

Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Spring 2017

Volume XXVII No. 2



From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Greeting Carmelites,

First of all, I want to thank our outgoing President and Council members, Mary Kay Daniels, Chris Wood, and Kathy Dewine, for their unfailing service to the province and for their friendship and warmth. They will be missed.

Second, my thanks to those who have sent me their congratulations (and condolences). I will do my best to fill these very large shoes. Please keep the whole Provincial Council in prayer.

Response to the new statutes has been overwhelmingly positive. We couldn't have done it without your help. The formation guidelines are coming along nicely. We hope to have them out to communities for review and feedback this summer or early fall. There will not only be guidance on formation leading to the Promise, but help for community formation and ongoing formation for definitively professed members as well.

In 2017 the Provincial Council will begin updating provincial policies to be in line with the statutes. They will be posted to the provincial website as they are completed, and we'll keep you informed as we go along. Going forward, articles in the Flos should be considered "commentary"; policies posted on the website are "official" and supersede anything in print.

Province-wide support for the 2017 OCDS Congress has been impressive. Communities are really pulling together, and it promises to be a terrific Congress. This is our "family reunion," our chance to learn, share, and connect with our Carmelite brothers and sisters – not to mention our Carmelite Fathers! I hope to see all my old friends there, and many more who have not been to a congress before.

Please remember to send representatives to the Plenary Council meeting, which is held during the congress. Each canonical community sends their President and a member chosen at large by the community. Study Groups send one representative. Please do make every effort; it is important that your voice is heard. If your President is not able to attend, your Formation Director or another council member may sub.

Easter brings new hope to each and every one of us. Christ is the sign and pledge of our own promised resurrection. God also gives a reminder in the renewal of his creation after the hardships of winter. Being a Texan, I can't resist sharing some bluebonnets. God bless all of y'all.

Your servant in Carmel,

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



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A Fond Farewell

By Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in our OCDS Oklahoma Province,

Over this past Triennium, the Provincial Council has made some substantial strides forward. Among these were:

- We worked hard to make the triennial Plenary Council meeting an event of true collaboration.
- We co-sponsored the Houston Celebration honoring our Holy Mother Teresa's 500th birthday anniversary.
- We revised our Statutes which is required to be done by our Constitutions every ten years.
- We significantly simplified community administrative work (permanent record form in test trial now and soon to be on its way to you).
- We launched the Formation Goals Updating Team.
- We expanded the way the PC communicates with Communities, by using both emails to get our information more promptly in addition to our Province's quarterly FLOS.
- And we created a new way to organize our Congresses involving participation of all Province members.

More importantly, we as a team, prayed together and "lived love with integrity", and kept our momentum as we gave our best efforts to implement our Vision Statement for the 2014-2017 Triennium which was to support each of you "in living our vocation of seeking union with God through commitment to daily mental prayer, growing in the spirit of the evangelical counsels and the beatitudes, doing God's Will by good works, and by making known Christ's mercies that His name may be more praised and glorified. (IC VII: 1, 1) We also brought our triennial Mission Statement to life, which was: to provide needed service to you, individually and as communities, to strengthen and nourish the development of our Carmelite vocation, so that all can "walk, and be underway,"*, doing all we can to live the Gospel and bring our spirituality into the world." (*Conclusive Document 91st Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, Avila, Spain, May 2-24, 2015, Father P. Alzinir Debastiani, General Delegate OCDS)

It has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know many of you through these past 6 years of service to the PC as OCDS President and as a Councilor. I most sincerely thank you for all of your prayers, support, cooperation to get things done, and especially for sharing the treasure of your beautiful faith with me. I hold each of you dearly in my heart.

Let's continue to pray for one another as our Holy Spirit leads us forward!

May Our Lord's finest Blessings be upon our new Provincial Council!

Love in Carmel,

Mary Kay Daniels, OCDS

OCDS President, Oklahoma Province, 2014-2017 Triennium



*He is risen! May the grace of Easter fill your hearts,
with love from your Provincial Council
Claire Bloodgood, Joann Murphy, Anna Peterson, Mary Bellman, John Stevens*

The PC Channel—Useful Tidbits to Know

Communities' Questions about the Statutes (part 2)*

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

Devotional Titles

Why do we have to keep our baptismal name? Why can't we take a religious name as well as a devotional title? What about our members who took a religious name back when it was allowed?

This is not a change from the previous statutes. Taking a name in religion is not appropriate for us, who (for the most part) remain members of the laity.

Going forward, standard practice is a simple title of devotion, reflecting the member's spiritual focus or personal aspirations, if the member wishes to take one. However, there is no intent to take away anyone's name in religion if they already have one.

Just to be clear, "Susan Smith" could not become "Teresa of the Holy Cross" (which is a religious name), but might choose Susan Smith "of St. Teresa" or Susan Smith "of the Holy Cross" (which are titles of devotion).

Additionally, communities should use the members' legal names for documents of the community, such as minutes and attendance records.

We would like to share Fr. Bonaventure's comments on the topic of taking a name in religion.



Maybe a comment or two from me might help here. I doubt the practice was widespread, of taking a religious name. It would have been most prevalent among older communities, going back to the 50s, and ones closely associated with the nuns. Of course, it would have derived from imitating the practice of the nuns (and friars) and from the old, pre-conciliar understanding of the vocation. (It's hard for us to remember at times how much the Vatican Council did for the full recognition of distinctively lay vocations.)

There's also the international perspective to keep in mind. In other countries OCDS still wear a kind of habit. For example, in the Philippines they really do look like religious. Here that's never been the case, as far as I know, except for the practice of letting a Secular be buried in the full habit.

Thus, your Constitutions ask for the Statutes to define the form and use of these external signs of being a Secular, among which would be the habit, the Scapular, and other practices like taking a name "in religion" – that's the technical expression, not "taking a religious name," but "taking a name in religion" – and/or a devotional title.

It was only with the Statutes, then, that all this became specified in our province. Of course, no one is making a judgment on the older practice, which came from a different experience and era. Although it is true that history is constantly making judgments on itself. Thus, things change and we get some semblance of progress.

With the new Statutes, besides limiting your practice to the ceremonial scapular, you also stipulate only devotional titles, no names in religion. The thinking was to do away with those practices that tend to assimilate the OCDS to the nuns, in order to preserve the distinctively lay character of the vocation.

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The PC Channel—Useful Tidbits to Know

Communities' Questions about the Statutes (part 2)*

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

(Continued from page 4)

Apostolates

Why can't a community choose a different apostolate besides teaching Carmelite spirituality? This seems to take away from the community's independence.

This also is nothing new. Spreading Carmelite spirituality is the mission of the Order, and therefore our mission as OCDS as well. This can take many forms; it does not have to be a formal class taught by OCDS members.

As Carmelite Seculars, our primary sphere of influence is in the world, which is hungering and thirsting for God. It is of particular urgency that we, living in the world, share the gift of Carmelite spirituality with others.

Communities are welcome to have secondary apostolates in service of the Church and the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

Since all members are supposed to help with the apostolate, what if a member is too sick or lives too far away?

This would be for the local Council to address. It is perfectly acceptable for an infirm member to help as a "prayer warrior." Apostolates do not bear fruit unless powered by prayer.

The local Council should be able to find some role for a member who lives too far away to help on the spot. Perhaps they can do artwork or computer work. It can be a challenge to nurture the connection with isolate members. This is an opportunity to make them feel part of the community.

Mary: Mother, Sister, and Model

We were distressed that you changed so much of the devotional language in the section on Mother Mary. It felt like it diminished her importance. Can we honor Our Blessed Mother Mary too much?

Mary's importance in the Order is tremendous. Our goal in that change of wording was to re-center on that essential and distinctive aspect of Carmelite Marian devotion – Mary as mother, companion, and model of interior prayer and discipleship.

As for the question, can we honor Mary too much? To be honest, one can have an unbalanced devotion to Mary. It's not likely in a Carmelite Secular who has had good formation in the faith and in Carmelite spirituality, but it is possible.

Feast Days and Fasting

Why the change from "Our Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel" to just plain "Our Lady of Mount Carmel"?

We used the title given in the Roman calendar and the Carmelite proper.

*Part 1 was published in the Winter, 2017 issue of the Flos Carmeli

The PC Channel—Useful Tidbits to Know

Just in Time Advice for new Councils

By Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS

First of all, thank you for agreeing to share yourself, your gifts and your time as a member of your Community's Council for the next Triennium! The Holy Spirit will certainly not let you down for saying "yes," but will provide you with amazing graces as you serve out your term.

It is always a good idea to review during one of your first meetings together what the Constitutions and Statutes say about your roles and responsibilities as Council members. You will discover that the Council itself is the immediate authority of the OCDS Community, not the President or Director of Formation, and that leadership is shared equally by all members of the Council. This is quite different from what you may experience in other groups where one person acts as the "highest" authority and "leader" of the group. This means that each member of the Council has the responsibility to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and weigh in by sharing their inspiration, wisdom and ideas. It is helpful to try and shed any purely human notions you might have and really open yourself up to where the Holy Spirit is leading you. What is important is that each member of the Council have an active voice in discussions and not leave this up to one or two individuals. Once all opinions are heard and discussed freely, then the Council can come to the best conclusion. One member should never feel shy about sharing an opinion that is different from that of another. It is not a personal rejection of the other person's idea, but simply a different perspective, one that is needed if the Council is to function in a healthy way.

The President is responsible for arranging Council meetings, setting the Agenda (with input from other Council members), presiding at the meeting, and being the spokesperson for the Council. The President makes sure each Council member weighs in during a discussion. And the Council as a whole makes decisions regarding Community expenditures, setting the Budget for the current year, deciding on Formators for classes and reviewing the lesson plans for all formation classes. The most important and challenging task of the Council is to make discernments regarding the status of members (entry into the Community, admittance to Clothing, Promises, the vow, etc.) and to track their progress in formation throughout the year.

The Director of Formation may make recommendations to the Council regarding the best Formators for classes, material to be used in formation classes, etc., but the Council must weigh in and discern, with the help of the Holy Spirit, whether this plan is best for the Community. Again, each Council member must contribute to this discussion in order to fulfill their responsibility to the Community. Even if they agree with the recommendations, they should be able to say why they agree with them, and not just say "That is ok with me." Of course, it is always easier to "go with the flow" and not create "waves" by jumping in with a minority opinion, but this is a temptation you should try to recognize and overcome during your tenure on the Council. Your voice is an important, even crucial, one!

Even though each Council member shares equal responsibility and leadership, only the President acts as the voice to and for the Community. In other words, you can't have five different leaders each giving different orders to the same person in the Community! And you cannot have any one person on the Council representing the Community to outside organizations without the knowledge and express approval of the entire Council.

An effective Council is one in which each member accepts responsibility for the whole Community, contributes freely during Council meetings, prays, prays, prays before making a discernment, and makes sure all persons on the Council are equally aware of any Community issues. In other words, if a member sends you an email with a question or about an issue, the entire Council is always copied on the response.

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The PC Channel—Useful Tidbits to Know

Just in Time Advice for new Councils

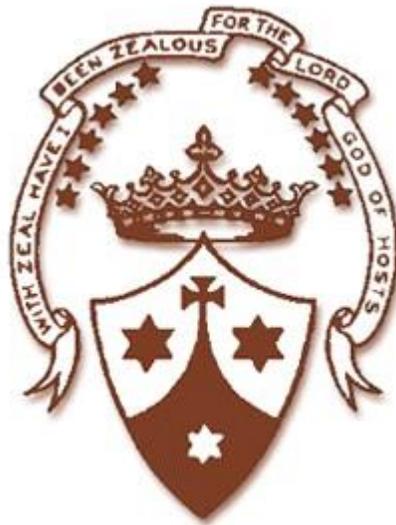
By Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS

(Continued from page 6)

Finally, if a Council determines that one of its members cannot function effectively for any reason it is incumbent on the Council to discuss this freely and openly in order to make a determination as to whether that person should step down and another be named. Being a Council member is not an honorary position! If you are not able to participate on a regular basis as a Council member, you should take the initiative to bring this issue to the entire Council. Then the Council as a whole decides on the best option going forward.

Please feel free to consult with a member of the Provincial Council if you need assistance, and remember to remain open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in all you do. May God bless you all abundantly for your tireless service to Him and your Communities!

[Note: There is wonderful guidance for Councils on the OCDS Provincial website (thereseocds.org) under [Best Practices/Council.](#)]



The PC Channel—Useful Tidbits to Know

Attracting New Vocations – Let’s Get the Word Out

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS

Some of you have asked for guidelines on “getting the word out.” This is very important if the OCDS is to survive and thrive in the province. Many communities are not attracting enough new members to replace those who are becoming aged and infirm.

In the past, “advertising” was frowned upon. The feeling was that the Holy Spirit would draw the people he wants. This is true, He does call people, and can intervene when He sees fit. However it is also true that God normally works through human beings (that’s us!). It is up to us to make the Order easy to find – visible – to those He is calling. (Romans 10:14)

Here are some approaches that have been seen around our province.

Word of mouth. Members actively invite others to look into the OCDS. Keep your eyes open and don’t be shy when you see potential. One OCDS member in a parish bible study brought in a dozen inquirers in the course of a few years.

Most communities have a **brochure** for members to give out. The brochures explain briefly who and what we are, and whom to contact for more information. These brochures may, with the pastor’s permission, be placed in the church. Don’t limit yourself to one parish! Anything within driving distance is fair game. Here’s a sample brochure you may adapt (click on “Aspirancy brochure”) <http://www.thereocds.org/forms.html>. Feel free to create your own.

Notices in **parish bulletins** are popular and cost nothing. Again, every parish within an hour’s drive should receive information for their bulletins. If they don’t want to insert a notice, the community might **buy an ad** for the year.

Some communities have their meetings listed in the **parish calendar** and their contact information on the **parish ministries web page**. Again, it raises awareness.

Promise ceremonies at a regular parish Mass make the community more visible. So does attending **feast day Masses together**, wearing the scapular. Some communities are able to set up a display highlighting the saint being celebrated. Something for people to take – holy cards, scapulars, etc. – is a nice touch. And of course the community brochure.

Outreach, outreach, outreach. That means **apostolate**, spreading Carmelite spirituality. The more Carmelites get out there and talk to people, the more people see and are attracted to the Carmelites.

- **Classes and talks** are a mainstay.
- **Retreats and days of reflection** open to the public also attract new people.
- Consider Carmelite-themed **articles for city and diocesan papers**;
- Arrange an interview for the local **Catholic radio**.
- Many communities have a **website**, a **blog**, or other form of presence on **social media**. These are especially attractive to younger people. Be sure to include a “for more information” link.

When deciding whether to accept a person for aspirancy, keep in mind that aspirancy is a “getting-to-know-you” time. We don’t expect the level of spiritual maturity we would want to see in a person entering preparation for the Promise. Are they practicing Catholics, are they interested in a deeper prayer life, do they seem able to get along with others, and do they want to learn more about Carmel? That is enough to begin with.

The year of aspirancy will show whether there is a possible vocation: attraction to Carmelite spirituality, perseverance in prayer, interest in the studies, able to form community, and a good fit with work and family responsibilities.



Congress Tidings of Love

Congress will be here in a “blink of an eye!” With less than seven months to go, your Congress Planning Team continues its work to make this 2017 Congress a holy and memorable experience for all.

We are very grateful to those communities and individual members who have stepped up to the plate by volunteering their time, talent and treasure, as well as to all who made donations to help defray Congress costs.

As of April 1st, 204 registrations have been received. If this trend continues, we estimate that the 400-maximum limit will be met by June. If you're planning to attend Congress, it's highly recommended that you register within the next 2 months. When we reach 400, Congress registration will be closed.

Visit our Congress website - <http://www.2017ocdscongress.com>

Friendly Reminders

If your community is planning to bring your banner for the Congress processions, RSVP to: ocds2017congress@gmail.com

Send your tote bag treasures today (but no later than May 31st.) Mail to:

Dora Zavala
700 E. 13th Street
Georgetown, TX 78626

Recipes! Recipes! Recipes!

The Congress Cookbook is reserving a place for your favorite family recipe. You name it, we want it!

Especially International and feast day specialties.

Send to:

SusanKing100@gmail.com

(Incl. the name of our community, please.)

Liturgical ministers needed - especially to serve as Leader, Cantor I & II and Reader for LOH Morning Prayer. Contact: Kathy Rasmussen
ocds2017congress@gmail.com

Contact Teresa Sweedyk
doodledoo53@gmail.com if you have a special item for the Congress raffle and/or silent auction.



Thank you to our beloved family of OCD Nuns for their loving prayers and well wishes for a successful Congress. We love you all! (See letters on following pages.)

Kathy Rasmussen, Congress Coordinator
ocdsprojectplan2017@gmail.com

J.M. † J.T.

October 25, 2016
Our Lady of Toledo, Spain

Peace of Christ!
Dear Kathy,



We received your beautiful flyer, "*Putting Love Where There is no Love*", and want to reassure you of our daily prayers for the "2017 Regional Congress". May Mary, Queen and Beauty of Carmel obtain for everyone involved an abundance of graces for families and our world.

We have much to rejoice about this year in Carmel: to finally see our Elizabeth of the Trinity, O.C.D. canonized in Rome on October 16th! We are overjoyed as her message is simple and will help guide souls to live and remain in the Presence of God, dwelling within us!

"I feel that my mission is about to begin, my mission to make God loved as I love him, to teach souls my little way ... the way of trust and absolute self-surrender." --St. Thérèse

"I think my mission in heaven will be to draw souls, helping them go out of themselves to cling to God with a spontaneous, love-filled action let us live with him as with a friend, let us make our faith a living faith in order to be in communion with Him through everything, for that is what makes saints." -- St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



With love and prayers in St. Teresa and St. Thérèse,

*Your Carmelite Nuns
Alhambra, CA*

To our Sisters and Brothers of the Carmelite Family,

The Sioux City Carmelite Nuns are with you in spirit and prayer during this time of preparation and for the final and successful completion of the 2017 OCDS Congress in November in San Antonio.

May our dear Lord bless all of your endeavors, and may all the love and energy you are pouring into give great glory to God.

Your Sioux City Carmelite Nuns



Peace of Christ! February 17, 2017
Dear Kathy,
May God reward you for the lovely prayer in preparation for the OCDS Regional Congress in San Antonio this year. We join you in prayer for all those planning the Congress and all who will participate. May it be a grace-filled time to reflect on your OCDS vocation so that it may bear fruit for the Church and the world.
with our love & prayers,
Sr. Angel & Sisters
New Cany Carmel

Our very dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel

Thank you for sharing with us your beautiful invitation to the 2017 Carmelite Regional Congress in San Antonio. Your ideal to "Put love where there is no love" is the heart of the Gospel and the heart of Carmel, and we join you in earnest prayer for each attending member (and for those who cannot attend for various reasons). We do earnestly pray with you that it will be a grace-filled event that will affect the lives of all. As so many of our Saints have witnessed, Carmel is LOVE and our Third Order Members should be living mirrors of the Divine Love which fills their hearts. We will be earnestly praying that, as each of our Third Order members leave the Regional Congress, they will truly be "Living Flames of Divine Love" to their families, to friends and neighbors, to their Parish and to the world around them.

All here are deeply grateful for the loving, prayerful witness that you do give and assure you of our own continued prayers and union of heart with you. May Our Lady, Queen and Mother of Carmel, continue to be the inspiration and guide of your lives, as hopefully you are an inspiration and example for the lives of those around you.

Very devotedly,

Your Sisters in Lafayette Carmel

Please keep Sister Teresa in your prayers. Thank you!

OCDS Spiritual Corner

[This new section in the FLOS is a venue for OCDS in our Province to share the treasure of their Carmelite spirituality. We hope to publish a couple of these in each issue. Please send your submissions to Jo Ann Murphy at jmurphy12513@gmail.com]

We must not be afraid to be tiny stones

By Cynthia Morales of the Georgetown Community: Triumph of the Cross

My alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin, has a slogan, “What starts here, changes the world.” One way to read this slogan is that success is “doing great things” that have a broad impact. Society places much emphasis on measures of popular impact—how many followers one has on social media, how many products have been sold, how many people have been helped. This focus on quantitative achievement can be discouraging. Most of us are not going to cure a disease, save millions from starvation, or write best-selling books.

But there is a different way to read that slogan. “What starts here” is the key. We forget about the immense impact that “ordinary” people can have on our lives, and so in the world. We tend to confuse greatness with prominence and think that “we” can’t be called to change the world because we are not “great”—we are just “ordinary” people.

It is all too easy as Carmelites to give mere lip service to St. Therese’s Little Way, to acknowledge the value of acting with love even in the smallest of occasions in our lives, and yet still think of ourselves as not “doing anything” because we live “ordinary lives.” But when we do so, we fail to see the actual “greatness” to which God calls us and miss our opportunities to “change the world.”

Throughout history, God has sent the world prophets and witnesses to serve as lights in the darkness, to reveal truth and the path to Him. More than ever, our world needs such prophets and witnesses.

Witnesses today are those who, by the way that they lead their lives, show us that truth, goodness, integrity, and other virtues still exist and can be lived: that we can live as God intended. That the kingdom of God can exist, even if just in this one home, this one workplace, this one person. Because if virtue can exist in one person, that provides hope to all who encounter it. Former First Couple George and Barbara Bush’s very public witness of a loving, and devoted marriage serves as an inspiration and a contradiction in a world where there is much cynicism about the need for or the value of marriage. The joy and love that I saw recently in the face of a fellow Carmelite who is recovering from an auto accident was a blunt reminder to me that it is possible and right to praise God in our hardships, and it is a beautiful thing.

Prophets are those who speak out to bring about God’s kingdom by challenging what contradicts God’s plan. This speaking out need not be formal, public, or combative. You can be a prophet to your own family, friends, and those you meet in the ordinary course of your life. A recent news story detailed how an influential white supremacist renounced his racist views after a fellow college student reached out to him with love and invited him to dinners with Jewish students and minorities. Over the course of a year, as he learned about different faiths and cultures, and experienced the kindness and compassion with which he was treated, he came to see the falsity of his beliefs—all because one student had the courage to invite him to explore a different way.

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OCDS Spiritual Corner

(Continued from page 12)

We tend to undervalue the impact of “changing the world” in these “small” ways, but we as Carmelites should particularly recognize this potential. The world is in desperate need of such proof and reminders that virtuous living is not only important, but possible. We must not undervalue this type of mission. We must not be discouraged if we are not called to “glamorous” missions, or lament that we don’t have the resources or training to do “great things.” To be discouraged would be to undervalue the actual mission that God calls us to right here, right now, in our own homes, families, and communities.

It may be that we are called to be tiny stones, causing ripples that touch others’ lives, impacting people that we have never met. Who can predict the impact of a kindness shown to one person? Or how it might change that person’s life, attitude, future? And who can say how that person might then impact another? We sow, God reaps. Providing glimpses of a better world, a more noble world, the world that God meant us to create here on earth—His kingdom—and proof that it can be, is no small thing. In the face of what can seem like an overwhelming onslaught of discouragement and negativity today, the world need witnesses and prophets more than ever. If that is the mission to which we are called, we should embrace it, rejoice in it, and fulfill its purpose. Be that witness. Be that prophet. *“Change the World.”*

OCDS Spiritual Corner

The Way to Win

by George Wunderlik, OCDS of the Austin, TX Community

I have been a Carmelite for seventy years, after the war and studying at Texas A&M, and it mellowed me. Carmel was formed from a group of hermits who came together. Our present situation is similar as we meet together once a month to learn from the others and older Carmelites but live the rest of the month “alone” in the world where we can practice what we have learned about putting God first and our neighbor as our equal friend. As an Engineer I am happy to say that this practice works for our happiness in the world. Below is a copy of a talk given to students at the University of Texas. I also travel to A&M and give talks there and bring spiritual periodicals, such as the *Spiritual Life*, to the students.



THE WAY OF THE WORD, THE WAY TO WIN

Given by George Wunderlick at the University of Texas Catholic Center in 2013

I am George Wunderlick, and am called Uncle George at the Boys and Girls Club (see videos at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Texas Webpage) where I have for twelve years volunteered to teach tennis. Also, I am a Secular Carmelite. You might not be able to tell it from looking but I am an old man. I am in my 89th year and I have been where some of you might be and where many will be some day. I got to the University at Texas A&M at age 15 in 1940, and after a few years left on a troop train for World War II. After the war I got married and started a family as so many of us (there were sixteen million in the service for the war). Probably some of your fathers or grandfathers came from that time (the baby boomers). In time I had four children (lost one) and adopted two others. Later I lost my parents and my wife. Had gone into business and made millions and lost most of it but I am still comfortable.

St. Augustine said “Late have I loved you, Oh Lord.” I might say “Late have I known Jesus” and learned that He wants us to be friends and nothing else but my happiness, my freedom, and that I would lead a long healthy and abundant life. He also promised that living His way I would find that whatever I might need would fall in my lap. All this He teaches in His Scriptures and through His Church.

Here are some Scriptural quotes that the foregoing was based on:

- Lk 1:68 – Blessed be the Lord God of Israel. He has come to His people and set them free.
- Janes 1:25 – The man that looks steadily at the Perfect Law of Freedom will be happy.
- PS 23 – The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.
- PS 37 – If you find your delight in the Lord, He will grant your heart’s desires.
- Galatians 5 – The signs of the Spirit are love, joy and peace.
- PS 34 – I seek the Lord and He answers me and frees me from fear.
- Prov. 10 – the fear (respect) of the Lord prolongs life. The years of the wicked are brief.
- Phil 4:4 – I want you to be happy, always happy, I repeat I want nothing but your happiness.
- Matt 6:33 – Seek God and His kingdom and all things will be given.
- Deut. 8:19 – Be sure that if you forget the Lord and put other things first, you will perish.
- Jer. 8:23 – Follow right to the end the way I marked out for you and you will prosper.

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OCDS Spiritual Corner

(Continued from page 14)

Lk 8:36-38 – Give. And there will be gifts poured out on your lap, running over
Deut. 10:13 – the laws and commandments are for your own good.

I could go on and on. Most every bit of the Wisdom Books speak of how the Lord rewards His people who put their trust in Him, and most of the Old Testament Historical books speak of how the Lord allowed His people to be defeated when they fell into idolatry, that is putting something ahead of God. From the beginning, Deut. 30:15-17 “See, today I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster...choose...if you keep His laws you will live and increase to the end.” John 15: “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you will get it.”

To bring this to now, if you are led by whatever is popular and do whatever you want to do, you will fall into sin. That is, you will miss the mark. But another way to look at it is that it is just plain stupid to be so proud that you just cannot follow what you really know is best for you. Here is a silly simile: Say that you are looking for a car and go to Mr. Ford and get one. Mr. Ford will give you an Operations Manual and it will tell you to put water in this hole, gas in that one, and oil in another. Now you will find that the car runs well. But if you decide that you want to do it your way and put gas in the oil hole, you will soon get a loud explosion and then a dead pile of junk. The Gospels and the instructions of the Church are your Operations Manual.

One of the things that you will need and that will fall in your lap are tests. In the Church, we call them crosses. In schools we get tests all the time and they may be very distasteful. But their main purpose is not to tell the professor or your parents how well you are doing. But to alert you that you need to study more or better or maybe even to take different courses and in the longer run enable you to pass on to a higher grade. It is so in life. Our tests or crosses are given to us to make us better and stronger and to lift us up. If you notice the advertisements of Gold’s Gym, you will see that they show you a curvaceous girl or a man with washboard abs. When you go into the gym they will give you a small weight to work out with. Soon you will do that well, and then the trainer will give you a heavier weight. James 1:2: “You will always have your trials...treat them as a happy privilege...so that you will become fully developed, complete with nothing missing.”

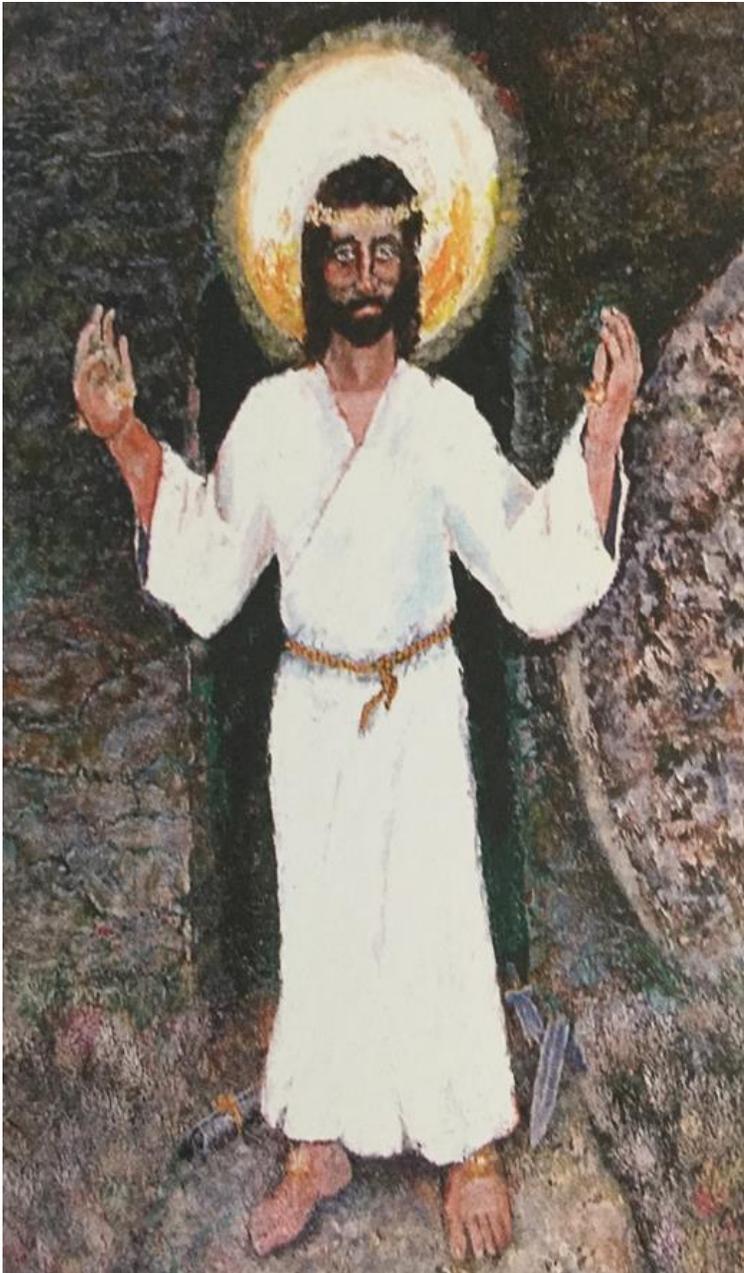
As I said, all this will come to you by getting to know Jesus. And how to do this? You do that the same way you get to know any of your friends. You have conversations with them, hear their life story and in general do things together. So to get to know your Friend Jesus, pick a time every day and spend ten minutes reading the Mass Scriptures for the day. Meditate on them to try to see what they have said and how it might affect your life. Next have a conversation with Jesus about each reading. Finally just rest in the readings with Jesus in faith and do nothing (nada). This is prayer, and nothing could be more profitable. Also prayer serves to inform and inspire you to conform your life to the Way of the Word, The Way to Win. When reading a Bible, know that as there is ONE God, the Bible is ONE book (though written over thousands of years) and that it has ONE author, the Holy Spirit and ONE subject, Jesus the Christ. Remember that the Bible should be read more spiritually and less literally. This is not fast and easy but then what good thing is. But this process will release you from the chains of what the “in” thing is and free you for the fullness of life, the joy of life that all will envy. Bottom line is that if you want something in life, you will get it and even more and it will last for a long time if you follow the Way of the Word. Then you may finally realize that God really cares about you.

(Continued on page 16)

OCDS Spiritual Corner

(Continued from page 15)

Next, look at the picture of Jesus, the Resurrection. He is your Maker and Model as well as your Friend. He is reaching out to you, just to you and He is rejoicing at being the winner over death and the tomb. He wants you to live as He is living and be victorious with Him. On the side of the picture is the way He is living and so must you.



JESUS the RESURRECTION

Alleluia!, Alleluia!, Alleluia!

At each Holy Communion, His Body and His Blood
are united within us and we become a
RESURRECTION PEOPLE
("you in me and I in you") John 14:20c

and so we see that

He chose to spend His very self, even His life,
to absorb all error and violence out of love
so that the many could have life
And So Must We

He leaves the stone cold darkness of death
to live in the warm light of light and love
And So Must We

His wounds have become rays of glory
And So Will Ours

His eyes look out through each's appearances
to see His image and likeness in each one
And So Must We

His arms reach to every one in friendship
with helping hands.
And So Must We

Order copies from George Wunderlick'44OCDS
godseekers.1@juno.com

Note: The Turin Shroud was the model
for the original painting done for
God Seekers, St. Ignatius Martyr Church,
Austin, Texas

(Continued on page 17)

OCDS Spiritual Corner

SCORING FOR THE NOBILITY GAME

(Handout given to the students)

- Any act of courtesy, showing respect to a person, animal or the environment is a Noble Act and wins a point.
- Any Noble Act when rushed, stressed or ill gets double points.
- Desire nothing but to respect every person and thing and you will win triple points.
- Forgiving someone whom you think has offended you wins a thousand Noble Points.
- Should any one bark at you for doing a Noble Act, remember that dogs are chained and you are free to move.
- Should you encounter danger by doing a Noble Act, you have won the game for life.
- Be sly as a fox, if any one gives you praise beyond a simple “thanks”. You do not win points. The person has out-Nobled you.
- Just playing the game brings wonderful rewards which must be accepted with humility.
- Competition is good if it helps your game, not if you enjoy beating someone. Competition to “Out-Noble” someone is good.
- Where there is no respect, put respect and you will find respect.
- Respect parents, elders and persons in authority because their position has been given them for your benefit. You win easy points.
- To go to a place you do not know, NOBILITY, you must go by many tiny Noble Steps.
- You can measure the Nobility of your own mind by noticing your own initial reaction in every situation.
- This game is learned like all others by practice.
- At the end of the day, see if you have earned more noble points than you have lost by not showing respect. Winners are free and strong. Losers are weak and fearful and will never be happy as they respect nothing but their own desires, a pretty empty pit.

This is an open source code game. Please feel free to duplicate and distribute as you see fit.



OCDS Spiritual Corner

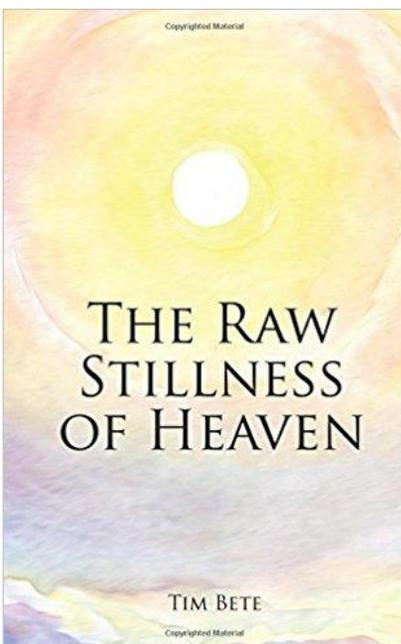
Fr. Bonaventure recommends a new book of poems by Tim Bete, an OCDS he met while attending the OCDS Congress in Milwaukee.

The book review below was written by Mark Danis, OCDS, co-host of *Carmelite Conversations* on Radio Maria, a Catholic Radio Program:

"In this collection of beautiful and soul stirring poems by the new poet, Tim Bete, the reader--or perhaps more appropriately, the contemplative listener--will discover a means of transport into the center of the human encounter with God. Drawing on everything from the earliest and sometimes painful childhood memories, as in 'Hangar Shirts', to the inevitable lifetime journey of the prodigal's return in 'The Longest Road,' Bete's poems have the impact of encouraging the reader to both enter in, and later be drawn back out from our often all too raw human experience. Along the way, and as part of this spiritual exercise of entering in and going forth, Bete uses the powerful imagery of night, nature, snow and silence to paint this picture of encounter, as when in the 'Silent Winter Prayer' he writes, "At that moment, You pierced my heart, fracturing the tabernacle of the woods."

These poems are a powerful and quite enjoyable read in and of themselves, but perhaps the most compelling aspect of this collection is its ability to help us, in a prayerful way, identify and wrestle with our own fragile faith in the midst of a quite unpredictable existence. This is well demonstrated in the poem, "Invocation for a Dying Man." Here Bete invites us to experience the apparent futility of the act of prayer in the midst of pain, "God took the man and we sobbed because God hadn't listened." But then he offers his readers, in the later poem, 'Love's Call,' the hopeful note of victory, transition, encounter and even the vision of an eternal embrace, "Yet death He nimbly smashed, like a fragile earthen vase and called out to His souls, come through this death to Me."

For those who appreciate good poetry, this will be a very enjoyable read. But even more so, for those who seek in poetry an encounter between the interior and the eternal, this collection will serve as fair passage to that rendezvous."



The book is available on Amazon (\$3.99 for the paperback and \$0.99 for the eBook). The link to a sample of three poems may be found at <https://www.amazon.com/Raw-Stillness-Heaven-Tim-Bete/dp/1542803942/>

News from Around the World

This year we celebrate in Fátima, Portugal, the 1st Centenary of the Apparitions of the Virgin Mary to our Sister, in the Carmel, Lucia de Jesus, and to her cousins, the Blessed Jacinta Marto and Francisco Marto.

The Carmelite Order and the Discalced Carmelite Order, motivated by the celebration of the 1st Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima, decided to offer to their own family and to the whole Church an International Marian Congress in order to revive their Marian spirituality, since Carmel is all of Mary.

It was under Mary's inspiration and protection that in the 12th century the first friars gathered at the top of Mount Carmel to cultivate the relationship with the living God. It is with great joy that we invite you to this Congress, sponsored by the general priests of both orders, which will take place from **September 15 to 17, 2017**, in Fatima, Portugal.

We announce an **International Marian Congress**, organized by our Order, with the collaboration of the Carmelite Brothers of the Ancient Observance, with the theme ***“Mary, Mother of the Carmel”***.

We would like to invite you and ask you to help to spread by your communities of friars and secular, not only the website that we are sending, but also the poster and the flyers that are attached.

<https://www.congressomarianocarmelita.com/home>

Let's keep praying to the Virgin Mary and to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Our friendly greeting to each one of you.

By the Organization, Father Joaquim Teixeira, OCD



MARY, MOTHER OF THE CARMEL

INTERNATIONAL MARIAN CONGRESS

On the Centennial of Our
Lady of the Rosary, of Fátima

15/17

SEPTEMBER 2017

FÁTIMA – PORTUGAL

Domus Carmeli
Rua Imaculado Coração de Maria, 17
2495-441 Fátima - Portugal

Registration:
Email: geral@congressomarianocarmelita.com
Tel. (+351) 249 530 650

Organization:
Carmelite Order
Discalced Carmelite Order

www.congressomarianocarmelita.com

Imagem: Avelar Gonçalves (1963), de. XVI. © Cabal Mençada, Jilites / Vass Cunha Menares

News from around the World International Marian Congress



The Carmelite Order and the Discalced Carmelite Order, motivated by the celebration of the 1st Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima, decided to offer to their own family and to the whole Church an International Marian Congress in order to revive their Marian spirituality, since Carmel is all of Mary.

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Program

Friday, 15th September 2017

- 10h30 – Hosting
 - 11h00 – Welcome Session**
 - 11h30 – I. Conference: Mary, the one that listens to the Word of God • Fr. Armindo Vaz, Ocd**
 - 13h00 – Lunch
 - 15h00 – Greeting Our Lady in the Little Chapel**
 - 16h00 – II. Conference: Mary in the Carmel history
Fr. Desidério Garcia Marquez, Ocd**
 - 17h00 – Break
 - 17h30 – III. Conference: Marian Carmelite mystic
Fr. Pedro Bravo, Ocd**
 - 19h00 – Mass and Vespers**
 - 20h00 – Dinner
 - 21h30 – Documentary about Fátima**
 - 23h00 – Rest time
-

Saturday, 16th September 2017

- 08h00 – Breakfast
- 09h00 – Mass and Lauds**
- 10h15 – IV. Conference: The Message and Spirituality of Fátima • St. Ângela Coelho**
- 11h15 – Break
- 11h45 – V. Conference: The mystic experience in the Carmel and in the Little Shepard • Fr. Adrian Attard, Ocd**
- 13h00 – Lunch
- 15h00 – Multimedia presentation about the Mount Carmel**
- 16h00 – Break
- 16h30 – VI. Conference: Mary, a model of community and ecclesial life • Fr. Savério Cannistrà, Ocd**
- 17h30 – Break
- 18h00 – Panel: Mary in the Carmel Saints
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi • Fr. Pedro Bravo, Ocd
Saint Therese of the Child Jesus • Fr. António Olea, Ocd
Saint Edith Stein • Fr. Ezequiel Garcia, Ocd
Blessed Titus Brandsma • Fr. Fernando Millán, Ocd**
- 19h15 – Vespers and Salve-Regina**
- 20h00 – Dinner
- 21h30 – Rosary and Candle Light Procession**
- 23h00 – Rest time

Sunday, 17th September 2017

- 08h30 – Breakfast
 - 09h00 – Lauds
 - 10h00 – VII. Conference: Mary, the prophecy of a new world • Fr. Fernando Millán, Ocd**
 - 11h00 – Break
 - 12h00 – Mass at Carmelo de S. José**
 - 13h00 – Lunch
-

News from around the Province

San Juan de la Cruz Secular Carmelite Community of Houston, Texas held their elections.

From left to right:
Sal Galindo -3rd Councilor
Mary Velez -1st Councilor
Kay Dumesnil -2nd Councilor
Ernest Mendoza -President



On January 14, 2017, the Triumph of the Cross Community, received into formation three members that were clothed with the Brown Scapular during Morning Prayer. Pictured are Michael McConnell, Ginny Hahn, and Jan Pedersen with our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD



A Mass followed at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown celebrated by Fr. Bonaventure. Three members, Jim Burns, Lilia Medina, and Pauline Menefee, made their First Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. For Lilia, this day was especially touching because she is still recovering from severe injuries sustained in a car accident last November. Fr. Bonaventure anointed Lilia after the Mass and a reception followed in the St. Rita Center.

Afterwards, Father Bonaventure led a Day of Reflection for our community on The Divine Indwelling in the Spiritual Experience of Elizabeth of the Trinity. Thank you, Father, for the wonderful presentation on our newest Carmelite saint! Submitted by Marianne Gonzales, OCDS

News from around the Province

The Carmelite Secular Community of Jackson recently welcomed and received four Secular (or lay) members to continue with deeper study about the Carmelite Order and its saints while continuing their formation in charisms of prayer, community life, and, Carmelite spirituality. On Saturday, February 25, during Mass at the Carmelite Monastery in Jackson, three Aspirants were Clothed in the large Brown Ceremonial Scapular: Elena Buno, Riza Caskey, and, Asuncion Cannon. One additional person, Elmina Johnson, made her First (Temporary) Promise.

Fr. Joseph Le was the Celebrant. The Jackson Carmelite Secular Community was joined in the celebration of the Mass by the Carmelite nuns, Fr. Alfred Ayem, SVD (Jackson Holy Ghost Parish), friends, family, and, well-wishers.



Picture (left):

Aspirants Elena Buno, Riza Caskey, and Asuncion Cannon receive the large Brown Scapular from Juanita Butler, OCDS, Formation Director, while Sondra Powell, OCDS, President looks on (far left).

(pictures by Dorothy Ashley) (left to right on all pictures):

News from around the Province



Picture (left):

Elmina Johnson, OCDS makes her First Promise and is confirmed in her commitment by Fr. Joseph Le, Celebrant, while Sondra Powell, OCDS, President looks on (far left).

Picture (right):

Juanita Butler, OCDS, Formation Director, Aspirants Elena Buno, Riza Caskey, and Asuncion Cannon, Elmina Johnson, OCDS (made First Promise), and, Sondra Powell, OCDS, President





Dolores Jost, OCDS

St. Louis, MO – *submitted by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS*

Dolores Jost, “Mary Magdalene of the Sorrowful Mother”, a member of the St. Louis, MO, OCDS Community of the Carmel of St. Joseph entered into final glory on March 10, 2015, at the age of 93. Dolores was born October 7, 1921 in St. Louis, MO. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband Oscar Jost. She was the mother of 7 children, John, Mary, Vic, Therese, Lori, James, and Ceil. She was a loving grandmother to 17 and great grandmother to 19 and several spiritual sons and daughters.

Dolores got an early start helping the sisters at their original location on 19th and Victor with her Mom and Aunt. She entered Carmel in Feb. 1952 and was one of the early members of the community. She was clothed on October 4, 1952 and entered into formation on that date. She made her final promise on November 7, 1953. The family hosted Fr. Felix of Cross, OCD prior to the 1962 Congress in St. Louis. In October 1962 she became Assistant Mistress of Novices (Formation Director). In 1964 Dolores was the Mistress of Novices and became Director in 1965. She learned a lot about her vocation by attending the regional congresses. Dolores served on the Council in 1971 - 1974, 1980 - 1982, and as Director of Formation in 1987 - 1990. Throughout it all, she served and helped her Community to grow in the Carmelite charism.

Dolores was always ready to help the Community with her wise knowledge and deep love. Even when she was not on the Council, she helped and guided the Community in whatever way was necessary. She was placed on the inactive list in 2009. She was a resident at St. Agnes Home with Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. She was still sharing her faith till the end. Rather than participating in Bingo, she would invite people to Mass, Adoration and Stations of the Cross. Even then, her prayers were offered for the Community. Throughout her extended illness, her wise and gentle presence was missed very much at our Community meetings.

When they started the novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the whole Jost family was involved. Oscar organized the parking of the cars and the children sold scapulars and lemonade. It was because of Oscar’s help at home that allowed Dolores to found and attend the Carmelite Community, even with all the small children at home. Oscar, too, had the greatest respect for this Community. He said his business improved when Dolores started attending Carmel.

She taught me to kiss my scapular before I put it on in the morning and recite, "My queen, my mother, keep me and guard me as your property and possession." She referred to our Carmelite vocation as serious business. May God grant you eternal rest dear Dolores. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Carmelite Obituaries



Agnes Gamiere, OCDS

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

Submitted by Wavie Greigg, OCDS

Agnes S. Gamiere, age 92, of Yankton, SD passed away Friday, January 6, 2017 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Agnes was an active member of the Sioux City, IA Community for many years until she could no longer make the drive to Sioux City from her home in Yankton, SD. A very loving and caring person, Agnes cherished her vocation to Carmel and was a great spiritual model for us all. Agnes made her Definitive Promise in 1961.

Agnes was born May 24, 1924 in rural Utica, SD to William and Annie Steensma. After moving to Washington D.C. she worked for the Foreign Economic Administration, The District of Unemployment Compensation Board, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She married Albert Gamiere in 1945. After retirement they moved to Yankton, SD. Albert passed away in 1995.

Agnes was an active member of St. Benedict Catholic Church. She volunteered at Sacred Heart Hospital and House of Mary Shrine and various other organizations.

Agnes was preceded in death by her husband, mother and father as well as her brother Bernard and her half-sister Blanche Sedlak. Survivors include close cousins from the Rolf's family, the Steersman family as well as Albert's relatives.



Marie "Eileen" Derouen, OCDS

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

Submitted by Dossie Darby, OCDS

Marie "Eileen" Derouen, a valued member of our community succumbed to ALS, a battle she fought for three years. Eileen began her vocation in Carmel on September 19, 1982 as a member of Mary, Mother of Grace OCDS Community of Lafayette, Louisiana. Eileen made her First Promise on May 19, 1985 receiving Marie Eileen of the Child Jesus as her name in Carmel. On November 20, 1988 Eileen became a Definitely Professed member of the Order of Carmel Discalced Secular. In 1994, she was one of the members selected to assist in establishing the newly formed Secular Community in New Iberia, Louisiana eventually named Mary, Beloved of the Trinity. She served for many years as President and many positions of leadership within the Community. After being placed on infirmed status two years prior to her death, she remained informed of community activities and active in her studies as long as her illness allowed.

Marie Eileen of the Child Jesus was committed to her vocation in Carmel even until her final moments in this life. When daily duty was restricted due to the progression of the disease, the family was instructed to set the timer each morning for mental prayer followed by daily Mass which had been previously recorded to conform to

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Carmelite Obituaries

(Continued from page 26)

daily schedule as her condition would permit. When Eileen was no longer able to read morning and evening prayer due to limitations the prayer was recited from the iBreviary app on her iPad.

At the age of 74 and on the evening of January 14, 2017, the anniversary date of our Community's canonical recognition, Eileen was surrounded by her family assisting her in reflecting on the mysteries of the prayer of the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy as Our Lord called her Home.

Eileen was very active in her parish community for many years. She served as extraordinary minister, hosting a "Come Lord Jesus" group in her home, and also shared her faith as teacher in her church parish's CCD program.

Eileen is survived by her husband of 56 years, Ronald Derouen and five children: Andree, Ronnie, Stephen, Jon and Matt, 16 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Eileen was preceded in death by a 2 year old daughter, Christine.

A Mass of Christian Burial Celebrated by Rev. Conley Bertrand, was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 20th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in New Iberia, Louisiana.

Rest in peace our dear sister, as we say in Carmel "Praised Be Jesus" for your loving devotion and service to us, to Jesus, and to Mother Mary.



Kristi Kay Colgin, OCDS

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

Submitted by Irma Deblanc, OCDS

Kristi Kay Colgin, 50, a resident of Morgan City, passed away on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Teche Regional Medical Center.

She was born on March 29, 1966 in Morgan City, the daughter of Dickie James Colgin and Elizabeth Pennison Colgin.

Kristi entered the Community of Mary, Beloved of The Trinity in New Iberia, Louisiana on October 17, 1999. She made First Promise to the Order of Carmel on November 16, 2003 taking the name, Kristi Christopher, Teresa of Jesus and the Sacred Heart. Her Definitive Promise to Carmel was December 17, 2006. Kristi had been on infirmed status for the past few years due to complicated health issues secondary to diabetes. However Kristi maintained a love for Carmel in her heart and a desire to one day return to full life in community.

Kristi was a devout Catholic and was a Parishioner of Holy Cross Catholic Church and served as Extraordinary minister. Kristi was a loving daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, and friend that will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

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(Continued from page 27)

Left to cherish her memories are her mother, Elizabeth Pennison Colgin of Morgan City; daughter, Megan Dubois and husband James of Patterson; brothers, Danny Colgin and companion Donna Arabie of Labadieville, Clay Colgin and wife Dana of Youngsville, Clint Colgin and wife Nicole of Morgan City; sister, Lisa Lallande and husband Darryl of Mandeville; the joys of her life, her grandchildren, Makenzy, Joseph, one baby on the way; and numerous extended family members.

Kristi is preceded in death by her father, Dickie James Colgin; paternal grandparents, Howard Joseph Colgin and Enola Barrilleaux Colgin; maternal grandparents, Daniel Adam Pennison and Elma Landry Pennison; and paternal great grandmother, Anaise Barrilleaux.



Dorothy Sollenberger, OCDS

Community of the Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph
Houston Texas

Submitted by Rebecca Segura, OCDS

With deep sorrow the community of the Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph - Houston Texas, reports the passing of our dear member in Carmel - Dorothy Sollenberger. She passed away on November 21, 2016, at the age of 92.

Dorothy was born on August 3, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois, the second of four children. She moved to Houston in 1962 where she worked for an oil company for 25 years. She was the provider for her small family of two children [Larry and Judy]. She sometimes worked 3 jobs at one time. Her son Larry preceded her in death. Her daughter Judy cared for her during the last years of her life. Dorothy was devoted to her 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and her 2 great great grandchildren. She was a member of Notre Dame Catholic Church; a member of the Catholic Daughters; a member of the Siena Catholic Women's Club of Houston, besides being a Carmelite member.

Dorothy's journey into Carmel began by way of an invitation. She was invited to come to our Carmelite meeting by one of our founding members - Gladys Snoga. Gladys spoke to Dorothy about Carmel. Dorothy mentioned that she had been looking for a group that would enrich her spiritual life by way of participation in group study, prayer, and devotion. Carmel and Dorothy seemed to have made a perfect fit for on December 5, 1990, she made her First Promise, follow by her Definitive Promise in December 11, 1993.

She enjoyed being a member of our community and served in different capacities. When she was unable to attend meetings due to poor health, she was placed on infirm status.

Some of the members were asked: What do you remember about Dorothy? One said she admired Dorothy's commitment and quiet thoughtfulness. Another said it was her sweet smile, voice, and gentle character. Another spoke of Dorothy's

(Continued on page 29)

Carmelite Obituaries

(Continued from page 28)

meekness and deep humility: a woman who prayed and who accepted God's will in her life. Yet another member compared Dorothy as to a delicate flower. In the end it was we who were blessed in knowing her.

Thank you Judy for sharing your Mom with us. She will be sorely missed.

May she rest in peace. Amen

Pearl Hyacinth Therese Samuel Vanderwall, OCDS

St. Louis, MO

Submitted by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS



Pearl Hyacinth Therese Samuel Vanderwall returned home on Saturday, June 20, 2015 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As her son, Francis and daughter-in-law, Gloria were praying the Fourth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven, Pearl breathed her last here below, in order to join the Heavenly hosts together with her beloved husband, Will and her sisters, Primrose and Marguerite, her cousins, Camile & Therese of Perth, Western Australia, to celebrate the Heavenly Banquet. She leaves behind her son, Francis, and beloved daughter-in-law, Gloria.

Born in Kandy, Sri Lanka, her love for God and all matters spiritual was her life-long passion. Pearl began her journey to Carmel in 1964 and chose as her religious name, Sr. Teresita of the Holy Face. She served on the Council in 1980 - 83, 1984 - 87, and as Director of Formation in 1974 - 77. Throughout it all, she served and helped her Community to grow in the Carmelite charism.

Growing up in the mountains of Sri Lanka, Pearl traveled door-to-door evangelizing with the Legion of Mary, dangerous work for a young woman in a country where building political tensions ran along religious lines and Catholics were an ever-shrinking minority. She risked her life for this work, not hesitating in the face of violent rioting.

Another life-long devotion, that was a manifestation of the dynamic spirit in her, was to the Montessori System of holistic education. At 23, Pearl met Dr. Maria Montessori, who was under house arrest in Sri Lanka. She taught Pearl her famous model of holistic education with a Catholic touch, a lesson that altered Pearl's life forever.

Pearl became a Catholic school teacher, but as Sri Lanka grew more dangerous, she and her family—her husband and son, Francis—desperately needed to escape. In May 1963 God answered with an aerogram from a Mr. and Mrs. Felling of St. Louis, requesting a Montessori teacher for their new school.

After a visa-obtaining process Francis described only as “hell,” the family surrendered all their possessions and boarded a ship to America, riding two levels below

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Carmelite Obituaries

(Continued from page 29)

the water and arriving in the countryside of Creve Coeur in January “almost destitute.”

There, Pearl opened the first *Association Montessori International*-accredited school in St. Louis. (The Sisters of the Visitation had gained accreditation from the American Montessori Society for their own program about three months before.)

Pearl’s little school for the Fellings struggled, though, so in 1967 Pearl opened her own school, Villa di Maria, which she named for the Blessed Mother. The Villa, Francis said, was “far more Catholic than any pope you’ll find,” and Pearl taught the children there at minimal cost, taking no salary for herself.

She later founded the Montessori Training Center, where “there was something rich and abundant about everything she did, but in a very simple, humble, quiet way,” said Anjana Choudhuri, who studied under Pearl. Pearl’s legacy will continue as Brianna Riley, another former student, who founded Vanderwall Montessori, named in her honor.

Will and Pearl were faithful and active members of St. Jude's Catholic Church in Overland, MO for many years. After her husband, Will's death, she retired to Our Lady of Life at Cardinal Ritter Senior Services where her spirit brought joy to many. There is so much more to say . . . those who knew her, know; those who did not continue to benefit from her passion and devotion.

The Eucharistic Celebration was at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at St. Jude Catholic Church, Overland, MO. God grant you eternal rest dear Pearl. Please pray for us as we pray for you.



Laverne St. Amour, OCDS

St. Louis Community

Submitted by Cindy Neisen, OCDS

Laverne St. Amour (nee Petkus) passed into eternity on February 14, 2014. She was 85 years old. Laverne is survived by her husband Edgar and her three sons, Thomas, David, and Scott. She has 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Her family was always most important in her life. She was devoted to her husband, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and also to her Carmelite family.

Laverne began her journey in Carmel in Little Rock Arkansas Community. She made her First Promise on December 9, 1995 taking the name Mary Teresa of the Blessed



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Carmelite Obituaries

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Sacrament. She made her Final Promise on December 12, 1998. She joined our St. Louis Community in 2000 and took her vow on July 16, 2000. Laverne had a deep love for God and a wisdom that grew from that union. She developed and guided our ongoing formation in studying St. John of the Cross. She lovingly guided us to a deeper understanding of St. John's writings.

Her peaceful and serene spirit was a living example of the fruit that comes from surrendering to God's will and trusting in His love for us.

She painted for approximately 25 years; her paintings were for the most part kept by her sons and husband.

Her Funeral Mass was held at the Passionist Nuns Monastery Chapel in Ellisville, MO with interment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Laverne, may God grant you eternal rest. Pray for us as we pray for you.



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

Parting Words

“One should consider the virtues and who it is who serves our Lord with greater mortification, humility, and purity of conscience; this is the one who will be the holiest. Yet, little can be known here below with certitude; we must wait until the true Judge gives to each one what is merited. In heaven we will be surprised to see how different his judgment is from what we can understand here below. May he be forever praised, amen.”

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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!

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