia of the Blessed Sacrament**, nicknamed "Chiquitunga". It is an important first step for the recognition of the presumed miracle, which precedes the scrutiny of theologians.

For more information: www.postocd.org



First OCDS congress in the Congo

As you will have seen in detail on our web site and social networks, the first congress of the Secular Order in the Congo took place from the 16th to the 19th of March this year. It was held in the reception centre of the *Les Buissonnets* monastery in Tabacongo, Lubumhashi.

With the Delegate General Fr Roger Balowe Tshimanga presiding, the members of the Secular Carmel in the Congo, accompanied by the Assistant of the Delegation and some Assistants from the communities, discussed the topic: "The Secular Carmel of the Congo: balance and perspectives".

Among the conclusions of the congress, it was decided to strengthen the relationship between the various communities, to have more meetings of this type periodically, to establish in each of the friars' communities time for formation meetings and the prayer of the Secular Carmel communities, as well as support being given from the Delegation to all the communities, in order to strengthen their life of prayer, fraternity and formation.

Also emphasized in the congress was the need for helping the Assistants of the communities so that they can carry out their work in a better manner, as well as interest in strengthening relationships of the OCDS in the Congo with their brothers and sisters present in neighboring countries.

Teresa and John of the Cross translated into Lithuanian

The Carmelite nuns in Lithuania have had translated and published two works of our Holy Parents: the *Way of Perfection* of Saint Teresa and the *Sayings of Light and Love* of Saint John of the Cross. The translation was done by Sister Ieva of the Carmel of Calahorra, La Rioja, Spain and the introductions to both works by the Salamanca Discalced Carmelite friar, Fr Salvador Ros, who resides in the Segovia monastery.



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News from around the World—Communication 33 (June 2017)

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Quite an influx of the public attended the presentations in two ceremonies celebrated on the 6th and the 7th of June in Vilnius and Kaunas in Lithuania.

At both presentations Fr Luis Aróstegui was present, who had been General of the Order from 2003 to 2009 and is now the Provincial of the St Joachim province in Navarre. He expressed his satisfaction with the translations done, which were well received by the public and thus emphasizing the universality of the doctrine of Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross.

Source: <https://delaruecaalapluma.wordpress.com/>

Meeting of the new Indian Provincials



At Trivandrum on the 1st July, 2017, and in the presence of the Definitor, Fr Johannes, the seven Indian Provincials had their first meeting of the triennium. They discussed programs organized in collaboration with all the provinces: a second novitiate, a meeting of the theology students, a meeting of young friars five years ordained. In particular, they also discussed in more detail the intensive course for the Indians engaged in formation which will be organized by the Definitory from the 25th of September until the 7th of October this year, in which it is expected forty-two friars will take part.

The Discalced Carmelites return to Kaunas (Lithuania)

On July 30th of this year, the Warsaw Province of the Discalced Carmelite Order reestablished the presence of the Teresian Carmelites in Lithuania after 172 years. On that day, during the solemn Mass celebrated in the Church of the Holy Cross, our Lithuanian brother, Father Valdas Paura, took possession of the parish located in that church in the center of the city of Kaunas.



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News from around the World—Communication 33 (June 2017)

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He is accompanied by Fr. Emilian Bojko, who was a missionary in Burundi and also collaborated with the general delegation of Argentina.

The Provost of Kaunas, Vytautas Grigaravičius, presided over the ceremony, and several priests participated, including the outgoing pastor, Fr. Renaldas Šumbrasuskis. The Carmelite Province of Warsaw was represented by the Provincial, Father Jan Piotr Malicki, and two provincial counsellors, Fr. Gregorio A. Malec and Fr. Robert Marciniak.

In the homily, Provost Vytautas recalled the historic importance of this restoration of the Discalced Carmelite presence given the profound relationship of the Teresian Carmel with Lithuania. The presence of the Teresian Carmel dates to 1770 (Carmelites resided in this same church until 1845) and was interrupted by the Soviet occupation of the country in 1946. The brothers residing in Lithuania join the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Paštuva and the OCDS communities in Kaunas and Vilnius.

Fr. Robert M. Marciniak, OCD

Web page of the Carmelite parish of Kaunas:
<http://www.karmelituparapija.lt/kalbos/en/>

OCDS National Assembly of Peru



Between the 2nd and the 4th of June this year, members of the OCDS communities of Trujillo, Lima, Ica, Arequipa, Abancay and Cuzco gathered together in the seminary of the Discalced Carmelite friars in Lima for their national assembly.

Formation was a strong point of the meeting, with conferences on the person of Josefa Naval y Girbés, the relationship of Saint Teresa of Jesus with the laity, the importance of fraternity in the communities, the role of the President and the Council in the communities.

There was also time to weigh up life as it really is in the communities of the Peruvian Secular Carmel and to reflect, in turn, on the letter sent by the Superior General, Fr Saverio Cannistrà, to all the OCDS communities throughout the world.

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Finally, there was the election of the new OCDS national council in Peru, for a period of three years. The results were as follows:

President: Lucio Muguerza Terrones, San José OCDS - Lima Formation: Blanca Margarita Canale Romero, San José OCDS – Lima Council Secretary: Hipólito Wilberto Rodríguez Chonta, OCDS - Ica Council Bursar: Lesly del Pilar Igreda Chaupis, San José OCDS – Lima

Councillor for Spirituality: Marianela Aneni Saavedra Abad, OCDS – Trujillo

The duty of this Council will be to promote the formation of the communities as well as drawing up a National Plan of formation for the OCDS, together with the preparation of the II OCDS National Meeting, which will take place in September in Abancay and the OCDS meeting of Bolivian CICLA.

The brothers and sisters of the Secular Carmel were assisted in their discussions by the Commissar, Fr Alfredo Amesti, as well others friars from the Discalced Carmel. The communion experienced in these days will continue on in the certainty that “we are, and will continue to be, united in prayer.”



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News from around the World—Extraordinary Definitory

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As we have been reporting in detail on our Web page and social media, we held an Extraordinary Definitory in Ariccia, Rome, from August 29th to September 6th in the Pauline family's "Divin Maestro" retreat house.

The Definitory was divided into three parts: first, the Father General reported on the state of the Order to the major superiors; then the Vicar General reported on the status of the rereading of the Constitutions, a process which was decided upon in the 2015 General Chapter in Ávila. In these first two parts, the representatives of the Circumscriptions were asked to collaborate and express opinions by geographical area.

Lastly, the Superiors – some of who are new to their office – received a formation mini-course developed with help from the General government with the goal of helping the Superiors inspire their Circumscriptions.

The Definitory ended with an interesting conference by Father Agustí Borrell, Vicar General, on religious that are present in the territories of other Circumscriptions. He will send a document to the entire Order for reflection and study. Along the same lines, Father Saverio, Superior General, met with all his Definitors from September 6th through 12th in an ordinary Definitory to analyze the results of the meeting of Ariccia and study the contributions of the regional Superiors.



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News from around the World—Fourth Carmelite Youth Meeting—Peru

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A Carmelite Youth meeting was held from August 4th through 6th in Ica, Peru, in which 130 young people participated. They were called together by Saint John of the Cross under the slogan “Reveal your presence.”

Rediscovering the person of the Holy Father was a rich grace. The young people learned about his life and his message and broached his poetry and spirituality. Presentations ran the gamut from simple talks to reading his works directly. It allowed them to discover the message of joy and hope that our father Saint John of the Cross offers and opened a door to fall more in love with God and grow in human love.

The meeting closed with a solemn Mass at the feet of the Lord of Luren in the provisional chapel in which the Discalced Carmelites of Ica celebrate parish life since the earthquake of 2017.

For more information visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jovenesocdperu/>



News from around the Province

News from Little Rock OCDS

Our Little Rock Community of Blessed Anne of Saint Bartholomew was blessed May 13, 2017, to have four Clothings in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and two Promises at Marylake with Father Raphael Kitz, OCD, presiding. Following the Mass and Rites we enjoyed a potluck luncheon with the Marylake Fathers and guests.

Shown in the photo, left to right, are Jeannine Hart, Aspirancy formator; Joanie Goodwin, President; newly Clothed members Elizabeth Pierre, Tammy Ashcraft, Ken Swink, and Jan Swink; Pam McCullough, who made her First Promise; Ellen Bucolo, who made her Definitive Promise; and Nancy Lowry, Formation Director.



On June 10, 2017, we were again blessed to have Pat Taylor make her Definitive Promise at Carmel of Saint Teresa of Jesus in Little Rock during Mass, with Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD, presiding. After the Mass and Promise Rite we had a reception for Pat and her husband Dr. Miguel Aguinaga, OCDS, and their children, who were moving to Virginia.

Shown in the photo, left to right, are Joanie Goodwin, President; Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD; Pat Taylor; and Nancy Lowry, Formation Director



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News from around the Province

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Canonical Erection of Lawrenceville Community

The Secular Discalced Carmelite Community of St. Therese, the Little Flower in Lawrenceville, GA has recently gained canonical status. They were officially declared a canonical community on August 12, 2017.

Our community of St. Therese the Little Flower, started on March 5, 2002 with 16 people who met in the back of the Angel's Prayer Catholic Gift and Book store in Lilburn, GA. In June 2003, we had our first meeting at St. Marguerite d' Youville Parish in Lawrenceville where we currently hold meetings on the second Saturday of each month. The community now has 28 members from 12 parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

We were privileged to have with us at our celebration, Provincial Delegate, Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD who presided at the Canonical ceremony and our Spiritual Assistant, Father Kevin Hargaden. Father Hargaden is a diocesan priest and Pastor of St. Matthew parish in Tyrone, GA. We are grateful to both for their support and guidance during our years as a Study Group and look forward to their continued support as we begin the next part of our journey in Carmel.



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Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at Covington Discalced Carmelite Monastery



Joy was in the air on July 16, 2017 when all Discalced Carmelites from the Covington Communities and New Orleans Community came together to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The Covington Communities had suffered the losses of Sister Miriam, as well as, our brothers Cliff Brown and Roy Simon in June and early July, 2017. On this day however, all community members set aside our grief and came together to honor the Queen and Beauty of Carmel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in celebration of Our Lady's feast day.

The occasion was festive and warm with all communities joining together for pot luck lunch and a beautiful cake supplied by the New Orleans Community. We all participated in Vespers in the Guardian Angel Chapel and we were led by the beautiful voices of our Nuns.

It was an occasion I will remember as a triumph over sadness in our Communities. The character and joy shared with us by our amazing Carmelite nuns, carried the celebration heavenward and joyfully to honor Our Lady on this bittersweet occasion.



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News from around the Province

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Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on July 16th Carmelite Monastery on Terry Road, Jackson, Mississippi

The small chapel in the Carmelite Monastery on Terry Road was overflowing with friends and supporters of the Carmelite nuns and Carmelite Seculars during Mass at 6:30p.m. on Sunday evening, July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This, too, was the final day of the Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel which began on Sat., July 8 and continued with daily Masses and Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Celebrants and choirs were from different parishes in the Jackson area each day of the Novena. The Seculars had the nuns join their voices together and became a choir, leading the singing on the 9th day of the Novena, July 15.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the Seculars assisted at Mass as Lectors. St. Richard Catholic Church Choir graced the chapel with beautiful harmony. The Main Celebrant was Fr. Jeremy Tobin, O. Praem. and Fr. Kevin Slattery, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Jackson concelebrated the Mass. The Homilist was Deacon Denzil Lobo. Deacon Lobo reminded the congregation that when Mary stood under the cross with John, the beloved disciple, she then understood Simeon's prophecy, "Your heart will be pierced by a sword." Looking down and seeing his mother with his beloved disciple, Jesus passed the responsibility of taking care of his mother to him. John then took her into his heart and his home. Just like John accepted Mary into His home, Jesus invites us to accept Mary into our hearts and homes. Mary is now our mother and prays for us, her children, and we, in turn invoke her protection and intercession. After the Mass, all were invited to a delicious reception on the lawn of the Monastery catered by the Catholic Filipino Community and the Carmelite Seculars.



Juanita Butler, OCDS; Elmina Johnson, OCDS;
Asuncion Cannon (CLOTHED); Melody Villa;
Helen Jones, OCDS in 2nd row.



Taken during the Mass
during the Entrance Procession

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News from around the Province

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OCD Carmelite Sisters
Sr. Margaret Mary
(in wheelchair);
Sr. Marie (kneeling);
Sr. Mary Jane (Prioress);
Sr. Pauline;
Sr. Dona Marie (not pictured)



News from around the Province

Temporary and Definitive Promise — Community of Mary, Mother of Grace, Lafayette, LA

On October 15, 2017 the Community of Mary, Mother of Grace, Lafayette, Louisiana received the Temporary and Definitive Promise from Rose Mary Corman and Kathleen Short, respectively, during a mass celebrating the Solemnity of Holy Mother, Saint Teresa of Jesus at the Carmelite Monastery.



Father Conley Bertrand, OCDS,
Spiritual Assistant
accepts the promises from
(Left-Right):
Rose Mary Corman, OCDS and
Kathleen Short, OCDS



Rose Mary Corman, OCDS,
(Below)
returns to her seat after
professing her
Temporary Promise

Carmelite Obituaries



Mazel Breaux, OCDS

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

Submitted by Dossie Darby, OCDS

Mazel Breaux, age 84, of St. Martinville, Louisiana passed away Wednesday, February 22. She was a devout Catholic and long-time parishioner of St Martin de Tours Catholic Church. She helped coordinate the Novena Tradition at her church parish. Mazel was an extraordinary minister, member of the Catholic Daughters, Ladies Altar Society, ministered to the homebound, and participated in St. Anthony Guild at her church parish. She was a recipient of the Bishop's Award and was a member of the Order of Carmel Discalced Secular.

Mazel of St Anne began her vocation in Carmel on April 21, 1985 as a member of Mary, Mother of Grace OCDS Community of Lafayette, Louisiana. She was Definitively Professed on May 19, 1991. In 1994, Mazel was selected to assist in establishing the newly formed Secular Community in New Iberia, Mary, Beloved of the Trinity. She made a vow of chastity and obedience to God on February 12, 1995. She was a true blessing in our Community and a mentor to many younger members. The charism of Carmel was evident in her life. Though she had been on infirmed status, Mazel continued to live out her vocation as she offered prayer and suffering in union with Jesus.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, February 25, 2017, at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

Mazel is survived by her loving spouse of 66 years, Randall Breaux Sr., her sons Kenneth and wife Becky, Randy Jr. and wife Barbara, daughter Shotsay B. Posciri and husband Mike. She has several grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way.

Mazel touched many lives in her 84 years on earth. She loved spending time with family and visiting with friends, enjoyed fishing and growing roses in her beautiful garden. We believe, it's safe to say, she will be a "beautiful rose" in God's heavenly garden. Rest in peace, gracious lady!



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Peggy Messick Hamilton, OCDS

St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux Carmelite Secular Community
Jackson, Mississippi

October 14, 1932—April 20, 2017

Submitted by Dorothy Ashley, OCDS

The Community of St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux in Jackson, MS mourns the loss of one of our most beloved members, Peggy M. Hamilton, who had the devotional name of St. Anne of the Holy Family. Her interest in Carmel began October 20, 1957 when she visited for the first time. She became what then was called a “Postulant” Feb. 15, 1959. On October 18, 1959, Peggy made her Profession with devotion to “St. Anne of the Holy Family” in the Jackson, MS Community, named at that time, “The Third Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and of the Holy Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus”. Peggy served in many positions in our Community over the years, the first one being that of Secretary in 1963. The vocations of wife and motherhood caused her to resign for a time in 1964. During the years that followed, her beloved OCDS Community was reduced to a Study Group in 1969 due to dwindling attendance and meetings finally halted. It would be 1997, 28 years later, before the Study Group attempted revival. The name of the Study Group was changed to “St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux Discalced Carmelite Secular Community” and Peggy found herself as the **only professed member** among all the rest of us who aspired to become Seculars. She worked selflessly in the years that followed to help our Study Group regain canonical status, holding positions as President (2001-2002) and Formation Director (2003-2005, 2005-2008). Peggy attended workshops to learn the new formation rules and guidelines. Our Community’s Canonical status was regained on March 26, 2008, during the Octave of Easter. Peggy served as a Councilor (2008-2011, 2011-2014). She attended annual retreats with our Community in Mobile, AL at the invitation of the Mobile OCDS Community until her husband’s health began to fail and she stayed behind to care for him – continuing to live her vocation as a loving, devoted wife, mother, and, grandmother while still being able to attend the monthly Community meetings until December 2016 when both she and her husband required more medical attention and assistance at home. The Lord allowed them to eventually sell their home and move into a beautiful Catholic retirement community with different levels of care, depending on the need.

Peggy was born to Edward Bennett Messick and Anne Bordeon Messick on October 14, 1932 in Marksville, LA. She was a graduate of LSU and worked as a teacher in TX, AL, and MS. Later in life, she returned to school and graduated from the University of MS Medical Center where she worked as a cytotechnologist until her retirement after 25 years. Peg’s devout faith was a light for her family and friends. She was a longtime volunteer for Birthright of Jackson. After making her profession into the Secular Order of Carmel, she became even more prayerful and recollected over the years. She was a true contemplative. The Lord allowed her to live to be in holy matrimony 63 years with her loving devoted husband, George C. “Rowdy” Hamilton, MD, to raise 7 children and be blessed with 24 grandchildren. One daughter, granddaughter, sister, and brother preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband and a brother.

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Carmelite Obituaries

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Yvonne Campanile Plauche, OCDS

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

Submitted by Dana Barton OCDS

The Community of St. John of the Cross & St Anthony announce the passing of our dear member of Carmel on June 24, 2017. Yvonne was a faithful member of our community.

She was clothed on May 4, 1982 by Reverend John Michael Payne, OCD. Yvonne's first promise was made on April 1, 1984. Reverend John Michael, OCD was the celebrant. Also in attendance for her first promise was Bishop Stanley Ott. The Mass of her final promise was celebrated on March 15, 1987 by Reverend Raphael Katz, OCD.

Throughout her many years in Carmel, Yvonne served our community in many ways. She was on the Refreshment Committee, Telephone Committee, Liaison with the Missionary Sisters of Charity Apostolate. She was also the Formator for the Two Year Class. Her husband was also in our community as was her daughter for several years.

Yvonne was a ray of sunshine in our community. We will forever miss her and her beautiful smile.



Michael "Mike" William Gareri, OCDS

Birmingham, Alabama

Submitted by Thais M Serio, OCDS

Michael "Mike" William Gareri, age 62 of Huntsville, passed from this life, at his home. He was born July 17, 1955, in Ravenna, Ohio, to Joseph R. and Shirley (Gahagan) Gareri. Mike was a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force. An avid Second Amendment supporter, he was a former competitive shooter. He also enjoyed seeing the United States from the seat of his motorcycle. His Roman Catholic faith was a vital part of Mike's life and he was humbled to serve as a member of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, Birmingham Chapter. He made friends wherever he went, and leaves behind many who mourn his passing, from his family and neighbors to friends and coworkers, including those at his role at AT&T, where he was a Specialist -Client Tech Administrator.

Survivors include his fiancé, Nannette Kilbey-Smith of La Vernia, Texas; four children, Catina Gareri, Marty Gareri, and wife Jennifer, Christopher Gareri, and Kristen Bolding, and husband Adam; three brothers Bob Gareri, and wife Vicki, Joe Gareri, and Jeff Gareri, and wife Kelly; six grandchildren Hunter Linville, Weston Stiles, Madison Gareri, Austin Stiles, Joey Gareri, and Jacob Gareri; Nannette's children, Kieran and Isabel Smith; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

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“Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.” (St. Teresa of Avila)

Helen Marie Bradley Sharp, OCDS
Little Rock, Arkansas

Submitted by Nancy Lowry, OCDS, and Tricia Cromwell, OCDS

Born November 17, 1926, OCDS Little Rock member Helen Marie Bradley Sharp, 90, died July 22, 2017. she was preceded in death by her beloved husband Jack and their daughter Nancy Sue Moore; her parents, L.H. and Alice Bradley; and her sister Juanita Gray. She is survived by her sister Ruth Beckius of Little Rock and a host of loving family and friends.

Helen served our Little Rock Community of Blessed Anne of Saint Bartholomew as secretary from 1999-2005. She was clothed in 1995 and made her First Promise in 1998 and her Definitive Promise in 2001. Helen also served some years as secretary of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church. She loved to paint and travel.

Helen was a wonderful gift to our community and to the world for her willingness to serve joyfully. When talking to us in the evening she would say, “Sleep with the angels.” We will miss her and pray that heaven rejoices at her homecoming.



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Roy Joseph Simon, Jr., OCDS

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit in Covington, LA

Submitted by Mary Engler, OCDS

Like many of the OCDS Communities around the world, Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit in Covington, LA has become a tight, close-knit family of members.

And, just a like family, we enjoy the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of the lives of all our brothers and sisters in our Carmelite Community.

It is with great sadness that our Community experienced the loss of one of our beloved, long-time members, Roy Joseph Simon, Jr. on July 1, 2017.

Roy was born on King's Day – January 6, 1940. He married Patricia Malone on May 28, 1960 and together, they had a wonderful, loving family. Pat is also a professed member of our Community and past President.

Roy professed his definitive promise in the Order of Discalced Carmelites Secular on January 16, 2010 and took the name Roy of St. Simon Stock. Roy was an active Community member. He organized the set up and take down of The Mass of the Roses for many years and participated in formation of our community members.

Roy was especially relied upon for three very important formation contributions. Roy taught our members about the origins of the Carmelite Order and relied upon the text, *Journey to Carith* to do so. He spoke eloquently and authoritatively about the truth and historical importance of the origins of the Order. Roy also taught us about the Foundress of the New Orleans Community of Discalced Carmelites *from its origins in 1877*.

Roy based his teaching on the writings of Sister Aletheia Kane, OCD. She contributed to a text called "Religious Pioneers – Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans." Roy knew all about our Foundress, Mother Teresa of Jesus Roman and her roots at the renowned Oak Alley Plantation. Finally, Roy was depended upon to teach us about the Martyrs of Compiègne and the New Orleans connection to their declaration as Saints. Roy was our resident historian about the origins of Carmel in the world as well as the origins of Carmel in Louisiana and their connection by means of a miracle to the wider Carmelite community.

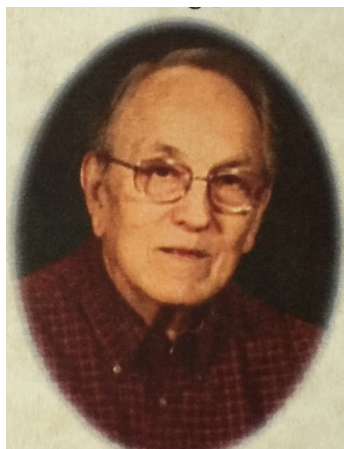
Roy will be greatly missed; but, all of us who had the privilege to know him will continue to feel his presence among us through all he shared unselfishly with our community.



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Carmelite Obituaries

(Continued from page 33)



Louis Forrest Neck, Jr., OCDS

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

Submitted by Dana Barton OCDS

The Baton Rouge Carmelite Community of St. John of the Cross & St. Anthony sadly announce the passing of our faithful member Louis Forrest Neck, Jr. on July 26, 2017.

Louis was clothed on May 4, 1982 by Reverend John Michael Payne, OCD. He made his first promise on April 1, 1984. This Mass was also celebrated by Reverend John Michael Payne, OCD. Reverend Raphael Kitz, OCD, celebrated his final promise mass on March 15, 1987.

Louis worked hard for our community. He served as a council member, president, and treasurer and always helped out with other committees.

Louis had many talents. He was a magician and enjoyed performing at birthday parties and gatherings. He was an accomplished draftsman and designed many lovely homes for people all over Louisiana. Louis was also a published author.

Our community will certainly miss his gentle & quiet spirit.



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Mary Sanford, OCDS

St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face
Houston, Texas

Submitted by Teresa Ann Langford, OCDS

Mary Sanford, OCDS, a Professed member of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, Houston Texas, entered eternal life on August 2, 2017. Mary made her Definitive Promise on September 21, 2014. Mary chose Maria de Jesus as her devotional name.

Mary died at home surrounded by her two children, grandchildren and some of her great grandchildren. She was an active member of St Joseph-St. Stephen's Parish in Houston, until cancer claimed her health and life. She was a member of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face for 11 years, and at the time of her death, she was the Director of Formation. Visitation and Funeral Mass were held at St Joseph-St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Houston, TX with Internment at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, following the Mass.

Though cancer may have claimed her life, it did not claim her heart and soul, which belonged to Carmel. She will be greatly missed for her total dedication to the Carmelite call, her humble attitude and obedience. But, most of all, she will be missed for her selfless manner. At the Heights Funeral Home, the day before her funeral, Deacon Lupe Trevino shared that Mary had been an outstanding woman, who prayed and supported him throughout his studies for the Diaconate. He described the many apostolates that she participated in including the Cursillo, the Catholic Daughters, and ministry at the Correctional Program for the Juvenile Community. Her family testified to her courage and commitment to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Later that week, Deacon Glenn Pennel also shared stories about the commitment. Mary also supported him through his Diaconate, and supported several other men and women who had chosen the Religious life.

As she studied Carmelite Spirituality she began to dedicate her time and effort to advanced Carmelite studies and made Carmel her priority. She became very devoted to St Teresa of Jesus, St John of the Cross, and their writings. Mary was a Formator and shared her knowledge and love of Carmelite spirituality with OCDS candidates. Mary demonstrated her love and sincere desire to live the Secular Discalced Carmelite life. Mary was a blessing to her family, to the Order of Discalced Secular Carmelites, and to St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. We will miss her and will never forget her. May she rest in peace. +



Parting Words

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Province, which has jurisdiction over O.C.D.S. members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas. For subscription information contact Jeannine Meaux at jtmeaux@cox.net



*Heavenly Father,
We ask You to bless us as we prepare for our
2017 Regional Congress in San Antonio.
May we be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit
as we focus on our vocation of love,
the true heart of the Church.
Guide and strengthen us as we work together.
Help us to overcome any difficulties that may come our way.
Grant that our Congress will be a grace-filled event for all.
Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God and Queen of Carmel,
may we each do whatever we can to help “put love where
there is no love, so we may find love in the Church,
In our families and in the world”.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Getting the Flos Carmeli to members

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

Provincial Council for the 2017-2020 Triennium:

Claire Bloodgood, Georgetown, TX—President

Jo Ann Murphy, Austin, TX

John Stevens, McAllen, TX

Anna Peterson, San Antonio, TX

Mary Therese Bellman, Grand Prairie, TX